



NSAC News

National Spiritualist Association of Churches, Lily Dale, New York

www.nsac.org

November 2020

Letter from the President

Hello Dear Friends,

How wonderful to see all of you who joined the Board at its Gathering. I know I speak not only for myself but for the other Board members in saying, we miss seeing you! One of the best parts of our annual Convention was renewing friendships in person. Yes, Zoom, email, Facebook, social media is a good alternative in this pandemic time, but you can't get a hug from your computer.

This past Saturday your Board had a zoom meeting to handle a number of administrative matters. We ran out of time, and will continue it next week. Some of the items raised during our gathering are being finalized in terms of procedure. They include zoom ordination examinations and affidavits for student messages given during a zoom service.

As many of you know, I have served as a volunteer chaplain at Alexandria Hospital in Virginia. During my pastoral skills class in 1995 we visited the hospital, and I "knew" that was where my calling was. I have been able to continue serving as a chaplain from Florida as we shifted into "virtual" chaplaincy through secure telephone calls. Through chaplaincy I have met numerous individuals of all faith traditions and I am sharing with you a lovely prayer for our times.

A Prayer As I Put On My Mask

Infinite Intelligence,

As I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacredness in the wearing of this cloth—Let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace"

A tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully, and full of care to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner and each breath that it holds be filled with your love.

Amen.

—Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Moderator of the United Church of Canada (adapted slightly by Christine Krithades)

Many blessings to you all during this month of Thanksgiving. May you each feel the abundance of the Spirit.

—Christine Krithades, J.D., OM, NST, CH, President

Pastor Marilyn Kalna



Fifth Spiritualist Church of St. Louis, NSAC announces the transition of our Pastor Emerita, Marilyn Kalna, on October 5, 2020. Marilyn served

as the pastor for 11.5 years and retired December 2018. She came to Spiritualism like so many do, making sense of the loss of loved ones.

She and her husband lost their daughter Tracy to illness at a young age. Then Marilyn lost her husband, Ronald, in his mid to late forties. Trying to make sense of loss and work through her anger and grief, she searched for answers from God through various faiths. Spirit brought her to the Fifth, and it forever change the path of her life.

She loved to talk about her life experiences, and how she found Spiritualism. She would tell you that she never would have thought that she could be a medium and communicate with those who transitioned, let alone become Pastor of a church.

During her time at the Fifth, she shared her knowledge, to teach hundreds of people about Spiritualism, spirituality, Spiritualist healing, mediumship, and platform decorum. Countless stories have poured into the

church about the positive impact she had on people's lives mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Marilyn was always helping people and spreading the truths of Spiritualism.

She felt a strong connection with the founder of the Fifth, The Reverend Emma Ordop. She would spend time at the church in meditation, prayer, and just speaking with the Reverend Emma Ordop. We have no doubt that once she spends time with her family in spirit as well as Rev. Emma in Summerland.

—Bill Freeman, Interim Pastor
Fifth Spiritualist Church St. Louis, NSAC

Certifications Issued

Certifications have been granted as follows, during the period from April 1 through November 10, 2020.

Commissioned Spiritualist Healer

Jeffrey D. Ganey, Salem, MA

Certified Medium

Suzanne Contreras, Sacramento, CA
Deirdre O'Hara, Falls Church, VA

Licentiate Minister

Sandra Bulson, Willimantic, CT

Ordained Minister: The following have met the requirements to receive the Rite of Ordination, which is the final step in achieving the Ordained Minister credential.

Kathleen Askildsen, Old Greenwich, CT
Elizabeth Hoy, Old Greenwich, CT
Frank Kotowski, East Setauket, NY
Jean Mandeville, Willimantic, CT
Susan Safko, Old Greenwich, CT

Congratulations to these members in their achievements. They have continued their Spiritualist education.

From the Department of Missionaries

As Spiritualists, we have often heard it said that "Spiritualism is a religion of conviction, not conversion." This is also an apt description for our Missionary Department. I was

recently asked by several new NSAC members what the missionaries do.

NSAC Missionaries are not sent to persuade or convert others. Our purpose is to serve to help existing churches and auxiliaries, to help in the opening of new churches, and to respond to inquiries about Spiritualism from the general public and requests from new MPI students. Even during this time of the pandemic, the Missionary Department is here to connect with you, provide support and encouragement and communicate with you by phone, text, email and video conferencing or in ways most appropriate for your needs. The missionary assigned to your auxiliary or state were presented in the September NSAC newsletter.

If you have not yet been contacted by your missionary and would like to be contacted, please let me know. As we approach the Holiday Season, we can acknowledge that this year will be unlike those we have experienced in the past. Knowing that we are spirit now and always and that the love we share with one another, as well as with those in spirit, brings comfort to us, even if we are not able to join with family and friends to physically celebrate.

As Spiritualists, may we focus on our gratitude for the many opportunities that are often revealed during times of obstacles. May we give thanks to Infinite Spirit for the love of those in both the seen and unseen realms. Stay safe and well. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

With love and prayers,

—Pamela Bollinger, OM, Director
Department Missionaries
pjobollinger@gmail.com
650-773-6743

Serving Churches as A Visiting Credentialed Worker

Are you thinking about serving another church? Are you a church looking to have people serve? What is that process? What is the recommended etiquette for serving? What about Mental Mediumship Affidavits?

If you are a member of an NSAC church either student or credentialed worker, check your church/camp by-

laws. Some auxiliaries have in their bylaws that a member serving another church must get the approval from either the Pastor or the Pastoral Committee. If this is not in your church bylaws, you can serve without asking; however, it would be polite and respectful to at least inform the Pastor or Pastoral Committee of your desire to serve.

Students, should seek out to their Pastor/ Pastoral Committee for a letter of recommendation.

Don't hesitate to ask students to serve, as it is the only way they can become credentialed. You may wish to talk to the student and their Pastor/Pastoral Committee. Of course, there will always be exceptions and these are only suggestions (unless of course it is in your By-laws). We all desire Spiritualism and the NSAC to be role models for Spirit. Following some of these examples can help forgo any possible challenges.

Student mediums are actively working on the Morris Pratt Course to become a Certified Medium. When serving a church service, it's important to ask the church leadership to help you with your affidavit process by introducing you as an MPI student. During this time of our world pandemic, the steps for the Mental Mediumship Affidavit is as follows:

In person Church Services: On the nsac.org website under forms, download the newly revised Mental Mediumship Affidavit. I would print a dozen or so and have them readily available to those who are coming to church. During the announcements let the congregation introduce the student workers and how the affidavit works. Make sure that the affidavits are signed by the witnesses. Please see the newly revised affidavits as they now follow our bylaws on who can sign as witnesses.

The witnesses must be present and witness the Spirit Greeting. Reminder ALL Affidavits can be obtained only during a religious service. This affidavit must be completed all on the same day of the service in which the message was given. Circles, demonstrations, and galleries are not valid for affidavits, as these are not religious services.

Online Church Services: On the nsac.org website under forms, again download the newly revised Mental Mediumship Affidavit. This is a PDF fillable form. Each church meeting online should download this form and keep it in the computer file. The file can be sent to recipient of the greeting or uploaded in the chat box. Once the recipient has filled out their portion of the PDF, file it should be emailed back to the chairperson/ Pastor/ or Pastoral Committee.

Then if you know how, you can add the electronic signature for each witness. Please see the newly revised affidavits as they now follow our bylaws on who can sign as witnesses. The witnesses must be present and witness the Spirit Greeting. This type of affidavit can have a date range from 3-7 business days. **Please note on the affidavit that it was an online Church Service.** We recommend that completed affidavits be returned to the student for their records until they are ready to send them in for testing. Thank you all for continuing the message of Spiritualism in these uncharted times.

—Stacy Kopchinski, OM, NSAC Board of Trustees

Past Issues of TNS For Sale

As mentioned in the September *NSAC News*, copies of back issues of *The National Spiritualist Summit* are available for purchase. 35 copies of the January/February 2020 issue are for sale. Below is an image of the front cover of the January/February 2020 issue.



Back copies of other issues will be offered for sale over time. Each copy is available for \$10.00. Complete your archive li-

brary or give a gift with back issues.

Articles included in this issue are as listed:

The 9/11 Memorial Museum

Excerpts of Journal of Achsa W. Sprague

CSE Receives Best of Falls Church Award

An Interview with Stewart Alexander, Part 4

Looking Back...

Moving Forward...

Media Watch

Claire's Prayer

What Does NSAC Do for Us?

Celebration at Spiritualist Church of Eternal Life

Sermon: We All Need Love in Our Life

NSAC Convention 2019 Coverage

Purchase your issues by email: nsactns@nsac.org or can call: 631-316-1588.

—Frank Kotowski
TNS Summit Editor

Long-Range Strategic Plan Reroute!

The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has rerouted both the availability of, and member access to, the NSAC's Long-Range Strategic Plan. For details on how the Plan got to today, please refer to the September *NSAC News*.

Taking a cue from the LRPC's original 2003 Mission Statement—"... to help the NSAC Board implement actions and policies that will encourage fresh ideas and well-focused implementation ..."—the LRPC has posted the proposed NSAC Long-Range Strategic Plan and all of its supporting documents in a secure Google Drive file. Members may access this file at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19aAsraZnW9A73M_kkXH0120f2VEvKHQ1?usp=sharing

There members will find 2MB of PDF data: the 2020 LRPC Annual Report; a 4-page Plan Overview summarizing key aspects of the Plan; the August 31 version of the 46-page Plan (including a Gantt chart depicting timelines for each of the Plan's 13 Goals), all updated through August 8 to reflect actions already taken by the Board; the 2019-2020 Activities Overview; and all 10 detailed Attach-

ments to the Plan. As the LRPC receives additional status updates from the Board, the revised Plan will be posted to keep all members fully informed and up-to-date.

The LRPC is aware how critically important it is to get the details of the Plan to the membership so members may begin familiarizing themselves with this Plan as soon as possible. To facilitate generating the greatest awareness, dialogue, and support for NSAC's planned growth and its evolution over time, leading up to the 2021 NSAC Annual Convention, the LRPC is scheduling in mid-November a series of Zoom videoconference sessions open to NSAC members to answer their questions and discuss their concerns.

The LRPC is inviting all NSAC members to choose at least one of the following Zoom sessions: Thursday, November 12 at 8 PM EST (5 PM PT), and two on Saturday, November 14 at 12 PM EST (9 AM PT) and 4 PM EST (1 PM PT). These Zoom meetings will last for 60-90 minutes each for feedback, questions and answers, and members' comments and thoughts.

The LRPC is posting the specific times for these Zoom sessions on the NSAC Online Services and Classes Facebook group. Please mark the dates and join the LRPC to discuss the future of NSAC.

The LRPC welcomes your feedback and questions. If you have questions you believe should be addressed at our Zoom meetings, please send us an e-mail with your inquiries and thoughts.

You may e-mail the LRPC at: lrpccommittee@gmail.com if you are interested in attending one of the Zoom sessions. Please specify which date and time you would prefer, and we will send you the Zoom link closer to the date. You may attend as many Zoom meetings as you would like.

The LRPC also is beginning to plan additional outreach activities closer to the 2021 NSAC Annual Convention in Seattle.

Now that the Plan is available to members, both the LRPC and the Board encourage all members and auxiliaries to download the documents in the Google file, print them, review the Plan, and discuss it with

your members. In particular, the LRPC personally invites auxiliary Board Presidents and Pastors/Pastoral Committee Chairpersons to involve yourselves in planning your national organization's future.

We encourage you to hold auxiliary membership meetings to discuss the Plan and the NSAC's future with your members. In addition, the LRPC is available on Zoom to support such auxiliary meetings; please contact us.

Each of us holds a stake in this Plan, and there are ample opportunities for members to both continue to contribute to the Plan now, and to volunteer to step up and help fully implement the Plan. All of us can celebrate what NSAC already has begun to implement and accomplish!

The NSAC/LRPC very much looks forward to receiving your input, your support, and your energy. Please forward ideas, questions, and comments to Steve Vogel, LRPC Chair at steven.j.vogel@earthlink.net or 703-241-3763.

From the Secretary

I wish to say thank you to everyone who has sent in donations to the NSAC in the past month. Several of our funds have received a financial boost thanks to you. If you would like to donate to the NSAC, you can utilize the donate button on our website at nsac.org or mail a check directly to the NSAC headquarters. If you would like your donation to go to a specific fund, please state so on your donation.

We have reached our halfway point in our conference room chairs thanks to you.

There are still a handful of auxiliaries that have not turned in their 2020 Annual Report. Please contact the NSAC headquarters if you require assistance in filing out the paperwork. The reports are our way of keeping our data base and records accurate.

Online And In-Person Religious Services

Many of our churches have been meeting through Zoom or other online services, while some churches are meeting only in person.

The NSAC website will be updated to indicate the method in which your

church is holding service. The viewers will be advised to refer to your website or social media link.

Send your current link address and how you want to be designated. (the two options will be Online and In Person). All submissions must be sent to revbonnie1216@aol.com and received no later than December 1, 2020 to be included and updated.



Spiritual Healing Requests

Spirit healings result from law-governed forces being put into operation following the sending forth of a thought directive (prayer). Spirit guides and doctors will diagnose the trouble and its cause, attention being directed to overcoming the cause, and then removing the symptoms.

Please set time aside each day to send healing thoughts for each of those listed below, that they may receive from Spirit that which is for their highest and best needs.

Catherine All COVID Patients

Your healing prayers are needed and benefit others in ways we may never know.

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 and love in the power of God.

To request Spiritual Healing

In order to respect personal privacy, you first must obtain permission from the person, or from their caretaker, to be placed on the Spiritual Healing list. Then notify the Spiritual Healing Center. Spiritual healing is directed to a specific individual. To list more than one individual from a

household or group, submit first name and the initial of the last name of each person. Names will be listed for two months unless removal sooner is requested. Names may be resubmitted if need continues.

Spiritual Healing Center
nsachealing@nsac.org

NSAC Bookstore News

We may be able to assist you when looking for a specific book.

This month's featured items are:

- Slates:** 2 slates w/carry bag, chalk
BKS 1902, \$20
- Small Trumpet:** 30", 3-piece trumpet
BKS 1903, \$50
- Large Trumpet:** 40", 4-piece trumpet
BKS 1904, \$75

Fall/Winter Hours: M,W,F 9am-4pm

Email: nsacbookstore@nsac.org

Gratitude Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize that the NSAC Service Clubs really rose to the occasion when our Annual Convention had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many thanks to them for the coordination of the virtual events including services, classes and outstanding guest speakers. We, as members of this organization were able to connect virtually to one another as well as to the world of spirit.

—Jean Mandeville
The First Spiritualist Church of
Willimantic

I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to the NSAC Service Clubs: National Spiritualist Teachers Club, Ministerial Association, Spiritualist Healers League, and Licentiate Ministers & Certified Mediums Society.

They are responsible for the week-long virtual events that occurred the week of October 11-17. All four clubs worked together as a united front to promote and spread Spiritualism and the NSAC to the world. The classes/workshops and evening services held brought numerous donations.

These clubs are continually working to bring NSAC and Spiritualism to the world. If you are interested in joining any of these clubs, you can

contact Sharon Watson, sawatson@cfl.rr.com or Stacy Kopchinski stacykopchinski@att.net. The clubs also have scholarships for students of MPI.

—JoAnn Santonocito
NSAC Secretary

Dates in Spiritualism

November 1, 1851: Event—New York Circle.

November 2, 1941: Transition—Sir Oliver Lodge (Author: *Raymond - Or Life or Death*).

November 4, 1884: Event—Barbara Ann Lockwood (a Spiritualist) became the first woman to run for President of the United States.

November 8, 1948: Transition—Margery Crandon (medium).

November 12, 1839-1892: Birthday—William Stainton Moses (Served as President of London Spiritualist Alliance).

November 14, 1849: Event—First public meeting of Modern Spiritualism, Corinthian Hall, Rochester, NY.

November 17, 1868-1938: Birthday—Thomas Grimshaw. (Co-founder of the first MPI course).

November 23, 1904 Event—Boston News Journal: *East Wall of Cellar of Fox Cottage at Hydesville, NY Caves In Revealing Skeleton and Peddler's Pack*.

November 26, 1920 Event—National Spiritualist Association changed its name to National Spiritualist Association of USA.

NSAC News

Published monthly by the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, 13 Cottage Row, PO Box 217, Lily Dale, New York 14752. 716-595-2000, www.nsac.org, nsacinfo@nsac.org.

Deadline: Items to be included in the current upcoming month must be submitted to the NSAC Secretary at nsacsecretary@nsac.org no later than three days prior to the first day of the upcoming month.

Subscriptions: Make a request by email (Subject: NSAC News Request) from the address to which you want *NSAC News* sent. Your request must include: your name; and your church or camp name. A monthly email notice will contain a link to the NSAC website page from which a PDF copy can be viewed and downloaded.