

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The Portland Spiritualist Church

January 2019



From the Desk January 2019

Hokey Smoke!!! Can you believe it.....2019! I never really thought that we'd make it past 1984. I might have over-read George Orwell a tad.

It's the time for new beginnings as we start the year. I've never been a "resolution" sort of guy, so all my plans start at different times. But this year we're starting the Sunday services at a new time: 10:30 AM as of January 6th. Our intention is that the new time will bring in new faces and new seekers working on their spiritual path. We also hope that this will give an opportunity for those who can't drive at night the chance to attend our service.

Our Pastor Rev. Beth Carter has brought a few new faces into the speaking schedule as well as the tried and true regulars. Of course, the speakers and mediums of our own church will also be serving throughout the year, and we're hoping to see some new faces in that respect too.

Like I said: Resolutions were never a big deal for me. I always felt that the new beginning was in the Spring where everything started up again. Leaves on the trees and green grass symbolize new starts for me. If I planned on changing something in my life, I always felt that Spring was the better time. Usually though, it ended up being August or September. Just goes to show you that reformation truly does happen at any time.

Reformation and resolution can and does happen at any time. The real activating factor isn't the time of year, but the attitude of the resolver. In our lives we are seeking a spiritual Cont. pg. 3

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Distribution "Open Position"



Sunday Speakers and Mediums

Sunday Speakers Services **10:30 AM**

January 6th

Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& PSC Mediums
65th Anniversary of Portland Spiritualist
Church

January 13th

Melanie Ames
Augusta Spiritualist Church

January 20th

Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
Portland Spiritualist Church

January 27th

Diane Whiton
& PSC Mediums
Portland Spiritualist Church

February 3rd

Marguerite Walker
Augusta Spiritualist Church

CM - Certified Medium
MPI- Morris Pratt Institute Student
REV- Reverent
NST- National Spiritualist Teacher
CH- Commissioned Healer
LM- Licentiate Minister
M- Missionary

Friday Development Classes

Classes start at 6:30PM

January 4th

Laws of Spirit Mediumship
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

January 11th

Meditation & Mediumship
Lance Cyr

January 18th

Séance
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

January 25th

Men's Talking Circle
Harvey McCarthy
& Mike Carter

February 1st

Laws of Spirit Mediumship
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

Board Meeting No meeting for January

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path, a better way to live and a better way to live in peace with the world and ourselves. In order to achieve this peace, we must confront the inconsistencies within ourselves before we can deal with and change the things out in the world. 'Seems simple enough, I guess.

But we know that true reformation isn't just changing an action or a habit. Real changes come when we alter our thinking and our perspective about what we need to change. Someone else can think that they make us "better" if they change our physical actions. But if we aren't really changing ourselves, we're just being trained, not changed. I quit smoking in 1998 and it was the toughest thing that I've ever done. It took nearly a year before I could declare to my own satisfaction that I had truly quit smoking. But I'm ever aware when I get a whiff of cigarette smoke that my body still thinks it should light up again. That little demon still must be pushed back down into the box. So, my heart goes out to anyone who combats an addiction, because it's a never-ending fight that takes a great deal of dedication and heart. That's REFORMATION!!

Now let's apply this to our spiritual selves. It takes the same kind of work and retraining of the mind to bring your spiritual self to a better condition. We take account of our lives and how we treat others around us as well as how we treat ourselves. Through our own self-examination and learning from those who have traveled this path before, we open ourselves up to the grace of Infinite Intelligence and the beauty that Spirit has to offer.

The doorway to reformation is never closed, but it should always be an imperative to us to get our reformation done as soon as we can. In doing so, we have more time to absorb all the love, peace and power that the Infinite has to

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offer. Our spiritual quest is now, not later and not when we step across the veil. The more that we learn and the sooner we absorb this knowledge, the better off we'll be.

I hope that everyone has a great 2019 and works to improve themselves and help the lives of those in your circle. May we work for peace and plenty for all this upcoming year. I'd like to dedicate this little bit of writing to my friend Eva Giro, who made her transition just after Christmas. She is a wonderful spirit and a great friend.

Mike Carter

President

Portland Spiritualist Church



“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

Gift of Winter

BY [MADISYN TAYLOR](#)

There is a quiet humility about the earth in the winter months, as animals and people retreat inside to do their deep work.

In fall, the earth begins the process of releasing all the things she has been holding onto throughout spring and summer, and by midwinter she has let everything go. She sits clean and undecorated in her simplicity, free of the frenzy of life that defines her in the warmer seasons. There is a quiet humility about the earth in the winter months, as animals and people retreat inside to escape the wet and sometimes freezing cold that takes hold. Inside our homes we create abundance and warmth in response to being effectively kicked indoors by the dark and cold that permeate the outdoors.

We burn fires in fireplaces and make heavy, hot foods to keep our bodies warm and insulated. We may find ourselves sleeping longer hours and yearning for downtime, just like the animals deep inside their caves and warrens taking a winter-long nap. Even if we live in a warmer climate, the longer nights and shorter days have the same effect on our cycles. If we surrender to this time as nature intended, we allow ourselves to slow down, sleep more, and lower the volumes on our busy minds. At the same time, we crave company in our dwellings, and the insulated warmth of the hearth tends to bring people together, creating more warmth and fostering connections that last through the coming year.

We laugh, eat, and talk, sleep, or catch up on reading, while outside our windows the earth grows dark earlier and stays cold longer, accepting as always of the process of change and her place within it. We might remember to learn from her as she so gracefully surrenders to the emptiness that precedes all form, the peace that precedes activity, the darkness that precedes the light. For everything she gives and teaches, we might offer a blessing, extending a goodly portion of the gratitude of this season her way, holding her in our hearts and thanking her for our very lives.



“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, do it.

Make your mistakes, next year and forever.”

— **Neil Gaiman**