



Interfaith Inspirer

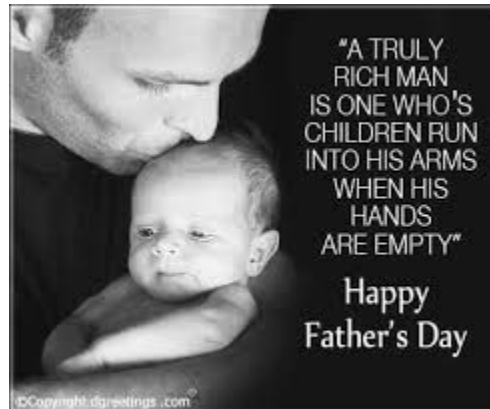
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I have a Hero
I call him Dad.

(Fathers Day Quotes From Son)



Dads

ARE MOST ORDINARY MEN
TURNED BY LOVE
INTO HEROES, ADVENTURERS,
STORY-TELLERS,
AND SINGERS OF SONG.

- PAM BROWN -

The quality of a father
can be seen in the
goals, dreams and
aspirations he sets
not only for himself,
but for his family.

Reed Markham

GH

A good father is
one of the most
*unsung,
unpraised,
unnoticed,*
and yet one of the
most valuable
assets in our society.

-Billy Graham-

Dads are most
ORDINARY MEN
turned by love into
HEROES, ADVENTURERS,
STORY-TELLERS, AND
singers of songs

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Any man
can
be a *father*
but it takes
someone special
to be a Dad.

Ministerial Miscellany
By Rev. Annie Kopko

When I started thinking about what to write for June I thought about relationships. We have great weather that can help us expand our sense of self out into the world, more free time with a sense of relaxing about everything, and a renewed sense of wonder at the beautiful unfolding and re-birth of nature before our very eyes. It is a great time to believe in ourselves and how much we deserve relationships that are joyful and healing.

Every relationship has something to offer us, even ones we have given up on. I used to say to my son Alex: "You never know" and of course we do not. Chances are we do better to stay in the present moment and to not make assumptions about the past or the future. Every relationship has a purpose.

You already know that your possibilities are infinite, many unlikely things will come our way. Let's just plan on more and more exciting opportunities that will help us have more joy out of life. Let's remember that we heal our lives by being open to the good in all events and all people. Be a giver and a receiver of the good aspects of everything life has to offer.

This month at Interfaith we have lots of events, and you never know who else will show up and what will help open your life to more joy and peace.

As always, check the website at *Interfaithspirit.com* for more details, and don't forget the events that meet weekly (like *A Course in Miracles* study group on Mondays and potluck on Tuesdays).

- June 4th, Death Cafe, 6:30PM, (always on the first Tuesday of every month).

We explore ideas about death (with confidentiality) in small groups. Free. Tea and treats by donation. Come at 5:45PM for potluck.

- June 8th, Cafe 704, Marlena Studer will be featured, with other local jazz musicians. This outstanding event will start at 8PM. Donation \$8.00 or \$15. For two.

June 11, Ali Hussain, Sufi Master, will be back with a class on Jesus and Sufism, with his amazing openness, warmth and love. Starts at 6:30PM, come early for potluck. Cost will be \$40 for 4 weeks. Ali also will be speaking at Sunday Service, July 7th.

- June 13th, Singing for Comfort, (always on the second Thursday). Layla Ananda will teach us easy, beautiful songs that will make our hearts sing. Donations welcome although optional.

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Community Member
of the Month

Rad Rod



By Jaclyn Morrow

There is a great man in our midst. And he admittedly wouldn't be here without the women in his life.

This month we are calling our attention to Rod Rodriguez. And you better dish out as much of that attention as you can on him, because he is moving to Mexico. Although I'm sure he'd be happy to have you visit! That's the kind of guy he is.

Rod was born and raised Catholic in Washtenaw County. He went to high school in Dexter where he met the woman who continuously changed his life. After high school he joined the Navy and was trained and put to use as an electrician. A path that he continued on after he left the service. Rod just recently retired from 50 years in the field. Talk about dedication! He also managed to snag that high school sweetheart- Rod is nothing if not persistent.

In the Navy, Rod was afraid to stop being Catholic. He traveled to 31 countries, and took the belief in hell with him everywhere he went. Even as the ship he was on turned a Nuclear Russian freighter around, he held on to old religious beliefs. After the Navy, Rod moved back to SE Michigan because he loved fall and wanted to stay close to his family. Once back, his persistence earned him his wife. For which he is forever grateful. Karen was his teacher and friend.

He was also a self proclaimed "John Wayne" kinda guy. He was guided by his wife that violence was not the answer. She reassured him that he had nothing to prove. He outgrew that part of his life, with her help.

He also discovered a spiritual path, with her help. Karen bought the book, "The Course in Miracles" and prompted him to check it out. He read the Course, got to chapter 3, and declared it BS. Rod went to course meetings for 10 years just to tell them it was ridiculous. What did we say about his dedication and persistence?

Eventually he let that go. It's relaxing to let go of that anger. His wife taught him that, she taught him how to forgive. She is also the reason we have been blessed to have Rod as part of the Interfaith Community. She brought him to Interfaith, and he helped build this place with his own 2 hands. We are grateful for all of the hard work he put into creating the space we are able to call home. The lights, the electricity, the parking lot, the refrigerator, the A/C...

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Volunteer Coordinator Corner

By Bob Hopkins

This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation as of May 12, 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 a person at the Welcome table on the fifth Sunday of the month – See Bob
We need people to help with transportation –see Donald, the Transportation Coordinator.
We need a people to help with the new Cub 704 designed to attract the young -- See Donald
We will be needing plenty of people to help with the July yard sale (July 25 – 27) – see Delyth

APPRECIATION

THANKS TO: Ray Fix for his ongoing help behind the scenes in Café 704

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer, Lyrie Claire, Randall Counts, Rob Fagerlund, Craig Harvey, Heide Kaminski and her friend Irene DeLarosa, Annie Kopko, Jan Peacock, Joy Pendelton, Ted Poprafsky, Catherine Powers, Jack Richards, Rod Rodriguez and Kristian Speelman who helped to organize and execute the Center's Boot Sale on May 4.

June

Birthday Babies

1: Staci Haarer

5: Melanie Fuscaldo

6: Dawn Swartz

14: Larry Toth

23: Annie Kopko

27 Heide Kaminski and Sharon Hayward

June Talks

2: JT Ramelis,
"Power of the Mind"
9: Rev. Holly Maki-
maa, "Sweet Surren-
der"

16: Kamau Ayubbi,
"The Stations of the
Heart" (Sufi Tradi-
tion)

23: Rev. Annie
Kopko, TBA
30: Rev. Dawn

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the smiles, the advice, the feisty perspective. The words of insight and awareness he shares at open mic. The warm hugs and sincere namastes. For all of this and so much more we are so grateful and excited for Rod as he continues on his journey. The Course in Miracles is providing the channel for his move. The community in Mexico will be blessed, changed and challenged by his presence!

His son, daughter and grandchildren will miss him here in Michigan but know their elder better than most. There he goes again! Making the most of life, taking chances and exploring the world.

Best wishes on your move, Rod!
We'll miss you, come back and visit often!

July 6, 1-3 p.m.
at the Cal Zorn
Park in Tecumseh

My children are
throwing a 60th
birthday party in
my honor. You
are all invited.
Please bring a
dish to share :-)
Love, Heide

June Music

2: Marlena Studer

9: Janet Cannon

16: TBA

23: Jamai Tierney

30: Dancers for Life

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June 23rd, after service. Summer Picnic at Murray Lake 1PM to 9PM. Bring food, plan to swim. You must sign up ahead of time. Flyers with all the details and sign up sheet at the Center, cost is \$6.00. Our Caring Committee will pay if you cannot.
- July 25-27 YARD SALE at Interfaith!! Start Gathering unwanted items. Volunteers needed! Details later!

In September we will have our water ceremony. As you travel far and wide (or stay home) gather some water for the ceremony. Blessings to all of us in this month of perfect weather.

*Many blessings,
Annie*



A CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSTELLATION DELPHINUS, THE DOLPHIN

By Peggy River Singer

Back in the 1960's, we spent summers at Clark Lake in the Irish Hills. Mom and I would take our little telescope out on the dock and see how many moons of Jupiter we could count, and find different constellations. I've been in love with the night sky ever since, and this article is about one of my favorite constellations!

About Delphinus

Delphinus isn't the brightest group of stars (it's kind of faint), or the largest (it's pretty small); and it doesn't have any star clusters or other exotic features. Even so, it's been a favorite of countless stargazers of all ages for a very long time, because it actually does look like a dolphin leaping out of the water.

Who is Delphinus?

This constellation reminds us that humans and dolphins have shared a long, long relationship. One of the best-known Greek versions of the story of this constellation is that it represents a dolphin who saved the life of Arion, the most famous singer/musician of his time.

Like today's music stars, Arion traveled to many lands to present concerts. After a successful tour of Sicily, he hired a ship to take him and the treasure he had earned to Greece. Arion was so confident of his fame and popularity that he didn't bother to hire a bodyguard, so the captain and crew decided to kill him and throw his body overboard so they could split his riches. Terrified, he begged to be allowed to sing one last song, and he truly sang for his life; so sweetly that dolphins gathered around the boat and sang along with him.

Knowing that dolphins often help drowning humans, Arion realized that they were his only chance to survive. As he finished the song, he jumped overboard. The dolphins immediately surrounded him, and Delphinus, the leader of the group, gave him a ride all the way back to Greece. The Greek gods honored Delphinus for his compassion by placing him in the night sky, where he still sings his own beautiful silvery songs on clear summer evenings.

Finding Delphinus

(You may need to look at a star map, but it will be worth the trouble!) Face southeast and look for the Summer Triangle formed by the brightest stars of Cygnus, Lyra and Aquila. Then look to the lower left of Altair (in Aquila) for a diamond shape formed by four stars, with the fifth star forming the dolphin's tail.

Conversations with a Dolphin and a Constellation

River: May I speak to a representative of the dolphin folk about this legend?

Dolphin: *I am here, little one. What would you like to know?*

River: We have many stories of dolphins helping humans in different ways. The Delphinus story is one of the earliest examples we know of. Do the dolphin folk know about this legend?

Dolphin: *[gentle chuckle] Yes, of course! It is a tale told to our young, an illustration of the connections between our peoples. A fine example of the proper way to BE Dolphin, you see.*

River: How long has this beneficial connection existed?

Dolphin: *It was conceived of in the great era of human seafaring, thousands of years ago. So many vessels experienced storms and other dangers; so many humans perished. You understand, up to that point we (and other sea folk) would often assist a human in peril, as an individual act of Grace. But with more and more sea travelers, and more and more assistance needed, our people called for a "virtual conference," from all the seas and rivers, and much talking was done. And we agreed, as what you humans might call a "policy," to set aside our own doings if necessary, in order to be of service in this manner.*

River: Are the dolphins able to see the group of stars that represents the legend, and the heroic Delphinus?

Dolphin: *Yes, we can see quite well through air. But we primarily feel/see it internally, in our hearts, as we do many other sky objects; so we may share its energy whenever we wish to. Your description of the "silvery songs" is very accurate; that is how the energy of the constellation feels to us. The spirit/soul of the constellation is also with me here, and willing to speak to you.*

River: Thank you. I never would have dreamed, as a child, that I would ever be

able to talk to Delphinus! It's a great honor.

Delphinus: *[a higher pitched, thinner voice] I too am pleased. We have felt your affection, from your heart to ours. You are comparing our FEEL, our appearance, our vibration to the mineral Selenite; this is very perceptive. Selenite, with its glistering threads and its purity, is a good representation of our energies.*

River: Thank you, I was wondering about that. Did your group of stars exist as a personality before it was recognized as a dolphin by humans?

Delphinus: *A very astute question. I shall say, we knew of each other, as all stars can communicate at will, even though we are many light years apart. The legend was brought to our attention when a human named the group of stars. So we stars formed an alliance/family, you might call it, taking the identification of the dolphin hero. This brought us closer in relationship, and we are quite enjoying being associated with the legend. The physical dolphins chat with us, and we exchange news and ideas -- so it is a very pleasant relationship.*

River: Do other constellations have similar stories?

Delphinus: *Yes, indeed. It provides variety and freshness in our lives, which as you know are very long indeed.*

River: Is there anything else you'd like to share with those who will read these words?

Delphinus: *The connections between our peoples are beyond ancient; far deeper and more complex than most humans realize, and those connections are based on, and woven from, Love.*

River: My thanks to you all; I am grateful for this talking.

Dolphin and Delphinus: *Go with our blessings, little sister.*

AUTHOR BIO

Peggy River Singer is a heart-centered animal communicator, medium, faerie ally, Reiki practitioner, and lifelong writer. She combines her gift for communications with her psychic abilities to help create harmonious relationships among all who share the Earth. Connect by phone at 734-548-0194; and by email at newbluecanoe@aol.com. She shares her experiences and insights on her blog, angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com.

Youthful Spirits



For potluck Sunday, we prepared healthy bugs to eat. We had quite a few delicious master pieces!

One Sunday, James Archer, currently our oldest Youthful Spirit, prepared a lesson on kinship and taught our youngest how to make home-made ice cream. Of course, he also helped with the task of preparing the sweet treat! Great job, James Archer!



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

Grocery Card Fundraiser ("Scrip" program) Update

Background:

This is a way for local food stores to contribute to Interfaith about 3-5% of whatever you spend at these stores. It costs you nothing more, and it really does help the Center. The only place that still requires actually buying cards at the Center is Peoples Food Co-op. For questions or to buy cards you can find Craig Harvey in the social hall after service, or phone Craig at 734-971-8576. And here are the details about each store's program (Kroger, Busch's, Arbor Farms, and People's Food Co-op).

Kroger shoppers:

Please look at the bottom of your Kroger receipt and verify that it includes the following notice. If it doesn't, then please sign yourself up!

****Kroger Community Rewards****
At your request, Kroger is donating to
INTERFAITH CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

To link your Kroger-Plus account to Interfaith just go to:

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

Look at the "Community Rewards" section of your account info and edit it as needed to make the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth (#82808) your preferred organization. Whenever you go shopping, just do your usual swiping your Kroger-Plus card or entering your phone number to identify yourself to the system. It may take a couple weeks for you to be fully in the system, after which the bottom of your receipts will always mention Interfaith.

Busch's:

If you don't have a Busch's MyWay account, you first need to do that at <http://buschs.com>.

Then connect your MyWay account to the Interfaith Center using their "Cash for Education" feature.

- To enroll in Cash for Education log into your MYWAY* account and select Cash for Education from the dropdown menu underneath your name.

- Choose up to four organizations that you would like to support per quarter.

- Be sure to use your phone number at checkout.

Reminder: You must have a valid email address and opt-in to receive emails to participate in this program. Please also note that participants will need to re-enroll on an annual basis (easier after you have your MyWay account).

Arbor Farms:

No cards or phone number to worry about! All you need to do is tell the cashier that you want to credit the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth (or just say "Interfaith Church" which they recognize more easily). You just have to remember to **mention it every time you shop**.

Peoples Food Co-op:

Buy \$50 or \$100 card(s) from Craig at Interfaith. When you use them up, buy more of them at the Center. You can pay with cash or check made out to the Interfaith Center (or just "ICSG").