



Interfaith Inspirer

An Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth News Publication

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Food for Science Fiction Thought

By Tommy Kaminski
(reprint from 2018)

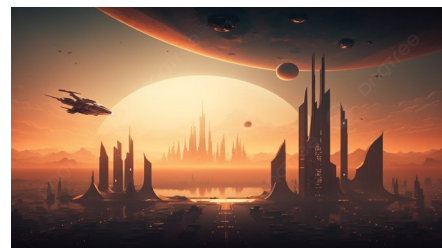
Science has cracked some of the universe's most difficult problems—cures to once deadly diseases, the origins of life, the building blocks of atoms—but sometimes there are questions even science cannot answer, maybe not now, maybe not ever. These are the kind of questions that require some guesswork, a few assumptions, and a little imagination—the kind of questions that lay the foundation for science fiction. These are questions which create worlds that—while not too far removed from reality—are nonetheless fantastic. Worlds where planets from different stars can be reached in a few hours. Worlds where alien creatures can have blood like sulfuric acid. Worlds where undiscovered ecosystems can exist at the center of the Earth. No, these questions may not have any one, good answer, but that doesn't mean it's not fun to ask them—to live in another world for a day. So I pose to you some questions to stimulate a science fiction mind: some “what ifs” as far out there as outer space.

What If One: Mars and Venus are the two planets nearest to Earth, and both could hypothetically be in the “goldilocks zone.” That is, planets that are not too close and not too far from their star to support life. The only problem is, Venus' atmosphere is much thicker than ours and full of CO₂, making the surface about 900 degrees F. On the other hand, Mars' atmosphere is much too thin thanks to its weak magnetic field, and surface temperatures can vary by almost 200 degrees F in a single day. Mars also has about 1/3 the gravity of Earth, whereas Venus is close to 90% of ours. So, if humans had to terraform and colonize one of the two—to the point where we could live unprotected on the surface—which would be easier? Which would be better? Venus would essentially need to lose 99% of its atmosphere, and Mars would need a new magnetic field, or an otherwise artificial protection for its atmosphere.

What If Two: We currently use 46% of the Earth's land surface for agriculture, and even that is not sufficient to properly feed 8 billion people. Meanwhile, there is estimated to be well over 1 trillion ants living on Earth. If the technology were available to miniaturize humans down to the size of ants, would it be worth it to shrink the population in order to lead a more sustainable existence? Would work be done at full-size and leisure time spent in miniature? What if the process was permanent? How would people be incentivized to take part? If the process didn't work on animals, would we keep giant, oversized cats and dogs, or switch to microorganisms for pets?

What If Three: There are several schools of thought regarding time travel. One school says that it's impossible to change anything in the past, because it would ultimately end in a paradox in which you never went back in time in the first place. Another school says that if you go back and change something, the future that you originally came from is erased, and you are now stuck in a new past that will play out very differently from before. A third school says that when you change something in the past, the future you came from remains, but you have now created an alternate reality that exists beside it. Thus, even if you make massive changes, you have not changed anything or erased anyone in that original future. Assuming this third scenario is true, would it be OK to let anyone who wants to go back in time and make as many changes as they want? For everyone in the original timeline, it will be as though nothing is different, but the time traveler will experience the ramifications—good or bad—of every change they make. If we assume the second scenario is true, how far back would you have to go before your presence becomes inconsequential? Before the K-T extinction? Before life itself? Before the Earth was formed? What if it was a one-way trip? Would it be a worthwhile final vacation?

None of these questions have “right” answers, per say, but they all have interesting ones. Take a moment to live in another world: a world of science fiction.



Ministerial Miscellany

By Annie Kopko

"As Good as it Gets"

The other morning I was standing in my kitchen making tea for myself as I do every morning and a really good feeling came over me. I said to myself, "This is as good as it gets". This is hardly a feeling I would expect on an ordinary morning when the dirty dishes are sitting in the sink, the floor beneath my bare feet is scattered with bits of dirt from the garden outside and the cats are demanding to be fed.

It is helpful to me to think that **if** the small stuff, like making tea in the morning is for you **not** as good as it gets, then the big things, like a vacation in Northern Michigan, a visit to the Tulip Festival, or a great deal on a new car are not going to be as good as it gets either. Several things are happening when a feeling like this occurs. I like to think that if we are able to just be in the present moment, then all events and all experiences can be as good as it gets. Of course, in our time and space, they may not appear to be.

On those rare occasions, when we are in the present moment, all else has to fall away. All judgment has to fall away and all of our fears fall away. I think that all of our dreams and desires also fall away. It is rare for us to allow that to happen, but this is where true freedom lies. We crave freedom, but usually not enough to let go of all that we hold dear, even for a few moments.

There are events coming up at Interfaith where you will have the opportunity to find that this is as good as it gets. Our Sunday services oftentimes guide us to make that shift in consciousness with a variety of musicians and speakers. Check our website interfaithspirit.org for more information on all of our classes and events.

Saturday, July 8th at 7PM is Cafe 704, featuring PATH (Scott McWhinney, Chris Hedly and Tim Prosser) and Folk Song Jam Along (Lori Fithian, Jean Chorazyczewski and Eric & Mary Fithian. Bring your voices, drums and folky instruments to join in the fun! The musicians are offering their talents as a special fund-raising event with all proceeds benefiting the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Tickets are \$10.00, join us in person at Interfaith or on Zoom.

Many Blessings, *Annie*



*Happy Birthday
to Our July
Celebrants*

July 09 Paulette Stenzel

July 09 Diane McPharlin

July 11 Randall Counts

July 22 Scott McWhinney

July 25 Maureen McMahon

July 29 Chris Johnson

July 20 Randall Rousse

July 31 Andy Balent

July 31 Margie Hough

July 31 Don Digirolamo





Volunteer Corner

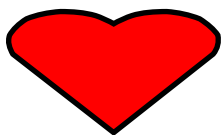
Submitted by Annemarie Howse

Our after service social time has been well attended the past few months. Thanks to a few dedicated souls who bring snacks on a regular basis, we always have something for folks to enjoy with their coffee or tea while we chat. Sometimes we get crackers and cheese, nuts, donuts, cookies and even home baked goodies! Thank you.

I'd like to give a shout out to Heide, who volunteered to be our "coffee Lady" to get this off the ground. However, recently Heide has had other commitments which prevents her from joining us every Sunday. But when she can, we still see her smiling face in the congregation.

Ted Poprafsky returned to Interfaith in May. You'll probably find him in the kitchen, where Heide used to be. Welcome back Ted! And thank you for making sure we always have coffee on Sundays. Ted also helps out with our potlucks, along with myself, Janet Fry, Bonnie Dede, Rob Fagerlund, and whomever else shows up early on the first Sunday of the month.

Now that our social time and potlucks are running smoothly, I have another area that I would like to see us focus our attention on. That is, our bulletin board. Janet Somalinog and Laurie Knerr worked really hard to organize the board so it is attractive and informational. However, it is an organic project. The heading could be changed out as seems appropriate, and the information needs to remain current. Janet lives quite a ways from Ann Arbor and is not always able to come during the week or arrive early on Sunday to keep it updated. We would love to have someone take over this project. Someone who is creative with organizational skills would be ideal. However, if you have an interest, this is the perfect opportunity to help you develop those skills. To learn more please contact me. We can set up a time for you to meet with Janet and me (in person or remotely) to talk about some about some ideas.
ahowse21@gmail.com or 818-667-2815. I look forward to hearing from you.



Caring Committee Second Quarter Report *respectfully submitted by Annemarie Howse*

The mission of the Caring Committee is to assist individuals or families primarily within the community of the *Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth*, and selectively support outreach groups or people that aren't part of our Interfaith Community but we know about them through our members and affiliations.

Since the Caring Committee may not always be able to provide the services that are requested, we may reach out to the Interfaith Community for help. For example: if someone is moving or needs a ride, we might make an announcement or send an email with their request. We would then ask that you contact a member of the Caring Committee to let them know you are able to help.

During the second quarter of 2023 (April, May and June) the Caring Committee provided the following services:

Transportation-2
Cards and flowers sent on behalf of the committee-5
Cards sent by individual members-15
Caring Support-7
Texts/emails-15
Phone calls-17
Home or hospital visits-3
Services such as providing a meal, helping someone move or light home repairs-4
Outreach-1
Reiki (provided remotely)-10
These supports and services were provided to 26 different individuals or families in our Interfaith Community during the second quarter of 2023.
Financial Report-Our balance at the end of June was \$2,571.54. The amount donated to the Caring Committee during this quarter was \$393.00. The amount spent was \$181.38. We thank you for your generosity and are grateful for our ability to be of service.

A Tribute to Rose Wisniewski



A small gathering was organized by and held at the home of Carol Jacobs on June 19th to celebrate and remember Rose. Each in attendance shared a brief story of how they came to know Rose and how she impacted their life. A photo board was made by Randall Counts showing very recent photos of Rose at the Interfaith Center. Marice Clark brought a few photos showing Rose as a young girl and young woman reminding us of her innocence and adventure. After listening to a few of Rose's favorite songs a potluck meal was shared. Rose was a magnificent cook and loved sharing food with her friends. We will miss you Rose, and are so grateful we were able to know you.

Submitted by Delyth Balmer



Community Member of the Month

Blessed, Beautiful
Bonnie

We are graced to have Bonnie Dede as part of our Interfaith Family. Bonnie has been a member for many years, she rarely (if ever) has missed a Sunday Service. She is a regular supporter and participant at the 1st Sunday Potlucks, 2nd Saturday Café 704's and 3rd Friday Peace Generators among many other activities offered at the Center. We all have missed being together in person during the "Covid Years" and now appreciate even more the return of Social Hour after Sunday Services and 1st Sunday Potlucks. Bonnie has been at the head of the line in volunteering to bring refreshments and to stay and clean up after potlucks. Not long ago, she stalwartly stood at the kitchen sink washing what to me appeared as an endless pile of dirty dishes.

Bonnie is a faculty librarian at UM, and her ideas and assistance have been invaluable to Rob Fagerlund in shaping, refining, and maintaining the library at the Center

She has, for many years, been a listening ear, a friend and a counsel to many members of the Center, and when she speaks to and shares with the Center, it is always with a depth of character and wisdom.

Bonnie has also been a consistently very generous contributor in endless ways.

As we have recently brought sharing snacks and having potlucks back to the Center, Bonnie has not only contributed with great treats, but also with helping out at these events.

Bonnie is like a metaphorical "Gentle Giant." Appearing to be a quiet person, when given the chance she is willing to share her giant mind, heart, and compassion.

We love you, Bonnie!

Mark your calendars!

CAFE 704 CONCERT SERIES

Saturdays, 7 p.m.—9 p.m.

In person and on Zoom

Jul. 8: Path and Friends

Aug. 12: Kozora Quartett

Sep. 9: Nutshell

Oct. 14: Vornhagen and Kaufman

Nov. 11: Jean Wilson and Friends

Dec. 9: Emily Slomovits and Billy King

Interested in performing at Cafe 704?

Send an inquiry to cafe704@gmail.com

PEACE GENERATOR

7—9 pm

Every 3rd Friday

Leadership Team Meeting 2nd Sunday

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Bob Hopkins (734) 985-5572

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Sunday

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Marice Clark & Claire Groshans,

Co-Chairs

board@interfaithspirit.org

QCC 7/16/23 1-3 pm

Caring Committee Meeting

1st Thursday

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on zoom Marilyn Alf,

Chair sdtoaa@gmail.com

Singing for Comfort

with Layla Ananda

7-8:30 pm

every 2nd Thursday (resumes in August)

THE SUFI WAY

By Bob Hopkins

THE SUFI WAY ATTENUATED

In light of my break from the Sufi class in this, the heart of my dancing season, there is little I can impart. Bis Mallah. Ir Racman. Ir Rahhem. Allahhumdiallah. Baril Alamin. Ir Makaban. Please forgive me if I have butchered some of this spelling. I am even less clear about the English counterparts. I believe I have this right. I think that translates to Praise to God the nourisher of all the world – compassionate and merciful. The other concepts put forth have to do with liberating, centering, expansion and contraction. There are also concepts of exchange of the debt. Mailyki Yami Doen seemed to speak to: contains tension and hope.

This plunge into Arabic has left some (such as myself) confused with spelling and the continuity of the thought. What has been clear is that Kamau is endeavoring to impart to us the opening section of the Quran. From my Quran this is the English translation to The Opening or (Al Fatihah): “In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful All praise is due to God, the Lord of the Universe; the Beneficent, the Merciful; Lord of the Day of Judgement. You alone we worship, and to You alone we turn for help. Guide us to the straight path: the path of those you have blessed; not of those who have incurred Your wrath, not of those who have gone astray.”

While I struggle for the moment, all I have learned and the joy of the limited Zhikr I have managed to absorb and practice on a daily basis will allow me to persist until all is revealed. For now, I dance and do Zhikr before I go and when I drive home from the dance.



Science of Mind

Submitted by
Janet Somalinog

Spiritual counselor in the Religious Science tradition

This is a prayer of the One Mind and of the Whole Universe. It is written in first person for you to read as your own meditations of the heart. Whatever condition that is showing up in your life today, please set it aside for a few minutes as you explore a ‘New Thought’ about it and about yourself. You are God in expression, therefore you are endowed with the same Essence and Power to heal and change and rise into a new possibility.

Let's begin:

I sit and stand in the Light of Spirit, right here and right now. There is no place that I can or will go that is not already a living and breathing act of Spirit. There is no separation. Only Unity of Minds. My Mind and God's Mind are One in the Same! Therefore, what I think and believe is also a real thing in Spirit. It is the very action of creative thought and I step into this Power to change my circumstances in many ways, big and small. I declare the following truths for myself, my family, my finances, my health, my relationships....fill in the blank

Now I breathe these words into my mind, knowing that any barrier to their manifestation is easily and readily dissipated like ice melting on a hot summer day.

I embrace all the Good that is already on its way to me. I simply open my arms to receive with gratitude. The Universe is naturally benevolent and guides me through any moments of doubt. I hereby surrender to the Flow of Love and a Life that is easy, balanced, abundant, vibrant, connected and compassionate.

I now release these words into the Law of Mind which responds beautifully in mysterious and mystical ways, so I let this prayer go. I need to do nothing more. I practice sitting, standing and dancing in the Light of expectation, not of pleading or worry, but in TRUST that all is provided in perfect timing and logistics. The details are already in the Mind of God and I am the magnet for all this and MORE to show up in my experience.

With a deep, deep gratitude, I confidently, silently and sometimes loudly declare, “And so it is.”



A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEVA OF FIREWORKS

By Peggy River Singer

Watching the magnificent fireworks program from Washington DC on July 4 a few years ago helped me to make a strong connection with a being who was willing to speak on behalf of these entities.

Peggy: Hello, thank you for speaking with me. How would you like me to address you?

FW: *You may call me Fireworks, for simplicity. Although I am representing the phenomenon you are thinking of, [I am] not a Deva as you use that term, [to mean] an organizing intelligence. Instead, we derive our Being from the elements of the Earth that make up our physical and energetic forms. Our coherent consciousness results from our common origins as minerals, acids and other natural substances.*

Peggy: That's marvelous! When you say 'coherent consciousness', are you referring to all the elements making up one shell full of FW, or perhaps to an entire display?

FW: *A good question. There are levels of involvement, as you might imagine. I shall say, imagine an army of individuals who are all assigned to be part of a task force. Their coherence develops as they are committed to that particular task force. At the same time, there is another level of coherence when various task forces are expected to support each other, to work together cooperatively to achieve a goal. The human FW masters are the ones in control of the overall display, you see. We are involved each in our own aspect of activity.*

Peggy: Does it ever happen that a group of associated FW decide they are not interested in taking part in a proposed performance?

FW: *Yes, of course. Creator allows free will to its creations. In such situations, expected results are not seen. New equations and chemical components are required. The humans seek for new possibilities, as is their history when their plans do not come to fruition.*

Peggy: I am wondering about occasions when a business that produces FW suddenly blows up, often killing people in the process.

FW: *Ah. Well, even when we are cooperating for a goal, there are times when mishandling and errors by the humans occur.*

Peggy: I'm a little confused. You have said that a FW group can decide NOT to work for a project. So, can they also decide to go ahead and explode during the production phase?

FW: *Certainly, since often they might not be committed to a project, or the humans might not be treating the components with respect. Plus, once chemical reactions start to cascade, resisting destruction is nearly impossible.*

Peggy: What happens to all the FW once they are exploded? Do they return to their component atoms?

FW: *That is a useful way to describe what happens.*

Peggy: In watching a fireworks display for our Independence Day celebration, it seemed to me like the FW really enjoy their work. I saw faces and images in the smoke, and thought I could feel joyfulness.

FW: *Yes, indeed. Although FW are not 'alive' as humans think of it, as you now know we do have a level of awareness. It is very thrilling, exhilarating, to soar through the sky, creating wondrous patterns and colors! To hear the cheering, to FEEL the emotional responses of those who*

watch us perform. As for the faces and images in the smoke, there are other beings who love to play with such ethereal energies, and who look forward to these occasions!

Peggy: My faery house guests loved the show as well; the younglings were whooping and bouncing around in their excitement. I expect that most fae beings wish to keep their distance from these explosions?

FW: *As your friends can confirm, those whose forms might be damaged by such energies need to be cautious about getting too close, yes. And others love to play in the energies created.*

Peggy: Is there anything else you'd like our readers to know?

FW: *I shall say, our thanks for this expressing on our behalf. It is interesting to connect with a human who wishes to know about us. We have learned something new today.*

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 **newbluecane@aol.com**. Articles about her experiences and insights are posted on her blog, **angelsfairiesandlife.wordpress.com**.



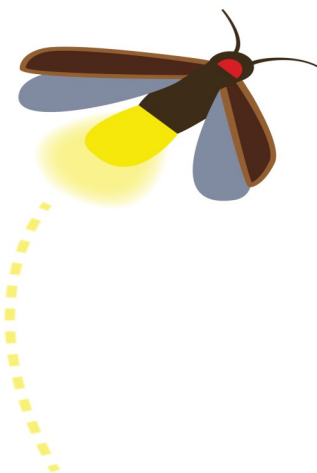
illuminating Lessons and the Wisdom of Fireflies!

Contributed by Linda Claire Groshans

Dear Beloved Community,

I am guessing that most of us have at some time seen a magical display of nature's wonder take center stage – like the enchanting dance of fireflies. Beyond their breathtaking beauty, these twinkling insects offer profound spiritual insights. What illuminating wisdom can we glean from these luminescent creatures and how do we discover the lessons they bestow upon us?

- 1) **Embrace Inner Light:** Fireflies remind us that the divine spark resides within each of us. Just as they light up the darkness with their radiant glow, we too possess an inner light – a source of love and compassion.
- 2) **Synchronicity in Unity:** Have you ever noticed how fireflies synchronize their flashes as if part of a grand symphony of light? This harmony speaks of the power of unity in our spiritual journey. Together, we can achieve wondrous feats, supporting one another through life's challenges and celebrating our victories together.
- 3) **Living in the Present:** Fireflies captivate us with their ephemeral presence. Their brief existence teaches us to cherish the present moment and find beauty in the fleeting nature of life.
- 4) **illuminating the Darkness:** In the darkest nights, fireflies bring their gentle illumination, showing us that even in the midst of despair, there is always a glimmer of hope. As spiritual beings, we too can be a beacon of light for others, providing comfort and solace during challenging times.



Contributors Needed!!!



In order to keep the newsletter going in a more timely manner, I need contributions.

**Many thanks to my regular contributors,
Annie Kopko, Bob Hopkins, Janet Somalinog,
Annemarie Howse, Peggy Lubahn!**

I need

- 1) Inspirational front page articles
(approximately 750 words)**
- 2) Photos, poetry, tidbits, quotes,
announcements**

**Please submit written work in google doc
format, Times New Roman, font size 12**

To

heide.kaminski59@gmail.com

**Put "Newsletter Submission" in the
subjectline of the email, pretty please**



FUN JULY FACTS

- The name July was named after Roman general Julius Caesar.
- July is in the Summer season in the northern hemisphere and one of the warmest months. July in the southern hemisphere is one of the coldest.
- Early July, historically, is called the dog days of summer because it's the beginning of the hot summer days.
- The fourth of July is the only federal holiday (national holiday) in July. Independence Day is in celebration of the United States declaration of independence from Great Britain. America's birthday. The Declaration of Independence was signed by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and John Hancock.
- Neil Armstrong made history on July 29, 1969, by taking the first steps on the moon. His famous declaration "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!"

Tommy Kaminski

Type into Amazon book search bar:

ISBN 9798835733286



Everyone thinks having superpowers would be great. Who wouldn't want to fly above the clouds? Or bend steel like rubber? Or sneak into movies with the power of invisibility except you have to be naked because your clothes aren't affected by it?

Bob Hopkins

Type into Amazon books search bar:

ISBN-13 : 979-8397189477

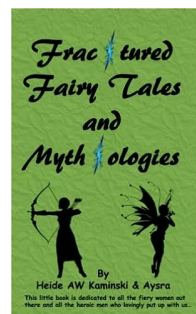


My latest creation is designed to be a sequel to the Charles Dickens classic: A Christmas Carol. The book features the further adventures of Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit. This sequel is interspersed with stories of the women I have known and loved -- equal parts of the sequel and the adventures.

Heide Kaminski

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Heide Kaminski



This little book is dedicated to all the fiery women out there and the heroic men who lovingly put up with us.

The New York Times

BESTSELLER

Here we come

