



# Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication

VOL. XIV, NO. 2, February 2018



**20**  
*years!*

## Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth

*Celebrating 20 Years!*

**Sally Searls came up with the great idea of celebrating our anniversary all year long!**

**She has scheduled events for every month. She still needs coordinators for a lot of these events, especially since she is spending a great deal of time in Florida :-)**

**Below is a list of the events (I left out January, as it is already past)**

### Roaring 20's Planning 2018 Proposed activities

#### February

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Laz Song Sermon

#### March

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Rites and Rituals - Beltane  
Equinox March 21  
Organizer: Jeannie Adwani, March 25th  
Annual Meeting March 18  
Update on Community Visioning

Organizers: Mary Alice & Committee

Talent show, March 17  
Donations  
Organizer: Diane Gledhill

#### April

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker  
Hams from Caring Committee  
Community Visioning #3 4/21  
Visioning the Ideal Center  
Organizers: Mary Alice & Committee

#### May

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Holly Makimaa May 6  
"Healing and Trauma"  
Birthday Party  
Organizer: Sally and ?  
Benefit Concert  
Organizer: Scott McWhinney

#### June

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Cathy Delauter, June 10th  
Summer Solstice Concert  
Presenter: Norma Gentile

#### July

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Jon Mundy Morning Talk  
and  
afternoon Workshop on July 15  
Organizer: Dave Bell  
Yard Sale 9-3 pm daily  
Organizers: Delyth and Sally

#### August

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Ann Arbor's new Imam  
Lake Party at Lake Murray  
Organizer: Dawn

#### September

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Lucinda Kurtz  
Dances from different religions  
(Hindu, sufi, hora, etc.) Carol Jacobs and Dawn can call  
In ICSG Parking lot  
Organizers: Dawn

#### October

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Chinamaya Center  
Benefit Concert and Raffle  
Organizer: Alaura and Friends

#### November

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speaker: Susan King 11/11  
Host Interfaith Roundtable Thanksgiving Dinner  
Organizer: Lauren, Delyth 11/18  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Organized by Caring Committee

#### December

1st Sunday Potluck, Cake  
Speakers: A Christmas Carol  
Christmas Dinner  
Candlelight Christmas Service (?)  
Burning Bowl 12/30

## Ministerial Miscellany

By Lauren Tatarsky



*Community  
Member  
of the  
Month*



**Jolly Janet**

Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ICSG! If you are not already aware, this is our 20<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. From the days back in school classrooms to the building of our current home, so much hard work and loving dedication has brought us to this 20<sup>th</sup> year. I feel blessed to have been given the honor of being your Senior Minister in this exciting new chapter and big anniversary year! As you'll see on the front page of this newsletter, we have many special events planned throughout the year to celebrate together. This includes monthly guest speakers, members of our own community as well as guest speakers from the broader Ann Arbor area representing many different spiritual traditions and religious backgrounds. In addition to our regular meditation programs, classes, and music events, this year we will host parties, dances, yard sales, and additional performances. Make sure to stay tuned to our calendar and bring your friends!!

In other news...

### **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1-2:30, Race Dialogues ("Just Listen") Events Continue**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly race dialogue event will be held Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> after service from 1-2:30pm. This will bring together our 3 small groups (groups of 6-7 racially diverse individuals who have been meeting monthly in each other's homes) and is also open to the public. New small groups will be formed for those who are interested. You are welcome to join for our quarterly gatherings without being part of a small group. Hope to see you there!

### **ICSG Visioning Update**

We completed our second visioning session on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This was the "dream" portion, where we took the foundation of what we love about the center from our first visioning session and built upon it to imagine where we could be in the year 2030. Some of the key visions that came out of this fun, uplifting, and exciting day together were: building a strong youth program that includes all ages with effective programming; having a sacred space in a natural setting that accommodates a larger group with smaller rooms for small group programming; diversity of race, age, gender, and sexual orientation as members of our community; and Earth-based rituals and rights of passage programming. Don't miss our next session on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:15-2:00 as we explore an action plan to make our dreams a reality.

### **Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Laz Slomovitz, Musical Service**

Our second special guest speaker of the year will be Laz Slomovitz who will grace us with a musical service during our normal service time on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. Help celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year with this unique and uplifting event!

Looking forward to seeing you all in celebration.

*Lauren*

By Johanna Nader

Janet Fry is a woman of many talents. She has served on the board, on the finance committee and led some fundraising projects. She regularly attends the quarterly meetings with our Visioning Team. We most appreciate the artistic eye that Janet brings to the Center. Janet often teams up with Randall Counts to decorate our space for holidays and parties. Most recently, Janet brought her own beautiful decorations and supplies from her home to make our Center merry and bright this New Year's Eve.

Janet first came to the Interfaith Center as a guest of Lisa Smith in 2007. By 2008, she was a regular. Growing up in Delmar, New York, Janet's family attended the local Presbyterian church. She was very active in the youth group. In fact, some of her closest friends today are ones she met at the church. But by the time she left for college, Janet was pretty much through with the belief system of the Presbyterian church.

Janet has a degree in Anthropology and a Masters degree in Social Work. These, she believes, provide her with an expanded world view that informs her love and connection for the Interfaith Center. She enjoys being able to meet with people with other viewpoints and on different spiritual paths.

In her private practice as a Social Worker, Janet works with people facing addiction and with mood disorders. She also leads groups of women trauma survivors. Janet brings her spirituality to this group of women by creating a safe space where survivors can learn that they are more than their body, more than their trauma. Her goal is to help survivors recognize that they have a purpose and a meaning in their life and that when they speak up they empower themselves.

At the Center, Janet prefers to work "behind the scenes." She loves the Center and is always willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever she can. We are so blessed to have Janet share her talents and dedication to the Interfaith Center.

<b>20-Year-Anniversary</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Ministerial Misc.</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>CMM</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Community Page</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Board Min.</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Peggy's Column</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Youthful Spirits</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

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.*

Board  
meeting this  
month is on  
February 11

The newslet-  
ter submis-  
sion  
deadline is  
February 18

### February Music

4 Spirit Band (Café Promo)  
11 All of Us (A cappella  
group)  
18 Jeanne Adwani (Poetry)  
25 Laz Slomovits (Song  
sermon)

### Mark your calendars!

#### CAFE 704 CONCERT SERIES Saturdays

February 10: reserved  
March 10: Harmony Bones  
April 14: Marlena Studer  
Mary 12: Laz Slomovits  
June 9: Paul Vornhagen & Tumbao  
Bravo  
July 14: OPEN  
August 11: Alaura programming  
September 8: PATH with Scott  
Mewinney  
October 13: Benefit Concert  
November 10: Lisa Pappas and Mi-  
chael Weiss  
December 8: Billy King

#### PEACE GENERATOR February 15

#### February Birthday Babies *Happy Birthday!*

*6: Dorothy Nichols and  
Jim Melby  
10: Angela Wyse  
11: Delyth Balmer  
12: Simona Paicu  
21: Don Cody  
28: Melissa Whitney*

### Message from the Caring Committee

Each and everyone of you can turn to the Caring Committee  
when you have a need— and many of you have. We always do our  
best to help you or lead you in the direction where you can find help  
that is outside of our committee's ability range. Now it is our turn to  
ask YOU for assistance. We are a small group and just can't do it  
all...

Currently, we are seeking some volunteers:

- We need someone to take over the coordination of people who  
need transportation and people who are willing to provide trans-  
portation. We have a system in place and training can be pro-  
vided. Preferably, you will join the CC and attend our one-a-  
month meetings (generally 4th Sunday of each month, immedi-  
ately following the service).

Please contact Marilyn Alf or any member of the CC for details.

Namaste, the Caring Committee

### February Talks

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>: Lauren Tatarsky, The Great Turning  
Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>: Lauren Tatarsky, Let's Talk About Love  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>: Annie Kopko, TBA  
Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: Laz Song Service

**Board Minutes**  
**By Tony Nader**

**Lauren**

She wants to post board member pictures/names on our website. She may wait for the new board in March.

Lauren proposed having Mary Anne Perrone, Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary, come speak to the membership before the Annual Board meeting. She reminded the board that she had asked for a show of hands during services in favor of her speaking to us and received a very positive vote. We are considering being a Supportive Congregation. This is largely symbolic but would put us on record. We will consider further action at the Annual Board meeting after she speaks.

There was discussion of Lauren's contractual obligation to provide 16 classes/year. She is bringing in other people's classes which provides cash and community exposure, just not her own. She asked if the board was OK with this fulfilling her requirements. We had a short discussion on this but the answer is basically yes.

Our last discussion was on open mic time. Lauren would like to change it up a bit. She is considering asking a guiding question in order to keep the discussion focused on the service talk. Also, perhaps, managing the process by asking we

give members who haven't spoken in awhile to speak first. The concern is focus and accessibility. The board generally thinks this new approach may be a good idea.

**Delyth**

We are in the black for the 2017. She is proposing we expand our annual garage sale into two events. One would be our traditional approach. The other would be a "Boot Sale". The idea is people would sell their goods out of the trunk of their cars. The split would be 50/50 with the Center. This idea was well received.

She then reviewed the 2018 budget with us. Steve is conducting special sales of items contributed to the Center. There are plans for a special concert/benefit to raise funds for new sound equipment. Also, the Finance committee moved the line item for Special Offerings to December, so we don't see negatives all year.

The final item was out QCC meetings. Attendance is waning and the last couple have been distinctly negative. Lauren suggests that many discussion items could be re-directed to the Leadership meeting which is where they belong. Our goal is to re-purpose this quarterly discussion to "take a pulse" of the community and do some visioning (co-creating) on a regular basis.

**Welcome to the new format of the newsletter. Please enhance our monthly publication by contributing your thoughts, articles, photos, announcements, poems, etc. Submission deadline is the THIRD SUNDAY of each month. Submit with "Interfaith Submission" in the headline to [mommyk@tc3net.com](mailto:mommyk@tc3net.com)**





## Oracle Card for February, 2018: JOY

*By Peggy Lubahn*

### The Deck

Angelic Messenger Cards for Divine Guidance, by Meredith Young-Sowers

### Present Challenge

Experiencing Inner Freedom and the expectation of positive occurrences.

You have drawn this card because you want to feel free and released from burden. You may feel you always did what others wanted, and played by the rules as others set them. But now you realize you've sacrificed a great deal of your own creativity and individuality, and have been afraid to tackle some of the things you might have wanted to try. You are ready to spread your wings and discover qualities, abilities, and inner strengths that have been trying to emerge. You are being guided to believe in yourself and seek success as it is emerging in

your life, often in unexpected and unforeseen ways and events!

### Angelic Message

Joy is the natural state of the spiritually-minded person. It is closely aligned with freedom because the joyful human being experiences life's fullness and nurturing even through disappointment, anger, anxiety or loss. When you risk saying, doing, or expressing your own essence, you become renewed even when you are initially uncomfortable or afraid of being vulnerable or feeling exposed. You are moving into self-love and confidence.

### Spiritual Opportunity

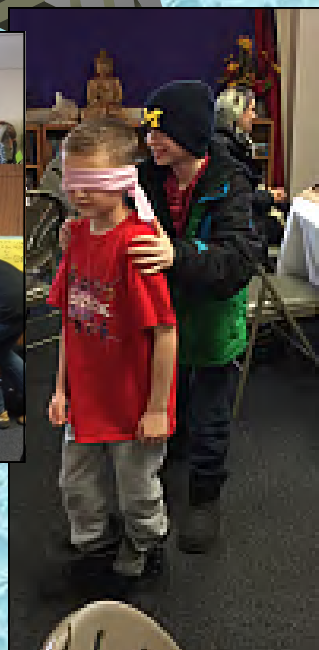
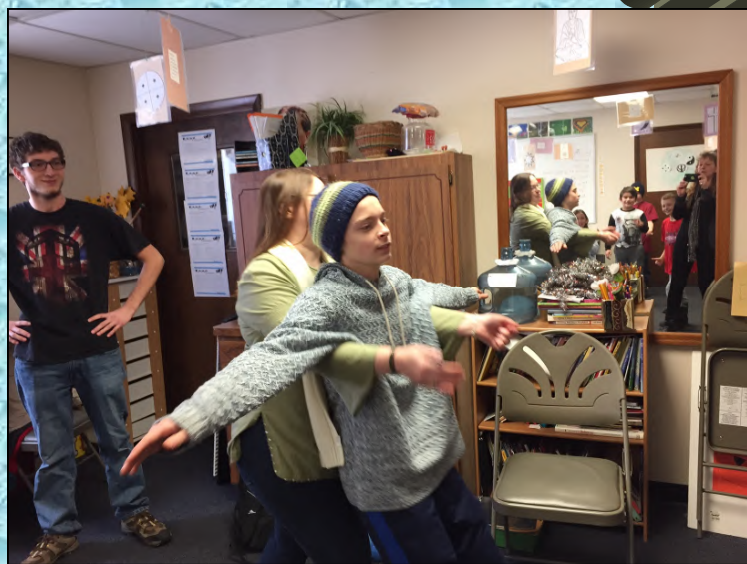
This card encourages the awakening of love and joy in your life. You are being guided to believe in yourself and in your dreams because you are entering a powerful and extremely positive period in your life when you will see some of your deepest desires come to fruition. This card is one of the cards of Nourishment because it reassures you that you are being reborn into a lasting relationship with joy.

### Application

Practice feeling joy. Life can offer you no inner peace until you determine to accept it for yourself! In this moment lies the opportunity to peel off the layers that burden you and accept your natural state of JOY. Rather than remaining hostage to life's changes, expect understanding and continued joy to flow to you --- and it will.

# Youthful Spirits

Trusting activities



*Love, Light, and Laughter  
Heide, Kellie, Tommy, Dawn,, and the Youthful Spirits*



**SPI  
RIT**

-----  
**SI  
NG**



*Chant  
Trance  
Jams*



THE SPIRIT SINGING BAND LIVE

[WWW.INTERFAITHSPIRIT.ORG](http://WWW.INTERFAITHSPIRIT.ORG)

**CAFE 704**  
**Sat. Feb 10th**

Come sit, and sing  
Saturday 8pm  
Doors open at 7:30p  
\$8 sugg donation

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth  
704 Airport Blvd  
734-327-0270  
[Spiritsingingband@gmail.com](mailto:Spiritsingingband@gmail.com)



## Sunday School: Lessons for Kids of All Ages

By Sarah Matteo

### “If You Have an Affection”

If you have an affection for something, say so. If it is the land, pick weeds in winter with the bulbs on top and those bobbing hollow shoots. Look at how thorns can bend against your fingertips. Say, “How did you make this?” and, “Thank you.”

If you have a favorite flower, or a bird you named, or a love of some kind of bug, say, “Look at you. You’re lovely.” And ask to meet its friends.

Sit patiently in the air, especially when it is cold and smells like nothing. Hear what is knocking and creaking somewhere. Write a poem in a shaded place and imagine there is so much sun.

When you wander in a quiet place, tread lightly. And when you wonder over something, think slowly. And when you have to wait and wait and wait, breathe deeply. When you’re listening, speak less.

See what wild means without dancing and songs. Look at the wet wooded path. Break a stem open and notice potential even if it seems empty. That is what hope is like.

If you have an affection for anything, hope for something. Say, “I hope you are happy,” or “I hope you know how beautiful you are,” or “I hope you become whatever you were put here for.”



"Never Alone"

and the leaves whisper to him

by Vivian L. H. Sanders

as he walks by

His gift may be coming

it'll arrive on its own

(Dedicated with love to my father)

He has crossed many rivers

unexpected and strong --

and passed many milestones

from the mountains it is made

He is made like the mountains he climbs

found treasures and seen sights

broad-shouldered and built

few others have known

Then you, too

to carry heavy loads

might one day discover

But rarely does he speak of what

your true sight

His mind is strong

he holds nameless and true in his soul

within

his will moves him forward

for he knows there are no words

and his heart chooses the way

for the infinite and

You'll know the joy in your heart

He is never alone

the mysterious

from the depth of your being

You'll know the peace

You may have seen him walking

So if you have the good fortune to

of a master

on the many miles of trails in the woods

cross paths with the man of the mountain

You may have met him

or if you get a glimpse

You will know you are

when he chose to make you his friend

or share a word

never alone

He may have told you a story

or catch a smile

or guided your footsteps

\* \* \*

He knows the way

Don't hesitate

and don't wait

The woods are his home

Open up!

the trees know his name

slow your gait