



Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication

VOL. XII, NO. 4, April 2016



Commandment 1.5: A Journey in Self-Love

by Rev Erin Fry

When I was in Seminary we studied the Golden Rule, which is to treat others as you would like them to treat you. We looked at how this concept appears in Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and essentially all of the world's major traditions.

In Christianity, it is set forth in Matthew 22:39 (and in Mark 12:31). "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Maybe it is my lawyer brain, but something about this did not add up for me. As a Religious Science Practitioner, I understood that we are one with our brothers and sisters, that there really is no separation between us and them. When I was studying the Science of Mind at my Center for Spiritual Living in Oakland, California, my dear friend Katy O'Leary introduced me to the Mayan phrase *In Lak'ech*, which means "I am another You."

But in a world of people who do not love themselves and who treat themselves poorly, why would we strive to treat others as we treat ourselves? It seemed to me that there was a step missing between Loving God and loving our neighbor. So I came up with Commandment 1.5 to help bridge the gap in my mind: to Love ourselves as we love God. That

seemed to satisfy my brain and I continued on with my studies and didn't give it much more thought...until recently.

As many of you know, one of my primary spiritual practices is Visioning. I use Michael Beckwith's Life Visioning Process, which is a form of guided meditation to gain clarity and direction. I love to Vision and I use this powerful technique on many areas of my life.

In the past few months, the idea of self-love has popped up in nearly every single Visioning session I have done. No matter the topic, whether I am Visioning for my health, my relationship, my work...I keep receiving the answer that I am to grow in self-love. Ok, I am getting the message that I need to learn to love myself, but how does one do that and what is self-love anyway?

Sadly, some people think that self-love is the equivalent of being selfish or narcissistic. It doesn't help that the dictionary perpetuates this misconception!

1. the instinct by which one's actions are directed to the promotion of one's own welfare or well-being, especially an excessive regard for one's own advantage.
2. conceit; vanity.
3. narcissism

Fortunately, these outdated views of self-love are falling by the wayside - thanks in part to psychologist and author Erich Fromm who proposed that loving oneself is different from being arrogant, meaning instead caring about oneself, and taking responsibility for oneself (per Wikipedia).

As self-love is being re-

defined to be a belief that you are valuable and worthy, more and more people now see self-love as healthy and necessary for a happy life.

So, how do we love ourselves? Ever since getting the message through Visioning that this is where I am to grow, I have started to live into this question. I have been reading about it. I started a Facebook group where we do a new practice of self-love every day. Some days we focus on self-care, which is one aspect of self-love, and other days we focus on trusting and listening to the self or appreciating our uniqueness. But it is really through personal meditation that deeper answers have come forward.

The big picture answer I receive when meditating on how to love myself, is to Love God; and then when asking how to Love God, the answer is to love myself. Around it goes in a loop. That loop takes me to Oneness - where any sense of separation between my individual self and the Divine Life fades away.

Going back to my Commandment 1.5, with fresh eyes, I see that self love is not just foundational for being able to love thy neighbor, but loving oneself as *part of loving God* is key. I hope you will join me in this important practice of self love.

Erin Fry is an Interfaith Minister and works with people of all faiths. If you would like to be added to her Self-Love group, find her on Facebook. If you would like spiritual coaching or to experience a Visioning session, contact her at www.reverinfry.com

Ministerial Miscellany

By Dave Bell



Dear Friends,

This month's column is an elaboration of the concept I mentioned last month, a "Civil rights movement for the soul." It was first mentioned by Neale Donald Walsch in his Conversations With God series. It forms the central theme of the world wide organization he has created and named "Humanity's Team." There are now over 150,000 members worldwide. From the outset, it was organized as a grass roots movement to spread the concept of oneness. Humanity's Team supporters hold onto a truth — the eternal truth that **We Are All One** — and seek to make this truth evident through our lives lived, thereby helping others see this truth demonstrated, changing hearts and minds, which change behaviors.

Humanity's Team was founded in 2003 to address suffering and other issues stemming from the prevailing belief that we are separate from God, from each other and from all of life, and the companion belief in an authoritarian or malevolent God. Members believe that most people are asleep to their true identity — to their Oneness with God, with each other and with all life. And most people's behaviors reflect this. Just look around the world, with its wars, terrorism, hunger and other painful conditions! They see these conditions as largely a result of our beliefs about God and about life. But all this can change.

Their goal is to change the world in one generation so children will grow up in a very different world. They are dedicating their lives to this objective and they have set the intention to do this. Then, like other movements before, they will disband when their objective is met.

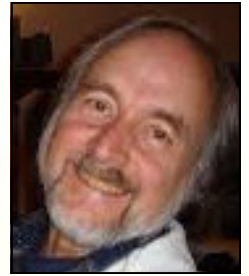
I am sensing that this is a very important concept that has the potential to truly change the world. Next month when I return I am going to talk about this idea and then invite those who are drawn to this concept to get together and brainstorm ways we, as a Center of Spiritual Growth can participate in spreading the truth that, indeed, we are all one.

Florida is great and we are having a wonderful time. Spring training is almost over which means that Spring can't be too far behind. Our neighbor sent us an email today saying "Its time to come home, your flowers are up blooming and they are beautiful!" We will be leaving in a month. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Blessings,

David

*Community
Member
of the Month*



Jovial John

By Jeanne Adwani

John brings the magic of the Universe for us to see. He is our resident Astronomer, ever welcoming us to come out during exquisite Celestial moments to see into the dark night of some amazement. Sometimes, it is even during the day when a Solar eclipse is worthy of being seen through his big telescope, John sends out a call to the community to meet in some parking lot in Ann Arbor, to witness the 'great beyond', I invite you to follow him. You will not be disappointed.

John also volunteers his time to make for holiday cheer, as well as to teach and share the wonder of the Urantia Book and its spiritual philosophy at the Center. He is always interested in engaging in conversation about the what and why of this way of experiencing spirituality with you. So, when you see him at the Center and want to know him a bit better, step up and ask him some questions.

Tho' you may see him in the back during our Sunday service, appearing to be utterly and totally relaxed, with eyes shut and very possibly in dreamland, John is certainly deeply meditating, and being present in the spirit of sharing Spirit with us.

This quiet presence that John exudes, shelters, for what I imaging a very deep and abiding care for this planet and all that wraps itself around us.

Thanks, John, for being you and bringing your gentle being-ness to our Center.

We love you.

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**Annual Meeting/QCC
March 13, 2016**

Board members were introduced: Rob Fagerlund, Jeff Alden, Pat Root,, Danielle Casetta, Lindsey Passmore, Diane Gledhill (leaving), and Sally Searls (leaving). Five people were available for four positions: Scott Alf, Ray Fix, Steve Orlowski, Lindsay Passmore, Pat Root.

Reagan proposed that we accept all five instead of voting for four, several people approved of this.

It was decided to move forward with the vote and revisit the idea of adding the fifth candidate at a later time.

Election Results: Steve, Ray, Lindsay, Pat have been elected to the board Scott Alf has been invited to be a non-voting attendee of the board

Marketing Report by Lindsay: She had worked with Sally and Jeanne last year to make a marketing report, and build an updated website. Our most popular view by far was a blog post that was reblogged from a woman about how to hold space for other people and eight tips on how to do it well. That got 653 hits. As of right now we don't have a marketing committee. In her opinion what we really need are volunteers who can actually implement ideas. We are a small organization and many people are wearing multiple hats, so more volunteers with interests and skills are a welcome resource that we need. Kellie voiced willingness to volunteer if she gets a clearer picture of the role.

Ministerial Report: Delyth and Annie were recognized and appreciated for the hard work they put in while Dave is away.

Finance Report: Report by Paul, our voluntary CPA along with his wife, Joyce: Pretty much through November 2015 we were in a break-even situation, and then in December offerings were very good and in just that month we had a net income of 4700, which made the end of the year \$4600. Bad news is that gross income was 10% lower than 2014. Everything was lower across the board, but expenses were also lower by 5%. January this year was very good, between Kickshaw and special donations, five

Sundays, it was a good month.

Board Report by Pat. Acknowledgement for Heide and Kellie for their role in the Youth Ed and the changes they made to the content, gearing it more towards the topics discussed on Sunday.

Youth Ed Report: Kellie reported that the focus is on service projects; four for the year, one each quarter, - dedicating one month of each quarter to raising money for the caring committee. Teen room is being set up so we can entice them. Heide asked for volunteers to help clearing the room for the teens. They cleaned up the main classroom.

Second and third week in July Kellie needs help because, both, Heide and Tommy, will be gone.

Board Report

The Board started in March 2015 with four new members, had a working retreat, were officially notified by Dave of his retirement for May 2017. Dave has expressed concerns that we may need to move at some point with no advance notice because it is the same owner who sold to Costco recently. So priority was to focus on growing membership for greater financial backing to tackle these issues. Rob, Bonnie, Diane, Jeff served on the growing membership committee. Welcome Table/Greeters have been developed and fine tuned, thank you Randall. The board created the MSC and CT and approved the charters and timeline for both.

Challenges: presented by Pat, board chair: we do have challenges going forward: Continuing commitment for finding new minister and planning for the possibility of a move, increasing Membership, develop a prosperity consciousness, tithing or giving generously, is a spiritual practice; giving and receiving are the same. We haven't had a volunteer coordinator for a year. The board has not developed a way of self-monitoring Attention to Dave's transition to Emeritus.

Continued on page 7

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 atmos-
phere and structure to foster
and stimulate our individual
and collective spiritual growth.*

Mark your calendars!

**CAFE 704 CONCERT
SERIES
Saturdays**

**April 9: Dorkestra
May 14: TBA
June 11: Hold
July: NONE (Top of the Park
conflict)
August 13: TBA
September 10: Hold**

**PEACE
GENERATOR
April 15**



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.

Birthdays are
indicated in
bold/italic
***Happy
Birthday!***

The newsletter
submission
deadline is
April 17

Board
meeting this
month is on
April 10

1

2

8:30 a.m. AA
7:30 p.m. Drum
and Dance Jam

***Rob Russell
Pat Root***

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

***Michael
Bratcher: Love
Returns Unto
Itself***
R: Mary Alice
M: Maureen M.
MU: Dorkestra
Potluck

6:45 p.m. ACIM
7 p.m. Great Bal-
anced View Video
Meeting

10:30 a.m. The
Power of Now Dis-
cussion Group
5:30 p.m. Commu-
nity

Noon—1:30 p.m.
ACIM
6:30—8:30 p.m.
Science of mind
7:15—8:30 p.m.
Speaking Circle

8:30 a.m. AA
Café 704

***Malcolm
Shaffner***

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

***Noreen Keller:
Living Life
More Sacred***
R: TBA
M: TBA
MU: Laurel Feder-
bush

6:45 p.m. ACIM
7 p.m. Great Bal-
anced View Video
Meeting

10:30 a.m. The
Power of Now Dis-
cussion Group
5:30 p.m. Commu-
nity

***Amber
Messman
Tom Headrick***

Noon—1:30 p.m.
ACIM
7:15—8:30 p.m.
Speaking Circle

7 p.m. Peace
Generator



***Joanna
Courteau***

8:30 a.m. AA
Spiritual Cinema

Norah Reilly

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

***Rev. Annie/
TBA***
R: TBA
M: TBA
MU: Eleni Kolakos

6:45 p.m. ACIM
7 p.m. Great Bal-
anced View Video
Meeting

10:30 a.m. The
Power of Now Dis-
cussion Group
5:30 p.m. Commu-
nity

Noon—1:30 p.m.
ACIM
6:30—8:30 p.m.
Science of mind
7:15—8:30 p.m.
Speaking Circle

8:30 a.m. AA

Lloyd Coleman

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

***Frances Petra-
tis: Simple
Presence***
R: Jan P.
M: Maggie B.
MU: Curtis Glatter
and Jill Halpern

6:45 p.m. ACIM
7 p.m. Great Bal-
anced View Video
Meeting

10:30 a.m. The
Power of Now Dis-
cussion Group
5:30 p.m. Commu-
nity

7:30 p.m. Urantia
Book Study

Carol Jacobs

Noon—1:30 p.m.
ACIM
7:15—8:30 p.m.
Speaking Circle

8:30 a.m. AA



Peggy's Parade By Peggy Lubahn

"PRECIOUS" LESSONS

When I split from my ex in the late 1980's, I didn't take the toaster or the television with me. Instead, I got custody of the tarantula.

Let me explain.

Everybody knows that if you get a child a pet, the grown-ups end up taking care of it. The Christmas gift my ex wanted one year was a red-kneed tarantula, which he named Precious. Predictably, he quickly lost interest in a pet he couldn't train to do impressive tricks, or walk on a leash and scare the neighbors with. (Of course, he could have carried the tank around the neighborhood with Precious inside, but that just wouldn't have had the same impact as a ferocious mammal.) So, I became the reluctant guardian of a chipmunk-sized spider that scared me so much I couldn't even touch it.

Now, to really appreciate this story, you need to know that I have been a full-blown arachnophobe all my life. Everywhere I went, legions of spiders were hanging around, waiting to jump on me and scare me literally to death. Therefore, the tank Precious inhabited had a very sturdy LOCKING screen top, which was a non-negotiable condition of allowing a huge spider into my home.

Time passed, and I did my best to give Precious a good life. I found that her size helped me to accept her as an ani-

mal, not a monster. That was the first breakthrough; more would follow.

Two years later, I figured out that Precious was not a feisty young female, as the pet store had told us. Instead, my pet was an elderly male, and his health was failing. Every day I found more body hairs scattered on the sand in the tank – a sign of illness and stress. Precious became old before my eyes; his abdomen shrank and wrinkled like a prune.

I faced a new dilemma: how do you euthanize a tarantula? I made quite a few calls, including the Toledo and Detroit Zoos and the Insects Division at the U of M Natural History Museum. A few people were sympathetic but didn't have any solid ideas; others made ghastly suggestions they thought were funny.

One day I filled a mayonnaise jar with rubbing alcohol, tipped Precious into the jar and sealed the lid. I couldn't watch, even though I had been assured that he would essentially get drunk on the alcohol and pass out painlessly. I felt devastated; I sobbed.

These days, I still feel traces of my ancient fears; but I also love and appreciate spiders for their beauty, creativity, and wisdom as well as their place in the natural world. Now I understand that all those spiders around me have always been doing their best to protect me from harm. Precious, himself, was undoubtedly my courageous protector during a difficult time in my life. The scary fiends of my childhood have become mentors and spirit guides.

I learned a lot from that brief marriage; but the most precious memories and lessons came from a red-kneed tarantula who is still with me in spirit.

As recommended by Rob Fagerlund

Revolution

by the Allman Brothers Band

People can you feel it?

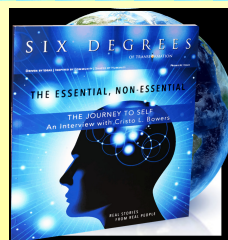
Love is everywhere!

People can you hear it?

Love is in the air!

We're in a revolution
Don't you know we're right
Everyone is singing
There'll be no one to fight

People can you feel it?
Love is everywhere!
Love is everywhere!



Six Degrees Magazine

Purchase at: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, Amazon

6degreesoftransformation.com

Six Degrees of Transformation magazine is about the journey we all make towards self-discovery. The idea came from a desire to create something that everyone could relate to. Inspiring stories give us hope that the impossible is truly

possible, but many of these stories remain untold. Six Degrees magazine begins with a story of how one person has influenced two people in their life. From there, those two people describe their life stories and how they influenced two people as a result of their journey to self-discovery. It is a family tree of humanity with self-discovery as the unifying force.

ISBN: 978-0-9971708-0-1

Bren Hill
A Lightworker's Journey
<http://alightworkersjourney.com>



Image from
[peaceseeds](http://peaceseeds.com)

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A Tough Case



Left to right: Craig Harvey, Idgie Patterson, Ollie Carter, Randall Counts, Marilyn Alf, M. Devon Dunlap, Heide Kaminski, and Marlena Studer.

The cast of the Interfaith Reader's Theater raised awareness for restorative justice, as well as \$120 for refreshments for the Caring Committee.

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 Sunday.

To receive the online newsletter, go to <http://lists.interfaithspirit.org/listinfo.cgi/interfaithinspiner-interfaithinspiner.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
Danielle Cassetta, secretary
Ray Fix, member
Rob Fagerlund, member
Lindsay Passmore, member
Jeff Alden, member
Steve Orlowski, member

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Tommy Kaminski, *Nursery*

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Annual Meeting/QCC March 13, 2016

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Ministerial Search Committee

Report: by Lisa: Using the board approved charter and timeline, three main objectives are a) getting to know the congregation (survey in January of 80 participants; full reports available in library), b) getting to know the committee (retreat/visioning), and c) outlining qualifications of desired candidates. Congregation wide visioning events are being held in March. Currently researching ways to advertise the position starting May or June 2016.

Compensation "Think Outside the Box" Team Report by Paul Jurgensen (members: Jeff Alden, Dave Bell, Marlena Studer, Paul Jurgensen) What we do pay now: Delyth (12k/year) and Dave (15k/year). Estimations are that we could move some accounting and increase that \$27k by \$5k if we needed to. Help the minister find outside speaking opportunities so they could earn other income. Free massages by Annie. Free dog sitting. Free dog grooming by Marice. Dinner once a week. Hair by Jeanne. Reflexology by Idgy.

Deep Springs Report by Delyth: The relationship we have with Deep Springs is they are renting space from us. We are not merging or partnering in any way. It is a few more times a week than other people who use the space have needed it, and they do have some items stored here.

From the community

Christian Meditation Chant: Marice: I feel that there is a bit of us that is hesitant when it comes to Christianity and I would like to incorporate a Christian meditation hymn or chant.

Steve: Affirmation part to the service; each week or once a month. Ask for announcements about birthdays, anniversaries, passing courses, anything to celebrate with them and honor them; show their importance to the commu-

nity and share these little details with each other.

Craig: Group Prayer: It sounded today like it was just about the papers in the box. And to include something in there about our center's transition.

Kellie: there is an interfaith calendar online that you can access that tells you about the holidays including information about the holidays. I have a lot of resources regarding this. I have heard from quite a few people that we don't integrate all of the religions as much as we do a chosen few. - - -

Jeanne: We do use God a lot. We could use Spirit; Source; Goddess; etc. more.

Idgy: I would like to see celebration of pagan holidays.

Marice: When we first started the center we had people from all different faiths come and talk about their faiths. You can't really experience it with just one talk. The format that we have now for our celebration services took a long time to come through.

Lindsey: When I was working with the ministers on the new website about who we are and what we believe, we started out with an interfaith model, but over time, hearing about that in a talk, is not the same as practicing it fully. In 2008 there was a conversation about our identity, and it was decided that instead of presenting different religions, we are headed towards an interspiritual outlook.

Cost (Jeanne and Esther): We put things up about our finances, but we aren't saying it out loud to the congregation, to be aware of the real need for offerings. We need to address what it means to financially be a member, overtly, frequently, and regularly.

Steve: A couple of the people at the potluck last week didn't get enough to eat. Are we coming as takers or coming as givers?

Melissa: Is anyone keeping track of if people are giving less and following up on it?

Reagan: I don't like the term marketing. I prefer outreach. I would like to be on the committee for marketing. If we can increase our presence on the

community we can attract people, and it's attraction and not promotion. Outreach - not marketing. We had ideas two years ago, We had ideas for shirts... Maybe we should revisit those ideas.

Danielle: I think we need to be careful with our language when encouraging members to contribute financially, and not accidentally shame those who cannot afford it.

Lisa: The people who don't have money need to be the ones volunteering. If you don't have money, give time. It's great to have ideas, but people need to do the work.

Kellie: We need to think about presenting the benefits of membership to people.

Pat: We have this new website, and the crazy wisdom ad, but our attendance has not increased.

Jeanne: We don't follow up with people about when they come and then they disappear.

The next QCC is scheduled for Sunday June 12.

Excerpted from notes submitted by Danielle.

Changes on the Board

At the Annual Meeting on March 13, Ray Fix and Steve Orłowski were elected to the Board, and Lindsay Passmore and Pat Root were re-elected. Diane Gledhill ended her 2-year term, and Sally Searls resigned (due to her retirement) in December.



Café 704

Dorking Up Café 704

Saturday April 9, 2016

8:00pm until they make us stop

Suggested Donation: \$8 for 1, \$15 for 2, \$60 for groups of 12*



Spring Out Your Inner Dork



The Dorkestra

Watch, Listen, Dance

The Dorkestra

The Dorkestra is a diverse group of musicians who have combined their study of Jazz, Classical, Rock, Folk, African, Latin & Funk into a Unique Eclectic Repertoire for a Special Café 704 Spring Party Package

8:00pm on 4/9/16

They may have lunched alone in high school but these Dorks have grown up to jam out a storm



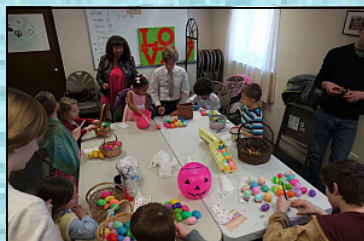
www.Dorkestra.net

<http://interfaithspirit.org/cafe-704-coffeehouse>

Café 704
704 Airport Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 327-0270

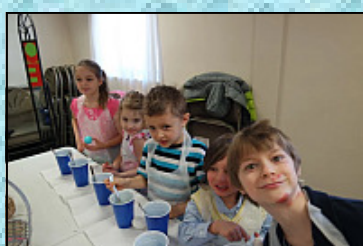
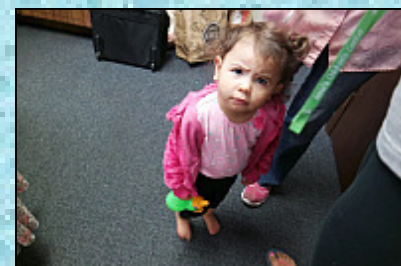


Youthful Spirits



Easter Fun

Pictures say a thousand words...



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





**Center for
Contemplation
and Spiritual
Renewal
Dedication**

*Submitted by Rev. Susan
King*

To all the friends of Karl Pohrt and of the Small House: Center for Contemplation and Spiritual Renewal, this is an invitation to attend a dedication, an open house and a fundraiser on May Day.

Has it really been two and a half years since our dear friend Karl Pohrt passed away? And still his spirit still lives on among us. We decided to dedicate the Small House in Karl's memory. We know he would have loved and supported the vision for an interfaith contemplative retreat house situated on the grounds of the Episcopal Church of Incarnation (ECI) in Ann Arbor.

A formal dedication and open house will be held on Sunday, May 1 2016 at 1pm. Joe Summers and others will share remembrances of Karl and there will be music by Kath Weider-Roos and Sam Clark, of the Spirit Singing Band, as well as readings by poet Alison Swan. Parking will be at ECI (3257 Lohr Road, Ann Arbor 48108); a short path shows the way to the Small House.

Last August we held our first open house and held a successful fundraiser which allowed us to replace the roof and bring the house up to

code. We are using this May 1st dedication to raise additional funds to complete the work on the Small House. There are the usual unexpected costs, including Township requirements. But more importantly we need to furnish the house, add an air conditioner, beautify the grounds, add a deck, build a labyrinth and sooner or later we will have to replace the furnace. We have already raised \$2500 towards our goal!

Donations are tax deductible, payable to ECI. They can be mailed to ECI at 3257 Lohr Rd, Ann Arbor MI 48108.

Below you'll find more information about the Small House, rescuing a building after years of neglect through a groundswell of community support.

We hope you will join us to celebrate Karl's life and see the Small House!

All are welcome. Please pass this invitation onto anyone who might be interested.

Rev Joe Summers, Jim Crowfoot, Alison Hine, Rev Susan King and Lisa Wozniak
The Story of the Small House

Sitting on the land adjacent to The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is a ranch house that is affectionately called The Small House. Sheltered by trees and bushes from the nearby busy street and stores, it is a little jewel. The house looks out over a meadow and woods. It is a quiet, welcom-

ing and unexpected sanctuary.

The Small House has been sitting unoccupied for several years. A number of people, all part of ECI but with different faith backgrounds, saw in its sad disrepair the potential for a lovely space for contemplative prayer, meditation, retreats, and the kinds of spiritual practices that facilitate presence.

The Small House will be dedicated to Karl Pohrt, a beloved member of ECI and co-owner of Shaman Drum, the downtown bookstore and community gathering place dearly missed by many in Ann Arbor. Karl Port gracefully combined the worlds of literature, social justice and spirituality. He was a long-time Zen practitioner as well as a Christian who believed deeply in interfaith reconciliation. Karl died in 2013, but many of those who knew him feel certain that he would have loved the Small House and its rebirth as an intimate place for silence, spiritual practice, and spiritual renewal. Lisa Wozniak, environmentalist and former Shaman Drum employee, explains "Shaman Drum, founded and run by Karl Pohrt for decades, was a sanctuary for many seeking answers to the chaos of our ever-changing and challenging world.

Continued on page 11

**Center for
Contemplation and Spiritual
Renewal
Dedication**

Continued from page 10

Karl's deep commitment to the sacred, the power and beauty of the natural world, and the pursuit of social/political justice created a unique and important space in our community, and in the hearts and souls of all who became part of the Shaman Drum world. The Small House is a perfect tribute to Karl, and a gift to all those seeking a path to presence."

At a time when our society is facing the profound need to change both the way we relate to one another and our relationship with the environment, it does not seem an accident that more and more people are discovering the need for practices that facilitate a new relationship to our bodies and souls and enable us to drink from the cool, deep waters of silence. Certainly those of us who are working for social change are finding this to be true: the grounding and renewal of spiritual practice enables us to better engage society's problems. Jim Crowfoot, a long-time friend of Karl's and a member of the Ann Arbor Quaker Meeting says "The Small House promises to be a valuable resource for nurturing spirituality. This will actively contribute to Ann Arbor becoming more compassionate

and just both socially and environmentally."

A few years ago a few intrepid members of the ECI began restoring the Small House from neglect, but without money for a new roof the Small House remained dormant. In September 2015 an open house raised sufficient funds to replace the roof and bring the house up to code. Suddenly the Small House began to awaken... and now art hangs on the walls! There is much more work to be done (organizers dream of beautiful gardens, air conditioning, a meditation room, a spiritual counseling office and someday a deck and new furnace) but the Small House is about to open its doors. "We are thrilled to be able to share the use of this center with the broader spiritual community." says the Rev. Joe Summers, Vicar of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

A formal dedication and open house will be held on Sunday May 1 2016 at 1pm. Joe Summers and others will share remembrances of Karl and there will be music by Kath Weider-Roos and Sam Clark, of the Spirit Singing Band, as well as a reading by poet Alison Swan. Parking will be at ECI (3257 Lohr Road, Ann Arbor 48108); a short path shows the way to the Small House. All are welcome.

"Many of us have had experiences of visiting places

where, for whatever reason, the space has opened up and we feel beckoned - or invited - into the 'more than.' My experience of these places is that they are sacred ground, places where the invitation is to presence, awareness and creative engagement. The sense of this is palpable and very real. I leave these spaces feeling grounded and aware of the preciousness of life. The Small House is one of these precious places. Space and time open up, and I feel welcomed to become more of myself upon each visit." ~

Rev. Susan King

Upcoming events at the Small House this summer will include An Introduction to Centering Prayer; Silence, Merton and Iconic Illuminations; Solstice Spirit Singing and Meditation; and Teillard de Chardin and Evolutionary Spirituality. For further information about these events, the dedication celebration, or using the Small House for spiritual work please contact Gail Ross at

smallhouseeci@gmail.com.

Information and photos are also available at our Facebook page, The Small House: Center for Contemplation and Spiritual Renewal,

"Contemplation and spiritual practice need an anchor-hold, a special place that awakens and reminds us of our longing to go deeper. The Small House invites us to settle into this sanctuary of silence."

~ Alison Hine, Spiritual Director.

The Caring Committee



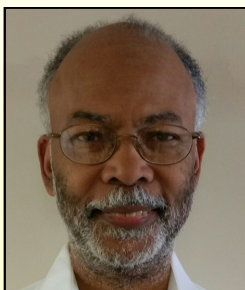
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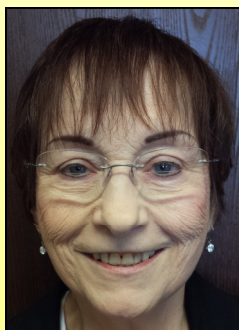
*Delyth,
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If you have a service to offer, please contact [Marilyn](#)



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: _____ City/Part of town you live or work in: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Best way to contact you: _____ Best times to contact you: _____

Check all areas that you are willing to participate in and specify any limitations...

___ Driver (Interfaith/appointments) ___ Craft Teaching (type) ___ Counseling (type)

___ Medical Equipment loan (type) ___ Meal Prep ___ Consulting (type)

___ Child Care ___ Errands ___ Cleaning ___ Yardwork ___ Snow Shoveling

___ Healing/energy work ___ Household Donations ___ Clothing Donations

___ Caregiver Break ___ Send Cards ___ Computer Help ___ Healing Music

___ Fun Companionship ___ Pet Care ___ Massage ___ Money Donation

___ Listening ___ Prayers ___ Respite Care ___ Join Caring Committee

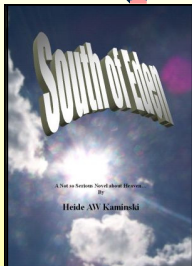
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Limitations and additional information:

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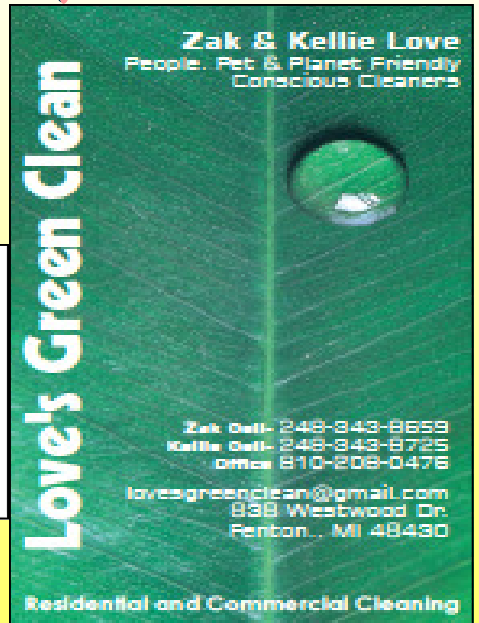
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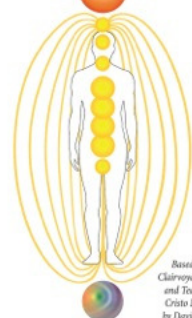
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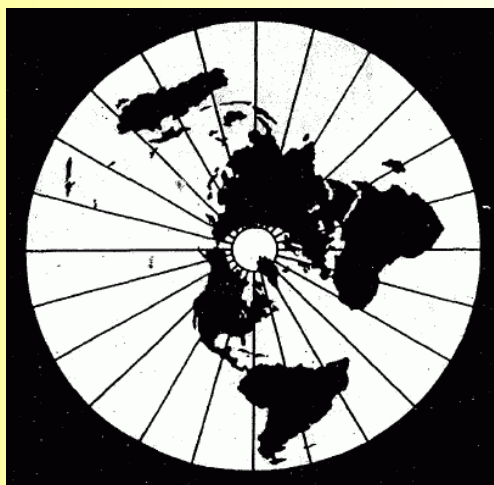
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 - Acquire the active participation of your company, your school, community, city, state and nation.
- Involve radio and television - have them broadcast the PEACE CLOCK name, slogan and logo accompanied by one minute of silence every day.
 - Above 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: ساعة السلام Chinese: 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
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