



# Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication

VOL. XII, NO. 5, May 2016



*Pictured: Adriana Maria with Oana in Jan. of 1983*

Dear Mother

*By Oana Pop*

Since you left this dimension, so abruptly, and way too soon, I stayed behind, confused, and kept on wondering: what makes us, humans, alive? Is death even real? Is a breathing body alive, because it functions, breathes, the heart pumps blood, the cells renew them self?!?... But what is that engine inside us that makes everything be alive or dead? I have been asking myself these questions, for 16 years now, since I stood there watching your body being buried... but wondering where did you REALLY go? And why? Is this even real? I still don't have the answer, but every day I change the way I ask that question. I am hoping one day, when it will be formulated right, God will answer it.

Here I am, mom, standing in front of you, in spirit, as a responsible adult, with all the things responsible people have (a great family, first of all, composed of my husband and I, but that is not "acquired" so I am not listing it here):  
A Graduate degree, a house, a job, cars ... All assets, and minimal/ healthy amount of debt, as I was taught in my business school

classes... All the way, I strived to be the best, to get all A's, to have a full scholarship, to graduate, to get hired even while in school, to do everything right... but am I ALIVE?

But what about the heart, my heart!?? Is that an asset or a liability? A negative or a positive? How do I balance that? Where do I account for it on my financial statements? Is being "too nice" a sin, or a weakness? Since you died before I even got to say "I am sorry," I make sure now I am the first to say it, if I am wrong, or even if I am not. Ok, I might be considered the weaker one, but in my heart, I know I have no regrets. The world is such a lonely place, if we just do everything that others call "right," without asking our internal clock what is really right or wrong. I wish so many times that you were still alive, so I could ask your advice. But you are at least half, part of me, and so, my internal clock includes you, your memory, our stories, everything you have taught me, is part of me.

I remember growing up, how you always wanted to make sure I will be a strong independent self-sufficient woman, how you were crying when asking "How will you manage, once I am gone? What will you become?????"  
You have always mentioned I must be somebody; I must grow and become a lady full of tact, full of personality,

with good manners, with strong values, and moral character. The more I go over that list, the more I see that was YOU. You were that amazing lady who lit up the room with her presence, who knew a lot about ancient history, Greek mythology, classical music, you could teach the most complicated dry subject and make it seem like such a fun game. You were that lovely presence who could say nothing, but just hold my hand gently and we could watch a sunset together in the park, and that would be the definition of being most alive. And I thank you now, for having my lovely husband, Olivier, to be that silent rock, that quiet love that holds my hand, and keeps my heart protected and safe, just as you did all the 17 years that we were so lucky to be together. I wish you lived long enough to meet him. But somehow, I think you know him already and are watching down on me, you arranged with the Divine to send him into my life. And I really thank you, and bow in front of nature, knowing that is you, and you see me!!!

Love is the engine of life. When your heart is alive, your whole body feels it and works miracles to keep us in that aliveness state. And we learn love for the first time, from our mothers. Therefore, I think M should be the first letter of the alphabet, the alpha and omega of life.  
Happy Mother's Day, Mama!



# Ministerial Miscellany

By Dave Bell



Dear Friends,

We are getting ready to head North next week. Looking forward to seeing you all again and being back in the midst of such a loving and open community. We have had a delightful time, and we are relieved not to have seen all the late season snow and cold, and definitely wanting to be home. See you soon.

The sudden and quite unexpected passing of Mart Stenzel brings us all up short and raises a number of questions. The most important remembrance for us is to know that the soul is always in charge. Nothing in God's world happens by accident. The beautiful soul that lived among us as Mart Stenzel has decided that his work here was complete and that it was time to move on. Mart is continuing on his next grand adventure as an integral part of this thing we call eternal life. He is now experiencing the continuation of life, without the necessity of dragging a physical body with him on his journey. We, who are left behind, experience the loss of a friend while he is jetting about thoroughly enjoying his new freedom. If we truly understood how the universe works, we would not spend too much energy in sadness, rather, we would be joyfully dancing in the streets. We can and do celebrate the life he shared with us, knowing that even grander things are in store for those who get to experience his loving presence in the next adventure. Be sure and join us in a celebration of Mart's life on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at noon at the Center. There will be an organized potluck following the service.

One of the issues we face in the realm of spiritual growth, is finding a way to be non-judgmental in the world of politics. With the rather unusual situation in this year's presidential primary, it has been easy to get worked up about one candidate or another. Remembering that all beings are expressions of Divinity can be a stretch. Perhaps remembering that all is in Divine order is the most helpful tool. Being angry and judging those we disagree with only adds negative energy to the field. If we would see a better world, the words of Gandhi are a wonderful guide; "Be the change you would see in the world."

Blessings,

*David*

*Community  
Member  
of the Month*



# Respectable Ray

By Jeanne Adwani

May's Community Member of the Month is the illustrious Ray Fix. Welcome Ray!

Ray has recently become a new board member of the Center; Thank you Ray for that. With this new position, he will be bringing his years of wisdom, and his 'New Thought' ideas and principles; sharing in how we can better 'vision' our Center's on going integrative journey. Certainly, he will help support us in continuing to become a more vibrant inviting Center for people to come and share their spiritual quests.

Ray has been involved in 'New Thought' principles for at least two decades. Dave Bell met him twenty years ago at a 'New Thought' conference and we are blessed to have his insights and wisdom.

I invite you to ask him what that means to him and even what 'New Thought' is, as I'm sure he would be very glad to share that with you.

He is also active in the Science of the Mind groups, which some of you are probably already versed in and have exchanged ideas and thoughts about.

We are so glad Ray is with us and stepping into a leadership roll in our growing community.

Thanks, Ray, we appreciate you!

Dear Mother	pg. 1	Café 704	pg. 8
Ministerial Miscellany	pg. 2	Yard Sale Flyer	pg. 9
CMM	pg. 2	Caring Committee	pg. 10
Board Meeting	pg. 3	Service flyer	pg. 11
Calendar	pg. 4	Advertisements	pg. 12
Columns/	pg. 5	World Peace Clock	pg. 13
Misc.	pg. 6		
Youthful Spirits	pg. 7		
	pg. 10		

## April Board Minutes

We discussed a “safe church” policy possibly including conflict resolution.

It was noted for the record that Scott Alf accepted the board’s invitation to serve as an alternate member. This will entail participating (but not voting) at board meetings and taking the place of any member who leaves the board prior to the next election (March 2017).

In early April, Minister Dave Bell, on vacation in Florida, heard about a church building for sale in Ann Arbor, so Rod Rodriguez, Steve Lyskawa, Delyth Balmer and Randall Counts took a tour. Due to the lack of accessible bathrooms on the first floor, a leaky basement, and a 60 year old boiler, it would require a great deal of renovation and repair. Dave called it a “non starter.”

Three items from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC):

1. Two people who heard about Dave’s retirement (May 2017) contacted him for information about the position. MSC co-chairs Lindsay Passmore and Pat Root wrote to thank each of them and will let them know when the job has been posted and how to access the information about it.

2. The MSC is beginning to talk about a special event in June. Stay tuned.

3. Craig Harvey, on special short term assignment for the MSC, reported to the board about his research of other spiritual centers’ processes and timelines for hiring a new minister.

By the time you read this, the Board Retreat will have taken place on Saturday April 30. The agenda includes meeting with the Ministerial Search Committee, discussing priorities for the coming year, and exploring our governance model. Much appreciation to Sally Searls for developing and facilitating this working retreat!!!

**Board Calendar Notes:**  
To avoid meeting on Father’s Day, the June board meeting will take on Sunday, June 12. The next three Quarterly Conversation in Community (QCC) will be June 26, September 25, and December. You are most welcome to attend any or all!

Respectfully submitted by  
Pat Root, Board Chair

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.*

### Mark your calendars!


**CAFE 704 CONCERT  
SERIES  
Saturdays**

May 14: Bill Bynum & Co  
June 11: Hold  
July: NONE (Top of the Park conflict)  
August 13: TBA  
September 10: Hold

\*\*\*\*\*

**PEACE  
GENERATOR  
May 19**



The Service begins at 10:45 a.m.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Rev Dawn Swartz: Reincarnation</b> <b>R:</b> Nicholas D. <b>M:</b> Maureen M. <b>MU:</b> Katie Geddes <b>Potluck</b>  <i>Kellie Love</i>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7 p.m.</b> Great Balanced View Video Meeting	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> The Power of Now Discussion Group  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Community Gathering/Potluck		<b>Noon—1:30 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>6:30—8:30 p.m.</b> Science of mind  <b>7:15—8:30 p.m.</b> Speaking Circle		<b>8:30 a.m.</b> AA  <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Drum and Dance Jam
					<i>Karen Jones</i>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Rev. Dave: A Civil Rights Movement for the Soul</b> <b>R:</b> Melissa W. <b>M:</b> Marilyn A. <b>MU:</b> Lisa Pappas and Michael Weiss  <i>Lindsay Passmore</i> <i>Judy Sauer</i>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7 p.m.</b> Great Balanced View Video Meeting	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> The Power of Now Discussion Group  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Community Gathering/Potluck		<b>Noon—1:30 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7:15—8:30 p.m.</b> Speaking Circle		<b>8:30 a.m.</b> AA  <b>Café 704</b>
		<i>Cayla Tchalo</i>				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Rev. Dave: Release What No Longer Serves</b> <b>R:</b> Esther R. <b>M:</b> Joy W. <b>MU:</b> Griff'n Shek  <b>Board meeting</b>  <i>Craig Brann</i> <i>Rob Michalowski</i>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7 p.m.</b> Great Balanced View Video Meeting  <i>Joy Williams</i> <i>Steve Wyse</i>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> The Power of Now Discussion Group  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Community Gathering/Potluck		<b>Noon—1:30 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>6:30—8:30 p.m.</b> Science of mind  <b>7:15—8:30 p.m.</b> Speaking Circle  <i>Dave Bell</i>	<b>7 p.m.</b> Peace Generator  	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> AA  <b>Spiritual Cinema</b>  <i>Marilyn Alf</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Rev. Dave: Can We Love Everyone?</b> <b>R:</b> Jan P. <b>M:</b> TBD <b>MU:</b> Marlena Studer  CC meeting  <i>Lisa Pappas</i>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7 p.m.</b> Great Balanced View Video Meeting	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> The Power of Now Discussion Group  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Community Gathering/Potluck  <i>Rose Wiesnewski</i>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b> Urantia Book Study  <i>Idgie Patterson</i>	<b>Noon—1:30 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7:15—8:30 p.m.</b> Speaking Circle  <b>TOMMY KAMINSKI</b> <b>18!</b>		<b>8:30 a.m.</b> AA  <i>Greg Heinrichs</i>
29	30	31				
<b>Rev. Dave: Mind Is the Builder</b> <b>R:</b> TBD <b>M:</b> TBD <b>MU:</b> TBD	<b>6:45 p.m.</b> ACIM  <b>7 p.m.</b> Great Balanced View Video Meeting  <b>JAMES MCNABB</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> The Power of Now Discussion Group  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Community Gathering/Potluck	<b>The speaker/topic are in bold/italic</b> <b>R</b> indicates the reader <b>M</b> indicates the meditator <b>MU</b> indicates the musician.			
			<div> <b>The newsletter submission deadline is May 22</b> </div> <div> <b>Board meeting this month is on May 8</b> </div> <div> <b>Birthdays are indicated in bold/italic Happy Birthday!</b> </div>			





## Peggy's Parade

By Peggy Lubahn

### IN THE ZONE

For the past twenty years or so, I've been serving as a Skywarn Spotter for Washtenaw County. Spotters are trained observers who report dangerous and threatening weather events (especially tornadoes) to the county emergency dispatcher.

On March 23, I attended yearly training on North Campus. After the presentation, the speaker announced that snazzy Skywarn window decals would be awarded to the lucky spotters who could answer a few questions correctly. To my surprise, only a few of us held up our hands -- and the presenter pointed at me.

I smiled to myself and unexpectedly "shifted" into another reality. I was completely comfortable, completely at ease, confident, totally aware, totally PRESENT and focused. The lecture hall, crammed with people, faded. There was just me and the presenter, and between us was a clear "tunnel" through a

soft silvery shifting fog.

There was no sense of pressure or even excitement, because there was no time in this place. My entire being was blissfully focused on the speaker as he read the question: "A powerful storm has just left your area. You go outside to check for damage and see BIG old trees completely uprooted and blown over. Do you report it? Or do you decide not to bother because the storm is over?"

Since I could take as long as I wanted, I considered possibilities even though I was certain I already knew the correct response. "You report it," I said, calmly and clearly. "It's part of the history of the storm."

Now, I meant the personal history of the storm itself as a sentient being, but I knew it wasn't necessary to add that to my response. The storm and the trees that had blown over, understood. They let me know that they appreciated my honoring them in my own way. I saw the trees nod to me gravely.

And then the room cleared and people were applauding as I stood up to get my prize. It was fun to win something, but it was AMAZING to visit that special Zone -- and I can't wait to go back!

## Interfaith Pop

As recommended by Rob Fagerlund

Everyday People  
by Sylvester Stewart  
as recorded by Sly & the Family Stone

Oh sha sha!  
We got to live together!

I am no better, and neither are you  
We are the same whatever we do  
You love me, you hate me, you know me and then  
You can't figure out the bag I'm in

I am everyday people  
Yeah yeah

There is a long hair that doesn't like a short hair  
for bein' such a rich one that will not help a poor one

Different strokes for different folks!  
And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo

Oh sha sha!  
We got to live together!

There is a yellow one that won't accept the black one

that won't accept the red one that won't accept the  
white one  
Different strokes for different folks!

And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo  
I am everyday people!



Image from  
[peaceseeds](#)

### Caring Committee Contact List

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734-489-5703  
Beth Rockwell, [rocksnotes@aol.com](mailto:rocksnotes@aol.com)  
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Khristian Speelman, [ksmithspeelman@gmail.com](mailto:ksmithspeelman@gmail.com)

## Happy Mothers Day

to ALL the MOTHERS out  
there whether you are a  
Past, Present or  
Soon To be Moms.  
May your day be filled  
with love,  
joy and laughter..



### CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

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

We try to have the newslet-  
ter ready for final editing by  
the third Sunday of each  
month. Please send contri-  
butions to Heide at [mommyk@tc3net.com](mailto: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://  
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interfaithinspiner-  
interfaithinspiner.org](http://lists.interfaithspirit.org/listinfo.cgi/interfaithinspiner-interfaithinspiner.org) to  
subscribe.**

Want to hear from us  
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[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
group/InterfaithSpirit/](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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[board@interfaithspirit.org](mailto:board@interfaithspirit.org)

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Delyth Balmer, *Administrator and Associate  
Minister*  
Annie Kopko, *Associate Minister*  
Laura Massaro, *Music Director*  
Heide Kaminski and Kellie Love, *Youth Educa-  
tion Directors*

Tommy Kaminski, *Nursery*

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Esther Reilly and Deane Erts, *Proofreaders*  
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Heide AW Kaminski  
[heide.kaminski@interfaithspirit.org](mailto:heide.kaminski@interfaithspirit.org)



# Youthful Spirits



## Youthful Spirits May 2016

Welcome, May! We are so happy you are here after our extended winter. May is going to be magnificent as we continue with our Heifer fundraiser.

April was awesome! We started the Heifer fundraiser with learning about sustainability and community. We planted heirloom vegetable and marigold seeds, which are growing into great plants already. We hope that you purchase some of our plants for your garden this year and “sow seeds of hope.” The proceeds from the plants for sale will go towards Heifer gifts. We hope when your plants produce delicious vegetables, that you bring those into ICSG for a treat and show how community comes together to sustain us all.

Lots of other fun activities went on... We learned about the story of Noah's Ark which relates to the Heifer's “ARC” program, and we talked about what we hold sacred. Check out our rainbow kabobs that we made to represent the rainbow from the story.

All of this was perfectly aligned with Earth Day :-)

To go with the theme, simple presence, we learned about the importance of water and how we can take it for granted. So many people do not have access to fresh water. Some

women and girls have to walk three hours carrying 40 pounds of water each day. One of Heifer's gifts is a water pump which would allow those women and girls more time to do things like go to school. We handed out a giving calendar at the beginning of the month. Once you have fulfilled your 4 weeks, please bring them in and we will add them to the total.



We are so grateful for your

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



**This  
fabulous kid  
is turning  
18  
on May 26!!!**





# Café 704

## Bill Bynum & Co

Saturday, May 14, 2016

8:00pm – 10:00 pm

Suggested Donation: \$8 for 1, \$15 for 2



With songs both traditional and original, and a sound that's at once as comfortable as old jeans and as fresh as a new blade of grass, Bill Bynum & Co. is a band that's easy to love and hard to quit. The band's core of rhythm guitar, electric lead guitar or banjo, fiddle, bass and harmony vocals can lean into country, veer toward bluegrass or take listeners on a unique journey through Bill's original songs.

[www.billbynum.com](http://www.billbynum.com)

8:00pm on 5/14/16

**Café 704**

704 Airport Blvd

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

(734) 327-0270



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





Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth

# Annual Yard Sale

June 16 & 17, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
and June 18, 9 a.m. until Noon

Home of Connie Snow  
1201 Hutchins Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-5528

Interfaithers & Friends, you are reminded that when you give with intention and love, you create a vacuum that allows blessings to enter. This is your opportunity to create that “vacuum” by donating household items, furniture, camping gear, toys, etc. (no clothes, please). This yard sale is one of the largest fundraisers for the Interfaith Center. Spiritual wisdom tells us that in return for your generous giving, the Universe will fill the vacuum you create in your home with the things you desire.

Deliver donations to Connie’s home after June 4th, after 5 pm, preferably not before June 15.

If you have large items (such as furniture) to donate and need help getting them to Connie’s or have things that need to be donated and stored before June 4th, please call Sally at 734-646-1349 after June 1.

Helping at the Yard Sale is a fun time to see what’s been donated and talk to other Interfaithers. Please sign up at the Center to help set up, work at, and clean up after the Yard Sale.

Annie is organizing refreshments for yard sale workers, so please contact her at  
734 - 358 - 1328  
if you have snacks or water to donate.

Questions: call Sally at 734-646-1349



**Note from Heide: Sally asked me to add a photo to the flyer. I told her about my all-time favorite photo of Esther Reilly, taken at the yard sale many years ago. Sally said, “Perfect!” So, here it is!**





*Marilyn,  
Chair*

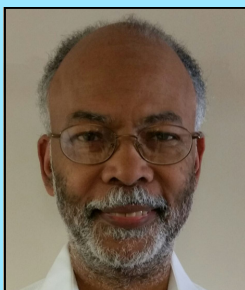
## *The Caring Committee*



*Heide and Kellie,  
Co-chairs*



*Tommy,  
Youth Ed rep*



*Mike*



*Khristian*



*Annie*



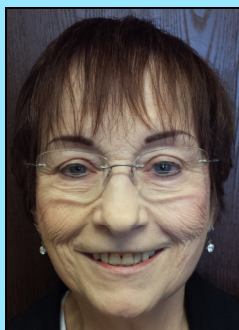
*Delyth,  
Liaison*



*Idgie*



*Luke*



*Beth*



*Judy*



*Jan*



*Jack*



*Dawn*

*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

Other \_\_\_\_\_

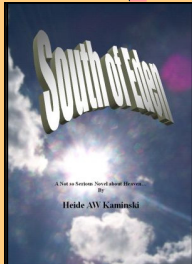
Limitations and additional information:

I currently have need of (be specific):





# Help Support Your Interfaith Family Businesses!

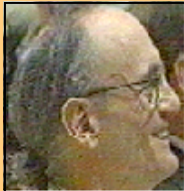


Now available on  
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\$9.99

ASIN: B0047DWAFO Kindle



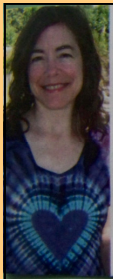
**Mac Assistance**

from **Nicholas**

Ann Arbor's Neighborhood Mac hanic

(734) 945-1246 See what I can offer you at:

[AppleNicholas.com](http://AppleNicholas.com)



**Melanie Fuscaldo, LPC, NCC**  
Career, Life & Spiritual Coach

Live your dreams and  
enhance your joy!

FREE initial consultation

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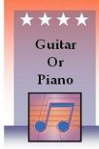


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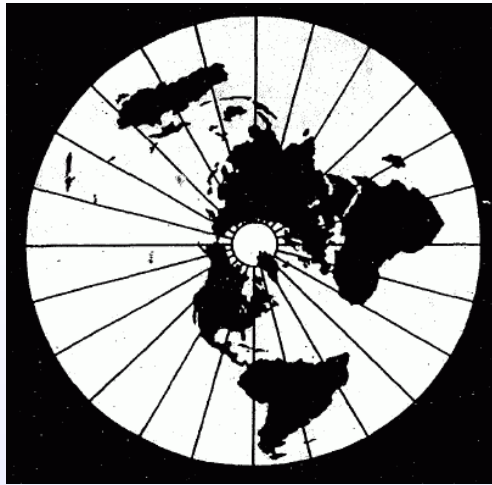
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**PDF Fliers:**

- 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
- Pharsee: زمان نماي صلح Polish: 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/>

