

Universal Brotherhood Movement, Inc.

UB GoodNews

Spring~Summer Edition 2012



Wake Up!

Rev. Dr. Jeni Prigmore

*Wake up! Wake up!
The early morning's calling
and all of Nature's
Welcoming New Day.*

*She's come to find the best
Life has to offer,
And each new dawn brings
Her "gifts"
a brand new way.
What will it be this day?*

*How exciting to know
that any one breath
may be the one that holds the space
where some New Friend
(or some other sweet "Miracles") resides.*

*Come,
Sip this delicious draught,
this precious nectar
offered with the light
of our New Day...*

Know that You are Loved.

Dawning

Rev. Dr. Jeni Prigmore

*A new week is dawning,
A time of promise and opportunity.*

*I'm mentally exploring
How I can best cooperate
With the energies all around me.*

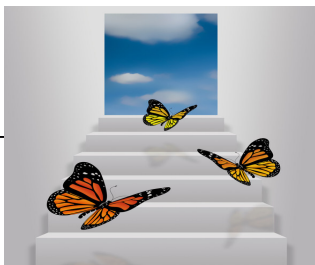
*Life is such an abundant giver.
We are blessed.
Sending my love to be a presence
As you walk through this day
With grace and gratitude.*

A New Day!

Rev. Dr. Jeni Prigmore

*As you come into conscious
Awareness of this new day,
May you grasp the truth that you are
A beautiful Soul,
Capable of great accomplishments and excellent
influence in your world.
Go shining!*





On Angels and Butterflies

Written by Rev. Lilo Bauer-Freitag

Protecting fragileness and sensitivity IS objectively much more important than making money, building war machines, getting degrees in all kinds of things or playing the stock market. It is even more important than inventing more medicines, because wounded, clipped or lost wings of the spirit is a much worse ailment than suffering a common cold or any physical ailment. In fact, the wounded spirit is at the ROOT of all physical ailments.

As long as rudeness is justified by all these material motives, the feminine spirit is being sacrificed. In fact, it means that true healing is sacrificed, which is borne of the feminine—the protector of spirit and soul, of everything non-physical and non-material.

Those of us who don't see, must IMAGINE every person being the body as that of a butterfly, surrounded by the splendour of its awesome, colourful but very fragile wings. One ignorant, careless touch may stop the creature from flying again for an entire lifetime.

The most beautiful beings incarnated on earth today manoeuvre like butterflies though speedy traffic, in a world which is dumb and blind to their beauty. All too often, they wind up, like a dead bug on someone's windshield. Just like butterflies, incarnated angels are not considered, by most people, essential to how WE PEOPLE think life has to run. They are usually considered harmless enough to be ignored. They neither use hype or noise, nor do they pose a threat to people, when only noise or threats seem to get our attention any more. In fact, if they became extinct would we even miss them??? From this view, you might imagine that an incarnated angel—just like a butterfly—does not exactly enjoy living in the world that WE (not God) have created. Instead, it is a huge sacrifice on their part, motivated by unimaginable love.

The time is now to look for butterflies and angels in your life—the symbols of tenderness of the spirit and transformation of humans into more spiritual beings. By recognizing and appreciating their presence we learn, once again, to become merciful, gentle, nurturing and to truly honor the feminine in all things, AND IN OURSELVES.

Rev. Lilo Bauer-Freitag lives in Virginia. She is the author of "Healing: The Emerging Holistic Paradigm".

Lord, It Is Night.

Written by Rev. Panna Flower

Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done,
What has not been done has not been
done.
Let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness
of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace en-
fold us,
all dear to us, and all who have no
peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CONCERNING YOUR MINISTRY

Always remember to check the guidelines in each state and county before you agree to officiate a wedding ceremony. Contact the Local Bureau/Clerk of Courts office as to whether you are required to register or present a minister's verification letter from the UBM, Inc. Administration office. In some states there are fines and/or imprisonment for failure to follow certain regulations.

When performing wedding ceremonies, you are the one responsible to have the marriage certificate signed by witnesses, if required, and/or to sign it yourself as required. This must be signed on the day of the wedding. You are also responsible for returning the marriage license back to the local licensing agency within a certain period of time. Please, always make sure you find out what is required!

Also. Make sure there is no lapse in your yearly UBM fees (your fee is due during the anniversary month of your ordination). Your ID card will indicate when your yearly fee is due. We will be happy to send you a minister's verification letter or if you have any questions please contact the office. 954-574-9904.



UBM, Inc. Website Directory

If you have not done so yet, please
visit our website:

www.universalbrotherhood.org

There you will find the
requirements to be listed
on our website under our
"Directory". Please call or
email the office if you have
any questions.



The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius (Redefining the Concepts of God, Man and the Universe) Written by Author Rev. Dr. Albert Amao



We are at the threshold of a transitional period from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius. What should we expect from this coming New Era? What are its signs? What is the fate of human spirituality? What will the new concepts of God and of religion be? This book attempts to answer these questions based on well researched sources complemented and endorsed by cosmology, archeology, psychology, religion, Near East studies, and mythology, among other scientific disciplines. The book also intends to clarify the confusion created by some Protestant religious leaders and sensationalistic writers who have misinterpreted the signs of the transitional period as the end of the world. The truth is that we are witnessing a shift of ages, that is, the slow evolution from the Piscean Era to the commencing of a new worldwide social order, a new chapter in human history called the Aquarian dispensation.

The huge conspiracy propounded by false prophets and some New Age writers, whether overtly or covertly, feeds the fear and anxiety of ordinary people with unfounded apocalyptic propaganda. This book attempts to give the reader an accurate perspective regarding the planetary transformations that are taking place; it offers hope and inspiration as we approach the Golden Age.

We are fortunate enough to be witnessing one of the greatest socio-political and religious transformations that the planet Earth has ever undergone. A correct understanding of this fact is extremely vital for modern man, so he can be mentally prepare to confront the upheavals that these changes of cosmic dimensions entail. This is the time for the realization and practical application of the ancient axiom "Man, know thyself." Indeed, the fundamental purpose of this new dispensation is the change of paradigm regarding the relationship between a far-away, distant God and an orphaned, alienated man. The era of organized religion as a means of control and as intermediary between God and man is coming to an end; instead, we will see acknowledgement of a direct spiritual connection of each individual with the Divine Self.

This book attempts to help the reader gain a real perspective on the universal changes that have been taking place as the world entered the new millennium. The moral and psychological crisis that modern man is confronting is due to the lack of a central myth that can give him a meaning and purpose at both the individual and collective level. The Piscean Age's myth – Judeo-Christian religion - has definitively lost power and influence in the occidental world as the carrier of a spiritual myth. Thus, it is extremely important to redefine the concepts of God, man, and the universe based on the breakthrough strides made in many scientific disciplines such as archeology, anthropology, depth psychology, perennial philosophy, quantum mechanics, biology, etc.

The atheist viewpoint of Sigmund Freud is somehow similar to that of Friedrich W. Nietzsche regarding the Judeo-Christian God. The first postulated that man created God as a means of compensation and remorse because primeval man killed the tribal father. The second stated that God is dead, and man has killed him. In both cases, man murdered the image of God; here, both are referring to the Piscean God-image. C.G. Jung ascertained that the Christian God is a historical "psychic phenomenon," an epiphenomenon of the "collective unconscious" that evolves with time. We agree with this assertion; thus, the need to identify a new God-image and a new myth for the coming Era is essential for modern man.

Visit: www.albertamao.com Should you want a personalized service and autographed copy email Rev. Dr. Amao at the above indicated address.

Playing God

Written by
Rev. Rebecca Ann Brown



How often in our lives do we play God? How many times did we believe that we held the life or death of a loved one in our hand? Gail Sheehy writes, "God has linked you to some higher power, real or imagined. It's good for your ego. But I believe something deeper and more desperate may be going on. The more you sense your actual powerlessness to restore one's health or at least to keep him/her alive the harder you strive to hold onto the illusion of control." This is a question that I came to ponder in the last month. I was presented with the opportunity to learn this lesson. It may not seem as dramatic as a person's life in my hands but the message was just as clear and strong.

As I was watering my backyard my cat Simon seemed overly interested in something he had found. As I walked over to see what all the fuss was about I saw the object of his interest. It was a tiny baby bird that had fallen out of its nest. It had lain on the ground under the sprinkler all night and was wet, cold and shaking. I immediately picked it up and went into rescue mode. I held my baby bird in my hands, its little brown eye's just stared at me. I found a little box and lined it with a towel and gently placed my little bird in the homemade nest I had created. I put it in the sun to warm its tired and cold body. Well, let's check in an hour or so to see how our little patient was faring...

An hour later I checked and to my surprise my baby bird was still alive. It had finally dried, quit shaking and was just laying in its new nest. I gently picked up baby bird and held it in my hands. Its little eyes opened again and I immediately felt like I was looking directly into the

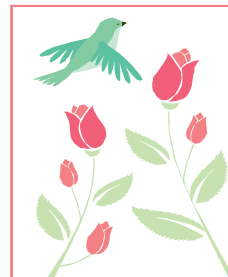
Eyes of God. Its eye's appeared so soft and beautiful. It was at that moment I felt my soul connect to my new friend. I was transfixed in the moment of unconditional love and a knowing of trust that I had never felt before. As I looked my little bird over I started to notice that my friend wasn't quite right. Its little neck was at a strange angle and it wasn't able to hold its head up. Even with this knowledge I was still going to fix my bird.

I placed its new home by the tree it had fallen out of, hoping that the Mama bird would find her lost child and somehow get it home. There was a moment of total helplessness but I pushed through that and left again heading to the pet store to buy all the supplies that I would need to fix my baby bird.

Upon my return I busily prepared a syringe of baby oatmeal in hopes that I could start my healing of this poor little creature that had the eyes of God. It was still quietly sitting in the nest of my creation. Mama bird was nowhere around. I once again gently lifted my little bird into my hands and tried to coax it to eat. It was not interested in what I was trying to do but just kept staring at me with those little chocolate brown eyes. At that moment my bird made a gallant effort to fly off and be saved, but that was not the case.

After spending the afternoon just sharing sacred space with my little baby bird I came to the realization that my friend was not going to live.

I made a nest out of leaves and soft grass and placed my friend in it. I prayed for a safe journey and thanked my bird for the time we spent together. I cried and felt so helpless, ineffective and that I had failed.



Continued on page 6

...Continued from page 5



In the morning I looked into the nest I had made and my little bird was nowhere to be found. There was not leaf out of place....almost like it hadn't really been here. I like to think that little bird was one of God's angels and I was given a wonderful gift. The lesson God wanted me to learn was that I wouldn't be able to heal or fix everyone in my new spiritual journey. Yes I want to help facilitate healing through God's love, but I, Rebecca, would not do it alone. Sometimes God's plan is that we learn from those that we can't heal. It can bring great compassion and humbling. My little bird was the message from God and that beautiful message is "God is the one great healer" and I am just here to humbly serve.

As I look into the sky and see a bird flying so graceful and freeI wonder is this my little baby bird that taught me the valuable lesson that I cannot play God.

Rev. Rebecca Ann Brown is from Arizona



Reaching out in prayer...

Shared Thoughts from Rev. Deanna E. Council

When I was a toddler Grandy would find me sleep walking and trying by best to get out the front door. I wonder what I would have encountered! Grandy and I would sit in the living room and I would ask, "Grande, see the colored lights?" Sadly she did not see them, but Grandy did offer my best friend a nickel for her wart when we were in high school. Grandy rubbed the wart and gave Cindy the nickel. Low and behold! Cindy's wart disappeared! You would think I would have had more questions about the nickel and the wart at the time!

Then I suppose I went to sleep for many years. I was taught a reality different than that of the colored lights I once was aware of. I was shut down.

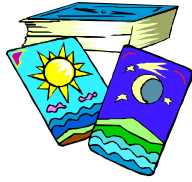
THE AWAKENING. In 1987 my son and I went on a camping adventure from Georgia to New Mexico. During this adventure I met the man from Jemez Pueblo who I call my awakener. I realized he simply knew things! He was a great teacher for me. After returning to Georgia interesting things began to happening to me. I thought I was going crazy! Sound familiar? In the years since then it has been an interesting journey, Spirit has been my teacher-companion. I have flown under the radar with my healing gifts.

Now Spirit is calling me to step into my ministry. At times I doubt my ability in comparison to so many gifted souls. Of all things, I know I should not doubt the miraculous healings and wisdom that passes through me to the beautiful souls sent for help. Please forgive me Spirit for it is you who makes this possible, it is you who does these healings. Thank you Spirit for trusting me with this awesome gift.

Please pray for me as I step into this new segment of my life!

May peace be and love enfold all,
Rev. Deanna E. Council





The Fools Journey

By Rev. Yolanda Abrahams
Intuitive and Certified Professional Tarot Reader



Tarot is a symbolic tool that works! Over the last fifteen years of my consulting experience I have seen it predict, guide, and answer questions for clients and myself with uncanny accuracy. Tarot was originally a spiritual growth path of twenty-two life principles. These universal laws represented by the tarot's Major Arcana cards were embodied in the wisdom books of ancient Egypt and in the Kabbalah of Hebrew mysticism. "Tarot" a word whose meaning and origin no one seems to know for sure, became a deck of cards in 14th century Europe. It was used for fortune-telling by the Royal Courts. Today tarot is a multiuse tool: a way shower, wisdom book, oracle, game, art form and a medium for insight. It is also used for self-discovery and in professional counseling. For me, tarot is a tool that allows me to express both my intellect and intuition in a blended way to help myself and others. For example, I am using my intellect when I apply Numerology and Astrology in my readings, but it is my intuition - that still inner voice, that divine spark of wisdom that comes like a "lightning bolt" with clear insight. At this stage, I am no longer on the cards. I am in a place where my conscious mind is no longer engaged. It is a blending of these two approaches that I use in my tarot readings. Simply put, the power of the tarot symbolic cards is a magical experience in truth.

Now imagine that each card in the Major Arcane symbolizes the movement of the Fool (each of us, male and female) through the journey of life, where each of the twenty two trump cards represents a "sigh post" of every level of his psychological, inner and spiritual growth. The Minor Arcana and Court Cards are the remaining fifty six cards in the deck that bring forth the external events and everyday experiences in order to promote one's growth. 'The Fool' card is unnumbered to **differentiate** that he is the one taking the journey (us) and must pass through these stages in order to grow. He is, in fact existing in the tarot as the example of the 'ideal' state of being that each individual human being is working towards achieving. In a tarot reading, if The Fool shows up in a spread, it can have several meanings. For example, it might represent that the client already has a positive characteristic that the Fool represents, such as being *trusting*. The Fool represents the spiritual law of trust. Conversely, the client may need to give up a negative trait such as being careless.



...continued on page 8...



...continued from page 7...

A good way to understand the tarot is through "*The Fool's Journey*". The Fool arrives in this world in a state of divine perfection much as a new born child arrives with innocence, pureness, and newness without fear. He must work his way through the stages in life which are infancy, adolescence, adulthood, middle age and old age. He will experience all that life has to offer in terms of the positive and negative feelings and emotions, as well as the mental and psychological levels of growth. After passing through all of those stages, he will have then obtained enough knowledge, wisdom understanding and awareness to allow him to arrive back to the same 'enlightened' state of being as he was when he first arrived on this plane. At this point he has become a *hero* because he has passed all the trials and tests of life and has come through victoriously! For this reason, "*The Fool's Journey*" is also referred to as "*The Hero's Journey*".

I have witnessed many life changing transformations in my client's lives as they chose to embark on the path of "*The Fool's Journey*", which we all must take in pursuit of our individual destinies. You too can become a hero!

Please visit my web site:

www.tarotbyyolanda.com

Rev. Yolanda Abrahams lives in Florida.



Silence

Written by Rev. Barbara Robinson

Shared By Rev. Peter Robinson

From her poetry book

"Reflections of an Englishwoman Abroad"

Silence is warm

I hear it breathing in time with my pulse
Motionless, an eagle gliding the thermal
Fluid as clouds rising over mountain top
Silence is rainbow coloured

Mists swirl, bringing mutes essences
Transports to deserts, rivers, cool water

Pipe music, bird song
Dusk, night, dawn, day
Loving and loved

Silence is prayer

Listen to mother earth
She cries for peace
Love her, feed her hunger
Feel the ocean's sensuous movement
Or thunderous crash
Living silence is in all things everywhere
Listen, it holds the truth

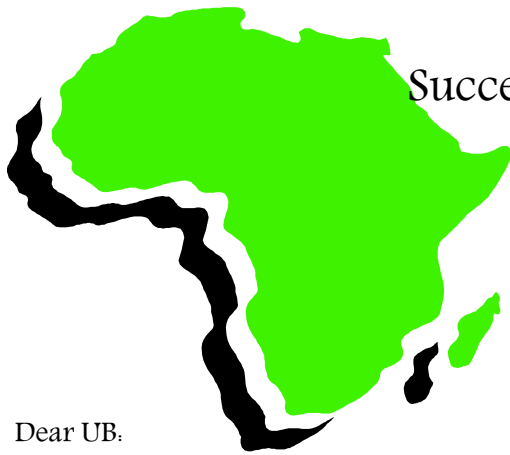


"In Love That Long"

Rumi

I am here in this moment,
Inside the beauty,
The gift that God has given,
Our love:
This sign means we are free of any duty;
Out of eternity I turn my face to you,
And into eternity;
We have been in love that long

Rumi~Persian Mystical Poet~11th Century



Successfull Completion of the Seiler School in Ethiopia

update from Rev. Peter Seiler

Dear UB,

I missed our meetings a lot over the last 8 years or so. But I had made a commitment to be God's tool for change, for improvement, wherever I go. And thus I was led here and there and finally ended up changing the lives of uncountable numbers of people, young and old, far away from home.

A decade ago my uncle drafted a testament putting me in charge of creating schools in Africa. He did not express things very well, and after the 3 years of legal process I had built up a lot of charge. "Yes I will, there is a way, I can do this, all systems go!" I talked to all of my friends about my plan to create schools of lasting building styles with a moderate amount of money. Thanks to God organizing the events of my life I found the right methods and contacts.

Just 13 month ago I followed the "all legal issues clear" flag and flew to Ethiopia. Now I already have taught, danced and slept in the completed buildings! Many told me the concept of building schools on my own and with a moderate money amount was not do-able. But when you do for others, then the angels have extra fun in helping!



The Ella and Wolfgang Seiler School has been built in the tribal area of the Hamar in South Omo. Actually building time was only half a year, and it is the first earthbag based building in Ethiopian. The governor of the state, Ato Awoke, visited it during its birthing process. The first class (14 students) is already underway and the other rooms are state, Ato Awoke, visited it during its birthing process. The first class (14 students) is already underway and the other rooms are used to teach carpentry and repair work as well as house 4 orphan children and their caretaker in the near future.

The soccer field gets plenty of play, and the kitchen building is presently used as a guest house for people like me. I am still installing the waterlines in that structure.

The earth bag building technique has been a cost efficient way to create very cool spaces in this most remote area near the equator. I taught construction techniques to many as well as teaching some English and German classes in school and creating a sewing class, leather tanning class and now I am preparing the creation of a pottery and gardening class. ...contd...

...continued from page 9...

A hospital is in the planning stage, for now I am leaving a rudimentary 1st aid station with a good supply of treatments for eye infections and the nasty multitude of other infections behind.

Internet is not available and the telephone system is sporadic. The solar system and running water supply I consider essential for the future expansion of the project and is benefitting between 10 and 50 people a day at the present time. The access road is still too rough for normal cars.

Maintaining modern systems is a challenge when spare parts are often not available. I have a blast with the adventure and I am glad, that I have chosen to be a servant to the light.

For further information about the project and the area can be found on youtube through the keywords of "Hamar" and "Turmi" or through these organizations.

<http://southomoresearch.org/> and

<http://www.gtli.us/>

Daydream

Written by Rev. Elliot Rothschild

Unconscious of molecules

Beneath the surface

I perceive truth

With my eyes

My horizon folds

Into a linear self

As I am trapped

In this reality

I was born into this world

Nurtured by my senses

Reinforced by all that I could see

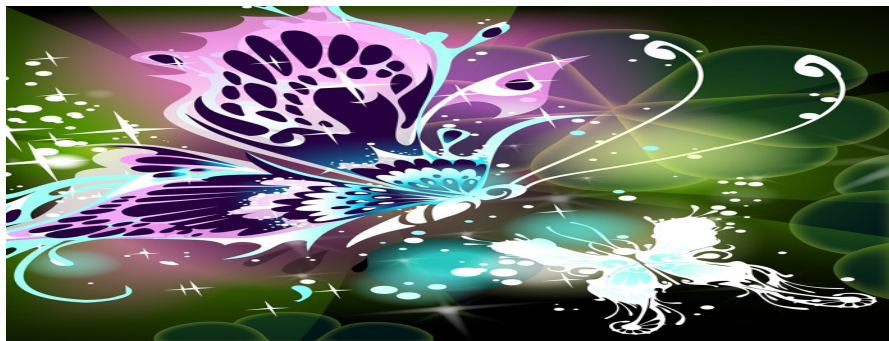
And tangible became real

And real became a cradle

So longing could be still

And the music of my soul

Remained silent in that night.





Teachings of an All-Faith Minister

Rev. George Rosvally, Jr.

We are at a time of great change. Some of us are allowing the change to happen and some are fighting it and attempting to control it. In the last few months we have seen a group of people applaud the killing/murder of 234 people in Texas by the state (GOP presidential debate September 7, 2011). We have also seen large corporations discriminate against Americans practicing their right to religious freedom (Lowe's pulls it's advertising from TLC's show "All American Muslim" Dec. 12, 2011). So what does this have to do with me?

And now for the rant: I was raised a Christian Scientist and practiced that religion for the first 20-plus years of my life. I now practice a shamanic path with a healthy dose of Christianity. So when I see people who call themselves good Christians practicing their religion through the lenses of Hatred, Fear and EGO I just need to get up on my soap box and say STOP.

While I was studying shamanism in Nepal my teacher made a very clear distinction between shaman and sorcerer. She said that a shaman is one who works for the best outcome of the client/community and a sorcerer was someone who works for ego and power. This distinction is critical in Nepal because at the time the penalty for sorcery was death. I wish we could use the same definition here. How easy it would be to say if you teach, preach, or practice hatred, fear, or use your power to hurt others you are a sorcerer. However that may sound a bit judgmental.

I believe that all religions teach us to look at things through the lens of Love/Compassion/Mercy. Now if we can all let go of the fear and hatred we have been taught for years, we may make it through the next few years, and come out on the other side better off.

I believe that 2012 and beyond is about learning to look through the lens of Love/Compassion/Mercy, letting go of the need for "my way to be the right way", and acceptance of all regardless of their race, creed, religion or sexual orientation. That it is time for us to treat others as we wish to be treated, not just if they go to the same church or have the same morals or ethics that we do. It is a time of learning acceptance and looking for things to unite us, not ways to divide us. I believe that we are moving into a new age where we must learn to live together with acceptance for all.

Many Blessings,

Rev. George

What Does Being Homeless Mean?

By Rev. Andrea Kay Smith, Atlanta, Georgia



Whether you've had a personal experience or know someone who is homeless, the same questions arise. Why is that person homeless? Are they choosing to be homeless? How can I help without jeopardizing my safety? How can I give when I don't know if they are a drug addict or mentally ill or may harm me? Do I give money to people standing in the street at stop lights with signs that say "I work for food" or are they just panhandlers ripping people off?

In my ministry I have found possible answers to all these question because I was homeless for 1-1/2 years around 1995 just when Atlanta was getting ready to host the 1996 Summer Olympics, cleaning up all the homeless so they became invisible. I was a fortunate homeless person because I had a 1975 Toyota Corolla to sleep in that my son had given me after riding the bus for 10 years. I also had a massage practice in a chiropractor's office where in an emergency I could sleep on my massage table at odd hours. I had friends who allowed me to take a shower at their place or use my sleeping bag on their outdoor porch in warm weather. I put my few possessions in storage in a Virginia/Highlands shed. I quickly learned how to simplify my life. I found a few short-term house-sitting jobs which were a luxury. Every day was "hit or miss." I can tell you that your thinking changes about what is most important. Having a SAFE place to sleep is a high priority. When people hear I was homeless their first question is always "Why?" The short answer is that the inexpensive apart-

ment I'd lived & raised my son in for 25 years was torn down.

I had received my second spiritual "call" in 1973 to come to Atlanta. I came in faith, sight-unseen, no money, no job, knew no one & my son was 5 years old, ready to start school. I trusted it would all work out & for 25 years it did. I was homeless because I chose to await my next "call" which came in its full glory on a massage table. One of my clients was bemoaning how he had to search for me, coming to different locations to receive his massage. He was a developer who was building a co-housing community & he knew of 12 drug houses in the nearby neighbourhood that had been purchased on the steps of the Decatur Courthouse by FCS Urban Ministries. They were looking for activist like myself to live in the houses & help revitalize the area. One thing led to another & I purchased my first house late in life. It's a happy story that many of you know about in Universal Brotherhood because UB has had events at my Peace Centre with a Peace Pole "May Peace Prevail On Earth" that was one of the 1st things I dedicated so the fearful neighbors could meet & come out of their homes to rebuild an integrated neighborhood called East Lake Gardens.

In 1996 East Lake was populated with many homeless people, panhandlers & prostitutes, probably from being evicted as squatters from the boarded up houses that were being renovated by college students from around the U.S. for people like me. On one street

there were 4 crack houses with drug dealers doing business out in the open, immune to the law. No grocery store was within 4 miles because of robberies. The nickname for the area was "Little Vietnam." We established a Neighbourhood Watch, called Code Enforcement, called 911 regularly, replaced shot-out street lights, picked up litter and debris every Saturday morning for years, created curb gardens through a Children's Garden Club, had Earth Day events with ice cream socials, and used legal measures to get out-of-state landlords, who didn't care, to do something about the drug houses. It took 15 years.

During that time we set into motion many small actions to help the homeless we discerned were truly wanting to be helped. None of us were social workers or trained professionals. We learned the hard way that it is not good to give them money ever for any reason. We started out simple, getting food coupons from a nearby Kentucky Fried Chicken that we gave residents to distribute when they encountered the homeless. Then we found donations to buy MARTA mass transit tokens, so they could go to homeless shelters in other parts of Atlanta. We did find homeless who didn't want help because they liked being on the streets. Others were mentally ill and we were able to get them referrals & schedule transportation to appropriate places. We networked with local churches to begin free lunch programs getting food from Atlanta Food Bank, Feed The Hungry Foundation, Kroger & Publix. Clothing was donated at a central location. We had Street Fairs that brought us all together, even on Swazey Dr. where the crack houses were located. We did prayer vigils. One resident minister Rev. LeRoy Barber & his wife Donna offered church on their front lawn on Sundays and fed whoever came, even giving them batteries for their transistor radios. We observed "National Night Out" every August. By being visible ourselves in the streets with them we created trust. They helped us pick up litter



and trash. We got to know them and they got to know us. In 2012 we are down to a very few "new" homeless people who come into the area thinking it's still "Little Vietnam." There is one place called Eagle Grocery that they can go to

for food & clothes & referrals. Unfortunately altercations can occur there, so we depend upon both police precincts to serve this multiple jurisdiction no-man's land to keep the peace.

With vigilance we continue our Neighborhood Watch. The crack houses are gone. No one loiters or solicits. There are no more fire bombings or dead bodies in the street. No more guns going off during chases. The crime has been reduced 75% which we attribute to the collaborative efforts of South Precinct Police, Atlanta City Police, DeKalb Code Enforcement, residents, our Commissioner Larry Johnson, politicians too numerous to mention, beautification curb gardens, replacing shot out street lights, giving low wattage free light bulbs to all the residents so they can leave their porch lights on all night, and mostly because we were willing to work together for which our neighbourhood won an award. As with many urban transitional neighbourhoods there is always room for improvement, so we know our work continues, even when we feel burned out.

Now when I see homeless people in other parts of Atlanta, I have a new awareness of what it means. I still offer food coupons to anyone who panhandles me. Recently we

Continued from page 13...Homeless...

dedicated a Peace Pole in honour of my deceased peace activist friend Frank Ostrowki at Open Door Community Soup Kitchen, so I ask the homeless if they know about that place to go for help. I have MARTA Breeze cards to give. I've developed a "street sense" to know if it is safe to dialogue with them. I stay clear of anyone who is obviously drunk or acting crazy. When I see homeless sleeping in doorways, I call my resources to let them know there is someone who may need help.

I don't possess the skills to address every homeless person, but I do care about helping those that I can because many people helped me during my period of homelessness. Amazingly when people learn I was once homeless they tell me they were also homeless, even longtime friends in UB. We then commiserate about our journey giving thanks we survived the ordeal and then we pray together for those who are still homeless. I truly believe it's possible to feed and house everyone in the world and I'm willing to do my part. Rev. Andrea Kay Smith © 4-4-12

www.PartnershipsInPeace.org www.AtlantaPeaceTrails.com www.WorldPeaceTrails.com

Talking Points WORLD PEACE TRAILS

www.WorldPeaceTrails.com (WPT) was founded in 2009 by Gail Lash, PhD & Andrea Kay Smith after launching www.AtlantaPeaceTrails.com (APT) in 2007.

What is World Peace Trails? A network of peace trails around the world uniting people, cities and communities across all barriers using the Internet

What does WPT do? Find places of peace to encourage people to walk, bike or use local transit systems to visit them in their own communities based on the model of www.AtlantaPeaceTrails.com

How does WPT accomplish that?

- With a global network of resources, we receive information from people who are part of our organizations www.PartnershipsInPeace.org and www.TourismForPeace.org
- Networking with peace groups around the world
- Through media contacts

What are some WPT activities

- Collecting personal stories to show the benefits of World Peace Trails.
- Continuing to dedicate Peace Poles "May Peace Prevail on Earth"™ www.WorldPeace.org
- Passing out Peace Buttons "May Peace Prevail on Earth"™

What publications are available?

- "Peace Trails Atlanta: A Model for the World" with first-person stories, directions for planting a Peace Pole & making a Peace Trail
- "Atlanta Peace Trails" booklet detailing places of peace in Atlanta (online)
- Workbooks for peace-making in schools, zoos, & communities
- "Tourism, Progress and Peace" with chapter about APT www.cabi.org



