



Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication
VOL. XV, NO. 12 December 2019



Happy Thanksgiving

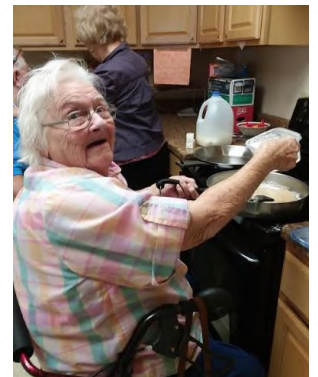
2019



**Your hostesses with
the mostesses.**



Chef Malcolm



**Preparing
the gravy**



Food galore!



Fellowship



**Living in
Mexico
could not
stop Rod
from
grabbing
a few bites!**



**Celebrating
30 years of
being
besties!!**

Ministerial Miscellany

By Rev. Annie Kopko

When the Dalai Lama visited Ann Arbor some years ago, I remember him saying "If there were one word to describe my religion, it would be kindness" Caroline Myss has much to say about kindness: "Looking upon another human being with kindness and compassion and not judgment is a profound act of service and this expression of "service" comes from truly understanding the power of your soul."

So this last month of the year as we rush around, then relax and remember, then rush some more, let's focus on the relaxing and remember who we really are, and the true power of our souls. Let's also notice our thoughts when we feel critical of anything that is happening around us, then quickly take a deep breath and forgive ourselves and everyone else.

At Interfaith we have lots of opportunities for relaxing and remembering:

Tuesday, Dec. 3, **Death Cafe**, hosted by Annie Kopko and Susan Thompson, confidential conversations about any and all aspects of death. It is Free and has no particular agenda. We start at 6:30 in the classroom, right after potluck. So come early at 5:45PM and eat with us

Sat. Dec. 7th, **World Dance** with Jacklynn Morrow. 4-5PM

Thurs. Dec. 12, **Singing for Comfort**, songs that are easy to learn and sing. Free.

Sat. Dec. 14th, **Cafe 704 Fundraising Concert** with music by our own Alaura Massaro, Layla Ananda, and storytelling by Jill Halpern. Tickets \$15.00. We will feature a holiday **Artisan 704** with crafts by members and friends. (The craft show will continue Sun. Dec. 15th after service from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 21st, **Candlelight Meditation with Sacred Song and Chants**, Norma Gentile 8PM, \$20.00, suggested donation.

Tues., Dec. 24th **Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service**, 7-8PM led by Dave Bell.

For more information, please check our website at interfaithspirit.org. I look forward to seeing you and celebrating life with you this month.

Many Blessings to you and your family from our Interfaith Family.

Annie

Community Member of the Month

Joyful Janet



By Jaclyn Morrow

This month we give thanks to Janet Somalinog for being available to our community. She has helped with the yard sale, facilitates the Science of Mind study groups, has become a Service Leader and is available for prayers after service. Once you get to know Janet you'll realize she is open to guidance and once that happens the possibilities are endless!

Janet was born and raised in Michigan. After high school, she explored Europe and experienced an "international awakening which set her path to being curious, humble and open to learning about other people."

Continuing Janet's story in her own words, "My career was to be a teacher, but U of M prepared me for a much wider range of interests and skills. With a BS in social sciences and coming from a very dysfunctional family, it took me almost 20 years to land my first teaching job in Hawaii. How did I get to the Big Island? First, friends took me to Colorado (to my first fixer-upper, an old cabin previously inhabited by the town's madam.)"

Next to California (She needed to warm her bones!). She spent several years learning to sail and scuba dive. Then she moved to Hawaii and life revealed a marriage to a local guy and 2 children. Her first metaphysical teaching was at the Hilo First Church of Religious Science (Now known as the Centers for Spiritual Living and Science of Mind).

"The empowerment I received from studying under the tutelage of RevJayne Taggart and Rev Tag Taggart was practically instantaneous. I soon left the Big Island to discover a journey of more self-discovery. I ended up in Idaho. This felt divinely-guided, I was brought under the wings of Reverend George Dashiell who gently guided me through Science of Mind practitioner training. With these spiritual tools, yoga teacher training, and my open willingness to take on shadow work, I have healed through a myriad of personal issues from depression, finances, single parenting to finding my voice and to being of service. This is why I think I am back in Michigan. I have developed the wisdom, confidence, and energy to give back all that life has given me. As well as the added depth of unconditional love and knowing that we are all one. "

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Thanksgiving 2019

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Peggy's Column

Awakening, cont.

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Volunteer Coordinator Corner

By Bob Hopkins

This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation as of November 24, 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 fourth Sunday of the month – See Bob
We would like testimonials from people who have gained from their volunteer experience -- see Bob
We need people to help with transportation –see Donald, the Transportation Coordinator.

APPRECIATION

THANKS TO: Janet Somalinog for agreeing to serve at the Welcome table on the fourth Sunday each month.
THANKS TO: Lyriel Clarie and Janet Somalinog for agreeing to act as platform assistants.
THANKS TO: Catherine Powers for agreeing to join our team of greeters.
THANKS TO: Malcolm Shaffner for preparing the meal for the Center's Thanksgiving feast.
THANKS TO: Heide Kaminski for coordinating the set up and clean-up of the Thanksgiving feast.

CMM continued from previous page

Her story continues- We are all many things and many stories. And I believe hearing the "Chapter 3" of Janet's story has much to offer.

Life is opening up before her. Janet was guided to Michigan but still gripped by uncertainty. And life kept providing. She bought a 90-year-old house that she is rebuilding, using her own resources and her own 2 hands- as well as borrowed hands. She's settling in just as her house's foundation has settled. She is also working on a book project with a friend. Janet has always enjoyed writing and listening to other people's stories and is delighted to be sharing a story that she hopes will bridge the divide- not by pointing fingers, but by listen-

ing.

Janet also joined Moms Demand Action (for gun safety). She is being presented with opportunities to work with Restorative Justice and to bring a performance of the play *Tough Case* to Jackson. As one stream leads to another, this has led to the possibility of using writing as a tool of healing for women.

Janet is a humble inspiration for all of us. She lives with no regrets and is authentically available to provide tools for healing in whatever way she can. She may feel blessed to have all of the experiences she's had and is having, and we can honestly say we are just as blessed to have her right here, right now.

December Music

December 1 Jill Halpern
December 8 Layla and Alaura
December 15 Interfaith Choir

December 22 Interfaith Children's Choir
December 29 Burning Bowl ceremony

December Birthdays

13 Andy Walker
19 Valoree Sprentall

Happy Birthday!!!

December Talks

1 Rev. J.T. Ramelis: "Wisdom Circle-Interfaith/Interspirituality"
8 Rev. David Bell "In the Flow of Life"
15 Randall Counts "Blessing Everything You See"
22 Rev. Randall Rouse "Mystical Light of Christ Jesus"

A CONVERSATION WITH GUMK-KI THE SKINK

By Peggy River Singer

Years ago, I met a Blue-Tongued Skink in a private zoo. Placing my hand on his back felt like touching the shoulders of the Earth; pure solid groundedness and complete self-awareness. The other day, I was thinking about that skink when I was unexpectedly contacted. Here is our conversation...

River: Blessings to you, skink! Have we met before?

Skink: [chuckles] No, but I know the one you speak of. He sends good wishes; he remembers you, you see. Your energy was a refreshing change from the hands of visitors who were frightened of him. He thanks you for the experience.

River: That's a lovely compliment, thank you. What name shall I call you?

Skink: I am called Gumk-ki, a name referring to the waters of the stars. You may call me Skink, for simplicity. [Note: when pronouncing Gumk, it should feel as if you are gulping. Then the ki' is high-pitched and short, with a glottal stop, to balance the whole.]

River: Will you please explain what "the waters of the stars" means?

Skink: It is water which has been exposed to starlight at high elevations, in the mountains as you may describe it. This water has a rare purity, and profound healing properties.

River: When you first connected, you showed me an image of yourself with wisps of energies swirling above your head. Will you explain, please?

Skink: Gladly. My people are energy masters, we help to balance the energies of the Earth in cooperation with many other kinds of animal beings. The image I sent you showed the process of adjusting energies in order to encourage a gentle rain.

River: What other gifts do the skink people have? Anything to do with earthquakes?

Skink: Your perception is correct. We are so profoundly PART of Mother Earth that our most important role is to adjust, strengthen, or weaken the energies of earth movements according to what Gaia has asked us to do. The greatest among us can do this merely by thought. As a mid-level practitioner, I move my body and my energies in particular ways to accomplish these adjustments.

River: Does it ever happen that the area you live in experiences a powerful earthquake due to your own workings? Are skink lives lost as a result?

Skink: Yes, of course this can be the case, occasionally; but usually only where drastic changes are required to correct dangerous imbalances. If a practitioner dies as a result, he or she is honored and offered either a resting time on the other side, or a quick return to a body according to his wishes, so as to be able to continue this vitally important work.

River: Will you tell us more about yourself?

Skink: I am a younger male, approximately 12 summers. I live in Australia, in the ancient homeland which is the heart of my people. I have a mate, who requests the courtesy of not being part of this conversation. She is working with the eggs forming within her body at this time.

River: I understand, thank you. Is there anything you do for recreation?

Skink: Our sort of recreation is likely to seem mild to humans! We do enjoy communing with the Moon, singing our ancient songs. You might compare this to wolves, though our songs are not heard with the ears but with the heart. We take great pleasure in beauty wherever it occurs. When our bellies are full, we spend hours in Dreamtime, where we can access the wisdom of all who have gone before as well as those who are to come.

River: I've heard about Dreamtime; I guess I thought it was something only the Aborigine people could get access to.

Skink: A common misconception; I am delighted to broaden your knowledge.

River: Do all the different kinds of skinks share the work you have described?

Skink: My tribe has been responsible for these workings since the beginning of things. Other tribes have their own specific tasks or workings. For example, three skink tribes work cooperatively with volcanic forces. There is great variation in the ways we help Creator.

River: Is there anything else you would like to help our readers understand about skinks?

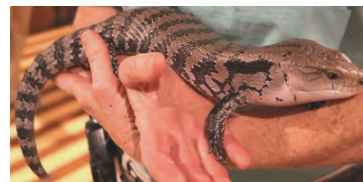
Skink: Yes. Those of us who choose to live with humans continue to go about our work in ways that are too subtle for most humans to perceive. Respect and mindfulness on the part of our human hosts will be appreciated and repaid with new understandings, to those who are willing to receive with an open mind and heart.

River: Thank you for this talking. Please extend my best wishes to your mate for happy, healthy babies.

Skink: Indeed. Good life to you.

AUTHOR BIO

Peggy River Singer is a heart-centered animal communicator, medium, faerie ally, Reiki practitioner, and life-long 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 newbluecannon@aol.com. She shares her experiences and insights on her blog, angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com.



Youthful Spirits



We always have a blast



Rainbow
Penny
Jars



Assembling Blessing
Bags for Local
Homeless People



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

My Experience of “Awakening 2 Love” - Part 3 – Awakening

By Erik Nowakowski

From July 31st - Aug. 6th, 2019 I had the opportunity to join with Living Miracles at their monastery near Duchesne, UT for the Awakening 2 Love (A2L) retreat with David Hoffmeister. As a testimonial to the realization of Divine Orchestration, I've been guided to share my profound experiences with you in a multi part series* (originally this was a 3 part series, but has been expanded due to length).

If you have been following the previous articles, we have journeyed through getting to the retreat, and now we are ready to get into the retreat itself. I checked in and sat down on the deck and immediately entered into a meaningful conversation with another participant. I also started to have an appearance of allergies as my eyes felt irritated and were tearing up. Looking back, I see meaning in this in a couple of ways. One it was foreshadowing for all the tears I was about to shed, I also see it as an extension of gentleness (another recurring theme in ACIM) in that any hints of self-conscious thoughts that came up over crying in public were preemptively mitigated by having an “out”, namely allergies.

I'm going to move away from a linear storyline now as we get into the happenings at the retreat. Let's stay with the crying for a bit though...

I cried more tears of joy during this retreat than ever in my life. You know that “heartwarming” feeling you get sometimes while witnessing touching moments? Well, it was like that. The level of authenticity and intimacy in the sharing took me there countless times. We were all there to share in purpose. I felt Love's Presence there with us, in us, in our join-

ing in purpose. I was literally vibrating beyond the duration of the experiences themselves. It was pretty intense.

The driving factor behind this, for me, seemed to revolve around Love's Presence. The joy came through the authenticity that was being expressed. The deep sharings that occurred were exposing what was really separating us from Love's Presence, and by looking deeply at what was coming up, with Spirit, our eternal connection came shining through.

Looking deeply with Spirit begins with willingness. I was really focused on this willingness, specifically my willingness to be shown. I was asking for this. I was being led to always be aware and ask for Guidance in all circumstances, and I'd like to share a couple of instances that really stood out for me affirming this connection and voice.

The first “happening” brings us back to the volunteering factor. I enjoy being helpful, and as such, I jump in and do things that I see as “needing” to be done. On the surface, this appears to be altruism, but looking more closely at this, one may come to realize that it is impossible to identify something is needed without involving judgment. At its core, this judgment is about the identification of lack.

There is also the question that, even if something appears lacking, who is that assignment for. In a way it seems arrogant for me, Erik, to decide that I know best what is needed even under the guise of being helpful (which is also potentially a dive psychologically into the need for recognition, but that probably could be a whole article in itself, ha!). Perhaps something that appears to need to be done is not really my assignment. Possibly taking it on and trying to be the hero, it is taking

away an opportunity meant for another.

This is the mindset I was in before one of the afternoon sessions. I was there early and just asking Spirit, who I should be talking to and how can I be helpful right now. I was thinking about the footpath up to the monastery, and how it seemed a little rough and could use some maintenance. Then everything came flooding in, evaluating where this was coming from and whether this was an assignment for me or not.

Then I saw the rock. It was a very unique rock and shaped very much like a small garden spade. It even had an ergonomic handgrip. This was my sign. I still had some doubts, but I felt this rock was too perfect for this not to be for this and I dug in (I love puns if you can't tell).

I proceeded to sit down and work on creating some steps through a narrow rocky incline. I'm working there and a participant came up and we were instantly into a deep conversation. As we were talking, I discovered a rock that had a sharp corner sticking up that was an obstacle to having a flat surface. I dig, and under approx 2-3 inches of dirt, I unearth the perfect stepping stone. It was a rock about 12 inches in diameter that had been oval at one point but then had been split in two leaving a very flat surface on one side. You may call it serendipity. I'm calling it confirmation.

Another confirmation came for me in a more dramatic way. It also tied to my desire to be truly helpful. So before one of the evening movie sessions, I was asking Spirit, “Where should I sit?” Instantly, a thought popped in my head, “front right”. So I sat in the very front right seat.

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My Experience of “Awakening 2 Love” - Part 3 – Awakening

Now, let us revisit the theme of silence. Before most sessions, there was a very silent, meditative atmosphere, but not this evening. People were chatting it up and the noise level was a little higher. Then comes the call. David Hoffmeister calls to me from the stage and asked that I “hit the gong”. There was a little gong that lived up by the front wall that seemed to be intended to call everyone's attention to start sessions. It had not been needed thus far, but apparently was needed now. I feel I was given this opportunity to be of service because I sat ... front right.

So, the retreat ran Wednesday to Tuesday. The couple of stories I shared so far happened during the first ½ of the retreat. By Saturday I was really feeling it, the tears were rolling and vibrations were coursing. I wanted to share how it personally affected me because it seemed as though my ego started to feel threatened and let it be known through stomach/appetite issues. My appetite went way down and when I did eat, it seemed almost foreign to me. There was a general uneasiness bordering on pain. This led to another deep connection and another “where should I sit?” orchestration.

I sat where it felt guided, and sank in preparing for the session. Author and Living Miracle Volunteer Kirsten Buxton came and sat next to me. For a little background, Kirsten wrote the book “So I Married a Mystic” which is about her Holy Relationship with David Hoffmeister. She has been involved with David's ministry from very early on. Part of her story has to do with recovery from a serious bike accident and the body issues that went along with that.

I knew of this and felt guided to share what I was going through with mine. We talked a bit, but truly just being present together was an important piece. There was a graciousness that shined through her and taking my hand, we just sat there in silence for a few minutes. It was very comforting and I thanked her. Check off

another “right place, right time” for Spirit.

Another symptom of my experiences was not sleeping. I also feel that we can make a sort of connection here to Kundalini energy as I am somewhat familiar with having practiced Kundalini Yoga in my life. Really a lot of what I was experiencing could be easily called a Kundalini awakening.

This not being able to sleep led me to one of the deepest, (and potentially most controversial) experiences I had at the retreat. About midnight or 1 AM one night I felt guided to reach out to a friend, Wanakko, whom I knew from ACIM Facebook groups. He is very open in his ability to hear Jesus' voice and posts as such on Facebook. Well, he had been starting up a series of posts collaborating with others: “From the one mind, two holy siblings allow Spirit to talk”.

He tells me that I'm invited and Jesus told him I'm supposed to join him for one of these. I agree and really try to channel/hear the Holy Spirit in a seemingly more significant way than I have before. Wanakko gave me a quote from A Course in Miracles and a note to start with. This is what came through:

From the one mind two holy siblings allow Spirit to talk

Beyond perception Unity awaits. In time, with trust, you recognize your brother's guiltlessness. Look to the ego's judgments no more for they are not real. They are not Love. They are the acts of a desperate division, a world of hate and despair. They will lead to death. Choose again to lay down the ego's discretion. We know God does not know of magnitude. This means you must be mindful of EVERY decision. In every decision, guidance is waiting. If this is not seen then seek to cleanse yourself of fear. There is no Justice in defense.

Are you alive, or are you Love? To be alive implies a state of not being alive. Why do you care so much of being alive? You invite death. Realize THIS very moment is only Love and that is enough.

Erik N. and Wanako

PS: You are not troubled by the thought that you are not there yet and know the meaning of love's answer. FIP M 5 1:4: "First, it is obvious that decisions are of the mind, not of the body."

I'm really grateful to be revisiting this through this article. It was a very profound experience, and I'm feeling the reverberations from this as I write.

There were several other one mind experiences that came about during this retreat. These joinings occurred on more of a conversational level and what was given seems beyond the scope of this article. I will tell you that some did revolve around the silence theme, expectations, and guiltlessness. I felt the call and this quote from ACIM Manual for Teachers resonates strongly with my experience.

M-12.4. Yet what makes God's teachers is their recognition of the proper purpose of the body. 2 As they advance in their profession, they become more and more certain that the body's function is but to let God's Voice speak through it to human ears. 3 And these ears will carry to the mind of the hearer messages that are not of this world, and the mind will understand because of their Source. 4 From this understanding will come the recognition, in this new teacher of God, of what the body's purpose really is; the only use there really is for it. 5 This lesson is enough to let the thought of unity come in, and what is one is recognized as one. 6 The teachers of God appear to share the illusion of separation, but because of what they use the body for, they do not believe in the illusion despite appearances.

Continuing this series, I will be talking about the showing of a documentary created by Frances Xu and Living Miracles that had its premiere showing at the retreat called “Take Me Home”. We will also explore my journey back to Michigan and how this away life after the retreat. See you soon!

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART FIVE

By Bob Hopkins

O Creator of the Universe Who was manifested in Jesus Christ, Buddha, Confucius, Gandhi, Quimby, Moses, Muhammed, Bah Allah and Rumi.

Phineas Parkhurst Quimby was born in 1802. He was an American clockmaker, mentalist and mesmerist. His work is widely recognized as foundational to the New Thought movement. There are many names better known as associates of this movement. Ralph Waldo Emerson was a lay writer well known for the movement. The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy was far better known. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore were associated with the foundation of Unity. There were many other new thought movements that emerged in the late nineteenth century and early in the twentieth. I would never have known of Mr. Quimby were it not for some of Dave Bell's sermons and classes. As most of the names listed above were the founders of the respective religions that grew out of their teachings, I made the judgment that Quimby's name needed to be among them.

He suffered greatly from tuberculosis in his youth and was prescribed a medication of the times known as calomel by his doctor. Instead of curing his sickness, the calomel began to rot his teeth. This seemed to him to give him the incentive to stop the medication and try methods of his own design. He found that he found brief relief from a fast gallop on horseback. This gave him a growing interest in how the mind can be involved in healing the body. History does not record which of his many experiments succeeded in curing the TB, but it was definitely not the doctor's medication.

When Charles Poyen, a French mesmerist came to Belfast,

Maine, on a lecture circuit about mesmerism around 1836, Quimby was intensely curious. Quimby attended one of Poyen's lectures in 1838. Poyen admitted that with proper training, anyone could become adept at administering hypnosis. Quimby left his job as a watchmaker and followed Poyen's tour of New England for the two years (1838–1840), until he became proficient at applying mesmerism himself.

Around this time Quimby encountered Lucius Burkmar, an uneducated youth who was particularly susceptible to hypnosis. Quimby and Lucius began a tour of their own, practicing mesmeric demonstrations in front of large crowds. [Later Quimby and Lucius stopped touring and Quimby began claiming to heal people of ailments which doctors could not cure. Quimby explained to his patients that disease was caused by false beliefs, and that the cure was in the explanation of this.

From the point forward, Quimby began a practice of curing many patients using the power of the mind and took on many students who were interested in his techniques. The son of a couple that he cured wrote two books compiling Quimby's thoughts, theories and cures. A scholar of faith healing noted that he had made significant progress in curing psychosomatic illnesses.

One of his many students who received her own cure was Mary Baker Eddy. She added a theistic orientation to his work, and Christian Science was born.

Moses is, perhaps the best-known of all Jewish leaders. He was not the patriarch and he was not the first or best known king. These figures: Abraham, Saul and David might be claimed to be the rightful central figure of Judaism. However,

Moses did one thing that none of the other Jews in history did. He liberated the Jews from 400 years of slavery to the Egyptians and he set forth the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch. As this was the first recorded history of the foundation of the world and the history of the Jewish people, this alone gives it a significant place in the history of the Western world. However, it was the record of the Law as set forth in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy that became the core of the Jewish religion and guide to a significant set of religious practices that have reverberated throughout religious circles from that time to this.

It is hard to know which of the two roles that Moses portrayed was the more significant. With due credit to the Divine, he was both liberator and Law giver. This is not to make light of the ten miracles he delivered in Egypt as part of the liberation experience. It is merely to note that the miracles served a greater purpose than the lengthy history of healings that more modern miracles have accomplished. It is difficult to distinguish which of these two roles was more transformative for the Jewish people. Was it the liberation from the yoke of slavery to the Egyptians or the codification of the religious lifestyle and observances? The latter that was to set a unique place in all of Western civilization and distinguish the Jewish people as the longest monotheistic culture that the world has ever seen. It could certainly be argued that without the liberation that preceded the 40 years of wandering in the Sinai, there would not have been any opportunity for the codification of the Law. However, without the Law, the Jews might have fallen into idolatry or assimilation or both and their unique role in religious direction would have never come into being.

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CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART FIVE

By Robert Hopkins

Continued from the previous page

Most of us have heard of the book of Exodus and that it includes the story of the life of Moses. However, Cecil B. DeMille's version of the life of Moses set forth in his movie The Ten Commandments has dominated the perception of the man. The mythical Moses has become how much of America sees Moses the man and makes all but the scholars see him in a distorted manner. Be a scholar and read Exodus for yourself to get a more accurate portrayal.

What I discovered from Exodus is

no evidence of Moses being in a battle with Ramses to inherit the throne of Egypt. There was no mention of Moses overseeing the building project to honor the Pharaoh. There is no mention of a rivalry for the affection of a woman that put Ramses as odds with Moses.

Exodus indicates that he killed an Egyptian for beating an Israelite and implies that Moses knew he was a son of Jews at the time. He fled from Egypt when the pharaoh sought to have him killed in the wake of this. So, he was not reluctantly banished as DeMille suggests, but fled in the face of a threat to his life.

So, if you think you know Moses because you have seen THE TEN COMMANDMENTS multiple times

on the Saturdays before Easter every year, think end. If you want to know the real Moses, you will need to pick up a copy of your favorite Bible and read how he composed his own story in Exodus.



Daily Bizarre, Unique and Special Holidays December, 2019

December 1 Eat a Red Apple Day, World Aids Awareness Day

December 2 National Fritters Day

December 3 Advent begins, date varies, National Roof over Your Head Day

December 4 Santas' List Day - we hope you are on the "Nice" list, Wear Brown Shoes Day

December 5 Bathtub Party Day, Repeal Day - The 21st Amendment ends Prohibition. I'll drink to that!

December 6 Bartender Appreciation Day - in Europe, St. Nicholas Day, Mitten Tree Day, Put on your own Shoes Day

December 7 International Civil Aviation Day, Letter Writing Day, National Cotton Candy Day - would you like some fairy floss? Pearl Harbor Day

December 8 International Children's Day - Second Sunday in December, National Brownie Day, Take it in the Ear Day

December 9 Christmas Card Day, National Pastry Day

December 10 Human Rights Day

December 11 National Noodle Ring Day

December 12 National Ding-a-Ling Day, Poinsettia Day

December 13 Ice Cream Day, Violin Day

December 14 International Monkey Day, National Bouillabaisse Day, Roast Chestnuts Day, U.K. National Postal Worker Day

December 15 Bill of Rights Day, National Lemon Cupcake Day

December 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

December 17 National Maple Syrup Day

December 18 Bake Cookies Day, National Roast Suckling Pig Day

December 19 Look for an Evergreen Day, Oatmeal Muffin Day

December 20 Go Caroling Day

December 21 Crossword Puzzle Day, Forefather's Day, Humbug Day, Look on the Bright Side Day, National Flashlight Day

December 22 Chanukah - date varies, Winter Solstice - the shortest day of the year, date varies

December 23 Festivus - for the rest of us, Roots Day

December 24 National Chocolate Day, National Egg Nog Day

December 25 Christmas Day, National Pumpkin Pie Day

December 26 Boxing Day

December 27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day, National Fruitcake Day

December 28 Card Playing Day

December 29 Pepper Pot Day

December 30 Bacon Day, National Bicarbonate of Soda Day

December 31 Make Up Your Mind Day, New Year's Eve, Unlucky Day

<http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/december.htm#year2019>

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").