

glad tidings

a newsletter of
the first spiritualist
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

child's play

by janice guilford

As any seven-year old, I was inquisitive. My grandmother was a Spiritualist, and occasionally, a lady would come to visit my grandmother. We kids were told to go outside during these visits at which my grandmother would give mediumistic readings. So, there I was at my grandmother's house...but I went upstairs, not out!

The lady came into the house and said that she was worried about misplacing her diamond ring, and she was worried about John. My grandmother sat quietly, and soon she was talking to John. I sneaked a peek, but I did not see any John...just my grandmother and the lady.

My grandmother told the lady that John said the ring was under the piano, and John was just fine and was with her often, especially in the evenings.

I must admit, that I managed to dart unnoticed up the stairs instead of outside on other occasions, too, and witnessed my grandmother giving messages to others. I was impressed at how happy these women were, and I decided that giving messages was what I wanted to do. I asked my older cousin how it was that our grandmother could speak to John when there wasn't anyone there, and my cousin explained to me who John was and what grandmother was doing.

At that time in my life I lived in Wenham, MA. In the summer time, "city people" vacationed in Wenham bringing their families to their camps for the entire summer. One of my city friends had lost her mother a year prior, and her dad had remarried and never spoke again of Edith's mother. So I decided to be like my grandmother and bring Edith's mother for visit. There was Edith, Bessie, Gloria, Doris, and me—five little girls determined to call in a spirit. I told them about grandmother and John...so we all agreed to meet in the dirt cellar of one of the unoccupied camps, bringing along a candle and making a vow of secrecy.

—continued on page 5

Editor's Note:

Visit our 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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designer/editor: pczewski

inside this issue

summer sun	2
president's report	3
healing	4
prayer	5
blessings received....	6
church survey.....	7
upcoming events.....	8
color your life	9
healing dates 2009.10	
schedule.....	12

glad tidings

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first spiritualist church of salem
34 warren st., salem, ma 01970
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association of churches since 1894

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ch—commissioned healer
cm—certified medium



summer sun

by pat cizewski, editor

Some folks might think the headline for this article is a bad joke with the summer starting off with very little of the normal summery bright sunlight. Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, a spate of perfect weather will have made it to your front door; but at the very least, hopefully this issue of the newsletter will shine a little light and brightness into your day.

Though our classes and Sunday services are on hiatus for the months of July and August, the church remains active with the Healing Center, the church picnic in August, and planning by the various committees for the launch of the new season in September. This newsletter edition contains information about the activities taking place in July, August and September.

Over this summer, work on the church continues with painting of the newly constructed back stairs, masonry repair to the front window, and repointing of the brickwork. As work on the outside of the church progresses, I hope that we can likewise move the church newsletter and publicity committee forward. This issue of the newsletter again saw participation by a number of friends and members of the church—how wonderful and inspiring to read of other people's experiences as they have walked their life paths with spiritual mindfulness! You needn't be an artful writer or budding author to contribute your thoughts and inspiration to the newsletter...just jot down your story as if you were telling it to a friend. We aren't seeking perfection, but merely a sharing of the journey and the lessons.

Feel free to offer a prayer, a drawing, or a poem of your own creation. There is room in the newsletter for all kinds of inspiration. In this issue, a friend of the church shares an inspirational email she wrote to the healers of the church—its public printing gives us a reminder about the power of prayer. You never know how your thoughts and words might positively influence and comfort another. In this way, no matter the weather, we offer to others light of a different and more lasting kind.

For those who have brought forward their stories in the newsletter in such heartwarming and heartfelt ways, thank you. The popularity of the newsletter is growing in direct proportion to your contributions to it. I look forward with anticipation to the stories, prayers, poems, drawings and other inspirational works that will be forthcoming as we enter a new season in September 2009. To submit your works for the kickoff issue of the new season, please email them to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org.

Have a great summer!

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.

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

Our church season has come to a close. It has been a productive season both financially and Spiritually.

Many of us will take the time to rest and restore our energies, putting to good use the lessons of this past year, such as the new and different methods of meditation to find inner peace and enhance our Spiritual growth.

Some of us will visit other Spiritualist churches and camps—some to serve and others to visit. All will renew old friendships or make new ones.

Remember that our Saturday Healing Center continues through July and August. The schedule can be found elsewhere in the newsletter as well as on our website along with information about other summer activities, including our annual church picnic.

I give my thanks to the board, the Pastoral Committee, the guild, and most importantly, to our congregation (both members and non-members) for your work and your support both spiritually and materially.

Enjoy your summer remembering that personal responsibility and choice continue daily whether the church is open or closed.

In Love and Light ,

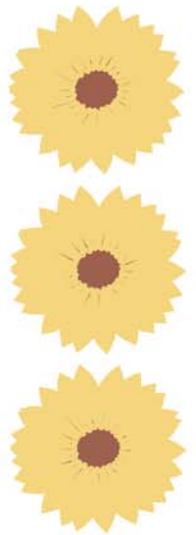
Rev. Bradley Gosselin, President, Board of Trustees

guild meeting dates for the 2009-2010 church season

Meetings are scheduled for the third Sunday of every month and are held at the church beginning at 3:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. Check the church website or the Facebook page for the latest information and times. Mark these dates on your calendar!

- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

You do not need to be a church member to participate on the guild. Everyone is welcome. Bring your ideas!



2009

meeting schedule

**first guild meeting
date for new season
september 20**

**meetings begin 3:30 pm,
unless otherwise noted**

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

**to submit ideas email
info@firstspiritualistsalem.org**

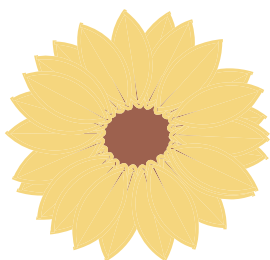
board of trustees

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

trustees

naomi ellis
gerry ganey
gary hansen
sue hinckley
david leclair



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	Frank	Helen
Jason	Jean	Jeff	Jen	Jim
Karen	Karen F.	Kayla	Keith	Kim
Kristen	Kristen S.	Lynne	Madesyn	Mark
Maureen	Millie	Norman	Peg	Phoebe
Rick	Stas	Tim		

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.

Gracie Sidney Timmy

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.

july 11 • august 8 • september 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.

prayer a reminder by way of thanks

by helen riley

Helen Riley's mother took seriously ill during this past winter. Helen, and her husband, Kevin, are regular attendees at Sunday services and sit in the Tuesday night non-members class. The power of prayer and healing prayer, in particular, is so very powerful. We appreciate Helen being willing to share this story, culled from an email she sent in thanks to the church members.

I cannot thank you enough for your healing prayers. There are many details of my mother's condition that I won't go into; but I want to share with you our experience.

The Sunday when my mom was in the ICU at Brigham and Women's Hospital, unconscious, intubated, her heart racing, and bleeding from the stomach as well as the brain (though they were getting that under control), we were told by the doctors that she was "extremely critical" and might not make it—and that they might have to do brain surgery.

That was in the afternoon. Around 6 pm, the doctors' objective was to get some kind of reaction from my mother since she was in a coma and they simply did not know the extent of the brain injury.

At precisely 6:40 pm, my mother's head jolted up and her arms moved! Kevin and I were standing on each side of her bed, holding her hands. When it happened, Kevin looked up at the clock and said, "Look at what time it is!" And we both knew... 6:40 pm was approximately near the end of the healing service at church... no doubt my mother's response was because of all of you sending healing together with our Spirit Guides and God!

This is one more story that should be shared with newcomers to the church.

So I thank you from the bottom of my heart! My mother finally woke up Monday, and they removed the breathing tube.

Editor's Note: Helen's mother is now back home. Helen graciously allowed us to print this private email she sent to the healers at our church. Prayer truly is a powerful medicine.

To share your experience with healing and prayer, please send your story to the editor at the church's email address:

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

***"For those
who believe,
No words are
necessary:
For those
who do not
believe,
No words are
possible."***

Dom Inácio de Loyola

child's play

continued from page 1

I lit the candle, we all held hands, and I called to Edith's mother to come and visit us. "Show us a sign that you're here with us!" I called.

And the candle went out!

It took no time at all for us to realize that it was 80 odd degrees and no breeze anywhere in that cellar and four little girls began to scream and then scattered! Gloria, my cousin, ran to my grandmother; Doris, from a very strict religious background, ran home; Bessie and Edith ran up the hill to their summer homes yelling the whole way! I just stood there, very pleased with myself for calling in Edith's mother and wondering why everyone had bolted.

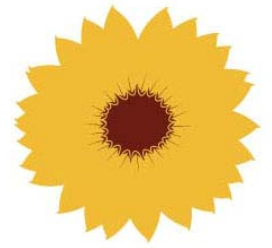
A few days passed with no consequence, until a big black car drove into our yard. A priest got out of the car to address my aunt about the incident. I hadn't told anyone what had happened! The news, however, had reached the local parish priest and he had come to investigate. My aunt handled the matter and I promised never to do that again.

Of course, privately, I was given the third degree by aunt and my grandmother, who I think was secretly very pleased. Mediumistic ability was a family trait to greater and lesser degrees, and I believe my grandmother was happy that it would continue into my generation—though she was clear that working with spirit was not child's play.

In August, Edith wanted me to try to reach her mother again before Edith had to leave to return to the city. This time, I kept my word and didn't delve into mediumship and the spirit world until my teenage years under the guidance of experienced mentors.

blessings received...blessings returned

by kathleen byrnes, a friend of the first spiritualist church of salem



Life has truly blessed me. The circumstances of my life's stories have led me upon an adventurous path. With all the surprises (good and bad), bends, curves, and forks, both uphill and down, Life has offered myriad chances for me to grow beyond what was comfortable or familiar just a moment before. The challenge is always whether i will allow myself to let go of the familiar and trust that Life has my best interest at heart.

Family dynamics are often the university through whose classes we are offered the opportunity to earn a PhD. in Life—mine being no exception.

Building relationships with immediate kin is the primer, and as early as infancy, we respond to both the direct and the subtle modes of communication that structure the daily routine. Development of the primary bonds with mother, father, and siblings become the syllabus for later experiences, either directly or indirectly, affecting all relationships to come.

Christmas 1994, on the 25th anniversary of my father's leaving the family home, Life blessed me with a priceless gift—his return into my life. As he re-entered my world, reality as i had come to know it, was turned inside out, upside down, and on its head. From that moment on, i had a choice to make: hang onto the story i was told while growing up, or give my father and myself a chance to rewrite that story by being present to each other in the moment. We both chose to close the door on the past and to face this new adventure of father and daughter as a team, knowing there would be moments of pain and doubt, and also aware that we would never have this blessed opportunity again.

The road that is called "the Path of Least Resistance" is rarely discernable with the mind, but when we use the heart as our compass, our barometer, our motivation, this path glows bright before us like the beauty of our daily dawns and dusks. As my dad and i embraced each other after years, nay decades, of absence, the path rekindled ourselves and our relationship with a healing power that erased all previous learning based on doubt and mistrust.

Time was precious to us—we agreed to stay "in the moment," stay "in the present" so as not to waste any of the time we had left—my Dad was dealing with a dual diagnosis of cancers.

As the conditions of his health deteriorated, we experienced an exponential growth in our love and acceptance of each other. Forgiveness was our foundation, compassion the corridors of this new family home we were erecting, and "the Path of Least Resistance" was paved in gold as it led to our open front door, welcoming all to come join us in celebration.

When years of chemotherapy and radiation treatments could no longer deter the course of the cancers, i kept company with Dad daily. While the morphine drip released him from the physical pain, i sat beside the bed, holding his hand, and conversed with the Higher Powers of Love, the spirits of our ancestors, and Dad's loving guidance. i asked for his transition to be free of guilt and shame, remorse and fear, or anything that felt like unworthiness.

On Thanksgiving Day 1997, i sat with Dad in this way. The doctors assured me that he had very little time left, but i knew this already through Spirit. My sister and brother were due to arrive in two days, but i was so very grateful for these final moments of solitude with Dad. He had been nearly comatose for two days but i knew that he knew his only son and youngest daughter were coming—it was this desire that kept his spirit in his body. Suddenly he awoke...sat bolt upright in bed, arms flailing and eyes wide open with a look of confused astonishment. Attending ICU nurses came to check on him, administered another dose of morphine, and laid my dad back gently upon the bed.

When they left the room, he grabbed my arm and said, "Did you see them? Did you see them over there? It's been so long since I've seen them. They were standing right there and they were waving to me...all of them...Mum, Father, and Jimmy" (his brother who died at age 11). "Did you see them?!"

With this, he laid back down and the morphine kept him asleep until two days later when my siblings arrived. During their visit, for about an hour his spirit came forth again, and he was animated, jovial, ecstatic. My brother and sister returned to their lives the next day. The day after that, my Dad returned to Spirit accompanied by his mother, his father, and his only brother walking together in the golden light of Love, down the Path of Least Resistance.

Note: My paternal ancestors were unknown to me in their physical lives, but they have all come to make themselves known through messages i have received while attending this Spiritualist church. Thus, Blessings Received and Blessings Returned.

Dear Members and Friends of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem,

In an on-going effort to meet the needs of our church community, we are asking for your opinion regarding whether we should move to morning services next season. We are also asking you to include your name and telephone number on the survey so that we can follow up, if need be. There are no right or wrong answers, we are just trying to get a feel for the needs of our members, friends, congregants, and students. Please note that this is the exact same survey distributed during Sunday services, but has been reformatted for the newsletter. If you have completed a survey already, there is no need to complete another. These surveys are not anonymous, though they are confidential. Surveys without a verifiable name will not be considered. Thank you so much.

Love and light,
The pastoral committee and board of trustees

Your Name (please print): _____

Tel. Number: _____

1. When you prefer Sunday services be held?
 - In the morning (before noon), jump to Item 3
 - In the evening (as they are now), continue with Item 2
2. Why do you prefer evening services? (check all that apply)
 - I attend another church's services in the morning.
 - I serve other church's services in the morning.
 - I travel a great distance to attend church, so this is most convenient for me.
 - I work on Sunday mornings.
 - I sleep in on Sundays.
 - Other (please list your specific reasons):

4. I attend the following First Spiritualist Church of Salem events (check all that apply):
 - Sunday student services
 - Regularly (2 times per month or more)
 - Sometimes (1 time per month)
 - Rarely (less than once a month)
 - Healing service
 - Regularly (2 times per month or more)
 - Sometimes (1 time per month)
 - Rarely (less than once a month)
 - Regular Sunday Services with guest speaker and message worker
 - Regularly (2 times per month or more)
 - Sometimes (1 time per month)
 - Rarely (less than once a month)
 - I am a student in development classes
 - I attend the Healing Center on once-monthly Saturdays
 - Regularly (each month it is offered)
 - Sometimes (Every other month)
 - Rarely (less than every other month)
 - I attend weeknight workshops
 - How many do you estimate you've attended in the past year (since March '07)?
 - I attend weekend workshops
 - How many do you estimate you've attended in the past year (since March '07)?
 - I attend the once-a-month circles
 - How often? _____

3. Why do you prefer morning services (please check all that apply):
 - I'd like the church to offer Lyceum (Sunday school) for children
 - If you checked Lyceum, do you have a child/children to enroll? yes no possibly
 - I travel a great distance to come to church, and morning services would be more convenient for me.
 - Driving is easier in the daylight.
 - I work Monday morning and prefer to be home and to bed earlier on Sundays.
 - Other (please list your specific reasons):

5. What would you like the board and the pastoral committee to consider that we haven't addressed in this survey regarding the question of whether we should move our Sunday services to the mornings? (Use the space below or attach a separate sheet of paper.

Thank you for your participation. Please return your survey to: First Spiritualist Church of Salem, NSAC

34 Warren Street
Salem, MA 01970

Summer Picnic '09

Join us, rain or shine, for the annual church picnic at the Willows in Salem. Bring a dish to share (though we've probably got the potato salad covered!) or just bring your self to share in the fun.

when: sunday, august 23, 2009
starts at 11 am

where: Salem Willows

cost: it's free!
free food!
free friendship!
free fun!



For a view of the fun we had last year, visit the photos section of our website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org. Then mark your calendar to join us for this year's picnic at the Willows!

Healing Center

Though the regular Sunday services have ended for the 2008-2009 church season, the Healing Center continues to be open to the public on one Saturday each month.

The need for healing knows no season. To place a person on our church healing list, email info@firstspiritualistsalem.org.

Provide the first name of the individual requiring healing (first name only is sufficient) and the request will be forwarded to the pastoral committee. We recommend that you do NOT reveal the condition requiring healing given that it may be sensitive or confidential to the individual in need of healing.

You may also join us for the Healing Center and sit in proxy for the individual with one of the church's healers or send absent healing through prayer and meditation.

For more information about Spiritual Healing, visit our website at:

www.firstspiritualistsalem.org



Color Your Life

with renowned
British medium,
teacher and author
Lionel Owen



Color and Our

- moods
- health
- aura

Saturday, September 26, 2009

1 pm to 4 pm

\$25 includes snacks

First Spiritualist Church of Salem, NSAC

RSVP to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org.

All participants are automatically entered into the free workshop drawing.

The winner attends the next workshop for free!



An Invitation

Healing Center

of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem

Receive a healing via laying-of-hands

Sit in quiet prayerful meditation

Offer silent prayers of gratitude

And thoughts for peace

Send absent healing to a loved one in need

Relax to the sounds of soft music

Open to all regardless of faith

Stay 5 minutes or 3 hours

Saturdays

*2009
Dates*

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

First Spiritualist Church of Salem, NSAC

34 Warren St., Salem, MA

At the corner of Warren and S. Pine

Off Essex near the junction of Highland Avenue

For more about the First Spiritualist Church of Salem

Visit www.firstspiritualistsalem.org



glad tidings 11

sunday services

the church is on hiatus until September.

student service resumes in sept.

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 and 6:30 pm healing service return in september

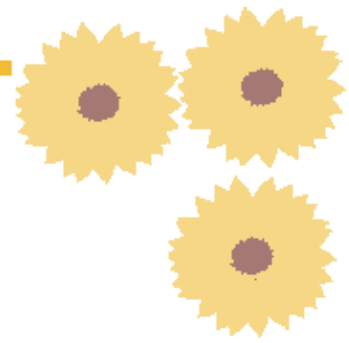
If you are unfamiliar with Spiritualist services, this space (usually reserved for listing the guest speakers and mediums) is dedicated to a brief explanation of our evening services.

The healing service begins promptly at 6:30 pm with a hymn and the recitation of the prayer for spiritual healing. A guided meditation is given while the church's healers give spirit healings, via laying-on-of-hands, to those who choose to sit for a healing for themselves or to sit in proxy for a loved one in need of healing. The congregation sends their silent healing thoughts to those listed in the church's healing book and then may call out the name of a loved one to also be sent healing from that service.

Our church leaders are animal lovers and recognize the important place our companion animals have in our hearts and in our lives. We include animals on our healing list and in our healing efforts.

Immediately following the healing service, which typically lasts from fifteen minutes to a half hour, the regular evening service begins. The standard service includes hymns, the reading of the Declaration of Principles (see page 2 of the newsletter), the inspirational talk by the guest speaker, and spirit greetings given by the guest speaker/medium. A free will offering is collected during this service.

To learn more about The First Spiritualist Church of Salem, visit our website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org.



e v e n t s

see page 8 for information on upcoming events.

see you at the healing center and the picnic! we'll be back in full swing in september.

to visit other nsac spiritualist churches or camps that are open during the summer months, visit the website of the national spiritualist association of churches at www.nsac.org.

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

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

all emails are read

