

Spiritualist Church of Canada



WINTER 2017

President's Message

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. I am presently at our home in Arizona, enjoying some warm weather and relaxation. Another year is almost over, they certainly tend to go faster the older I get. I look forward to the upcoming year being of service, to Spiritualism and I encourage you to bring forward to your board, your ideas, suggestions and any other issues or concerns that may be of interest to all our members. We, your board are here for you.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who sent in proxies and those who attended our AGM in October; we value and appreciate your support, and continued feedback. The workshops were educational and well attended. Special thanks to St. Brigid's Spiritualist Church in Edmonton, for hosting us and for all their help along with Rev.

Sandra Waytowich, in making the AGM a success. It was a pleasure to meet Rev. Richard Lanigan, his board, church members, and everyone who attended the workshops and education classes. The grand finale Saturday evening was a sold-out Mediumship

Demonstration providing exciting examples of proof of Spirit; a great testament to mediumship, Spirit, and St. Brigid's for their work in this area of Spiritualism. As we know it takes a lot of time and effort to organize an event such as this and we thank everyone involved.

Best wishes to Rev. Patti Tomczyk, who has moved on from our board, but is still contributing to Spiritualism in other ways. I would like to welcome our two new board members: Bobbi Pineau of Calgary and Rev. Marilyn Mazzotta of Mississauga.

Rev. Angie Morra is our new Vice-President and has also taken on the position of chair for Policies & Procedures. Rev. Mary Schamehorn and Nadine Miller remain in their positions; Mary, as our Secretary, and Nadine as our Treasurer. Both are very knowledgeable and experienced in these positions, working tirelessly to ensure all books, records and SCC obligations to government offices are complete and up to date.

Rev. Brenda Philp has agreed to remain as Education Chair. I know with Brenda's vast knowledge of Spiritualism, she will continue to be an asset in this role and to our students. Stevie Martin is our newsletter editor, with Rev. William Pelech as co-editor in the west. Stay tuned for some interesting and exciting topics in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Please send in articles, poems, etc. to either Stevie or William, they would be appreciated. Phyllis McGrath-Cadorin has agreed to continue working on the Education Committee. Phyllis has offered her home for the board to conduct their meetings, she is a very gracious host and we thank her. Rev. William Pelech is remaining as our Western Liaison; William not only brings forth the western viewpoints at our meetings, he raises some



Spiritualist Church of Canada



interesting items for discussion. Thanks William for this.

Bobbi Pineau has agreed to chair the website and Rev. Marilyn Mazzotta & I will be heading Fundraising. As you can see, we have a very talented and strong board who will work diligently in achieving our goals and strategies for the upcoming year.

As this is the season for families to come together and enjoy each other, we at the SCC wish you the gifts of Love, Happiness, and above all, the Gift of Peace.

*Rev. Brenda Ropp President
Spiritualist Church of Canada*

Dance as though no one is watching you. Love as though you have never been hurt before. Sing as though no one can hear you. Live as though heaven is on earth.
– Souza

Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally. - David Frost



"As the sunflower turns its face toward the light of the sun, so Spiritualism turns the face of humanity toward the light of truth."

Editor's Message

The Winter Solstice: the shortest day and the longest night, the official start of winter. Cold days, colder nights with clear night skies full of stars and planets brighter and shinier it seems than any other time of the year.



Now, I'm no gardener but even I can tell you that winter allows the ground to rest and recuperate to prepare for the new crop. However, the abundance of winter plant life and the spiritual connection between us never ceases to surprise me.

The evergreen, a symbol of immortality since they were the only trees to stay green; the Yew tree is/was, seen as a connection between this world and the next. Oak trees have long been a symbol of eternal life, protection, strength, and endurance. (And, if you've experienced a Canadian winter at all, endurance is certainly a requirement). Mistletoe, holly, ivy and pine, the symbols we link automatically with Christmastime, symbolize all the things we wish for each other and ourselves especially at this time of year: peace & happiness, protection & good luck, faithfulness, healing & joy.



Spiritualist Church of Canada



There is a Celtic tradition of visiting an open space or hill that allows you a view of the horizon in all directions to connect with the natural world. Walking is good anytime of course but the night of the Winter Solstice where all feels connected deep inside of you, encouraging the Spirit connection to flow and grow is a thing of pure beauty. I for one am striving to nurture that beauty within. Rest and recuperate but know that you are not lying completely fallow; that there is work being done spiritually, preparing you for the next stage.

I hope the words of inspiration from writers and musicians to Mrs. Claus and our member poets alike will help you pass that joyous Christmas spirit forward and aid in the unfoldment of Spirit within.

Wishing 2017 a fond farewell and welcoming in 2018 with vitality and an open heart; wishing you much peace love and peachiness in Spirit!



Stevie

AGM 2017



Winter Inspirations

Enlightened leadership is spiritual if we understand spirituality not as some kind of religious dogma or ideology but as the domain of awareness where we experience values like truth, goodness, beauty, love and compassion, and also intuition, creativity, insight and focused attention. --Deepak Chopra

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

— **Edith Sitwell**

www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com



Spiritualist Church of Canada



I celebrate the Spirit of Christmas. It's the winter solstice celebration, rebirth, and new possibilities.

-Ian Astbury



Spirit's Reading Corner

Chicken Soup for the Soul series

'The Joy of Christmas: 101 Holiday Tales of Inspiration, Love and Wonder'

In these days of combative behaviour and a seeming disregard for fellow humans, it is a wonderful thing to be able to read about beauty and love and light that's happening as we go about our daily lives. Mrs. Claus leads the way, sharing her story of her annual busy night getting

Big Nick, the elves AND the reindeer fed, massaged and switched on for their busy night round the world; and the fact that she wouldn't have it any other way.

This past summer she took the time for herself to relax with her feet up to read these stories of miracles, perfect gifts and memories filled with compassion, joy and love shared in this book. Read all at once or in lovely bites throughout the year, the Joy of Christmas serves to remind us that there is so much good in and around us still.

The Gift

*Scissors and tape, ribbons and bows
Wrap it up so nobody knows
Try and keep it simple, that's the goal
Give from the heart, give from the soul
Make it special, make it count
It's about the thought, not the amount
Joy on their face, is more precious than gold
A real Christmas feeling, never gets old
Oh, to get back, to the old-fashioned way
Away from all the expectations of today
Forget the new gadgets and the latest trends
Treasure your family, neighbours and friends
The gift we should give, is the gift of time
A lesson to be learnt from my inspiring rhyme
Spread peace and joy to those you meet
Embrace others with an Angel's greet
Practice these things and you will always have
wealth
By nourishing your soul, you will stay in good
health
So, don't go to a store to find the "perfect things"
Give something, that real meaning brings
Here is my gift to you, a wish of goodwill
And a hope in the New Year, that your heart stays
full*

**Angie Alles
Innisfil, Ontario**

Ed. Note: Thank you Angie for your lovely poems-looking forward to 2018!



Spiritualist Church of Canada



Historic Dates in Spiritualism

28 Sept 1864

1st séance held in London home

November 1849

The Fox sisters begin giving public demonstrations of their powers in contacting the spirit world and drawing crowds that numbered into the thousands

15 November 1894

The General Assembly of Spiritualists is incorporated in New York State

25th of November 1897

Birth of Helen Duncan, Trance Medium

December 11, 1847

Mysterious knocking and window rattling began in the John Fox home in Hydesville, New York, shortly after they had moved into the house

January 29, 1874

Society for Psychical Research founded by Sir William F. Barrett

Check out **History of Spiritualism** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for an in depth look at Spiritualist History

Announcements

Are you in the Elliot Lake area? Are you interested in sharing thoughts and discussion about the History, Science and Philosophy of Spiritualism?

We are looking to start a Spiritual Development Circle with like-minded individuals interested in developing a Spirit Connection as part of our self-development. We are not going to provide mediumship demonstrations or classes, but we are working in this direction as a group with the intention of becoming active members of the Spiritualist Community.

If you know of anyone in the Elliot Lake area who may be interested in connecting with Bob, please pass on his information.

For more information, contact Bob Williamson
rcwilliamson@fastmail.fm

*****Fee Increases Effective 1st January 2018**

Course Exemptions

A fee of 50% of the course cost when a student applies for a course exemption.

Why: *When students apply for an exemption they submit documentation from courses they have previously taken that they feel relates to our course. It takes the education committee a lot of time to compare these courses, to ensure they have covered all the SCC course material. If the requested exemption is declined the fee paid toward the exemption can then be used toward the course.*



Spiritualist Church of Canada



Church Membership Fee

A new church membership fee of \$40.00 per year will be phased in over the next two years.

2018 fee will be \$30.00

2019 fee will be \$40.00

Why: The last increase in Church membership was in 2006. Administrative costs have increased significantly since then. Over the last 5 years the SCC has worked to increase our value to member churches by:

- Offering free board training in “The Roles of Pastor, Board Workers, and Relevant Laws
- Templates that can be adopted for their church needs such as: Fundraising and Event Tracking, Code of Conduct forms and Police Check letters
- Help member churches with mediation, answered and/or directed churches with inquires, and attended fundraising events
- Offer at no cost, our bylaw package of which member churches can use and implement as their own.

"Kindness is like snow-

It beautifies everything it covers"

-Kahlil Gibran

**Brought to you in Spirit
from the Board of
Spiritualist Church of Canada**

