

# glad tidings

a newsletter of  
the first spiritualist  
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

## abe lincoln: a book review

*by naomi ellis*

**I** have had a long time interest in Abraham Lincoln, beginning with my first book report in school at the age of 11 (about 50 plus years ago). I've always had a warm spot for this remarkable man in history and always felt, if I could time travel, it would be to go back in time to meet this man.

In the 1980s, I was led to our Spiritualist Church in Salem and over the years I have done a lot of reading related to Spiritualism and spiritual growth. Over the course of my readings, I was surprised to learn that Mary Lincoln held séances in the White House—a fact that wasn't in the history books when I was in school.

In March 2009, with nothing to read during my break at work, I came across a gossip magazine and started to thumb through it. I came across an article about a book called *The House of Abraham* with Mary and Abraham Lincoln's photo on the front cover of the book. I knew I wanted to read it and went to the local library. Lo and behold, I found the book right away! I was surprised to see that it was published just recently in 2007.

I quickly went home and anxiously delved into the book. Imagine my surprise to find out that it wasn't about Abraham, but about his wife, Mary Todd, and her family of 14 sisters and brothers—six children from her mother and eight more by her step mother. Six children died before the age of 40, among them: Sam was shot in the back while retreating at the Battle of Shiloh, Alec was shot by his own men, David was shot in a brothel, and Levi died of alcoholism. Most of the Todd family looked down on Abraham Lincoln; they came from money and he from the backwoods with little education. But through all, he still would try to help her family at all times. This has its own twist because though Mary Todd Lincoln saw those who had passed to spirit; it was in his behaviors that made Abraham Lincoln a true Spiritualist.

*-continued on page 6*

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### *glad tidings*

is a publication of the  
first spiritualist church of salem  
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association of churches since 1894

### pastoral committee

patricia cizewski  
priscilla herrick, cm  
nancy karolides, cm

ch—commissioned healer  
cm—certified medium

#### Editor's Note:

Visit our website at [www.firstspiritualistsalem.org](http://www.firstspiritualistsalem.org) and share your thoughts about what you'd like to see on the website and read in the newsletter. Email at [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org).



## seasons

by pat cizewski, editor

**T**his issue of the newsletter marks the beginning of a new church season...one that has already seen many changes and will, no doubt, see many more. Development classes are beginning and while the Tuesday night non-members class remains the same, taught by Priscilla Herrick, the members' class is now being taught by Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Bradley Gosselin, both of whom are certified National Spiritualist Teachers. This change comes with the retirement of revered and long-time teacher Nancy Karolides.

Rev. Brad Gosselin, board president, announces upcoming changes in his president's report on Page 3 and urges members to consider service to the church, to spirit, and to Spiritualism as we face and manage changes in the church.

We are taught in Spiritualism that the only constant in life is change. The road to spiritual evolution and development is one of constant change as we each strive toward greater understandings and spiritual truths. Spiritual awareness and growth are predicated on a person's ability to effect change, and sometimes profound change, within the self.

Not everyone can appreciate change or its necessity. Its alternative is stagnation, and from there, degradation and decay. Change is not only the constant of life, but one might conclude that it is its very foundation, a necessity to its existence...water being a perfect example of this. Water changes in both its state (liquid to gas to solid) as well as in terms of tidal patterns; both types of movement are life sustaining and cleansing for the water as well as for the life that water supports. That which stands still, putrefies. Change drives the engine of life, and as Spiritualists we know that change drives both the internal (spiritual) life as much as the external (physical) life.

Making the most of change is every person's challenge. Contributors to this issue of the newsletter reflect that understanding in their writing. They have embraced the spiritual path of growth...to pursue mediumship development, to look within for the deeper meanings of a life experience, or to just flow in the spiritual energy.

Presently, it is our collective challenge and *opportunity* to embrace change while endeavoring to protect and sustain that which is good and working well. Likewise, it is our individual and collective responsibility to shift toward that which promises to bring greater prosperity and community to the church.

This year, let us extend ourselves to greater levels of participation in the church giving back to spirit that which they have so generously given to us since the founding of this church in 1894. This church grows in accordance with the growth and energy of its members and friends. As this new church season unfolds, and with it, the changes, challenges and opportunities it heralds, let us each find it within ourselves to commit anew to the work of spirit and The First Spiritualist Church of Salem. *Glad Tidings* to all.

*Your feedback is encouraged. Emails can be sent to [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org) with the subject line, To the Editor. You can also submit newsletter materials through this same email address.*

## declaration of principles

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression, and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of prophecy and healing are Divine attributes proven through mediumship.

# president's report

*by rev. bradley gosselin*

**D**ear Members:

The new church season is underway. We are in a period of transition and a time for review of both short term and long term goals of the church.

The November elections are fast approaching (Nov. 8) and each must look within to make decisions in the best interest of our church.

At this time, the positions of president, secretary and at least two trustees will be open. This means there will be at least four new officers and trustees on the board. It has been a long time since we have had this many changes and each member must decide, "can I help by accepting one of these positions," and each must consider their vote carefully. There will also be two open positions on the Pastoral Committee.

It has been my pleasure to serve the membership of this church as a board member for the past twelve years and as a member of the Pastoral Committee when it began. It is time for change as my duties for the NSAC increase and our church needs to start transition to new leadership. Elizabeth and I will still be at the church to assist in any way that we can, and look forward to this church season that will be filled with excellent efforts of new workers.

We hope to see you there, at the Members' Meeting, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Your vote is very important to the growth of our church.

## next board of trustees meeting

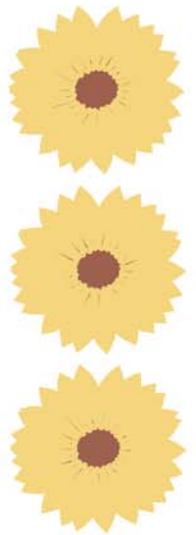
**Sunday November 1**

**3:30 pm**

## next members meeting

**Sunday November 8**

**3 pm**



**2009**

## meeting schedule

### guild meeting dates

november 15  
December 20

meetings begin 3:30 pm

guild meetings are open to the public. you needn't be a member to attend and offer your ideas and energy. everyone is welcome!

to submit ideas email

[info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org)

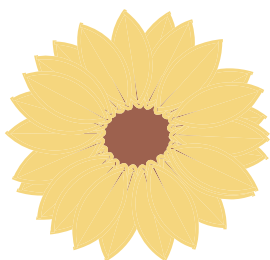
## board of trustees

officers

rev. bradley gosselin, president  
patricia cizewski, vice president  
mary ciaramitaro, secretary  
joyce, de fazio, treasurer

trustees

naomi ellis  
gerry ganey  
gary hansen  
sue hinckley



## Healing

If you know of someone who is in need of healing, please submit the name through our website at [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org). Place "healing" in the subject line. Names that are submitted are forwarded to the healers of our church to be remembered in their healing meditations as well as being placed in our newsletter. Please take the time to send your healing thoughts and energy to those on our healing list:

### for our loved ones

Amy Rose	Anthony	Brookie	Corrinne
Frank	Helen	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Jim	Karen	Karen F.
Kayla	Keith	Kim	Kristen
Kristen S.	Marcia	Millie	Norman
Peg	Phoebe	Rick	Rita H.
Stas			

To Maurice Sanfacon for a smooth transition to spirit and to his family.

*We also place the names of our companion animals on our healing list. If you have an animal in need of healing, please do not hesitate to place it on our healing list.*

Sidney, cat

## upcoming healing saturdays

The First Spiritualist Church of Salem is open one Saturday each month from noon to 3 pm for healing. Come in for 5 minutes or for the full three hours. Meditate, pray, send absent healing, and/or receive a healing by laying-on-of-hands.

**november 14 • december 12**



### the olmstead healing center

David LeClair, certified spiritualist healer  
private healing by appointment only

28 riverside street

danvers

978-774-2559

## prayer for spiritual healing

I ask the Great Unseen Healing Force to remove all obstructions from my mind and body and to Restore me to Perfect Health. I ask this in all Sincerity and Honesty, and I will do my part.

I ask this Great Unseen Healing Force to help both present and absent ones who are in need of help, and to restore them to perfect health. I put my Trust in the Love and Power of God.

## healing services

Healing is available every Sunday evening beginning at 6:30 pm. The healing service begins with prayer and song followed by a meditation, at which time our healers are available to give healing through the laying-on-of-hands.

The congregation participates by contributing their own healing thoughts and prayers during the meditation and in sending absent healing to those whose names have been placed in the healing book.



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## one of many

by ann-marie valery

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**T**he words.  
The words are forgotten as of this day.  
How can this be?

How can the very words that I could tap into at any given moment to revisit be gone?  
How can they be forgotten at all, and so suddenly?

It was at the very moment of not being able to recall the words that made me realize what transpired.  
The words were taken away.  
I could not remember the words even if I tried.  
I decided to test this by trying to recall the words during my commute home, yet it was not possible to remember.  
The words were gone and they were gone for a reason.

It was a blessing.  
A healing.  
A gift removed instead of a gift given by hand.

The words vanished and became silent.  
This was the second time the words became silent.  
Yet, silent in such different ways.

When I was twelve years old, I heard the words spoken before me.  
Grandpa Diorio spoke these words.

I see the room as if it were a scene from a movie.  
Grandpa is sitting at a kitchen table.  
Both hands raised to the sides of his head.  
His head tilted down slightly.  
Just as a person who is grieving would look.

Mother and I enter the room.  
He barely glances up.  
It was not the usual reception I received.  
Even mother was hesitant.  
I know because we never stepped forward.

Mother says "Pa, look who's here, it's Ann-Marie, she will cheer you up."  
I think I heard the word "favorite" in another sentence Mother spoke.  
Grandpa lifted his head long enough to see us and then mother asked "don't you want to see her?"

Grandpa then spoke the words.  
The very words that are forgotten as of today.

Mother was surprised by the words and she tried her best to give me a quick explanation as she directed me backwards to leave the room, with or without her.  
I understood that Grandpa was depressed because Grandma died.  
What I did not understand was the change between Grandpa and me.  
I did not understand the impact of this incident.

Years later, I questioned things about my personality that I thought had no basis.  
Why do I fear rejection so much?  
Why do I think of myself as unworthy?  
Why do I always feel abandoned?

I never cast the blame on poor Grandpa.  
I just accepted my own interpretation of the incident as fact.  
Grandpa didn't love me anymore.

Prior to the incident, Grandpa was the one person who I knew loved me.  
I felt the love.  
He was a one man network that circled to and from him alone.  
He was the only strand of fiber I had to hold on to then.

After he spoke the words, there was a pause of silence.  
After he spoke the words, the words became silent.  
Silent within me.  
Unrecognizably silent for many years.  
Yet, the words did their dirty work at core.

It was two months, two days and two hours between the time Grandma died and then Grandpa died too.  
The incident with Grandpa, and the spoken words, was the last time I saw him.

I felt more grief after the incident rather than when he died.  
I think it was so because I died then too.

He came to apologize today.  
At the end of an Oracle reading with a medium, he stepped in and gave a deep, sorrowful apology for the words he spoke.  
He said he never knew how much those words hurt me.  
Of course he did not know because the words were never intended to hurt.  
He identified himself by the time frame, incident and tobacco.

Grandpa smoked cigars on the earth plane!  
When I was a little girl, I would take my allowance money and use it to buy him cigars for special occasions.  
All the other times I spent the money on candy!

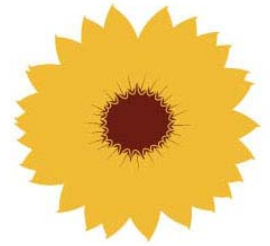
It was a two way street of love and affection then and now.  
Through mediumship, he let me know that he would be back again to visit me later as I progress on my spiritual journey.  
When Grandpa stepped in to say how deeply sorry he is, he also took the words away with him when he left.  
This is the very reason I can no longer remember the words.

The same words I knew up until the moment before the mediumship session.  
More precisely, the words I still knew up until the moment before Grandpa's visit from spirit.

The very words that were only spoken once, then silent.  
The very words that lay silent within me at core level.  
These very words were taken away in silence.

A silent gift.  
A silent gift removed instead of a gift given by hand.  
Now silent in peace.  
I was truly left with the blessings from spirit!

*Anne-Marie Valery is a friend of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem.*



*book review continued from page 1*

Quote from the book: "Many thought she was just plain crazy, including her son Robert, who in 1875 had her committed to Bellevue place, an insane asylum in Batavia, Illinois. In truth, though, Mary's was a disordered but not a deranged mind. Her Spiritualism, coupled with her medications made her see strange things and say strange things, but her hovering dead did no one any harm and were one of her remaining consolations. 'I would not care to live a day' she wrote to a friend, without 'the beautiful and consoling belief that our beloved ones, whose home is in heaven can, unseen by us, enter into our midst, witness the anguish we suffer and console us by their invisible presence.'"

The Civil War divided this family with members on both sides of the Civil War. Among those who were Confederates, it caused a great rift within her family being married to the president and his views.

I enjoyed seeing the photos included in the book, and it did touch upon Mary seeing her son Willie at the foot of her bed after he passed to spirit, and seeing her brother Alec in spirit, who died during the war. However, I was disappointed in the book as a whole. During the week of reading this book, it came out in the news that an old photo was discovered of Abraham Lincoln standing in front of the White House with others; it was believed to be the last photo before he was assassinated. Looking at the photo, I was awed...but more bowled over that two days later again in the news, an old pocket watch that belonged to Abraham Lincoln had a hidden message found inside the watch. The report stated that for nearly 150 years, a story had circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside his pocket watch. The museum curator confirmed it was true. Lincoln's family kept the watch until it was donated to the museum in 1958. It was Lincoln's everyday pocket watch, one of the President's only valuable possessions that he brought with him to the White House from Springfield, Illinois. Part of the inscription was "Fort Sumter was attacked by the Rebels on April 13, 1861," and another part reads, "...thank God we have a government."



Two days after that came out and I had finished the book, I was in the post office waiting in a long line. Looking about, I spied a poster on the wall advertising three new stamps. Imagine my surprise when I discovered the last one was Abraham Lincoln, so of course I bought some.

Though this journey began with a disappointment of a book, at the end of the week I had three surprises all to do with my hero. *That* was my little spirit journey.

Some may say it was a coincidence—I call it a life's journey, with many twists and turns, ups and downs—it's another way that spirit works. Reaching out to spirit and the higher power brings strength to us all and surprises along the way.

In the end, the story of Abraham Lincoln is one of living a spiritual life. To remember to give thanks everyday for all our gifts and knowing that our troubles will be a thing of the past.

To have the endurance to overcome our personal trials and tribulations; it's the rocks and boulders in our path which give us pause to find a solution to smooth our well-traveled road of life. To reach out to others who may need just a smile and a hello, a kind word, or sympathetic ear.

*Naomi Ellis is a long-time member of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem. She sits in the Wednesday night members' class and is a trustee on the Board of Trustees.*

*Editor's Note: To learn more about Abraham Lincoln and the role of Spiritualism in the Lincoln White House, read Was Abraham Lincoln A Spiritualist Or, Curious Revelations From the Life a Trance Medium by Mrs. Nettie Colburn Maynard originally published by the Progressive Thinker Publishing House, 1917. The 1983 edition is available through the National Spiritualist Association of Churches Publishing Center.*

The First Spiritualist Church of Salem<sub>NSAC</sub> presents

# Think It Believe It Be It

A Prosperity  
Seminar

Saturday  
October 24, 2009

1 pm to 4 pm     \$20

Includes refreshments



All are welcome  
First Spiritualist Church of Salem  
34 Warren St.  
Salem, MA

Please RSVP to:  
[info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org)



# blessings received...blessings returned *~~~~~* by phyllis brewer brown

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Mediumship is the highest form of service to God, Spirit and humankind. As a medium you are working within the realm of Universal Energy (the Godpower), connecting to a vibration wherein dwells the world of Spirit, a dimension parallel (corresponding) to the earth plane where one's essence or soul resides after they depart from the physical body. The soul separated from the body retains its attributes and memory. Through this connection, "the triad" (or union of three: Universal energy, spirit and medium), the medium brings forth information from the spirit world to the earth plane. The information is always evidential and is used as a tool to reconnect, send love, healing, and understanding, resolve issues and bring about closure. Mediumship is one way to work for Spirit; another way is to help those who have passed evolve or progress by validating their soul, understanding their path, forgiveness if needed, and sending loving energy which allows the spirit to move to a higher plane of existence.

We all have the capability to work as a medium; all we need do is to remember. How do we remember? Sit in a development class, because no matter how developed you think you are, there is always more to experience. Surround yourself with like-minded people and attend church services. Align yourself with people who support your growth. If you meet someone whose soul is not aligned with yours, send him or her love and move along. Read, read, read, you never know when something you read will suddenly resonate with what you already know to be true, bringing the message home to your soul.

## prepare to receive this great blessing

I like to get in a special space, sort of like being in a state of grace. Think good thoughts; listen to heavenly music, read inspirational verse. Just sit. Get ready to work with God and spirit. Know what your own energy feels like so that you may discern your energy from spirit's energy.

## ask and you shall receive

Before I was taught about God, I had already experienced God's universal energy. One of my earliest memories is of being in the garden and walking between the tall flowers, a gentle breeze flowing softly against my face, the sweet smell of the flowers, the sun shining, and while holding onto Grampy's hand, the world stood still.

Frozen in the sunlight the garden came to life, the flowers acknowledged me and all the beauty around me smiled, at that very moment I became aware of an energy surrounding us and felt God's tender touch. I often go back in my mind to visit the garden and that same feeling becomes alive again. That is the same energy I use to connect to the spirit world. It advises me, directs me, and is always with me. I am a child of God no matter how many years I've had earthly experiences. We are spirit beings experiencing being human.

## the triad explained

Catholicism and other religions teach the blessed trinity; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. Jesus said to his disciples: John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do, he shall do also and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my father." As mediums and healers we take the son's (Jesus) part of the triad, as we are all children of God. The father's part of the triad is the Godpower or Universal energy. The Holy Spirit's part is taken by those in the spirit world.

"God has no body now on earth but yours".

*Phyllis Brewer Brown sits in the Tuesday night non-members development class. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and are not meant to be representative of The First Spiritualist Church of Salem. This article is not reflective of the position, official or otherwise, of the Pastoral Committee, Board of Trustees, or NSAC. It is presented herein to give another perspective and food-for-thought in this sharing of the spiritual path.*



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## sunday services

all services are open to the public  
newcomers welcome

## student service 5:30 pm

students enrolled in development class demonstrate mediumship  
by inspirational speaking and spirit greetings.  
a light lunch is served following the early student service.

## regular service begins with healing at 6:30 pm

featured guest speaker and message medium

### october 25

steve hermann

### november 1

joyce de fazio

### november 8

priscilla herrick

### november 15

rev. brad and  
rev. elizabeth gosselin

### november 22

tba

### november 29

rev. john sullivan

### december 6

tba

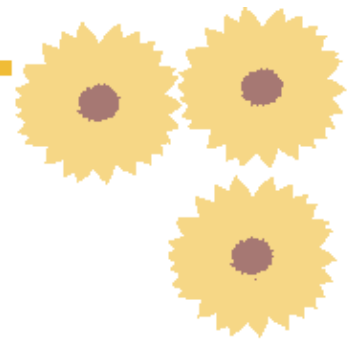
### december 13

carole lynne

**december 20 –  
candlelight service with  
Deodi and Oshada,  
starts at 5:30 pm,  
refreshments following  
the service; see  
upcoming flyer for  
details**

### december 27

the pastoral committee  
shares the service



## e v e n t s

### saturdays, the drawing room

private readings with spirit-  
inspired drawings by the rev.  
elizabeth gosselin, nst.

by appointment only  
call 978-774-1571

### healing saturdays

held one saturday per month,  
this is open the public and free  
of charge.

The next healing saturdays are  
scheduled for november 14 and  
december 12

for more information about the  
church or the religion of  
spiritualism contact:

[info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org)

all emails are read

