

The Interfaith Temple

Explore • Experience • Evolve



An Inclusive, safe home for spiritual kinship, growth, evolution and loving support.

Newsletter



September 2021

Greetings from Rev. Dr. Stacy

While we technically have three more weeks of summer, with Labor Day weekend, the kids going back to school, college and seminary students resuming their studies, and most of us getting back to our fall routines, it seems that we push the edge of Autumn up just a bit.

Summer is a wonderful time of year, but there is something about the fall that warms the spirit. I think it is the harvest, the drawing in of all the events and people who are dear. As we settle into our hearths, we also settle into our hearts. We observe what is important, what we love, who we love, and we pull them to us. We gather, like the shepherd who rounds up the flock to protect them from the long nights. Our leaves fall away to reveal the structure of our lives. The shedding of our leaves, the preparation of our hearths and the gathering of our loves leads to a time of deep contemplation both necessary and vital for spiritual growth.

With any changing season, it is a time for new beginnings, or renewal of paused activities. As most of us grew up with school resuming in fall, it feels like a time to learn and grow. So we invite you to learn and grow with us. We've added a circle event each week, a return to regular services on the second and fourth Sundays, and some fun, new alternative programming on the other Sundays. Lots to choose from—you're welcome to all as we welcome fall!

Blessings,

Stacy

September Calendar:

- Sept 2** [Spiritual Growth Circle](#)—7:00 PM
Elder Rev. Dr. Jay Speights discusses spiritual growth and the steps to reimagine and reassess your life.
- Sept 8** [Intention Circle](#)—7:30 PM *Rev. Dr. Stacy*
Sending intentions to each other in a small group setting. Registration required.
- Sept 12** [Regular Service: At-One-Ment](#)—10:00 AM
What is the meaning of atonement? We examine the true nature of forgiveness.
- Sept 19** [Alternative Service: Harvest Dinner Under the Stars](#)—7:00 PM *Temple Team*
Bring your favorite fall meal to the Zoom to share dinner together!
- Sept 22** [Healing Circle](#)—7:30 PM *Rev Dr. Victor*
Guided healing meditation, discussion and collective healing.
- Sept 26** [Regular Service: Interfaith Torah](#)—10:00 AM
Temple Team; Torah means "instructions". What instructions do you follow for life?

We hope you will join us each week.

Our service themes are based on the calendar of holy days during that week. Check the link below for our online calendar for descriptions of each event.

[Calendar - The Interfaith Temple](#)





Coming October 6th

The Interfaith Temple's Circles of Love

Crossing Religious Boundaries: Spiritual Fluidity and Religious Multiplicity Today

with Rev. Dr. Samora, Rev. Jacquelynn Droescher and TNS Students

“Faith is not clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.”

– Abraham Joshua Heschel

What does it mean to be “Spiritually Fluid”?

Whether we are devotees to a specific faith tradition or practice a blend of spiritual observances, we should look at where religion was, where it is today, and where it is going.

Let’s explore and create a safe space to share our understanding of what it means to be spiritually fluid, or to practice religious multiplicity and how it shapes our lives, our society, and the future of religion. Who are the “Nones” (people who have no religious affiliation) or the “SBNR” (Spiritual but Not Religious) and how are they influencing religious practice and doctrine? Do we choose our religion, or does it choose us? Is it possible to create a religion all our own when a community is such an intricate part of practice?

Join us...

Be “The Coin”

by Rev. Dr. Samora



Taoist Relationship Wisdom

Choose to be “the coin” when it comes to your relationship with others.

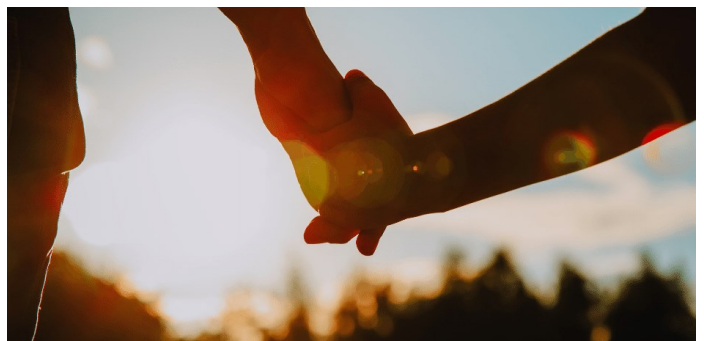
This relates to the ancient Chinese coin which had a square hole in the middle, so people could string them together with ease. This then became a metaphor for many sages who taught that one should be like the coin, square on the inside and round on the outside. This meant one should be exacting and disciplined with oneself while remaining relaxed and easygoing with everyone else.

Rather than expend energy complaining about the imperfections we detect in the external world, we would be far better off directing that energy internally, to better ourselves.

When people choose to be harsh and critical of others, while lacking accountability for their own judgments, this behavior destroys relationships and alienates people.

The Ancient masters felt no need to be harsh, critical, or demanding. Instead, they set positive examples with their actions, rather than lecture or preach with their words.

We, too, can be like the masters. Ultimately, this is the Tao that builds relationships and attracts fellowship, goodness, and joy into your life. When you expecting more from yourself and less from others you will see people becoming naturally drawn to you.



Sacred Relationship Circle

with Rev. Dr. Samora

Has been moved to Tuesday, October 19th.

“Divine Order”

by Rev. Dr. Victor

I had my first energy healing experience long before working with energy was an intentional part of my path and consciousness. It was a natural reaction to a life-threatening illness that re-awakened in me the spiritual healer that dwells in each and every one of us.

In 1975, I served with the U.S. Air Force in Seoul, Korea, as a broadcast journalist for Armed Forces Radio and Television. While stationed in Seoul, I contracted a very virulent form of Hepatitis B. In a few days, I went from being a healthy, energetic young man to weakening, losing my appetite, a lot of weight and becoming very jaundiced. When I arrived at the 8th Army Evac Hospital in Seoul, (the hospital that the “M*A*S*H” movie and television show were based upon), it was clear to the doctors that I was very ill with hepatitis. Within hours of being admitted, I was placed on the VSI List (Very Seriously Ill), the military equivalent of “critical condition.”

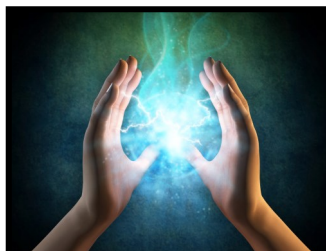
They informed me that my blood tests showed indications of significant liver damage and that other service men that had similar infections had not survived evacuation to Clark Air Base Hospital in the Philippines. Then, with little bedside manner or compassion, I was asked if I wanted a JAG officer to come to the hospital to prepare my Last Will and Testament. They even went so far as to have the Red Cross send a telegram to my mother in New York, intimating that I was near death and offering services in her time of need! Instead of being frightened, I actually felt a tremendous sense of calm. Keeping my sense of humor, I requested that my radio buddies play Donovan’s hit song “Mellow Yellow.” I had an “inner knowing” that I was going to be fine and started becoming spiritually pro-active in my healing process.

I asked the doctor to bring me an anatomy book with the picture of a healthy liver. He asked me why and I responded that I wanted to meditate and visualize a healthy, radiant liver. (Remember that this was 1975 and visualization meditation was not part of popular consciousness, or even mine at the time. I just *sensed* the need to do this.) He looked at me with an incredulous expression and then reluctantly agreed when I argued

that if I were dying, it couldn’t do any harm. I was grateful when he returned with the book and mustered the energy to keep myself alert and study the pictures. Asking the nurse to draw the curtains around my bed, I began meditating and visualizing a healthy liver and an overall radiance around me. At that moment, my inner voice told me to place my hands over the area of the liver. A warm, tingling, sensation seemed to jump from the palms to the abdomen and I went deeper into meditation. At some point, I must have fallen asleep.

The next thing I knew, it was 5AM the following morning and the nurse was gently waking me to draw the now too familiar blood samples for testing. About two hours later she came back and apologetically said she needed to “stick” me again as the lab had “messed-up” the tests and needed to repeat them. Two hours later the doctor came in with a quizzical expression on his face and asked me what I had done the night before. When I told him what happened, he smiled, said I was crazy and began laughing nervously. I asked him why and he said the blood indicators had dropped over night to near normal and that it appeared I was going to be fine.

I am grateful for the lessons I learned about healing, spirit, and faith from this experience. It truly re-opened me to the nature of the healer that dwells within all of us and prepared me for the work that changed my life. Once again, everything unfolded in “Divine Order.” Do you have a moment like this that you would like to share? If so, please drop me a note at RevDrVictor@theinterfaithtemple.org and let me know if I may share your experience in a future column.



Join Rev. Dr. Victor
for the
Healing Circle
on

Wednesday, September 22nd, at 7:30 PM

What are your favorite Fall Foods?



Mom's Pumpkin Pie

Shared by Rev. Dr. Stacy
(shhh.... This is my Mom's secret recipe!)

Ingredients:

2 Eggs
1½ Cups Pumpkin puree (fresh or canned organic)
½ Cups Light Brown Sugar
½ tsp Salt
1½ tsp Cinnamon
½ tsp Ginger
¼ tsp Nutmeg
¼ tsp Ground Cloves
1½ Cup Evaporated Milk (1 can)
9" Deep Dish Pie Shell (fresh or frozen, or whatever base you choose)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°F.
Mix all ingredients, pour into pie shell, bake at 425° for 15 minutes (or just until crust begins to brown), turn oven down to 350° for 45-55 minutes. (I use the jiggle test for doneness—but a knife test works too! It really does look just like the picture.)

This is the custard-style version of the fall classic I grew up with. Best ever!

(Extra yummy with a dollop of whipped cream!)



Harvest Dinner Under the Stars

Sunday, September 19th, 7:00 PM Eastern

Prepare your favorite fall meal and join the Temple Team for a Zoom Potluck dinner!

We all planted “seeds” in the spring –
what are you harvesting in your life
as we greet the Autumnal season?



“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” ~ Psalm 23

Calling all Animal Lovers!

On October 3rd, we will host our first-ever

Blessing of the Animals

So we have a little quiz:

*“Who was the saint best known
for his compassion to animals?”*

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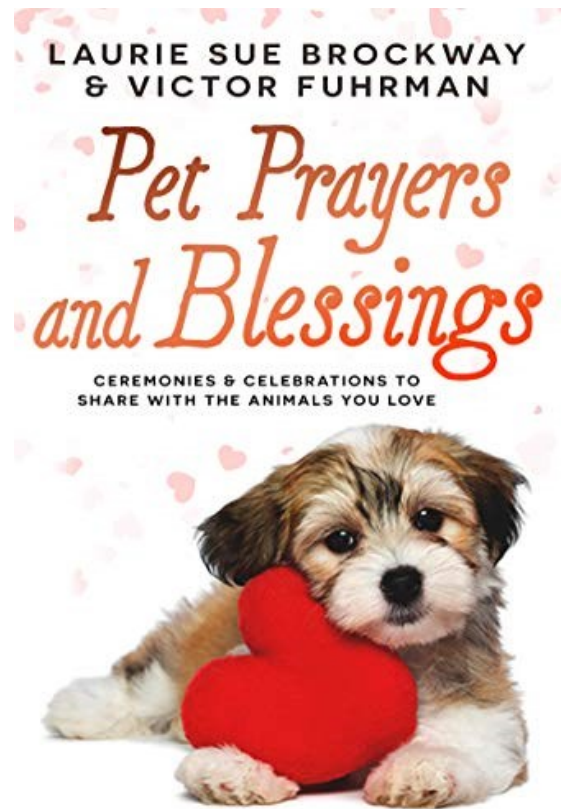
The first TWO people who respond
with the correct answer
will receive an autographed copy
of

Pet Prayers & Blessings

by our own beloved Rev. Drs. Victor Fuhrman
and Laurie Sue Brockway!

Send your responses to:

RevDrVictor@theinterfaithtemple.org



By transforming yourself, you transform the world.
By finding the light within yourself, you bring light to all.

~ Ramana Maharshi ~

The Interfaith Temple Ministry Team

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www.theinterfaithtemple.org

Most Reverend Dr. Michael J. Festa, Bishop and CEO

Right Reverend Dr. Jay Speights, Elder