



# Interfaith Inspirer

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## Food for Science Fiction Thought

By Tommy A.T. Kaminski

Science has provided, and will continue to provide, answers to some of the universe's most difficult problems—cures to once deadly diseases, the origins of life on Earth, the building blocks of atoms—but sometimes there are questions that science cannot answer: maybe just not yet, maybe not ever. These are the kind of questions that require some guesswork, a few assumptions, and a little imagination, and are the kind of questions that lay the foundation for science fiction. These are questions which create worlds that, while not too far removed from reality, are nonetheless fantastic; worlds where planets from many different stars are within reach in less than a few hours; worlds where alien creatures can have blood stronger than sulfuric acid; worlds where undiscovered ecosystems can exist in the center of the Earth. No, these questions may not have any one, good answer, but that doesn't mean it's not fun to ask them; to live in another world for a day. So I pose to you some questions to stimulate a science fiction mind: some "what ifs" as far out there as outer space.

1. Mars and Venus are the two planets nearest to Earth, and both could hypothetically be in the "goldilocks zone," meaning planets that are not too close and not too far away from their sun to support life. The only problem is, Venus' atmosphere is much thicker than ours and full of CO<sub>2</sub>, making the surface about 900 degrees F. On the other hand, Mars' atmosphere is much too

thin thanks to its weak magnetic field, and surface temperatures can vary by almost 200 degrees F in a single day. Mars also has about 1/3 the gravity of Earth, whereas Venus' is closer to 90% similar. If we, humans, had to terraform and colonize one of the two—to the point where we could live unprotected on the surface—which would be easier? Which would be better? Venus would essentially need to lose about 99% of its atmosphere, and Mars would need a new magnetic field, or some other protection for its atmosphere.

2. We currently use 40% of the Earth's land surface for agriculture, and even that is not sufficient to properly feed 7 billion people. Meanwhile, there is estimated to be well over 1 trillion ants living on Earth. If the technology were available to miniaturize humans down to the size of ants, would it be worth it to shrink the population in order to lead a more sustainable existence? Would work be done at full-size and leisure time spent in miniature? What if the process was permanent? How would people be incentivized to take part? If the process didn't work on animals, would we keep giant, oversized cats and dogs, or switch to microorganisms?

3. There are several schools of thought regarding time travel, specifically travelling backwards in time. One school says that it's impossible to change anything in the past, because it would ultimately end in a paradox in which you never went back in time in the first place. Another school says that if you go back and change something, the future that you originally

came from is erased, and you are now stuck in a new past that will play out very differently from before. A third school says that when you change something in the past, the future you came from remains, but you have now created an alternate reality that exists beside it. Thus, even if you make massive changes, you have not changed anything or erased anyone in that original future. Assuming this third scenario is true, would it be ok to let anyone who wants to go back in time and make as many changes as they want? For everyone in the original timeline, it will be as though nothing is different, but the time traveler will experience the ramifications—good or bad—of every change they make. If we assume the second scenario is true, how far back would you have to go before your presence becomes inconsequential? Before the K-T extinction? Before life itself? Before the Earth was formed? What if it was a one-way trip? Would it be a worthwhile final vacation?

4. None of these questions "right" answers, per say, but they all have interesting ones. Take a moment to live in another world: a world of science fiction. you have to go before your presence becomes have "right" answers, per say, but they all have interesting ones. Take a moment to live in another world: a world of science fiction.

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

You may not have noticed how spring is starting already, even though we are having some of our coldest weather. I hear some new sounds of birds: the yellow shafted flickers are setting up territory near the woods at the back of our property. I was visiting Rose early this week and saw some snowdrops blooming among other bulbs sprouting in a yard near hers. These are very early signs, but unmistakable. What I want you to notice are the sprouts of new and creative ideas and experiences that you are also naturally effortlessly bringing into your life. Some things you like, some you do not. "Welcome and entertain them all!", says Rumi in his poem "The Guesthouse."

One idea that keeps coming back to me is that no matter what or who shows up in my experience, I can always learn something or benefit somehow. Everything is worth something. As I would say to my son years ago as I dropped him off at school "You never know"

Here are some events you may enjoy this month of March at Interfaith:

Tuesday, March 3rd, Death Cafe, 7PM. Come at 5:30 for potluck, stay for confidential conversations about death at 6:30PM. Participants create the program with a purpose of sharing questions and ideas as we express and explore death. No cost. Meets every 1st Tuesday.

Tuesday, March 3rd and every Tues in March, Imam Kamau Ayubbi's class offers a Sufi perspective using a book "Angels Unveiled" by his Sufi teacher. \$5-10. Donation.

Sat. March 7, Norma Gentile, 2-5PM.

Sat. March 7, Drum and Dance Jam with Don Allen, 7:30-9PM by donation

Sunday, March 8th, Full Moon Kirtan

Sunday March 8th, Morning service, Jenny Donner speaks, then afternoon workshop, 1:30 to 3:30PM, Awakening to Love. (Lunch available for donation. \$2-5) cost: \$30 suggested. (no one turned away for inability to pay)

Thursday, March 12th, Singing for Comfort 7-8:30PM. Easy to learn songs for harmony and healing, led by Layla Ananda. Repeat every 2nd Thursday of every month. Free.

Saturday, March 14th, Cafe 704, come sing and dance to classic folk and rock tunes with Harmony Bones, a six person band we love to welcome back every year, Suggested donation: \$8 for one, \$15 for two.

Saturday, March 21st, Yoga workshop with Jennifer Lenders, giving our Sunday talk on March 15. "Health Empowerment through Self-Awareness", 11-1PM \$10-\$25. Donation. Bring a yoga mat & pillow.

Saturday March 21st, Game night, come at 6:30, bring games and snacks. Fun for all.

Sunday, March 29th. Annual Meeting/Quarterly Conversation in Community. We will be voting on new board members. As members, this is how we create our extraordinary community, please join us.

For any of these special events, please see our website for more details, [Interfaithspirit.org](http://Interfaithspirit.org). You will also find listed there our weekly inspiring classes and spiritual study groups.

*Many Blessings, Annie*



**Community  
Member of the  
Month**



# Joyful Joy

**By Jaclyn Morrow**

"Joy joy!

It is how you make me feel

Every time I see you...

You make me feel happy"

This is the verse that runs through my head - every.single.sunday! And I rejoice in it! This song "Joy Joy," by Black Motion (if you haven't heard it you should check it out!), captures exactly how I feel about the Community Member of the Month.

Joy Pendleton, every time I see her- she makes me feel happy!

Joy is being honored for her long time service to the community in as many ways as there are stars in the sky. She even used to have this job! Joy is currently managing the readers and meditators and filling in when people cancel. She brings her heart to every reading and meditation that she shares.

I just want to make sure you realize how special and perfect it is that Joy is here with us at Interfaith. She was born in Alaska and grew up there and in the Pacific Northwest. She spent much of her young motherhood living in various parts of the country with her two kids and then husband. She moved to Ann arbor in the eighties while her children attended UM and Community High School.

Joy found a permanent home in our community. And she treasures her 24 year relationship with Dick Durham.

Joy has studied Course of Miracles and loves Eckart Tolle's advice on meditating- to just listen to your breathing. Keep coming back. It's simple and useful.

Joy is a painter. Did you know that? She was an art minor in college and has spent time teaching art with Chelsea Seniors. She loves watercolors but has also spent a great deal of time painting with oils. She loves mixing colors and playing with and looking at texture.

"I'm saying Thank you God all the time.

I'm just learning to trust."

Joy is a shining example of living in kindness, love and being in the moment. Next time you see her, she has a few stories up her sleeve. Ask her about her spiritual experiences. She will take the time to share and be present- she always does.

**Thank you Joy!!**

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### Volunteer Coordinator Corner

By Bob Hopkins

This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation as of February 16 , 2020

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 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.

We need people to help by bringing in flowers for the altar for services on the first two Sundays of each month -- see Annie

We need people to volunteer to fill the openings on the Board of Trustees beginning in April -- see Delyth or Annie about preparing for the election in March.

#### APPRECIATION

THANKS TO: Eric Nowakowski for bringing the one man show of James Twyman to Interfaith.

THANKS TO: Don Digirolamo for coordinating the sound for the Café 704 in February.

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer, Randall Counts, Jill Crane, Craig Harvey, Anna Marie Henrich, Jan Peacock and Joy Pendleton for coordinating the set-up, clean-up and sound for the memorial service of Mr. Law, (grandfather to Mary Alice Truitt).



### March Music

1: Interfaith Drummers

8: Harmony Bones

15: Laurel Federbush (Harp )

22: Full Value Barbershop Quartet

29: TBA

#### March Birthdays

1: Lance Clark

7: Janet Fry

21: Bonnie Dede

23: Tommie Parker

Happy Birthday!!!

#### March Talks

1: Angels Unveiled

8: Awaken to Love

15: Health Empowerment through SELF Awareness

22: Cashing Your Reality Check

29: TBA



## SINGING THE BALANCE: A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEVA OF THE IRS

By Peggy River Singer

**Peggy:** May I speak with the organizing intelligence of our Internal Revenue Service?

**Deva:** *Here. Waiting.*

**Peggy:** Thank you. I'd like to ask whether you were created specifically for this job, or have you had other responsibilities?

**Deva:** *Creator foresaw the need for high-level guidance upon the creation of the IRS entity; my creation was foremost in the workings of the plan.*

**Peggy:** How would you define your job?

**Deva:** *My nature, my essence is BALANCE; I am a unique expression of that concept. I maintain balance in all aspects of the IRS entity as a unified whole. This is why you connected with me so readily, since one of your chosen tasks in this lifetime is to be a bringer of balance.*

**Peggy:** I had not thought of it that way, thank you! Will you tell us more about how you go about maintaining balance? How do you become aware of imbalances that you must address?

**Deva:** *All is energy, expressions of energy. Understand that I/we follow Creator's requirements in all things. There are occasions when a situation that appears to humans to be wildly unbalanced, is allowed to continue as part of what you call "the bigger picture."*

**Peggy:** Yes, many of our people are aware of this concept.

**Deva:** *You may describe my working of balance as "singing" the energies into their proper, sacred alignments. Understand that I use the word "singing" as a metaphor to assist your understanding; no actual noises are produced that humans would be aware of. I can just as easily sing the energies into any configuration required by Creator, including those that appear unbalanced.*

[I am shown a vast scene of colorful wisps and strands of energy being gently nudged into new positions.]

**Peggy:** Do you have any interactions or connections with other government entities, like the Senate?

**Deva:** *Only in an energetic sense. Your government as an entity has its own Deva, so you many consider me to be an element of that Deva.*

**Peggy:** Do you associate with Devas of other nations who have similar jobs?

**Deva:** *No.*

**Peggy:** Will you describe your appearance, to help our readers connect with you?

**Deva:** *I am without physical form, discarnate; so the term "appearance" has no meaning in this context.*

**Peggy:** What aspect of your responsibilities is most meaningful to you?

**Deva:** *The question is irrelevant.*

**Peggy:** Many of our people dislike having to pay taxes. How do you perceive and cope with angry and frustrated human energies aimed at the IRS?

**Deva:** *Those energies are aimed at the humans doing their jobs, not at me per se as an individual. In any case, emotions are irrelevant. I have no capacity to perceive emotions.*

**Peggy:** Is there anything else you'd like to share with us, to help us understand you better?

**Deva:** *Understanding, in this context, is desirable. Know that all great workings [organizations] are guided by a Deva. Be assured that all such Devas answer only to Creator. This concept may help humans maintain their balance. This telling [conversation] is complete.*

**Peggy:** I thank you sincerely for taking the time to talk to us.

**Deva:** *It was well done.*

### AUTHOR BIO

Peggy River Singer is a Light-worker, animal communicator, medium, faerie ally, Reiki practitioner, and lifelong writer. She combines her gifts to help create harmonious relationships among all who share the Earth. Connect by phone at 734-548-0194; and by email at [newbluecane@aol.com](mailto:newbluecane@aol.com). Articles about her experiences and insights are posted on her blog, [angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com](http://angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com).



# Youthful Spirits



## Mindfulness



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



## CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART SIX

By Bob Hopkins

### CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART SIX

**O Creator of the Universe  
Who was manifested in Jesus  
Christ, Buddha, Confucius, Gan-  
dhi, Quimby, Moses, Muham-  
mad, Bahá'u'lláh and Rumi.**

Muhammed (Peace be Upon HIM) is widely known as The Arab religious, social and political leader. He is known throughout the world as the founder of Islam. According to Islamic doctrine, he was a prophet, sent to present and confirm the monotheistic teachings preached previously by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets; He is viewed as the final prophet of God in all the main branches of Islam. Muhammad united Arabia into a single Muslim polity, with the Quran as well as his teachings and practices forming the basis of Islamic religious belief..

Born approximately 570 CE in the Arabian city of Mecca, Muhammad was orphaned at the age of six. In later years he would periodically seclude himself in a mountain cave named Hira for several nights of prayer. When he was 40, Muhammad reported being visited by Gabriel in the cave, and receiving his first revelation from God. Three years

later, in 610, Muhammad started preaching these revelations publicly, proclaiming that "God is One", that complete "submission" (islām) to God[12] is the right way of life, and that he was a prophet and messenger of God.

The followers of Muhammad were initially few in number, and experienced hostility from Meccan polytheists. He sent some of his followers to Abyssinia in 615 to shield them from prosecution, before he and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina (then known as Yathrib) in 622. This event, the Hijra, marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar, also known as the Hijri Calendar. In Medina, Muhammad united the tribes under the Constitution of Medina. In December 629, after eight years of intermittent fighting with Meccan tribes, Muhammad gathered an army of 10,000 Muslim converts and marched on the city of Mecca. The conquest went largely uncontested and Muhammad seized the city with little bloodshed. In 632, a few months after returning from the Farewell Pilgrimage, he fell ill and died. By the time of his death, most of the Arabian Peninsula had converted to Islam.

The revelations (each known as Ayah — literally,

"Sign [of God]") that Muhammad reported receiving until his death, form the verses of the Quran, regarded by Muslims as the verbatim "Word of God" on which the religion is based. Besides the Quran, Muhammad's teachings and practices (sunnah), found in the Hadith and sira (biography) literature, are also upheld and used as sources of Islamic law.

Muhammad was unlike Moses, who had the time (while wandering Sinai for 40 years) to write the first five chapters of the Jewish Bible. Muhammad spoke the Quran as he led his people throughout his lifetime. His chief role was as a leader of the Arabian people, a sage conversing with God and speaking what he had learned from the words of God so that others might put it into a written form after his death. The net result is that he gave rise to the religion that has grown to be the second largest one in the world and deeply influenced the other two of the personages who are identified in my daily prayers.

These two deeply religious men will be discussed in great detail in the next installment. They are Bahá'u'lláh and Rumi. There is much to be said about each and how Islam influenced them and how they influenced religious thought.

## 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").