

glad tidings

a newsletter of
the first spiritualist
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

spiritualism by way of a ham and bean supper

by joyce de fazio

Nothing happens by accident as I quickly learned on April 15, 1989 when I accompanied my cousin, Naomi, to a simple ham and bean supper at the First Spiritualist Church of Salem. At the time, I knew nothing about this religion or that there was such a person as a Spiritualist. Given that my religious background was perfunctory and I lived with family who were closed-minded, I was excited and curious to attend the supper because the mystery of where Naomi went to church and meditation classes would be revealed.

Unlike previous church functions that I had known, I was instantly aware of the friendliness, large attendance, and laughter. The people seemed to care about one another and shared a knowing. Later, Naomi showed me the little sanctuary lined with pews. I stood in the doorway in awe of its plainness, but soon felt a wave of something go through me. I have since come to know that it was spirit. I was speechless and felt that time momentarily stood still. As Naomi looked at me quizzically, I very calmly and with certainty said, "I've come home!"

I knew then that this church and all its wonders were for me to experience.

Later in the year, I moved to Salem all the while attending church and the Tuesday unfoldment class. It was a new beginning for me to explore in all areas of my life. I became very active within the church; therefore, becoming a member made greater sense to me.

My new found knowledge and faith within Spiritualism was put to the test on April 10, 1991 as I was having surgery. I had a "near death" experience which my doctor and the nurses corroborated. Yet, during that experience, I knew where I went. I always believed that there was an afterlife, and this religion continually proves it. I am forever grateful to Spiritualism and my temporary cross-over because I saw, felt, and heard that which is taught from the platform, classes, and books...it is comforting to know even as I continue to expand my knowledge and understanding. My earthly progression is enhanced tenfold each day due to Spiritualism and you, my friends. This is peace, love and gratitude. I give thanks.

Joyce De Fazio is a member of the Board of Trustees, is treasurer-elect, and a student of Morris Pratt Institute studying for her national certification.

Editor's Note:

This series of articles is written by members of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem about what attracted them to Spiritualism and this church. Visit our new website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org and share your thoughts about what you'd like to see on the website and read in the newsletter. Email at info@firstspiritualistsalem.org.

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glad tidings

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since 1894

pastoral committee

rev. bradley gosselin, nst, ch
rev. elizabeth gosselin, nst, cm
mrs. priscilla herrick, cm
mrs. nancy karolides, cm
mr. david leclair, ch

ch—commissioned healer ch
cm—certified medium cm
nst—national spiritualist teacher



season of light

by pat cizewski, editor

The season of light is upon us once again. It begins with the American Thanksgiving celebration and ends with New Year's Eve...itself, another beginning. This cycle is perfectly attuned to the philosophy of Spiritualism because Spiritualism recognizes that every ending is always the natural precursor to a new beginning. These cyclical shifts are the perfect opportunity for each of us to take stock and reflect on our inner and outer lives.

In looking at the past year, we can see how well we have met our life's particular, if not peculiar, challenges. How we have spiritually and materially grown. How we have accepted others into our lives and hearts; and likewise, how we have extended ourselves to others.

The First Spiritualist Church of Salem offers us a unique opportunity to touch the lives of others in the most profound ways...through the life and the love of spirit. Through healing, meditation, and message work that is evident each Sunday at our services, but also during the week in our unfoldment classes, as well as during our special events that are geared to learning and fellowship.

There is no better time of year than the season of light to bring a friend or loved one to church and introduce them to the many gifts of spirit.

newsletter ideas

In addition to the member-written articles that are featured in each issue of the newsletter, it has been suggested to introduce a "Questions and Answers" column to the newsletter. If you have a question about Spiritualism, healing, or mediumship, or this church please submit them by email to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org and place Q&A in the subject line so that we know it is for the Question and Answers column. Let us also know if we can print your first name with the submission. Submissions without a name will simply be treated as anonymous.

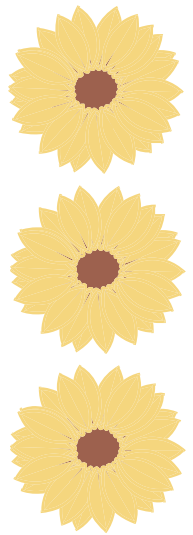
Also, keep in mind that when there are inspirational words, drawings and so forth that you have received in class or in meditation that you would like to share with the readership of this newsletter, please submit them to the editor for inclusion in the section called, "The Prayerful Corner." This section runs (obviously) only when there are submissions of this kind. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the editor, pastoral committee, and/or board of trustees and may be edited.

Your feedback is encouraged.

Emails can be sent to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org with the subject line, *To the Editor*. You can also submit newsletter materials through this same email address.

declaration of principles

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression, and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of prophecy and healing are Divine attributes proven through mediumship.



president's report

by rev. bradley gosselin

On Sunday, November 18, the annual members' meeting was held at the church. We had a wonderful meeting and changes have been made.

the board of trustees

The membership elected a new secretary, treasurer, and trustee, as well as re-electing two current trustees. The church now has two new board members serving for the first time: Laurie Drake and Gary Hansen. The election results were as follows: Laurie Drake, secretary; Joyce De Fazio, treasurer; Naomi Ellis, re-elected trustee; Pat Cizewski, re-elected trustee; and Gary Hansen, trustee to complete the term left vacant by Joyce De Fazio's election as treasurer.

On behalf of the board, the membership, and myself, a heartfelt thanks to Nancy Karolides and Rev. Elizabeth Gosselin for their many years of service, hard work and dedication. They do understand that although they are not on the board, their services are still needed and their work not finished.

the pastoral committee

The membership rejected the recommendation of the board to have a three (3) member Pastoral Committee for the short term. The membership felt more comfortable with a five (5) member Pastoral Committee. The members elected Mary Ciaramitaro and Pat Cizewski to the committee replacing Rev. Elizabeth Gosselin and Rev. Bradley Gosselin.

Because of the increasing demands on our time as missionaries and as an NSAC Board member (Brad), we felt that we could not make the three (3) year commitment to serve on the Pastoral Committee as required by a recent bylaw change. Though we have made the decision not to continue on the Pastoral Committee, we will continue our commitment to the church and the congregation being available to help and to serve, and as the only ordained ministers, to supply any other needed assistance.

The members re-elected Priscilla Herrick, Nancy Karolides, and David LeClair to the other three positions on the Pastoral Committee.

In accordance with our bylaws the new board and the new Pastoral Committee will assume their appropriate duties January 1.

by law change

There was a bylaw change and the bylaw committee is in the process of copying and printing the bylaws as amended for distribution to the membership. The balance of the business was addressed and discussed with the membership.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership, the board and the Pastoral Committee for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the congregation and the church. A special thanks to Guild president Gerry Ganey and the officers and members of the Guild for all their work putting on the weekly lunches, conducting fundraisers and so many other contributions to the church. A special thanks to the newsletter editor Pat Cizewski and the webmaster Laurie Drake for keeping us informed and presenting us to the public in such a professional and Spiritual manner.

In Love, Light and Healing,

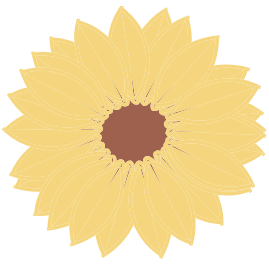
Rev. Brad Gosselin, NST
President Church Board

2007 meeting schedule

board meetings
board and church members only
to be announced

guild meeting
open to everyone
sunday, december 2
4 pm olmstead hall

board of trustees
rev. bradley gosselin, president
mary ciaramitaro, vice president
nancy karolides, secretary
elizabeth gosselin, treasurer
patricia cizewski, trustee
joyce defazio, trustee
naomi ellis, trustee
sue hinckley, trustee
david leclair, trustee



Healing

If you know of someone who is in need of healing, please submit the name through our website at info@firstspiritualistsalem.org. Place "healing" in the subject line. Names that are submitted are forwarded to the healers of our church to be remembered in their healing meditations as well as being placed in our newsletter. Please take the time to send your healing thoughts and energy to those on our healing list:

for our loved ones

Amy Rose	Anthony	Brookie
Elizabeth	George	Helen
Howard P.	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Jim	Joan P.
John	Judy	Kayla
Kerry	Kim	Kristen
Kristen S.	Lynda	Marcia
Mark	Mary P.	Millie
Pauly	Phoebe	Phyllis & John
Raymond	Sandy	Stas

And the homeless, may they have a hot meal and a warm and safe place to lay their heads.

Kelly, for her transition to spirit
Fred Davis, for his transition to spirit

And for our companion animals

Timmy (cat)
J (cat)
Louie (cat)



the olmstead healing center

David LeClair, certified spiritualist healer
private healing by appointment only
28 riverside street
danvers
978-774-2559

prayer for spiritual healing

I ask the Great Unseen Healing Force to remove all obstructions from my mind and body and to Restore me to Perfect Health. I ask this in all Sincerity and Honesty, and I will do my part.

I ask this Great Unseen Healing Force to help both present and absent ones who are in need of help, and to restore them to perfect health. I put my Trust in the Love and Power of God.

healing services

Healing is available every Sunday evening beginning at 6:30 pm. The healing service begins with prayer and song followed by a meditation, at which time our healers are available to give healing through the laying-on-of-hands.

The congregation participates by contributing their own healing thoughts and prayers during the meditation and in sending absent healing to those whose names have been placed in the healing book.

christmas memories

by **muriel herrick karolides**

'Twas the night before Christmas
And there wasn't a thing.
No wreath, no tree—those Santa would bring.
We were taught in my youth that we had to wait,
But we knew it was Christmas,
For we knew the date.
But then—somewhere 'bout four o'clock,
We jumped from our beds to search for our sock.
There on the mantle, Oh, how I did stare,
Peeping out from the top—some blonde curly hair.
An apple, an orange—some nuts so rare,
Pennies stayed in the toe if there wasn't a tear.
Some candy—a nougat so soft and sweet,
On Christmas morning, what goodies to eat.
Then we had breakfast and dishes were cleaned—
A rush to the parlor, to see what we had gleaned.
Across in a corner “Old Glory” was hung,
Upon a thin wire—so cleverly strung.
Pa-Pa then gently pulled it aside
Showing our Christmas tree—that it did hide.
Our eyes shown with wonder at presents piled high,
As each one was opened—“Oh, Oh” was the cry.
I recall that dear childhood—'Twas a wonderful time,
I've tried to remember it all—here in rhyme.

*Muriel Karolides is pastor emeritus
having celebrated her 94th birthday
in September 2007. This poem was
written by Muriel remembering the
Christmases of her early childhood
and distributed to her family and friends.
It is reprinted here with permission by
her daughter, Priscilla Herrick.*

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sunday services

all services are open to the public
newcomers welcome

student service

5:30 pm

students enrolled in development class demonstrate mediumship by inspirational speaking and spirit greetings.
a light lunch is served following the early student service.

regular service

begins with healing at 6:30 pm

featured guest speaker and message medium schedule as follows:

november 25

deodi and oshada

december 2

sue gehling

december 9

carole lynn

december 16

phyllis brown

december 23 candlelight service

begins at 5:30 pm

candlelight service, pastoral committee

note: there is only one service on this sunday from 5:30 pm to 7 pm

december 30

tba

january 6

tba

january 13

maria halverson

january 20

john sullivan

january 27

jacquie belleville

events

saturday, december 15

7:00 pm

new age music, holiday concert
with featured artist brad
mehrning

tickets: \$12 in advance or \$15
at the door. Tickets for advance
purchase are available before
or immediately after all church
functions.

Email

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

for details.

**saturdays, the drawing
room**

private readings with spirit-
inspired drawings by the rev.
elizabeth gosselin, nst.

by appointment only

call 978-774-1571

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

all emails are read

