

Spiritualist Church of Canada

*Eternal Progress
Open to Every
Soul*



*Summer
2018*

President's Message

As I write this message it seems summer is here! It is certainly very warm now despite our late spring. I do hope each and every one of you can get out and enjoy the weather with family and friends. As we know summer seems so short and certainly we can get very busy.

I am excited to be attending the 2nd World Congress in July and leave for England at the end of June, along with many of our members. We will advise all the highlights in the next newsletter. Canada will be hosting in July 2022 and we are beginning to plan already. I hope to see many of you in England and if not then in 2022 to celebrate Spiritualism. Ideas on workshops and where it should be held are welcome so we can do Canada proud.

As you will see later in the newsletter, I had the honour of ordaining another minister in Spiritualism; Reverend Malcom Cobley is our newest minister and we congratulate him on all his hard work and dedication towards this goal.

Your board is making progress in copyrighting all of our education material and manuals. It has been a large project and we are all pleased to be nearing the end. In the process of copyrighting we have made changes to enhance student learnings as well as upgrading policies and procedures. Having this all in place makes it easier on everyone and ensures fairness for all. We thank everyone who has given us feedback as

without you, our members, we would not exist. We do strive as volunteers to do what is best for our members, churches and ministers and appreciate input. We will now be able to complete our Education Booklet which will list all the courses and the breakdown of what is covered in each course. Thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding with this process.

We were very pleased that when we announced our Scholarship Program, SCC members in the United States contributed the full tuition for the first scholarship. They are true Spiritualists and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Upcoming we have fundraising workshops with Joanne Wilson of Joanne's Divinity Healing, from High River, Alberta. Joanne is an excellent evidential medium; if you do get a chance to take a workshop or attend a demonstration, you will be impressed. She will also be available for healing appointments and readings, so contact myself, Rev. Brenda Ropp, to book. We are thrilled to be able to have her come to Ontario. Flyers are listed later in the newsletter so be sure to take a look and add to your calendar.

Our AGM is coming up fast. London Spiritualist Church has agreed to host the AGM this year in October and we have some very exciting workshops scheduled so, keep checking our website. This is also the time to think about joining our board as we will have positions coming open. Although being elected to the

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board is a lot of work, it is also very rewarding as we work to promote and enhance Spiritualism and the Spiritualist Church of Canada. Everyone has a voice and can make a difference.

"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."

- Albert Einstein

If anyone knows about difficulties, it's Albert. Every single challenge you face has something in it that is of value to you, should you choose to see it. It goes along with the saying about every cloud having a silver lining. Learn and grow from your troubles and you will only be empowered because of them.

Did you know??

You may be ordained more than once but, you can only be registered to perform marriages in the province that you live and only with one organization.

For volunteers who require a police check, having it done through your local police office covers all of Canada no matter where you live:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/types-criminal-background-checks>



*Rev. Brenda Ropp
President*

Editor's Message

Morning has broken like the first morning...praise for them springing fresh from the world...

-Hymn

I'd heard this tune on the radio many times but I truly never paid attention to this simple yet powerful song until in 5th grade music class when our teacher played it for us. He broke it down poetically, musically & spiritually in a 45 minute segment of our class; it says something about the reach of a teacher and the music when you can remember distinctly a lot of the details of that lesson 45 years later.

I knew this was a hymn because it was quite often hummed by Mum and Grandma, even though it wasn't in their traditional Christian hymnals apparently it was part of Mum's school repertoire.

I wasn't particularly fascinated with religion, I just knew I liked the tune, and then it was made cool to the 9yr old me by first, Cat Stevens and then Mr. Adler (who oddly enough, resembled Mr. Stevens).

This song, as we know, is about being thankful for the daily abundance in our lives. For the simplicity of nature and the glorious bounty it surrounds us with: dew on the grass underfoot, colour everywhere in flowers and sun; for allowing us to awaken and share these wonders of the world around us. While I know the original working, title adds 'the first day of spring' to it, the summer and the bright sunny mornings that

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greet us are the images conjured when I sing or listen to this song. I suppose it's tied to music class being held outside on the back fields of our school in those last few days before school's out for summer.

Summer is warming physically, we are used to the longer and brighter days by now and even when it rains we can still feel that sunshine underneath it all. It makes me feel grateful for every day that I get to continue on this spiritual path of growth.

Our summer edition has as always, a bit of everything to encourage discussions of growth; from future workshops and courses to a 2 part slice of Spiritualism history. There's also the celebration of a new Reverend in town to read about, a lovely reader poem and recommended reading. We hope that you will enjoy this edition; if there is something you'd like featured, to comment upon, or to share something of your own contact us on:

newsletter@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com

Peace love and peachiness in Spirit- Stevie

Inspirations

'if you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the Present...gratefully.'

Maya Angelou

Happiness is like a butterfly, which when pursued is just beyond your grasp. But, which, if you sit still, just may alight upon you.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Medium

*The medium gave his message
The widow cried her tears
It was a happy moment, she was not sad
Where did the message come from?
But a spouse long gone
Speaking of love to his loved one
What a joy it was
They sang a song to the angel who
brought the tune to them for their enjoyment
What a day it was and indeed a good one
For the happy spouse who left in a happy state
It was a long time since he left
Knowing his love never lost for his beautiful wife*

Ron K



Spirit's Reading Corner

Psychic News was a Psychic Press Ltd publication; a weekly British Spiritualist newspaper that was founded in May 1932 by Maurice Barbanell, Hannen Swaffer and Arthur Findlay.

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All manner of articles were written on the subject of Spiritualism and its contribution to a societal understanding of death. From direct voice and trance mediumship to the scientific and philosophical to tributes to Spiritualist workers and leaders, the *Psychic News* debated all subjects.

The University of Manitoba Libraries hosts a digital collection of this historical paper from the first edition. 28 May 1932 up to 30 December 1950 and counting. Have a look, there are numerous articles and some of the adverts of the day are fun too!
<http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/psychicnews>

Ordination Celebration

I was very pleased to ordain Malcolm Copley as a minister of the Spiritualist Church of Canada on May 27th, 2018. The service was held at Church of Universal Love, in Toronto and we thank Rev. Gillian Edwards for hosting. Congratulations Rev. Copley, we are thrilled to have you as an ambassador for spirit. Rev. Brenda Ropp, President



*Rev. Malcolm Copley &
Rev. Brenda Ropp*

*Rev. Gillian &
Rev. Malcolm Copley*

Malcolm Copley is a semi-retired writer, filmmaker, and producer of multi-media educational programs who spent almost all his adult working life as a card-carrying atheist with an enthusiastic interest in the history of science and a very strong dislike of organized religions of all kinds.

But in 2009 he started to experience a succession of astonishing, yet simply undeniable, events that caused him to rethink everything he had ever imagined about religion, paranormal phenomena, and, in particular, the possibility that life really does continue after death.

As a result, he started studying spiritualism seriously in Canada and the United States, and ultimately followed in his wife Gillian's footsteps by graduating from the School of Fellowships of the Spirit in Lily Dale - (in May 2013) - as an ordained Minister of Spiritual Healing and Prophecy. He then enrolled in the education program of the SCC from which he graduated in February this year.

Malcolm is now a regular participant in services and workshops at several churches in Ontario. He and his wife are also members of the Lily Dale Assembly and serve as accredited healers in the Healing Temple.

Rev. Brenda Ropp

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Spiritualism History

13 July 1876

Henry Slade, the celebrated slate-writing medium, arrives in London. He had been before the public in America for fifteen years previous to this first visit

28 June 1890

At a séance, in the presence of M. Aksakof and Professor Butlerof, of St. Petersburg, a golden lily, 7ft high, is said to have materialized. It was kept for a week & during that time 6 photos were taken after which it dissolved & disappeared

17 July 1882

Professor Henry Sidgwick of the Society for Psychical Research presented his first presidential address

'I think spiritualism, mesmerism, the mental healing movement, provided some people with the most meaningful experiences of their lives.' - Mitch Horowitz

Emma Hardinge Britten: Emerging From Blavatsky's Shadow Part 1 of 2 By T. J. Gibson

"Cornelius Agrippa and other Medieval Mystics have affirmed, that a Magician to attain to successful achievement "must be born a Magician." Reviewing my own youthful experiences, I am perfectly convinced that this remark applies as surely to "Spirit Mediums" as to Magicians-indeed to my apprehension the two terms are synonymous."

— Emma Hardinge Britten, Autobiography 1900

Although a majority of those who identify themselves as modern Spiritualists are at least familiar with Emma Hardinge Britten by name, they most often recognize her only as an early pioneer of the modern movement, most often solely remembered as a channel for the original version of Spiritualism's famous "Seven Principles." Far less in number are the Spiritualists who are aware of the profound influence that Emma had on the development of a number of diverse schools of modern esoteric and related beliefs during the latter half of the 19th century and beyond.

Her purported engagement as a "child medium" by the UK based western ceremonial magic influenced "Orphic Circle" group in the 1830s, and her signatory presence alongside Helena Blavatsky and others in 1875 at the inaugural meeting of the Theosophical Society, are only two examples of the much more diverse range of spiritual activities she was personally engaged in than is commonly associated with her legacy.

Born in 1823, Emma describes in her autobiography that her childhood was a rather troubled period of her life. Although displaying some traditional earmarks of those inclined toward an eventual career as a medium, her rather troubled outlook was compounded by the relatively early passing of her father.

In later life, she expressed agreement with someone she described as an "occult associate" who described her, utilizing her birth name as "[a] ghost seeress, somnambulist, improvisatrice in music, and a prophetess, the strange weird child, 'Emma Floyd,' was the terror of her nursery attendants and the problem of all who knew her."

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It is reported that the loss of her father, at age 11, had a profound economic impact on the family as a whole. And although regarding her as possessing a troubled disposition, the family soon found Emma's other attributes as a naturally talented singer, an able music teacher and skilled stage performer, to be invaluable assets in helping to assure their financial well-being.

It was also during this period, that Emma alleges that she first encountered what she refers to as the "Orphic Circle" or "Orphic Society." Existing as what some have described as a "social network", consisting over time of a number of well-known members of British society collectively interested in what were regarded as "fringe" ideas of the day.

Among others these included modern astrology, crystallogancy, mesmerism, and a form of spiritualist mediumship, derived from a blend of mesmerism and highly symbolic ritual practices borrowed in part from ceremonial magical traditions which had developed historically in Western Europe.

Emma was apparently held in high regard as a skilled medium in the latter context. It is also in this latter context that we can see elements that later in her life, would help to form the basis of Emma's fully formed mature philosophy of Spiritualism and arguably help set in motion ideas that came to fruition in the eventual development of what is often referred to as the 20th century modern pagan movement.

Autumn Edition-Part 2

will be an examination of Emma Hardinge Britten's participation and her influences in the initial founding of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky's Theosophical Society and their resulting parting of the ways.

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Education



Last Words/Beginnings

Our Condolences go out to Rev. Brenda Philp, Education Chair on the recent loss of her mother. Connie Philp was a long time Spiritualist and a joy to many. She regularly attended the London Spiritualist Church and could often be seen in the front pew, enjoying services. I am sure she was welcomed on the other side with great joy.

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