

The Sower

Bulletin & Voice of

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

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Church Under New/Old Leadership

Luigina Potash has announced that she is resigning as Minister of the First Spiritual Temple, effective November 1, 2022. With this announcement, Rev. Simeon has stepped in to assume the leadership of the Church; something he has done since March 1977.

Luigina's unexpected resignation causes us to step back a bit and look carefully at how best the First Spiritual Temple can serve God and Spirit; that includes you and your spiritual needs. In light of this, all First Spiritual Temple activities, including Sunday worship, will be suspended during the month of November 2022. Some classes will be hosted by the below-mentioned **Ayer Institute**.

As noted in a recent letter sent to our extended spiritual community, ***"The work of the First Spiritual Temple, as established by our founder, Marcellus Seth Ayer, will continue to be a strong and viable presence within the Spiritualist and Esoteric communities."***

The First Spiritual Temple Trust has reinstated "The Ayer Institute", a teaching body first established in April 1885. We consider The Ayer Institute and the First Spiritual Temple to be sister organizations, each complementing the other and together offering two facets of our founder's vision: religious and educational.

Please check out the Ayer Institute's website. There's a lot going on:

www.ayerinstitute.org

The Sower will no longer be printed and mailed out. It will be available only in digital form on our website.

When the Times Get Tough The Faithful Pray

Not one of us can deny that times are tough. Between the often unpleasant tone of the current political scene; war and rumors of war; hurricanes and earthquakes; genocide and political upheavals in various parts of the world; and hunger upon a planet that, in truth, produces sufficient for all, one must ask: "What's going on, and what can we do?"

Do you feel as if the Human Family is headed for a massive collision course with itself? If so, then you are not alone.

We can come up with all sorts of answers to "what's going on?" and the answers can be political, socio-economic, or spiritual. As far as "what can we do?", so many lift their arms up in frustration and echo a resounding "Nothing; it is all beyond my capacity to do anything."

During these troubling times, let us never forget the singularly most powerful tool of the Spirit: **prayer**. For many, prayer is an elusive act of faith that may or may not have the impact we wish. But, let us never forget: Prayer always does what it is supposed to do, not necessarily what we want it to do.

Prayer always works! Through prayerful engagement of the Spirit, we can help bring about change, not only amidst the world arena, but within our own lives. Prayer works, if only to give us a bit of added strength and encouragement to take yet another step along our journey. So, let us pray unceasingly, not only during challenging times, but during good times.

A church bulletin board once stated the following: **God: First Call, or Last Resort?**

Think about this and let us pray.

Celebrate God in Your Life!

How do we celebrate God in our lives? What's the first step in celebrating the holiness of our Divine Parent?

The first step is to recognize that there is truly something to celebrate. God gave us life. And in giving us life, God gave us freedom to make choices on how to live that life. God gave us all the seeds that we could ever need to plant a most remarkable garden within Creation. He gave the tools of the mind and the tools of the heart to sow those seeds, to nurture them, and to cultivate those precious gardens. She gave us fellowship. He gave us family, friends, communities, animal companions, a global family, and, yes, even challenges to push us along in our journeys.

God gave us the ability to bring two worlds together; to build bridges of love, guidance, and support between heaven and earth. God gave us the earth that we may become caretakers of this grand heavenly sphere. He sent us prophets to walk upon the earth, casting seeds of the Divine Word into the hearts and souls of men and women. She gave us the heavens to behold and wonder at. All this, God gave to us! Surely, that is something to celebrate!

Are we alive? Can we feel ourselves? If we cannot feel ourselves, are we alive? Can you feel yourself sitting where you are at this moment? Can you feel God's Holy Spirit surging through **your** Spirit, as it surges through the veins of every living Spirit throughout the whole of Creation? When the bridge between the worlds is created and Spirit comes forward and offers us the miracle of testimony, are we truly moved by the experience of God's Holy Spirit **right before our very eyes?** Can we feel ourselves? Can we relate to ourselves and to one another? If not, are we alive?

Do we take the time to look around us; to observe the simple beauties of life: the colorful leaves, the birds, the rising and setting of the sun? Or are we just too busy? Perhaps, we are so absorbed by the tragedies which surround us that we fail to notice the beauty and wonders around and within us.

Celebrating God in our lives means noticing what God does for us, in our lives and in the life of our community. Celebrating God means rising above

the clock, which constantly seeks to convince us that we have no time and then **finding/making** the time to invite God back into our lives. Celebrating God means witnessing for God; sharing with others what God can do for them more than what God has done for us.

Celebrating God in our lives means being alive, not just biologically alive, but **spiritually** alive, vital in the essence of God's Spirit within us. Celebrating God in our lives means being excited over the prospect of what our Human Family can achieve and then making that visionary dream become a reality. Celebrating God is knowing, deep within your Spirit, that healing is not just a reality; it can become **your** reality. Celebrating God in our lives is knowing that miracles happen today, just as they did in the past.

There is so much to celebrate when we celebrate God. When we celebrate God in our lives, we celebrate life itself, in all its goodness, grace, and forgiveness. God created life; therefore, **life is good!** God created you; therefore, **you are good!**

When we celebrate life, we cast away the shadows of death. And when we cast away the shadows of death, there is only light. And when there is only light, there can only be hope. And when there is hope, faith becomes engaged. And when we engage faith, we see clearly. And when we see clearly, the door to God's Holy Kingdom lies wide open before us. And when we stand at that threshold, there is a friend, a companion, a Shepherd, a Guide, waiting for us; beckoning us to enter therein, because there is a place within that Kingdom for every one of us.

And you know what? God doesn't care whether you're Christian, Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Atheist, or anything else. She really doesn't! So long as you get yourself to that door, He'll be there; helping you cross that wondrous threshold into the Kingdom! And where is that threshold? It's right here and right now. God's Kingdom does not have to be someplace else, at some other time. One step **now** is all it takes!

Surely, that's something to celebrate!

