

## **REMEMBERING LORRAINE SNOWDEN**

At our last Psi Symposium Board meeting in April we all did some deep sharing about issues of pain and struggle that each of us had been facing in the months before. All of us are aging and all of us had been coming to terms with the debilitations, both physical and mental, that our flesh is heir to. It was striking how much we all had been facing, both individually and collectively, and we offered one another our mutual comfort and support. One of our Board members, Lorraine Snowden, was not able to be present because of treatment for cancer of the tongue. Since that meeting Lorraine has made her transition to the spiritual dimension of being. We will deeply miss her presence on the Board and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Glen Snowden and his family.

Together with her husband, Glen Snowden, Lorraine has been a longtime stalwart and devoted servant of the Psi Symposium organization and helped to further our spiritual aspirations and goals. She has been our Treasurer for quite a few years and has helped mail out the Psi Sym Newsletter and Journal to the membership and attended many a Psi Symposium Summer Conference at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine. Her talents as an organist and music director have graced many church services and conference gatherings over the years. The gift of sacred music was in her soul and in her fingers and she shared what she had with others.

I like these lines from a poet, Abbie Houston Evans:

All those hymnings up to God... Cannot have been lost utterly,  
Been arrows that went wide. Like homing birds lossed from the hand,...  
Have they not circled up above, poised, and found out direction...?  
Such cryings-up confound us; I think they are not tangential,  
But aimed at a center....

I would like to think that Lorraine Snowden has followed the music in her soul and returned to the Center of Being where all songs and anthems have their origin, and “all those hymnings up to God” come home to their Source.

Blessed be, dear Lorraine. Blessed be.

Richard M. Fewkes, President UUPS

## Psi Symposium - Ferry Beach Conference Report - Summer 2008

### **Peg Smith - Convener**

“What drew you to come to the Psi Conference?” This is frequently asked of everyone at the “get acquainted” meeting the first night of the conference. My answer is that I’m always interested in the workshops being offered, and, for me at least, each summer something “unusual” happens...something inexplicable, something that expands my spirit, something that leaves me in awe, or wondering. And there is the camaraderie...I am so grateful for the people who gather at Psi Sym each year, “kindred spirits” with whom I can talk freely about whatever far-out idea we are considering. And no one rolls their eyes!

And that was what this summer’s amazing week was like for about 20 Psi conferees. In the morning workshops, Sibylle Baughan started our Guided Imagery and Music experience off by suggesting visual image, then just before playing specially selected music, she would say, “Let the music take you where you need to go”. This gave permission for each participant to continue with the visualization, or drop it and go wherever their thoughts took them. We went to some wonderful places! And the people/entities we met along the way were pretty interesting too!

The afternoon workshops were led by psychic medium, Vicki Baird, who discussed different kinds of energy, and how to be open only to positive energies ....and ways to protect ourselves. In one exercise, Vicki brought in energy of “elementals” (fairies and elves), then of spirit guides, and finally of energy from the Source, and we tried to sense the differences between them. A couple of times Vicki did readings, reporting on those who were in spirit and who were visiting loved ones in the workshop. (She also spoke privately with many of the conferees outside of the workshop.)

In the evening, Nancy Bush, a Near Death Experiencer, and researcher spoke to us about what typical NDEs are like, and their positive effect for the rest of the person’s life. In the question period after, she brought out that a small number of people for some unknown reason have negative NDEs. She hopes that by being open about the subject people will become less reluctant to discuss it, and research can help us to understand the phenomena.

Our other evening speaker, Dr. Casey Blood, talked about how quantum physics...the physics of possibility, had changed the way we thought about reality. Then he spoke about how the brain and the mind were different: the brain was the tool of the mind and mind had the capability of functioning on the quantum level. He also brought in the insights of mystics about the different planes: the angelic, the Jinn, and the physical. If you want to explore this further, Dr Blood has written a book: “The Way from Science to Soul....Integrating Physics, the Brain, and the Spiritual Journey”.

If an “inner journey vacation” appeals to you, U.U.Psi Symposium will again be at Ferry Beach the third week in August next year. Hope to see you there.

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**PSI Annual Meeting** is scheduled to convene at 11 am on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Shirley Pratt’s residence, 760 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494. Telephone: 781-444-5202. E-mail: SWP718@aol.com. All are welcome. If you can/plan to attend please call Shirley as space may need to be enlarged.

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**Due to increased mailing costs the annual dues for Psi has been increased as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to \$20 per year and \$35 for Sponsorship.**

### **Editor's Note:**

Lorraine Snowden's death on July 21<sup>st</sup> of this year has left an enormous hole in the fabric of the National Psi organization and in our hearts. None of us are irreplaceable but Lorraine's depth of service for/in Psi is going to be very difficult to fill – and I cannot imagine how Glen will assuage the grief over losing a companion of over 55 years – but his strength of faith and character will do it and give the rest of us an excellent example of how it can be done with spiritual grace and Love. I encourage you to read his poem in the last issue of the newsletter for validation of that opinion. Each of us has a story: Lorraine grew up in Pennsylvania with her three sisters who survive – married Glen – had daughter Julie Marie, who married Rick Martin and birthed grandchildren Jesse and Tyler. She was a graduate of Elizabethtown College, PA, Yale School of Music (organ) and the New England Conservatory of Music (harpsichord). Her memberships included the American Guild of Organists, a music fraternity, i.e. Sigma Alpha Iota, and the Dowser Chapter of Greater Boston. Those are biographical facts which can give one an insight into her interests and skills. She played the organ for many churches over the years with skilled joy and spirit. President Fewkes tribute to her on the first page of this newsletter is right to the point of the enlightened presence she brought to her life and its tasks. She is missed and we welcome her continued connection with Psi and others in her life from this new perspective she now enjoys.

Rumi had these wise words: I saw grief drinking a cup of sorrow and called out, "It tastes sweet, does it not?" "You've caught me," grief answered, "and you've ruined my business, how can I sell sorrow when you know it's a blessing?"  
Jo-an R. Glasse, jo-an@comcast.net

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Roberts Watson's comment on this year's General Assembly's Psi program in Ft.Lauderdale, FL.:

We really liked Casey's presentation. In fact, people liked it so much that the Open Issues group is having him come back for one of their weekly meetings in August. He will be at least the third PSI-type speaker at Open Issues in the last 12 months. Apparently, our PSI Symposium group and its philosophy, along with other groups meeting in our church such as the Buddhists, are infiltrating other more "normal" groups in the church, and making acceptable some topics that would have been completely off-bounds 10 or 15 years ago. It is an interesting development.

### **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

These changes are the first of the revisions of our Bylaws which will reflect the changes in the organization.

Change One: Because *seven* members of the Board aren't always able to come to Ferry Beach for an Annual Meeting, in April, 2008 it was voted that *two* Board members and the members present would be sufficient for a quorum to conduct business.

Change Two: The second proposed revision reflects the need to have at least *two Board members* present and voting before Bylaws are revised or amended. In recent years, the number of *members* attending an Annual Meeting at the summer conference at Ferry Beach can be quite small so this change is to insure guidance at any meeting at which By laws are being voted on.

#### **Article VIII. MEETINGS**

##### **A. ANNUAL MEETING**

Current Bylaw: At any meeting of the Psi Symposium, the members present and seven members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Proposed change: At any meeting of the Psi Symposium, the members present and two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **Article XI. AMENDMENTS**

Current Bylaw: These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any duly held meeting of the Psi Symposium by at least two-thirds of the Members present and voting.

Proposed change: No Bylaw can be changed without two-thirds of the Members present and two Board members voting

**The New Religion of the 21st Century - Brian Piergrossi (From the book 'The Big Glow')**

On the surface of the world right now there is war and violence and things seem dark But calmly and quietly, at the same time, something else is happening underground An inner revolution is taking place and certain individuals are being called to a higher light It is a silent revolution from the inside out from the ground up It is time for me to reveal myself, I am an embedded agent of a secret, undercover Clandestine Global operation A spiritual conspiracy We have sleeper cells in every nation on the planet. You won't see us on the T.V. You won't read about us in the newspaper. You won't hear about us on the radio. We don't seek any glory

We don't wear any uniform We come in all shapes and sizes Colors and styles. Most of us work anonymously We are quietly working behind the scenes in every country and culture of the world Cities big and small, mountains and valleys, in farms and villages, tribes and remote islands. You could pass by one of us on the street and not even notice We go undercover We remain behind the scenes It is of no concern to us who takes the final credit But simply that the work gets done

Occasionally we spot each other in the street We give a quiet nod and continue on our way so no one will notice During the day many of us pretend we have normal jobs But behind the false storefront at night is where the real work takes a place Some call us the 'Conscious Army' We are slowly creating a new world with the power of our minds and hearts We follow, with passion and joy Our orders from the Central Command The Spiritual Intelligence Agency

We are dropping soft, secret love bombs when no ones is looking. Poems Hugs Music Photography Movies Kind words Smiles Meditation and prayer Dance Social activism Websites Blogs Random acts of kindness

We each express ourselves in our own unique ways with our own unique gifts and talents 'Be the change you want to see in the world' That is the motto that fills our hearts We know it is the only way real transformation takes place We know that quietly and humbly we have the power of all the oceans combined Our work is slow and meticulous Like the formation of mountains It is not even visible at first glance And yet with it entire tectonic plates shall be moved in the centuries to come Love is the new religion of the 21st century You don't have to be a highly educated person Or have any exceptional knowledge to understand it. It comes from the intelligence of the heart Embedded in the timeless evolutionary pulse of all human beings Be the change you want to see in the world Nobody else can do it for you We are now recruiting Perhaps you will join us Or already have....All are welcome...The door is open –

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**(Editor's note:** This came to me from a local Psi member of over 25 years, Mary Lou Richards, with the following comment: “.This is the article I mentioned in the previous e-mail. This has been my belief for a long time. It really encompasses everything we have explored through PSI.” This experience has been aired for many years but if you haven't seen it I hope it interests you.)

**He's Been to Heaven and Beyond**

In the InfiniteBeing.com home page article, 'Stairway to Heaven,' Owen Waters described the twelve densities (or 'dimensions') of Creation.

These layers of compression of Original Consciousness are:

First Density - Matter

Second Density - Biology

Third Density - Human Individuality

Fourth Density - Heart-Centered Integration

Fifth Density - Soul Consciousness

Sixth Density - Group Souls

Seventh Density - Planetary Consciousness

Eighth Density - Solar Consciousness

Ninth Density - The Galaxies and their Central Suns

Tenth Density - The Central Sun of the Universe

Eleventh Density - The Watchers  
Twelfth Density - The Founders  
Beyond the Twelfth - Infinite Being

In 1982, in a near death experience, Mellen-Thomas Benedict visited those upper layers of consciousness and came back to tell the tale! Mellen-Thomas gained a rare glimpse into the vastness of the consciousness of all of Creation. His story is a precious gem in the annals of spiritual experience. After suffering from terminal cancer, in 1982 Mellen-Thomas 'died' and for an hour and a half he was monitored showing no vital signs. Miraculously he returned to his body, which he re-animated, along with a complete remission of the disease. This re-animation of the body is a familiar feat to true Yoga masters, who leave their bodies in a death-like state for several days while their consciousness enters the ultimate stage of advanced Samadhi.

While on the "other side," Mellen journeyed through several realms of consciousness far beyond the "light at the end of the tunnel". He was shown during his near death experience, in holographic detail, Earth's past and a beautiful vision of mankind's future for the next 400 years. He experienced the cosmology of our soul's connection to Mother Earth (Gaia), our role in the universe, and was gifted with access to Universal Intelligence.

With humility, insight, and depth of feeling he shares his experience and insights. Here is Mellen-Thomas' Near Death Experience, "Journey Through the Light and Back."

<http://www.mellen-thomas.com/stories.htm>

For more articles, visit <http://www/InfiniteBeing.com>

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Two statements that will serve you very well. The first is: There will always be war. There will always be those who aggravate within others a sense of trouble in order to promote the solution that they already have their mind made up about. And so you're never going to come into agreement as a mass consciousness that this is "the way." There will always be disagreements; therefore, there will always be turmoil; there will always be war. The other statement, that is our favorite is: Well-Being will always abound, so the dominant experience of the majority of people will always be one of Well-Being. So you can decide, at any point in time, in what part of this you want to play. You can use anything as your excuse to align with Well-being, or you can use anything as your excuse to not align. The thing that we think is at the heart of this discussion is my own personal power. We think that's what you are, sort of, struggling for and reaching for.

Abraham-Hicks workshop in San Francisco, CA on Saturday, March 8th, 2003

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(Editor's note: Alice Yeager, Washington, DC convener and supporter of Psi has this news of interest.) We would like to announce the publication of the book *Transforming Education for Peace* with contributors Alice Yeager, President of both the American Healing Arts Alliance Inc. (AHAA) non-profit and Spirit Creative Services Inc. an educational consulting business and AHAA member Lt. Colonel Irene Zoppi as co-authors of a chapter in the book titled "Transforming Teaching Warfare into Peace". Their chapter leads the Section in the book titled *New Paradigms for Education for Peace*. This book is considered a text book for college curriculums in Peace Education as well as an informative read for the general public. It is recommended to students, teachers and all others interested in a global understanding of peace education. Editors and professors Jing Ling from University of Maryland along with Edward Brantmeier from University of Colorado and Christa Bruhn from University of Wisconsin brought together a team of co-contributors including Alice Yeager and Lt. Colonel Irene Zoppi to help readers understand how important the role peace education plays in all aspects of our lives. Both Ms. Yeager and Ms Zoppi are active as educators and in service as local Anne Arundel County residents and non-profit leaders in the community. Their joint work together emphasizes the importance of creating harmony among all peoples. They seek to apply these principles in their personal relationships and professionally in their work and interactions with others.

(Editor's Note: this Boston Globe article was sent to Pres. Fewkes by Isham Peugh and we thought it would interest many of you.)

### **ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT**

The healing ritual of laying on of hands finds a place in Greater Boston

Katie Liesener, Globe Correspondent August 11, 2007

Eileen Richmond shuffled toward the receptionist's desk desperate for relief. She completed the paperwork for treatment of fatigue -- which had been plaguing her since a six-month exposure to carbon monoxide -- and collapsed into a waiting-room couch. When her name was called, she was ushered into a private room, but not to be poked and palpated by doctors. Instead, she was met by two women armed with mints, tissues, and a Bible. One woman laid a palm on Richmond's shoulder while the other's hands rose like antennae, scanning for a divine signal. For 20 minutes, they pleaded for God's power, squinted and strained, urged divine action, thanked Jesus, then pressed for more, as airy instrumental music wafted in the background. "I felt as if a hundred-pound bag of sand were lifted from my shoulders," Richmond said afterward, as she left the Greater Boston Healing Rooms smiling and dazed.

This is a new face of religious healing in Boston -- laying on of hands, dispensed as efficiently and accessibly as vaccinations at a clinic. Following an international model, the Greater Boston Healing Rooms provides free, no-hassle, relatively anonymous prayer to anyone who walks in the door, believer and nonbeliever alike. In the past year and a half, 230 people have come Thursday nights with personal and physical problems, ranging in severity from cancers to colds. Most visitors report receiving a sense of peace or warmth. About 10 percent write back with testimonials -- delivery from joint pain, tumors, depression, asthma, eczema, even weight gain.

"Some Christians think God isn't doing anything in today's world -- that he used to do cool stuff, but not in modern times," said Richmond. "But why would God suddenly cut us off?" A former Episcopalian, Richmond once considered prayer healing "bizarre." And by traditional Yankee standards of religion and rationality, it is. The concept of having a place where anyone can come for the ritual of laying on of hands belongs to the opposite coast, where Pentecostal evangelist John G. Lake originated healing rooms early in the last century. After his death, the rooms disappeared for more than 50 years, until a real estate developer named Cal Pierce resurrected them in 1999 on the site of Lake's original headquarters in Spokane, Wash. In the eight years since, nearly 600 healing rooms have sprouted worldwide, riding the international popularity of Pentecostalism -- a Christian worship style that emphasizes a believer's direct personal relationship with God, as evidenced by "gifts of the Spirit," such as speaking in tongues, prophesying, and laying on of hands.

In New England, only Christian Science (which interprets illness as illusion) has lain as much stress on prayer healing. Healing rooms, with their notion of a disease-battling Holy Spirit, are gaining a foothold through the area's booming Pentecostal churches, such as the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Cambridge, which donates space to the Greater Boston Healing Rooms and provides much of its \$3,000 annual budget.

With just a dozen healing rooms, New England is the movement's sparsest US region. But with most of those appearing in the past three years, it's also one of the movement's newest frontiers. "I believe New England was slow to start simply because of our traditional background," Barbara Rispoli, who runs healing rooms on Long Island and advises others around New England, wrote in an e-mail. "I was raised Catholic, [where] your beliefs and prayer life were always viewed as a personal matter... But the healing rooms are about sharing serious matters with people you don't really know." Sharing with people from the pews rather than the pulpit, that is. Laypeople of any denomination can become healers, as long as they receive training (mostly in prayer etiquette) and their pastor's endorsement.

"For a while, the trend was, 'Who are the big-name healers?'" said Margaret Poloma, professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Akron, who has studied healing rooms. "But here, anyone can be a healer."

They can heal anywhere, too. The Greater Boston Healing Rooms adopts nurseries and offices in the Vineyard Christian Fellowship's administration building. New England's other healing rooms have budded in storefronts, private homes, urban trouble spots, and backwoods towns. By taking prayer healing out of clerical hands and sanctuaries, healing rooms specifically seek to attract the non-churchgoer. They do not pressure for donations, blame the sick for lack of faith, or require commitment or conversion. Visitors are told to continue their medications and doctors' orders until verified as healthy. "If a diabetic comes here and thinks, 'Woo, I'm healed!,' maybe they are, maybe they aren't," said Kristin Wensel, administrative director of the Greater Boston Healing Rooms. "They might also have just had their insulin shot.

Prayer team members say they do not know why God sometimes doesn't heal, but they do not doubt God's intervention when someone feels better or is officially cured.

Of course, in the absence of testing, any explanation can be made to fit any outcome. Although scientific studies have shown human touch to have medical benefits, isolating prayer as an active agent is problematic because it cannot be precisely quantified or regulated.

"There's no reason to believe prayer can heal, but since you can't do the definitive study, you'll never know for certain," said Richard Sloan, professor of behavioral medicine at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital at the Columbia University Medical Center.

Still, the most recent and most rigorous attempts at studying distant, intercessory prayer have shown no correlation with recovery. A large 2006 study conducted by Harvard researcher Herbert Benson found that heart patients who knew they were receiving prayer actually showed a greater incidence of post-operative complications.

Sloan is not surprised: "There are four fundamental forces in the universe [strong and weak nuclear forces, gravity, and electromagnetism]. None of them account for how prayer could heal." Michael Devita holds a broader view. A retired physician and director of healing rooms in Bangor, Maine, he sees the human body with two lenses. "I know spiritually when God has done something, not with my mind or education, but with -- this will sound funny -- my 'knower,' that inside of you which knows, transcending language," he said. "Then I look with my brain, my knowledge, and ask, 'Is there evidence I can see with my natural eyes?'"

He was awed in both senses by Dean Ellis, a 37-year-old automotive technician diagnosed with HIV last year. Six months of medications had increased Ellis's CD4 cells (lymphocytes that indicate immune strength) from 41 per cubic millimeter to more than 200. A month after receiving prayer from Devita, his CD4 count spiked to 414 -- a level his doctor had told him not to expect for another three to four years.

Ellis's doctor sees an exceptional response to the drugs; Ellis sees simple spiritual logic. "If God can create the human body, why can't he heal it?" he said.

The greater miracle, to Ellis, is that God even chose to help him. After years of abstinence, he believes he contracted HIV through non-marital sex. "I didn't feel like I deserved to be healed," he said. "Some people get sick because they just get sick. I got sick because of my own mistakes." In that sense, healing rooms are known for delivering hope as much as health. When Eileen Richmond grappled with her carbon monoxide symptoms -- numbness, confusion, fatigue -- the doctors made light of them and an employer fired her. But healing rooms provided prayer unquestioningly. And she has accepted prayer's benefit the same way.

"Trusting God feels like being a child in a rope swing," she said. "It's that feeling of weightlessness when you reach the high point, just before you begin to fall back. You know you're falling, and you know you're safe."

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**- The New Religion of the 21st Century –**  
***Brian Piergrossi (From the book 'The Big Glow')***

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We don't wear any uniform We come in all shapes and sizes Colors and styles. Most of us work anonymously We are quietly working behind the scenes in every country and culture of the world Cities big and small, mountains and valleys, in farms and villages, tribes and remote islands. You could pass by one of us on the street and not even notice We go undercover We remain behind the scenes It is of no concern to us who takes the final credit But simply that the work gets done Occasionally we spot each other in the street We give a quiet nod and continue on our way so no one will notice During the day many of us pretend we have normal jobs But behind the false storefront at night is where the real work takes a place Some call us the 'Conscious Army' We are slowly creating a new world with the power of our minds and hearts We follow, with passion and joy Our orders from the Central Command The Spiritual Intelligence Agency

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