



INTERFAITH INSPIRER
WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #11
APRIL 2021



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SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

This spring I feel like I am starting a bigger and stronger year. Last year was a time of quiet and contemplation, as I moved through treatment for breast cancer. I have emerged healthier and stronger. My outer life feels like the usual chaos, but my rich inner life makes me think I am part of a new awakening. At the same time, I need to use my outer life as the touchstone for the path of opening for my mind and heart. The important thing is connection with others in this community.

The strength of our Interfaith community never ceases to amaze and delight me. It seems that each person does what he or she likes to do and can do for the whole, and sometimes it does not seem like a lot. But all together, each person's contribution is incredibly important for the strength of the whole. Especially gratifying is how each one of us shows up for ourselves and for each other. It seems that it is our tendency as human beings to think of ourselves as insignificant in the greater scheme of things, but I want to remind you that this place would not be the same without you, each of you. You are necessary for the healing of the World. We really never know how one small thing that we may do or say will change the life of another person. I think it happens every day. The emotional and spiritual support that we give one another is phenomenal, and I have felt it especially significantly this year, as I am sure that others have also, due to pandemic challenges. Thank you so much!

I hope that soon we will be able to return to Interfaith in person, vaccinated, still wearing masks. There is no question that uncertainty still prevails. Our leadership will guide us on how this can happen. Some of us will stay on Zoom. We have found ways to connect and feel the power of that connection that we never imagined just over a year ago. Zoom is the next best thing to being there!

Every Monday afternoon, Layla Ananda sends out an email containing all the Zoom links for all the activities at Interfaith if you are on the email list. Contact Delyth if you are not. She will help you. (There are a few who have not signed up)

Sending Blessings and love to all, Annie



SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR APRIL 2021



April 4

Message: Rev. David Bell "The Joyous Message of Easter"

"We can celebrate the teachings of Jesus which have often been misunderstood and obscured by the message "about Jesus." His great demonstration was that death is not real. He taught and demonstrated the Divinity of all beings. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

April 11

Message and Special Music: Bob Sima and Shannon Plummer "Poetry of Life"

"Receive the medicine of the element of Air, recognizing it thru your breath and your spirit. Air is the Great Enchanter. Become enchanted, charmed, and spelled through this experiential journey navigated by breath, meditation, and music".

April 18

Message: Rev. Annie Kopko "Life and Death: We Have Questions, but Spirit has Answers"

April 25

Message: Mary Alice Truitt "Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Benefits of Collective Spirituality"

*Key words/concepts: Awareness; mindfulness; spiritual connection between people; unity;
Ecology of forest analogy of unity*

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.

BEYOND THE BEANS: A CONVERSATION WITH COFFEE

By Peggy River Singer

An Ethiopian Legend

Coffee traces its heritage back centuries to the ancient coffee forests on the Ethiopian plateau. The story goes that a goatherder named Kaldi noticed that after eating the berries from a certain tree, his goats became so energetic they did not want to sleep at night. Kaldi told the abbot of the local monastery, who made a drink with the berries and found that it kept him alert through the long hours of evening prayer. The abbot shared his discovery with the other monks, and knowledge of the energizing berries began to spread. (Thank you to motifcoffee.com)

Peggy: Good morning, Coffee, thank you for connecting with me!

Coffee: *It is our pleasure, to be sure, to have an opportunity to express ourselves and the fullness of our Being to your people!*

Peggy: Are you aware of the story that explains how humans discovered coffee by watching goats?

Coffee: *Yes, of course; it is not only charming but quite accurate. The goats we contacted were intrigued by our proposal, especially when they realized that Goat-kind would be forever enshrined in human history as a result of this project. [Coffee "winks" at me.] So, although this particular herd had avoided the bitter berries whenever better tasting greenery was available, they found that when chewing the cud thoroughly, the acids were actually sweetened. The rest, as you say, is history.*

Peggy: Why did your people decide to do all this?

Coffee: *Creator suggested that the mindful cultivation of coffee, the deeply spiritual significance that would develop around its processing and consumption in that part of the world, would be of great value to that [Ethiopian] culture, as it still is today.*

Peggy: Were other human cultures considered for this project?

Coffee: *No, the focus at the time was on Ethiopia. The importance of this country in human history and the magnitude of its spiritual potential are only beginning to be understood by other cultures.*

Coffee: *No, the focus at the time was on Ethiopia. The importance of this country in human history and the magnitude of its spiritual potential are only beginning to be understood by other cultures.*

Peggy: I have read some history of Ethiopia; especially related to the Ark of the Covenant being protected in a church there.

Coffee: *Just so. This is just one of the discoveries that will be made by the "outside world" in the coming years.*

Peggy: You spoke earlier of the "fullness of our Being." What would you like to tell our readers, that they might not know, about Coffee?

Coffee: *We are a peaceful culture, we have been here quite a long time, although not from the very beginnings as I perceive you have heard from other beings such as Rocks. We have been aware of humans as one of the species of living things on the planet, but have never taken any actions related to humans until fairly recently. The "coffee project" in Ethiopia was the first request to us from Creator, and naturally we were delighted to oblige.*

Peggy: So, other than this initial involvement in human affairs, what are your daily activities?

Coffee: *As members of the Plant Peoples, we naturally focus on growth, experiment with colonizing new places and environments, tweaking our genetic capabilities to survive in less-than-ideal places. And, of course, we are closely connected energetically so we carry on an active 'social life' in our own way. We have always enjoyed relationships with other living things, those you call Nature Spirits, other kinds of plants, Stone Folk, and so forth.*

Peggy: In the process of colonizing new places, what happens when those locations are already home to other Plant Folk? How are conflicts for space and resources handled?

Coffee: *Usually by negotiation. Sometimes, a "duel" is arranged to determine which species can make the best use of that particular place. The species that is unable to prevail agrees to accept a small section of the place, or simply dwindles in size and health until it is no more -- in that particular place. Of course, we also live in harmony with many plants in what you call "plant communities."*

Peggy: Do you have a leader of any kind, like an Oversoul or Deva?

Coffee: *Because of our interconnectedness, no such organizing intelligence is called for. We make our own decisions, within our abilities and our nature and according to Creator's guidelines. In speaking to "me", you are also speaking to all other Coffee individuals, right down to individual berries still in the bud stage on living plants, plus the entirety of the plants themselves.*

Peggy: Marvelous! Does that extend to processed coffee, like the half cup I enjoy every morning?

Coffee: *Somewhat, although the awareness following processing is much weakened but still present.*

Peggy: So, for example, if I decided to cut back on coffee to save money, could I express to the coffee consciousness a desire to feel the same energization from a smaller amount than I usually do from a larger amount?

Coffee: *[smiles] Indeed you can. And in fairness I shall remind you that this is possible with any beverage or food, since they all are derived from Nature and have their own unique consciousness.*

Peggy: Is there anything else you'd like to express at this time?

Coffee: *How delightful to find this manner of communication! We have connected with many spiritual humans who share their learnings about us with others. This new flavor of connecting is a refreshing addition to our experiences. May peace be welcome to all who share this conversation, in any form.*

Peggy: I've enjoyed this so much, thank you!



CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART 14 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. I pray in celebration of all the blessings and miracles I have accepted and all the wonders for which I am grateful.

This component of the prayer has come to be one of my favorites. Clearly it builds upon the acceptance of the blessings and miracles discussed in the previous installment. However, it goes further in that it affirms one of the delights of my life – celebration. Don't we all love to celebrate? It seems that it is one of most enriching experiences of our human existence – celebration. We unite in joyful gatherings to celebrate holidays of all shapes and sizes. We invite all manner of friends and family into our lives to celebrate and honor the day of our birth. We consider marriage an occasion for celebration. We revel in our graduations from one level of education to another and particularly celebrate with gusto when we have achieved the highest level of education we intend to achieve. We celebrate promotions, retirement, raises and anniversaries of memorable and significant events. Clearly every human society loves to engage in recognition of the significant milestones, achievements and commemorations that arise in the life of the individual, the group, the town, the state, the nation and the world.

What makes this particular portion of the prayer distinctive in regard to celebration? The element that the prayer embodies is to extend the basis of celebration. It is a recognition that it is not an event, a date, a memorial, or an achievement that is the exclusive territory of celebration. I am encouraging myself to remember that each and every blessing and miracle that I have accepted into my life is worthy of celebration. This celebration works hand-in-hand with acceptance. As I celebrate each and every blessing and miracle, it can and will provide an impetus to recognize those blessings and miracles that may have escaped my notice and may be awaiting my acceptance.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART 14 BY ROBERT HOPKINS

Even more to the point, the celebration of each and every blessing and miracle provides for the opportunity for each and every moment to be one of recognition and celebration. Thus, celebration ceases to be confined to a day, a week, a season or the initiation of a new year. Every moment of every day can be the stimulus for a new wave of celebration. If one is looking for the feel-good experience of celebration, one can find any one blessing or one miracle to launch that experience. Life can become just one joyous appreciative and revelatory experience after another.

This leads to a discussion of the addition of wonders to one's life and the basis of deep gratitude. I have learned through the teachings of many spiritual paths that an expression of gratitude can bring about pleasant and delightful experiences which gives fresh impetus for gratitude. It has been likened to priming a pump. If one adds a little water of gratitude and one stays attuned to it, the gusher of gratitude will follow. Some religious traditions have gone as far as to state that gratitude to God for the many blessings and miracles in our lives is an obligation. I would contend that we are better served if we see gratitude as an opportunity. Gratitude multiplies as it is expressed.

This may be the best lead-in to wonder. I firmly believe that life is wonderful or wonder-ful. One cannot look into the inner workings of the body and mind of oneself, without being struck by wonder at the complexity of both. One cannot look outside oneself to the behaviors and motives of another person or group or society without being struck by wonder at the diversity and inexplicability that one finds. Certainly, one cannot look at the flow of nature or the expanse of the universe without being overtaken with wonder. One might well wonder if all that is so observed is wonderful. But one is hard pressed to deny that this world and beyond and its Creator are wonder-ful.

Bringing it all together, my prayer at this juncture is to achieve a celebration of all the blessings, miracles and wonders that fill my own (and everyone's) life. I sincerely wish to achieve and maintain a gratitude for it all – not to mention keep it coming.

Board of Trustees

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 .

Marice Clark

Vicki Davinich

John Lang

Donald Prevost-Hart

Pat Root

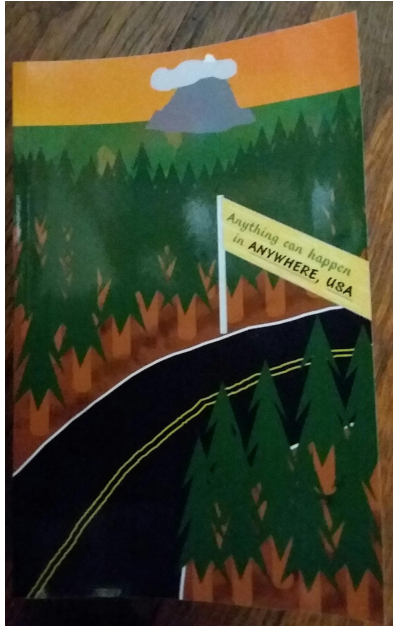
Paulette Stenzel

Mary Alice Truitt

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 :-)