

UNITY OF INNER PEACE NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2016

December 1, 2016

Dear People of Unity,

I'd like to share something which was brought to my awareness through this week's Spong newsletter. It is a portion of an interview by David Remnick of *The New Yorker* in which he asks President Obama what he told his daughters after Donald Trump won the election.

"What I say is that people are complicated. Societies and cultures are complicated. This is not mathematics; this is biology and chemistry. These are living organisms and it's messy. And your job as a citizen and as a decent human being is to constantly affirm and lift up and fight for treating people with kindness and respect and understanding. You should anticipate that at any given moment there's going to be flare-ups of bigotry that you may have to confront, or maybe inside you that you have to vanquish. And it doesn't stop. You don't get into a fetal position about it. You don't start worrying about apocalypse. You say, OK, where are the places where I can push to keep it moving forward?"

This message is, of course, universally important, and most assuredly in alignment with Unity teachings, but it also speaks to a recent local happening, an event in which a lovely, intelligent and service-minded individual, a woman who spoke at Unity earlier this year, was abused in a public parking lot while two witnesses stood by and did nothing. Uninvited and unwelcome information was spread on social media and people who care felt a need to respond in some way. Today I called this woman, born outside of this country, and word for word, this was her response.

"how this made me feel"

"I experienced something I was sure would never happen to a woman. Working with woman who has been abused open my eyes to a way of life I never dreamed. I question their reasons for not filing a police report. All had a fear of what happens to them after he is released. Their life and the life of their children would be in danger. I told myself I would worry about that later. I would call the police. God has a way of putting your proud statement to the test. During my trauma, my first thought was to tell no one, not even my husband. I did what my father taught me, always look for two good reason why someone did something mean to you, and choose the one that make your heart smile. My choice, he had just lost his job as the holidays were approaching. Under no circumstances this excuse his behavior but it allow me to find forgiveness in my heart. My father always said, if you forgive someone, and seek revenge, you have not forgiven. After two weeks of nightmares, I confided in a friend, hoping that the nightmares would ease. She, on the other hand told a group of people, one being a reporter. When I spoke with him, I could and would not allow him to think she was lying so I had no choice but to say it had happened, and I asked God to forgive me for misleading the day it happened. Now my husband became aware and wanted to see punishment by calling on legal counsel to keep this private as to what our plan would be. But this blog raised so many unanswered questions about how Americans deal with hate. American values differ from the way I were taught. My belief that only God can judge. If you hate or hurt someone, God can not live in your heart. I have walked away from many organizations where the environment is toxic. I can't and will not be a part of anything that will remove God from my life. If you for a moment whisper something negative, and die at that moment all the good is gone. I know this may be strange to a lot of people, but that is ok. I have a goal of returning to Paradise. I have forgiven the man and the two women who stood watching and I pray we all meet in

Paradise. I would love to pursue a course that would take me to Washington to pass a law to protect women when her abuser is released. Let us all pray that I am able to do this for us all."

So, the question arises, how will you, how will I deal with injustice when it stares us in the face?

In spiritual partnership,
Judy

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Dec. 4

Musician, & Speaker, **Robert Buchkoe. "Music and the Soul"**

Robert Buchkoe is a Marquette native, who grew up at the Marquette Branch Prison, having a prison warden for a father. When he was in his first year of college his father retired and the family moved into town, where he has lived ever since. A professional pianist and piano teacher, Bob has been active in music since he started piano lessons at the age of six. Over the years he has seen music touch people in many ways and influence many lives. He sees this first hand with his students, many of whom have either pursued musical careers or have kept music as an integral part of their lives. Music can penetrate the soul like no other external force and remains a powerful influence in people's lives, either consciously or subconsciously.

Robert will address the impact of music in his life and how he has been an instrument of music to others, as well as others affecting him through music. (Yes, he will play for us.)

Dec. 11

Speaker, **Bill Waters. "The Circle. A Safe Place to Come Together."**

Dec. 18 *******Christmas potluck*******

Speaker/Facilitator, **Roslyn McGrath. "Renewing Our Spirits: Meditation & Water Ceremony"**

Dec. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY. NO SERVICE. Enjoy your family and friends wherever you are.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our community is full of wonderful opportunities to hear Christmas choral music. As some of our Unity members are participating in these concerts, we would like to mention the following:

Marquette Choral Society, St. Peter's Cathedral

Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 7:30 PM and Sunday, Dec. 4th at 3:00 PM.

Marquette County Chamber Chorale, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Friday, Dec. 9th at 7:30 PM and Saturday, Dec. 10th at 7:30 PM

The Gourdian Society presents free MEDITATION classes starting Sunday, January 8th, 2017, 5:00 PM, at the U.P. Children's Museum. **Brandon Young**, facilitator. "Learn to calm and focus your mind. Discover the answers to life's problems. Find the peace and happiness that's always been there for you." Call [\(906\) 250-4457](tel:9062504457) to reserve a spot.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

The following people continue to be very appreciative of your prayer support: Bob Lamb, Carol Birnbaum, Dorit Stilling and Jim Clumpner. It can add to healing to know that we are held in mind, especially when we cannot be physically present.

In addition, we always urge you to call Silent Unity with your prayer requests. They are there, just for you, 24/7. Call 1-(800) NOW-PRAY which is [1-\(800\) 669-7729](tel:1-800-669-7729).

BIRTHDAYS: Our world is richer because you were born and walk among us. Happy Birthday, one and all.

Martha Cablk, Dec. 9
Carol Elder Birnbaum, Dec. 14
Karen Blonski, Dec. 19
Lisa Long, Dec. 20
Bill Waters, Dec. 22
Bob Lamb, Dec. 26

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. We begin at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. Please check our website at unityofinnerpeace.org or visit our Facebook page at [HTTPS://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/](https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/) for further information.

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

"Our vision is a healed world."