VOICE of ASTARA

CHURCH OF ALL RELIGIONS
SCHOOL OF THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES
FRATERNITY OF ALL PHILOSOPHIES
INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH

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Editor: Patti Whiting



The Animals of Bethlehem

If you look at almost any old painting or sculpture of the Nativity scene in Bethlehem, alongside the Father, Mother and Child there will be animals: sheep, oxen, dogs — even birds or mice.

Most of these creatures were portrayed not because they are mentioned in a Biblical account of the Saviour's birth or any other writings of the event — for hundreds of years, in fact, those who could read anything at all were in a small minority.

No, the animals appeared instead in the vast number of non-literary Christmas tales, fables and legends that were recorded only in the ears and memories of folks around an evening fire.

Stories of the Spirit

Skills of traveling storytellers blended with deep religious beliefs from many lands and eras to produce some of the most colorful and spiritually symbolic native tales ever found. Not all of the Christmas lore was about barnyard animals, either. Flowers, rocks, weather, and even glowworms and yeast became main characters in a few stories.

But animals are the stars more often, and a few samples are told here. Imagine now that it's a cold night with a warm fire nearby, and as you listen to these stories, you are a child again:

A Shaggy Hero

When Joseph was preparing for the journey to Bethlehem, an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him to take two donkeys on the trip: one for Mary to ride and one to run free. They were always to follow the road that the young unhaltered donkey took.

On the journey, this donkey sometimes ran ahead, sometimes alongside the couple. They followed it faithfully as it avoided cities and took small crossroads.

When the road was clearcut, the donkey often ran far in front, but when it divided, the animal waited at the fork in the road and led them in the right direction.

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The Animals of Bethlehem

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It never stopped to eat grass by the roadside or to take refuge in a shady spot, but whenever Joseph or Mary became too tired to go on, it halted immediately and stood quietly until they were rested enough to continue.

Following the shaggy beast, they arrived at last in Bethlehem. The donkey disappeared into the outskirts of the city as the couple sought in vain for lodging.

But after the last rebuff, when Joseph was dejectedly considering the offer of an innkeeper to stay in his stable, the donkey re-appeared, braying and rearing up at the stable entrance as if to urge acceptance of the invitation.

Even today, donkeys mimic that early animal's opinionated display.

Midnight Miracles

Joseph did accept the offer, and Jesus was born in the stable the next night. All the animals present knelt in homage to Him, and it is said that on Christmas Eve, all animals still kneel at midnight. Many of them, according to legend, gain the power of human speech for a very short time, so that they may once again share the good news of the Nativity.

A Heart on Hooves

Minutes after Jesus was born, when Joseph went to borrow a swaddling cloth to dress the newborn Child, an ox in the stable slowly lumbered over to the manger. Mary was at first afraid of the huge, horned animal nearing the infant, but not for long.

For the ox, very careful not to touch the Child with his sharp horns, began to warm the naked baby with his steaming breath.

Days later, the great animal continued to watch over his tiny adopted Master. He even went each morning to a great beehive nearby and brushed his back against the dripping honey combs – so that on returning to the stable he would attract the flies away from the sleeping baby.

A Feathered Medal

Several days later, as the Christ Child lay in the manger, the small fire which had been built to keep Him warm began to die out. A little robin who lived in a high eave of the stable saw this happening. It fluttered down, hopped to the fire and started flapping its wings to fan air into the coals and rekindle the flames.

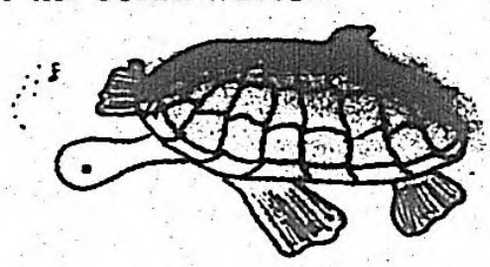
Patiently and steadily, he fluttered his wings and the fire became brighter and brighter. Soon, the feathers on his breast began to reflect the now warm glow – and even today, robins bear a rea breast because of his thoughtfulness those many years ago.

Faith and Fantasy

These are just a few of the warm and enchanting legends which sprang from the wonder of that night in Bethlehem and from the imaginations of numerous storytellers over many centuries.

They are unreal and fanciful, yes, but they reflect such joy and love for a real Person that we don't mind at all. Because Christmas is, after all, a time for children: for one Child's birth, for any child's sense of limitless hope and imagination, for our own childlike acceptance of the supernatural and miraculous.

And if you still say adamantly that animals don't talk at midnight on Christmas Eve – well, you've just never listened well enough. If you had, you might have heard the ethereal music described in another Christmas legend: the lovely, delicate sound of sea turtles singing carols under the ocean waves.





Where Did the "Xmas" Come From?

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the abbreviation "Xmas" for Christmas? It comes from the Greek letter X (ch) beginning the name of Christ ("the anointed.") The "mas," of course, derives from the church Mass in celebration of this revered Birth Day.

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

"The holiest of all holidays are those kept by ourselves in silence and apart, the secret anniversaries of the heart, when the full tide of feeling overflows."

— Longfellow

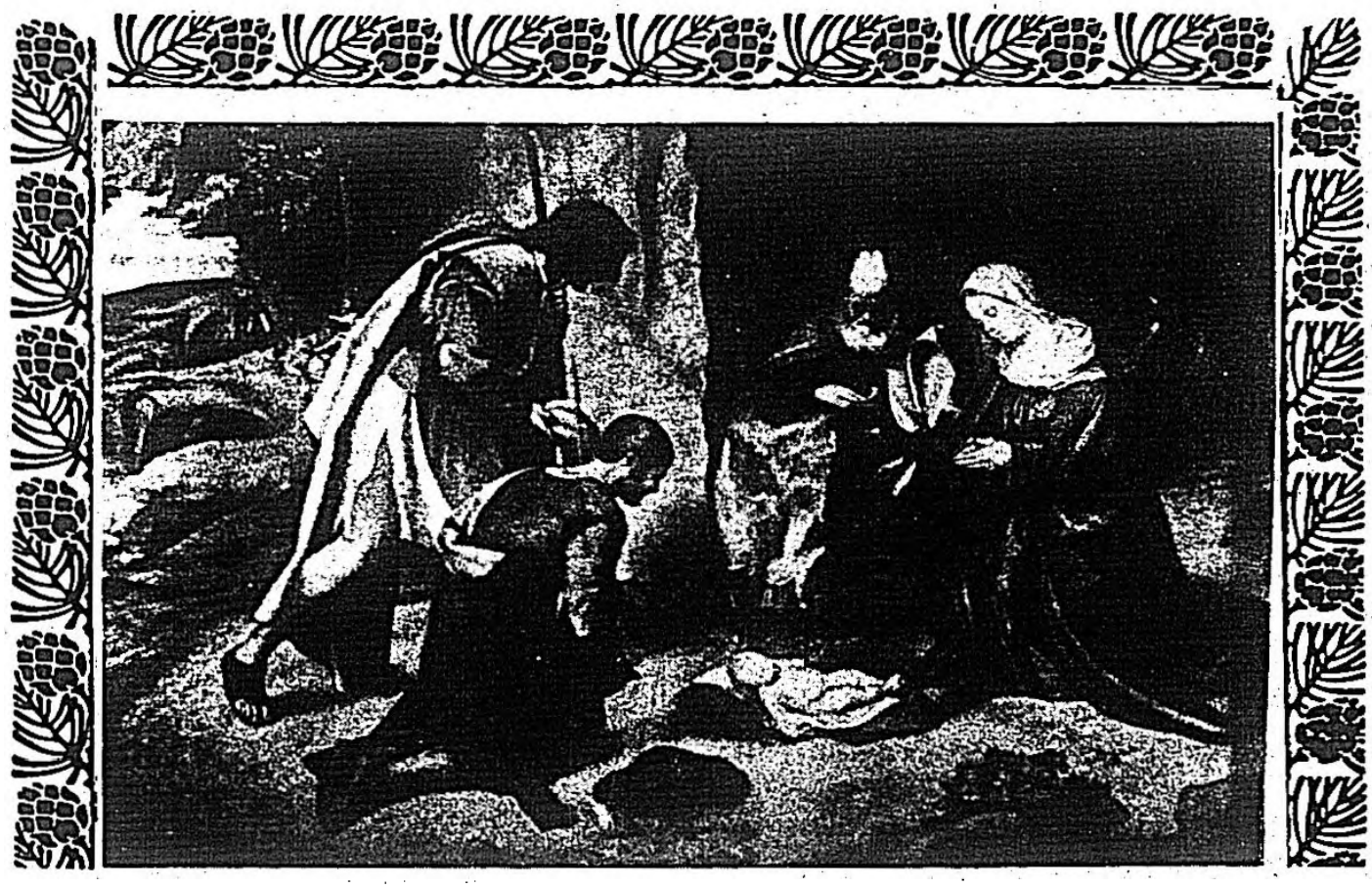
VISIT ASTARA AT CHRISTMAS

You can join your fellow Astarians at Astara this Christmas Season either in person or through the Christmas Prayer Card which is part of this *Voice*.

Directly under the pull-out card, you will find the special instructions for using it. We suggest filling it in immediately, and sending it on to us, so it can be placed in the manger by the Chaneys during the Christmas service.

Then remember to tune in with Astara on Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, so that wherever you live, you will be truly a part of the spiritual forces of that moment.

If your card does not arrive in time for the Christmas services, be sure to mail it anyway. The Chaneys will devote attention to it throughout the year ahead.



Joy to the World?

The other evening, I was writing a few Christmas cards I felt were "owed" to various individuals – and really, that was about the feeling I had as each was sealed and stamped: I was just grudgingly paying some social debts, not sending out heartfelt "Season's Greetings."

This wasn't what Christmas was all about, I thought to myself as I licked another stamp. Christmas meant joy and fun and celebration, just the opposite of the tired, sullen and burdened way I felt at the moment.

The Road to Bethlehem

I stared at the next card in the box and at the figures it portrayed of the Holy Family traveling to Bethlehem. That scene didn't suggest much joy, I thought – and I began to imagine the figures coming to life:

A perspiring, thirsty man in worn sandals, walking, walking, walking – the desert road slowly blistering his aching feet. Beside him, a bone-tired, pregnant woman who rides a plodding donkey, each step seeming more painful and jarring. Miles through the dust and sand to some strange city. And the reason for the couple's exhausting trip? To pay their taxes to the government.

Added to that, every hotel is booked full when the worn-out two finally reach the town late at night, and they are forced to stay in a cave that's being used as a stable for livestock.

From the Stable, a Saviour

No, I had to admit, it certainly wasn't a scene that would seem to herald a world-wide celebration in honor of that time and its outcome these many centuries later. But from that sorrowful, depressing scene, of course, came an event of monumental joy and glory.



As I went on daydreaming about the setting of that night in Bethlehem, I began to sense some of the wonder the couple must have experienced when the strange events which accompanied Jesus' birth began to unfold. Shepherds, Wise Men, talk of a guiding Star and ancient prophecies fulfilled. That first holy day must really have been one of awe and reflection more than joy and celebration.

"Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart," reads the story in Luke's Gospel.

And somehow, as I come back into the present and shake myself alert, even though I feel much better, it's all right that I'm not wild with happiness and pleasure at the moment. Those radiant, happy times will come, as sure as the birth in Bethlehem, as sure as Christmas.

But for now, this is enough: some quiet thought, a bit of awe, and a lot of feeling for that first Christmas Eve.

(P.S. And yes, I did do those cards over again, in the true Spirit this time!)

— *P. Whiting*



Remember when . . .

. . . the whole family could go to the movies together?
. . . a visit to the theatre meant a guaranteed good time?
. . . there were sing-a-longs and comedy shorts to add to the fun?
. . . you met all your friends at the movie and then left the theatre feeling happy and good?

It's all coming back in a special comedy movie series at Astara. Relive the great days of Hollywood's Golden Era with your family and friends — and make some new friends, too!

Admission by donation,
$1.00 minimum suggested.

DECEMBER 2: THE BISHOP'S WIFE starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven. 8:00 p.m.

JANUARY 13: TOPPER starring Cary Grant, Constance Bennett and Roland Young. 8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3: MY MAN GODFREY starring William Powell, and Carole Lombard. 8:00 p.m.

MARCH 17: THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC starring Judy Holliday, and Paul Douglas. 8:00 p.m.

The Main Course is Joy

In the hard "winter of want" of 1864, many a Civil War wife found herself spending a Christmas without husband, food or means — but with hungry children to feed and provide with the season's spirits.

Mrs. Roger Pryor, a wealthy plantation mistress before the war's destruction, scarcities and inflation, kept a diary, later published as "Reminiscences of Peace and War." In it, she recalled that year's Christmas when she tried to keep her family together while her husband was a prisoner of war.

Read her account of how she and her sons kept the meaning of this holiday alive in the midst of hard times:

"I resolved to give my family a Christmas dinner. I bought a piece of corned beef for fifty dollars. This was boiled with peas. But just as we were about to gather around the table, we saw a forlorn company of soliders passing the door. They had gone out on some raid a week before. The snow was falling fast, the soldiers walking wearily, with dejected countenances.

'Boys,' I said, 'are you willing to send the dish of beef and peas out to them?'

They agreed, if only they might carry it; and the bold little fellows liked the pleasure they gave much more than they would have enjoyed the dinner. They were full of it for days afterward."

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to acknowledge the following memorial gifts – and express our appreciation to both the donors and those whose memory they honor:

Lillian Shepard in memory of her sister, Ruby Shepard Mullins.

Harvey Leach in memory of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Leach.

In memory of Arthur M. Irwin, husband of Julia C. Irwin & father of Ann I. Jones.

Jim & Doris Pruitt in memory of Edward O. Crandall, Jr.

Ethel B. Grundy in memory of Albert Williams.

If you can spare any of the following items, for use in furnishing guest cottages on the Astara campus, visitors will be very grateful: lamps, linens, kitchen utensils, rugs or used carpeting, etc.

Many thanks!

Did Egypt Have a Christmas Tree?



Quite a few of us on the staff here have "Egypt on the brain," as Dr. Earlyne and assistants continue to work on her book about Initiation in the Great Pyramid. Here's a fact that caught our attention, connecting that ancient setting with the modern tradition of the Christmas tree:

The palm tree is known to put forth a shoot each month, and a spray of branches with twelve shoots from desert palms was used in the festival of the goddess Isis as a symbol of the year just completed.

NOTICES HALTED: COMMENTS URGED

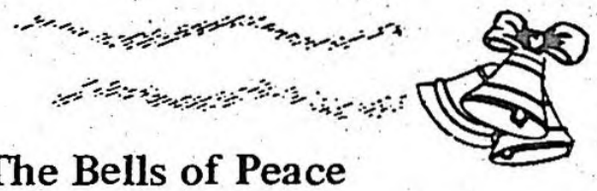
We're temporarily discontinuing notices for local Astarian study groups.

In order for us to make a sound decision on whether to go on printing these study group requests, *we need your help.* **If your name has appeared in a past study group listing, please write a short, quick note to Patti Whiting, *Voice* Editor, and let us know what happened as a result of the "ad."**

If you received two – or twenty – positive, interested letters or phone calls, please tell us. If you received some insincere, negative letters or phone calls, please tell us that, too. Or maybe you had some good and some not so good replies – or perhaps no responses at all. Please let us know. Also note whether you listed a Post Office Box or a phone number.

We need the reactions of all people concerned in order to make a fair, beneficial decision on printing these listings in the future. Use the Messenger Envelope in this Voice; along with any other communications to Astara, and let us know what happened from *your* study group notice as soon as possible.

It will only take a minute, and it may help other Astarians immensely, no matter what your comments are. Thanks very much for your help.



The Bells of Peace

A mystical German legend tells us that on Christmas Eve, the now-invisible bells of all the churches, cathedrals, monasteries and chapels destroyed by wars will ring out around the world – but only those who listen well, with the spirit of love in their hearts, can hear them chime.

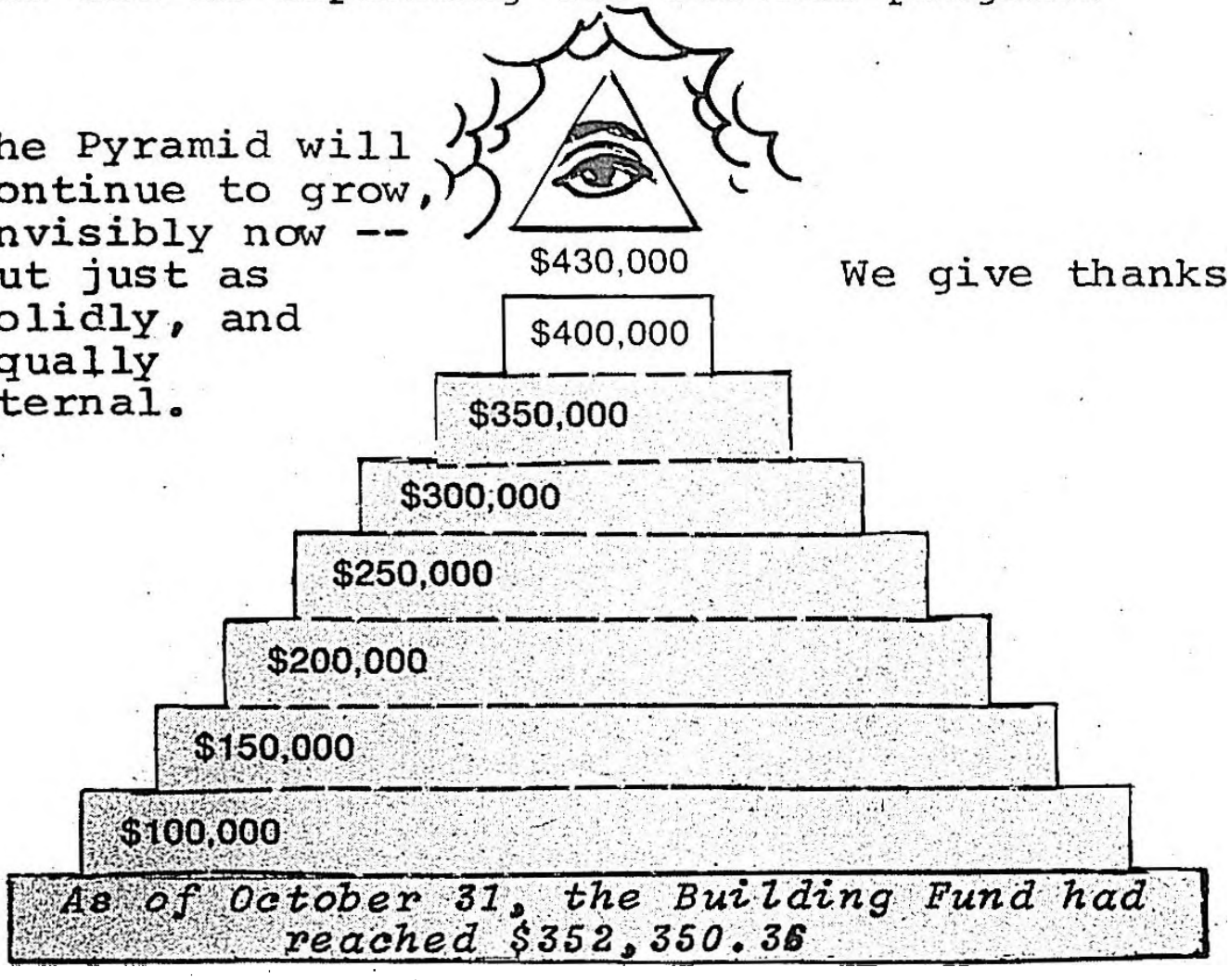
For the past year or so, the Pyramid below has symbolized progress on the Building Fund for Astara's Upland campus. This phase of our fund-raising activity will now come to a close.

The sum indicated as the capstone of the Pyramid is yet to be reached, and we still have much work to do before our financial obligations from the New Center are adequately resolved -- including $215,000 still owed on the purchase price of the campus site.

But rather than devote a full page to this ongoing effort each month, we want to use that space for more Voice articles and inspirational material.

We congratulate and extend our sincere thanks to all Astarians for the magnificent support they've given toward this project. Many visitors to the campus are incredulous at how far we've come, both in re-furbishing the physical facilities and in expanding our service program.

The Pyramid will continue to grow, invisibly now -- but just as solidly, and equally eternal.



We give thanks.

New Astara Center Honor Roll of Donors

We send special thanks to the donors listed on this Honor Roll. Repeat names indicate members who have made additional donations. Others, not listed, will appear in January.

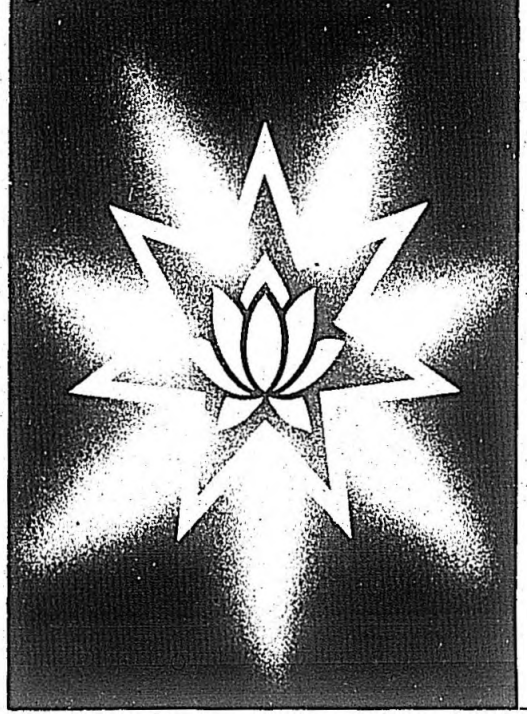
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astarian healing petition



1. Fill in the Petition.
2. Concentrate a moment upon the Astarian Symbol.
3. Hold it between your hands with a prayer . . . then send it to us.
4. Each day sit in meditation for a few moments, visualizing yourself in an aura of White Light.

Please direct your prayers and spiritual healing energies to:

Name _____

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for the following difficulty: _____

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NOTE: When requesting healing for someone else, write your own name and address on the back of this Petition. This is *IMPORTANT*.

Astara 800 West Arrow Highway • Upland, California 91786

New Astara Center Honor Roll of Donors

We send special thanks to the donors listed on this Honor Roll. Repeat names indicate members who have made additional donations. Others, not listed, will appear in January.

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THE ASTARIAN AFFIRMATION

I am surrounded by the Pure White Light of the Christ . . .
Nothing but good can come to me . . .
Nothing but good shall go from me . . .
I give thanks!



True Self-Improvement Wins Eternal Goals

What does the term self-improvement really mean? Is it learning a new vocation, or studying a subject that was not included in your school curriculum, or some other improvement of the outer personality?

That's what it means to most persons. But to the Astarian it has a far more rewarding meaning. It refers to greater knowledge of, and improved relation with, that deeper Self which is an inner and higher being that is conscious beyond normal consciousness.

The Astarian is not at all unaware of life's material goals, and he seeks them...but he is supremely aware of the fact that they are not the total of life's true purpose. He knows that eternal goals are also involved, and he wins those eternal goals, in part, through the self-improvement methods revealed in the Degree Lessons.

Please turn to the Continuation Request Form to order your next Lessons.

ASTARA'S LIBRARY OF MYSTICAL CLASSICS

ADVENTURES IN ESP

by Robert Chaney

Adventures in ESP is a fascinating guide to unexplored areas of [illegible] areas that become revealed to the Aquarian Age [illegible] Here is [illegible] New Age ideas, lessons and development [illegible] Extra-sensory Perception, ESP, in your daily [illegible] to help you solve problems, be more creative, harmonize your [illegible] steps with others, improve your business or profession, and [illegible] deeper and more enriching inner life.

member's price $4.30

THE INNER WAY

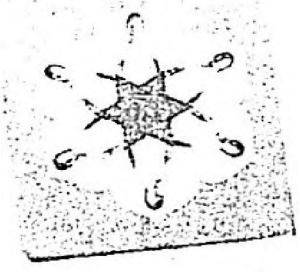
by Robert Chaney

[illegible] life is crammed with many things to do, problems to meet, [illegible] for leisurely contemplation — then you are the person [illegible] today and the initial when he wrote **The Inner Way**. He has [illegible] when "logical" solutions aren't effective, the "inner way" [illegible] results in meeting the problems. Send for your copy of **The Inner Way** now — it's a book you can really use every day of your [illegible].

member's price $3.75

CREATIVE SELF-TRANSFORMATION THROUGH MEDITATION

by Swami Parampanthi



Swami Parampanthi helps you discover you've actually been [illegible] during all your life — and by the application of a few simple self-disciplines you begin to utilize your own natural powers in a self-creative way, integrating your normal consciousness with its higher counterparts. **Creative Self-Transformation** offers you the path [illegible] towards greater success, self-realization and fulfillment.

member's price $4.70

MAKE IT AN ADVENTURE

by Marcus Bach

Learn to shape your desires and your abilities, grow in mind and [illegible] rid yourself of [illegible] frustrations, discover your potential talents, and gain new [illegible] satisfying achievements. Start a new way of life today with **Make It an Adventure.**

member's price $6.20

LIGHT & LIFE COOKBOOK

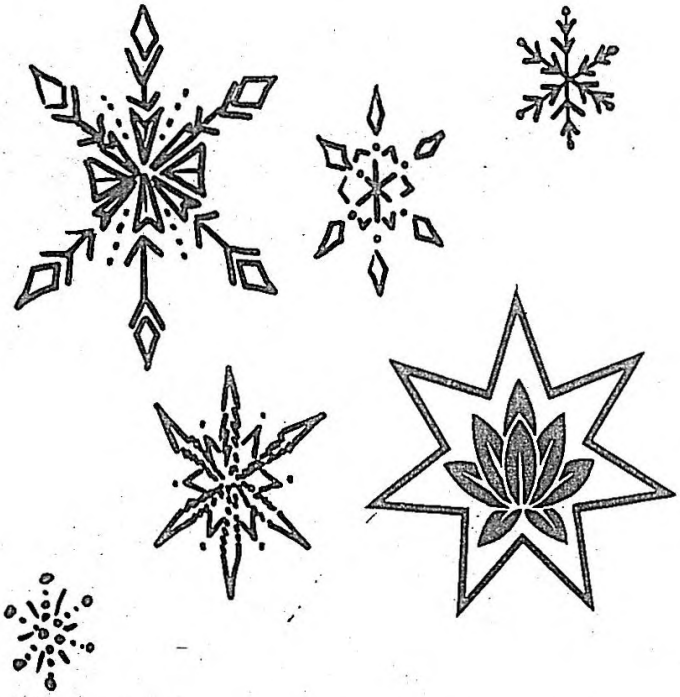
by Jan and Alan Pearson

created with Earlyne Chaney



The **Light and Life Cookbook** contains forty days of complete [illegible] — breakfasts, lunches, dinners — all nutritionally balanced [illegible] providing the greatest possible amount of food value. Each day's [illegible] leads you a step further toward the healthiest vegetarian [illegible], but allows you to stop at any point most appealing to you. [illegible] natural, healthy ingredients are featured throughout.

member's price $7.55



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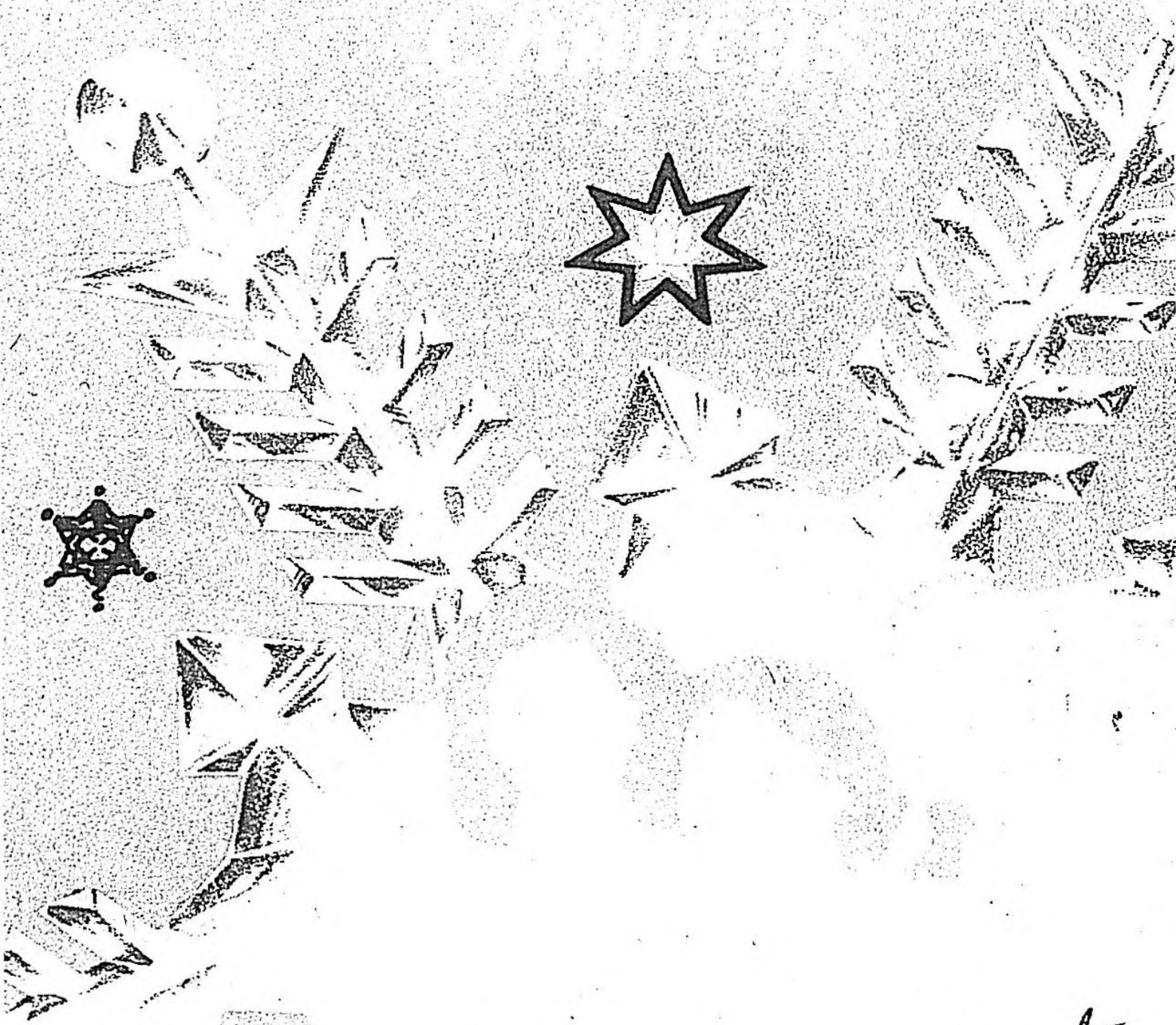
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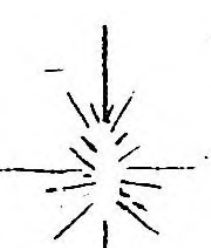
Merry Christmas

FROM

and the



Carolyn Lisa Robert





(Use this space for your prayer request)

Your Astana
Christmas Prayer Card

Dear Fellow Astarian --

In this season of snowflakes, it's interesting to examine the wondrous nature of the *snow crystal*, because it is the interlocking of dozens and dozens of these delicate, beautiful and nearly microscopic crystals that produces the larger, more visable snowflake.

You've probably heard that "no two snowflakes are alike." Actually, even the tinier snow crystals are never duplicated. But beyond their incredible variety of sizes, shapes and patterns, an even more awesome point to consider is that all this wonderful abundance comes from a single source: water.

Think of the astonishing potential for uniqueness of a different, more complicated crystal: the human crystal. In many ways, you are indeed like a crystal, especially as an Astarian. In the delicate detail of your Being, in the way you reflect Light and present an aura of snow-white love to others, in your unique rendering of the human form and spirit -- you are truly a matchless, shining crystal, radiant in the Light of the Christ.

Join us in your help and prayers this Holy Christmas season, and together we will create a vision of White Light for all to see, and for all to glory in.

In the One Light,

Earlyne & Robert

for Astara

Dear Earlyne, Robert

and all at Astara --

A single snow crystal seems powerless in comparison to the larger elements of life. But joined together with others and moving in the open air, the crystal becomes part of a snowfall that commands wonder, rapture ... and respect for its power.

With my contribution, I join in helping this crystalline Place of Light to continue reflecting Light to Seekers around the world.

I enclose my gift of $_____

which I have held and blessed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NOTE: For the exact recording of your gift to Astara, and the most rapid possible processing of your Lesson, book, recording or other request, enter your name and address exactly as it appears on the mailing label which brought this to you.

TO SEND YOUR DONATION TO ASTARA, detach this panel and enclose it in the Messenger Envelope. (U.S. residents may deduct contributions from U.S. income tax.)



FROM ASTARA'S GENERAL LESSON SERIES



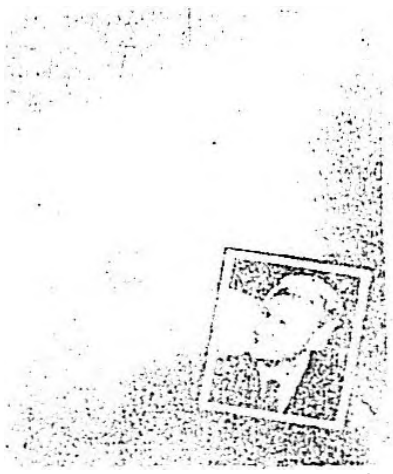
HEALTH FOR YOUR EYES
by
Eva Bell Werber



"The eyes are the windows of the soul." Eyes full of tension (manifested in fatigue tight muscles, headaches, furrowed brows) can distort vision, hasten eye disease and make poor "windows" for Light. Includes relaxation & stimulation drills based on the Bates System to restore good vision via natural means.



GOD'S PLACE IN MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS
by
Harold Sherman



How can you learn to experience God for yourself rather than accept someone else's word?

Topics include: -- Telepathy experiments that prove the way to God power; -- How to seek the God presence; -- How to let God Consciousness direct you to achieve the most from each day.

ORDER FORM

Astara 800 W. Arrow Highway, Upland, CA 91786

Please send the selections I have checked on this order form. I enclose a total of $ _____. (Tuition each: $1.50)

☐ ..... *HEALTH FOR YOUR EYES*

☐ ..... *GOD'S PLACE IN MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS*

☐ *YES!* I'd like First Class delivery. I enclose .50¢ for each item. (Lessons are usually sent via Third Class mail, requiring 3-4 weeks delivery in the U.S. Delivery time is reduced considerably under the First Class mail rate.)

Name (please print) _____

Street & Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

compiled by Betty Dodd

ASTARA's Book List



MASTERS and ASTARA

by
EARLYNE CHANEY

member price $6.60

Since the publication of Earlyne Chaney's book, "*Remembering,*" in which she described Master Kut-Hu-Mi and the extraordinary influence he has manifested in her life, requests for more information about the Masters, Self-unfoldment, and Astara the Center of Light have continued to pour in.

Besieged by these requests, she has responded by writing, under the guiding presence of Kut-Hu-Mi, the first of a series of inner Teachings called *The Great Work of the Penetralia.* Book One is entitled *The Masters and Astara.*

On its pages you will touch briefly upon the lives of the three Chaneys. You will share many of the "miracles" that occurred during the early years of Astara's beginnings. You will witness the founding of Astara and how the Teachings of the *Book of Life* came to be written.

- ***What and who are the Masters Kut-Hu-Mi, Rama, and Zoser?***
- ***The Astarian Mystery School, ancient and modern.***
- ***Your place in the Mystery School today; qualifications of Discipleship on the Path.***


Kut-Hu-Mi


Rama


Zoser

NEW TITLES FROM OUR NEW LEAF BOOKSHOP:

HEALTHY CHILDREN P. $1.90
On teaching children the healthy way to live. By Ann Wigmore, founder, director, Hippocrates Health Institute.



OUR PRECIOUS PETS C. $4.70
The story of Dr. Ann Wigmore and her association, study and treatment of animals. Help your pets live healthy and long lives.

BE YOUR OWN DR. P. $1.85
Let Living Food be your medicine - learn nature's way to staying healthy. By Dr. Ann Wigmore.

THE SONG CELESTIAL C. $2.40
Sir Edwin Arnold's poetic translation of the immortal Hindu scripture, The Bhagavad-Gita.

METAPHYSICAL MEDITATIONS
P. $.95 Thoughts to attract divine peace. Pocket edition, by Paramahansa Yogananda.

ENTER THE TEMPLE CALLED BEAUTIFUL P. $3.80
Find your way to the temple called beautiful - beauty, health, abundance and love. Only Truth and faith will unlock the gate. By Irene McDermott

PROPHET FOR THE ARCHANGELS C. $8.50
The biography of the spiritual life of Ann Ree Colton. By Jonathan Murro and Ann Ree Colton.

WATCH YOUR DREAMS C. $9.50
This book will become a treasured key to a better understanding of your dreams, visions, meditations and spiritual experiences. Ann Ree Colton.

NOTE: Above prices include members' discount.

P.=Paperback *C.=Clothbound*

Astara 800 West Arrow Highway, Upland, California 91786

ORDER FORM

Each price on this order form reflects the 5% discount allowed on each title.
All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.
Please allow at least three weeks for delivery in the United States.

CHECK BELOW WHEN ORDERING

___The Masters and Astara.....$6.60
___Remembering: Autobiography/Mystic...$9.45
___Remembering: (Soft cover).....$7.55
___Shining Moments of a Mystic.....$3.75
___Adventures in ESP.....$4.30
___The Inner Way.....$3.75
___Creative Self-Transformation.....$4.70
___Make It An Adventure.....$6.20
___Light and Life Cookbook.....$7.55
___Healthy Children.....$1.90
___Our Precious Pets.....$4.70
___Be Your Own Dr.....$1.85
___The Song Celestial.....$2.40
___Metaphysical Meditations.....$ .95
___Enter The Temple Called Beautiful...$3.80
___Prophet For The Archangels.....$8.50
___Watch Your Dreams.....$9.50

_____Number of books ordered ..... Amount $_____
California residents add 6% tax ..... $_____
Please add 25¢ per book for postage and handling ..... $_____
Total amount of this order ..... $_____

☐ Bank Americard ☐ Mastercharge
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Expiration Date:

SEND TO

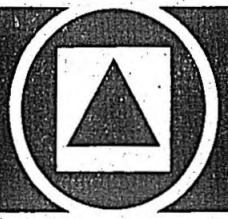
NAME _____

STREET & NUMBER _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

request for cosmic help



circle of the secret seven

On this petition write clearly and briefly the nature of your need, then sign below.
Meditate with it a few moments before sending it to Astara.

Name _____ Address _____

All communications on this sheet are held in the strictest confidence.

Astara **800** WEST ARROW HIGHWAY • UPLAND, CALIFORNIA 91786



Give us, O God, the vision which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure.
Give us the faith to trust Thy goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.
Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace. Amen.

Astronaut Frank Borman's Prayer for Mankind, Beamed 230,000 Miles from Moon to Earth, December 25, 1968

a visit with Robert



Dear Fellow Astarian --

What do you think of when you think of Christmas?

I think of Granny and Grandpa's huge old white house in La Porte, Indiana. A green pine tree adorned with strings of popcorn, and real candles that could be lit only for half an hour or so on Christmas Eve.

I think of the crisp snow that sparkled in sunlight by day, and reflected yellow gleams and long dark shadows from feeble street lamps at night.

I think of family gatherings around the fireplace; candied apples, popcorn balls; mysterious packages hiding secrets bursting to be revealed; a Christmas dinner table for grownups, a side table for children, both loaded with so much food you hardly had room for the bowls of cookies, nuts and candy, but you always managed somehow.

I think of cold snacks, delicious leftovers, late at night after all the cousins and their families had gone; the aftermath of the noise and excitement, the mysterious peace and warmth

(OVER)

and quietness that said, "Christmas is over, but it will always be," a message of eternal truth.

All that is long gone. Most of it disappeared half a century ago. Even the memory is somewhat faded. But one thing remains bright and starlit: the feeling is still with me. When I think of you and other Astarians around the world at Christmas, it glistens inside just as it used to so many years ago.

What do you think of when you think of Christmas?

I hope your warmest memories will gleam again in your heart and mind -- especially as you write your prayer card and as you join us in spirit this Christmastide.

Please do have the happiest of holidays --

Sincerely,

Robert



ERRATUM

It was mistakenly reported in a caption of last month's *Voice* that the statue of Christ shown in the accompanying photograph and a matching image of the Blessed Mary had been *donated* to Astara.

The figures have actually been **loaned** to Astara on a temporary basis, by thoughtful friends from their own home, until we are able to find permanent figures for use in Dr. Earlyne's healing services.

Any help Astarians can give in securing such spiritual treasures for use and display on the Upland campus is most appreciated.



An Astarian In Need Never Walks Alone

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. (Ps. 147:3)

Dear Friends,

First of all, my husband's and my many thanks for Earlyne's visit to Chicago. She was superb!

These past four or five years I have had high blood pressure. I never asked for help in this. Seven months ago I had two slight heart attacks. It was then that I wrote asking for your help. My blood pressure was up to 210 over 95 along with other problems. My blood pressure started to drop immediately after writing you. Now, for the past three months it is down to 134 over 74, and I have taken no medication! The doctor can't believe it.

Thanks again for your kindly assistance,

H.V.
Crystal Lake, IL



Sita, Earlyne and Robert place prayer cards in the Christ Child's manger during last year's Christmas service.

DR. EARLYNE TO VISIT NEW MEXICO



Feb. 10, 11, *12
Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Albuquerque
Hilton Inn
1901 Univ.
Blvd. N.E.

"HEALTH, HEALING and ANCIENT WISDOM"

Friday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.
Free-will offering (Open to the public)

Dr. Earlyne will conduct an informal Workshop on yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, vegetarianism, natural healing methods and remedies. Question and answer session, closing with a powerful healing service.

"INITIATION at the MOMENT of DEATH"

Saturday, February 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. seminar
Tuition $10 (Open to the public)

Dr. Earlyne's revealing slide presentation on the true nature of death liberation. A unique opportunity to prepare yourself for this inevitable and incomparable transition point. Powerful healing service concludes.

Special Meeting for Astarians Only:

"INITIATION in the GREAT PYRAMID"

Saturday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.
Free-will offering

A slide presentation on Dr. Earlyne's out-of-the-body experience in the Great Pyramid, many slides manifesting unexplainable psychic phenomena. Followed by her teachings on how to prepare for initiation, as initiates were taught in the Ancient Mystery Schools: techniques for dynamic meditation and attuning to the divine Sound Current of the Oversoul. Bring your questions on Astarian Degree Teachings.

(Tuition is $5 for non-members enrolling at door.)

Note: Dr. Earlyne's evening meetings usually last quite late into the night because of enthusiastic audience participation and the time necessary for individual healing attention. Babysitting and transportation arrangements should take this into account.)

Please, no tape recording at any meeting.

For advance Saturday seminar tickets, send your $10 tuition plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: **Astara Seminar - June and Earl Wall**
1730 Aliso Dr. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Tel. (505) 265-9142

**A luncheon is planned for the 12th.*

(For hotel accommodations at the Hilton Inn, please contact June and Earl Wall for special reservation forms.)

DR. EARLYNE'S 1978 SEMINAR SCHEDULE IS TAKING SHAPE

Dr. Earlyne's speaking tour for next year is rapidly being set, and cities being discussed for seminars at this point include Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Houston and Seattle, in addition to confirmed meetings at Upland and Albuquerque.

You'll read details on these and other seminar sites and dates in upcoming Voice issues.

Dr. Earlyne hopes to present seminars in these cities next year:

MARCH 1978:ATLANTA,GA.
For information:
Ben and Doris Hagen
3165 Ann Rd.
Smyrna, GA 30080
Tel. (404) 435-8657

APRIL 1978:CHICAGO,IL.
For information:
Greg Divine & Mary Babb
2520 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Box 80
Chicago, IL 60614
Tel (312) 871-4171
or
The Great Pyramid Experiment
2451 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60614

NEW SIXTH DEGREE LESSONS READY

Lessons 5 & 6 of the Sixth Degree are now ready for all those who have reached that point in their Astarian Degree studies.

Lesson 5, *"Creating a New You-niverse"* -- teaches how to avoid errors that lead to failure and poor health plus how to use vibratory forces for new, life-changing energy.

Lesson 6, *"To Meat or Not to Meat"* -- examines nutritional and spiritual healing vs. drug therapy and looks at the link between a purified body and a pure spirit.



THE GREATEST GIFT

"As you grow ready for it, somewhere or other you will find what is needful for you, in a book, or a friend, or best of all, in your own thoughts, the eternal thought speaking in your thought."
– McDonald

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS ✡

We want everyone to have time to enjoy and take part in the magic, spirit and special joy of this Yuletide season — so Astara is keeping campus activity to a minimum this month. A maximum minimum, one might say, because our December calendar has four events which promise to be packed full of love and good cheer for the whole family.

You're part of the Astarian family — we'd love to have you come home for Christmas!



December 3 & 4
Saturday and Sunday, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Astara's Christmas Boutique

Astarians have been getting ready for this fun-raising, fund-raising crafts bazaar for several months — and *you're* the lucky beneficiary! Do your Christmas shopping without the crowds and hurry: we'll have handmade toys, quilts, jewelry, planters, baked goods and lots more!

Christmas Dinner and Party

$4.95 donation

Saturday, December 10, 5:30 p.m. Join in for both the special buffet dinner and the after-dinner fun, or join us after the meal for some tree-trimming, carol-singing and popcorn-stringing. Children are welcome to come with their parents.

Christmas Day Sunday Service

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 a.m. Join Robert, Earlyne and Sita as the Chaneys present Astara's annual Christmas observance, celebrating the birth of the Christ Light into a seeking world. In the closing ceremony, Prayer Cards from Astarians all over the world will be placed in the Christ Child's manger, in a symbolic act representing the ongoing prayerful attention these Prayer requests will receive throughout the following year.

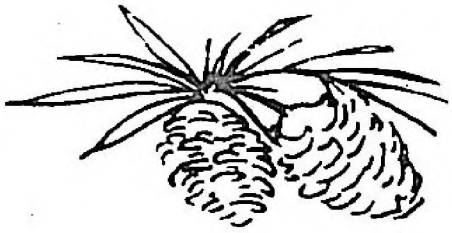
Saturday, December 31, 8:30 p.m.

New Year's Watch Party and Candlelight Service

* Entertainment by Astara's homegrown marching band.
* The Frank Capra movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life," with James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore (released in 1946, this beautifully written and acted film is based on the main character's despairing comment that he wished he had never been born. A heavenly messenger takes him on a heartwarming Scrooge-like tour that shows just what would have happened if he indeed hadn't been born into his very special, vital niche in life.)
* An inspiring Candlelight Service will conclude the evening, saying goodbye to the old and hello to the new in the fellowship of love and Light.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:
Day by Day

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Dec. 2 Movie "The Bishop's Wife," starring Loretta Young, Cary Grant and David Niven. 8:00 p.m. in Chapel. Admission by donation. $1 minimum requested.

Dec. 3-4 Christmas Boutique (12 noon to 4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) Refreshments and craft sale: a fun-raising fund-raising for the new Center.

Dec. 4 Sunday church service - 11:00 a.m. with Robert Chaney "Strengthen Your Life with Light"

Dec. 10 Christmas Dinner and Party - 5:30 p.m. (at Round Table) - Tree-trimming & carol-singing, $4.95 donation

Dec. 11 Sunday church service - 11:00 a.m. with Robert Chaney "How to Know God is with You"

Dec. 18 Sunday church service - 11:00 a.m. with Robert Chaney "Your Divine Possibilities"

Dec. 25 Christmas Sunday church service - 11:00 a.m. "And the Angel Said . . ." Prayer Card Ceremony with Robert, Earlyne and Sita

Dec. 31 New Year's Watch Party and Candlelight Service - 8:30 p.m. Entertainment, refreshments, the movie "It's A Wonderful Life," and a concluding spiritual welcome to 1978.

Jan. 1 Sunday church service — 11:00 a.m. with Robert Chaney — "How to Exceed Yourself"

NOTE: For those of you in Western states who received detailed Autumn Leaves calendars, please note this updated, corrected schedule for the month of December.