



# Interfaith Inspirer

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**Ministerial Miscellany**  
**By Rev. Annie Kopko**

*Dear Everyone, I hope February finds you in good health and good humor, and with great attention to the love that leads us and binds us together in one great questionable mass or is that mess of humanity. Yes, questionable, question everything, that is the only way to get (as Swami Beyondanonda says): "questionable answers".*

*Of course, the way to get true answers is to listen. Listen within and listen without. Listen to your heart. Be available for those nudgings that come when you least expect them. And listen to your friends and everyone with whom you come in contact. You never know what pearls of wisdom may come designed by your infinite self as a message for your human self. And it helps us to remember that you never know what kind word of yours can change the direction of someone's life.*

*Watch and listen for the messages of nature as she begins to come alive after the bitter cold of winter. I am reading parts of a book called "Death Makes Life Possible". And it is true of all of Nature in Winter. By the end of this month there will be many more signs of Spring. Watch, listen, and enjoy!*

*Watch for Interfaith events coming up this month. (Always check the website for details: [Interfaithspirit.org](http://Interfaithspirit.org))*

*Death Café returns Tuesday, Feb. 5th, at 6:30PM for small group discussions about death. Come early for our regular Tuesday potluck at 5:45PM.*

*Café 704 (and Artisan 704) will feature San and Emily Slomovits with pianist Brian Brill, Sat. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Jim Phillips will be back on Feb. 23 (Sat.) to lead his workshop "Secrets of the Mystics" about the Egyptian Mystery School that is thousands of years old. (we first learned of this from the Star Wars movies) It begins at 9:30AM until 4:30PM.*

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**By Jaclyn Morrow**

As the weather gets colder and grayer, there is a bright and warm person we'd like thank this month. Dolores Rubio-Turtle has been an active member of Interfaith since 2010. She found her way via her neighbor Nicholas De Paul. Dolores is on the board of Directors, part of Spiritual Psychology on Fridays 6-7.30, Transmission Meditation on Fridays 7-7:30 and twice a month Sunday 9-10am. She is also on Co-Creation Team. However this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Dolores' contribution to our community and the community as a whole.

Dolores has an interesting history and she brings her passion, and inquisitive mind with her every where she goes. She makes an impact. She doesn't leave a rock unturned when looking for answers and solutions to humanity's and environmental problems.

Since her first accidental commercial venture at 11 years old in Barcelona, Spain, Dolores has been challenging and supporting those around her. This is a good story, ya gotta hear it. Before her niece was born, her mother and sister were going gaga over the new baby girl coming to their family. Both of them were very skilled creators and they were making baby quilts and other things to welcome the new baby girl. One day, Dolores' excitement followed her as she made the rounds and shared the amazing baby quilts her mother and sister had made. The woman at the baby boutique was sold! So while Dolores had only been wanting to share the sheer beauty of a homemade blanket, she unintentionally ended up selling 4000 blankets to baby boutiques all around the area! When something is right- it doesn't take fancy selling, it just takes the innocent love and excitement that Dolores has been sharing with people since she was very young.

Last month, we were treated to a Dolores day here at Interfaith. She was scheduled to give the message and then she stepped up to do the reading.

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## Volunteer Coordinator Corner

By Bob Hopkins

This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation  
as of January 20, 2019

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 people at the Welcome table on the fourth and fifth Sunday of the month – See Bob

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

We need a people to help with the new Cub 704 designed to attract the young -- See Bob or Donald

### APPRECIATION

**THANKS TO:** Donald Prevost-Hart who has agreed to coordinate the new Club 404 geared toward young

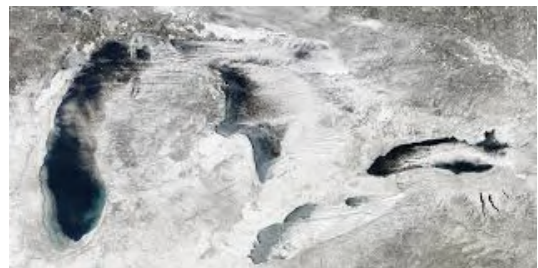
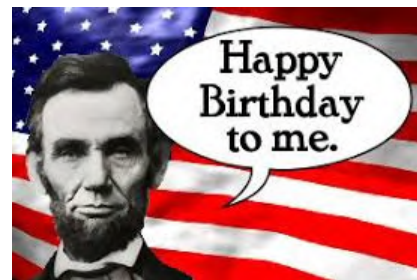
Musicians who would attract a younger audience.

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As usual, we have weekly events and study groups, details on our website and flyers in your bulletins every Sunday.

*This month, watch for expressions of love and beauty in your life. Create miracles when you tell your friends that you love them. Trust that life will provide even more of the same.*

*Blessings to all, Annie*



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She quickly filled the hole caused when the original person was ill and unfortunately unable to make it. It was calming listening to her talk to the children. It was a beautiful addition to the service. You may remember she talked about being raised Catholic in Spain and all of the wonderful opportunities to be around nuns and that she even learned to meditate from a nun. In this talk she mentioned her quiz-zical nature- specifically about the Trinity. She has been this way her whole life and it has constantly fueled her projects.

For example- when Dolores was young, she was babysitting her niece Maria Luisa. In one short evening she went through a mountain of disposable diapers and was horrified to realize the amount of trash generated by one small human. This awareness has been at the forefront of her mind ever since. And in 2001 she started a company in Spain called Bebés Ecológicos S.A. (Ecological Babies). There were people who told her the company wouldn't make it. She sold cloth diapers and eventually expanded into other products. Well, now the name Bebés Ecológicos has become synonymous with natural baby products in Spain. You know, like the brand Kleenex for Tissues? In 2013 after moving to the United States she started a similar company here called Orethic (Organic and Ethical). She began with intensive research which led her down the road of creating and patenting her own fabric. She wanted

to get chemicals out of diapers. And she wanted to educate people about what they were using, so then they would be more free to choose.

After Spain, Dolores moved to London to study English. This is where she met her husband Nigel. During this time she went to China to work as an English teacher for Volunteer Services Overseas. Dolores quickly became aware of the poverty of the area. Instead of sitting on this information and bemoaning the world- of course she took action and became the change. Dolores started the Child to Child Project which sent books from her friends kids in London to children in need in China. The program was a huge success!

In 2008, Nigel and Dolores decided to make the move to the United States. They were planning on homeschooling their children Tristan and Cassia and thought the US was a good place to be. They moved to Plymouth and Dolores just loved how close everything was. They could walk to downtown and her kids could walk and get an ice cream on their own. One day, as life had it, her and her family had to make a quick move. They moved from their house in Plymouth and found a house in Ann Arbor co-housing in 1 month. It was a lot of cleaning and moving, but Dolores is a hard worker!

Dolores' life has been ripe with questions, answers and then more research. On one of these paths, thanks to her two Spiritual mothers, Marta and Mary, she began

studying the Ageless Wisdom Teachings of Alice A. Bailey and the Tibetan Master. She was also led to Benjamin Creme. She helped organize his tour in Spain in 1994 and worked as a translator for the press. This experience was her first experience with Transmission Meditation! And while being very new to the practice, Dolores is a quick learner and good student. She leads a transmission meditation through the Interfaith center once a month. She explains that when we do this type of meditation we are in contact with the soul. This is a type of scientific meditation and that being part of it is being the change we want to see. We are lending our bodies to be transformers. You benefit from the healing energies. Creme jokes that "This is a service for lazy people, you don't have to do anything." Show up, put your energy and put your focus on your energy center. It's simple safe practical.

Dolores considers herself a professional volunteer. She has worked tirelessly for Share International, Women in the Environmental Network, UNICEF, Pads for Africa, and so, so, so much more! If you are inspired by Dolores' example, come lend your energy to any of these great organizations. And next time you see Dolores, take a moment during the welcoming section to realize that she really does see god in you.

For more info check out:  
<https://www.eco-etico.com/>

### February Music

- Feb. 3 San and Emily Slomovits  
10: Laz Slomovits (song sermon)  
17: Full Value (Barbershop)  
24: Alex Terzian

### February Talks

- 3 Gretchen Leonhardt  
"What's Love Got to do With It?"  
10 Laz Slomovits  
"Song Sermon"  
17 Cynthia McNabb  
"Divine Love"  
24 Rev. Annie Kopko  
"Accepting the Unacceptable  
With Love"

### February Birthday Babies Happy Birthday!

- 2 Amiata Alf  
10 Angela Wyse  
11 Delyth Balmer  
21 Don Cody  
23 Dolores Rubio-Turtle  
25 Ali Hussain  
28 Melissa Whitney



## THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING "OTHER"

*By Peggy River Singer*

January is a month when I do a lot of thinking about my life, as I add another knot to my string of years. It's taken me 65 of those years to figure out, step by step, who I am and what I'm capable of, and what I'm here to accomplish.

Like me, many of you have experienced what it's like to be different. Maybe you're psychic, or an Indigo; one of the many "clairs" such as clairtactile or clairsentient, a telepath, an empath; or you have what the Irish call Second Sight. Maybe you never talk about your special abilities, or you hide what you can do, because you're afraid of what people will think if they find out you're "not normal." But of course, these abilities are perfectly normal for humans; they've just been distrusted and demonized for a very long time.

### The Patterns of History

Throughout history, members of tribal and traditional cultures who have special gifts have been trained to serve as priests, shamans, healers, seers, or herbalists. And throughout history, when governments or religious institutions decide that traditional beliefs and suspicious abilities are unacceptable or even criminal, practitioners and their followers face a discouraging array of options. Forced conversion, faux conversion while hiding one's true beliefs and skills, banishment, and voluntarily moving to remote locations beyond the reach of the authorities mean major upheavals; but all are preferable to persecution or worse. It's no surprise that many people -- past and present -- choose to go into hiding, one way or another.

### Evolution of an Inspired Soul

During my first fifty years or so, I never had any dramatic special abilities that I might have wanted to conceal. But I've always had **symptoms** that have complicated getting through each day:

- Very sensitive to light, noise, temperature, energy
- Absorbed other people's emotions without realizing it
- Preferred the company of animals, who were so much easier to understand than humans
- Spent most of my time out of body, because real life was too difficult and confusing
- Difficulty reading social cues and body lan-

guage of others

These symptoms felt more like burdens than indications of gifts, and they added up to life as a perpetual outsider, unable to understand why I never fit in anywhere.

Today, special abilities are becoming more acceptable, and symptoms like those in my own list are more likely to be recognized. Millions of people who have grown up with Lost in Space, Star Trek, and Jedi are inclined to be more open-minded about possibilities that previous generations would have found difficult to understand. A sci-fi fan from childhood, I've never had any problem believing that just about everything is possible. But it's only in the last fifteen years that this concept has begun to describe my own life.

In 2005, I stepped into a whole new world by calling Betsy Adams, an animal communicator, to find out whether my very sick cat was ready to depart. I began taking classes with Betsy, and one thing led to another: my new interests included studying empathy, telepathy, guardian angels, nature spirits, crystals, power animals, oracle cards, pendulums, gods and goddesses, shamanism, Reiki, and the list keeps getting longer. Who knows what I'll be inspired to do next?

Meanwhile, I now consider myself an **observer** instead of an outsider; and I've come to appreciate the insights and understanding of human nature that I've collected while the rest of the world has gone about its business around me. Oddly enough, this has proved to be great preparation for being a writer!

### What About Your Own Gifts?

I opened this article talking about finally recognizing and celebrating my gifts after a lifetime of preparation. If you think (or know) that you have special abilities, I encourage you with all my heart to explore those abilities and make the most of them. They truly can be gifts, waiting to be opened; and Washtenaw County abounds with people who can help you find your way. A good place to start would be the Crazy Wisdom Community Journal, which is packed with resources for just about any skill, craft, talent or ability you wish to know more about. Personal growth and empowerment are only two of the rewards you can look forward to.

Happy learning, and happy BECOMING!

# Youthful Spirits



**On a treasure hunt for virtues...**



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