

## Interfaith Inspirer

#### **An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication**

VOL. XI, NO. 12 December 2015





**Play Zone** 

by Rev Erin Fry

I have been working on improving my language and self-talk for a number of years. It started with noticing my thinking and

taking control of my thoughts. Then it expanded to how I talk to others. Over the past 10 years I have attended a number of different workshops and trainings to help me become more conscious and loving in my communications.

Lately I have been working on cleaning up my language with respect to how I use idioms and figures of speech. For example, when I felt impatient due to someone's inaction I used to say, "just pull the trigger!" When I surveyed the state of my home after my two year old twins spent the past several hours engaged in free play, the words that came to mind were "aftermath" and "war zone." But recently as I have been reflecting on the violence and war happening around the world, I realized that I no longer want to use these terms. The truth is that I have never been in a war zone. And the remnants of children's play is not the aftermath of something terrible, rather it is evidence of something beautiful.

Right now, millions of people are being displaced due to war. They have no homes. They have lost or been separated from loved ones. They have no clothes but the ones they have been wearing since they fled their country.

How would a Syrian refugee view my home after the kids have been playing? How would our returning soldiers look at it? I doubt they would say it resembles a war zone. I imagine they would say it looks more like a safe zone. A freedom zone. A play zone. This is actually how I want my home to be, a place of fun, exploration, and creativity. Play zones can get messy—wonderfully messy, like when my kids bring the contents of our backyard into the house. Or when they take markers and draw all over themselves. Or when I include them in baking. Or when they get involved in pretty much any activity at all.

This kind of mess is unfamiliar and exciting. I don't recall ever being allowed to make a mess as a child. Anyone who has been to my mom's house on Torch Lake can attest to the fact that everything is spotless and in perfect order. My mom is quite extreme in her clean and has been known to throw things away even while you are using them. If you put your cup down for a second, it may end up in the dishwasher before you have taken a second sip. And that cup has been washed prior to being placed in the dishwasher.

So for me, having the space to make a mess is invaluable. Now, when I stand and look at my play zone, I am grateful for the luxury of this creative disorder. When I think of the refugees who have lost their homes, their families and their belongings, I feel especially thankful for everything we have, mess and all.

As we enter the holiday season and start the New Year, I invite us to give thanks for the luxuries we enjoy and to consciously choose what kind of zone we want to live in. What will your house be? A joy zone, or perhaps a love zone? You can make a laughter zone, a peace zone, a snuggle zone... You decide.

Happy Holidays and New Year, from the Fry Family Play Zone.

Erin Fry is an Interfaith Minister and will be assisting in the facilitation of the Burning Bowl Ceremony at ICSG on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Erin is also offering a special guided meditation for Peace on December 12<sup>th</sup> that will be conducted by conference call. Join with others from across the country and let's create Peace together. To obtain your PIN for the call, go to <a href="https://www.reverinfry.com">www.reverinfry.com</a>.



### Minist<mark>erial</mark> Miscellany

By Dave Bell



Dear Friends,

Here we are at the end of another year. Hard to believe. It has been a good year. We have a continuous stream of new people showing up, we have made more progress in improving our financial situation, the teen room is now ready to be used by them, and the Board is doing excellent work in creating the Ministerial Search Committee. May next year be even better!

Barbara Brodsky and Aaron delivered a wonderful message yesterday on dealing with terrorism and maintaining peace and lovingkindness in the face of hate. Aaron told two stories of love dispelling hate that were amazing, one from his Buddhist history and one from Barbara's travels as a freedom rider in the 60's. They are perfect examples of the Buddha's sayings as recorded in the Dhammapada; "Hatred has never stopped hatred. Only love stops hate. This is the eternal law." Where it gets difficult, is when bigotry and hatred are being showered from public officials, candidates and pundits of all sorts. One is sorely tempted to defend one's self and show the "others" the error of their ways. Probably not an effective strategy. Remember the words of Rudyard Kipling in the poem "If"; "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, . . ." Too long to quote in full, but worth a read. You can find it on the web.

Another approach to the same dilemma can be seen in A Course in Miracles. The Course suggests that all actions are either an extension of love or a call for love. The appropriate response in either case is love. The Course does not define what actions one should take in the face of a "call for love." It does repeatedly suggest that asking the Holy Spirit for guidance is the only sane approach. The Course assures us that we are not here alone, that there is guidance available simply by asking.

In this season of Christmas, let us resolve to give birth to our own awareness of our Christ spirit, bringing our own internal peace to share with a broken world.

Blessings,

#### David

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Community Member of the Month



# Eloquent, Elegantand Editing Esther

Esther is always dressed colorfully and elegantly, and is one of those special members in our community who walks her walk all the time. There is no pretense with Esther. What you see is what you get. She WILL tell you her opinion and you can disagree, agree, or remain neutral. There are charms to this and there are challenges which in that great open heart that lives within her are embraced lovingly. And, as the oldest member of our community, she gets to be all of herself, all the time. Esther 'shows up.' She shows up to be present with us and accountable every Sunday. She helps in every way that she can to support the community with love and care. She stays attuned to what's going on within and around the Center, often participating in the many events and classes that are held here.

And, never to be forgotten is that beautiful voice of hers that she shares every Sunday with us; leading us in song, celebrating the message and wisdom of all of us.

Esther also faithfully combs through the monthly newsletter with her eagle eyes, before Heide publishes it. Her sharp mind picks up even mistakes that Heide may have overlooked several times.

Thanks you, Esther, for all you do and bring to our beloved community. You are cherished and loved here and I can't image a Sunday without you.

In Peace-Full Realities, Jeanne

Note from Heide: photo above is a few years old, however it is one of my favorites of Esther! It was taken at one of our annual yard sales.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE PRAYER CORNER

By Bob Hopkins

The morning prayer spelled out in the last two columns, continues and concludes as follows:

I seek the experience of inner peace. I trust, patience, empathy, sweetness, seren- from some impressive sources. ity, sobriety, sincerity, stability, security, cooperation, connection, communion, commitment, conviction, courage, courtesy, grace, gratitude, greatness, generosity, genius, gentleness, genuineness, gentility, goodness, good will, good intentions, good humor, good temper, kindness, unselfishness, hope, optimism, faith, charity, humility, humor, honor, integrity, honesty, wisdom, understanding, wholeness, wonder, openness, willingness, forbearance, mercy and forgiveness.

Rather than be guided by anger, ire, rage, frustration, irritation, irritability, resistance, resentment, hostility, violence, meanness, evil, ill-will, ill intention, pride, arrogance, greed, jealousy, envy, selfishness, lust, distrust, mistrust, hatred, spite, vengeance, revenge, false, harsh, severe or unfair judgments, fear, doubt, guilt, uncertainty, terror, trepidation, dread, anxiety, angst, worry or impatience, shame, pain, self-hatred, despair, despondency, degradation or hopelessness.

Clearly, this prayer is not without its flaws, chief among them is redundancy. However, it has the advantage of incorporating some better known prayers in a relatively seamless fashion. Clearly, the astute reader would have no trouble identifying the Lord's Prayer and the Serenity Prayer. Anyone with a background in Unity Church of Practical Christianity would readily recpray that I may be guided. by love, warmth, ognize the Prayer of Protection from James compassion, tolerance, tenderness, truth, Dillet Freeman. I have to say I borrowed

> You might find my prayer a bit idiosyncratic to my own life circumstances, but I feel confident you may find some of the virtues I pray to realize and some of the vices I pray to eliminate will resonate with you. As was my intention stated at the beginning of this series of reflections on prayers, I am not certain I have anything to teach anyone about how to pray. If you like and can use any parts of what I have shared, you are welcome to use whatever you find constructive. All that I ask is that you remain open to whatever inspires you and work on improvements in your own daily prayer contact with the One that pervades, guides and enriches us all. It is certainly worth the effort.





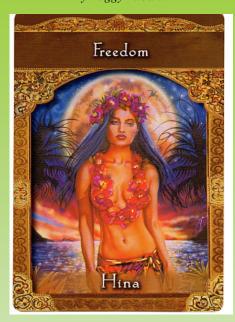




The Service begins at 10:45 a.m.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The speaker/ topic are in bold/ italic R indicates the reader M indicates the meditator MU indicates the musician.	Board meeting this month is on December 21	1 10:30 a.m. The Power of Now Discussion Group 5:30 p.m. Community Gathering 7—8:30 p.m. Reiki	2	Noon—1:30 p.m. ACIM 6:30—8:30 p.m. Science of mind	4	5 8:30 a.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Drum and Dance Jam
6 Rev. Dave: The Joy of Christ- mas R: Judy B. M: TBA MU: Bliss! Potluck	7 6:45 p.m. ACIM 7 p.m. Great Balanced View Video Meeting	8 10:30 a.m. The Power of Now Discussion Group 5:30 p.m. Community Gathering 7—8:30 p.m. Reiki	9	10 Noon—1:30 p.m. ACIM	11	12 8:30 a.m. AA 8 p.m. Café 704
Rev. Delyth: R: Maggie B. M: TBA MU: Katie Geddes QCC Andy Walker	14 6:45 p.m. ACIM 7 p.m. Great Balanced View Video Meeting	15 10:30 a.m. The Power of Now Discussion Group 5:30 p.m. Community Gathering 7—8:30 p.m. Reiki	7-9 p.m. Shamanic Journey	17 Noon—1:30 p.m. ACIM 6:30—8:30 p.m. Science of mind	18 7 p.m. Peace Generator	8:30 a.m. AA 8 p.m. Spiritual Cinema
20  Rev. Dave: Birth of Christ Awareness R: Marilyn A. M: Janet F. MU: Interfaith Chorale	21 6:45 p.m. ACIM 7 p.m. Great Balanced View Video Meeting	10:30 a.m. The Power of Now Discussion Group 5:30 p.m. Community Gathering 7—8:30 p.m. Reiki	23 7:30 p.m. Urantia Book Study	24 Noon—1:30 p.m. ACIM	25 7 p.m. Sufi Prayer Service	26 8:30 a.m. AA
27  Burning Bowl Service CC meeting	28 6:45 p.m. ACIM 7 p.m. Great Balanced View Video Meeting	29 10:30 a.m. The Power of Now Discussion Group 5:30 p.m. Community Gathering 7—8:30 p.m. Reiki	30	31	Birthdays are indicated in bold/italic Happy Birthday!	The newsletter submission deadline is December 20

#### Start a new family tradition: ANGEL CARD READINGS for the new year!

By Peggy Lubahn



HINA, Goddess of Personal Freedom

Hina's message is FREEDOM. Walk away from restrictions (especially those you have imposed on yourself) and be free! You have the power and right to change your life so that you experience more freedom. This card signifies that your soul is crying out for more freedom, especially as it involves your life purpose. Perhaps it's time to take a break so you can think clearly about your desires and available options. The Universe always supports the desire for expansion, creativity and freedom. Say yes to freedom and the Universe will say yes to you!

Hina is a Polynesian and Hawaiian moon goddess who is considered so beautiful that no one can look directly at her. She felt compassion for the natives, so she threw pieces of the moon down to the islands to provide for their material needs. The pieces turned into banyan trees, and the people pounded the inner bark into tapa cloth for clothing and commerce. Call upon Hina for issues involving fertility, attraction and manifestation.

The deck: Ascended Masters Oracle Cards by Doreen Virtue

Interfaith Pop

As recommended by Rob Fagerlund
When You're Smilin'
by Larry Shay, Mark Fisher, and Joe Goodwin as recorded by Frank Sinatra

When you're smilin', keep on smilin'
The whole world smiles with you
When you're laughin', keep on smilin'
The whole world smiles with you
And when you're laughin', oh when you're laughin'
The sun comes shinin' through

But when you're cryin', you bring on the rain
So stop your sighin', be happy again Keep on smilin', 'cause when you're smilin'
The whole world smiles with you
The whole world will smile with you
The whole world smiles with you





Caring
Committee
Contact List

Image from peaceseeds

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#### **Giving Thanks**

Thanksgiving Fellowship at the Center on November 26.







A Visit from the Queen



Clean-Up: Handyman Jack condenses the garbage (or should I say Footsyman Jack?)

#### **Board Meeting November** 2015 Highlights

The Ministerial Search Committee has started meeting. Their first update to the community will be presented at the December 13 QCC.

The board is reviewing the proposed charter for the Compensation Team. To succeed. the team will deliver flexible compensation strategies and ultimately a draft a contract for the new minister. An announcement will be published to the Yahoo! group regarding the responsibilities, qualities, and time commitment needed for members of this team. Members of the community who are are interested in joining the Compensation Team should contact Patricia Root.

**Growing Membership Com**mittee has created a charter and list of ideas for attracting and keeping participants. If you are interested in helping this committee implement ideas. please contact Jeff Alden or Diane Gledhill

**Publicity Committee** needs people to help with outreach. Contact Danielle Cassetta for more information.

#### **Finances**

Currently the Interfaith Center revenues are not covering all expenses. We anticipate that donations made near the holidays will bring prosperity to our finances. Dave has prepared a

letter that will be sent to the community explaining that extra contributions at the end of the year will help the Center financially. The proposed budget for 2016 was distributed and will be discussed at the next board meetina

Steve West is giving The Center CDs of his singing at the Mile High Church in Denver. These will be made to available the community for a donation. Also, in order to bring in additional revenue. Danielle Cassetta and Rob Fagerlund indicated that they would contact musicians they know to encourage them to rent the Center or contract with the Center to offer concerts and programs. The KickShaw Theatre has rented the Center to present an play, the Electric Baby, in the near future.

#### **Length of Service**

The concern about the length of the Sunday service which was identified at the last QCC was discussed. Meditators and readers will be reminded to limit their time to 3-5 minutes.

Holiday Calendar

Dec 4 - Caroling at ICSG

Dec. 13 - QCC

Dec. 20 - Board Meeting

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Ser-

vice

Dec. 27 -

Sunday Celebration Services are held at 10:45 a.m. at 704 Airport Blvd., (off S. State Street) near I 94



#### MISSION STATEMENT

Spiritual seekers joining in community to attract others of like mind, creating an atmosphere and structure to foster and stimulate our individual and collective spiritual growth.

#### **CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!**

We would love to have your input in the newsletter: spiritual moments, movie/book reviews, exciting announcements, poems, etc.

We try to have the newsletter ready for final editing by the third Sunday of each month. Please send contributions to Heide at mommyk@tc3net.com with "Interfaith submission" in the subject line. If you do not mention Interfaith, your email might get kicked right into the recycle bin by my spam filter.

If you cannot email your contribution, you may give it to Heide on Sun-

To receive the online newsletter, go to http://lists.interfaithspirit.org/ listinfo.cgi/interfaithinspirerinterfaithinspirer.org to subscribe.

Want to hear from us throughout the week? Receive or send email through Interfaith Yahoo by going to

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ InterfaithSpirit/

Namaste from your newsletter team: Heide, Esther, Deane and Lindsay.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Pat Root, Chair Sally Searls, secretary Rob Fagerlund, member Lindsay Passmore, member Jeff Alden, member Diane Gledhill, member Danielle Cassetta, member Board email address is

board@interfaithspirit.org

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Laura Massaro, Music Director Heide Kaminski Love, Youth

and Kellie Education

Tommy Kaminski, Alex West, Nursery

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Heide Kaminski, Editor-in-Chief Esther Reilly and Deane Erts, Proofreaders Lindsay Passmore, Steve Lyskawa, Webmasters **NEWSLETTER ADDRESS** 

Heide AW Kaminski

# Café 70g

Café 704 Sat., December 12, 2015 8:00 p.m.

## BLISSMAS IS BACK!

Bringing some light to a December night, Bliss will bring their world music fused with folk and blues to brighten up the season. Enjoy Blissmas cookies, tea, hot chocolate and good music!



Café 704 Coffeehouse Series. Interfaith Center for Spiritual Fellowship 704 Airport Road, Ann Arbor (near Costco)





Hello all!

Wow! 2015 has gone by so fast! They say that "time flies when you are having fun." This year we focused on learning about the 52 virtues.

2016 will be exciting, too. We plan on focusing on a new service project every quarter. Check out our newsletter next month for service areas that we plan to embrace.

In November, we learned about the virtues of honor, tact, truthfulness and loyalty, as well as a little bit about the abundance of cultural celebrations around the world in the month of December.

For December our main activity will be practicing for our holiday program. We are very excited this year for our musical performance during the service on 12/20/2015. Thank you to Dawn Swartz for her help! Please let us know if you have children who plan to attend. We want to make sure that we and Santa are prepared!

As we finish out the year, we will learn about the following virtues. For the week of 12/6 to go along with the topic of "The Joy of Christmas", we will learn about the joy we can experience when we practice the virtue of helpfulness.

For the week of 12/13, to go with the theme of "The season of light," we will learn about determination and how with light in our lives, we can be determined to get through the dark

times.

For the week of 12/20, Dave's topic is the awareness of our Christ spirit and we will focus on compassion and how we can live with compassion as Jesus did.

For the burning bowl service and in preparation for a fresh new year of service, we will learn about the virtue of diligence. Diligence is working hard and doing your absolute best. You take special care by doing things step by step. Diligence helps you to get things done with excellence and enthusiasm. Diligence leads to success.

Love, Light, and Laughter Heide, Kellie, Tommy, and Alex





Marilyn, Chair





Heide and Kellie, Co-chairs



Judy



Dawn



Mike



Khristian



Annie, Liaison



Delyth, Liaison





Tommy, Youth Ed rep



Jack



Jan



Beth





#### **Interfaith Caring Committee Survey**

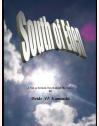
We are looking for your participation and support of fellow Interfaith members in crisis in any way that is appropriate for you. If you are called on by a caring committee member to support a particular need, you always have the opportunity to decline if it doesn't work for you at that time. Please fill out this survey as completely as you are able. All gifts, skills, and talents are appreciated. Thank you for taking the time!

Name:C	City/Part of town you live or work in:			
Phone:e	e-mail:			
Best way to contact you:	Best times to contact you:			
Check all areas that you are willing	g to participate in and specify any limitations			
Driver (Interfaith/appointments	cs)Craft Teaching (type)Counseling (type)			
Medical Equipment loan (type)Meal PrepConsulting (type)				
Child CareErrandsC	CleaningYardworkSnow Shoveling			
Healing/energy workF	Household DonationsClothing Donations			
Caregiver BreakSend C	CardsComputer HelpHealing Music			
Fun CompanionshipF	Pet CareMassageMoney Donation			
ListeningPrayersF	Respite CareJoin Caring Committee			
Other				
Limitations and additional information:				



I currently have need of (be specific):

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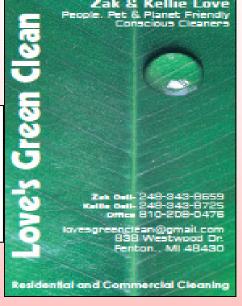
**JACK OF ALL TRADES** 

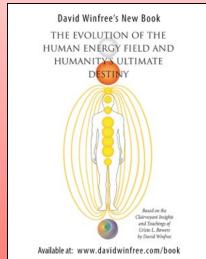
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Look us up on FaceBook, or call Heide at 517 673 1888 to find out if we have what you are looking for. We have clothes, furniture, gadgets, toys, books, cool crafts, and what-nots you can't resist. MUST SEE! Trip to Tecumseh is worth it!



## Peace in Our Lifetime "The Peace Clock"



Swedish: FREDSKLOCKAN Starting Now:
Wherever you are, perform a silent meditation for world peace
EVERY DAY AT 12 NOON FOR ONE FULL MINUTE

#### THE GOAL: To have EVERY PERSON ON EARTH performing this event

#### Synchronized Intention is the Key

- With an alarm, a bell, a note or any other method that works for you remind yourself when it is noon in your time zone.
  - Acquire the active participation of your company, your school, community, city, state and nation.
- Involve radio and television have them broadcast the PEACE CLOCK name, slogan and logo accompanied by one minute of silence every day.
  - Above all approach all interactions with others in peaceful, constructive and creative ways.
    - Copy and share this information with as many people as you can.

#### **PDF Fliers:**

• Arabic: 和 平 默 禱 Dutch: VREDESKLOK

• English: PEACE CLOCK French: UNE HORLOGE POUR LA PAIX

• German: FRIEDENS UHR Hebrew: שעון השלום

Hungarian: BÉKEÓRA Italian: OROLOGIO DI PACE

• Japanese: ピース クロック Korean: 우리의 삶에 평화가 깃들길

Pharsee: زمان نمای صلح ZEGAR POKOJU

• Portuguese: Hora da Paz Romanian: CEASUL PĂCII

• Russian: ЧАСЫ МИРА Spanish: UN RELOJ POR LA PAZ

• Swahili: SAA YA AMANI http://peaceclock.org/

