

This month, we remember ...

It is with love that Gwen Dovey's family remembers their son and brother Paul. December 31st is the third anniversary of his passing. Gwen feels that he is a member of our church as she is often told that he is seen standing close to her. Paul lived in Alberta for many years and married there. He left for the west in the 1980's when a lot of young people left home for adventure. He was a pilot by profession and used to fly supplies to the Artic in the winter, plus many other flying jobs. The last job before he became ill with brain cancer was flying water bombers when there were fires raging in the North West. Gwen and her family are proud of him and his accomplishments. Now he is able to fly wherever he pleases.

Healing @ SSB

Healing is available, by appointment, on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Appointments are available between 6.30 pm & 8.30 pm

December Dates:

13th December
27th December

January Dates:

10th January
24th January

For an appointment, contact MaryAnn Leonard on: 905 332 9934

Who's On ...

December 2010

5th Marilyn Mazzotta
12th Rev. James Kinnear
19th Peace On Earth Candlelight Service
26th Jana Hefferman

January 2011

2nd TC Kendall & David Jones
9th Peter Hatcher
16th Rev. Doug Eyre
23rd Rev. Patti Tomczyk & Sean McCluster
30th Caroline Molnar and Ben Gleisser. Followed by 1.30 Mediumship Demo and a Book Signing.

Upcoming Events

December 2010

5th Christmas Bake Sale
12th Christmas Bake Sale
19th Candlelight Service

January 2011

22nd Going Direct Workshop

February 2011

12th Valentine's Gourmet Dinner

The Message

Issue: 2.1 Dec. 2010

Welcome to the new-look Message! In our first anniversary issue, we have changed the layout to give more space for articles while making it easier read.

We hope you continue to enjoy reading this as much as we enjoy putting it together!

The Rambler Rose

My story starts when God lent me a life so frail and small,
It was a tiny Rambler rose that grew against a wall.

With loving care I helped it grow into a great big vine,
I then took it for granted that it was really mine.

I'll try and tell you what happened, perhaps you'll agree,
That what I did was done for God, not – as I thought for me.

In a corner of my garden, beside a long high wall,
A little Rambler rose appeared, it wasn't very tall.

'Twas nothing much to look at, and only just alive,
The stem was thin and weedy, the leaves they numbered five.

My heart went out towards it; to me it seemed quite wrong,
That life within this little plant, should not survive for long.

I dug around its tiny roots to clear the weeds away,
So it could get some sun and air, then I watered it each day.

I came to love that little plant, it grew so strong and tall.
And after weeks of tender care, 'twas halfway up the wall.

How eagerly I looked towards the day when I'd espy,
The first of many roses bringing beauty to my eye.

Continued over ...



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Spiritualist Society of Burlington

But then a sad thing happened, exactly what I had feared,
Through a wide crack which was in the wall,
The top had disappeared.

Although I was disheartened, I prayed that it would thrive,
And my rambler kept on growing, so I knew it was alive.

I know my rambler's blooming, although I cannot see,
The beauty it is giving – to others – but not to me.

The ones we love, but cannot see, are not so far away,
So do not grieve or mourn for them, you'll meet again one day.

And so to all my friends I say, if you've lost someone you love,
Remember this ode of the rambler rose and pray to the one above.

For God lent me that rambler rose, with the pleasure that it brought
to me, for taking care of it, and not for what I sought.

R. D. Free

The Seven Principles Explained – Personal Responsibility

The fifth principle of spiritualism is important because the personal responsibility we accept for our actions during our physical lives is a key indicator of who and what we are. The quality of the person, character and spirit is determined by what is done and what they think about while they walk the earthly pathway of life.

Personal responsibility is not intended to imply that, provided we are satisfied with our behaviour, we are free to ignore the effect our actions have on others. We are required not only to look at how our thoughts and actions affect our direct relationships but also the effect our behaviour will have on the rest of humankind in general. Although each of us is an individual, the outcome of our thoughts and actions will reflect on others in one way or another. We must be aware that, while what we may do may further our personal cause, it may have a detrimental effect on others.

Divine Law, which operates throughout the universe, is unchangeable and inescapable. One aspect of Divine Law is the Law of Cause and Effect, which is easily understood and succinctly expressed in the phrase "As you sow, so shall you reap". If we are conscious of the many aspects of Divine Law, in accepting personal responsibility we are more likely to make decisions for the right reasons.

Personal responsibility indicates that we have free will. But is this really the case? What we usually have is choice, with a variety of opportunities presented to allow us to decide what to do in any given situation. When we have a choice between options the responsibility is ours as to which we choose. There are no absolutes and each situation must be looked at in its own light.

Free will, therefore, is not an absolute but a relative concept that may well depend on forces over which we have no control. Personal responsibility can, at times, be a heavy burden to carry but is nevertheless rewarding in the longer term. If personal responsibility allows us to recognize our strengths and weaknesses, our successes and failures, then our lives with all their frailties and problems are truly under our control. Mistakes are ours to make as long as we realize that in making them others may be affected. We do not always know how or when the effects of our mistakes may materialize in the lives of others. We do not know how far into the future the things we were taught, and which we in turn teach others, may be of influence. We touch many more lives than we realize, both in the present and future.

We can make decisions for only one life, our own, but personal progress can be enhanced by the manner in which we relate to others and interact with all those we meet, however fleetingly, on our journey through life.

Extract from The Philosophy of SNU Spiritualism 2007

Did you know? ...

- Spiritualists use the term "passing" rather than "dying" because we believe that when our time is over on the earth, we "pass" on to the spirit world.
- Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King used to regularly attend séances at home and in his official residence.
- If you make a donation to SSB of \$35 or more before the end of December you will receive a tax receipt that is valid for the 2010 tax year.