

# glad tidings

a newsletter of  
the first spiritualist  
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

## faith among friends

*by kathleen byrnes*

*The following is a submission by a friend of the church. She has requested that the letter "i" when used as pronoun not be capitalized and offers an alternative spelling for heaven, which, as editor, I am honoring. pcizewski*

A few weeks ago when i heard Pat Cizewski ask for articles to be published in the upcoming issue of *Glad Tidings* i didn't give it much thought. But then she said the invitation was extended not only to members of the church community, but also to those of us who are not "officially" of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem...and that got me thinking that i'd like to share a bit about myself and why i choose to return to your Sunday evening gatherings.

i have been attending the services at 34 Warren Street more or less religiously since last October. i was not "seeking" or on a "quest" of any sort when i first came through the doors, but i found a certain comfort in bringing myself out on a Sunday evening to partake of Spirit with this collective. i liked that i found myself smiling on the way home, reflecting upon the evening's offerings, the social connections, and the openness.

The realm of Spirit is not new to me. i was raised in the Irish Catholic tradition which suited me well at first (for i have a taste for pomp, costumes and ritual) but soon enough i was led beyond the official doctrines of the church. From my youngest days, when i took my seat in the church pew with my family i would see and hear not only the "celestial choir," but also Mother Mary, Joan of Arc, and others whose life stories were based on the lessons of Love and Compassion. Sunday mornings were "Heaven on Earth" for me until i started to share my experiences with the catechism teachers, who told the priests, who told me that i wasn't experiencing what i thought i was experiencing. They said that direct contact with Heaven was available only to the priests. At first i was devastated, but i soon came to realize that the priests could not see what i saw or hear what i heard and this comforted me. Also, when i was five years old, my best friend was struck by a car and died. She came to me, and to this day i can remember verbatim the words we silently exchanged as her spirit left Earth and she returned to Source—she promised i would never be alone, that she would always be with me.

—continued on page 11

### Editor's Note:

Visit our website at [www.firstspiritualistsalem.org](http://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](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org).

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### inside this issue

<b>a full house .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>president's report ....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>healing .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>omar khayyam .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>where does god belong?.. ..</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>victorian weekend ...</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>journey to the source .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>do you believe in miracles?.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>the prayerful corner.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>schedule.....</b>	<b>12</b>

### *glad tidings*

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association of churches since 1894

### **pastoral committee**

**mary ciaramitaro**  
**patricia cizewski**  
**priscilla herrick, cm**  
**nancy karolides, cm**  
**david leclair, ch**

ch—commissioned healer  
cm—certified medium



## a full house

by pat cizewski, editor

**T**his issue is a full house offering broad-based participation with articles not only submitted by church members, but by friends of the church, too. How delightful that congregants are moved to contribute to our spiritual community! This has been the intent and focus of *Glad Tidings* since its “makeover” and I cannot express how heartwarming it is to receive these thoughtful contributions.

Which leads me to ask:

*Where is yours?*

In development classes and from the podium mediums give us messages to begin putting pen to paper and bring forth our inspired words and drawings. Each of us has a story to tell...and so do our spirit guides and loved ones who wish to tell the story (as our hymn goes) through us. Whether it is poetry or a sketch, a photograph of inspiring beauty, a personal story of spiritual triumph, or an inspired view of current social issues or situations...consider submitting it to share. It helps no one collecting dust in the either drawer of your mind or your desk.

If inspirational messages/artwork is not your forte, perhaps you’ve read a book or seen a movie that you felt was especially spiritual or had a message akin to Spiritualist teachings that you would like to review. Or, if you have attended an event at the First Spiritualist Church of Salem, we encourage you to share your experiences in these pages of *Glad Tidings*.

The prayerful corner makes an appearance this issue from an unlikely source, a social networking utility available on the Web (I’ll refrain from naming it because there are several and I don’t want to inadvertently give advertising to one over the others). I happened across a list put together by member Patti Brooks and was so struck by its wonderful spiritual messages that I requested she allow it to appear in *Glad Tidings*. Spirit can inspire us in so many, many ways!

Remember that we are not here to hide our inner light from the world; rather, we have been brought into physical existence to share our uniqueness with one another.

On another note, March and April are busy months featuring Peace Week, the annual class night, our first annual Victorian Weekend, a visit from Austrian/New Zealander medium John Q. Goldingham, and a workshop by Nancy Karolides and I. As always, stay tuned to the website at <http://www.firstspiritualistsalem.org> for up-to-the-minute information as well as downloads of our newsletters and event flyers. This issue of the newsletter does not feature all of the flyers, so visit the website often to obtain copies as they are made available.

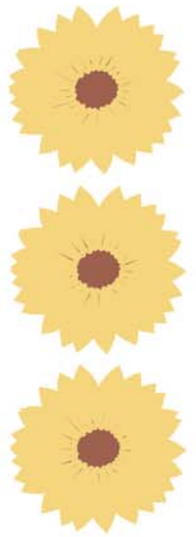
Your feedback is encouraged. Emails can be sent to [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org) with the subject line, To the Editor. You can also submit newsletter materials through this same email address.

## 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



**M**arch is a very special month. To those of Irish ancestry, St. Patrick's Day brings a time of pride, joy, celebration, and remembrance.

To our church it is time for our semi annual members meeting. Time for reflection on the progress of our church: its needs, its accomplishments, and our responsibilities.

We reviewed our finances, discussed our accomplishments. Addressed our needs and voted for members to serve as delegates to our NSAC convention in Houston, TX.

To individuals, this should also be a time of personal reflection. How have I helped my church and how can I help my church grow and prosper, not only financially, but more importantly, SPIRITUALLY?

To Spiritualists around the world, this time of year is a reminder of the wonderful contribution of those two young girls, Maggie and Katie Fox. March 31 is recognized as the founding of Modern Spiritualism; the night that the girls bridged the gap between this earthly world and the Spirit world. Proof that there is no death, there are no dead; that life is continuous.

To the NSAC, our parent organization, this time of year is a reminder that the NSAC has acquired the Hydesville property (the cottage where Modern Spiritualism was born) and is continuing to develop the site. This cottage is a reminder that that our religion, like each of us, comes from humble beginnings and it is up to each to grow and develop as Spiritual beings as this beautiful religion of Spiritualism continues to grow and shine the light of truth onto this world.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bradley Gosselin, President, Board of Trustees

## **Congratulations to the church delegates for the NSAC Convention:**

Delegates to represent the church charter: Nancy Karolides, Rev. Elizabeth Gosselin

Delegates to represent the membership: Laurie Drake, Deb McGee

Alternate: Priscilla Herrick

If you are an active member in good standing of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem and want to serve as a delegate or alternate to the NSAC convention, please speak with Rev. Bradley Gosselin. We have three alternate slots available, and one delegate seat is tentatively filled and may need a reappointment. The 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is October 4 to October 9 in Houston, TX. The hosts for this convention are The First Church of Divine Science (Houston) and the First Spiritualist Church of Austin (Austin).

Delegates attend convention meetings and vote on issues of policy and finance helping to set the direction for the entire body of NSAC churches. It is a wonderful opportunity to network, meet Spiritualists from around the country, and do your part to influence and direct the future course of Spiritualism in this country.

{Plus, the food is great!}

For more information regarding the convention visit the NSAC website at:

<http://www.nsac.org/convention.htm#Contents>

**2009**

## **meeting schedule**

### **guild meeting dates**

march 15

april 19

may 17

june 21

**meetings begin 3:30 pm**

**guild meetings are open to the public. you needn't be a member to attend and offer your ideas and energy. everyone is welcome!**

**to submit ideas email  
[info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org)**

## **board of trustees**

**officers**

**rev. bradley gosselin, president**

**patricia cizewski, vice president**

**mary ciaramitaro, secretary**

**joyce, de fazio, treasurer**

**trustees**

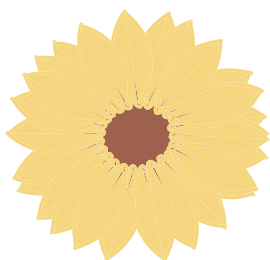
**naomi ellis**

**gerry ganey**

**gary hansen**

**sue hinckley**

**david leclair**



## Healing

If you know of someone who is in need of healing, please submit the name through our website at [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto: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	Corrinne
Frank	Helen	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Jim	Karen	Kayla
Kim	Kristen	Kristen S.	Madesyn
Mark	Norman	Peg	Phoebe
Rick	Sharon	Stas	

*We also place the names of our companion animals on our healing list. If you have an animal in need of healing, please do not hesitate to place it on our healing list.*

## upcoming healing saturdays

The First Spiritualist Church of Salem is open one Saturday each month from noon to 3 pm for healing. Come in for 5 minutes or for the full three hours. Meditate, pray, send absent healing, and/or receive a healing by laying-on-of-hands.

**march 14 • april 11 • may 9 • june 13**



## 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.

## omar khayyam

by brother nick

I first read Omar Khayyam when I was 14 years old and it had a profound effect on me...one which I now realize these 60 odd years later. It influenced my thinking, my philosophy of life, and enabled me to finally understand Eastern philosophy after many years of grappling with it. Omar resided between the East and the West, with Greece to the West and India to the East....in a way, he represents a bridge between two.

Although Omar was not, strictly speaking, a poet, he did write his testament in quatrains. If Omar was not a poet, then who was he? According to Omar, himself, he was a very ordinary person, and if he considered himself anything, it was as a teacher using the Socratic method to bring his students to realize the truths he was trying to teach, rather than to simply preach at them. But in reality, he was a very accomplished person.

As a boy, he came from the merchant class, but was fortunate to have been sent to study with the Imam Mowaffak, where he met two other boys who became lifelong friends. While at school, the boys made a pact that if any of them should achieve success, that he would share it with his two buddies.

Their lives went in separate paths and ultimately, one of them became the Vizier to the Sultan Alp Arslan. The second boy, named Hasan, returned to claim his reward by appointment to a high position in the kingdom, but by court intrigue, he ultimately fell to disgrace. Then, Omar was discovered and asked what he would like as his reward. Omar was much older and wiser by now, and said that he did not want any appointment; rather, he wanted to be allowed to live in the shadow of the palace and to ply his own trade. So the Vizier granted this and gave him a yearly pension so that he wanted for nothing and was able to pursue his studies. Omar believed that every man should have

an occupation, and so he stitched canvas to make into tents, and this is where his name comes from: Khayyam means "the maker of tents." Today, he is known as Omar Khayyam. However, being close to the palace, he was called on regularly for service to the Sultan. Because of his education in mathematics, he became an astronomer, and eventually was responsible for correcting and rewriting the calendar. (Although in what was then Persia, his *Rubaiyat* is not honored, his writings on algebra are reprinted and accepted widely.)

Needless to say, because of his closeness to the Sultan and the influence Omar had, he made many enemies and was the subject of much slander. Omar was well aware of this and when he wrote his testament, he refers to it several times, but lets his philosophy answer any charges. Interestingly, he has been maligned even to the present day by people who do not understand his writings. Many people, take Omar's words very literally, not realizing that he is using simile, metaphor and allegory to express his ideas, just as great teachers before him did, the best example of which is Jesus.

So, before giving you some of his quatrains, I must explain his basic imagery. Omar compares life to wine. Wine was the common beverage in the old world. It, along with bread, was considered the staff of life. So when he says, "drain the cup while you have it in your hand" he is saying "live your life to the fullest while you have it."

Another of his images is the tavern. We think this implies wild behavior; however, the word tavern comes from taberna, meaning "dwelling place." He often calls it a caravanserai, which means a place where travelers stay when journeying. We would call it an inn. Hence, another image: Life is a journey, and we travelers stop at the tavern to rest and eat and drink

before continuing on our way. Another section of his *Rubaiyat* is called "Kusa-Nama," meaning the *Book of Pots*. In this, the potter is God and the pots are we human beings. As the pots converse in the evening in the holy month of Ramazan, we hear all manner of opinions about God and our lives. He answers what was (and still is in some places) the idea that ours is a vengeful and punishing god and also the claim that there is no afterlife. He also considers the question of the imperfection of God's creation.

*Listen again. One evening at the Close of Ramazan, ere the better Moon arose, in that old Potter's shop I stood alone with the clay Population round in rows.*

*And strange to tell, among that Earthen Lot some could articulate, while others not; and suddenly one more impatient cried— "Who is the Potter, pray, and who the Pot?"*

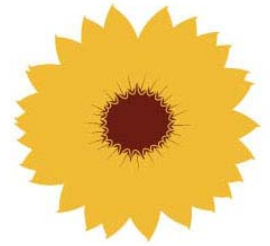
*Then said another— "Surely not in vain my substance from the common Earth was ta'en, that He who subtly wrought me into Shape should stamp me back to common Earth again."*

*Another said— "Why ne'er a peevish Boy would break the Bowl from which he drank in joy; shall He that made the Vessel in pure Love and Fancy, in an after Rage destroy!"*

*None answer'd this; but after Silence, spake a Vessel of a more ungainly Make: "They sneer at me for leaning all awry; What? did the Hand tehn of the Potter shake?"*

*Said one— "Folks of a surly Tapster tell, and daub his Visage with the Smoke of Hell; they talk of some strict Testing of us—Pish! He's a Good Fellow, and 'twill all be well."*

*Then said another with a long-drawn Sigh, "My clay with long oblivion is gone dry; but, fill me with the old familiar Juice, me thinks I might recover by and by."*



## where does god belong?

by patricia cizewski

**T**hough I have no children of my own, I have siblings and many close friends who do. Some have chosen to raise their children within a specific religion whereas others believe that children should be free of the fetters of any religious instruction whatsoever. The parents who have chosen no religious instruction for their children have voiced to me the notion that when their children come of age, they can join the religion that suits them best.

I don't wholly disagree with the premise of giving your offspring the freedom to choose their own beliefs. However, I wonder whether adults who have never been exposed to a consistent concept of God would feel the need to engage a spiritual journey? Moreover, if an adult feels a void in his or her life, does it occur to the individual who has no faith base that the problem might be of a spiritual nature rather than a material or psychological one? How does a person know she or he is missing that which she or he has never known?

We do not forgo educating children in mathematics, science, or literature with the argument that because we do not know if the child will eventually prefer physics to zoology, algebra to geometry, or prose to poetry, we shall not expose the child to any of it. We would consider this approach to "education" ridiculous. So, too, it makes sense to educate our children about God to provide them with the spiritual basics that allow them, as they mature, to explore other philosophies and faiths in greater depth and complexity.

At the same time as I bear witness to a number of parents opting out of religious exposure for their children, I simultaneously see a rise in emails, editorials, and so forth calling for a "return" to prayer in school and at government functions; posting the *Ten Commandments* in courtrooms, keeping the *Pledge of Allegiance* with "one nation under God" intact, and maintaining "In God We Trust" on our currency. These editorials claim that to "remove" God will create a Godless society, as if our society's moral and spiritual character is dependent on public displays of God.

First, there are some facts we need to remember in this present day debate over where God belongs. God has not always been mentioned on our currency, or for that matter, in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. For example, "In God We Trust" didn't appear on US currency until September 1864, three years into the Civil War. If you are of my parents' generation, then you should remember when the "*Pledge*" was recited as:

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

"...under God" was added by Congress in 1954 during the McCarthy era in reaction to the "atheist communist" panic that swept our country.

Second, I don't ever remember bowing my head in prayer in school. I started kindergarten in September 1965, so I am again perplexed at the call to "return" prayer to our schools...I didn't realize prayer was a part of public education.

So, is it rational to claim that when we "remove God" from our public, secular institutions, we become a Godless society?

Instead, I would argue that when we remove God from our hearts and our homes is when we become a Godless society.

As a Spiritualist, it bothers me not at all when a prayer is offered at a government event, that God is referenced on our currency, or if the *Ten Commandments* are posted in our courtrooms. Frankly, I would welcome the display of our Spiritualist *Declaration of Principles* together with the spiritual guidelines of all religions in our courtrooms for consideration by those serving and being served by our justice system! What I find offensive as a Spiritualist, however, is the condemnation of those who protest placing God within the public or government domain; for if nothing else, freedom of speech and thought matters in a truly free society. We needn't agree with each other, but we do need to respect and even encourage the right of dissent...ALL of our rights depend on this most important and fundamental American value.

As Spiritualists, we have always respected and appreciated the First Amendment because our religion is so often disparaged by those who do not understand. Can you imagine if the right to worship as we choose was obliterated? Or equally disturbing, if we were forced to live under the thumb of governmental reli-



# VICTORIAN



WEEKEND MARCH 28 & MARCH 29

## SATURDAY

VICTORIAN **SEANCE**

VICTORIAN **RE-ENACTMENTS**

\$30 INDIVIDUAL

\$40 PER COUPLE

## SUNDAY

VICTORIAN **TEA**

\$10 INDIVIDUAL

\$15 PER COUPLE

VICTORIAN **SERVICE**

WITH SPIRIT GREETINGS

FREE/OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC

A LOVE OFFERING IS COLLECTED DURING SERVICE

## DETAILS

VICTORIAN DRESS WELCOME,  
BUT NOT MANDATORY

PRICE OF SATURDAY TICKET  
INCLUDES DINNER  
EVENT BEGINS 5 PM

PRICE OF SUNDAY DOOR  
ADMISSION INCLUDES FINGER  
SANDWICHES & PASTRIES  
TEA BEGINS 5<sup>30</sup> PM  
SERVICE BEGINS 6<sup>30</sup> PM

TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 1

LIMITED SEATING

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
BEFORE AND AFTER ALL CHURCH  
FUNCTIONS OR VIA WEBSITE  
[WWW.FIRSTSPIRITUALISTSALEM.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTSPIRITUALISTSALEM.ORG)



gious sanction? Spiritualists have (historically) been more sensitive and tolerant of other religious traditions, and ever vigilant to protect the freedom of all people and the freedom of religion granted to us by the *US Constitution in The Bill of Rights*, which includes the separation of church and state. It was in 1791 that the First Amendment to the Constitution granted every American these rights: the freedom of religion, a free press, and freedom of expression.

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Our nation is becoming evermore complex and diverse. It challenges us to maintain and uphold the promise of the Constitution...not only in the spirit of that document, but in our daily practices. Whereas our government asserts that we are all created equal, Spiritualism asserts that we are all interconnected. Spiritualism is a religion of tolerance, compassion, and understanding; thus, we are obligated to uphold the rights of ALL people—when we protect the one, we protect all. In so doing, we protect our right to continue to practice this beautiful and oft misunderstood religion of Modern Spiritualism. Therefore, I respect a person's right to request that references to God in the public/government domain be withdrawn in an effort to maintain the separation of church and state. If that means that we relinquish some treasured notions and practices for the protection of this democratic American value, then it is a consideration well worth *deliberating* and *debating*...but not condemning.

Do not think that I am advocating for the removal of God from the *Pledge of Allegiance*, from our currency, or even for the *Ten Commandments* to disappear from those courtrooms which have them displayed. I am, however, arguing against criticizing and condemning those whose consciences move them to protest references to the religious/spiritual within secular arenas with the hysterical claims that to do so would lead us on a path toward a "Godless society."

Spiritualism is a faith of open mindedness and interconnectedness; it has no concept and no room for the practice of condemnation. If the goal is to keep every American mindful of God's presence in

our lives and our society, then I arrive at the beginning—it is the responsibility of parents to teach children the basics: the existence of the Infinite, the immortality of the soul, and the Golden Rule. These are the tools upon which a broadened spiritual exploration and expression are based. That we post the *Ten Commandments* in a courtroom matters little; that a child understands that there is a creative, loving force in the universe that brings forth all life, light, and goodness matters much.

Where does God belong? Our generation is addressing this question perhaps as no other since that which gifted us this democracy. As Spiritualists living according to our *Declaration of Principles*, we have the burden and the privilege of approaching these questions with the understanding that everyone, including atheists and the devout alike, are Divine expressions of God. We must also be mindful that we are a minority religion and we have been castigated for our beliefs and practices. Perhaps the best we can offer to this debate is to serve as a bridge of understanding between opposing camps...to be the voice of reason and tolerance between the zealous believers and the equally zealous nonbelievers.

Ultimately, if God does not reside in our hearts, then God's presence elsewhere matters not at all.

*The views expressed in this article are those of the author and are not meant to be representative of The First Spiritualist Church of Salem. This article is not reflective of the position, official or otherwise, of the Pastoral Committee, Board of Trustees, or NSAC.*





# John Q. Goldingham

International Medium  
from  
New Zealand

*presents*

## Journey to the Source

*Be guided on your own inner journey as you discover the Spirit world that exists within you. The Spirit world is available to everyone and you can connect with your Guardian Angel and/or Guides. This connection can help both you and those around you by offering the guidance needed to handle life's challenges as they arrive. This course is for everyone who is seeking answers to life's many questions...the answers lie within.*

**When:** Saturday, April 4, 2009  
Time to be announced

**Where:** First Spiritualist Church of Salem  
34 Warren St., Salem, MA

**Cost:** To be announced

To place your name on the list to receive up-to-date information email [info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org) or visit [www.firstspiritualistsalem.org](http://www.firstspiritualistsalem.org)



## *do you believe in miracles?*

*by phyllis brewer brown*

**I** recall my oldest sister telling me that our mother was very sick and that she didn't have much time left. Later in the day, she met with Mom to discuss any concerns Mom might have.

My sister assured me that she was not going to keep anything from me and would keep me informed. She said that one of the questions my mother asked was, "Does Phyllis know?" Her concern for me was warranted because of all her children, I was the clingy one. The next day I went to the hospital to see Mom. The room was still, my heart in suspended animation; she took my hand and said, "Phyllis, do you believe in miracles?"

To which I replied, "Yes, very much."

"Well, I'm going to be o.k. and well again, and I'll move in with you and sit and watch the boats on the water."

Not wanting to burst her bubble, I nodded my head as she patted my hand. I knew in my heart of hearts that it would take a miracle of all miracles for her to ever be well again. In the months that followed, she kept close tabs on me and I on her as we proceeded on our paths. It felt like my path was strewn with boulders—my personal life was in transition and my rock was crumbling. Where was the miracle?

*Time passes and I find myself at her bedside keeping her comfortable in her last minutes on the earth plane. I see vapors rising to and fro from her high heart area, checking with the nurse she explains that it is condensation and Mom's body is cooling down. I accept that for a few minutes until I realize the vapors move with a mindful motion according to what I say, it would stop to listen and then, as if trying to decide in what direction it should move—higher, lower, back and forth—each time gathering more strength, braver now, the vapor rises to my eye level.*

I knew then that I was witness to her spirit and ectoplasm (I would later learn this new word). That moment in time, all was revealed and understood—a gift of all gifts.

My understanding and faith is unshakable.

Years have passed, the path is smooth. Mom's spirit is alive and well. We share a house on the river and watch the boats sail by. The ever-changing currents in the water remind us of time. The river, a natural wind tunnel, allows a path for the air currents. Someone has called down the wind, it comes full throttle tunneling down the river removing all things negative and refreshing the air with newness, butterflies and milkweed abound.

## **Healing Saturdays**

*If you have yet to experience a Healing Saturday through the First Spiritualist Church of Salem's Healing Center, you have missed the exquisite experience of receiving love from Spirit. Please give yourself the gift of healing—renew, refresh, rejuvenate with the spring and experience the joy and comfort of the healing touch.*

**noon to 3 pm**  
healing in the sanctuary  
refreshments in olmstead hall

**march 14**

**april 11**

**may 9**

**june 13**

stay 5 minutes or the entire 3 hours

That message became a beacon in the years to come as i "lost" 14 friends before i reached 21 years of age. The "dance with death" seemed part of my destiny as it compelled me headlong into a lifelong passion for comparative religions and spiritual philosophy as methods of understanding or accepting the unlimited potentials of Life itself.

i have bathed in Buddhism, built sweat lodges with Native American elders, swirled like a whirling dervish with Sufis, quested with simplified Qabala, honored with Hindus, and embraced the Divine Feminine with Goddess gals. i have studied non-academic quantum physics and cried tears of joy while listening to NASA astronauts relay stories of their hearts' unfolding as they viewed Mother Gaia from outer space. i am a minister of the Universal Life Church which proposes only two tenets—religious freedom for all, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you (sounds familiar, eh?)

i am also a "flatliner." i have had a clinical death. When someone medically dies and then comes "back to life," the authorities call this a near death experience. As someone who has been there and back, i refer to this as a "return from death" experience, for both my heart and my cellular memory are imprinted with an expanded knowing of the eternal nature of life that previously eluded me. Recently, i have had the deep honor and pleasure of being interviewed by the Rev. John Sullivan of the First Spiritualist Church of Springfield for his radio program and webcast, *Beyond Life*. Although i have shared my experience many times through an alter ego i call "Dead Gal Walkin'...Dead Gal Talkin," it was wonderful to know that those who would be listening this time already possess a firm connection with the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, which are the expression of Infinite Intelligence. To know that the audience is not fearful, but rather is comforted by the subject of intelligent life without bodies is a rare occurrence (to put it mildly). It is precisely this quality and characteristic that brings me out on cold and snowy winter's nights to 34 Warren Street in Salem... to share with all of you a faith and understanding of the continuum of Life that bridges beyond the door called death.

*NAMASTE and PEACE.*

### **patti's list** *the ponderings of patti brooks*

Good Friends are right up there with my family. You can forgive most things and hash out the rest.

I can't stand being around negative people. They are like poison.

Why whine about the things that are wrong...fix what you can and accept the rest.

I think that people that concentrate on how sick they are never get well.

It took me a long time to learn the lessons I have learned. Money isn't all that important. You need it to live, but so much else should come first.

I tend to expect people to be good, It takes me time to see otherwise. You have to prove it.

When you grow up in a fractured environment, you can choose to make life better.

Choice is the number one gift to the human race.

My favorite book is Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand. Everyone should have to read it.

It is so much easier to be nice to people than to be rude and mean. Kindness is so much better.

I am still learning.

Being a Spiritualist has had an impact that changed me forever. I am grateful to have Spirit in my life.

I try to keep life simple. That can be hard for a Capricorn.

I love my life.

My goal is to do the best I can every day.

My past is my past...I look forward.

## **upcoming workshops**

### **april 4 *journey to the source***

with john q. goldingham of new zealand

### **april 25 *believe! think it, believe it, be it***

with patricia cizewski and nancy karolides

check [www.firstspiritualistsalem.org](http://www.firstspiritualistsalem.org) for more information



glad tidings 12

## 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:

**march 8**  
tba

**april 26**  
maria halvorsen

**march 15**  
sirry balderstoddir

**may 3**  
tba

**march 22**  
annual class night

**may 10**  
tba

**march 29**  
victorian sunday  
patricia cizewski, speaker

**may 17**  
tba

**april 5**  
john q. goldingham  
from new zealand

**may 24**  
memorial day service  
patricia cizewski

**april 12**  
rev. elizabeth gosselin

**may 31**  
tba

**april 19**  
jacqui belleville

## e v e n t s

### saturdays, the drawing room

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

by appointment only  
call 978-774-1571

### monday circles

held one monday per month,  
space is limited to 12  
participants.

call 978-774-1571 for the  
schedule and to reserve your  
place.

circles are conducted by the  
rev. elizabeth gosselin and  
nancy karolides, cm.

for more information about the  
church or the religion of  
spiritualism contact:

[info@firstspiritualistsalem.org](mailto:info@firstspiritualistsalem.org)

all emails are read

