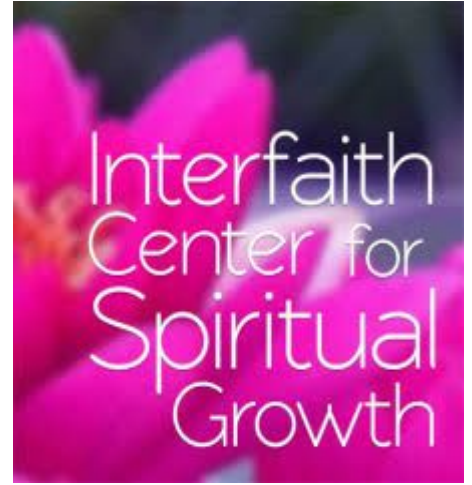




INTERFAITH INSPIRER
WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #1
APRIL 2020



SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

CHECK IN: HOW ARE WE ALL DOING?

Tommy Kaminski: “I am grateful that we have enough food.”

I tried to get more responses, unfortunately this is all I have.



Kellie Love:

“I am so grateful for Zoom, because we can continue our children’s services during this time!”



Heide Kaminski:

“I am grateful for Skye, I talk to my Sister in Germany every day now. I have also started walking for an hour every morning, rain or shine!”

MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

In this very unusual time of being human, I am heartened by the presence of all who are showing up for Sunday Services on Zoom. If anyone had doubts about our global interconnectedness, and our profound desire to stick together, that should be completely dispelled by now.

Jeshua, (through Judith Coates), reminds us that “everything we bring forth is for Divine purpose, including everything about the body and its diseases.” This idea is not always comfortable to accept. It requires us to accept the unknown. And so this time becomes another opportunity for us to become one with that timeless and eternal being that we are.

All the challenges of life, especially the ones we face right now, suggest to me that I may choose to take more time to be in quiet contemplation and meditation. I like to spend time sitting in my potted garden, observing the dead stalks of the plants, watching for sprouts, of which there are many by the end of March, and listening for the birds challenging one another for their territories.

It feels so natural to me to find ways to laugh, and laughter is good medicine, even though there may seem to be less things to laugh about right now. Laughter releases endorphins into the bloodstream. Laughter reduces stress, anxiety, and depression. It can even boost our immune system. Our pets, especially, can bring us great warmth and humor.

Best of all, we have each other and our strong spiritual community. Our continued events, hosted by Delyth, and Layla, and Eric on Zoom, are testimony to the glue of LOVE that holds us together. You know by now, it is very easy to Zoom into events. Links are sent in email to the Yahoo group. Click on the link to join.

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MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

Layla will be sending out an informational email every Monday!!!

It will include the Zoom links for these events.

More details on our website. Some you may join this month:

Monday, April 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6:45 PM A Course in Miracles study group. Led by Dave Bell, or Mary Alice Truitt. Donations welcome, paypal on our website.

Tuesday, April 7th, 6:30 PM, Death Cafe, Layla will be hosting on Zoom. We have monthly confidential conversations about any part of death you want to talk about. No agenda, no cost. Led by Annie and Susan. (First Tuesday, every month)

Tuesday, April 7, 14, 21, & 28 6:30 PM, Sufi Class with Kamau Ayubbi. Donations welcome. Paypal is on our website.

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 9:15 AM Metaphysics of Spirituality Study Group. Led by Mary Alice Truitt.

Wednesday April 1st (and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday) 6:30 PM Science of Mind study group, led by Janet and Ray.

Sundays at 1 PM Youthful Spirits class for young people, led by Heide and Kellie, and Tommy,, our super youth program leaders.

See you on Sundays on Zoom and during the week. Blessings to All,

Annie

MUSIC AND TOPICS



April 5 TBA

April 12 TBA

April 19 TBA

April 26 TBA

April 5 Kashi Amma: TBA

April 12 Rev. Dwight Wilson: The Power of Avoiding Personal Sights

April 19 Layla Ananda: Talking to myself

April 26 Rev. Dawn Swartz: "Who's Afraid of?"

VOLUNTEER CORNER BY BOB HOPKINS

Volunteer Coordinator Corner

This space will be used to identify volunteer needs and appreciation

as of March 27, 2020

We need people to show up on Zoom for our Sunday service and for various class offerings through the week. It is easy to accomplish once you learn how. Your presence in the Zoom chat rooms makes us all feel like we can see just how vital and strong a community we really are.

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, Layla Ananda, Janet Somalinog and Ray Fix for getting together to get us up and running on Zoom

THANKS TO: Delyth Balmer and Annie Kopko for going above and beyond to keep us linked together during this arduous time.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE MENEHUNE, GUARDIANS OF HAWAII by Peggy River-Singer

I first wrote about the Menehune back in 2013. Today, instead of relying on books, a great pleasure to be able to interview the Menehune people themselves.

Peggy: May I speak--

Menehune: *We're here!*

Peggy: Thank you! Many of our readers have visited Hawaii, and heard stories--

Menehune: *Yes! We welcome visitors who are respectful and willing to learn new things.*

Peggy: I'm wondering how long your people have inhabited the Pacific islands, especially Hawaii.

Menehune: *Since forever!*

Peggy: Did you go through a process of gradually spreading out from island to island, as the humans have done?

Menehune: *Naw, much faster faster than canoes! We can be anywhere we want to be.*

Another voice: *But our people do also love to explore and find new things, so there was indeed some "spreading out," as you call it. Yes, we have canoes for amusement; but we can take other forms to travel which are safer for us.*

Peggy: Thank you. I've talked to similar peoples from other parts of the world; it sounds like the Menehune also have a history of cooperation/partnership with humans.

Menehune: *Yes. Not a constant river of partnership, you understand. Changes come and go. At the same time, there are always a few humans who keep the old faith and ideas, and we are glad to be friends with such.*

Another voice: *It is a great pleasure to us, this fresh interest in our peoples. It gives us hope for the present and the future.*

Peggy: So there are different races of Menehune, as with humans?

Menehune: *The concept is similar.*

Peggy: I've seen so many images of what people think the Menehune look like. Will you describe your appearance for our readers?

Menehune: *[laughter] We expected this question! Our "everyday" appearance, as you might call it, is thus: a humanoid, perhaps a knee high [about two feet tall], stoutly built. All of our people, without exception, reflect the beauty of our natural world's energies.*

Another voice: *You have earlier reported that certain carefully chosen humans are shown our footprints, which are unique in having four strong toes. We arrange these sightings, to encourage interest in our presence as living, breathing beings.*

Peggy: Will you give us an idea of how your society is organized?



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Menehune: *It will no doubt sound familiar to you. There are those with great wisdom who are consulted when disagreements occur, when great matters occur. There are those who have an interest in orderliness, who can see how different aspects fit together for a harmonious whole. Some of these are famous peacemakers. We have general routines to our days, according to the seasons and stars.*

Another voice: *We have great companionships with the stars, which are our ancestral homes. We live side by side with them just as you humans live together, talking and making celebrations.*

Peggy: That sounds wonderful! Our people are fond of animal companions; is this common among the Menehune?

Menehune: *We understand the usual situation with humans who "keep" animals and care for them. We live closely with all living things, like those you call the fairy folk do. We often help animal-folk in distress; sometimes an animal will choose to live among us and share the wisdom of its people. We consider them to be fully equal in all the ways that matter.*

Another voice: *You are wondering whether we have "working" animals. In a situation where an animal can use its abilities to assist us in some way, we will form a partnership. The concept of "owning" an animal that is obliged to work for us is distasteful to us, though we acknowledge that many humans treat such animals very well and with love. Similarly, we rarely kill animals for food. Occasionally, an animal will be respectfully asked to relinquish its life if the substance of its body is required to heal an illness or injury. When we take plants, roots, flowers, fruits for food, we do so with reverence and appreciation.*

Peggy: Thank you for this explanation. For now, is there anything else you'd like humans to know about the Menehune people?

Menehune: *We are here. We have always been here. We have brothers and sisters in every corner and crevice of the great world. Look for us. Ask to meet with us. If your heart is honest and you mean no harm, perhaps we will show ourselves. It is done.*

Peggy: Thank you so much, I've enjoyed this talking. Blessings to you all.

Menehune: *And the same [to you].*

AUTHOR BIO

Peggy River Singer is a Lightworker, 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 **newbluecanoe@aol.com**. Articles about her experiences and insights are posted on her blog, **angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com**.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER / PART 6 BY ROBERT HOPKINS

O Creator of the Universe Who was manifested in Jesus Christ, Buddha, Confucius, Gandhi, Quimby, Moses, Muhammad, Bahá'u'lláh and Rumi.

It was after the stirring sermon from David Frankel about the origin of the Baha'i faith that I decided that a man that could inspire a religion that numbers somewhere between 5 and 8 million followers warranted my attention. The Baha'i faith has led to the creation of some of the most beautiful architecture that the world has known. I decided to add Bahá'u'lláh to my pantheon of spiritual leaders and significant wayshowers to the Divine Oneness. However, I was curious to know more about him, as you may well be. Here was a man born in a society suffused by Muslims, much as Jesus arrived in Israel and was himself a Jew. For more information, I turned two sources – the ever-present Wikipedia and Bicentenary 2019

Throughout history, God has sent to humanity a series of divine Educators—known as Manifestations of God—whose teachings have provided the basis for the advancement of civilization. These Manifestations have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Bahá'u'lláh, the latest of these Messengers, explained that the religions of the world come from the same Source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God.

So begins, the introduction to the Beha'i faith on the website on celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of The Bab. In this site, Bahá'u'lláh is quoted as saying: “Let your vision be world embracing.” So, who was this Baha'u'llah and what did he do and how did he go about founding one of the world's substantial religions? Who was he to claim to be on the level of Jesus, Mohammad, Moses, Krishna and Abraham?

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER / PART 6 CONTINUED

Mírzá Husayn 'Alí Núrí was born in Tehran, Iran in 1817 and later took the title of Bahá'u'lláh. He was a contemporary of The Bab and was one of the early followers of The Báb, who was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1918. Both were born into a society deeply influenced by the Muslim domination of the Ottoman Empire. The Bab declared his mission in his home town in his 25th year. He made it clear that it had been revealed to him that there was to be a Messianic figure bringing new truth to the light. (In that regard, he might be likened to John the Baptist.) Given that the prevailing belief in Islam was that Mohammad was recognized as the last and greatest prophet, The Bab's profession was the ultimate blasphemy. He was publicly executed in 1850 Bábís faced a period of persecution that peaked in 1852–53 after a few individuals made a failed attempt to assassinate the Shah. Although they acted alone, the government responded with collective punishment, killing many Bábís.

Bahá'u'lláh was put in prison. He claimed that in 1853, while incarcerated in the dungeon of the Síyáh-Chál in Tehran, he received the first intimations that he was the one anticipated by The Báb. He declared himself to be the recipient of the divine inspiration foreseen by The Bab. Despite the fact that his life was marked by frequent relocations and imprisonments, he continued to share his revelations until the time of his death in 1892.

The following principles are frequently listed as a quick summary of the Bahá'í teachings. They are derived from transcripts of speeches given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during his tour of Europe and North America in 1912. The list is not authoritative and a variety of such lists circulate. It is striking to me how many of these same principles are discussed and held firmly in our own congregation at the Interfaith Center.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER/PART 6 CONTINUED

- Unity of God
- Unity of religion
- Unity of humanity
- Equality between women and men
- Elimination of all forms of prejudice
- World peace and a new world order
- Harmony of religion and science
- Independent investigation of truth
- Universal compulsory education
- Universal auxiliary language
- Obedience to government and non-involvement in partisan politics.
- Elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty
- Prohibition of slavery.

With specific regard to the pursuit of world peace, prescribed a world-embracing collective security arrangement for the establishment of a temporary era of peace referred to in the Baha'i teachings as the Lesser Peace. For the establishment of a lasting peace (The Most Great Peace) and the purging of the "overwhelming Corruptions" it is necessary that all the people of the world universally unite under a universal Faith.

May you enjoy your own search of the bahai faith and the life of Bahá'u'lláh if or as you choose to pursue it further.