

# The Society Pages

## Second Sundays: “A sacred time....”

Our Second Sunday group offers a forum for young adults living in Southern California to discuss spiritual ideas in a church setting. The group has been meeting for five years and has had deep and meaningful conversations about the issues confronting them in their daily lives. Each month the group is comprised of a different combination of participants and very often includes someone who is not a Christian Scientist. Subjects for discussion are posed by the group members and there is a Journal listed practitioner in attendance to facilitate the session. This time together is always lively and inspiring. We've had three members join our San Juan Society as a result of attending the Second Sunday meetings and there have been many reports of help and healing resulting from each session. One could say this church activity surely "...affords proof of its utility...."

Two long-time Second Sunday participants shared their experiences with us.



- “For the last five years my husband and I have been setting aside the Second Sunday of every month to meet at the SJC Christian Science Society for the young adults discussion group. We consider it a sacred time for sharing our growth in Christian Science and listening to inspiration from our fellow peers about how they are applying Christian Science in their lives and have found healing. It has been incredible to witness the unique





progress of each individual and to share in the healings together. Because of our confidentiality agreement with one another, whatever is talked about at the meetings stays within the confidence of the group present on that particular evening. That has allowed for such trust and humility in the group as well as a willingness to be open and share whatever is on your mind without feeling judged. It's amazing what comes up to be healed!

"I always feel that the need of the group is being met, no matter who is there or what the topics are. There are no real formalities. We always start with a 'check in' to see how things have been going and/or share what's been on our mind, and then we let the Christ move us in the direction we need to go! It's beautiful to watch. I am so grateful for this group. It has truly been a blessing in my life when spiritual support was needed. It has been an outlet that has led to such wonderful growth, and it truly feels like our ever increasing knowledge and understanding of this beautiful Science can only be affecting the world around us with grace and harmony." ~~Kristin Palkoner

## **"From heart to heart the bright hope glows..."**

- "The Second Sunday young adult discussion group has been an incredible blessing in my life! As my wife, Kristin, so eloquently explained the graceful process of this group, I only wish to add upon her thoughts. It is a forum of deep inspiration and spiritual healing. It has given to me a place of complete trust and understanding in my growth and further expression of this Divine Science. It is a place where anyone who is searching for Truth and Love can come and share openly. Being a student of Christian Science for the last five years, this group is and has been a major piece of the foundation of my own spiritual journey. It is a place of great support and love that blesses the world. Not having been raised in Christian Science, I was longing for true answers to my questions of and about God. Christian Science wants me to ask those questions in in order to understand and grow and heal, spiritually. The San Juan Capistrano CS Society's Second Sunday discussion group is a rock in the foundation of this growing concept of Church that we are so grateful to be a small part of."

As one of our congregation outside the "twenty-something" range remarked: "Wow! This sounds wonderful! Do you think they check I.D.'s?"....!

~~Mark Palkoner

*...The seekers of the Light are one...." Hymn 219*

## Mark your calendar...

### Metaphysical Workshops...

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

### Growing Church Workshops

Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

### Second Sundays...

A monthly discussion group for 20- Somethings held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month....new participants always welcome.

(See special article)

### Management Team Meetings...

Our Management Team welcomes your questions, and topics for discussion and action, as the communication hub of our church. Communication can be directed to any member of the team and will be responded to at periodic Management Team meetings. (See contact information below.)

### Special Events...

#### Lectures by Pepe Rodriguez Pelaez

Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>: *The Impossible is Possible* (Part 1) Liberia Martinez, 216 N. Broadway, Santa Ana.....11:00 a.m. In Spanish with English translation. All are welcome!

Sunday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>**: *The Impossible is Possible* (Part 2) Third Church, downtown Los Angeles.... 2:45 p.m. following the 1-2 pm Spanish Sunday Service Spanish ONLY but all are welcome!

### Informal Chat with Pepe...

Sunday, **August 14<sup>th</sup>**, 2:00 p.m. at Laguna Niguel church for an informal discussion with CS lecturer, Jose Rodriguez Pelaez. "Pepe" will share how he came into CS after a career as a Roman Catholic priest and subsequent healing of his wife. He will talk about the growth of Christian Science in Spain, the founding of a CS Society in his town, and the desire for CS nurses training and a CS sanatorium in his country. Come and share in this wonderful fruitage!

**English & Spanish**

## Getting to know you...

Meet **Daniela Agnesini**, who's been a call-in member of our church family for a while that we're delighted to finally introduce to everyone. Here's how Daniela found her way to the Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano: "I lived in London in 2004 for about one year and met a very kind woman. We would talk a lot and in one conversation I confessed to her that I wanted to know more about God. She asked me if I would be comfortable going to a Wednesday meeting with her. I accepted and it was love at first sight!"

Daniela tells us that she was born and raised in Italy where it is very common to be part of the Catholic religion. She went to church sporadically, eventually dropping it for good at a very young age. "Not my kind of stuff!" she says. Her high school education gave her a background in bookkeeping and she worked as an administrator/accountant for several years. She also explored the hotel industry with a variety of assignments---in the kitchen, laundry, room cleaning---"lots of fun." She has lived in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland and England and when she arrived in the U.S. in 2007, she lived in Seal Beach for a year. Some friends from the Long Beach branch church brought her to San Juan one Wednesday evening for our service. She currently calls in to our services from her home in Dixon, in northern California.

What was it that drew her to join us and support our mission? "I really love the international feeling here, having people of Mexican/Spanish tradition. It makes me feel right at home having been raised in Italy. I enjoy the open-minded people and the fact that I can join even if I live in a 'remote' area since I can call in with Skype--I appreciate the friendliness and love. I am enjoying praying for the financial aspect of the Society so that abundance can be manifest."

Daniela shares that she loves gardening, cooking, tapestry, going to the beach, and spending time with her dogs. And what more would she like us to know about her?

"That I'm now in the full time practice of Christian Science and I love it! I'm not yet listed in the Journal but am persistently working to be there when appropriate. I don't share much during our church meetings but I'm there...just really shy...it will probably take some time before I'm ready to jump in.

Thank you for your interest in me in doing this interview. I appreciate that. I love this Society!"

Welcome to your new church family, Daniela. It feels like love at first sight!

### **Bienvenue!**

#### **Welcome! to Josef and**

**Leona Merveille....** "Are you one of those Christian Scientists?" This question, from an inquisitive acquaintance, turned out to be the starting point for

#### **Leona and Josef**

**Merveille's** soon-to-be discovery of Christian Science and the beginning of a new chapter in their Life/Love adventure that would lead them to join our church family.

Josef grew up in Belgium. After coming to the United States he moved to Canada where he met Leona, a native of Montreal, where they began their life partnership. Josef's career began as a European-trained maitre d', and Leona's

professional life began in the hospitality business that eventually led her to France for world-class culinary training with expertise in special dietary menus (including special meals for dogs!) Their combined skills and talents would eventually lead them to assignments around the United States, managing the estates and serving as private chef to clients in more than fifteen states, an adventure they love to talk about.

Along the way they shared a search for spirituality and explored a variety of churches and religions. "We somehow always turned to God in our own way for solutions and healing" they explain, eventually turning away from medical answers for physical challenges, and noting, "We have experienced wonderful healings--life saving ones! Prayer heals!"

The Merveilles moved to Southern California a few years ago and enjoy retirement from their careers

## **Newsong Concert....Mark your calendar...**

Sunday afternoon, **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at** Laguna Niguel church.... the talented **Newsong Group** from Great Britain will perform. (As an added bonus they will provide the music for our Sunday morning service that day. Their CD's are available in our Reading Room. Featured at last year's Annual Meeting Hymn Sing, the Newsong musicians have contributed hymns to the new hymn supplement.)

after settling in Laguna Hills. It was here that they shared with a neighbor that they don't seek medical attention when an apparent need arises but rely on prayer---and heard the words "Christian Science" for the first time. "We said, no we have not heard of 'them', but it sounds like maybe we should find out about this since it sounds like something we agree with!" And so began their discovery, first attending a few churches in the area, reading Science and Health and studying the weekly Bible Lesson. "We loved what we were learning but didn't feel much a part of the churches we visited until we came to San Juan Capistrano. Here we felt like home with so many people welcoming us with love."

Attending our Society led both Josef and Leona to take Class Instruction. About this experience they share, "This class was a Love experience---surrounded by Love! What a wonderful experience, an international class with students from all over the world." Says Josef, "The first sentence I heard was 'God wants you here!'... that made me dance!"

The Merveilles share a love for music..."we are listening to music many

hours a day," and they begin their day with a hymn.... "Shepherd' is my favorite" says Josef....then together they read loud the Bible Lesson. Leona continues her passion for cooking, and new friends and neighbors are the blessed recipients of her gourmet treats. And many of our canine visitors at church spot her immediately, knowing she has a little something delicious in her pocket for them. Josef is an avid reader and exploring biographies of Mary Baker Eddy, and many of us delight in his loving greeting on Sundays...."Bon jour... Good morning...God's morning!".... just one example of his "current job"....."trying to live in the presence of God....eternally."

We welcome you with open arms, Josef and Leona. . Your light is a precious gift to our church family!

### **FYI...Reminder:**

This is the weekly **office schedule for our administrator:**

Monday morning  
Wednesday afternoons....

Friday morning  
and

Sunday mornings from  
8:30 am to 9:45 am



### **New Members!...**

**Lenore Garman** has recently turned in her affirmation form making her an "official" member of our Society. Many of us know her well because she has been a regular attendee for years and an active participant helping out with child care, fellowship, and many other activities. If you haven't had a chance, be sure to say hello and welcome to Lenore!



And a very warm welcome to **Joan Marsh**, our newest member. Joan has been attending our services (with her little white dog!) since she moved to Laguna Woods recently. She is already helping with Apoya and is willing to help out with other teams. If your team has any needs, please let her know, and be sure to introduce yourself to Joan. **Glenna Lovett** and **Margarita**

## The Day of the Child...



Supporting our community partner, CREER, our Society hosted a booth for the first time at San Juan's annual festival, The Day of the Child.

Participating this year was an opportunity for Divine Love to embrace the children of our community. Our booth bustled with activity throughout the day, where we passed out some 500 balloons, bookmarks, children's books, CS literature in both Spanish and English, and many Bibles and copies of Science and Health in Spanish. Many teenagers asked for both Bibles and copies of our textbook. Tables were spread with Bible activity pages for children. Questions and conversation about Christian Science flowed throughout the day with many inquiries about where the Society is located.

Special thanks to those who contributed, organized and worked our booth in this rewarding community effort:



**Paul Garman, Diana and Lew Colarossi, Nancy Challenger, Ann Relph, Mary Watkins, Carole DaDurka, Holly Packard, Cindy MacWhinney, along with spouses and friends.**

In the words of some of our volunteers: "God's expression of innocence and purity, our leader's definition of children, was palpable for all!"....."These dear children were so eager for the materials we gave them!".....  
"Thank you for the privilege of working in the booth. I'll never forget the teenager who loved what he was reading in Science and Health and when I told him he could keep it he just beamed, saying 'Really, really I can keep it?!'.....  
"What a wonderful oppor-

tunity for our Society to demonstrate our love for our fellow man in sharing what we know about Christian Science to receptive hearts in our community." .... "What a day! Children and parents flocked to our booth. They loved the bright colored helium balloons that could be seen in all directions sharing that 'God is Love/ Dios es Amor'. We invited every child to our Sunday School!"

Everyone involved agreed that it was a worthwhile and joyous experience.

Information contributed by:

**Carole DaDurka**

## Sunday School Celebrations...

Congratulations to our two high school graduates, both soon heading off to college adventures. **Devon Baggs** graduated with honors from Dana Hills High School and will



soon be off to Principia College where she plans to explore studies in business and mass communications.

**Bren Johnson** is looking



forward to joining the Musical Theater program at Cal State Fullerton this fall. Bren was awarded a variety of musical

theater awards and elected most talented actor at his school, San Juan Hills High School. He also received a scholarship from Musical Theater West. Bon voyage to you both, with Love!!

## Tithing...

In July we tithed in support of the **Karen tribes of Burma**, an ongoing humanitarian effort that we have



supported for some time in specific prayerful response and financial aid.

Our tithing recipient for **August is Petals of Africa School** in Kenya, specifically toward maintaining the stability of teacher salaries. We have partnered with Petals for more than ten years and continue to rejoice in their progress and success in raising the standard of education in



**"Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."**

their community and contributing to peace and cooperation among rival tribes. Stay tuned for specific prayer requests at our services in August and new opportunities for individual contributions. The Committee of 50 is a support group for Petals and continues to welcome new participants. (Contact **Paul Garman** for further details.)

**Reminder from the Tithing Team:** If you would like to submit an application to recommend a tithing recipient for 2012 the **deadline for applications is September 1<sup>st</sup>**. Discussion and voting for next year's tithing calendar will occur during September. For further information or an application contact **Laura Fisher**.



## Opportunities for giving, serving, learning, growing, praying....!

**The Principle Foundation...**Our Society has supported The Principle Foundation over the years as a recipient of our tithing prayers and financial contributions. New member **Joyce Artman-Smith** is the chair of the Foundation/Greater Los Angeles Area and shares this current information. The Principle Foundation is a benevolent avenue through which Christian Scientists help themselves practice Christianity. While individual Christian Scientists are working to demonstrate the facts of spiritual being, here and now, the Foundation plays a nursing role the way a Christian Science nurse takes care of immediate human needs while relying on CS for healing.

The Foundation provides financial assistance when it is needed. The focus always is on healing---proving that wherever we are, whatever the situation, divine Love is at hand to meet all human needs and to restore harmony. We work from the standpoint of the allness of God and the completeness of man in His image and likeness, and to help fellow Christian Scientists remember what they know of God's allness in readiness to receive the Christ idea. We offer immediate support and help anyone who is sincere in their expectation of healing through the practice of Christian Science. Our support comes from unsolicited contributions. If you or a Christian Scientist you know needs this type of support, or if you are interested in serving in this rewarding activity, contact **PrincipleFoundation.org**

Update on the **CS Church of Joplin, Missouri....** The Joplin church was totally destroyed in the recent tornado. The Principle Foundation is engaged in giving financial aid to individual members of the Joplin church and The Mother Church will assist the Joplin congregation with rebuilding. When the church is rebuilt they will need hymnals, chairs, Sunday School tables, among other things, as well as everything to complete a new Reading Room which was housed in their of the Sunday School and was also lost in the disaster. If anyone would like to contribute to the Joplin Church they may do so through The Principle Foundation and designate the donation "Disaster Relief". Any books or other materials you wish to contribute will need to be stored as it may be a year before the church is built. For further information contact: **Joyce Artman-Smith**

## Grateful hearts...

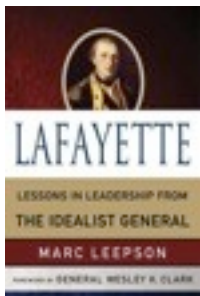
**Thank you** to our dedicated Sunday Readers for the last two months: **Dee Gruenig, Mike Mastagni, Holly** and **Bill Cunningham.....Kudos** to **Kay Wittmack** and her team and everyone who contributed supplies and notes of gratitude included in the recent shipment of care packages to our soldiers in the Middle East....**A standing ovation** for **Karen Brown** and **LaRae Fast** who have just completed their terms as members of our Management Team....We appreciate all of your time, talents, and dedication to our Society. **Loud cheers** for all of those in our **AV Club** working diligently behind the scenes to solve our seemingly persistent "technical difficulties" in communicating beyond our walls....and to all participants, thank you for your patience and prayers!.....**Much gratitude** to everyone who participated in the recent event, Day of the Child, a community outreach to local children their and families. ....And from the Society Pages staff a special thanks to our Editor-in-Chief, **Bonnie MacDonald**, for all the work and all the spirit she puts into writing and collecting these Society Pages! Communication is essential to our church's activities!

## In the news and on the Internet....



In the July 18 issue of the Sentinel look for a wonderful article by one of our Society's early members, **Norm Anderson**, now living on Mercer Island, Washington: "Prayer in an Earthquake".....And for a great article by **Alan Hess** in the L.A. Times, see the July 23 piece in the Home Section (available on latimes.com), a commentary on accomplished Los Angeles architect, John Lautner.

(If you spot one of our church family in the news or on the Internet, let us know!)



## The Book Report....

**Lafayette---Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General**, by Marc Leepson, Palgrave MacMillan, 2011

Following our recent, rousing patriotic July 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday church service, members of the dial-in fellowship continued the patriotic spirit by sharing incidents of God blessing America during the Revolutionary War.

In Marc Leepson's book we discover one of God's biggest blessings to America, to George Washington, and to the Continental Army with the arrival from France of the Marquis de LaFayette at age 19. Did you know that Lafayette became like a son to George Washington? That Washington made LaFayette a major general when he was just 20? That LaFayette used his vast wealth to provide shoes and uniforms for the American troops? And that the final battle of the Revolutionary War, at Yorktown, was won for America in large part because of Lafayette? Not only did he successfully lead his troops in the Yorktown battle, but he was instrumental in convincing King Louis XVI of

France to send naval and army troops to help the Americans defeat the Brits. "The moment I heard of America, I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom, I burnt with a desire of bleeding for her."

He was a cherished friend of Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, , as well as George Washington's top generals, including Henry Knox (See Mary Baker Eddy's *Retrospection and Introspection*, page 2, where she mentions Knox.)

Lafayette, the fellow on horseback at Lafayette Square in front of the White House, was very well known and beloved by a grateful country. "In 1824 he accepted an invitation from the US Congress and his old comrade and friend President James Monroe to visit the United States." He was feted every-where and was the first foreigner to address a joint session of Congress and received what today would be the equivalent of 2 million dollars in gratitude for what he did for our country, his wealth having been lost during the French Revolution.

"We cherish his memory above that of any citizen of a foreign country."  
--President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1934

It is so evident that God, divine Love, met a great need of George Washington and the American armed forces in sending Lafayette to our shores. His vital contribution to America's freedom literally changed the world for the better, proving one man's usefulness. Contributed by: **Beverly Lyle**

(Do you have a book to recommend, one that has enhanced your spiritual journey and growth? Let us know!)

## Attending our church without walls...

**Joining us by conference call...IMPORTANT NEWS: THIS IS OUR NEW CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER... DIAL 1-805-309-2350...**

then punch in this **ACCESS CODE: 12111#**. You may begin calling in fifteen minutes before any meeting or join any time after the service or meeting is in progress. A host will greet you and answer any questions, or you are welcome to just listen in.

**Meetings by Skype...**We are now using the Skype room of members Mark and Marilyn Mohlenbrock. They have generously donated this service to us in the past, and to help us defray operating expenses, have offered this free to us again.

Instructions: For all services, meetings and workshops, the Skype number to dial:

**+9900827047040344.....**

or to call in by phone:

**1-201-793-9022**

ACCESS CODE: **7040344**.

There is no charge for the Skype connection through your computer, but there is a regular phone charge if you call into the Skype number by phone. Call in a few minutes

before the service or meeting is scheduled to begin. You need your own free Skype account which you can sign up for at [Skype.com](http://Skype.com).

## Your Management Team...

Our members comprise the governing body of our Society and our Management Team serves as the communication center, handling ongoing administrative and organizational tasks. Please note the new contact information. Thank you and welcome to our two new MT members: **Carole DaDurka** and **Jackie Riegel** serving a year term beginning July 2011, along with **Joy Aldrich** elected to a second term of office.

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