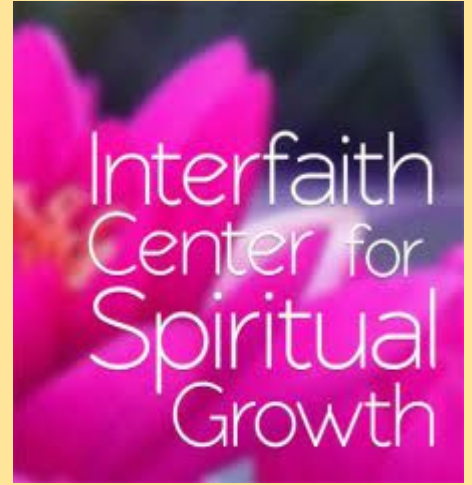




INTERFAITH INSPIRER
WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #7
SEPTEMBER 2020



SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

“Rest and laughter are the most subversive acts of all” We hear this from Anne Lamott, a novelist and non fiction writer who is also a progressive political activist and writing teacher based in California. She says, “I try to write the books I would love to come upon, honest, concerned with real lives, human hearts, families, secrets, wonder, laughter, and spiritual transformation.” I have only read one of her books, and it is all of this.

The reason we may think that rest and laughter are subversive is possibly because they seem to contribute so little to all the things that we must do each day to maintain our life and our identity as we know them to be. But I would venture to say that rest and laughter are essential to our lives, and I somehow manage both each day, as I imagine you do too.

So what if rest and laughter were to become our purpose and our focus, and all the things we do each day that seem so important were to become the background? That would mean that we would have to trust in Spirit for the direction of our lives. We trust our very identity to all that we do all day. What if our identity as spiritual beings was assured by our intimate and immediate connections with our higher divine self? We would “need do nothing” but allow our lives to become the love and creativity that we deeply crave.

Another thing we crave is connection. And connection is what you will find when you are involved with the activities at Interfaith.

For me it starts with my weekly meetings with Delyth and with the social hours on Zoom on Wednesdays at 2PM and Fridays at 5PM. I am enjoying getting to know our community members in new ways. We talk about what we are doing and thinking and being. We share lots of laughter!!!

Every Monday in your email Layla sends out our list of activities, including weekly classes and study groups. Every Zoom link you will need is here.

I encourage you all to find new ways to lift yourselves in these intense times.

Sending love and blessings to you. *Annie*



SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR JULY 2020



September 6

Service Leader: Rev. Delyth Balmer

Speaker: "Gathering of the Waters Ceremony" Open Mic

Reader: John Lang

Meditator: Joy Pendleton

Special Music: Alaura Massaro, Carol Bardenstein & Layla Ananda

September 20

Service Leader: Rev. David Bell

Speaker: Ali Hussain "In an Artbeat: Rhythm and the Music of Life"

Reader: Anne Marie Howse

Meditator: Jill Crane

Special Music: Dan Bilich

September 13

Service Leader: Janet Somalinog

Speaker: Rev. Annie Kopko "Cultivating Change"

Reader: Carol Bardenstein

Meditator: Craig Harvey

Special Music: Janet Cannon

September 27

Service Leader: Rev. Lyriel Claire

Speaker: Cynthia McNabb "We are the Hope: Tools for holding the Light"

Reader: Scott Alf

Meditator: Gregg Alf

Special Music: Laurel Federbush

PEGGY'S COLUMN

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.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE GUARDIAN OF FORD LAKE

By Peggy River Singer

I am sitting cross-legged, relaxed and comfortable, on the sandy bottom of Ford Lake. Bright sunlight shimmers through the water, turning everything around me golden.

A great gleaming form approaches, power and grace incarnate. All the lesser fish back away respectfully from its presence. No Pike this size has ever been seen in the "real world"; he is not a being of mere flesh and blood. He stops in front of me; his eye is about the size of my head, and yet I feel no fear.

"You are under my protection," I hear. "None here will harm you."

I think a question.

"I am the Guardian of this lake," he confirms. "You have been wishing to talk to me. Let it be so."

He turns with a casual sweep of his tail, and glides off into the darker depths as my heart sings with joy...

= = =

Peggy: Good morning, Dahrwa. How shall we begin this talking?

DH: *In the beauty of the waters, the coolness of its depths, the warmth of its shallows, the flow of its love, the vibrancy of its life. All this, and more, are represented in this body of water.*

Peggy: A reservoir like Ford Lake must have a unique energy. It is both a lake and a river; the water has places to rest, and places where it moves onward. It attracts animals that prefer quiet waters, like turtles, as well as those who appreciate active flowing.

DH: *There are many, many layers and strands and pockets of energies here, yes. Your people who come here to catch fish understand this very well, though they tend to think more in terms of currents and underwater structures.*

Peggy: Did you exist here before the river was dammed, almost a hundred years ago?

DH: *No. The Deva of the Huron River had oversight before that event. I was called forth by Creator once the nature of this valley was changed by humans. It was known that many generations of humans would interact with this riverlake, and many would come to love it and care about it. It was that potential for positive relationships and associations that Creator used to produce me.*

Peggy: I'm curious why you have the form of a Pike?

DH: *This species is well known in the area as clever, courageous and powerful. The form was chosen as a representation to reflect those aspects, including the suggestion of approaching with care and forethought.*

Peggy: Do you have a special relationship with the living Pike, then?

DH: *Somewhat. They perceive that I embody their vital energies and frequencies, and accept me as their leader/dominant. They have not the capacity to understand more than this.*

Peggy: As a guardian, what powers or abilities do you have that help you take care of Ford Lake?

DH: *My workings are far beyond the scope of these terms, but I am allowed to say that I have a great gift for persuasion.*

Peggy: So you might, for example, persuade a fisherman to release a catch unharmed? Or, you might persuade someone not to dump trash into the lake?

DH: *These are suitable examples.*

Peggy: Do you ever allow yourself to be seen in physical form?

DH: *[amused] Not as large as you saw me in your vision! I have no wish to show my true self and draw hordes of people who will seek to catch me. Besides that, my size alone would cause panic in many who would then be afraid to approach the waters.*

Peggy: Since you do not have a physical form, are you able to travel the river outside of Ford Lake's dams?

DH: *I can send my awareness out, if I wish to. Otherwise, I was created for this particular body of water, and I am content to Be here.*

Peggy: As I recorded a description of my vision, I could feel a deep primal fear surging through my body. A terror of something big and deadly coming toward me out of the depths has been very strong in me since childhood. So, I'd like to ask why you presented yourself in that particular way.

DH: *It is time for you to confront this fear, little one. It is time to embrace all that is, and to allow yourself to feel safe. I chose to encourage you to find your sense of wonder and joy in the DEPTHS of this lake and the depths of all unknowns. This is my gift to you. We will meet again.*

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART EIGHT BY ROBERT HOPKINS

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART TEN

O Creator of the Universe Who was manifested in Jesus Christ, Buddha, Confucius, Gandhi, Quimby, Moses, Muhammad, Bahá'u'lláh, and Rumi, Whose Spirit spreads and reigns throughout the world: I pray in gratitude for all the wonders of the world, wonders of the Universe. I pray for release from all negativity

So, I would like to resume the discussion on the point of releasing. When I first learned of the concept of affirmation and its importance in paving the way to the life to which one aspires, I was enthralled. My rookie mistake was to jump in and do all the affirmations I could find. After noting that not a lot had changed, I reluctantly looked into the process of release and renunciation. As a student of the Unity Church of Practical Christianity, I became quite familiar with the Twelve Powers of Man, written in 1930 by the Unity co-founder, Charles Fillmore. He identifies renunciation as the eleventh of those twelve powers. As I was becoming more comfortable with the concept of renunciation, I was beginning to heed some sources of deeper wisdom. I learned that superimposing affirmations over a field of false or negative beliefs would not meet with success. I came to understand that to plant new seeds, one needs to clear the ground. Thus, affirmation needs to be preceded by renunciation or release in order for affirmations to find fertile ground.

Therefore, the first thing that I want to release is negativity. This seems so easy to identify and yet seems to be so hard to execute consistently. In fact, I have come to the belief that release and elimination or negativity is probably a life-long project. Two recent experiences helped to bring this idea home quite clearly. On May, recent, I was having what I saw as a perfect day. I had completed my counseling sessions with my clients. I had completed my daily exercise and my daily quota of editing on a different extensive writing project on which I have been working. I set out to shop for my dinner at a local Subway and went on to conduct my weekly shopping.

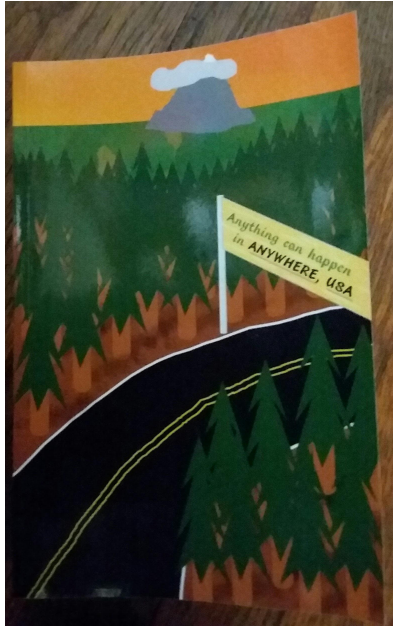
Having completed my shopping at the second of the two stores, at which I shop, I set out to come home with plenty of time remaining to get there in time for the nightly news. Then as I was leaving the parking area, I was involved in a car accident. It was fully my fault. Fortunately no one was hurt and the other driver was gracious enough to note that there was minimal or no damage to her vehicle and thus no need for a police report or exchange of license and in

DRUMROLL, PLEASE....

Anywhere, USA: An Adventure Away from Reality

Magic, myths, and monstrous creatures: what more could you want during these troubling times? Take a break from real life and escape to *Anywhere, USA*, a town of dark secrets, rural charm, and a history cloaked in mystery. Join along with Jules and

Elliot Paige as they dive headfirst and blindfolded into a world they never knew existed, where fairytale creatures—both good and bad—roam the Earth (or at least roam this one national park in Washington State). There, they will fight for their lives and for the town they've come to call their home, not only discovering the great evil that lurks beneath, but also a little something about themselves as well. Available on Amazon. Suitable for ages 13+.



Type: *Thomas A T Kaminski Anywhere, USA* into the Amazon books search bar, free delivery for prime members :-)