

# UNITY OF INNER PEACE NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL, 2016

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Dear Unity Friends,

Last night before going to sleep, I opened John Shelby Spong's book, The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic. I did this for two reasons: First, because we are now in the preparation stages for Spong's second visit to Marquette, on September 10th of this year; and second, because a new personal goal is to read something spiritually nourishing before going to sleep at night, making for a better night's sleep and adding to the riches of my subconscious mind.

What I read last night was the book's preface, which turned out to be a brief memoir of Spong's own spiritual evolution from the family's church of choice in Charlotte, NC all the way to where he is now, a retired Bishop at his home church in Morris Plains, NJ, an internationally known figure. He mentions church after church, some attended, some where he ministered. He mentions the people who most impressed him and why. He highlights cultural and political issues with which he was confronted and which made him chose new directions. I appreciated his story.

This early morning, before arising for the day, a time when insights often come, I related Spong's writing to an issue that David and I seem to be bringing up more and more often. We have questions about our own heritage, and guess what? There's no one around to answer them. WE ARE the older generation! People look to us for answers, not for questions! And so it suddenly dawned on me how valuable Spong's example is. Write it down before it's lost. Yes, I know that people write family histories all the time, but it's the focus of Spong's writing that grabbed me. He's not just telling us where he was born, how often he moved, where he went to school, what holidays his family celebrated and what they ate, he's telling us what made the man, the man who makes us sit up and listen! The focus is Spong the spiritual being.

Following on the tail of that insight came another, this one about our Unity circle. Yes, we do pass the candle after meditation, giving each person an opportunity to share from his/her Heart and Mind, but as I visualized this, suddenly in my mind's eye, the table in the center of the circle became a sacred campfire, with each person sitting there an elder, regardless of age, honoring the spirit of self and other by first sharing his/her own story and then by listening and accepting that of the other. Yes, our circle....a sacred place.

Each Sunday we say, "Our vision is a healed world." Perhaps the time is now for those of us who are not already doing so, to pass on our stories, through both the written and spoken word. We are the peacekeepers. How did we get that way?

Lovingly,  
Judy McGowan

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## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

April 3

CD & discussion - Adyashanti's Resurrecting Jesus: Embodying the Spirit of a Revolutionary Mystic. Last half of Session 1, "Encountering the Mystery."

Adyashanti examines the story of Jesus from birth to resurrection to reveal how the central events in Jesus' life parallel the stages of spiritual awakening that we may be called to experience ourselves.

April 10

CD & discussion - more of John O'Donohue's Celtic Wisdom Trilogy

April 17

Speaker- Fran Waters, DCSW, LMSW, LMFT and author of Healing the Fractured Child

April 24

Speaker - Steve Schmunk. "*Gratitude: More Than Meets the Eye*"

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Unity of Inner Peace has been invited by St. Paul's Episcopal Church to participate in a **retreat** to be held at their Healing Arts Center/Chapel on Friday, April 22nd from 7-9 PM and on Saturday, April 23rd from 9 AM - 3 PM. The title is "Return to the Land of Your Soul," and will involve "meditation, music, teaching and exploration to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others." Registration fee is \$10 (bring your own lunch), and it is a 30 person limit, so if you are interested call St. Paul's at [\(906\) 226-2912](tel:9062262912) no later than April 21st. Johanna Seubert, FSPA of the Christine Center in Wisconsin will be leading.

For those of you who would like to keep in touch with our founding minister, Ruth Singer, we have a new address. It is 2106 Leonard St. NE, Apt. 216, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. She would love to hear from you.

Did you know that Ann Russ, our board secretary and resident artist, has been putting her creative effort into our Facebook page? We encourage you to check it out and then "like" it at <https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/> Thanks.

At some time within the month, Steve Schmunk, our board VP, will be sending out a survey to get your ideas on what you would like to see happening at Unity of Inner Peace. We ask that you watch for this survey and respond so that Unity can best serve your needs.

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**BIRTHDAYS:** We are pleased to celebrate the lives, friendship and contributions to Unity of the following people:

Mary Ann Fry, April 9

Angela Johnson, April 10

Brandon Young, April 21

Patty Barton, April 28

(If you have an April birthday and don't find your name listed, please let Judy know by return e-mail.)

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## TITHES:

Unity of Inner Peace tithes on all donations. Recipients are chosen by The Board, quarterly. The tithe for the 4th quarter of 2015 was divided equally between Unity Worldwide and the Salvation Army of Marquette. The tithe for the first quarter of 2016 will be decided at the next Board meeting.

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### **PRAYER SUPPORT:**

As we continue our work of affirmative prayer support, we are happy to say that Mary Soper's granddaughter is now at home and doing well. Mary says, "All those prayers saved her life and are crucial in her self-healing process."

Bob Lamb delivered a heartfelt talk at Unity in March and continues to gain strength as he is back at work helping people to return to emotional health, his passion.

Rev. Ruth Singer has left the medical facility and now has her own apartment in an assisted living place.

We continue to affirm their wellness and also to invite continuing prayers of well-being for Carol Birnbaum, Jim Clumpner, Helen Haskell Remien and Dorit Stilling.

If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please respond to Judy by return e-mail. If you feel a need for more support, we encourage you to contact Silent Unity on the WEB or to call 1-800-NOW PRAY or [1-800-669-7729](tel:1-800-669-7729). The service is free or by love offering, and all contacts are confidential.

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Our meetings/services are held at the clubhouse of The Marquette Federated Women's Clubs at 104 W. Ridge St., Marquette, MI 49855. Services are Sundays at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. Please check our website at [unityofinnerpeace.org](http://unityofinnerpeace.org) or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/> for further information.

Our Board Members are as follows: Judy McGowan, President; Steve Schmunk, Vice President and web master; Ann Russ, Secretary and Facebook page creator; David McGowan, Treasurer. Members at large are Militza Georgevich English, Bob Lamb, Gail Razavi and Bill Waters.

**"Our vision is a healed world."**