

The Ferry Beach Summer Conference to be the LAST WEEK in August.
Peg Smith and Sibylle Baughan
UU Psi Symposium Conference Co-Coordinator

Because Labor Day is so late in 2009, the conferences usually held the third week in August, including Psi Symposium, will be August 22-28, instead.

In September of this year, a member of the Psi chapter in the Berkshires asked me, "It's only 4 years until 2012, shouldn't we be preparing ourselves for it?" I confessed that I didn't know much about the 2012 predictions of a world in transition, or a shift in consciousness, or an end time. But it sounded like something that maybe we should be exploring. As a result, we will be doing some of that at Psi Sym's summer conferences, for the next 4 years. Though each conference's workshops will relate in some way to the theme of 2012, they will be able to stand on their own as exciting and meaningful to you even if you have no interest in 2012.

The 2009 Psi Symposium Conference theme is "Caring for Ourselves and Our Planet" and will be based on the teachings of Abraham. Abraham is a soul group, who has been channeled by Esther Hicks and whose teachings have been presented to the world for over 20 years.

These teachings answer the questions: "How can we attract what we want into our life?", and "How can we avoid attracting what we don't want?" The six-day morning workshop, led by Laura Yurko and Sibylle Mayer Baughan, will present Abraham's teachings and examine the role that Intention plays in this process. There will be interesting experiential activities, including guided imagery, meditation, and discussions to bring the ideas down from the theoretical to the personal, or to the planetary levels. Laura has extensive training in expressive arts, and energy healing, as well as a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology. Sibylle is a long time Ferry Beacher, workshop teacher, and Psi Conference coordinator. She directs the Yoga Center for the Healing Arts.

The afternoon workshops will expand on the conference theme: Ron Giancola will present "The Low Carbon diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds".
"Stress Reduction Through Movement" will be taught by Linda Giancola.

Rosa sat so that Martin could walk...
Martin walked so that Barack could run...
Barack ran so that our children can fly.

Dear God:
The lady reading this is beautiful, classy and strong and I love her.
Help her live her life to the fullest.
Please promote her and cause her to excel above her expectations.
Help her shine in the darkest places where it is impossible to love.
Protect her at all times, lift her up when she needs you the most and let her know when she walks with you;
She will always be safe.

Dear God:
The man reading this is handsome, classy and strong and I love him.
Help him live his life to the fullest.
Please promote him and cause him to excel above his expectations.
Help him shine in the darkest places where it is impossible to love.
Protect him at all times, lift him up when he needs you the most and let him know when he walks with you;
He will always be safe

General Assembly June 29, 2008.
Roberta Casper Watson – Program Director

The National PSI organization presented a wonderful program at the UUA General Assembly this summer in Ft. Lauderdale. It's official description is below. The program was very interesting, and attendees seemed very interested in the opportunity to learn from someone who had spoken to so many people who have experienced ghostly visitations. This is a topic of interest to many, but to which many have been tempted to approach without logic (on both sides), and it was wonderful to hear it discussed by a Unitarian Universalist and in a Unitarian Universalist setting.

**Spirit Seekers and Investigators of the
Paranormal World
JOHN KACHUBA**

Why do ghosts and spirits fascinate us? To answer that question, UU ghosthunter extraordinaire, John Kachuba, has investigated nearly 100 haunted locations and followed the trail of mediums, dowzers and other researchers of America's paranormal world. He will share the results of his explorations and why UU's should be interested in this fascinating subject.

John B. Kachuba, an active Unitarian Universalist, is a creative writer and investigator of paranormal phenomena. A member of the UU Fellowship of Athens, Ohio, he serves on their Executive Board. He also teaches Creative Writing at Ohio University. He has published three books on the subject of "ghost hunting", the latest, *Ghosthunters: On the Trail of Mediums, Dowzers, Spirit Seekers and Other Investigators of America's Paranormal World* (2007). John Kachuba has been described by author Brad Steiger as "neither a gullible believer nor a skeptical disbeliever in ghosts and the paranormal. He is first and foremost a talented writer who strives to be a truly objective investigator", and who "writes with charm and great wit." Kachuba says of his most recent book on *Ghosthunters* that it is "not simply a book about ghosts, (but) takes a look at ideas of an afterlife, immortality, the soul, the existence of a spirit realm, etc." He has conducted a service at his UU Fellowship in Athens, Ohio based upon the book.

The question of the possibility of the survival of the spirit is one that has haunted the human race for thousands of years. So-called rational Unitarian Universalists are no less interested in the question than others. When one of our own creative members brings intelligence, verve and wit to the study of this subject we should at least hear him out and give him an opportunity to be heard by other Unitarian Universalists. Every major religion has thoughts and ideas and views about the question of life after death or the possibility thereof. Why not Unitarian Universalism?

You may recall that John spoke to our own Chapter in November, so we are very excited to be sponsoring his presentation at GA.

We are very grateful to John Kachuba for taking the time to do this program for us. It was recorded, and the CD can be purchased from the UUA. I encourage all who are interested in the topic to get the recording, and/or to read John's books.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melodie Beattie

Berkshire Portal Psi Chapter Programs September to November 2008

Shared by Peg Smith, Convenor

We finished discussing Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth – Awakening to Your Life's Purpose" and then as a contrast, had a creative session of making "Spirit Books" out of paper, natural materials and what-not. These are to be used to enter our intentions, or spiritual experiences, or thoughts.

Celebrations included Autumnal Equinox at the new home of a member sageing, and blessing it and Halloween with a "Come as you were in a former life" Party, which reminded us that lightness and laughter should be an important part of life.

For two weeks, Susie McGuire, a healer and sensitive met with us, to our great benefit.

The biggest news is that the Berkshire Portal has been instrumental in the starting of a new spiritual group. It isn't a Psi Chapter – (yet) but is interested in doing all the things that Psi Chapters do, and two of their members are UU's. So there's a good chance that eventually they will become another Psi Chapter in the Berkshires. What's more, we have the names of enough people to possibly make up still another group. We intend to attempt this after the first of the Year.

At the first meeting of the new group, they told about themselves and what they were interested in. The sharing was amazing. Their openness quickly forged a bond and they decided that the group was closed at that point. They opted to meet twice a month, but after the second meeting, they decided to meet weekly.

We found that it wasn't all that hard to get a group going. If there are two of you in an area, you probably each know another two likely people. Make the four phone calls, ask if those people know anyone else who would be interested in meeting with a group of people to explore subjects such as: Spirituality/Mysticism, Parapsychology, Channeling Angels/Guides, Dream Analysis, Past Life Recall, Near Death Experiences, Earth Energy, Crop Circles, Energy Healing. When you have a few people interested (we found that 8-10 people was a good number, but you can start with fewer and build up), set a time and place to meet...and go for it!

Roberta Watson, Chair of the Clearwater FL chapter writes: The attached poem, by our Chapter's own Clara Morabito, has been creating Miracles at UUC. Clara talked about it at our Chapter's PSI Symposium November meeting. She and our Chapter have only discovered each other in the last few months. She is a delightful lady in her 80s, with a very positive outlook on life. She has already spoken to other groups at our Church about her poem and the Miracles it has inspired. I keep a copy where I can see it when I first get up every morning.

I Choose

I choose to be happy.

I choose to be glad.

I choose to be caring

And never be sad.

I choose to be well.

I choose to be fine.

I choose to be healthy

All of the time

I choose to be patient.

I choose to be strong.

I choose to be calm

All the day long.

(Editor's note: in the last issue of the newsletter a quote from Abraham Hicks was featured and here is a welcome response to it received by President Fewkes.)

Dear Dick:

In the UU Psi Symposium Newsletter, Late Summer, 2008 in the middle of page 5, there's the article that starts out - "Two statements that will serve you very well. The first is: There will always be war..." I do not agree that there'll always be war. Here is my reasoned argument on that point.

Will There Always Be Wars? Two centuries ago a person might have said that there'll always be slavery because humans are so cruel and selfish. But society eventually became aware of the heartless, barbaric nature of slavery and advanced beyond countenancing it. It was overthrown in America by wide reading of Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Civil War, Emancipation Proclamation and the Constitution's 13th Amendment prohibiting slavery. Slavery had been abolished in the British Empire and other countries before it was outlawed in the United States.

Still today immigrants still live as slaves in metropolitan sweatshops, or women and children endure sexual slavery. Such restraints shamefully do exist, but they are illegal and are opposed by society's mores. Civilization is making steady, though vacillating steps, toward moving beyond the demonic madness of war as progress is made to make it extinct. The 1920 League of Nations, post WW I arms limitations treaties and our present United Nations were created to create a venue for nations to settle disagreements peacefully. Civilization needs to advance in morality so nations reject war as an instrument of foreign policy. The truth about war's futility and inhumanity is slowly enlightening and moving persons beyond believing that war is ever acceptable. When America provoked the pre-sent Iraq war, Congress voted for it and a big majority of the country favored it. Now it is con-demned and its continuance rejected by an even larger majority. As humanity continues to evolve toward humane, peaceful values, war will disappear as slavery has.

WWII and Korean War Vet and retired UU minister,
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(Editor's note: and another letter received by President Fewkes.)

November 15, 2008

2807 Park St., Columbia SC 29201

Dear Rev. Fewkes: Please find enclosed a contribution in memory of Lorraine Snowden. Her husband, Glen, has given me money from the Massachusetts Congregation Charitable Society and I am deeply appreciative. I wanted to make this contribution because the UU Psi Symposium was as important to Lorraine as it is to me. Why I am a member of the UU Psi Symposium:

Years ago I had a psychotic break and it disturbed me immensely. I could not shake the feeling that it was a puzzle to be solved. Following my intuition, I was lead to read books by such authors as Sir Alistair Hardy, Arthur Koestler, Buckminster Fuller, Eric Erickson, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Carl Jung, etc. I was working at the Veterans Administration in Northampton, MA, later on and because I love libraries I was going through the library there and came upon a video by one of the doctors entitled "Psychosis and the Mystical Path". I viewed the tape and did it ever resonate with my brain!

Later I met and married Rev. Daniel Weck, A Unitarian Universalist minister. We had such a joyous life together. One time Dan and I went to the Petersham, MA UU church to hear Wesley Hromatko preach. After the service Dan and I were walking in the garden and all of a sudden I had a feeling of stepping onto a conveyor belt.

Dan brought me to a few General Assemblies and that is where I discovered the UU Psi Symposium and have been a member ever since. When we came to South Carolina so Dan could take the Clayton Memorial UU church in Newberry, I went into Columbia to find work. I have since been working for ten years in the Philosophy Dept. as administrative specialist to the editor-in-chief of the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion. (He knew Sir Alistair Hardy in Oxford)

One day I was in the Philosophy Dept. and I was telling Barbara, the secretary, that I was a Unitarian. The Chair of the Dept., David Baird, came in that his grandfather had been a minister of the Petersham UU church in Mass. I e-mailed Wes Hromatko and he was able to tell David things about his grandfather that he did not know. For instance, his grandfather supplemented his minister's pay by teaching woodworking at the high school

I look forward to receiving the Annual Journal and newsletter from the UU Psi Symposium

Sincerely,

Margaret Weck

TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Notes by Sheila Audet on the election of Barack Obama as President of the U.S.A.

First of all let us note that on December 1st there was a very rare conjunction, i.e. a union, of Jupiter, Venus and the new Moon all in Capricorn brightly visible in the early evening sky. This astronomical event caused many to turn to astrology for some insight into its meaning. A Moon in Capricorn in this case represents the structure of political life. Jupiter represents huge expansion where ever it abides in this case in Capricorn it affects the political structure's expansion. Venus is the planet of love and in Capricorn it stresses love of the political structure. As the planet of personal love Venus caught the interest of many all around the world, including many young people, drawing them into this election - we fell in love again with the process and the **idea** of democracy. All of the above Barack Obama epitomizes in his emerging role as President Elect. Therefore, this remarkable display in the sky foretells the cosmic symbolism of his inauguration. It was also the day that he announced several important members of his Cabinet, Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates, etc.

The mission of each true knight – his duty, nay, his privilege ..is to dream the impossible dream and that is what Barack Obama is all about. The ascendant on his natal chart (representing connection to the universe) is 18 degrees Aquarius. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his I Have a Dream speech on August 28th, 1963 and on that day Saturn (the planet representing structure of government and the universe itself) was 18 degrees Aquarius. However, it was retrograde - meaning that it was not yet active – it would have to go over that same spot three times before the structure of the dream would/could be fulfilled. Aquarius represents the One in the Many and the Many in the One. One being Barack Obama and the Many being the World. This was put in place on August 28th, 1963 in Washington, DC when the words “I have a dream” came out of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s mouth. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15th, 1929 with Mercury, planet of communication, in Aquarius, and in an intercepted house - which is like a pleat in time awaiting the appropriate moment in time to unfold and reveal itself - an environment within. an environment that he touched on that seemed like an impossible dream to ever manifest. To explain this I turn to the play *The Man Of La Mancha* and the opening words of its theme song. *To dream the impossible dream, To fight the unbeatable foe, To bear with unbearable sorrow, To run where the brave dare not go.* This is a further representation of Mercury in Aquarius and of MLK's Moon in Pisces. There is also a Star of David in MLK's chart indicative of an As Above So Below energy. In the great picture of things it means he already made the sacrifice of dying for the good of the whole just like the mythology of Jesus - so that BO doesn't have to do that - it has already been done!

Pisces can be interpreted as a mystery environment fighting windmills, etc. - doing things over and beyond what anyone expects and lifting everyone in the universe up to their highest soul's expectation. So, for a moment on November 4th, if you were watching, the moon was in Aquarius, 16 degrees - meaning watchers were lifted up into what they truly “are”: universal soul awareness, feeling love everywhere. Obama's progressed moon in his chart was in Aquarius, 16 degrees - (Progression: the moon moves a degree a month from its natal position throughout the whole life) - on January 20th the moon will have progressed to his ascendant, 18 degrees of Aquarius, i. e. how you appear to others, with the moon on it indicative of his connection to others/people. Out of 360 degrees in the zodiac that this would be right on top of his ascendant really does underscore, it seems to me, his ability to connect with the world. Furthermore, it is also on top of MLK's Saturn (the teacher) in Aquarius (during his I have a dream speech) which further underscores how much the potential for changing the structure is within reach. He, Barack Obama, is born *To right the unrightable wrong, To love, pure and chaste, from afar, To try, when your arms are too weary, To reach the unreachable star!* That star is representative of every single one of us in the entire world.

Every single one of the major transits that happened on December 1st, conjunction of Jupiter, Venus and the new Moon all in Capricorn are unbelievable. This was also located in the 12th house - the house of mystery and impossible dreams hiding behind the veil so that we don't see or understand them - destiny - that place we lay out jigsaw puzzle pieces waiting for us to have the time necessary to put them together and reveal the picture they show us when when they are assembled. On January

20th into Obama's first house, transiting from his twelfth, the hero stands up in that first house for all the world to see. The jigsaw is completed. Obama's Saturn is also in Capricorn again emphasizing the importance of politics and the way it is structured in his life. It is further interesting to note that MLK's natal Sun is 25 degrees of Capricorn right on top of Obama's. Obama's is retrograde - representative of going back in time to pick up issues/events that were left for retrieval - not finished. MLK's Sun reflects a divine mission and Obama's Saturn placement in the 12th house indicates the pieces/issues waiting to be picked up and resolved. *This is my Quest, to follow that star, No matter how hopeless, no matter how far, -..pick it up in another lifetime To fight for the right without question or pause, To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause! And I know, if I'll only be true to this glorious quest, That my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest. Obama's sun is in Leo - a heart that shines on the whole earth. His heart is open not only to the United States but the whole world which rejoiced in his election. MLK's Capricorn Sun gave him the structural drive to bring racial issues to the front - bring the North and South together - healing the racial divide - or, at least, putting on the table to be seen. Obama's Leo Sun means he will do this for the world. And the world will be better for this, That one man, scorned and covered with scars, Still strove, with his last ounce of courage, To reach the unreachable stars!*

PS: That's it astrologically. It is also remarkable by the way that Michelle Obama's Sun sign is 25 degrees Capricorn right on top of MLK's and on top of Obama's Saturn in Capricorn. She is a major part of the whole Divine Circle. Plus, her Moon is in Pisces like MLK's! It just gets better and better. The Divine Circle of Astrology - the Holy Math of the Cosmos.

Learning to Breath – Author unknown but so profound!

As I try to find an appropriate framework for my feelings which aptly capture the momentous events of this past week I revisit a time in my life when I was on a respirator for an 18 day period. And I some-what abashedly use this example not to call attention to what I have experienced but rather as a means to paint the picture of what I believe has happened to our nation. At one point in my dependence on mechanical respiration I was removed from it to be transferred to a gurney for transport to surgery. For whatever reason the transfer went on a bit longer than anticipated and I was without breath for a bit longer than people had intended, I was panic struck for lack of air. Suddenly the ambu-bag was hooked to my intubation and someone began to rhythmically pump the sweetest air I have ever felt into my lungs. I swear to God, as I watched the West Coast States blink blue at 11PM EST and the screen project Obama as the next President, I felt the chest of this nation rise with the sweet new breath of a future that holds possibility and optimism. This future will not readily, easily, or assuredly be achieved but once again there is vibrancy in our hope and our eyes can begin to lift toward the horizon to scan for that which we might achieve not that which might doom us. The trick is to make it happen, the trick is to not expect too much, the trick is not to expect too little, and the challenge is to never, never give up. We do not choose the time in which we live but we certainly choose how we live that time. I see no more noble cause then building a future that sustains and enriches as opposed to one that clutches and diminishes. Let us all live gently and let the subsequent generations of this good earth build their lives upon the foundation we create from this day forward.

The mission of each true knight...his duty..nay, his privilege!
To dream the impossible dream,
To fight the unbeatable foe,
To bear with unbearable sorrow,
To run where the brave dare not go.
To right the unrightable wrong,
To love, pure and chaste, from afar,
To try, when your arms are too weary,
To reach the unreachable star!
This is my Quest, to follow that star,
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far,
To fight for the right without question or pause,
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!
And I know, if I'll only be true to this glorious quest,
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest.
And the world will be better for this,
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove, with his last ounce of courage,
To reach the unreachable stars!

What Are You "Too"?

Sarah Emily Willig
2008 - age 16

I've been a lot of things in my life. A lot of "too"s: too loud, too quiet, too silly, too uptight, too angry, too carefree, too self-determining, or too eager to please. That last one has been the culprit for most of the rest. Someone doesn't like how "whatever" you are, make a complete 180 from what they didn't like. It's so easy to change, to be steadily "you" whatever that means, is dreadfully complicated. So many people are trying to be "themselves", but when you're changing constantly to be more "you" are you really accomplishing anything? Being totally neutral is boring, you have to be "too" something, or else you're nothing you're going along listening to the "too's" and what they say is acceptable. It's comfortable being neutral, safe, listening to what people do or don't like about your personality and changing accordingly. When we're little, we're "too" everything, we're figuring out how to be; we don't care much about what other people want. Be a "too" and stay with it for as long as you like it, not as long as someone doesn't think you're "too" anything. But then again, I sound like a "too" telling you how to be.

This is an age with no ancient prophecy. There is no prophecy you can find anywhere that explains what has happened in the last few years and no prophecy about what humanity is about to do. No prophet was able to go to the other side of the veil and bring back this information, for what you're doing on this earth has never been charted before by anyone!

Kryon - Chile - Oct. 20th, 2008

Nineteenth century lecturer Josh Billings: "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself"

When it comes to God's existence, I'm not an atheist and I'm not an agnostic. I'm an acrostic. The whole thing puzzles me. George Carlin