



Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication
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*Delightful,
diligent,
and
determined
Delyth*



Ministerial Miscellany By Rev. Annie Kopko

There is a book I read a few years ago, "Attitudes of Gratitude, How to give and receive joy every day of your life", by M.J.Ryan. It changed my life, this small simple book. (second-hand copies are very reasonably priced) "we are here to grow our souls, heal our wounds, and to become more loving, kind, fearless and hopeful."

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow" if we let it, if we use it, if we practice it. Our author suggests many small practices, like giving thanks before you go to sleep and when you first wake up in the morning.

Most helpful for me is the act of writing down what I am thankful for. So I have a small notebook for just this purpose. When I am actively writing something at least once a day, even briefly, it helps to keep me more focused than random thoughts.

Don't we all know **"the more we give thanks, the more we have to be thankful for"**.

I am delighted with and thankful for all the special events we have lined up for our members and dear friends for November:

Café 704 features live music with David Vaughn this month, November 10, at 8PM. Come early for Artisan 704, with crafts that make perfect gifts. 20% of what you buy benefits Interfaith.

Friday November 9th from 7-9PM, and Sat Nov 10, 9AM to 4PM we welcome Zen Master Thich Dieu Thien, master teacher. Details on the website.

Sunday, November 11th there will be a Barn Dance at 5:30 in the afternoon with a live band: Dawn's Early Light, featuring Dawn Swartz and dances called by Carol Jacobs. I am sure they will be easy to learn and loads of fun. There is a detailed flyer at the center.

Saturday, Nov. 17th, 9AM to 3PM non-Violence skills training, for \$45 sliding scale. This is presented by the Meta Peace Team. This event may be deeply moving for those of us who want more peace in our lives.

The caring committee is sponsoring dinner Thanksgiving day at 1PM. They provide the turkey, we bring everything else. Soon there will be a sign-up sheet on the entrance of our center.

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Community Member of the Community Member of the Month



Noteworthy Nancy

By Jaclyn Morrow

It's time to bring the focus to a truly energetic, sincere community member. This month we shine our light on Nancy Biehn. Nancy has been on the board for only a short time and has already settled into many responsibilities. She is the board Secretary, as well as part of the co-Creation team and the Communications team. Nancy is also utilizing her marketing and communications background to bring new fund raising ideas to the Center. An attention to detail while handling the recent raffle prizes were imperative in their success. She not only made the creatively themed baskets, but also managed the sales of the tickets.

Nancy has lived in Michigan for going on 26 years now. She was raised Catholic on a Wisconsin dairy farm as part of a big family. Her roots ran deep in Wisconsin but after attending University of Wisconsin she moved to Michigan to support her (now Ex) husbands job opportunities.

Approaching possibilities with an open heart has allowed Nancy to flow with her life and find experiences that are rewarding and sometimes surprising. She was working as a Fundraiser at the UM Law School when her focus shifted to having and being with her children. With culinary school also under her belt (and a chocolate passion found while living in Spain), she decided to set up a Chocolate and Confectionery Business. Much to the delight of her community, she has owned and operated Sweet Gem Confections for around 20 years. Many taste-buds have benefited from her choice to follow this dream. The drive to support local business and provide a preservative free chocolate founded in strong technical training brought success and allowed for her business to grow. Eating local was something that came quite naturally to Nancy. While living on the farm with her family they grew much of what they ate. Vegetable and Animal. This gave her a true awareness of the importance of nature, even in regards to running a business. Sundays and Nancy found herself often attending alone.

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CMM , continued from page 2

While loving her chocolate business, Nancy is feeling called to return to her roots in development.

She is currently transitioning into fundraising and development as part of a bigger non profit organization. Nancy's background with Interfaith is just as interesting of a journey as her personal one. She has been part of the community for longer then you may realize! 15 years ago, when Interfaith rented space at Forsythe Elementary, Nancy and her young family were checking it out. Searching for a spiritually structured experience, Interfaith was a perfect fit. Allowing for her boys to experience their own spiritual path- they slowly stopped attending on Sundays and Nancy found herself often attending alone.

After discovering *A Course in Miracles* she became committed to the Monday night study group. And from there she began to discover the Sunday community again.

The Interfaith center is a much more vibrant place because of Nancy. Search her out and you'll find a smile and a sincerity that is uplifting- you know one of those smiles that radiates from a persons eyes and make a solid connection? Nancy hopes to bring "energy to the center in order to advance our mission to provide a beautiful place of love and light to all while we

Thanks Nancy for all you do!

Annie's message, continued from page 2

The final event I want to speak of is the 24th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration brought by The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County of which our center is a member. On Sunday, November 18, at 6 PM for a church open house, and 7 pm for music and meditations from many faith traditions at Bethlehem United Church of Christ at 423 Fourth Ave. in Ann Arbor .

Be sure to check out all our regular weekly events on our website or on the bulletin board at the center.

May we always be grateful for all kinds of Blessings, Annie

**CAFE 704 CONCERT
SERIES
Saturdays**

Nov. 10 David Vaughn
Dec. 8th: Billy King

**November
Birthday Babies
Happy Birthday!**
1. Diane Horn
4. Sally Searls
15. Bob Hopkins
19. Rod Rodriguez
22. Joy Pendleton
26. Al Carter

November Talks
4. Gretchen Leonhardt:
How Low Can We Go
11. Reverend Susan King:
The Arising of the Great
Mother and her Impact
on the Future of all Great
Faith Traditions
18. Open Mic on Grati-
tude on Thanksgiving
25. Craig Harvey: The
Aramaic Lord's Blessing:
A Life Instruction
Manual

November Music
4: David Vaughn (Nov.
Café 704) (Topic: How
low can you go)
11: Lenore (Indigenous
flute prayer/meditation)
18: Laurel Emrys
(Topic: Gratitude -
Thanksgiving)
25: Tom Voiles

Volunteer Coordinator Corner
By Bob Hopkins

**This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation
as of June 25, 2018**

As of October 21, 2018

We regularly need to add to our pool of people who help to set-up and clean-up for potlucks – See Ted

We want responsible people to set up and tidy up the sanctuary before or after the service – See Annie

We can always use treats for after Service – See Ted or just bring them in

We could use one person to be at the Welcome table on the fourth Sunday of the month – See Bob

We need people to assist with the contra dance in November – See Dawn

We need one person to act as a greeter on the first Sunday of the month – See Randall

We need a new transportation coordinator/provider – see Marilyn Alf

APPRECIATION

THANKS TO: Janice Beard who has agreed to help with tidying up after service.

THANKS TO: Idgie Patterson who has been functioning as a super greeter backing up every Sunday greeting team – almost every Sunday.

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer, Nancy Biehn, Vicki Davinich, Ray Fix, Annie Kopko, Idgie Patterson, Susan Thompson and Mary Alice Truitt who represented the Center at the Enlightened Soul Expos in October.

THANKS TO: Don Allen, David Bell, Craig Brann, Jill Halpern, the Huron Valley Harmonizers (including Jeff Alden), Brett Koon, Alaura Massaro, the Spirit Singing Band (including Kath Weider-Roos, Dan Bilich and Sam Clark) for performing and Mary Alice Truitt for emceeing at the October Benefit Concert.

THANKS TO: Craig Brann, Jill Crane, Ray Fix, Scott McWhinney and Erik Nowakowski for sound at the October Benefit Concert.

THANKS TO: Layla Amanda, Delyth Balmer, Nancy Biehn, Craig Harvey and Mary Alice Truitt who provided publicity for the October Benefit Concert and Raffle.

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer, Laura Baris, Nancy Biehn, Vicki Davinich, Diane Gledhill, Holly Makimaa and Jack Richards who provided the service of sales for the October Benefit Raffle.

THANKS TO: Layla Ananda, Nancy Biehn, Janet Fry, Annie Kopko, Holly Makimaa, Sally Searls and Mary Alice Truitt who provided chocolate treats for the October Benefit

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer, Mark Charles, Randall Counts, Dick Durham, Ray Fix, Annie Kopko, Mike O-Shea, Idgie Patterson, Joy Pendleton and Delores Rubio-Turtle for helping with the set-up and clean up for the October Benefit Concert and Raffle.

September Board Meeting Highlights

Submitted by MaryAlice Truitt

Ministers Report

Approved payment compensation for Oct - Dec.

Death Cafe Report from Annie and Delyth who attended yesterday's meeting. Death Cafe at Crazy Wisdom is the longest running in the U.S. It's very simple. Location and time dedication are the most important concerns for running one. With guidelines you can run one. Facilitators are there to hold the space. There is a welcoming aspect, then meet in groups of 2 or 4, then you tell who you are and why you came, then small group discussions ensue on the reasons for being there for an hour. Then gather as a group and report to the whole group what was discussed.

Questions: what are we doing at ICSG to follow some of these very kind and thoughtful examples when our own members lose people?.. We have been Considering having a monthly dc meeting here since May. It is essential to have some kind of food and drink available. We have parking. No charge is allowed. Strangers coming together/being anonymous allows more freedom of expression. Timing for meeting best to be a weekday evening like monthly on a Tuesday after potluck.

Admin Report

Dawn Schwartz doing a **Contra Dance** on Sunday Nov. 11. Susan King will be speaking that day as well. A **Zen Master** will be here to speak on a Friday night and doing a workshop on Saturday.. **Meta Peace** team is happening November 17th- we need to promote it.

Caring Committee will be doing a **Thanksgiving** dinner on Thanksgiving Day as well.

Finances

Based on Annual and monthly trends, we should be in the black by \$5,600.

Benefit Concert brought in \$1700. Down from previous years, maybe because it was a football Saturday. Make a plan to get it

scheduled/put on the calendar well in advance and around other happenings in town.

Looking forward: Ray suggested any Surplus could be used for investing in programs to attract new Activity/Marketing/ Speakers.

MaryAlice commented that ICSG has only had a budget for three years, and now we can use that three years of data to compare and project. For financing and the budget we want to protect and increase compensation for: Sunday services, youth ed, music opportunities.

Visioning and Preparation

Discussion in Co-Creation meeting of the language and the principles of our Center.

The reason it was started was to create a plan of what uses we would have for a new building- which began over a year ago. There is not a rush or urgency around a building at this point. Now we have moved towards discussing spiritual/organizational leadership. The Board agreed that the Co-Creation Team will work with the community to articulate the vision of leadership for our spiritual center.

Policies Check-In

While we are finalizing our new policies (grievance, whistleblower, etc), we adhere to the following motion:

MaryAlice makes a motion that if an issue that is brought to anyone's attention or that one of us witnesses, we will bring it to the Ministerial Team for them to resolve or the Ministerial Team will refer to the Board or a third party Mediator.

Motion passed.

Tech Check in

Google Docs and Drive training still available with MaryAlice.

Website going well. Talked about ZOOM website that provides teleconferencing - bring this to the communication team meeting. There is a need to upgrade our projector.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEVA OF ABUNDANCE

October 15, 2018

Last summer I decided I wanted to attend the Earth Keepers event down in Arkansas in November. To manifest the necessary funds, I was following the Law of Attraction rules of visualization plus acting like I already had that money; but it wasn't working out the way I thought it should. Then I got the idea to talk to the Deva of Abundance, and I'd like to share the conversation for this article...

Peggy: It's easy to visualize that I always have more than enough money for anything I want to do. One of the Law of Attraction rules is to ACT as if you really are preparing for an event; however, I know I cannot spend money that has not yet been received to reserve a hotel room. There is a disconnect here – what am I missing?

DEVA: *There is a disconnect because your reality has not yet been achieved. It has been accepted, even allowed, but it remains [distant, separate].*

Peggy: Can you help me reach a deeper understanding of this?

DEVA: *Yes. Deeper understanding involves [self-love, allowance, acceptance] of your innate natural state of being, which is to exist [with, among, amidst] a part of the abundance of all good things which you seek.*

Peggy: How is this achieved? How is it to happen in the real world, day to day?

DEVA: *Since you began this [effort, experiment] with the help of the article we sent you, already you have [united, joined with] unexpected monetary gifts. The missing piece is your [faith, TRUST, CONFIDENCE] in the process, in the system, in how the Universe of energy flows where it is needed.*

Peggy: So if I focus on receiving a thousand dollars by a certain date in order to go to an event, does that requirement set by the event organizer, and then accepted and reinforced by me, block the flow?

DEVA: *YES! You may be sufficiently open and accepting of receiving any amount of dollars you desire, but when you require this to happen by insisting the dollars arrive by a certain day – even when that requirement is not of your creation but you are perpetuating it – this chokes off the flow of energy. Even though the dollars wish to join you and make it possible for you to travel and attend, now they are like dogs barking and straining against their leashes, wishing to come to you joyously but constrained by the energy of an inflexible physical demand.*

Peggy: How then shall I reorient myself? How shall I adjust my thinking?

DEVA: *Do not forget that when you work cooperatively WITH the Universe, with your Most Benevolent Outcomes and similar manifestation methods, you can effortlessly accomplish seemingly impossible things regardless of the requirements of what you call the "real world."*

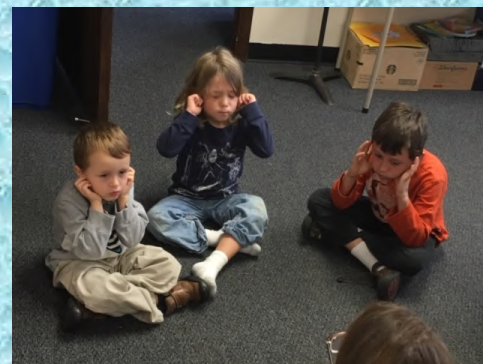
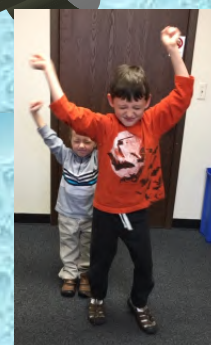
Acknowledge what you WANT to happen and what your orderly mind thinks MUST happen in order to attend an event that has great meaning to you.

Enrich these visualizations by FEELING in your body and your soul the joy and excitement of getting on the plane, the exhilaration of walking into the venue with so many others of like mind, and so forth. Adding this emotional power will greatly strengthen your manifestations.

Youthful Spirits



We are still collecting items for our homeless blessing bags. Please see Kellie or Heide for items needed!



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



Interfaith Round Table
of Washtenaw County

24th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration



Interfaith Round Table Supporting Congregations

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
Baha'i Spiritual Assembly
Beth Israel Congregation
Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Blue Ocean Faith
Chinmaya Mission
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints
Church of Scientology
First Baptist Church
First Church of Christ, Scientist
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Lord of Light Lutheran Church
King of Kings Lutheran Church
Muslim Community Association
Shalom Community Church
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Clare's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Trinity Lutheran Church
Unity on Campus Ministry
Zen Buddhist Temple
Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday
November 18
7 pm*

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423-4th Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Celebrating Compassion & Beauty

Join us as we give thanks with readings, music, and meditations from a wide variety of faith traditions around the theme of "Celebrating Compassion & Beauty." Refreshments following the celebration. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2019 Interfaith Calendars also available.

*6 pm Bethlehem UCC Open House
with Rev. John Kennedy

irtwc.org

For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides
at 734-424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu.