



INTERFAITH INSPIRER

WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #10

JANUARY 2021



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SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

Don't tell me how glad you are that 2020 is over. I already know that. Me too. We already know that 2021 will be better. When I hear you say "Happy New Year" it means a lot more to me this year. On Valentines Day I found out I had breast cancer. Less than 2 weeks later, we were hearing very dismal messages about a new rapidly spreading virus, and 2 weeks later, our governor called a halt on my massage therapy work. I must have needed a vacation, so I took it. I decided to take responsibility for all that was happening to me, reaffirm my decision making power, and not become a victim of anything that was happening for any reason. (And at the same time I decided to do everything the doctors told me to do.) I had an opportunity to slow down and become very quiet, more than I had chosen to be in a very long time.

In this new year it is a very good time to do some deeply healing practice and contemplation, whatever that means for each of us. All the tools we need are within us. Listen carefully and creatively. Due to the depth that I seem to need to go in this lifetime of healing, it makes me think that I have not been aware of healing needs in every lifetime. I have probably been exploring many darker choices.

What have we been learning in this time of healing? Laughter is essential. Life itself is the ultimate gift. We are not assured of much of anything else. How we express it is our choice. Attitude is everything. Every little and big challenge takes courage. Practicing trust is a really good idea. We are never alone, and we are very deeply loved, more than we can know.

I am so delighted to know that you know we are all in this together, and we are here to love and support one another. This has been a year of great love for me. Thank you!

Opportunities to show up for yourself and each other come to you via email every Monday afternoon from Layla Ananda, our Webmaster. She lists all the **Zoom links** for our classes, study groups, socials, and musical opportunities, including Cafe 704, featuring Madcat Ruth in January. They will also be listed on our website: Interfaithspirit.org.. See you there.

Many blessings for a great New Year! *Annie*



SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021



LET'S TALK

January 3, 2021

Service Leader: Rev. Delyth Balmer

Speaker: Rev. Dawn Swartz

"Welcoming Joy"

"As begin a new year, remembering happiness is a choice, joy is a birthright."

Reader: Erik Nowakowski

Meditator: TBA

Special Music: Peter Madcat Ruth

January 10, 2021

Service Leader: Rev. David Bell

Speaker: Lucinda Kurtz, M.A., Brennan Healing Science Practitioner

Pardes Hannah, the Jewish Renewal Community of Ann Arbor

"The Jewish Calendar: A Roadmap for Healing and Transformation"

"Join me as we explore the flow of time and the meaning of each month in the Jewish Calendar from a Kabbalistic perspective. Each new moon brings in a new energy with unique opportunities to connect with tradition as well as our personal journey and quest toward fulfillment and meaning. In this month of Tivet, we dive deeply within to root out anger and negative emotions and begin the process of bringing in the light."

Reader: Peggy Lubahn

Meditator: TBA

Special Music: Jean Wilson and Dan Roehm

January 17, 2021

Service Leader: Rev. Annie Kopko

Speaker: Rainbow Eagle

Native American Prophecy: "Where and How We Go From Here"

Spiritual ideas to consider for today and the near future.

Reader: Cayla Tchalo

Meditator: Scott Alf

Special Music: Don Allen

January 24

Service Leader: Janet Somalinog

Speaker: Laz Slomovits

"We're All Connected—but you knew that already, right?"

"About the heart connection."

Reader: John Lang

Meditator: Joy Pendleton

Special Music: Laz Slomovits

January 31

Service Leader: Rev. Lyriel Claire

Speaker: Rev. Annie Kopko

"Chocolates for Breakfast, We are Meant to be Happy"

Reader: TBA

Meditator: TBA

Special Music: Linda Teaman

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 WHITE HOUSE

By Peggy River Singer

"Our first president, George Washington, selected the site for the White House in 1791. The White House is both the home of the President of the United States and his family, and a museum of American history. [It] is a place where history continues to unfold, hour by hour and day by day." (whitehouse.gov)

Peggy: Good morning! How would you like me to address you?

WH: "White House" is suitable.

Peggy: Every person in this country, even if they are newly arrived from other lands, knows about the White House. In fact, your image is familiar all around the world. You are a symbol as well as a residence and a living museum, and I expect your character changes constantly.

WH: Indeed my Beingness is in a continuous state of activity, adjusting to even the most minute changes, accommodating the wishes of the family and requirements of the staff, and welcoming visitors. Fortunately, I do not require "rest" as humans do.

Peggy: Did you exist prior to the beginnings of construction?

WH: Oh, yes. Creator, of course, was aware of the timelines, and assigned me to the particular spot of land where building would take place at some point. My task at that time was to work with the Earth energies and beings of that location, and this work took a very long time before construction could be safely begun.

Peggy: Will you explain why so much preparation was required for the site?

WH: Understand that I do not refer to obvious issues such as soils and rock strata. The energetic signature of the place was in a state of great instability, and its complexities required delicate handling.

Peggy: What if this preliminary work had not been done?

WH: Strife and rubble had been foreseen, as was just shown to you. [In a brief vision.]

Peggy: Do you consider yourself to be a protector of the humans occupying the building and land?

WH: Well, it is the nature of any building to provide protection, primarily from the elements in the most basic types of buildings. While protection is one of my roles, I do not have the ability to take action to deflect danger or threats. If such assaults occur, the integrity of my structure is the greatest expression of protection for the inhabitants.

Peggy: What was it like for you, when the British set fire to the White House and other government buildings in 1814?

WH: It was not unexpected. However, it certainly resulted in major changes to the energies of the place. The determination, love and dedication of those who accomplished the restoration added to and restored the strength of the whole.

Peggy: Forty-four different presidential families have lived in the White House so far.

WH: Yes. Naturally, each brings their own energies, desires and intentions with them. I am designed to endure despite any lower or undesirable energies that might be brought within. At the same time, I -- and the land -- thrive when positive energies inhabit the residence. On any given day, you understand, there is quite a mixture of energies within my structure, and this can be perceived by sensitive humans.

Peggy: Many of the Presidents have had wives, children and pets while they lived in the White House.

WH: Yes, the presence of beloved partners, animals, and children raises the vibration of my presence. Also, any form of cultivation of beauty -- such as the famous Rose Garden -- and loving caretaking of the land or the structure has a definite affect on the overall energies.

Peggy: You have said that you are not able to take action to defend your structure. Do you have the ability to steer someone toward one of the gardens if he or she is feeling sad or overwhelmed, for example?

WH: Ah, now you've gotten the picture! Although I myself would not do so, there is a multitude of Others who care for the plants and the land, and they do gently guide particular humans in the way you have described. Their ministrations are not confined to the outdoor spaces.

Peggy: Are angels part of the Others?

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WH: Yes. The White House also has its own team of angels. That would be a separate discussion if you desire more information.

Peggy: I'd like to ask about President Lincoln's spirit, which has been seen many times in the building.

WH: I shall say that the dedication, determination and love that powered his presidential role were so strong, that a soul fragment has remained in the building. Sightings, as you call them, are intended to encourage, inspire, and remind witnesses of the importance of living your truth, in spite of controversy and threats of harm.

Peggy: What else would you like people to know about you, and your role?

WH: I welcome all who come to visit, to be reminded of the history that lives on in this place [Washington D.C.]. There is an energetic network connecting all the historical buildings and sites, including those not yet discovered and/or officially acknowledged. Perhaps a visitor will bring something new and historically valuable into the light! This talking is complete.



CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART 12 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, 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, all distorted thinking and all inappropriate judgements. I pray for commitment to the highest good, commitment to the truth, commitment to love.

Commitment is an interesting concept. Life is full of them. Some commitments are easily and readily fulfilled. “I am committed to attend my next doctor’s appointment.” “I am committed to go to the next University of Michigan football game.” These two represent simple commitments of attendance at a singular event and when the commitment is met, it expires. “I am committed to serve my country in the armed forces.” This is an example of one that has a certain duration. It is a one-time only commitment in the sense that it has a certain duration and is completed when it is fulfilled. Other commitments clearly do not have a defined duration and, as such, are ongoing. “I am committed to provide a solid foundation for my family members to grow and to prosper.” “I am committed to do a competent and earnest day of work for the balance of my career.” These are two such examples. This is designed to show that one can have commitments of varying duration as well as of varying degrees.

Praying to strengthen the degree of my commitment arises from this realization. Commitment to the highest good requires the insight to understand that it is not always within my power to see that highest good. In fact, it might be fair to argue that no one other than the Creator is capable of discerning the highest good. Praying for a commitment to the highest good might be conceived as just another way of surrendering to the will of God. Some people do have a reservation about the word surrender. Since the concept has worked its way into my life in my ongoing exposure to the philosophy of the 12 Step program, surrender has lost much of its negative associations in my life. Still, it seems that the same result is achieved in the unambiguous affirmation of desire for the fulfillment of the highest good.

Commitment to truth seems straightforward to assert. As anyone who has to function in this complex world can attest, it is not always possible to discern the truth – much less to tell it and hold it to be inviolate on all occasions. As a person in recovery, working with those seeking recovery, it is frequently brought to my attention that it is common for the practicing addict to become facile in lies. As one becomes facile in lies, a liar can lose sight of what is true and the quest for it becomes that much more difficult. Merely undertaking recovery does not in any way assure that the proclivity for lying stops. By affirming a commitment to truth, it is my belief that if I can continue my quest to discover it on a daily basis, I can come to recognize it, revel in it and ultimately appreciate it when it appears. It will take me a daily commitment to pursue it to have a realistic chance of attaining it.

Commitment to love would seem to be the easiest of the three to maintain. It is, in fact, quite easy to affirm. But as The Course of Miracles and my minister of many years, Dave Bell, has stressed many times over the opposite of love is fear. Both Dave and the Course insist that only love is real and all things are either love or a call for love. Well, if one is not experiencing love than one must be calling for love. Still, my experience indicates that the draw of fear and the shadow cast by fear is formidable. I am more than willing to believe that only love is real and that God is love and no power in the universe can oppose love. Yet, the challenge to repudiate fear in the face of ill intentions, misbehavior of all sorts, threats, violence and outright expressions of hatred seems daunting. I am determined that I must keep my eye on the prize and the affirmation of my commitment to love is neither as easy as it seems nor is the choice of love over fear always easy.

Commitment to the highest good, truth and love are worth considering as a package deal. I do believe that two without the other one is hard to maintain. I would argue that having commitment to only one of the three makes its attainment that much harder to achieve. That said, I believe that a commitment to one to the exclusion of the other two quite likely will lessen the degree of the commitment. The package deal of all three makes the maintenance and sustainment of the commitments all together more possible and likely. Hence, it is my daily intention – expressed five times each day -- to honor my commitment to all three.

Board of Trustees

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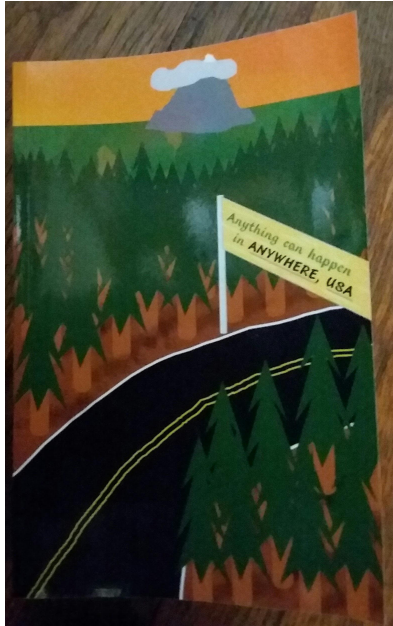
Board meetings are held on **Zoom** the **3rd Sunday** of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. The meetings are open for all to attend and community input is greatly appreciated.. You may communicate with the board by email at board@interfaithspirit.org .

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 :-)