



INTERFAITH INSPIRER  
WE SHALL SURVIVE EDITION #11  
JUNE 2021



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SHORTENED VERSION DURING THE PANDEMIC

# MINISTERIAL MISCELLANEOUS BY ANNIE KOPKO

*Recently, at one of our group gatherings on Zoom, someone commented that she is glad she has been able to attend services at Interfaith as it's in alignment with her spiritual direction. She said, "It is good to be fed." I loved this idea. To be spiritually fed, and to be able to spiritually feed others, takes conscious awareness, ample love, a sense of serving others, and broad intention of deep being and living with gratitude. What are we doing with each other that is spiritually feeding ourselves and each other? First, we are reflecting the true spirit that we are. In that radiance, in that luminescence of another, we identify and honor ourselves and each other.*

*Another one of the great things about the people I interact with at Interfaith, is that we seem to be able to relax and let go in any moment of what we think should be true and go with the moment as it is and as we are. It is one of our greatest gifts, to let go and let God. Another great gift is to be able to listen to each other. Listening is not a given, we train ourselves to do this as we balance our own needs with those of others, and as we become one with one another, for a few moments, or many moments. Next time you feel someone really deeply listening to what you say, savor it, and see how you feel. It can be transcendent. Honor yourself in that moment. With gratitude we give and with gratitude we receive.*

*We have events and classes (some returning to in-person) that will keep you connected to your Interfaith community. All are listed on our website: [interfaithspirit.org](https://interfaithspirit.org) including instructions to join our email list, if you have not done that already. Layla Ananda sends out an email every Monday containing all the Zoom links you will need for the week. Please join us. Many Blessings, Annie*

*P.S. We will return to in-person on Sunday mornings gradually. Watch for emails.*



## SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR JUNE 2021

### June 6

Service Leader: Rev. Annie Kopko

Message: Imam Kamau Ayubbi: “Consciousness Rising, Universe Rising”

Reading: Dawn Swartz

Meditation: Lyriel Claire

Special Music: Don Allen (home)

### June 13

Service Leader: Rev. David Bell

Message: Brett Koon “Being at Peace in Chaotic Times”

Reader: Peggy Lubahn

Meditator: TBA

Special Music: Carol Bardenstein and Friends (The Center)

### June 20

Service Leader: Rev. Delyth Balmer

Message: Claire Groshans : “The Beautiful Pattern of the Gnarled Old Trees.”

Reading: Craig Harvey

Meditation: TBA

Special Music: Jeanne Adwani (Home)

### June 27

Service Leader: Rev. Lyriel Claire

Message: Rev. David Bell: “The Power of Forgiveness”

Reading: Laurie Knerr

Meditation: Annemarie Howse

Special Music: Julie Beutel (Home)

# 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](mailto:newbluecanoe@aol.com). Articles about her experiences and insights are posted on her blog, [angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com](http://angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com).

## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE GROUNDHOGS SING?

By Peggy River Singer

I spent some time with a family of Groundhogs this morning, as they went about getting some breakfast in the cool of the day. These animals are common in my apartment complex; most residents enjoy seeing them (especially the adorable kits), while Management puts out live traps every year because of the structural damage Groundhogs cause by digging burrows under our buildings.

As I was talking quietly to Mama and her six kits, I realized that although these animal neighbors SEEM so familiar and ordinary to us humans, they must surely have hidden depths...

**Peggy:** May I speak with a representative of the Groundhog people?

**GH:** *Ready and waiting in the wings, as you people say! What a delightful opportunity, we look forward to talking about ourselves!*

**Peggy:** I think we connected so easily because of the time I spent with the family this morning?

**GH:** *Yes, of course. They were fully aware of your good intentions, as you could tell by the fact that they were so relaxed in your presence. It was explained to the children the importance of trusting their instincts about allowing humans to get so close. It was a valuable learning experience, for which the Mama in particular is appreciative.*

**Peggy:** I'm glad to hear that. What names do the babies have?

**GH:** *The leading male is called Snort, other names are Flower, Root, Sunny Place to Bask In, Deep Comfort is Mama's name, Find-the-Food, New Places, Wonder Sky, Look-and-Look. Like your own people, we often have a couple of names we are known by.*

**Peggy:** Deep Comfort is such a wonderful name for a mother! May I speak to her?

**GH:** *She politely acknowledges your request, but is much involved in preparing her kits to set out on their own very soon.*

**Peggy:** I understand, please thank her for me. [I "see" Deep Comfort nod her head in response.] Can you help me understand the spiritual nature of Groundhogs?

**GH:** *Indeed, we have been waiting for this question! We have a very "deep" [intentional pun] connection with Mother Gaia. As master tunnelers -- like moles, worms, and others -- we are in a constant process of exchanging the energies of Above with the energies of Below, simply by our movements back and forth. You have observed that our burrows are complex, with multiple levels and "rooms" for particular uses. This is far more than a simple organizational system! At all times and in all possible ways, we are servants of the Energy of the All.*

*We prefer to dig under solid structures of some kind, for the safety and security that will allow us to pursue our special tasks with fewer distractions. For those humans who object to our burrows, we say: Look to the quality and "wellbeing" of your structure, perhaps we send you a message of inadequate -- what is the word... -- **integrity** in the building thereof. Not always, but often enough, we REVEAL rather than CREATE structural weakness. Yes, we are blamed for the problem, but we do not mind. We can always find another place to dig! [GH winks at me.]*

*In our own way, we are as complex as humans are. Some of us treasure the sight of twinkling stars; some study the subtle movements of plants as they grow; some are loners; some think about great matters. Each individual is unique.*

**Peggy:** How would you describe your relationship to Creator?

**GH:** *Again, the perfect word is DEEP in all its connotations. Creator is a part of us, we are each a part of Creator. It is quite wonderful.*

**Peggy:** Do your people enjoy social gatherings? Music? Other entertainments?

**GH:** *Understand please that our lifestyle is that males travel to find females, who maintain their own territory that is good for the raising of babies. So, what you call "social gatherings" take place in the mind-talk that connects everyone. In this way, potential parental relationships are explored prior to mating season. News, ideas, teachings and histories are exchanged, for the special advantage [benefit] of the young. And WE SING, yes we do, in tones the human ear cannot ponder. Our SINGING is WHO we ARE. Listen...*

**Peggy:** Oh my gosh, it sounds like angels!

**GH:** *[pleased] Good for you, that you are able to perceive these tones! In future, you can connect and ask to hear our singings, especially at the New Moon and Full Moon.*

**Peggy:** What an honor, thank you!

**GH:** *You are wondering whether we use our singing in the task of balancing of energies: indeed yes! All beings (both living and "inanimate") are capable of this kind of singing the balance. In times of distress and vast disaster, you may rely on it that we sing, all of us "animal" beings around the world, to bring balance. And yes, when Australia w newly released souls. When the Amazon fires blackened the skies of a continent, we sang. This is a part of our unseen lives that will now be known and appreciated by humankind, and that is a huge leaping forward in awareness.*

**Peggy:** I feel deeply touched by hearing this. Is there anything else you'd like to share today?

**GH:** *Very simply, everything and everyone is more than what the eyes alone can perceive. Go deep within, and open yourself to possibilities. We are done, for now.*



## CONSTRUCTION OF A PRAYER – PART 16 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. I pray for peace. I pray for harmony. I pray in appreciation of being reminded of my connection to Oneness of all that is real.**

This final sentence of the prayer probably captures the essence of my Interfaith spiritual view of the world. I know I am not alone in this and I owe a debt of gratitude I can never repay to the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. The people in the Center helped me to see and have fellowship with people who share the belief that we are interconnected to the one Spirit, Who is the Creator of the Universe. I know that the people of the Center are far from being the only people who hold to this belief. However, it has been invaluable to be part of an ever-changing and unfolding group who hold this truth to be evident. The Center makes every effort to affirm that we do not have any dogma to which one must subscribe. However, the belief in the Oneness of the Creative Force in the Universe seems to be a proposition to which we all (or most of us) agree. No one is ever banned from the Center for holding a different philosophy or different set of principles. So it is impossible to insist that we all agree on anything.

However, it is my observation that I can feel safe in saying that almost all of us see this Creative Force as being One. Beyond that, I believe (and I believe I speak for most in the Center in saying) that all of the creation in the Universe is bonded together unalterably in the Creator. God (if you prefer that term) is present in all of His/Her/Its creations. We are not alone in the universe and we are all connected. Some may find it hard to see the Creator in inert matter, rocks, trees, oceans, stars and the space between stars. Yet, I have become convinced that this is so and I find it comforting that I can share space on (at least) a weekly basis with so many, otherwise disparate and intelligent, people who recognize the same reality.

Thus, I come to reality or what is real. I find it curious that “real” should be the last word in my prayer. I am not conscious of having willed this to be so. For, in many ways it feels to me that the prayer was in some parts constructed by me and in some parts revealed to me. Nevertheless, for as many times as I have repeated the prayer, in whatever state of mind or sleepiness with which I recite, repeat, or affirm it, I know that I have finished it when I hear myself saying the word real. Of course, the entire prayer has become quite real and central to my life and I always seem to know and correct for it, if I fail to say it the expected number of five times. But, I am still quite appreciative that I know for a certainty that the Creator is One, all creation is part of that One and that is what is truly real.

The illusion of duality and multiplicity and diversity is just that to me. It may not be the case that all people believe in one Force in the Universe. Many people seem to act as if they are separate from the Oneness or fail to believe that they are part of the Oneness. There are many people who assert that they are Atheist or Agnostic and I respect their entitlement to their individual belief system. But my prayer reminds me daily of the truth and I find that the longer I recite it to myself, the more firmly I believe it and I do not feel the need to persuade anyone to see the Universe the way I do. Curiously, my prayer articulates a set of fervent beliefs that allow me to feel ever more comfortable with a divergence of conflicting, even warring beliefs. I feel that I know the truth and the truth is setting me free from judgment of others.

Therefore, I am delighted to end my prayer five times each day and conclude this series of reflections with the final statement: I pray in appreciation of being reminded of my connection to Oneness of all that is REAL.

## **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](mailto:board@interfaithspirit.org) .

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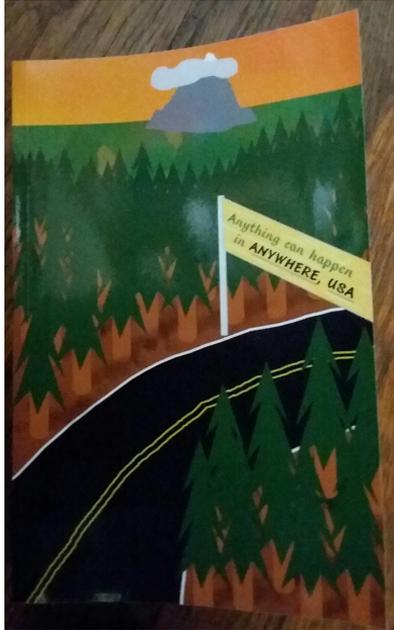
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# DRUMROLL, PLEASE....

## 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+.



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