



The Sunflower Times

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

October / November 2006

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Fellow Spiritualists and Friends of Spiritualism,

It can take a tremendous effort to stay positive and hopeful during times of conflict, whether it is the war in Iraq, dissension within our community, or anger within the confines of our own homes. This is particularly true of those who have the gift of mediumship. Many in our church community have degrees of that gift, so it is probably not surprising to you that with this precious gift comes an even greater degree of sensitivity to conflict and negativity. In a negative environment, a mediumistic person can be quite miserable.

It is at these times when we need to remember to get back to the basics in order to protect and comfort ourselves. Foremost, adherence to our daily meditation practice and seeking the guidance of Infinite Spirit provide us with focus and energy. Surrendering control to the will of Spirit and asking for insight into the larger picture, the cosmic view, helps us relax and shows willingness to change ourselves.

The next step can be challenging, but is necessary to regain our perspective. Stop complaining and suspend quick judgments of the other's actions. One of the goals of our lives in Spirit is to understand that we are not the center of the Universe. How many times have we complained today, about our work or our associates or our families? Is it not true that we have chosen to do this work? No one is standing there chaining us to the desk (or to the vacuum cleaner). In order to shift our thinking, we are charged to be grateful for everything we are allowed to do each day. I met a man at the vegetable stand today who, when asked how his day was going answered, "I make sure every day is a good day." He was old and handicapped in his legs. He could have taken advantage of my question to complain to a stranger. Yet he chose to express gratitude.

Proper care of the physical body during difficult times provides another avenue to recovery and positive thinking. Sometimes the body shows the need for a cleansing, just as the spirit does. In order to restore balance, taking a look at diet and exercise can assist with the rejuvenation of the spirit.

It is important, even imperative, to seek the comfort of positive friends during times of upheaval. Ruminating alone on the real or imagined injustices in the world is an invitation to spiral downward. Calling a good friend for another perspective can result in therapeutic and uplifting progress on the road back to internal peace.

Finally, finding ways to quietly serve others, anonymously if possible, remains one of the highest and best methods for centering our own spirit. Apart from meditation, this form of service is our most direct connection to the Divine. Along with the steps listed above, service incorporates one of the vital laws of Spiritualism: "We make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws."

I trust you will find your own happiness in the weeks and months to come.

With love and light,



Rev. B. Anne Gehman



SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 1: TO BE ANNOUNCED

OCTOBER 8: THE REV. STEVEN CLEVINGER

The Reverend Steven Clevenger is Pastor of the Rays of Light Spiritualist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Steve is a Spiritualist minister, lecturer, teacher, healer, inspirational speaker, and clairvoyant. He studied and developed under the Spirit Teacher, White Lily who, beginning in 1949, spoke through the trance mediumship of the Rev. Margaret Fling. Steve will be giving messages during service along with his wife, Paula Clevenger, who is also a clairvoyant medium. Steve will also be leading a workshop on October 7 (see page 3).

SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

OCTOBER 15: THE REV. SALLY ESTES, NST

The Reverend Sara Estes, NST, nicknamed Sally, is the Pastor of the Temple of Spiritual Truth in San Bernardino, CA. For 39 years she taught elementary school and still enjoys volunteering as a singing teacher at her former school. Her other activities include square dancing and playing concert bells in a big band. She is the mother of CSE member Carol Caesar.

OCTOBER 22: AL BATTEN



Al Batten is a Canadian national and a 4th generation Spiritualist who specializes in preserving and teaching the core values of Spiritualism. He is President of the East Hamilton Spiritual Church in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and a member of the Spiritualist Church of Canada and the Lily Dale Assembly. He is the author of Love and Progress, a lecture series on Spiritualism, and The Third Helix, The Theory of a Spirit Genome. He conducts workshops and lectures at churches in Canada, England, and the USA. Al will be giving a trance healing workshop on Oct. 21, and will offer complementary private trance healing sessions after service (see page 4).

OCTOBER 29: FRED LONG

Fred has studied all the world's religions for many years and he is ordained through the Church of Humanity. He is a former CSE board member and continues to be active in the Church, serving as a healer for Sunday services. Fred is an active dancer, teaching ballroom dance classes to people from age 5 to 95. He is especially fond of his class for widows and widowers called "Dancing for Healing." The class is sponsored by AARP and Widowed Person Service, and he considers this his spiritual ministry. During this talk, Fred will review key points from the NSAC Convention (see page 6).

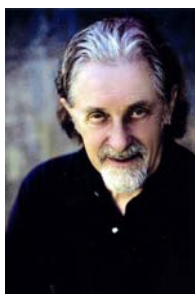


NOVEMBER 5: DR. JOSEPH SPARLING

Joseph Sparling, Ph.D., an early childhood educator and former schoolteacher and principal, is currently an investigator on Partners for Literacy, a national intervention study of Even Start programs. Joseph is the first author of LearningGames, The Abecedarian Curriculum, Partners for Learning, and Conversation Books, educational resources that have been used widely in the USA and abroad. He is a Fellow of the Frank Porter Child Development Institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a Research Professor at Georgetown University. In addition to his work in the USA, he has done curriculum development, training, and intervention in orphanages in Romania. Joseph will have an informal meeting with Lyceum instructors after his talk (see page 7).



NOVEMBER 12: RAYMOND BUCKLAND



In 1962 Raymond Buckland came to the United States from England, where he had written comedy scripts and was personal scriptwriter for a popular British comedian. Interested in metaphysics for over fifty years, in the past forty years Raymond has had over forty books published (both fiction and non-fiction), with nearly two million copies in print and translated into seventeen foreign languages. He has received awards for his work and his books are featured in several national book clubs. He has served as technical director for movies, working with Orson Wells and William Friedkin (director of The Exorcist). Raymond has lectured at colleges and universities across the country and has been the subject of articles in such newspapers and magazines as

The New York Times, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Daily News*, *New York Sunday News*, *National Observer*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Look Magazine*, *Cosmopolitan*, *True*, and others. He recently completed the Morris Pratt Institute course and has taught workshops at Lily Dale in 2004 and 2005. His latest books include The Spirit Book (Visible Ink Press) and Buckland's Book of Spirit Communications (Llewellyn). He is currently working on his autobiography. Today he lives on a small farm in north-central Ohio. Raymond will be giving a workshop as well (see page 4).

SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

NOVEMBER 19: THE REV. MARRICE COVERSON

The Reverend Marrice Coverson is the Founder of the Institute for Positive Living and the Executive Director of the Open Book Program, a citywide, after-school literacy initiative for adolescents. With more than 30 years of experience in the nonprofit field, she has held a number of positions including Center Director of the Chicago Youth Centers, Elliott Donnelley Youth Center, and Director of the West Side Learning Center at Malcolm X College, and she has conducted workshops on Board Development and Self-Development in Illinois, Ohio, Maine and Texas. Marrice holds a BA in Sociology from Mississippi Valley State University and a MA in Public Administration from Roosevelt University. She received training in Adlerian Treatment Concepts from the Alfred Adler Institute. She is the Pastor of the Church of the Spirit in Chicago - the first female and African American to hold that position. She is also the first African American since 1924 to hold a Trustee position on NSAC's Board of Directors. Marrice is currently working on her Masters degree in Religious Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. Marrice will lead a workshop on dreams (see page 4).



NOVEMBER 26: TO BE ANNOUNCED

WORKSHOPS

MENTAL MEDIUMSHIP FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED STUDENTS WITH THE REV. STEVE AND PAULA CLEVINGER

SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 9:30 - 12: 30 AM & 2:00 - 4:30 PM / THE CSE

Fee: Sliding scale of \$20 - \$50.

(The Clevengers have asked each participant to privately determine his/her own level of financial contribution so no one foregoes attending due to cost.)

To register, 1) email 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.

Last autumn the Clevengers -- both of whom are mediums -- provided an engaging day-long workshop that ran the gamut of mediumship, spiritual philosophy, and creating chalk drawings of spirit guides. This year, the workshop will focus on mental mediumship (although you can probably expect related topics to also be addressed). The morning session will be for self-nominated beginners; the afternoon session will be for self-nominated experienced or advanced students.

All are invited and encouraged to attend both sessions.

Rev. Steven Clevenger is pastor of the Rays of Light Spiritualist Church in Columbus, OH. Steve is a Spiritualist minister, lecturer, teacher, healer, inspirational speaker, and clairvoyant. He studied and developed under White Lily, the Spirit Teacher who, beginning in 1949, spoke through the trance mediumship of the Rev. Margaret Fling. Paula, Steve's wife, has studied mediumship for ten years and serves her home church regularly as a platform medium. If time permits in their weekend schedule, CSE will book reading appointments with each of them. Watch the weekly program at CSE for details.



WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

TRANCE HEALING: A FULL DAY WORKSHOP

WITH AL BATTEN

WORKSHOP: SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 10 - 5:30 PM

Workshop fee: \$60 CSE members; \$70 others, *or* reduce fee by \$10 if payment is received by Mon., Oct. 15.

AND ALSO... On Sunday, Oct. 22, Al and his wife Bev will be accepting appointments at the CSE from individuals who wish a private trance healing session. Each session lasts approximately 30 minutes and can be booked between the hours of 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM. There is no charge for this service but those who book a healing must be accompanied by a third party.

To register: For workshop, email TheCSE@TheCSE.org or call 703-645-8060 and leave your information, then send your check to CSE Treasurer at The CSE (NSAC), PO Box 6535, Falls Church, VA 22040-6535. For complementary healings, email TheCSE@TheCSE.org or call 703-645-8060 and leave your information. You will be contacted with an appointment time. Limited space. First come, first serve.

Note: This workshop was offered last year in a shortened format. It has been expanded per request to accommodate more hands-on tutorial work by the students. This workshop will review the history of spirit healing and the beginnings of the trance healing process which was first evidenced by the famous trance speaking medium, Cora Richmond in 1851, and later by renowned English healer Harry Edwards and SNU Minister Steven Upton. This seminar will explore the why and how of this process, and how it has evolved to a new level with documented results in the UK and continental Europe. It is a process that involves three components: Spirit, the medium's mind, the patient's mind. It's a passive process (as opposed to the active process of contact healing) allowing the medical expertise of Spirit direct access to the patient through the medium's mind sending the curative force through the patient's mind and into the body. The workshop will provide a demonstration of the process and an opportunity for the participants to experience the process in a tutorial environment. *Read Al's biography on page 2.*

TOOLS FOR MEDIUMSHIP AND PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT

WITH RAYMOND BUCKLAND

SUNDAY, NOV. 12, 1:00 - 4:00 PM / THE CSE

Fee: \$45 CSE members; \$50 others, *or* reduce fee by \$10 if payment is received by Monday, Nov. 6.

To register: Email TheCSE@TheCSE.org or call 703-645-8060 and leave your information, then send your check to CSE Treasurer at The CSE (NSAC), PO Box 6535, Falls Church, VA 22040-6535.

We are all potential mediums and we are all psychic, whether we realize it or not. Whether we wish to contact spirit for ourselves, for others, or merely for experimentation, we all have the innate ability to be a channel for information. There are many tools which can be useful for both mediumistic and psychic development. In this workshop, Raymond introduces some of those tools, experimenting with clairvoyance, clairaudience, clairsentience, psychometry, automatic writing, meditation techniques, and more. The differences between a psychic and a medium are examined, with a look at some of the physical aids used in both systems. This is a useful workshop for those new to these disciplines as well as for established mediums looking to review their skills. [Please bring notebooks and pencils.] *Read Raymond's biography on page 2.*

DREAMS

WITH THE REV. MARRICE COVERSON

SUNDAY, NOV. 19, 1:00 - 2:30 PM / THE CSE

Fee: \$25 CSE members; \$30 others, *or* reduce fee by \$10 if payment is received prior to Tuesday, Nov. 14.

To register, 1) email 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.

Come share your dreams and explore the field of dreams! Acquiring the ability to interpret your dreams is a powerful tool. Dreams are useful in learning more about the dreamer's feelings, thoughts, behavior, motives, and values. This brief overview is not intended to take the place of a dream course, but is to wet your appetite to explore your dreams. Please bring a notebook to start your dream book. *Read Marrice's biography on page 3.*

HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS

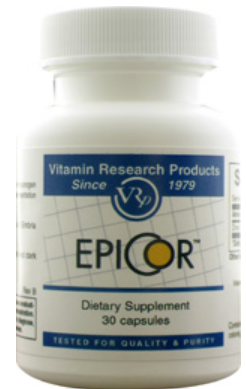
Supporting The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, NSAC has never been easier! HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS has launched a *CSE Promotion*. Mention you want to take advantage of the promotion, and the company will donate \$10 to CSE for each EpiCor™ purchase you make!

Take an EpiCor™ a Day to Keep the Doctor Away!

It sounds unbelievable, we agree. It's hard to accept the idea that any one substance could protect you and those you love from all forms of common disease. Yet, as the head of the EpiCor™ research team trials said in summing up their findings, *"I've never seen anything like these results before. These people (study subjects) seem virtually immune from contracting almost anything – from infections and contagious diseases to cancer."*

HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS is pleased to announce a remarkable new product: EpiCor™ – the most unique health-promoting supplement ever developed. Because of the unusual nature of this nutritional, and the fact that it's demonstrated revolutionary benefits as an immune system enhancer which strengthens microbial and mutagenic defense against ALL known health challenges, the release of EpiCor™ to consumers has been delayed by three years while it was subjected to intense investigation by some of the world's most prestigious researchers.

Not until extensive tests conducted at the country's top laboratories supported safety, efficacy and lack of toxicity (it's earned a GRAS rating -- an acronym for the phrase Generally Recognized As Safe -- by the FDA) has it been made available. We urge all who receive this exciting news release to access the considerable information available on the www.HealthSavers.Info website to help you understand why we believe this is a 'must-have' product for all ages, regardless of current health status, including children.



Want the Research?

We're excited about this product, but don't take our word for it! Read the research and listen to the reports. Learn for yourself, and then decide.

The HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS website has lots of research:

- <http://www.HealthSavers.Info> Click on any of the EpiCor™ links in the "First Alert" section (front page, upper right corner).

Direct links to information can be found here:

- www.healthsavers.info/heart-New.htm (go to Epicor on the right)
- www.healthsavers.info/ProdMoreInfo/EpiCor-MoreInfo.htm
- www.healthsavers.info/HSNews/EpiCor.htm

Archived radio program when we broke the news about EpiCor™:

- http://jerelzoo33.inetcam.com/cgi/nph-clip.exe?-page+-file+/clips/clip_120.ivc

A 49-minute professional audio prepared for medical professionals:

- www.cpmmedical.net/insider
- Your sign-in ID is: Vitamin
- Your password is: Healthy

About Arline Brecher

CSE member and HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS co-founder Arline Brecher is a long-time medical journalist, author, publisher and health freedom activist. She is primarily known for her many bestselling books, co-authored with her late husband Harold, especially the blockbuster *Forty Something Forever: A Consumer's Guide to Chelation Therapy*, which is now in its 39th printing with more than 775,000 copies sold.

Over the years, readers, and radio and TV listeners inquired about nutritional products they recommended and use. Arline and Harold founded HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS to make those carefully selected items available to the public. All are physician-recommended, therapeutic potency, pharmaceutical grade supplements, contents guaranteed to match labels, produced by manufacturers who normally supply medical clinics.

DISCLAIMER: This promotion is sponsored by HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS, is independent of CSE, and does not represent an endorsement by CSE. Information and statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. Products offered are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. Dietary supplements are intended solely for nutritional support and individual results may vary.

HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS

More About EpiCor™

EpiCor is a revolutionary dietary ingredient that is creating an entirely new category of immune health products. It is an all-natural, high-metabolite immunogen that nourishes the body's immune system. There is no other ingredient like EpiCor on the market. Not an herb, vitamin or mushroom, EpiCor is an all natural yeast-based product manufactured through an advanced, multi-stage fermentation and drying process.

\$99.95 for 1 bottle 90 tablets (taking one a day) delivered.

The CSE price: \$69.95! (\$72.45 shipped)

RESEARCHED SAFE

- Completely non-toxic
- Without contraindications
- Non-mutagenic
- Non-mitogenic

RESEARCHED EFFECTIVE

- Activates natural killer (NK) cells.
- Activates human B cells.
- Maintains the integrity of the human mucosal immune barrier

SUPPLEMENTAL FACTS

- Serving Size: 1 Capsule Amount Per Serving % Daily Value
- Ingredients: Dried yeast fermentate (EpiCor™) 500 mg* (*Daily Value not established)
- Other Ingredients: Gelatin.
- Contains no added sugar, starch, salt, wheat, gluten, corn, coloring, dairy products, flavoring or preservatives

Ready to Order? Select Your Method.

1. **Complete this order form** and personally give it to Arline Brecher most Sundays at church. Save \$2.50 on shipping with this option!
2. **Order online** at www.HealthSavers.Info. You **must put "CSE Promotion"** in the "Additional Comments" line in order for CSE to receive the promotion!
3. **Call HealthSavers** secure line (800) 638-8807 to place an order. **Tell HEALTHSAVERS you want the "CSE Promotion!"**
4. **Fax this page** to (703) 471-6170.

EpiCor™ Order Form

For each bottle ordered, HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS will make a \$10 donation to The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment!

First name: _____
Last name: _____
Mailing address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____
Additional comments: _____

Quantity: _____ X \$69.95 = _____
(1 bottle is a 90 day supply) **NOTE: Add \$2.50 per bottle to your total if this will be shipped.**

Credit card type: _____
(Visa, M/C, or Discover)

Credit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Questions: _____

DISCLAIMER: This promotion is sponsored by HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS, is independent of CSE, and does not represent an endorsement by CSE. Information and statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. Products offered are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. Dietary supplements are intended solely for nutritional support and individual results may vary.

WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED!

WITH THE REV. B. ANNE GEHMAN

VARIOUS DATES AND FEES/ THE CSE

Last fall, Rev. Anne Gehman held several workshops on physical mediumship. Anne is checking her idea file to plan this season's activities. Expect to see some favorites from last year, and some new concepts -- like a Laughing Meditation! As events are planned, they will be announced on www.TheCSE.org and in weekly services.

CLASSES

ORIENTATION CLASSES

Those interested in joining the CSE as a member must attend either Orientation Classes or the Introduction to Spiritualism, Healing, and Meditation classes. This fall, the CSE is working to schedule Orientation Classes. Dates are not yet set, but would likely begin in October. Check the Website or our weekly Sunday service programs for details. There are typically six 2-hour classes held Sundays at 1:00 PM after service. No charge, but participants must take at least 4 of the 6 courses offered. Lectures focus on the philosophy of Spiritualism.

NEW SUPPORT BOOSTER!

You might already know of several of CSE's financial booster programs. Here's a program similar to our Giant Food Card deal. CSE member Arline Brecher's business is called HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS. She recently started carrying a new supplement called EpiCor. If you purchase the product from her and mention the CSE promotion, you'll get a reduced price and Arline will donate \$10 of the product sale to CSE. See the enclosed flyer for details. *This promotion is sponsored by HEALTHSAVERS PRODUCTS, is independent of CSE, and does not represent an endorsement by CSE.*

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Warm greetings from the CSE Board to all our members - and to all the guests in our extended congregation.

Each of us on the Board has been very gratified at the response to our emailed Members-Only Bulletin. Your feedback on issues that come before the Board is very valuable. It always enriches the discussion. If you are a member and have an email address, but are not receiving this bulletin, please send your address to finder912@earthlink.net to be added to the distribution list. The bulletin is emailed each month between newsletters.

Briefly, some recent Board actions:

- On Nov. 5, we will introduce a Fall Membership Meeting to give all members (not just those with computers) the opportunity to participate in the decision-making. Because our Spring Membership Meeting is taken up with elections, it provides little time for open discussion to introduce new ideas, or to reach any kind of consensus. We will introduce a Fall Membership Meeting to address these areas. Like the spring meeting, the fall meeting will be held following service.



- One of our CSE members has proposed amending our bylaws to increase the number of Board members from seven to nine. Changes to the bylaws require a vote of the membership, which would take place at the Fall Membership Meeting.

- As summer winds down, the Board finds itself seriously short-handed. In particular, we must deal with the pending resignation of our Membership Chair, Larry Leonard, effective Dec. 1. Larry and Carolyn will remain active members of the Board, but cannot continue to carry so many of the responsibilities at CSE. We deeply appreciate the substantial improvements they always bring, not only to the Membership Committee, but to every task that they undertake. We ask our members to please consider stepping forward to help in filling their shoes. The responsibilities of this position are detailed on page 7.

- The fresh paint on our walls and the (coming soon) drapes mark a big improvement to our building. At this time we have dropped plans to make any changes to the lighting for lack of a consensus.

- Board meetings are open to all and we invite you to come and participate. The next meeting is Wed., Oct. 11 at 6:30 PM in the CSE building.

NSAC CONVENTION DELEGATES TO VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES; FEE CHANGES PROPOSED

Each October, CSE's charter organization, the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (NSAC), has its Annual Convention. Delegates from all NSAC churches attend and represent their respective organizations in business meetings. The number of delegates each church can send is tied to the size of its membership. CSE will send four delegates: Rev. B. Anne Gehman, Rev. Patricia Stranahan, Steve Vogel, and Fred Long. The meeting will be hosted by the Spiritualist Desert Church in Las Vegas, NV from October 1-5.

The NSAC Board of Directors has proposed many changes to NSAC's bylaws. Most of the changes are related to fees, and the cover letter from the NSAC Board states, "The last several years has shown a strain on our investment income." Our CSE delegates seek your input on whether you agree with these changes. Delegates typically vote per the wishes of the CSE membership, although each delegate retains the right to change his or her vote, based on the discussions heard at Annual Convention.

A synopsis of each proposed change is below. See a delegate for specific wording and details.

Article III, Section 5: Individual NSAC members (individuals who have no church, so they belong to the national association directly) do not currently have a method to apply for credentials. The proposed change would provide an avenue for these people to achieve credentials, despite living a distance from any NSAC churches.

Article III, Section 9: When a member requests a membership transfer to another NSAC church, the proposed change would require that he return any and all church property in his possession. Once all property was returned -- and if dues are current -- the church secretary would transfer the membership. The current bylaws do not address the mandatory return of church property.

Article IV, Section 3: Church charter applications would rise from \$50 to \$100.

Article IV, Section 4: Annual charter fees for a church would rise from \$25 to \$75.

Article IV, Section 5: The proposed change raises the \$10 individual membership fee to \$25. (CSE members pay \$35 annually to be a member of CSE, of which \$10 of the \$35 is an annual per capita assessment to cover an individual membership in NSAC.)

Article IV, Section 6: Drop the wording indicating that an annual love offering may be donated to the NSAC from lyceums and state associations.

Article IV, Section 7: Annual individual NSAC memberships would rise from \$200 to \$300.

Article IV, Section 8: Annual NSAC Individual Student Memberships would rise from \$25 to \$100.

Article IV, Section 9: Application fees for certificates and commission for ordination, the National Spiritualist Teacher (NST) degree, Licentiate Minister, Certified Me-

dium and Commissioned Spiritualist Healer would rise from \$50 to \$100.

Article IV, Section 10: The annual registration fee for an ordained minister would rise from \$50 (\$40 for NSAC and \$10 for the state association or church society) to \$100 (\$90 for NSAC and \$10 to the state association or church society).

Article IV, Section 12: The annual renewal fee for Licentiate Minister, Certified Medium and Commissioned Spiritualist Healer would rise from \$25 (\$20 to NSAC, and \$5 for the state association or church society) to \$75 (\$70 to NSAC, and \$5 for the state association or church society).

Article VII, Section 4: A new Department of Outreach would be formed with the responsibility of reaching out to the general public by responding to their initial inquiries about Spiritualism. These tasks are currently overseen by a group serving as a committee under the Department of Missionaries.

Article XIII, Section 12: Ordination requirements would change to ensure individuals have sufficient experience from the platform and teaching classes before they can be ordained. Changes would also ensure that individuals who have run a church without credentials for many years, have the chance for that experience to be credited.

Article XIII, Section 22: Applicants for Certified Medium would be allowed to secure affidavits from other NSAC chartered churches, camps and services at the NSAC Annual Convention. The existing bylaw only allows affidavits from the applicant's own church.

Article XIII, Section 24: Commissioned Spiritualist Healers must collect six affidavits of their healing ability. The affidavits must be notarized or witnessed by two officers, which may include the pastor of the church, and -- with this proposed change -- could also include an NSAC missionary.

Article XIII, Section 27: In addition to their established duties, this proposed change allows Missionaries to sign affidavits when and where appropriate for Certified Mediums and Commissioned Spiritualist Healers.

Article XV, Section 1: The proposed change would subject all ministry, lay ministers, board members, and certificate holders to the NSAC *Code of Ethics* as part of disciplinary procedure.

Article XV, Section 2: The proposed change delineates the steps necessary for handling *Code of Ethics* complaints. Forwarding of all complaints to appropriate parties (as spelled out in the proposed change) would be mandatory.

Article XV, Section 2: To delineate between ecclesiastical complaints and ethical or criminal complaints, this proposed change states that ecclesiastical complaints must be in the form of individually-signed letters.

YOUR HELP URGENTLY NEEDED. CSE SEEKS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON BY DEC. 1

If CSE is helping you, it's time for you to help CSE! CSE needs a Membership Chairperson. Larry Leonard, our CSE Treasurer, has been graciously serving in this capacity but will transition his duties to a new volunteer on Dec. 1 in order to focus on computerizing CSE's financial records.

The Membership Chairperson looks to increase Church membership among persons truly interested in the philosophy, science and religion of Modern Spiritualism. Estimated commitment is 2-4 hours per month, and 8-12 hours in December or January. At a tactical level, the Chairperson:

- * Coordinates the new member application process, provides forms, a Membership Information Packet, and other information which might be requested by persons interested in CSE membership.

- * Coordinates membership activities (i.e. the Right Hand of Fellowship Ceremony) with Ministerial Council.

- * Prepares and distributes membership renewal notices in January of each year.

- * Follows up with members who have not renewed their membership, to determine what CSE might do to encourage and retain these members.

- * Contacts people who sign the guest registration sheet expressing an interest in information regarding Spiritualism and/or membership.

- * Works closely with the Public Relations Activity regarding advertisements and other releases designed to reach potential members.

If you have questions - or are ready to commit - call 703-645-8060 or email TheCSE@TheCSE.org.

PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION SCHEDULED FOR LYCEUM TEACHERS, FALL TOPICS FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Joseph Sparling, a child development expert, will be speaking at the CSE on Nov. 5. During social time after service and prior to the Fall Membership Meeting, we are asking for all of the Lyceum instructors (and any who would like to become instructors) to stay for an informal discussion with Dr. Sparling to talk about child development at various ages, especially as it relates to nurturing spiritual growth.

During October and November, the Children's Lyceum will be exploring Spiritualist principles #2 and #3. Principle #2 (We believe that God is expressed through all nature) will include topics like new discoveries and the importance of keeping a healthy body, mind, and spirit. In November, the class will address principle #3 (True religion is living in obedience to nature's laws) and talk about the first public demonstration of mediumship and the birth of modern Spiritualism.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NARROWS DEFINITION OF FAMILY; CONFLICTS NSAC BELIEFS



It's not often that NSAC would find itself at odds with a possible constitutional amendment, but such is the case in Virginia. When Virginians go to the polls on Nov. 7, they will be asked to vote yes or no on the Marshall / Newman Amendment. The proposed

amendment reads as follows:

Ballot Question #1: Shall Article I (the Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to state: "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership

or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage."?

In October 2000 at the 108th Annual Convention in Vernon, CT, NSAC delegates voted unanimously to add the following paragraph to the official NSAC *Social Policy Statements*: "Ministry Affirm that our Ministry has the right, honor, and privilege to perform all life celebrations." If the Marshall/Newman Amendment passes, NSAC ministers in Virginia would not be able to legally perform all the unions that now come before them. The CSE Board suggests that Virginian CSE members wishing to side with NSAC on this issue should vote "no" on Ballot Question # 1 on Nov. 7th.

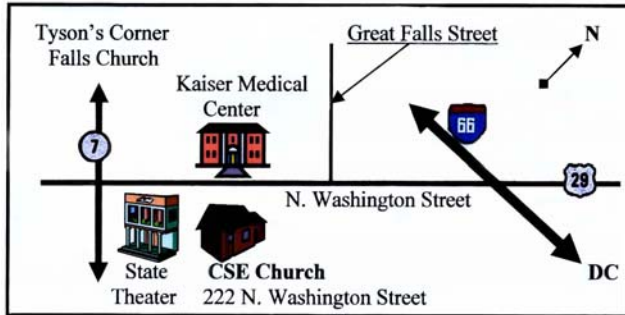
For more information about the possible implications of this amendment, contact the People of Faith for Equality in Virginia, an interfaith organization of people committed to their faith and social justice; their website is www.faith4equality.org. To learn more about what you can do to stop this amendment, contact "The Commonwealth Coalition: Vote No on #1" at www.votenova.org.

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. The Children's Lyceum program begins at 10:00 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 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.


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

Calendar	
Oct. 1:	Weekly service (speaker TBA)
Oct. 7:	<i>Mental Mediumship</i> workshop with The Rev. Steve and Paula Clevenger
Oct. 8:	Weekly service (The Rev. Steve Clevenger, speaker)
Oct. 11:	Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 PM
Oct. 15:	Weekly service (The Rev. Sally Estes, NST speaker)
Oct. 21:	<i>Trance Healing</i> workshop with Al Batten
Oct. 22:	Weekly service (Al Batten, speaker). Individual trance healing appointments with Al Batten
Oct. 29:	Weekly service (Fred Long, speaker)
Nov. 4:	Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM
Nov. 5:	Weekly service (Dr. Joe Sparling, speaker), discussion for Lyceum teachers with Dr. Sparling, & Fall Membership Meeting.
Nov. 12:	Weekly service (Raymond Buckland, speaker) and his workshop <i>Tools for Mediumship and Psychic Development</i>
Nov. 19:	Weekly service (The Rev. Marrice Coverson, speaker) and her workshop <i>Dreams</i>
Nov. 26:	Weekly service (speaker TBA)

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. Thank you.