

glad tidings

a newsletter of
the first spiritualist
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

the joy i find in spiritualism: part 1

by debbie leclair

I am very fortunate; I grew up knowing about Spirit and Spiritualism. My grandfather, Fred Davis, was a medium in the First Spiritualist Church of Salem. I loved to hear my grandparents tell stories about Spirit and how Spirit touched their lives: the guidance they received and the joy of seeing or hearing from a loved one. They, in their own way, were giving me an introduction to Spiritualism with these stories and it always amazed me that my grandfather's voice would change every so slightly, which was a guide working through him.

I remember my grandfather telling me about the time he was coming down the stairs in his house and a black bird flew by him and went into the living room and then disappeared. He was later told that he had a guide named Black Hawk. I also remember the story about when my father as a teenager contracted tuberculosis. The doctors did not have a very good prognosis. A figure materialized by my father's bedside and gave my grandparents advice saying that if this was followed, my father would be well. The figure was my father's guide, Doctor Lang, and my father did get well.

I would go to church with my grandparents whenever my grandfather had the service. Being young, I admit fidgeting through the sermon. It was my grandfather's message work that would captivate me and that I was, at that time, most proud of. I would sit and watch my grandfather go to different people in the church with their messages from Spirit. What pride I had when he asked, "Do you understand?" The response was always yes. What better proof that life continues on after death? What emotion to know that your loved ones continue to live! What comfort to know that they are still with us even though we cannot see them (well, some of us anyway).

My grandmother, Mary, was also a devoted Spiritualist. She asked me once to stand behind her and place my hands on her head for she had awful headaches. I didn't realize it at the time, but she was introducing me to healing. My grandmother also gave me the name of my first guide, Pond Lily.

I feel truly blessed with what I have seen and been told. I was invited to sit in one of my grandfather's circles...it was truly amazing...

...to be continued in February's edition of the newsletter

Debbie LeClair is a long-time member of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem. Look for

Editor's Note:

This series of articles is written by members of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem about what attracted them to Spiritualism and this church. Visit our new website at 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.

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glad tidings

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mrs. nancy karolides, cm
mr. david leclair, ch

ch—commissioned healer ch
cm—certified medium cm



glad tidings '08

by pat cizewski, editor

Glad Tidings! to the members and friends of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem and to the readership of the *Glad Tidings* newsletter.

Spiritualists actively engaged in the practice of Spiritualism are always ready to "do their part" in thought and/or in deed. So it is we applaud the efforts of the residents of Danversport, and the director of our healing division, David LeClair, and long-time member Debbie LeClair, for extending the hand of help and hope to the residents of Everett who were displaced just before the holidays from a gas tanker explosion. The understanding and compassion they could provide to the residents was of the kind only kindred spirits can offer. So it was that, from the ashes and rubble, arose hope and a reawakening of the community spirit showing us, once again, our interconnectedness and how each of us can truly make a positive difference when we do our part.

As Spiritualists with an understanding of Natural Law and the power of our thoughts (see Nancy Karolides' article on Page 5), we can welcome in this New Year by extending our thoughts of compassion and healing and upliftment to those the world over who need the touch of Divine Light to heal their situations, their hearts, their minds, and their spirits.

Where we can act with compassion, we do so.

In thought or in deed, we can do our part to bring joy to the sorrowful, kindness to the hardened, enlightenment to the ignorant, and hope to the despairing.

It is often said that Spiritualism is a religion of conviction rather than conversion. Among the various meanings of this simple phrase is that a Spiritualist is not passive in the face of strife, injustice, or difficulties. We understand our role in the natural course of events and work diligently to remove the turmoil within to bring greater peace without. As a Spiritualist, it is not enough to say "I believe" or to merely read the principles...it is the responsibility of a Spiritualist to actively engage in learning, seeking, listening and communing with Spirit, doing, praying, contemplating, healing, changing, and creating for a more evolved self and, likewise, a more evolved humanity.

Each day that we successfully engage our minds, hearts and hands in the most positive ways brings us that much closer to a life that emanates Divine Light and resonates with Divine Love.

May 2008 usher into this world a brighter, lighter consciousness and bring Glad Tidings to us all.

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.

Your feedback is encouraged.

Emails can be sent to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org with the subject line, *To the Editor*. You can also submit newsletter materials through this same email address.

president's report

by rev. bradley gosselin

A new year, a new Board of Trustees, a new Pastoral Committee, a new beginning.

Every year is a new beginning. Every day is a new beginning, not only for our church but for each of us personally. Take this opportunity to pause and reflect on this past year and let go of the unhappy moments. Reflect on the happy moments and build on them.

What can you do to make your life better? What can you contribute to make our church better (and I am not talking about the material, as important as that is)? How can we grow? These are the new beginnings, the new opportunities to live the life we are meant to live, to make our church a better and even more harmonious and loving place to visit for our members and nonmembers alike, to make the contributions we are meant to make.

Our church is not the new Board or the new Pastoral Committee, it is the congregation which includes dues-paying members and those who just visit for our services and functions that make our church the wonderful home that it has become for all.

In June we will celebrate 114 years as an NSAC chartered church. We have been left a legacy and, more importantly, a responsibility from our founders and our pioneers to continue the work that they have done to make this church and our religion the best it can be for our congregation now and those who will follow.

Let us meet these new beginnings with a respectful look at the past, a pat on the back, and a pledge to continue to build a loving, caring and sharing church including our membership, friends, neighbors, our community, and the whole of humanity. This is what the past has done for us; this is what we must do for the future.

In Love, Light and Healing,
Rev. Brad Gosselin, NST
Church Board President

the prayerful corner

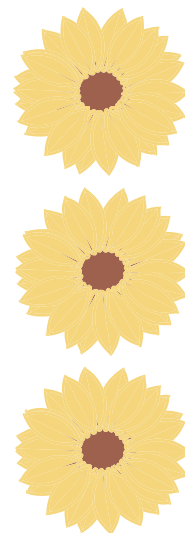
The New Year begins with all of its opportunities to share our love and bring forward again the good practices of our past and bring new experiences into our lives.

At this time, we become more mindful of our abilities to renew our inspiration towards goodwill towards others and sharing all that we feel we can.

We have just participated in the gathering of family and friends to celebrate this sharing. We celebrated as we remembered history and its lessons about how to live fully. We gave gifts of material things and enjoyed the surprise of that unexpected gift. We also gave and received spiritual gifts of filling human needs for companionship, kind words, and the giving of time and attention.

Within this time of year, we can look at the past and claim it as a time of discovery and growth...of learning that we can take into the future. Let us remember our goals and inspirations and keep them in the perspective of the knowledge that constant change is part of the Natural Law and is made by God for our benefit.

Now we may hold onto those inspirations for growth and let them lead us into a new year of discovery and illumination of the Spirit. *Rev. Elizabeth Gosselin, NST*



2008 meeting schedule

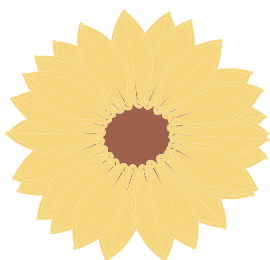
board meetings
board and church members only
to be announced

guild notes

please submit ideas for fund-
raisers, fellowship activities,
and educational seminars to
info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

board of trustees

rev. bradley gosselin, president
mary ciaramitaro, vice president
laurie drake, secretary
joyce de fazio, treasurer
patricia cizewski, trustee
naomi ellis, trustee
sue hinckley, trustee
gary hanson, trustee
david leclair, trustee



Healing

If you know of someone who is in need of healing, please submit the name through our website at 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
Elizabeth	George	Helen
Howard P.	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Jim	Joan P.
John	Judy	Kayla
Kerry	Kim	Kristen
Kristen S.	Lynda	Marcia
Mark	Mary P.	Millie
Pauly	Phoebe	Phyllis & John
Raymond	Sandy	Stas

And the homeless, may they have a hot meal and a warm and safe place to lay their heads.

And for our companion animals

Timmy (cat)
Jitters (cat)
Louie (cat)
Breezy (horse)

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.

the olmstead healing center

David LeClair, certified spiritualist healer
private healing by appointment only

28 riverside street

danvers

978-774-2559



Spiritualist Philosophy

an excerpt by nancy karolides, cm

Let us begin with the definition of philosophy as it is written in the *Spiritualist Manual* and hymnal.

Spiritualism is a Philosophy because it studies the Laws of Nature, both on the seen and unseen sides of life and bases its conclusions upon present observed facts. It accepts statements of observed facts of past ages and conclusions drawn there from, when sustained by reason and by results of observed facts of the present day.

This definition states that as new thoughts progress and we understand the past ages and the natural laws, our understanding of life here and in spirit will be sustained by observing the present day. As we study the Natural Laws, we become more loving and we have more joy in our lives.

This is not an easy task as it takes commitment, forgiveness, and a good look at oneself. This is a 24/7 job. We can use the excuse that we are human, and that is true, but we are human with a spirit. In fact, we are spirit first and human second. In understanding the Natural Laws, we are striving to better our lives and understanding of our spirit.

thoughts

How do we start on this journey of understanding philosophy? We start with our thoughts. We are taught that thoughts are things, they are real, and it us up to each of us to train our thoughts so that we can change our lives for the better. Many years ago I read that if you have a thought that isn't the best thought, we should say, "Cancel, cancel" and replace it with a positive or good thought. "Cancel, cancel" was like a mantra to me as I said it so often. I still use it to this day when I'm in the working stage of trying to change something in my environment and I bounce different thoughts around that aren't the highest and the best.

Truly, thoughts are real and they are the beginning of how life experiences affect us. We come into this world with a purpose—to find our way home to God, Infinite Intelligence, the energy source of Natural Law (whatever or however you want to name it) and to discover who we really are. Our life's circumstances affect the way we think and we carry the application of these thoughts with us throughout our lives...*unless* we choose to train our thoughts to always reflect the highest and the best. We will face situations in our lives that cause us heartache, pain and doubt, and we will feel tested to the limits sometimes...and often, these situations are caused by the thoughts we have had and it is up to us to change the way we think.

So, it behooves all of us to learn to retrain our thoughts. The universe is made up of many forces

and matter which always act in the same manner under the same conditions; it is not given to a sudden impulsive change in thinking and acting. If we choose this path, it is not done impulsively. It is done with a purpose to help others and ourselves. We call on the energies that raise our vibrations so that we can reach out in harmony to all we come in contact with.

The NSAC *Spiritualist Manual* claims that the whole duty of humanity in a mortal life consists in taking the first steps in attainment of knowledge and in gradually developing character and nature to harmonize with the fully unfolded spiritual state. This duty encompasses the entirety of conduct: mentally, morally and spiritually.

words

Once we have reached the place where we are comfortable with our thoughts, we need to watch our words. Words are a very powerful energy. There are times when words can cripple, cause unfounded fears, be humiliating, belittling, and unkind, and they can be more demoralizing than a physical beating. If we hear the same words over and over, especially in an unkind way, we believe the words and in doing so, we give up our freedom of choice and become the words. That is why it is important to think before you speak. Speak with kindness in your thoughts and love in your heart.

Often times, comedians and people in general try to be funny by using sarcasm and making fun of a person's heritage, looks, personality, and so on. This is no laughing matter as the person who this is directed to is affected negatively. Notice the next time you are in a situation like this and be aware of the vibrations and the change in the energy that follows such a scene. Be aware of your words, and be sure that they come from your heart.

deeds

When we do a good deed, we must be sure there is no alternative method to our deed. How many times has someone you know done a good deed for another and then, in the future, expected that person to give to him or her something in return for the good deed? The minute you put expectations on anything, it negates the goodness or kindness given. When you give with a pure heart, it is always returned in some way or form, as that is the Natural Law.

Editor's note: The full article on Philosophy by Nancy Karolides will soon be made available on our church website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org.

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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 schedule as follows:

january 6

rev. elizabeth gosselin, nst

january 13

maria halverson

january 20

john sullivan

january 27

jacquie belleville

february 3

patricia cizewski

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

monday circles

held one monday per month, space is limited to 12 participants.

call 978-774-1571 for the schedule and to reserve your place.

circles are conducted by the rev. elizabeth gosselin and nancy karolides, cm.

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

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

all emails are read

