



INTERFAITH INSPIRER

WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #11

FEBRUARY 2021



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SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

Relationships?...yes, this is the time of year we pay more attention to our quest to love unconditionally and to whether we think our close relationships are going well or not so well and whether we might give more attention to how we could be doing better. First of all, let's remember there is nothing to fix. Everything is evolving in divine right order. And we truly have in consciousness everything we have ever needed to become who we were meant to be, that angel of human and divine being. This knowingness is, of course, the carrot hanging over the donkey's head as we travel our journeys of our lifetimes.

I don't know about you, but I just "lose it" frequently. I feel as if I overreact way too often. A disagreement may not even last long. But because we live so much in our ego consciousness, we think we are, need to be, and deserve to be in control of our own lives. Well, I think we are in control of how we respond to what is going on. And we are responsible for creating the bigger picture of our lives. However, unless we truly go about understanding everything through the eyes of our Spiritual self, we are just taking a shot in the dark, and whatever peace we find will not last.

We must consider all of our ideas, our intentions, and our decisions from our place of love, wholeness, and joy. My prayer for us is this: May we remember who we are when we stop to take a deep breath several times each day, and breathe that love into the beautiful busy world around us, and bless it all.

Come to our **Sunday Services on Zoom each week.** Every Monday, Layla Ananda sends out an email with all the links for each of the **groups and classes that welcome our participation on Zoom.**

Blessings to all for a great month, Annie



SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021



February 7

Service Leader: Rev. David Bell

Message: Dr. Ali Hussain

"Read Your Scripture: The Sacredness of Our Personal Unfolding"

Reading: Craig Harvey

Meditation: Janet Somalinog

Special Music: Marlena Studer & Steve Ragsdale

February 14

Service Leader: Rev. Delyth Balmer

Message: Mara Evenstar

"It's Love Beloved"

Reader: Mary Alice Truitt

Meditator: Marilyn Alf

Special Music: Sari Brown

February 21

Service Leader: Rev. Annie Kopko

Message: Imam Kamau Ayubbi

"The Light to Read and Reconcile the Shadows"

Reading: Peggy Lubahn

Meditation: John Lang

Special Music: Curtis Glatter

February 28

Service Leader: Janet Somalinog

Message: Laurie Knerr

"Mud to Lotus: Darkness into Light, Blossoming into the World"

Reading: Annemarie Howse

Meditation: Dave Bell

Special Music: Jill Halpern (storyteller)

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 OAK ISLAND, NOVA SCOTIA

By Peggy River Singer

Peggy: While I'm not a regular viewer of History Channel's "The Curse of Oak Island", I **am** interested in the historical aspects and artifacts. At the same time, I feel uncomfortable with the amount of human damage the Island has experienced, especially in recent years. So, I thought I would check in with the Island and ask for its point of view. Good morning, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed!

Island: *It is indeed a great honor, though a curious one in my experience, to be asked to express myself in such a way that humans can readily understand. This newness [novelty] is very pleasing. Where shall we begin?*

Peggy: I've looked for information on your natural history; you were formed by glaciers a very long time ago.

Island: *Yes, although of course in my way of looking at things, it almost seems like yesterday. Time is not as important to us as it is to humans.*

Peggy: Of course. When did you first become aware of humans?

Island: *I don't have a way to express that which would make sense in your terms. I do recall being surprised by their arrival, as a new species unfamiliar to me.*

Peggy: So you had not heard about them from other Stone Folk?

Island: *Perhaps; but if so, the comment did not attract my attention at the time.*

Peggy: Many humans are very interested in the search for historical artifacts and treasures at Oak Island that has been going on for so many of our years.

Island: *Oh, yes. Human fascination in such things is well known to us. In fact, it is a popular subject among Stone Folk who wish to learn about Humankind.*

Peggy: How do you personally feel about the explorations, the digging and all the rest, into your physical form?

Island: *I observe with interest each new idea that is pursued, each new artifact that is brought into the light. Awareness of every footprint, every shovel, every energetic output [such as from metal detectors] is one of my [perceptive abilities], just as I am aware of every component that makes up my physical form. However, I do not "feel" pain or distress from these explorations. You might say I **observe** the human doings, as you might observe birds building a nest.*

Peggy: But, are you at all concerned about damage to your structure?

Island: *It would be quite impossible for humans to do permanent damage to my Beingness, you see, since I and all Stone Folk exist in countless different forms, expressions, frequencies and so forth that few humans suspect. So, even if the entire expanse of Myself above the water were to be dug away, my energetic self would still be in place, for those who are able to perceive it.*

Peggy: I'm glad you explained that, thank you! Are you able to distinguish individual humans among those who are digging for treasure?

Island: *I'm sure I could do so, if I wished to.*

Peggy: Do you communicate in any way with the artifacts and other items that have been buried over the years?

Island: *I am of course perfectly aware of exactly where every intrusive item lies, from tiny beads to massive wooden beams. Since these items are composed of Earthen materials, we all have awareness of each other though not perhaps actual conversations.*

Peggy: If someone who could communicate with you as I am doing, were to ask you to assist the explorations, what do you think your answer would be?

Island: *[imagine a BIG smile!] Certainly I would enjoy the connection and its newness, and I would listen courteously. But I have no real interest in whether or not the humans that which they desire. Even if my assistance were to shorten the amount of current intrusion, I would decline. My observations of humans indicates that this fascination will continue as long as there are humans to think about it. Let them dig, let them ponder, let them dream; there will be no harm to me.*

Peggy: Thank you for sharing with us, I know many of my people will be intrigued by your comments.



CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART 13 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. I pray with acceptance of all the blessings and miracles that have come into my life.

At first glance, it would seem quite appropriate and easy to accept all of the blessings and miracles that have come into one's life. However, the first prerequisite to this acceptance is the task of recognition. Again, it might be argued that it will be a simple act to recognize the blessings and miracles. However, I have learned first-hand that there is a significant barrier to this recognition. That barrier is created by the simple experience of expectation. If one is prone to prayers that seek specific blessings or ask for a certain miracle, the average religious person is taught to expect that God will deliver. I have heard it suggested that too many people treat their relationship with God as one would treat a gift catalogue. I make a request and I expect delivery. Yet most spiritual paths emphasize that there is a Divine order to the universe. If this is so, what is one expecting when one asks the Creator to suspend the Divine Order to answer an ego-driven request? What is one expecting when asking the Creator to meet needs according to very personal constraints and specifications? When the prayer is answered (as I truly believe all prayers are) how does one respond if the answer is no? What occurs when the blessing or miracle comes in a form that is counter to the expectations of the individual?

In the face of such answers, I would stipulate that one needs to set forth to understand that blessings and miracles are constants in our life. If a certain situation or circumstance does not meet our expectations, the problem is one of perception. One is left to search out the deeper meaning and blessing in every event. The alternative of cursing the unfolding reality or holding a grudge against the Creator are not alternatives I am prepared to accept. I am aided in this quest for blessings and miracles by some wisdom I found quite some time ago in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. These lines have appeared in the third and fourth editions of that book. Perhaps the best thing for me to remember is that my serenity is inversely proportional to my expectations. The higher my expectations ... the lower my serenity." I have known and studied these words for years, but I continue to do battle with my expectations. The battle has convinced me that there is a certain inevitability to expectation. As long as we live in a world of cause and effect, we come to believe that there will be consequences of our actions. The challenge is to acknowledge that many factors (beyond our own actions and intentions) contribute to the effects and that our expectations are necessarily unable to foresee or anticipate all the factors involved. In short, we will have expectations and these expectations will often be unrealized. The challenge is to choose serenity.

Choosing serenity is what I am doing when I seek to acknowledge the blessings and miracles however they may appear in my life. Acknowledgement and acceptance of the blessings sets the stage for celebration and gratitude – the next stage of my prayer.

Board of Trustees

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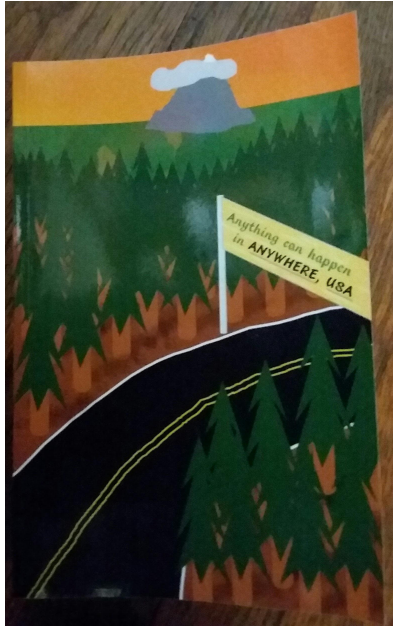
Board meetings are held on **Zoom** the **3rd Sunday** of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. The meetings are open for all to attend and community input is greatly appreciated.. You may communicate with the board by email at board@interfaithspirit.org .

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 :-)