



# The Sunflower Times

The Newsletter for the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC  
A Learning Community

August / September 2006

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Fellow Spiritualists and Friends of Spiritualism,

This summer, we have a “preview of coming attractions” taking place at the CSE. On the platform are our wonderful Morris Pratt Institute students, as they practice healing, giving sermons, and delivering messages from Spirit. Two of them Marilyn Kercher and Alexis Rolnick, have completed their written lesson material, but they are still considered “students” until they finish their practicum and become credentialed.

Our MPI students have devoted many hours of study, meditation, and preparation for their generous service to all of us. Feedback from the congregation has been remarkable. The future of our church is in their hands, and all of us are eager for them to share full ministerial duties once they are credentialed and/or ordained by NSAC.

It can be difficult for some students to step up and practice so publicly. Despite our desire to serve and to become more proficient, sometimes self-doubt or fear of rejection or failure can hold us back. Right now, there are a number of gifted students who do not feel ready to speak or give messages in public. All of us need to be reminded sometimes that Spirit asks us to take the first step—then we are supported, encouraged, and inspired from the other side. Everyone is worthy of that support and love from the Spirit realm. Feelings of unworthiness do not originate from the angel world.

I am so proud of our students. I encourage each of you to volunteer to serve Spirit and the community this summer as often as possible to develop your ministry. By taking the first step, you are guaranteed love and support from both worlds:

Love and blessings,

Rev. B. Anne Gehman



## SPEAKERS

### AUGUST 6: MARILYNE WOODSMALL

Marilyne is a CSE Member and MPI Student. She is a pioneer in bringing metaphysical teachings and Mind Body Spirit Concepts into business, education, coaching and Olympic sports. Known as “the expert on experts” in her work, Marilyne is a highly respected international trainer, author, Mind Coach® and Behavioral Modeler working in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and the Middle East. She is President of The Mind Coach® Group, Inc. and Vice President of Advanced Behavioral Modeling™, Inc. Marilyne is one of the first NLP Master Trainers in the world, is a certified Master Teacher of three forms of Reiki as well as Kuan Yin® Healing and is a practitioner of Biogenesis™ and Quantum Touch™ Healing modalities. She learned Feng Shui from Grand Master Thomas Lin Yun in the 1980's and has been teaching it ever since. She is the author of several books and CD sets and co-author of other books dealing with human typologies, business, cultural change and learning. Marilyne is also the Founder and Executive Director of The Children of Light and Wisdom Foundation™, Inc., whose mission is to help shift global consciousness through education. Her education includes a B.A. from Vassar, and an M.A. and Ph.M from Columbia University.

## SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

**AUGUST 13: TBA**

**AUGUST 20: EDMUND BUJALSKI**



Edmund Bujalski's spiritual path is intimately connected with healing. He is a Reiki Master Teacher and a student healer in the church. He continues to learn healing techniques and methods, drawing on a variety of spiritual and indigenous healing traditions. Edmund is enrolled in the Morris Pratt Institute program and is studying to become a Spiritualist minister. He has been a member of the CSE for several years and with his wife, Dee, is a member of the Lily Dale Assembly. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Business School. He lives with his family in North Carolina.

**AUGUST 27: KAREN CLARK STONE**

Karen Clark-Stone started attending CSE in 2000 while she was investigating alternatives to mainline religion for her spiritual community. A member of CSE, she is actively engaged in her souls' unfoldment and journey. She is a Reiki Master and a student of the Morris Pratt Institute. She has been a registered nurse for over forty years, and is currently employed by the Veteran's Healthcare Administration. She practices as a psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse and serves as the program manager of an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program.

**SEPT. 3: DR. WAYNE A. KNOLL**



Wayne Knoll is a former Jesuit priest who teaches modern American literature at Georgetown University. He has been one of the most popular speakers on campus over the past 33 years, and was the recipient of the The Edward B. Bunn, S.J. Award for Faculty Excellence for the year 2005 – 2006. The award is annually presented to a member of the college faculty who, in the estimation of the college senior class, is admired and respected by all students for service to Georgetown and her students in the lecture hall and on the campus. Wayne also serves as the faculty rep to the National College Athletic Association. He has served on CSE's Board of Directors as an officer for many years and currently serves as Vice-President.

**SEPT. 10: CHESLEIGH JONKER**

Chesleigh Jonker is a CSE member, a current student in the Morris Pratt Institute, and a Second Level Certified Reiki Practitioner. He served as co-chair of the Building Dedication Ceremony last October and has led fundraisers for CSE. Chesleigh gives generously of his time, in addition to preparing for the ministry of teaching and healing. In his day job, he serves as a Program Manager and Computer System Development Expert with 26 years of experience.



**SEPT. 16: RON ROBERTSON (RON WILL ALSO LEAD A WORKSHOP. SEE PAGE 3)**

Ron Robertson has been in the ministry for 20 years. He is a certified healer and has served as President of the Lily Dale Assembly. Formerly he served as its Treasurer and as the President of the Lily Dale Spiritualist Church. He has also taught for 22 years in Maryland and in Rochester, NY. He worked in the banking industry for 23 years and recently retired from managing an apartment complex in Jamestown, NY. Ron lives in Lily Dale, NY.

**SEPT. 24: RANDY BOWER**



Randy Bower moved here from Denver, CO in August of 2002. Randy has sought truth in all things throughout his life, and has been growing and unfolding on his Spiritual path since learning of Spiritualism in 1999. He is a CSE member, a past Board member, and an active student of the Morris Pratt Institute pursuing classes in healing, teaching, and mediumship. He is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant. Today he works as a government contractor/staff level Business Systems Analyst where he supports a project for the Air National Guard headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base.

## CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

### BASIC ASTROLOGY, INCLUDING BIRTH CHART & INTERPRETATION WITH RON ROBERTSON

**WORKSHOP: SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM / THE CSE**

Cost: \$40 for CSE members; \$45 for others. **NOTE: Registration closes on Sunday, Sept. 10 to allow Ron time to prepare individual charts for each workshop participant.** Read details below.

To register, 1) email [TheCSE@TheCSE.org](mailto:TheCSE@TheCSE.org) or call 703-645-8060 and leave your information, then 2) mail your check to The CSE, P.O. Box 6535, Falls Church, VA 22040-6535. Put "Roberston workshop" in check's memo area.

What a fabulous opportunity to get an interpretation of your own birth chart, and learn about astrology in general!

In this workshop, you'll find out why we act and react the way we do, not only with ourselves, but with others. Explore the twelve houses, the planets, the signs, and the symbology pertaining to each sign, planet, and element. Additionally, you will discuss your rising sign (also called the ascendant sign), as well as your spouse or significant other's sign.

Because Ron will be preparing a birth chart *and* interpretation for each participant prior to class, registrants must include their full name, date of birth, place of birth, and time of birth as part of the registration process. Because of the preparation time required for Ron, September 10 is the registration cut-off date. Please bring a notebook to class.

Ron Robertson, a Lily Dale, NY resident, has been in the ministry for 20 years. He is a certified healer and has served as President of the Lily Dale Assembly. Read his complete biography on page 2 of this newsletter.

The photo on the right shows Ron Robertson in action as he works as a healer on Hilda Wilkenson during a healing in the Forest Temple in Lily Dale, NY. Notice the spiritual energy, which is rainbow-colored in the original color photograph.



Ronald W. Robertson

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### AN EVENING WITH THE REV. B. ANNE GEHMAN

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 7:30 PM / THE CSE**

Minimum donation: \$25 per person. Pay at the door.

To register: Advance registration is appreciated, but not required. Email [TheCSE@TheCSE.org](mailto:TheCSE@TheCSE.org) or call 703-645-8060 and leave your information.

Internationally-known psychic and medium Anne Gehman will deliver gallery readings, including messages from departed loved ones, Spirit guides and teachers. She will conclude by taking questions from attendees about spiritual philosophy and experiences. Invite your friends and relatives as this evening will be a good introduction to Spiritualism for those new to it.

Rev. Anne Gehman, founder of the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC, began having psychic experiences as a child. By the time she had finished school, she had gained wide recognition as a psychic and medium, and became the youngest person to be certified by the NSAC.

Anne is recognized worldwide as a psychometrist, clairvoyant and clairaudient. She was elected to the International Congress of Parapsychologists and Paraphysicists in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She has been featured in Jess Stearn's books, [Adventures into the Psychic](#) and [Miracle Workers](#), and Harold Sherman's [You Can Communicate with the Unseen World](#). Anne is listed among the top 100 psychics in the United States, and has worked with the University of Arizona on a research study regarding near death communication.



### SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST MAD...

These CSE supporters have been spotted MAD (Making A Difference) in June and July.

Two members were inspired by the volunteer list published in the last newsletter. Karen Clark Stone saw an opportunity to help and stepped up to offer help in several areas, and Sheila Cash was prompted to get involved with the Children's Lyceum.

Bill Barth and Shelly Wooldridge are so MAD that they are drawing attention from the public! Bill originated the idea of recording our Sunday lectures and collaborated with Webmaster Shelly to put them into a downloadable format on the CSE website. One Web visitor wrote, "I listened today to three of the guest lectures archived on the CSE site and found them very helpful. Thanks very much for including those lectures for anyone to hear. I had never heard of Spiritualism until I started visiting the CSE website." What great outreach!

CSE is a volunteer organization in real need of helping hands. Contact any Board member for ways you can assist.



### HEARD OF THESE SUPPORT BOOSTERS ?

\* Our CSE building is available as a rental space for receptions, workshops, and private parties. If you know of a group searching for a space, contact Rita O'Connor at 703-204-2821 or finder912@earthlink.net for rates and date availability. CSE will run an ad in the *Falls Church News Press* for three months as a trial to increase rentals. Remember: CSE members get a substantial discount!

\* Supporting CSE can be as easy as buying your groceries! CSE-issued Giant food cards can be purchased in denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100. When you use the card to pay for groceries, you get full value for your money, but the Center gets 4 percent of every dollar spent. The cards can be purchased from Priscilla Baker at church on Sundays.

\* Honor someone special in your life with a hymnal supplement dedication. A love offering of \$10 is recommended. The supplements contain all of the CSE hymns that aren't in the new hymnals. Dedication forms can be found on the information table at the Center.

### CSE SUPPORTER HAROLD BRECHER TRANSITIONS TO SPIRIT

Harold Brecher, husband of CSE member Arline Brecher, transitioned to Spirit on June 17. A memorial service and reception was held for him at the CSE on June 24.

Those who knew Harold found that he was a bright, witty and personable man. He had interesting and provocative spins on every issue, and delivered his stories with wry, warm humor. He and Arline co-authored several pioneering books on alternative health, including *Forty Something Forever*, and established the Health Savers business (www.healthsavers.info).

At his memorial, Arline and his two children, Sharon and Jerry, remembered Harold with speeches and a video. His friends and acquaintances took turns sharing stories of Harold's antics, including his victorious win of the neighborhood ping-pong tournament, and his belief that all living beings (plants, animals, and humans) thrive with love and encouragement. Harold was known for spontaneously reaching into his pocket, pulling out stickers of gold stars, and -- with a certain flair -- sticking them on the lapels of whomever he believed deserved one. If you would like to contribute to his memorial, Arline asked that donations be made to the CSE in Harold's memory.

Photo: In this undated photo, Harold Brecher is shown with their parrot, Dr. Manu. While Harold worked throughout the day, Dr. Manu sat perched on his head or shoulders. In 1984, Harold and Dr. Manu co-authored the bestselling book *Brecher's Field Guide to Strange Birds*. It is perhaps the only book co-authored by a bird.





### NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Warm greetings from the CSE Board to all our members and guests. The lazy days of summer are upon us, but the Board is busy!

This summer, Board members are mowing the grass, repairing the floor, reorganizing the storage space, fixing the emergency exit signs, cleaning the bricks on the fireplace, cleaning the ovens, purchasing new floor vents, negotiating with the State Theater for cleanup of the alley, and so much more...besides taking care of the business-related responsibilities of CSE! We ask your help in caring for our Church. Please contact Rita O'Connor at [finder912@earthlink.net](mailto:finder912@earthlink.net) or call 703-204-2821, option 5 to volunteer your services in some way.

Board meetings are open to all. We invite you to attend our next meeting, August 16, at 6:30 pm at the CSE.

Our building manager is researching small sheds for storing snow shovels, garden hose, etc. The shed would be located against the building, adjacent to the kitchen door.

We have a call for delegates to the Annual Convention of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches. We'll vote for delegates at the August Board meeting, so tell us if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

Negotiations continue for use of the parking facility

next door to CSE. The lot belongs to the Park Washington Owner's Association. Until this is resolved, please do not to park in their lot. There is ample parking in the public parking lot on the other side of the State Theater.

We seek your feedback on issues as it enriches our discussion of various matters. We have 3 specific areas in which your input is important: 1) Samples of several lighting alternatives have been installed along the walls of the church for your review and input. Once we decide on the lighting, we will paint the interior and mount the new drapes. 2) Due to a disappointing turnout for the last few retreats at Wellspring, the Board is considering not organizing a retreat in 2007. Suggestions for alternatives include a health-related weekend event and a one-day retreat. We welcome your ideas. 3) Several members have expressed nostalgia for the CSE summertime picnic that we used to have. Are you interested in reinstating the picnic? Please send inquiries, feedback, or requests for more detailed information to [TheCSE@TheCSE.org](mailto:TheCSE@TheCSE.org) or 703-645-8060, option 1.

We've been sending out a monthly email bulletin of information to CSE members. If you are a member with an email address, but haven't been receiving this bulletin, please send your address to [finder912@earthlink.net](mailto:finder912@earthlink.net) and you will be added to the distribution list.

### CHILDREN'S LYCEUM LAUNCHES NEW SEASON ON SEPT. 10, WELCOMES CASH AS NEW TEACHER

By Judy Gresse, Lyceum Co-Chair

After what we hope was an exciting, yet restful summer break for all, the CSE Lyceum teachers and assistants welcome back our youth to begin another year of exploration and discovery.

Lyceum classes will resume Sept. 10th from 10:00 AM to approximately 11:15AM at the Sunrise Assisted Living facility's Terrace Room. Registration forms will be located on the information table just inside the Church entrance. All students, including guests, must be registered prior to class sessions. We are unable to accommodate children still in diapers or pull-ups.

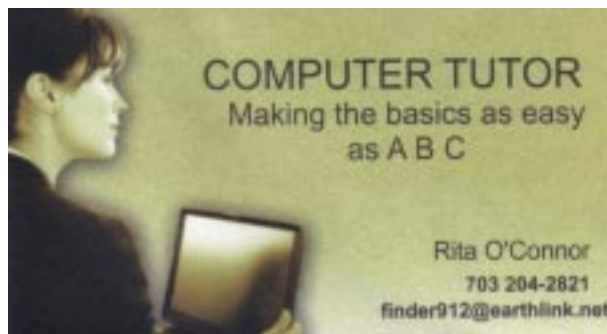
We're happy to welcome Sheila Cash to our teaching staff. Sheila comes to us with the added bonus of prior Sunday school classroom experience. We look forward to working with her.

We anticipate another creative, enriching year and hope to see both new and previously enrolled students. We are always seeking volunteer adult assistants. Because of contract requirements, **we will not be able to hold classes without an adult assistant.** Assistants do not need to have experience. Sample tasks might include helping the teacher organize craft projects during class, handing out snacks, assembling the children into a group, and so forth. A sign-up sheet to volunteer with class dates will be available on the information table. Even a one-time sign-up is a tremendous help to our program.

If you have any questions -- or you have an interest in joining our teaching staff -- please contact either of our Lyceum Co-Chairs, Judy Gresse (703)978-5875 or Debbie Shoop (703)913-0530.

## Gentle Hatha Yoga

Mary Love, C.Y.T., H.T.P.  
703-787-0268  
Reston Area



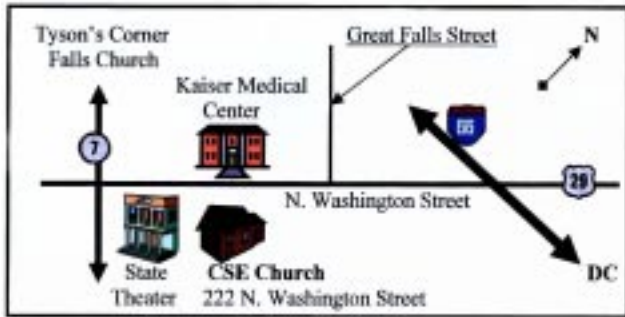
Paid advertisements are independent of CSE.

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE HELD IN FALLS CHURCH  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Spiritualism is a science, philosophy, and religion which embraces all walks of life. Services are held each Sunday at 222 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA. The healing and meditation service begins at 10:00 AM. The lecture and spirit message service follows at 10:30 AM. We are a learning community for spiritual unfoldment and are chartered by the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC), Lily Dale, NY. For more information about CSE, call 703-645-8060.

**Ministerial Counsel:** Rev. B. Anne Gehman, Pastor; Rev. Patricia Stranahan, Assistant Pastor; Rev. Barbara (Bunny) Starr, Minister

**Board of Directors:** Rita O'Connor, President; Dr. Wayne Knoll, Vice-President; Dr. Larry Leonard, Treasurer; Steve Vogel, Secretary; Carolyn Leonard, Director; Johnny Strigle, Director; Patricia Walters, Director.



Please send your mailing address and email updates to [thecse@theCSE.org](mailto:thecse@theCSE.org) with "Address Update" in the subject line, or call the Church phone at **703-645-8060**. More information is available on our Website at [www.theCSE.org](http://www.theCSE.org).

  
**The Sunflower Times**  
The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC  
P. O. Box 6535  
Falls Church, VA 22040-6535

Calendar	
Aug. 6:	Weekly service (Marilyne Woodsmall, speaker)
Aug. 13:	Weekly service (speaker, TBA)
Aug. 16:	Board of Directors monthly meeting
Aug. 20:	Weekly service (Edmund Bujalski, speaker)
Aug. 27:	Weekly service (Karen Clark Stone, speaker)
Sept. 3:	Weekly service (Dr. Wayne Knoll, speaker)
Sept. 9:	Board of Directors monthly meeting
Sept. 10:	Weekly service (Chesleigh Jonker, speaker)
Sept. 15:	Workshop (Basic Astrology, including Birth Chart and Interpretation)
Sept. 16:	Weekly service (Ron Robertson, speaker)
Sept. 24:	Weekly service (Randy Bower, speaker)

If you are not interested in receiving *The Sunflower Times*, please return this issue unopened to the above address, or notify us at [thecse@theCSE.org](mailto:thecse@theCSE.org). Thank you.