

The Interfaith Temple

Explore • Experience • Evolve



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

Newsletter



October 2021

Taking Root — Rev. Dr. Stacy

In 1979, Rabbi Joseph Gelberman began the initial plans to form an Interfaith Seminary. In 1981, that dream, The New Seminary for Interfaith Studies, came into being. The Interfaith Temple was also formed, as the ecclesiastic and ordaining body for the seminary. As we observe this most auspicious 40th year, it is time indeed to reflect on our roots, honor our founders and the heritage they entrusted to us.

On October 10th, we will have a special service with the new class of TNS to take root together, honoring our foundation and the growth of the seminary and temple as we continue our heritage in this twenty-first century.

This year has seen a remarkable transformation in The Interfaith Temple. For the first time in our 40 year history, the Temple began conducting regular services online. Our hope is to establish a standard for Interfaith worship that will honor our founders, graduates, and provide a home for anyone who is seeking a different way to be in community, learn and grow, and to love The Divine. I am so proud of all we've accomplished, and so honored to be leading this wonderful institution.

We are excited for this new class of TNS and look forward to their contributions to the Temple, and to watching them grow and develop into their spiritual fullness and ministries. Look for student submissions in this and future newsletters and services.

We are excited for all of our regular attendees, and all those who are new to the Temple. Let us learn, experience and grow together in the love of Source, the love of our Mother Earth, and our love for each other.

Come, take root with us!

Blessings,

Stacy

October Calendar:

- Oct 3** [Blessing of the Animals](#) —4:00 PM *Temple Team & Rev. Elizabeth Levy* — Bring your feathered, finned or furry babies to this very special Zoom for our first annual Blessing of the Animals!
- Oct 6** [Spiritual Fluidity Circle](#)—7:30 PM *Rev. Dr. Samora & Rev. Jacquie Droescher* — Do you blend spiritual practices or float easily between different faiths? What does it mean to be “Spiritually Fluid”?
- Oct 10** [Regular Service: Taking Root](#) —10:00 AM *Elder Rev. Dr. Jay Speights* — Honor the legacy of the founders of The New Seminary and the Interfaith Temple, ushering in the new class as we all take root together.
- Oct 13** [Intention Circle](#)—7:30 PM *Rev. Dr. Stacy* — Sending intentions to each other in a small group setting. New group forming!
- Oct 17** [Alternative Service: Octoberfest](#) —**10:00 AM** *Temple Team Communal Share* — everyone brings something that has touched their soul—song, poem, prayer, or brief story.
- Oct 19** [Sacred Relationship Circle](#)— **7:30 PM** *Rev. Dr. Samora* — We are all in relationship to something. This circle encourages building healthy and harmonious relationships in all areas of your life.
- Oct 24** [Regular Service: Every Day Sacred](#) —10:00 AM *Rev. Dr. Stacy* — Why should we need a holy day? Isn't every day sacred?
- Oct 26** [Healing Circle](#)—**7:30 PM** *Rev Dr. Victor*— Guided healing meditation, discussion and collective healing.
- Oct 31** [Alternative Service: Celebration of Light](#)—**10:00 AM** *Temple Team*— As the darkest days of the year begin, let us gather for a fun festival of light!

We hope you will join us each week.

Check our online calendar for holy days and Temple events.

[Calendar - The Interfaith Temple](#)



'Harvest Time AKA Karma'

Ministry for Millennial Mothers

By Aaliyah Sulaiman (TNS Student)

Organic Goddess Lifestyle

Spiritual Coach- in training

Holistic Practitioner

As I reflect on this Harvest season 2021, (known to some of us as Karma season), I had to think about what kind of energy I was putting into the universe for the last year, the last 5 years, 20 years, etc. And what exactly I was reaping... What I had manifested... What were my wins? First thing that came to mind was how my now adult sons had grown into men I always knew were capable of being. Here are my thoughts in the poem below.

Inside note: last year this time, one of my adult sons was addicted to street drugs and my youngest had almost drowned to death. I was brought to my knees in the middle of this crisis and with every ounce of strength in me I got through the storm. I pulled on the energies from the Divine and my ancestors and both sons miraculously healed. During the challenge I realized I was initiated and chosen to break the chains. I am forever grateful.

IT'S YOUR TIME

Young mother

Young son

Planted seeds

Parched soils, yet

Blessed by the sun

First toy was a book

Not this gun

Hard work

Labor

Light was dim

Who dared

Try to break

My precious stems

So tired

Cried out

Held by Spirit as I sleep

Remember

Young mommy

What you sow, you will reap

Spoke life over your spirit

Worthy of many great things

Reminded you

Do your part

Patience

In all it would bring

Blood

Sweat

Tears; replenished soil

A rose from concrete

REGAL AND ROYAL

Endless battles

I never gave up

Here my son

Drink from my cup

As long as I'm living

You will have every chance

All praises due to the Most High

SEE MY DANCE

Powerful

Resilient

Breaking all chains

I am so grateful

The way you wear your name

PROUD

I am so grateful

The hard work wasn't taken in vain

PURPOSE

I am so grateful

This reward was worth the pain

DEDICATION

I am so proud of you.

**We are excited this month to begin two new Circles of Love:
Spiritual Fluidity and Sacred Relationships**



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 doc-
trine? 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...

Sacred Relationships Circle

with Rev. Dr. Samora

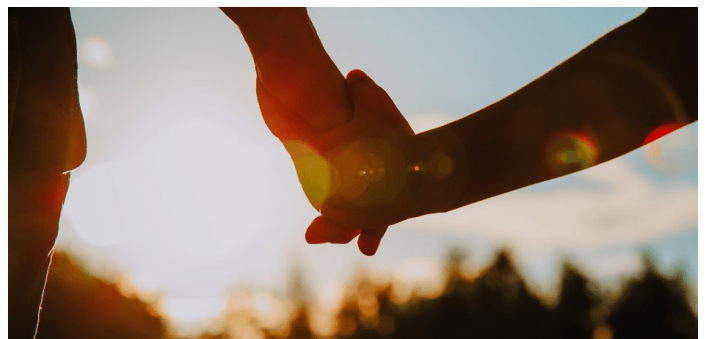
Tuesday, October 19th, 7:30 PM

As long as we are alive and breathing, we are in rela-
tionship to something. Having the tools to create and
sustain healthy and vibrant relationships in your life
brings inner-balance and harmony.

Rev. Dr. Samora Smith (AKA “The Lovesmith”) and the
Interfaith Temple will be hosting Sacred Relationship
Circles once a month, normally on the third Wednes-
days, at 7:30 PM Eastern on Zoom. This circle welcomes
anyone interested in building healthy and harmonious
relationships in all areas of your life (Higher Power, self,
partner, family, work, community, etc.) Each month will
cover a different area for your to gain insight and share
in a safe and supportive environment.

All are welcome!

Please register for this circle [HERE](#)



“Divine Order”

by Rev. Dr. Victor

As I have shared, The New Seminary founder, Rabbi Joseph H. Gelberman, would offer the Hebrew expression, “Ha Kol Beseder,” as a spiritual understanding for the paths of our lives. The literal translation is “out of chaos, order.” His interpretation was, “Everything is unfolding in Divine Order.”

When I enrolled in The New Seminary in 1995, my motivation was to be ordained so that I would have a “legal” way of practicing Reiki in hospitals. In those days, “laying on of hands” in hospitals was restricted to licensed massage and physical therapists and those ordained in a faith where this was a spiritual practice. This was my intention, but reflecting on Rabbi’s teachings and wisdom, not what The Divine had in mind for me.

As post seminary life ensued, I was able to offer Reiki in hospitals. One of the chaplains I encountered asked me about my path and I shared it with him. He commented on the soothing nature of my voice and asked if I would comfort a family that sustained a loss. I did. He asked me if I would comfort patients in hospice. I did. Without “intending” to be a chaplain (and without formal training) I found myself doing a lot of this, as well as weddings, funerals, baby blessings and other callings on an interfaith basis. All of these spiritual callings went on while still performing my “day job” in the compressed gas and welding equipment industry.

One of my “day job” responsibilities was managing IT for the company I worked for. This industry used specialized

software from a company in Billings, Montana, and every September they would hold an annual meeting for businesses using their software. I was the chair of one of these annual meetings in September 2001.

On the morning of September 11th, I was preparing for the day’s activities and speaking with my partner (and later wife), Rev. Laurie Sue Brockway. She lived on 44th Street and Second Avenue, up the block from the United Nations. We both had televisions on when the first plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Our attention was drawn to the coverage and within a few moments, the second plane hit the South Tower and we knew these were no accidents. A series of events ensued for both of us, staying in touch while figuring out what to do. On Thursday, September 13th, New York City established the Family Assistance Center in an old pier on the West Side of Manhattan. Laurie Sue went there and learned that the Red Cross was asking for volunteer chaplains. She signed up. The first plane out of Billings was Friday and because New York Airports were closed, I flew into Newark. As we approached, I could see pillars of smoke where the towers once stood. After a short cab ride from Newark to her apartment, we reunited and comforted each other. She told me about the Red Cross needing chaplains. On Saturday, September 15th, I checked in with my office and then accompanied Laurie Sue to the Red Cross where I volunteered, and we both received Spiritual Care Chaplaincy Training. For the next eight weeks, we pursued our careers by day and were chaplains by night. There is much more to this story that I will share in the future, but it proved Rabbi Gelberman’s assertion that there is a “higher path” at work. “Ha Kol Beseder.”



Messages from the Mystics:

“Do not seek to follow in the
footsteps of the wise men
of the past.
Rather, seek after what
they sought.”

Matsuo Basho (Zen Buddhist)



Great Grandma Chisolm's Harvest Turkey Barley Soup

Shared by Rev. Kate, TNS Student

Ingredients:

4 cups diced turkey (mixed white & dark meat)
1 Turkey Carcass (All Bones)
1 - 2 Gallon(s) homemade poultry stock OR spring water to cover carcass
1 ½ pounds "Pearled Barley" (NOT instant or quick cook) - SEE NOTE BELOW
1 large diced onion or 2 medium
2 pounds baby carrots
1 Teaspoon Fresh Thyme
1 Teaspoon Fresh Marjoram
Salt to taste
Pepper to taste
1 Teaspoon rubbed Sage
½ Teaspoon ground fennel
Small Sachet of Fresh Rosemary
Fresh chopped basil (to sprinkle on top of soup at presentation)

Directions:

Add Turkey carcass and all other bones in Stock / Crock Pot. Cover with spring water or chicken stock until all bones are submerged. Let simmer on low for a day (better overnight to create rich stock). Requires very large stock pot or crock pot for stock rendering. Pick out and discard large bones after render complete. Use fine sieve / skimmer (or cheesecloth) to strain smaller bones from stock after rendering. Combine all ingredients in FINISHED stock, EXCEPT CARROTS and simmer for minimum 6 to 8 hours. Add carrots during last two hours of cooking. Serve with Crusty French bread...ENJOY!

Important Note: To remove barley starch/dust, rinse barley repeatedly until rinse water is clear. Leave barley in mixing bowl with water and allow to expand for four to six hours. Drain barley from water before adding to stock. If Turkey does not render flavorful stock supplement with tablespoon Demi-Glace.

Last night a multitude of brilliant stars
came into my being.
I was floating on the waves of the
universe as I embodied Divine Presence.

Presence of the ultimate now moment—
a moment of complete let go and of love.

I heard a voice tell me to slow down
and act with guidance on the days to
come— In a world that is ever changing
and unknown to all.

May my Spirit light the darkest night as
the full moon does illuminate what has
been hidden from our human nature.

May I be willing to act when it is time by
being fully present in the now.

In the letting go is the harvest. In the
harvest - We find home.

Blessed be.

— Naomi Fay

TNS Student

Calling all Animal Lovers!

At 4:00 PM on October 3rd, we will host our first-annual

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pets, or take the Zoom to your pets, or just a picture to share.



Congratulations to
Rev. Deb Sinclair for correctly
answering last month's quiz!

She received
an autographed copy
of

Pet Prayers & Blessings

“Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.”

Author Unknown

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www.theinterfaithtemple.org

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