

OIIM
Open International
Interfaith Ministry
News and Events



Spring/Summer
2014
Issue 27:3

Connecting the Interfaith Movement

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OIIM-NTI University Seminars:

OIIM workshops, courses and programs are based on research. These articles summarize the research by our sanctioned Lay & Ordained Ministers, Registered Spiritual Practitioners, NTI



Chapters, Ministers and Practitioners' News and Calendars of Events:

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Original Photo: Chalice Well, at Glastonbury, Somerset, England, by Rev. Susan Eaton, page 9

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OIIM Ministerial Team

We welcome all members and visitors to the Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM). Our ministers, trained through our Interfaith seminary program, the iNtuitive Times Institute (NTI), qualify: to carry internationally recognized clergy cards through the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) - a member of the World Council of Churches, and with A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC); and both our registered ministers and spiritual practitioners are eligible for membership as naturotherapists (n.d.) providing naturopathic consultations through professional naturopath and naturotherapist associations. We hope you enjoy our publication and invite you to attend any of our events and celebrations.

OIIM has specialized in the Spiritual Arts for over 27 years. OIIM's motto is:

***"The paths are many, the truth is one
~ Love thy neighbour."***

OIIM has three missions:

- ✧ ***to be a bridge amongst the many different religious and spiritual paths;***
- ✧ ***to validate mystical experiences in a reverent, respectful and safe context; and***
- ✧ ***to offer an Interfaith Faith-path to those seeking an inclusive spiritual alternative.***

Many of our congregants embrace the Interfaith Path as their spiritual path while others enjoy our services and workshops as a support to their own faith path. OIIM's approach is inclusive, celebrating the spiritual, uplifting and joy-filled aspects of all traditions and diverse approaches.

When we look at the beautiful, diverse world that God has created for us to live in, it is clear to us that God is a God of Diversity. There is not just one type of tree, or one type of bird, or one type of flower, or one type of person. The world is populated with a multitude of forms including trees, birds, flowers and people in all shapes, sizes and colours. This diversity makes the world more beautiful.

OIIM Ministerial Team:



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NTI Graduates from all five NTI programs are eligible for membership in Canada as n.d. - Naturotherapists, providers of Naturopathic Consultations - enabling services to be covered through clients' extended health care plans.

OIIM Ordained Ministers (OM) are automatically accepted into the *International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)* and *A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC)* with international recognition as clergy.

OIIM Lay and Ordained Ministers and Spiritual Practitioners adhere to the *International Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors* and the *OIIM Registration Board's Standard of Practice*.



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Photo Gallery



Stratford Ontario Interfaith Centre

Director:
**Rev. Debra Lynn
Sinclair, CASC, OM,**
RSPd, Master
Spiritual
Director



See write-up
on Stratford, ON
Interfaith Centre
on page 13.



Our very own CASC Student, Shelley Murray, is proud of her husband.

He is a police officer with the City of Hamilton, Ontario. On March 17, 2014, he was the recipient of an award for being instrumental in helping save a man from completing a suicide. The Interfaith understanding of death, dying and suicide helps us and our circle of family and friends to be more compassionate and effective in such situations.



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TRUST

Debra Lynn Sinclair, Stratford, ON, *CASC, OM, RSPd, Master Spiritual Director, Reiki Master/Teacher, Cert. Hyp., Cert. Prayer Pr.*

NTI Dean, OIIM Board Member-at-large



<http://dgsinclair50.wix.com/conscious--choices>

I like to plan ahead. I like to have all my ducks in order. Oh, who am I kidding? I like to be in control.

Despite these “control freak” tendencies, the last few months of my life have taken on a life of their own. I have had to step back, accept cancellations, schedule tests (temporarily feeling I was back in control), only to have them cancelled, and once again, finding myself at the mercy of the healthcare system and its schedule.

This whole process has been mentally, emotionally and at times, physically draining, and throughout it all, I have asked myself many times, "What is the purpose of all this in my life?" This is a question, I'm sure, many of us have asked ourselves on occasion, for one reason or another, and certainly a question that has been the subject of many philosophical, scientific and theological discussions.

Now I certainly do not pretend to understand or have the answer to the questions of life nor what is the purpose of certain events. What I have come to understand, though, is that putting a voice to a question such as this gives us an opportunity to reflect, then connect and learn to trust in that which is higher than ourselves. With this trust in Spirit, we learn to practice acceptance of what we cannot change, to be responsible for changing what we can, and to have the patience to do it. With this trust in Spirit, we learn to release any ideas or thoughts of what our lives should be or how they should look, consequently releasing the chaos within. With this trust in Spirit, we learn gratitude for each day and an appreciation of living in the present moment with all the gifts it brings. This trust in that which is higher than ourselves does not guarantee a "perfect" life, but handling what comes our way is met with more ease and grace.

So what have I determined to be the answer to my original question? I have come to realize that having patience takes a lot of trust, not only in myself and in Spirit, but also in the process of life. Patience is not one of my strongest virtues. But by releasing my fears and anxieties and building a solid foundation of trust in what lies beyond the scenes – that which is arranging all the pieces to come together – I am able to face each day moving forward with ease and in peace.



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BE TRUE TO YOURSELF

Rev. Suki Garson Dundas, ON, BA, MBA, D.H., NLP
CASC, OM,



I recently had a client, a teenage male, whose father was attempting to live his unrealized dreams through his son. The father had lost his opportunity to play professional sports due to attitudinal issues and is determined, since seeing his son's innate abilities, that he will rise to stardom. The entire family has pinned its hopes on this young man, and when he has failed to live up to his perceived potential, the family has turned on him.

The teenager intensely wants to be a good family member and could not understand why he had developed a phobia to flying (something that he has to do for professional sports) and has lost the ability to eat and work out. He has dropped fifteen pounds and is constantly nauseous.

Why? Because he is not being true to himself. He is trying to live his life

according to the plan set out by his family and in particular, his father. His breakdown, which happened the week before I saw him, was his true self screaming, "STOP!"

Not one week later, I had a teenage girl who came to see me for "beyond scary nightmares" and excruciating pains in her head. She came with her mother, with whom she was clearly very close, and frequently asked her mother to leave the room as she told me something else about her father. She thought that she could save the family and her parents' marriage by absorbing the wrath of her father and his abusive comments. The young lady had been fine for a couple of hours, but as soon as she started to share information about her father, the headaches hit her frequently.

She, too, was not being true to herself. She was trying to protect her family at her own expense, and finally, her true self called for this to STOP. She, in fact, needed protection.

It is so very important that we be true to ourselves and honour and respect ourselves. Yes, others too, and it starts at home. Unexplained illnesses are often diagnosed as being all in the head. Well, I would like to suggest that often, they are in the heart as well. Our real self has created them in an attempt to get us to be better to ourselves. Never disregard an unexplained illness or behaviour. Rather, ask yourself, "What is being suggested to me? Am I travelling down the wrong path? Should I be doing something different in my life?"





LIVING A PURPOSEFUL LIFE: *Part 2*

Jean Frost-Stone, St. Peter's, Cape Breton, NS www.spirittalk.ca
Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice, Reiki Master, naturopathic consultations

CASC, n.d., Interfaith Connexions Ass. Ed., NTI Ass. Dean

This is part two of a talk I presented at a Women's Health Expo on Nov. 2, 2013 on spiritual lessons I have learned thus far on my life journey. Part one of this article appeared in the Winter 2014 edition of Interfaith Connexions and dealt with Lesson 1, "We are Spiritual Beings Having a Human Experience," and Lesson 2, "Life challenges are done 'for us,' not 'to us.'"

LESSON 3: *We have soul contracts with the people in our lives which serve the growth of our spirit.*

Soul contracts – what are those? I believe that before we are born, our souls choose to learn certain lessons. We make contracts with other souls who will co-exist with us in this lifetime, leading us to experiences that will stretch us and contribute to the evolution of our spirits. We choose to learn many lessons, and once learned, they will not have to be experienced again, in this life or the next.

You may ask yourself, "Why does the same thing keep happening to me?" Sometimes the same things keep happening over and over, but with different people or in different circumstances, because we have not learned our soul lesson the first time, or the second time, or the third time. But when we become aware of this, we can look at our experiences in a different light. With this new awareness, we have the power to make different decisions and different choices than we have before (because they haven't worked for us). Once again, we become more empowered and enlightened and have more control over our lives. We are then in a position to live our lives with more happiness, peace and greater purpose.

Lesson 4: *How do we find our life purpose?*

In the work that I do in spiritual guidance, one of the questions I am asked the most is, "How do I find my life purpose?" My belief is that we have different ways during different times in our lives to live out our life purpose. For example, I believe my life purpose is to be a seeker of spiritual knowledge and then to pass on what I have learned to others. This is my service to humanity. This has played out in many different avenues in my life: as a young child reading and listening to Bible teachings, as a teenager sharing my love of God with others through teaching Sunday School and being bold in my spiritual

beliefs, as a young mother teaching my children that there is something greater than ourselves guiding us and loving us, and as a mature woman serving others through my vocation of Reiki practitioner, spiritual guide and motivational speaker. My underlying life purpose is to seek spiritual knowledge and share it with others.

Are you searching for your life purpose? I have some tips to share to guide you in the right direction. First of all, ask yourself, "Where and when do I feel most alive?" "Where in life do I express my authentic self/inner child?" "What in life do I love to do?" When I am enjoying my passion, I forget all else. When I am living my purpose, I have no time to think about my problems or health issues. When I am enjoying my life, I do not dwell on the negative because negative things seem to disappear at that moment. Your life purpose is not necessarily your job or career. Most of us need to keep our paychecks in order to live, but this does not mean you can't live your life purpose. Your life purpose will always lead to service to others in some way or other.

One of my acquaintances is a hair stylist but this is not her passion. Her passion is to make elaborately decorated custom cakes for others. So she set up a business that she does in her spare time to fulfill her life purpose which is to make others happy when they receive one of her cakes for a special occasion. I cannot do this and I admire her work, dedication and SERVICE. Another friend works at a financial institution, but her life purpose is to give others the gift of music and song. She earns money in her day job and SERVES others by entertaining them. Now, the best scenario would be to earn a living while doing only that which is related to your life purpose, but this cannot always be the case.

Continued on page 16



THE RAIN PROCESS

Heather Séguin, Charlottetown, PE, BA, BEd,
NTI Student - CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice

OIIM and Interfaith Connexions Editor



The **RAIN** process, described by Tara Brach in her book, *Finding True Refuge*, is a way for dealing with emotional pain. The acronym stands for **Recognize (R)**, **Allow (A)**, **Investigate (I)**, and **Natural Awareness (N)**. Essentially, the process begins with a pause to take stock of what's happening and ends with opening into the natural awareness that can happen after pausing and gently inquiring within.

R – RECOGNIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING

Awaken your recognition by asking yourself: “What is happening inside me right now?” Call on your natural curiosity as you focus inward. Try to let go of any preconceived ideas and instead, listen in a kind, receptive way to your body and heart. Bring awareness to whatever thoughts, emotions, feelings or sensations are arising right here and now.

A – ALLOW LIFE TO BE JUST AS IT IS

Allowing means letting the thoughts, emotions, feelings or sensations you discover to be just as they are. You may feel a natural sense of aversion, wishing that unpleasant feelings would go away. However, as you become more willing to be present with “what is,” a different quality of attention will emerge. Allowing is intrinsic to healing, and realizing this can give rise to a conscious intention to “let it be.”

I – INVESTIGATE INNER EXPERIENCE WITH KINDNESS

Investigation means calling on your natural interest – the desire to know truth – and directing a more focused attention to your present experience. Pausing to ask, “What is happening inside me?” might initiate recognition, but investigation is a more active and pointed kind of inquiry. For example, you might ask yourself: “What most wants attention?” “How am I experiencing this in my body?” “What am I believing?” “What does this feeling want from me?” Gently welcome whatever surfaces.

N – NATURAL AWARENESS (OR NON-IDENTIFICATION)

The first three steps of **RAIN** require some intentional activity. In contrast, the **N** of **RAIN** expresses the result: a liberating realization of your natural awareness. There's nothing to do for this last part of **RAIN** – realization arises spontaneously on its own. All you do now is rest in this natural awareness.

So the next time you're feeling emotional pain, let it **RAIN**. It may bring sunny skies.



*Blocks and impairments
to self-determination
lead to a feeling of
inadequacy
and
worthlessness.*

*These feelings may appear
in many forms.
An expression of self-respect
may appear as defensive anger.*

*from
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THE LIGHT OF CHI

Denise RICHARD, Bowen Island, BC, *CASC Student*
BFA



The tradition of Chinese health management discovered long ago that in cultivating Chi, there is a special process through which energy is transmuted into consciousness. This transmutation is called alchemy. Taoist masters came to this understanding after centuries of studying and observing the energy flow in the plexus areas of the body. Energy in the plexus of the pelvis, heart and head is stabilized and held as a resource to support change.

With this understanding, the student who learns the ancient arts of Chi Kung and Tai Chi is taught to develop energy and transform it into consciousness, for as Chi builds in the body, the next step is for the alchemy of the heart to take place. Chi rises into the heart plexus and becomes the agent through which the heart is refined, opened and clarified. As this happens, a clear light appears in the heart plexus and becomes the foundation for awareness. Taoist practice therefore supports the clearing and opening of heart and the awakening of consciousness through the building of a strong and stable energy system.

The body is the vehicle through which consciousness is developed. By practicing simple and precise movements, the energy system becomes infused with Chi and begins to relax. Just like a child who is held in the arms of a loving mother, the practitioner of Taoist arts learns that a greater force is present and available to help hold, nourish and heal within the surrounding environment. There is a shift in consciousness that gently and slowly occurs as the student can open to greater harmony with community and heart. When these forces work together, deep changes can take place, for all systems are interconnected. Taoist practice brings not only the gift of harmony, security and health but also provides the link of awareness.

For the new student, it will take time and consistent application in order for new patterns of flow and

health to take root.

The most significant change

will present itself as a new depth of quietness and keener observation. Health issues may shift with ease as the practice integrates body and consciousness. The light of Chi awakens within as a protective umbrella under which all levels of being can evolve and take form. As a practitioner for over twenty-five years, I can attest to the beauty, grace and healing consciousness of Tai Chi and Chi Kung.

The light of Chi presents itself through the realization of one's true nature; this is a quality of beauty that is reflected through heartfelt presence. When this level of presence is attained, there is an experience of deep love for the earth and all that is natural. As the light of heart is awakened, the pure consciousness of the natural world draws us, feeds us and supports harmonious relationships. When people gather to practice Taoist arts, there is a synergy that occurs where the light of Chi collectively pools to offer a container in which the student can grow. The gentleness and simplicity of the practices allow for deep relaxation and depth of awareness, revealing the internal wisdom and brilliance of the body. For those looking towards the natural world with reverence and a passion for awakening consciousness, the Taoist path speaks profound truth.



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PERENNIAL SYMBOLS

Rev. Susan Eaton, Hunter River, PE, CASC, OM, RSPd,
Master Spiritual Director, Reiki Master

NTI Dean, OIIM Board Vice President



Many ancient pagan symbols have been incorporated in the modern symbolism of Neo-Paganism, Christianity, and other religions, suggesting the universality inherent in all religions and spiritual paths.

I recently visited two sites in the United Kingdom, one in Scotland and one in England, where similar symbols have been used in different contexts.



Rosslyn Chapel, near Edinburgh, Scotland, is a small 15th century church where regular worship services are still held. Many examples of the ancient pagan symbol

known as the Green Man were incorporated in the intricate carvings which adorn the church. In ancient times, the Green Man was a symbol of the renewal of life as represented by new plant growth. In the Christian context, it refers to the renewal of life offered through Christ.

Legend associates Rosslyn Chapel with the Holy Grail, which is used in both pagan and Christian symbolism to refer to the Divine Feminine - the Cauldron of Creation and Mary, mother of Jesus. The Lady Chapel within the church is one of the most intricately and beautifully decorated parts of the building.



Wells have been considered sacred since ancient times, and Chalice Well, at Glastonbury, Somerset, England, was considered sacred by the inhabitants

of the area long before the Roman conquest and the coming of Christianity. The new residents continued to visit the well as a holy site. Today, the water from the Chalice Well is still believed to have healing properties, and people of all faiths continue to travel

to the well specifically for healing, taking either a glass to drink the water there, or a bottle to fill and take home.

Bodies of water, including wells and springs, were generally under the aegis of a goddess. A significant symbol in the Chalice Well garden is the vesica piscis, an ancient symbol of the Divine Feminine. It was adopted by the early Christians, and is still in common use in both neo-pagan and Christian contexts, as well as in other traditions. You might recognize it as the fish emblem seen on car bumpers.



Again, legend associates this sacred site with the Holy Grail: one story says that the Holy Grail was put in the Chalice Well for safe-keeping. (The whole area of Glastonbury, the Chalice Well and

Glastonbury Tor is associated with Avalon and King Arthur, whose bones, according to legend, are buried at Glastonbury Abbey. The Tor, also historically considered sacred, is surmounted by the remains of a church tower, and is seen as the masculine counterpart of the feminine Well.)



The emblem of the Green Man can be seen at the entrance to the beautiful gardens surrounding Chalice Well. The garden, green even in November when I visited, is a living reminder of the presence of the spirit of the Green Man.

These few examples help to reinforce an understanding of symbols as a universal language which connects us with the Divine through our subconscious or unconscious mind. Many of the concepts that form the basis of all religions and spiritual traditions can be seen in shared symbolism.



Spiritual Artwork: A Meditative Tool

Shelley Murray, Burlington, ON, CASC Student



Shelley states that creating a collage can be a form of meditation for her.

As she cuts and places her words and photos, she is free to visualize, imagine and manifest. She often creates the collage and then puts it away for 'review' a few days later. She finds this art form to be simplistic in its creativity but also very therapeutic! Absolutely stunning! Why not try relaxing while getting lost in this art form?




"This is a collage I recently did. I like to use collage as a free form meditation to create, visualize, imagine and manifest. I find the freedom of placement, the textural images and the tactile fine detail cutting a meditation in itself. Various aspects are represented. I like to put them away right after and go back to 'review' a few days later and think about the work then. Simplistic, but therapeutic and creative!"




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LOVE AND PEACE

Margaret Flood, York PE, BA (Hon. Soc. Dev. St.),
CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice, Gestalt Therapist



Being short on inspiration myself, I thought I would call upon the inspiration of others and share with you their wisdom. Love and peace to all.

“Do not leave this world with never having released the love that you hold in your heart. Let others bask in your Light. We love you.” - *Pete Bernard, Algonquin Medicine Man*

“Love asks that we confer on the other the Freedom to be who they most profoundly are, even as we wish the same for ourselves.” - *James Hollis, Jungian Analyst*

Gaelic Prayer

Deep peace of the running waves to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the smiling stars to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

“Becoming a Warrior and facing yourself is a question of honesty... Honesty plays a very important part. Just see the simple, straightforward truth about yourself. When you begin to be honest with yourself, you develop a genuine gut level of truth.” - *Chogyam Trungpa*

Meditation - Thich Nhat Hanh

Breathing in, I see myself as a flower.
Breathing out, I feel fresh.
Breathing in, I see myself as a mountain.
Breathing out, I feel solid.
Breathing in, I become calm water.
Breathing out, I reflect the sky and the mountains.
Breathing in, I become the vastness of space.



Lakota Prayer

Wakan Tanka, Great Mystery, teach me how to trust my heart, my mind, my intuition, my inner knowing, the senses of my body, the blessings of my spirit.
Teach me to trust these things so that I may enter my sacred space and love beyond my fear, and thus walk in Balance with the passing of each glorious sun.

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SPIRITUAL ART: THE USE OF SYMBOLS

Karen Baillard, Belfast, PE,
CASC Student



Gondola Lovers

Life is Love. All types of Love. Romantic love can have a lovely whimsical, dreamy, enchanting and adventurous side. Perhaps this painting evokes an innocent desire to be swept away with one's lover in a magical gondola to admire the rising of a magnificent full moon. The couple is enveloped in an iridescent moon glow blanket, cocooned in their own little haven of harmonious joy and in gratitude for this glorious moment of being one with Time, Nature, and Spirit... OM

Personal Essence Mandalas

This is a mandala of a friend's essence. Right away I was guided and shown a radiant bright yellow light which is what she radiates out to the world, her true Divine self. It is a vortex, infinite, and full of possibilities if she aligns herself within it. The cluster of hearts is in all shades of green, symbolizing the heart chakra. They follow the radiant light in a circular manner to blend into the wings of angels which guide and protect her along her life journey. The hearts then flow into the tail of a brightly coloured bird which represents her love of Nature Spirits and her deep desire for freedom to be who she is, to choose to listen to inner guidance and be that bright light that she is. The fine strand of hearts the bird holds in its beak represents her aspiration to create, to begin weaving a nest of self-love, self-nurturing and true romantic love at this time in her life...it is all interwoven and interconnected in the circle of eternal being.





STRATFORD, ON: INTERFAITH CENTRE

Director: Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair, Stratford, ON, Canada
CASC, OM, Master Spiritual Director, NTI Dean and Professor

The Stratford Interfaith Centre is a welcoming, honouring space for people of all faiths as well as those with none. It seeks to facilitate living one's faith and truth and believes that by supporting the spiritual well-being of all, it will increase the understanding of and respect for religious and spiritual beliefs and practices around the world. Here at the Centre, we believe a greater number of people are turning inward in a search for inner peace. The Centre offers programs that will help people remember their connection with the Source of their belief system.

Rev. Debra Sinclair is an ordained minister with the Open International Interfaith Ministry. She is quietly committed to life-long spiritual growth while also dedicated to helping others bring clarity to their own growth, as we all share in this Journey of Life. Rev. Deb is available by appointment for spiritual direction/companioning, bereavement companioning, Reiki/spiritual healing, meditation/spiritual healing, funerals, baby blessings and house blessings.

Sherry Pautler: Reiki Master and Crystal Healing Practitioner
Sherry's passion for knowledge and wisdom, as well as her desire and ability to share her knowledge and skills, are gifts she gently shares as an ethical and professional practitioner. She is available by appointment for both Reiki and crystal/spiritual healing sessions.

Antoinette Adjarusaro: Clearing Clutter Practitioner; Life Witness Practitioner; Energy Workshop Facilitator

Antoinette has followed the advice of self help books to "do what you love" and career counsellors to "find what you are good at." She loves dealing with clutter and she is good at it, all the while honouring and practicing non-judgment in each individual situation. Antoinette is kind, understanding and respectful and is ready to clear your clutter with accountability, love and laughter. She is available by appointment and is also available to facilitate Clutter Gatherings and workshops based on her experience and knowledge in decluttering and creating sacred spaces. Antoinette is also an exciting, empowering facilitator of Energy Workshops that serve as an invaluable introduction class on energy. She is available for small group workshops for those who are ready to experience the sacred energy surrounding us.

Jaci Sinclair-Reflexologist: Reiki Master

Jaci's journey of self-study, inner reflection and personal development has been a strong motivation for her desire to help others. Her gentle demeanor, intuitiveness and honouring each of her clients has contributed to her high level of ethics and professionalism. She is available by appointment for both Reiki and reflexology/spiritual healing sessions.

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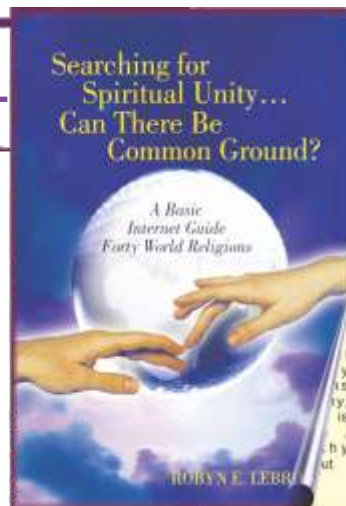
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PEACE THROUGH SPIRITUAL UNITY: **PAGANISM**

We Are More Alike Than You Know

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The next religion we will discuss is *Paganism*, one of man's earliest forms of nature worship. Paganism (from the [Latin](#) *paganus*, meaning "country dweller/rustic") is the blanket term used to describe religions and spiritual practices of pre-Christian Europe. The inhabitants of Britain originally worshipped their ancestors, but when Britain's climate changed radically around 3,000 BC, the ancestor cult came to an end, and Britons looked to nature itself to influence their fortune. The sky, the sun, every mountain, river, marsh and [tree](#) all had [spirits](#), life-forces and personalities. Paganism has been defined broadly to encompass all of the religions outside the Abrahamic monotheistic religions which includes most of the Eastern religions, Native American religions and folk religions as well. There are also misinterpretations of Paganism's being the same as Satanism. It is *not* however. Pagans and Satanists are very different. There are many misconceptions about Paganism so it is necessary to clarify what Pagans are *not*. Not all Pagans worship in the nude nor do they have wanton sex orgies. They do not worship the devil or practice black magic, and they have strict moral guidelines against harming people or animals.

Various Greek and Roman writers of the ancient world commented on Pagan beliefs. However, the key problem with these sources is that they viewed Pagans as "barbarians," thereby giving the "civilized" Romans more justification to conquer them. The archaeological evidence does not contain the bias inherent in these literary sources. At the time of Emperor Constantine's conversion, the "Christianization" of Pagan deities was facilitated to make Christianity palatable to the "heathen." In fact, there are some Christian faith practices today that do not celebrate many traditional holidays due to their belief that they have Pagan origins. Although there was a lengthy period in history of severe persecution, the 19th century saw much scholarly interest in the reconstruction of Pagan mythology.

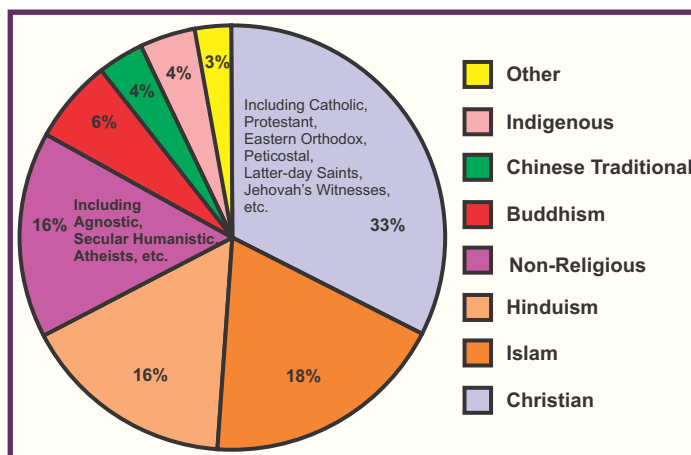
Throughout Europe, there was a growing curiosity in old village dances, folk music, and the study of runes. There was a strong desire to renew and preserve traditions which otherwise would have been forgotten, leading to a resurgence of Paganism.

Pagans' belief in gods is connected with life, nature and natural occurrences. They don't worship the Christian god, but that doesn't mean they don't accept the existence of a deity. Because Paganism places a good deal of emphasis on the idea that experiencing the divine is something for everyone, not just select members of the clergy, it's possible for a Pagan to find something sacred within the mundane. For example, the whisper of wind through the trees or the roar of the ocean can both be considered divine, and many adherents feel that the divine lives within each of us. Paganism is generally a [duo-theistic](#) religion worshipping both a God and a Goddess who are seen as complementary polarities (akin to the Taoist philosophy of yin and yang).

Many Pagans believe in reincarnation in some form, giving them a substantially different view of life. All people, except [spirits](#) who remain behind lost and wandering, go to the Summerland, even the wicked. The Summerland will be different for everyone, their own version of Shangri-La. Here they can be reunited with their loved ones and watch over those they left behind on Earth. Pagans believe that our time in the Summerland is spent processing what we learned on earth and then planning our next life.

As with many religions, there are variations in Paganism. This short excerpt is but a taste.





THE WORLD RELIGIONS: SIMILARITIES

Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair, CASC, OM,
RSPd, n.d. Master Spiritual Director and
Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM,
RSPd, n.d., Master Spiritual Director

Each issue of www.InterfaithConnections.org
will feature world religions and practices. For
more info go to
www.sacred-texts.com/hin/ or
www.unification.net/ws/

In a world steeped in the traditions of many world religions, one begins to wonder why there is so little tolerance and basic understanding of each individual's belief system when there are so many commonalities from which the religions have evolved. Listed here are 15 commonalities of many world religions, but in actuality, there are many, many more.

1) Sacred Creation – Most world religions hold a belief that the world was created by one or more gods (or the Divine) in a sacred and holy manner.

2) God or Gods or Goddesses – Most world religions refer to God or Gods/Goddesses (a Divinity, the ALL) that exist infinite and eternal, who cause and connect the many things experienced by all of mankind.

3) A Greater Reality - The world religions all recognize a reality greater than the individual, which is known by many different names, and which cannot be limited by human description. Faith in this Greater Reality is the source from which people find inspiration and hope, and learn to grow, to reach their full potential.

4) Connecting to the Divinity - Every person has the inherent possibility to connect with this Greater Reality to reach his or her full potential. There are many ways to do this: through religious practice, art, nature, human relationships, or service to others.

5) Separation from the Divinity - Feeling separate or disconnected from this Greater Reality leads to suffering.

6) Morality and Ethical Guidelines - The world's religions recognize the instinctual knowledge that in order to enhance our survival, we have a dependency on each other. This also creates an awareness of the interconnectedness with the Universe and each other. With this awareness comes a sense of community and an expectation of support not only from others, but also from ourselves.

7) Prayer - The world's religions affirm that in order to touch or align with the Creator, there is a need for prayer, meditation, silence or the use of similar effective methods.

8) Compassion and Love – Compassion and love are two unifying components which are found in all the positive religious approaches. These qualities can inject meaning and purpose in that which may appear meaningless and purposeless. As well, in all religions is the belief in treating others with respect and kindness.

9) Ritual – The rituals, symbols and practices that form a way of life within a religion, while being unique to each tradition, all serve to assist us on our quest for truth and help bring to us an awareness of our divinity.

10) Reincarnation - Although reincarnation has more of a similarity within the eastern religions and tribal religions, there has been a wider acceptance in the western world beginning in the 19th century. The common thread is a belief that our souls are striving for perfection whether we are consciously aware of it or not and that we are born again and again in order to confront and affect our Karma.

Continued on page 23



VISIONS OF THE AFTERLIFE: **BUDDHISM**

VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE AND END-OF-LIFE RITUALS

Heather Séguin, Charlottetown, PE, BA, BEd,
CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice

This is the fifth in a series of articles exploring views of the afterlife and end-of-life rituals as perceived and practiced by several of the major world religions. There are as many views of the afterlife as there are people. As such, the intent of this series is to look at some of the more traditional and commonly held beliefs within each religious tradition.



Cremation at Kusinara

Buddhists believe in karma and reincarnation, the ultimate aim being release from this cycle into a total merging with the All (Nirvana). Whether individual consciousness of the self remains in this merging is debated among the various schools of Buddhism, and interestingly, Buddha himself was silent on this topic.

Tibetan Buddhism (led by the Dalai Lama) has the most detailed description of the stages (bardos) the soul experiences after it leaves the body at death. The first bardo lasts from half a day to four days. In this time, the deceased realizes that his or her physical body has died and sees a clear light. The more enlightened the individual, the longer and clearer he or she will see the light and the higher the level of reality he or she will enter. In the second bardo, the deceased meets apparitions of the people and events of life resulting from the individual's karma. The third bardo is the process of rebirth into another body or into Nirvana. The entire process is said to take forty-nine days.

There is no specific dogma that dictates what should compose a Buddhist funeral, and normally, the different schools of Buddhism combine with the culture of the country to form a funeral rite. In all traditions, however, the body of the deceased is available for mourners to view as Buddhists believe that viewing the body is a valuable reminder of the impermanence of life.

Depending on the tradition and culture, Buddhist funerals involve things like prayer ceremonies, music and chanting. Often, the ceremonies extend over many days after which the body is buried or cremated. In some ceremonies, money and household objects may be burned so that the deceased can have use of these things in the next life. White is the traditional colour of mourning. After a death has occurred, and every year following, Buddhists give food and money to monks and to the poor.

Buddhist Funeral Procession



Continued from page 6 **Living a Purposeful Life: Part 2**

I believe that if you recognize your gifts, you can use them wherever you are, in whatever situation you find yourself. If you don't know what you are passionate about, ask a close friend. He or she can usually see what you cannot.

Then do what brings you life! You know when you are happiest and the people and circumstances that make you feel truly alive. Quit doing those things that drag you down, sap your energy and deaden you. Life is too short to be living up to the expectations of

others. Do what you can in baby steps in order to find your joy. If you love photography, start taking evening classes to learn more or take time out of your day to take the pictures you want. If you want to be an author, start submitting your writing to newsletters and magazines or start your own blog. We are so blessed that we live in these times, because the world is full of adventure and opportunities. I have adopted a daily mantra, "I am open to all possibilities," opening my arms wide to the world. If you want to discover your life purpose, maybe you could adopt this mantra as well and then watch your world expand!



SIGNS:

Debra M.K. McIntyre, Charlottetown, PE, B.B.A., Graphologist
CASC Student



Signs, sometimes called omens, have been in existence throughout history to predict the future, whether it is an outcome that can be changed by the observer or not. Sometimes these signs are referred to as superstitions. Have you felt uneasy when a black cat crosses your path or have you made a joke about seven years' bad luck when breaking a mirror?

The type of sign I wish to address is different than a superstition. It is more personal as it may not have any meaning or significance except to the individual involved. For example, hearing a deceased loved one's favorite song unexpectedly within a short time of his or her passing may be taken by the listener as a sign of communication. Often when I am faced with a major decision, I pose a question to the Universe and ask for a specific sign as an answer. (Inherently I know one must make one's own choices, but it is reassuring to have a little cheering section saying "good choice" to give oneself confidence.)

So the last time I asked for a sign, I probably knew what path I would choose anyway. Still, I posed my yes/no question and asked the Universe for the sign of a purple vehicle to be seen before Friday (this was Tuesday) if the answer was in the affirmative. I can tell you from my experience on the subsequent day that there appear to be a great many "blue or is it bluish purple" vehicles in my life. Consequently, that Wednesday evening, I contacted the Universe again with a modification. An affirmative answer, if given, must be an unmistakable, hit-me-over-the-head-with-a-two-by-four purple vehicle before Friday. No second guessing this time.

Thursday morning, as I was busily nattering away to my hubby on our way to work, what did we meet but a very unmistakable, very purple – would you believe - dump truck? It wasn't a lady driving and in my experience purple is next to pink in a man's world, so I took that as being the sign. As William Shatner says, "Is this weird or what?"

But signs can be used in other ways. Before the purple dump truck incident, I decided I needed a way to remind myself that I am never alone, for I believe

Spirit, or God, or whatever you wish to call that universal Presence, is always with us, and I should be thankful for all things in my life: that there is no good or bad, just experiences for spiritual growth. So I chose a bright yellow car, as the color is as cheery as the sunshine breaking through on a cloudy day and also because this color of vehicle is not so common as to lose significance. And it is amazing how well this sign works. Whenever I see a yellow car, my spirit lifts as I give thanks.

I might be criticized that I did not choose something from Nature like a robin or a red fox, but I think one must pick a sign that one knows will instinctively work for him or her. And while I do not advocate looking for signs to confirm everyday choices, I do think it is very worthwhile to pick a sign, whether it is an animal, a person, or an object such as a stop sign: stop whatever you are doing or worrying about, and say, "Everything in my life is as it should be, and thank you."



A deep perception of one's Spirit,
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THE MISMEASURE OF PEOPLE

Rev. Barry King, Ch'town, PE & Saint John, NB, *BSc(Hon.), OM, PhD(TC), Reiki Master, n.d., RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Medium, naturopathic consultations*

*OIIM President, NTI Educational Director,
Interfaith Connexions Editor in Chief*

**If you judge people
you have no time to love them.**



Many years ago, I read a book called *The Mismeasure of Man* by Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould. It was a fascinating and disturbing book which explored the many measures that society (people) has chosen to use to judge people over the centuries. It discussed the flawed work of scientists and religious leaders who struggled to validate the measures they were using to place whole groups of people into categories for judgement. Some of the complicated measures used included facial features, distance between the eyes, bumps on the head, colour of the skin or hair, place of birth, sex and race. You get the picture. These measures were fabricated and given validation to help people feel comfortable with their prejudice and intolerance to differences. There had to be conformity, and people had to work within their own social strata. To deviate from this accepted view would destroy society and create chaos, or so it was believed.

These “mismeasures” were grounded in people's fears of the unknown or their need to be better than some other group of people. One of the most obvious measures was race, and scientists grounded in the need to validate their perspective could “scientifically” prove that there were greater and lesser races, their race, of course, being the greater race. These mismeasures were also reinforced by religious leaders who reflected back to the people the prejudice and intolerance generated. Not only were there greater and lesser races, but there were also greater and lesser ways to understand God. Those lesser races and lesser people were never going to make it to Heaven and would burn in eternal hellfire.

The most disturbing point about the book is not that these mismeasures happened, but tragically, that they are still happening and that some of them continue to be used today to reinforce prejudice and intolerance. Sadly, people are still reacting from fear

of what they do not understand and are looking for a world where there are no differences. Most disturbing of all is the fact that in a world which has information readily accessible about other people and ways, we still choose to live in ignorance.

I know a loving couple who have been together for many years. This couple suffers daily from one of the mismeasures that people use to judge other people. They are afraid to be seen together as a couple. They are afraid of what the neighbours will think and how they will react to them. They are afraid to tell their families and worry about the stigma if their secret were to be discovered. They live in fear, because they love each other. They are good people. They are loving people. They are your neighbours, brothers, sisters, friends, daughters and sons.

This couple I am describing may have been a Protestant and a Catholic forty years ago. Thirty years ago, they may have been a black and white couple or from two different nationalities. This couple fifteen years ago may have been multi-faith from two different traditions. Five years ago, they may have had a twenty-year age difference. Today this couple is a same-sex couple who wish to celebrate their love for each other in a free and loving society.

I have heard many mismeasures used to validate the prejudice and intolerance some people feel towards same-sex marriages. I have heard it said that “If same-sex marriages were legalized, it would destroy the social fabric and bring about the destruction of the family.” Loving people, no matter what race, shape, size, colour, religion or sexual orientation, will never be responsible for the destruction of what is good about our social fabric and families. We can only hope that they will be responsible for the destruction of what is NOT good and NOT loving.

In Spirit, we are not male or female. Those researching reincarnation tell us that in some lives, we choose to be male and in others, we choose to be female. Given this and the great deal of evidence from Spirit that we are all God's children who are here in this life to learn and grow, it seems incongruent to suggest that either a homosexual or a heterosexual lifestyle will get us into the Heaven world. It is more likely that no matter what orientation you have, it is whether or not you are a loving and kind person (or couple) that will open Heaven's gates to you.

One of the things we may never be able to measure is the suffering and pain that has been caused by people's judging other people through ignorance and fear. Let us all do our part to create a loving world that will have no place for such mismeasures and hope that in time, such thinking will be only a dim memory of a barbaric past.



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OTHER: Artist & writer

NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA



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SKYPE: YES – contact by phone or email

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Times e-zine *Interfaith Connexions*, serves on Board of
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Alliance of Interfaith Clergy – Board Chair since 2008 -
Website: awa.interfaithclergy.org
OTHER: Dean of first year students at The New Seminary
(2008-2010)



NAME: LEONE, Jean A

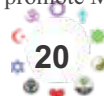
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OTHER: Educator, Gardner, Pursuing Doctorate in Holistic Theology, Professor, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine-Holistic Nursing and Swedish Institute College of Health Science - Nursing-AAS. Consultatnt, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Associate Professor, American Institute of Holistic Theology, Associate Professor, International Academy for Interfaith Studies, Professor NTI

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EMAIL: peislandgirls22@gmail.com

NAME: **EATON, Rev Susan**

OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC, OM, RSPd, Master Spiritual Director, n.d., naturopathic consultations – covered by extended health care plans, NTI/OIIM Dean and Professor

OTHER CERTIFIED

QUALIFICATIONS: Reiki Master,

LOCATION: Brookfield, PE

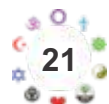
PHONE: 902-964-3036

EMAIL: revsusanpei@gmail.com

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- a) Spiritual Healing
- b) Workshops
- c) Spiritual Direction
- d) Weddings, baby blessings
- e) Earth religion ceremonies and rituals

VOLUNTEER SERVICES: Workshop and service leader at the PEI Interfaith Centre, involved in a number of organizations that are devoted to spiritual and cultural diversity, OIIM Vice-President Board of Directors, NTI Dean





NAME: FLOOD, Margaret
OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC,
 Spiritual Arts Practitioner Apprentice
OTHER CERTIFIED
QUALIFICATIONS: BA, Gestalt
 Therapist, Reiki Master, Level one and
 two of Shambhala Heart of Warriorship
LOCATION: Covehead

PHONE: 902-940-3873

EMAIL: breathing.living0909@gmail.com

SERVICES PROVIDED: Individual counselling sessions

OTHER: Student in "Earning The Light" – a professional
 shamanism training program



NAME: KING, Rev. Dr. Barry
OIIM REGISTRATION: OM,
 RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Medium,
 n.d, naturopathic consultations –
 covered by extended health care plans,
 NTI/OIIM Dean, Professor and
 Educational Director
OTHER CERTIFIED
QUALIFICATIONS: BSc (hon), PhD
 (TC), Reiki Master, training in various
 spiritual/energy healing practices
LOCATION: Charlottetown, PE and

Saint John, NB

PHONE: 902-629-1385 (PE&NS) 505-214-1753 (NB)

EMAIL: revbarryking@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.RevBarryKing.ca

FACEBOOK:

<http://www.facebook.com/RevBarryKingPhD.SpiritualReadings>

SKYPE: YES – contact by phone or email

SERVICES PROVIDED: Infuses Sacredness into:

- a) Spiritual psychic readings (in person and by phone)
- b) Interfaith spiritual healing (in person and distance healing)
- c) Message circles
- d) Weddings, funerals, baby blessings, house
 blessings/clearings & other religious services

VOLUNTEER SERVICES: OIIM President Board of
 Directors, NTI Educational Director, OIIM workshops and
 service leader, mini-healings, pastoral ministrations and
 community presentations on Interfaith, spirituality and Spirit,
 involvement on International Interfaith organizations.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS:

- 1) First religious leader on PE to conduct same sex marriages
- 2) Since the mid 1980's, Barry has been interviewed for several
 newspaper and magazine articles and television news
 interviews on being psychic and on life after death
- 3) Portrayed Sun King, a naturalist on children's syndicated TV
 show *Blue Rainbow*



NAME: KING, Rev. Dr. Sandi
OIIM REGISTRATION: OM,
 RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Counsellor,
 n.d, naturopathic consultations –
 covered by extended health care plans,
 NTI/OIIM Dean, Professor and
 Registrar
OTHER CERTIFIED
QUALIFICATIONS: CCC, BA, BEd,
 MEd, PhD(TC), Reiki Master, training
 in various spiritual/energy healing

practices

LOCATION: Charlottetown, PE and Saint John, NB

PHONE: 902-629-1385 (NS) 506-214-1753 (NB)

EMAIL: revsandiking@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.KingsWC.org

SERVICES PROVIDED: Infuses sessions with spirituality
 and Light

a) Spiritual counselling and Psychotherapy (in person and by
 phone)

b) Interfaith Spiritual/Energy Healing and Direction
 (combined) (in person and distant healing)

c) Weddings, funerals, baby blessings, house
 blessings/clearings & other religious services

VOLUNTEER SERVICES: OIIM Treasurer Board of
 Directors, NTI Registrar, OIIM workshop and Service leader,
 OIIM, NTI and IC Desktop publishing and graphic designer,
 community presentations on complementary therapies, spiritual
 healing, meditation and holistic wellness

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS:

- 1) 2009 National Counsellor Practitioner Award from CCPA
- 2) 2000 feature woman in Zonta's *Innovative Women of the
 New Millennium*
- 3) 1994 National Business Education Partnership Award for
 programs with youth and addictions
- 4) 1995 National Hilroy Fellowship for work with youth and
 addictions
- 5) 1996 survivor selected for Canadian Cancer Society's 40
 member think-tank style panel on *Exploration of Research
 Methodology for Alternative Therapies in the Treatment of
 Breast Cancer*



NAME: MACINTYRE, Debra

OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC student

OTHER CERTIFIED

QUALIFICATIONS: BBA, Graphology
 Practitioner

LOCATION: Charlottetown, PE

PHONE: 902-393-0436

EMAIL: debra_macintyre@hotmail.com or
catspaw.cottage@gmail.com

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- a) Graphology readings/consultations



NAME: PHILLIPS, Robin

OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC
 Candidate

OTHER CERTIFIED

QUALIFICATIONS: Reiki Master,
 Certified Practitioner in Primus
 Activation Healing Technique

LOCATION: PE

OTHER: Student Crystal Resonance

Therapy (CRT) Practitioner



NAME: SÉGUIN, Heather

OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC,
 Spiritual Arts Practitioner Apprentice

OTHER CERTIFIED

QUALIFICATIONS: BA, BEd,
 Thanatology Certificate, Level 1 Reiki

LOCATION: PE

VOLUNTEER SERVICES:

- a) Editor of Interfaith Connexions e-zine
- b) Workshop and service leader at PEI Interfaith Centre



NAME: THOMPSON, Jenn

OIIM REGISTRATION:

CASC Student

LOCATION: Pownal, PE

EMAIL:

jennthompson@live.ca

OTHER: Interested in animal-assisted therapy and how it can improve the lives of her clients

NAME: ZAAT, Judy

OIIM REGISTRATION: CASC Candidate

LOCATION: Fort Augustus, PE



Continued from page 15
World Religions: Similarities

11) Seeking a Higher Truth - All religions seek answers to the questions of from where did we come, where will we go, what is our relationship to the Universe and to all creatures of the Universe, and how we can become one with our God, Gods/Goddesses, the Divinity, the ALL.

12) Places of Worship - Nearly every culture and religion has sought to honour the Divine, the mysterious, and the supernatural, often at places where the physical world seems to meet the spiritual world. These sacred places of worship may be sites in nature, sites connected to a god or perhaps saint, sites where miracles have been said to occur, or buildings consecrated for worship.

13) Rites of Passage - Rites of passage are ceremonies which involve ritual activities and teachings marking important transition periods in the life of a person, such as birth, puberty when young men and women enter adulthood, marriage, having children and death. Rites of passage are a time when the community of faith can officially recognize the leaving behind of an old phase of life and the embarking on a new role and function within the community. When entering religious orders, there are always rituals sanctifying the sacredness of the choices made.

14) Spiritual Practices - Every religion has spiritual practices which are essential to the spiritual life, while recognizing that following these practices does not make a person "spiritual." A spiritual life is the result of a personal union with the Greater Reality, a oneness with the ALL. Spiritual practices common to all religions include: the practices of compassion, service to others, meditation and/or prayer, and the use of music and/or chanting. Spiritual practice is an integral part of one's life and extends into all aspects of life.

15) The Spiritual Life - In all religions, the spiritual life requires humility, gratitude and a sense of humour.

Almost all religions have offered insights, observations and instructions that have been universally accepted by mankind. What has become clear is that all of humanity has a common longing for spirituality. Thread after thread of similarities are woven into the fabric of our spiritual journeys. And while the differences may be important to some, they should not prevent people of different faiths from living in peace together.




REV. DEBRA LYNN SINCLAIR
CASC, OM, RSPd, RH,
MASTER SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR,
PRAYER PRACTITIONER,
REIKI MASTER

**SPECIALIZING IN THE
TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF:**

- ANGELIC GUIDANCE
- HYPNOTHERAPY
- AFFIRMATIVE PRAYER
- SPIRITUAL HEALING
- GUIDED VISUALIZATION
- ASSISTING IN PASSING OVER

**STRATFORD
INTERFAITH
CENTRE**
dgsinclair50@yahoo.com





Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair will be undergoing a 12-hour surgery that will take months of recovery. We invite you to come in and send healing prayers and offer healing energy through her healing altar.
Blessings



Healing Altar

We invite you to offer distant healing prayers and energy. With gratitude and blessings.



GESTALT THERAPY

Margaret Flood

flood.margaret@gmail.com

902-940-3873



STRATFORD, ON INTERFAITH CENTRE: **SCHEDULE AND NEWS**

Register with dgsinclair50@yahoo.com

STRATFORD INTERFAITH CENTRE PROGRAMS

Rev. Deb is taking a Sabbatical for the Spring and Summer 2014

Ongoing Programs and Personal Consultations - By Appointment: **REIKI; SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**



Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair,
CASC, OM, RSPd, RH,
n.d., Reiki Master,
Master Spiritual Director,
Director of the
Stratford, Ontario
Interfaith Centre



SAINT JOHN, NB INTERFAITH CENTRE: **SCHEDULE AND NEWS**

More info, to register or to be put on our e-list OIIMpeiCentre@gmail.com

506-214-1753

Spring and Summer 2014 PROGRAMS

*SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MEDITATION GROUP

Thursday 7-9PM
May 15 and June 19

Fee \$30 / OIIM Members'
suggested donation \$20

INTERFAITH CELEBRATION SERVICES

Sundays 7-9PM
May 18 and June 22

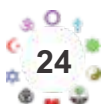
Donations welcomed

PRIVATE SESSIONS - BY APPOINTMENT

*Spiritual Readings with Rev. Barry

*Spiritual Counselling with Rev. Sandi
\$80 / 45 minute sessions
(readings are recorded)

*covered by extended health care plans



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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND INTERFAITH CENTRE

Register with Rev. Sandi OIIMpeiCentre@gmail.com

TENTATIVE Schedule of Events Spring/Summer 2014 - Prince Edward Island Interfaith Centre:

To register and/or make an appointment for private sessions and/or ask to receive regular emails, contact OIIMpeiCentre@gmail.com. **Thursday Wksh Fee: \$30 (APNN indicates covered by extended health care plans);** OIIM Members are entitled to free participation at most Thursday night OIIM Events - Recommended donation: \$20/event. Other workshops/course fees are noted (APNN indicates covered by extended health care plans).

Check out the full Interfaith Connexions
Volume 27-3 Spring/Summer 2014 at
www.InterfaithConnexions.org

WEBSITES

OIIM: www.InterfaithMinistry.com
Spirituality/Holistic Health: www.iNtuitiveTimes.ca
Interfaith E-news: www.InterfaithConnexions.org
Weddings: www.WeddingsOnPEI.ca
Educational Resources & NTI (Seminary): www.OIIM.net
Family/Personal Counselling: www.KingsWC.org
Psychic Readings/Resources: www.RevBarryKing.ca

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS AND SERVICE OFFICIANTS

- ✧ **Rev. Sandi King**, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD(TC), OM, CCC, n.d., Reiki Master, RSPchmd and Master Spiritual Counsellor
- ✧ **Rev. Barry King**, BSc(Hon.), PhD(TC), OM, n.d., Reiki Master, RSPchmd and Master Spiritual Medium
- ✧ **Rev. Susan Eaton**, OM, CASC, n.d., Reiki Master, RSPd and Master Spiritual Director
- NTI INTERNS AND APPRENTICES**
- ✧ **Margaret Flood**, CASC, Gestalt Therapy and Co-studying Shamanism
- ✧ **Heather Séguin**, CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice, Thanatology Certificate
- ✧ **Robin Phillips**, CASC Candidate, Reiki Master, Certified Practitioner in Primus Activation Healing Technique™ and Co-studying two year Crystal Resonance Therapy™ program with Naisha Ahsian of Crystalis Institute.
- ✧ **Debra MacIntyre**, CASC Student, Graphologist, BBA



MAY

• **Thursday, May 1, 7-9 PM Interfaith Service with Rev. Susan** · We invite you to enjoy an evening of Meditation · Talk on matters of Spirit and spirituality · Song and prayer · Messages or healing from Spirit · Fellowship Donations and/or contributions to refreshments greatly appreciated.

• **Thursday, May 8, 7-9 PM Workshop: Past Life Regression with Rev. Barry** · Heal the present through healing past lives · An exploration of research into reincarnation · A powerful tool for self-exploration and inner healing · Letting the past be your guide to your future · Can help you deal with today's phobias, fears, relationships, and physical discomfort. · NOTE: Bring something comfortable to lie on and a pillow. (APNN) · *Space is limited so register early – only those pre-registered will be able to attend.*

• **Thursday, May 15, 7-9 PM Workshop: Working with Faerie Energies with Rev. Susan** · Discover the healing power of connecting to Spirit through faeries · Connect to your faerie guides and discover the joy and healing energy they bring to you · See the extraordinary in the ordinary and touch the spiritual reality of our world and ourselves · Explore this connection through meditation and visualization.

• **Thursday, May 22, 7-9 PM Workshop: Divination Tools with Rev. Sandi** · Practice, Practice, Practice · Explore a number of tools to assist in connecting to Spirit (such as cards offering spiritual guidance, eg. Angel, tarot or I Ching; rune stones; crystals; stones; tea leaf gazing, etc.) · Explore relevant research · Explore safe, reverent, respectful and sacred ways to give and receive messages · Enjoy an evening of sharing messages with like-minded people · This popular series assists in enhancing your connection to Spirit.



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CONTINUED - TENTATIVE Schedule of Events Spring/Summer 2014 - PEI Interfaith Centre:

· **Thursday, May 29, 6-9 PM Potluck and AGM** · We invite you to join us in planning for the next year · Let us know what you would like for workshops and events · Learn what the other Chapters, Practitioners and Ministers are doing · **Potluck 6-7 PM** (everyone is invited to bring a food or drink item if you can – we let the Divine organize so bring whatever speaks to you) · **Annual General Meeting 7-9 PM** · Chapter Updates · Help plan next year's programs and events.

JUNE

· **Thursday, June 5, 7-9 PM Interfaith Service with Rev. Barry** · We invite you to enjoy an evening of Meditation · Talk on matters of Spirit and spirituality · Song and prayer · Messages or healing from Spirit · Fellowship · Donations and/or contributions to refreshments greatly appreciated.

· **Thursday, June 12, 7-9 PM Workshop: A Spiritual Approach to Dis-ease with Heather Séguin** · Using time-tested methods as practiced by bestselling author Louise Hay (*You Can Heal Your*

Life) this workshop will focus on: Identifying dis-ease and where it comes from · Understanding the truth of dis-ease · Deciding how to deal with dis-ease · Change and resistance to change · Building the new (daily work).

· **Thursday, June 19, 7-9 PM Tour of the Centre's Healing Gardens with Rev. Barry** · We invite you to connect to Spirit through nature · Explore the sacred in the natural world · Learn about the Doctrine of Signatures · Deepen your personal connection to the Divine through the miracle of your senses · Dress to play in the dirt · Enjoy a Nature Journey through meditation.

JULY AND AUGUST

SUMMER BBQ's – Last Thursday in June, July and August – **June 26 (including Summer Solstice Blessing); July 31; and August 28, 6-9 PM.** · Everyone is invited to bring a food or drink item if you can · Enjoy reconnecting with your spiritual friends over the summer · Enjoy the healing gardens and the wedding deck.

PEI & SJ Centres' Schedules-at-a-Glance

| May 2014 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|---|----|--|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 1 7-9PM Rev. Barry Service | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 7-9:30PM Rev. Barry Mediumship II-3 | 7 | 8 Rev. Barry PLR | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 7-9PM SJ Group Rev. Susan Faerie Energies | 16 | 17 |
| 18 7-9PM SJ Service | 19 | 20 7-9:30PM Rev. Barry Mediumship II-4 | 21 | 22 Revs. Barry/Sandi Connect to Spirit Divination Tools | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 6PM Potluck 7PM AGM | 30 | 31 |

| July 2014 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 6-9PM Potluck/ BBQue | | |

| June 2014 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|--|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 7-9PM Rev. Barry Service | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Heather Spiritual Approach to Dis-ease | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 7-9PM SJ Group Rev. Barry Healing Gardens | 20 | 21 |
| 22 7-9PM SJ Service | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 6-9PM BBQue Potluck | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| August 2014 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----------------------------------|----|----|
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 6-9PM Potluck/ BBQue | 29 | 30 |

PEI & SJ Centres' Schedules-at-a-Glance

