

glad tidings

a newsletter of
the first spiritualist
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

haiti relief

by pcizewski

The world we know, the world we have created, is a complex place where we bear witness to the greatest joys and wonders, and where, too, we bear witness to deep sorrow and suffering. Sometimes the “miraculous” is directly received, and sometimes the tragic, too, befalls us directly.

When something happens “over there” or to “those folks” instead of “us,” we know through the teachings of Spiritualism that it has also happened here in a vibrational sense. We cannot speak of being interconnected and then not recognize that whatever happens to others affects us at that most profound level, that of the spirit. Spirit does not make the distinctions of nationality, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or other means of categorization that define and promote separateness among human kind.

We are taught in Spiritualism, through our sixth principle the Golden Rule, to act toward others in a way that we would want others to act toward us. Life provides us ample opportunities to live by the Golden Rule and to do our part to co-create with God a better, kinder, more loving world. Some of us are given the opportunity to do so in very private and personal ways, such as when an animal in need happens onto our doorstep or a neighbor takes ill and needs assistance. Sometimes, there is a larger, “global” event to give us the opportunity to practice the Golden Rule. There is a traditional prayer/hymn that I paraphrase wherein the Infinite tells us: “That which you do unto others is that which you do unto me.” It is another way of framing the sixth principle of Spiritualism. In a spiritual sense, we are our brother’s and sister’s keeper (and that of the earth and all creatures).

Though we may not be able to provide relief, assistance, or safe haven to every situation or every person, our life experiences and world events provide us with a myriad of opportunities to do our part within our means.

-continued on page 8

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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glad tidings

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pastoral committee
patricia cizewski
rev. bradley gosselin, nst
rev. elizabeth gosselin, nst
priscilla herrick, cm
nancy karolides, cm

ch—commissioned healer
cm—certified medium
nst—national spiritualist teacher



charity & clarity

by pat cizewski, editor

This issue of the newsletter starts with an article about the philosophy of charitable giving in response to the critical situation in Haiti. In the past, the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC) has been the central collecting organization for Spiritualists interested in making donations toward relief efforts for major catastrophes. In a letter from the NSAC, local churches were encouraged to do this directly in order to provide a faster means of moving donations toward the intended recipients. Charity allows us to act on behalf of the Divine Expression, Infinite Intelligence, by being the answer to someone's desperate prayers. As Spiritualists, the act of charity allows us to more fully explore and express several of our Principles (see the column at right).

The larger focus of this issue, however, is on clarity: clarity of new processes and opportunities. In this issue of the newsletter, the new church board members are introduced. In addition, the president's report outlines new opportunities for members' voices to be heard, and both the Guild president and the President's Report offer avenues for members and friends of the church to have meaningful participation.

Last, but not least, are several workshops to also help us gain clarity. The first, being offered on February 21 with the Rev. John Sullivan, NST is on church management. For those members and nonmembers who are curious and want to understand more fully the roles of leadership in nonprofit, and specifically church organizations, then this is the workshop for you! Members of the church can attend for free. We are requesting a \$5 donation of nonmember congregants of our church and \$15 from the general public or those from other churches.

The second workshop will be on March 6 with British medium Pat Campbell. This workshop is for everyone, though geared toward the person who is just beginning their interest and activity for mediumship development. See the enclosed flyer for details.

In these times where the world moves so fast, world events enter our living room through the television and our computers within moments of their happening, it is helpful to rely on the philosophy of Spiritualism to maintain our perspective. In so doing, we can keep balanced and yet not lose our very human inclination to be charitable. In other words, we can live with both charity and clarity through (to emulate Charles Dickens), the best of times and, especially, the worst of times.

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 patricia cizewski

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

Happy New Year! As 2010 begins, the church moves into a new phase with many new faces on the Board of Trustees and almost an entire new slate of officers. I am honored to begin serving the church as its next president, and I'm excited to serve with a diverse and skilled board. In addition, we've seen a regrouping of the Guild with Patti Brooks stepping up to serve as Guild President, Mary Petrosino as Vice President, Helen Riley as Secretary, and Jeff Ganey remains as Treasurer. Last, but not least, the Pastoral Committee has also reconfigured for this last year of its three-year term with the Revs. Brad and Betty Gosselin being re-elected to serve together with Nancy Karolides, Priscilla Herrick, and myself. There is a lot of experience and talent among these three church bodies. Rolling up our sleeves and working together, I have no doubt that we can and will strengthen our church community.

Ghandi said, "Be the change that you desire in the world." I offer this as a unifying perspective for the board and the members and friends of the church to adopt for the duration of 2010.

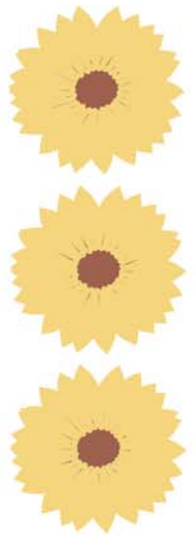
Outgoing board president, Rev. Brad Gosselin, ushered in many changes during his tenure as president. He solidified the financial footing of the church, opened up dialogue among the board members, invited pastoral committee participation and began providing the means for members to be heard by the board of trustees. I intend to build on Brad's successes and strengths and the changes he introduced.

With the consensus of the board of trustees, board meetings are now open to all members to attend and participate. I am asking Patti Brooks, Guild President, to be in attendance at all board meetings as well as the pastoral committee members. I invite the membership to also participate so that the board's deliberations include hearing the voices of our member congregants.

With so many new faces on the board, and with new leadership, we will no doubt make some mistakes. We're learning as we go. We beg your forbearance as we get our "sea legs." Though we may not achieve perfection, I am confident that we will act always with positive intention.

I envision this first year to be one of review, regrouping, and repositioning ourselves to move the church forward. To do this, we will need all hands on deck. In other words, be the change that you envision for the church. Each of us has a talent, a skill, an idea, a penny (or dollar or ten), a useful connection, or a capability that the church needs, not only in an effort to sustain itself, but to grow. Together we can. Together we must. We must be the change we envision for the church. Exciting isn't it? I look forward with such anticipation to all of the wondrous possibilities that are open before us. So allow me to sound the call, "All hands on deck!" See you there!

In loving service,
Patricia Cizewski, board president

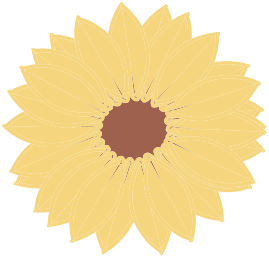


2008 meeting schedule

board meetings
board and church members only
february 28 4pm
march 7, 2010 members
meeting, 3:30 pm

guild meeting
open to everyone

board of trustees
pat cizewski, president
naomi ellis, vice president
janice kaplan, secretary
joyce de fazio, treasurer
laurie drake, trustee
gerry ganey, trustee
janice guilford, trustee
sue hinckley, trustee
deb mcgee, 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

Anthony	Brookie	Corrinne	Frank
Glenn	Helen	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Judy	Karen	Karen F.
Kayla	Keith	Kim	Kristen
Kristen S.		Millie	Norman
Peg	Phoebe	Rita H.	Stas
Tracey			

To Rick Wiley 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.

Abbey, cat
Heidi, dog

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.

please check the website for dates



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.



introducing 2010 board members

by *patricia cizewski*

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The membership elected a number of positions on the board of trustees in November 2009. Many of the elected trustees are serving in either a new position or they are new to the board of trustees entirely.

The “new board” took office on January 1 and held its first meeting on January 31. To offer members and congregants an introduction to this board, as president, I’d like to offer a few words about each person.

Naomi Ellis

Naomi is a long-time devoted member of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem. She has served on the board of trustees for a number of years, and graciously agreed to be nominated (and subsequently elected) to the position of Vice President. Naomi is our resident dreamer...receiving messages in class in the form of vast visions, she brings that quality to her leadership by always recognizing the potential that resides within each person and situation. The board of trustees rely on Naomi to raise questions about the “other possibilities” that the rest of us can’t see...but the dreamer sees and the dreamer asks, and we are opened further because of it. It should be no surprise then, that Naomi loves music, especially singing with a group, laughter, and travel. She has pen pals on three continents and brings that same love of people, laughter and song to our church.

Joyce De Fazio

Joyce is also a long-time loyal member of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem and serves the platform of our church as well as other Spiritualist churches. She is a student of Morris Pratt pursuing mediumship certification. Joyce holds the position of treasurer, and with her great care and attention to detail and her meticulous and thorough review of the accounts that allows the board to have full faith in the soundness of our finances. We rely on Joyce to keep track of the bills and ensure that they are paid on time, to deposit donations in a timely manner,

and to keep the financial records of the church. In this way, Joyce protects the finances of the church. Joyce also makes a point of introducing herself (and the rest of us) to newcomers at the church. Her good work helps newcomers to feel comfortable and right at home from the very first time they step through the door.

Janice Kaplan

Janice Kaplan steps into the position of secretary after being a member of this church for approximately seven years. Janice brings to the board her organizational skills from her position as Assistant VP for a Boston-based bank. Her detail-oriented, people-person personality is exactly what is needed in the position of secretary. That she enjoys writing and brings social consciousness to the table are just additional pluses for the church board. Janice’s affable personality and enthusiasm for Spiritualism enhance her dedication to the church and to this position. A little side note about Janice is that she sky-dived in a successful effort to overcome her fear of heights. According to Janice, “I not only conquered that fear, but all of my fears.” We welcome her fearlessness as we move the church forward.

Laurie Drake

Laurie returns to the board as a trustee this year having been a member of the church since 2001. She drives from Salem, NH to serve the Salem, MA church. As a Morris Pratt student and a Reiki/Master Teacher, Laurie understands the value of spiritual knowledge and of always being open to new thought and perspectives. She is near legendary in her capacity to make manifest her prosperity...she has been the embodiment of “think it,

believe it, be it.” We welcome her knowledge of prosperous thinking and being to help move the church along the path toward greater prosperity and growth. Laurie also has expertly and graciously accepted the role and responsibility of Web master for the church website and has been instrumental in keeping our information timely and relevant. The website (and hence, Laurie) have been receiving kudos worldwide for the quality of our website.

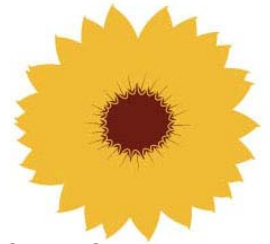
Gerry Ganey

Gerry was introduced to the church in 2002 and became a member approximately three years later. She served as Guild president for several years and is a student of Morris Pratt. Professionally, she works as a certified occupational therapy assistant and the patience that is required in her professional life she brings with her to her work on the board. Regarded as a good listener and thoughtful deliberator, Gerry offers a quiet perspective to the board. Like many of our church members, Gerry is also an animal lover with her dog Minnie and four cats: Howie, Harry, Hannah, and Hazel.

Janice Guilford

Janice Guilford has long been familiar with the First Spiritualist Church of Salem and recently returned offering her help not only to the Guild (you’ll often see her behind the lunch counter) but also accepted the nomination as trustee to the board. She brings to this board her direct perspectives and forthright communication as well as her experience having served on other boards. She enthusiastically serves the platform at the early service, contributes to the newsletter, and extends herself with a smile and a welcome to everyone who comes to the church. We value her honest and direct approach to the business of the board and the church.

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the prayerful corner

inspired works of art, prose, or poetry by members and friends of the first spiritualist church of salem

an evening prayer

by janice guilford

Oh Spirit, thank you for such a beautiful day
You were there by my side, helping me
Every step of the way
And now, as I lay in my bed, tired and ready for sleep
I know you will ever keep
a watchful eye over me.

prosperity prayer

by janice guilford

May all my wishes, desires and dreams
Floating through the atmosphere
Make me happy today
By having one of them
Decide to come
Happily along my way!

warm thoughts

by janice guilford

May Spirit keep you warm when you are cold,
and may Spirit take your hand when you need a
friend!



the guild: an open invitation

the guild is the fellowship and fund-raising arm of the church. it is comprised of dedicated, energetic, and cheerful members and friends of the church. everyone is welcome to join the guild. please contact patti brooks if you would like to know more about this important church group.

Dear friends,

As we have started our New Year, I would like to invite you to take part in our church activities. Most of the church's activities are planned and staffed by Guild members. We work together to present activities as fund-raisers and/or social gatherings. It is the Guild's role to raise money for the church to function and to build fellowship.

Our church is run by groups of volunteers. We are blessed to have people willing to work as hard as they do. Our Pastoral Committee, our Board of Trustees, and our Guild are staffed by people willing to do what they can to keep our lights and heat on and our doors open and welcoming to the community. The reality is that church expenses come no matter what, just like our home bills.

On behalf of the Guild members, I want to also invite you to become a part of our group. We meet about once a month before Sunday services to brainstorm ideas for fun and interesting activities to bring to the church. You don't need to be a member of the church to be a part of the Guild. Everyone is welcome. We would love to have you, and we can always use the extra hands. Please join us at our events. The next two events are coming up quickly:

Sunday, February 21 is a seminar on church management by Rev. John Sullivan of the Springfield Spiritualist Church. This seminar is free to members of this church, \$5 for folks who aren't members but attend our church, and \$15 for everyone else. Preregistration by February 18 is needed. Please see me, Pat Cizewski, or Laurie Drake to RSVP your spot.

Saturday, March 6 features British medium Pat Campbell in a workshop entitled Energy Communication. This workshop is for folks who want to begin the journey of attuning to spirit. The cost is \$20 per person. Pat Campbell is also available for private readings, scheduled through Pat Cizewski at 617-745-9840.

Saturday, May 29 we are excited to host renowned medium Carole Lynne for a full day, intensive mediumship development workshop geared to those with little or no experience through advanced-level workers. For the entire day with lunch, the fee is a mere \$55. Start now with putting \$5 away per week, and you'll have enough for the workshop *and* a shopping spree! Stay tuned for more information. Flyers for these activities are available on our website, at church, and inside this newsletter.

If you have ideas for programs or events, please speak to me or another Guild member and we'll investigate it. We're here for the well being of the church and to bring fun, funds, and friends to the First Spiritualist Church of Salem...and you are invited!

In fellowship,
Patti Brooks, Guild President

*International Medium
Returns to Boston*

Pat Campbell

A member of the Executive Committee of the International Spiritualist Federation, and practiced in Spirit Communication for over 35 years, Pat has brought her down to earth, common sense approach to mediumship to over seven countries across the globe to include Sweden, Australia, Iceland, Scotland, Wales, Canada and the U.S.

Pat has taught at the Arthur Findlay College at Standsted, England and particularly enjoys the teaching element of her work. She encourages students to reach for a good “old-fashioned” style of mediumship containing evidence which cannot be refuted.



A delightful, warm and humorous individual, don't miss this rare opportunity to meet Pat.



Energy Communication Workshop

Schedule of Events:

Sunday, February 28th - 10:30am:

Lecture & Demonstration of Mediumship
Swampscott Church of Spiritualism
59 Burrill Street, Swampscott, MA 01907
(781) 595-6972

Sunday, February 28th - 4:00pm:

Lecture & Demonstration of Mediumship
Canton Spiritualist Church
Corner of Rte. 138N & Blue Hill River Ave.
(Exit 2B off of Rte. 128) Canton, MA
(617) 469-2568

Sunday, March 7th - 6:30pm:

Lecture & Demonstration of Mediumship
First Spiritualist Church of Salem
34 Warren St, Salem, MA (978) 745-2098

Saturday, March 6th - 2:00pm

This workshop on Energy Communication is open to students of all levels. Empower yourself by improving your communication skills on all levels and establish a clearer link to the spirit world. Location: First Spiritualist Church of Salem, 34 Warren St, Salem, MA. For information call: (617) 745-9840. **Cost: \$20**



For a Reading with Pat call:

(617) 745-9840



introducing 2010 board members

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Sue Hinckley

Sue is a long-time member of the church having served for many years on the Guild and then the board of trustees. Sue brings a quiet pragmatic view to the board and her service to the church has been constant, generous, and selfless. She works for a local bank and brings her facility with numbers to committees such as the auditing committee. Perhaps more importantly, she is unafraid to ask the tough questions or to speak up when an issue needs clarification or a second look. Organized and self-motivated, Sue will often simply take up the task that needs to be done, such as mailing out the newsletter or flyers, without having to be asked. Whether it is working behind the lunch counter, working to keep the medium's days organized and on schedule, or sending out mailings, Sue exemplifies what it means to roll up your sleeves and get the job done.

Deb McGee

Most of us know Deb at the church for her talents as an interior designer being the force behind the church's interior "face lifts" on several occasions. However, she brings to the board many more skills including project management, organizational skills, accounting and bookkeeping, as well as people skills and oodles of creativity. Always ready with a laugh and a hug, Deb's enthusiasm for the church, for spirit, for progressive thought and a "can do" attitude are welcome as Deb begins her first term on the board of trustees.

Pat Cizewski

I have been a member of this church since 2004 and I've served on the board of trustees for several years, first as a trustee and, most recently, as Vice President. I bring to the board skills in communications and organizational structure as well as previous church management experience. My hope for this board is for us to roll up our sleeves and build a strong, harmonious church community dedicated to service both within and outside of the church walls. On a poster I once saw were the words, "Joining hands we sing; joining souls we fly." Together, we can accomplish great things.

Want to know more?

Anyone interested in learning more about the role and responsibilities of the board of trustees and church management, whether you are a member of this church or not, is invited to attend the church management seminar on February 21 at 2 pm. See the attached flyer for details.

haiti relief

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The people of Haiti have suffered a great natural disaster. With the support of the NSAC to do so, and in recognition of the Spiritualist awareness and teachings that we are all interconnected, the board of trustees of this church voted to participate in the Haiti relief effort through voluntary donations.

For those inclined to give a monetary contribution, a box is available in the foyer of the church for donations. The box will remain there throughout the month of February. Following the last Sunday in February, the donations will be forwarded to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to support relief efforts.

May our thoughts for healing and blessings go forth with these donations to bring relief, restoration, and reformation to the hard conditions and suffering among the people in Haiti.

About Clinton Bush Haiti Relief

When the Board of Trustees voted to accept donations for Haiti relief, there was also the discussion about which agency should receive the money. The board felt most comfortable with the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

To learn more about the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, visit their website at: <http://clintonbushhaitifund.org/>

There, you will find answers to many questions you might have regarding the ways the money will be used in Haiti, see video clips of President George W. Bush and President Bill Clinton addressing the needs resulting from this natural disaster, and learn about what others are doing to help. In a joint letter signed by both former presidents they write:

"Both of us have personally witnessed the tremendous generosity and goodwill of the American people and of our friends around the world to help in times of great need. There is no greater rallying cry for our common humanity than witnessing our neighbors in distress. And, like any good neighbor, we have an obligation and desire to come to their aid."

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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

For a schedule of guest speakers and message
workers, visit our website at:

www.firstspiritualistsalem.org

board of trustees meeting

February 28, 4 pm

members meeting

March 7, 3:30 pm

church management seminar

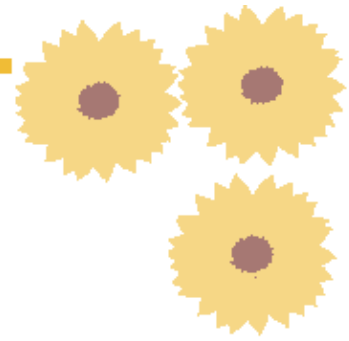
February 21, 2 pm to 4:30 pm

First Spiritualist Church of Salem members free
First Spiritualist Church of Salem congregants \$5
All others, \$15

RSVP required by February 18 to
info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

energy communication workshop

March 6, 2 pm to 3:30 pm with visiting British medium Pat
Campbell, \$20 RSVP to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org



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 2010 dates will be
scheduled after February 14.
Please check our website for
the schedule.

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

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

all emails are read





Church Management Seminar

with
Reverend John Sullivan, NST

This seminar is for anyone who is serving on a board of trustees or for anyone who is interested in church or nonprofit management.

Understand more fully the
fiduciary role and
responsibilities of leadership.

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2010

Time: 2 pm to 4:30 pm

Where: First Spiritualist Church of Salem, MA
34 Warren Street, Salem, MA

Cost: \$15 general admission

(Salem church members attend free, nonmember congregants \$5 donation)

Note: Groups of 10 or more from the same church receive a 10% discount on the admission cost.

RSVP

RSVP by email to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org
to reserve your seat.

If you are part of a church group, remember to give your church name with yours in the email.