

# THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The Portland Spiritualist Church  
July 2018



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**Distribution** "Open Position"

Hey there everybody! Well, we finally tripped over summer and here it is. Get out and enjoy every bit of it that you can.....but don't forget church.

Speaking of church: The Portland Spiritualist Church along with the First Salem Spiritualist Church in Massachusetts is one of the last Spiritualist Churches in New England to have evening services. Evening services used to be the norm in Spiritualism.

The tradition of evening services began because folks wanted to go to their "regular" churches in the morning, but still wanted to go to a Spiritualist service. Thus, the evening service. It was also traditional in Spiritualist Churches that the Healing Prayer be read at 8:00 PM. This would mean that throughout the world there would always be a healing prayer read at 8:00. There are only a few members (and I think that it's me and Beth) who remember when the Portland Spiritualist Church met at 7:30 PM so that the healing prayer could be read at the correct time. It was moved to 6:30 to make it easier on speakers who had to travel any distance. Over the years nearly all the Spiritualist Churches in the country have moved their services to mornings.

And so, the time has come for us to make our decision. On **July 11<sup>th</sup> (that's a Wednesday), at 7:30 PM** there will be a **special membership meeting** to decide whether or not the Portland Spiritualist Church will change it's meeting schedule from an evening service to a morning service. And if that decision is made, we need to decide on a time in the mornings to meet. I'd like to ask all members who are available to

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### **Sunday Speakers and Mediums**

Sunday Speakers Services 6:30 PM

#### **July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Joe McCann  
Church of Spiritual Life, Derry, NH

#### **July 8<sup>th</sup>**

Rev. Beth Carter, CH, CM  
Portland Spiritualist Church

#### **July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Bob Foster  
Portland Spiritualist Church

#### **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Student Service  
Diane Whiton (speaker)  
Richard Nelson (greetings)

#### **July 29<sup>th</sup>**

Barbara Eckhardt  
Temple Heights Spiritualist Church

#### **August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Gary Mascher  
Augusta Spiritualist Church

**Membership Meeting July 11 at 7:30 p.m.**

CM - Certified Medium  
MPI- Morris Pratt Institute Student  
REV- Reverent  
NST-National Spiritualist Teacher  
CH- Commissioned Healer  
LM- Licentiate Minister  
M- Missionary

### **Friday Development Classes**

Friday Classes 7:30 PM

#### **July 6<sup>th</sup>**

Dowsing  
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM  
& Mike Carter

#### **July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Meditation & Mediumship  
Lance Cyr

#### **July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Meditation in Motion  
Joao Bordallo

#### **July 27<sup>th</sup>**

Free Gallery Readings\*  
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM  
& Mike Carter

#### **August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mediumship Development  
Mike Carter  
& Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM

\*There will be no admission for this month's Gallery Readings to introduce Spiritualisms to those who may be interested.

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please attend. Should the membership decide to move to morning services, this change will not take effect until January of 2019.

It's also important that we listen to the suggestions of our congregants too. If you as a congregant would like, you too are invited to this meeting. The actual decision of course will be made by the paid membership, but the input of our congregant is always appreciated and respected.

If you as a congregant can't make it to the meeting, we'd still like your input. Please feel free to let us know your opinion either at a class, service or by e-mail. You can contact us through the website at [info@portlandspiritualistchurch.org](mailto:info@portlandspiritualistchurch.org).

That's about it for now. We really appreciate all of the support that you've given us and look forward to the future with old friends, new friends and wonderful changes in our Church.

See you all soon  
Mike Carter  
"Prez"



***JUST BEYOND YOURSELF: SETTING DIRECTION FOR A FUTURE LIFE***

Just beyond yourself.

It's where you need to be.

Half a step into self-forgetting and the rest restored by what you'll meet.

There is a road always beckoning.

When you see the two sides of it closing together at that far horizon and deep in the foundations of your own heart at exactly the same time,

that's how you know it's where you have to go.

That's how you know it's the road you have to follow.

That's how you know you have to go.

That's how you know.

It's just beyond yourself, and it's where you need to be.

**JUST BEYOND YOURSELF**  
from the upcoming book

**THE BELL AND THE BLACKBIRD: LIVING BETWEEN THE ENLIGHTENED AND THE EVERY DAY TO BE PUBLISHED APRIL 20TH 2018**

## Deeper Meanings

BY [MADISYN TAYLOR](#)

*It is not always for us to know, the deeper meaning of everything that occurs in our life.*

All of us who seek to be conscious and aware regard our experiences as teachers, and we try to discern what lessons we are learning from the things that happen in our lives. Sometimes the lesson is very clear from the get-go, and other times we have to really search to understand the deeper meaning behind some event. While this search often yields results, there also comes a point in the search where what we really need to do is move forward. It is possible that we are not meant to know the deeper meaning of certain occurrences. Answers may come later in our lives, or they may come as a result of letting go, or they may never come.

We are all part of a complex system of being, and things work themselves out in the system as a whole. Sometimes we are just playing a necessary part in that process with a result larger than we can understand. It may have very little to do with us personally, and while that can be hard to understand, it can also free us from overthinking the matter. Sometimes it is best to see it in terms of karma, a past debt we have been able to repay in this way, or as the clearing of energy. We can simply thank the event for being part of our experience and let it go. This completes the process that the occurrence has made possible.

To make this letting go official, we can perform a ritual, make a final journal entry on the subject, or sit in meditation with the intention of releasing the event from our consciousness. As we do so, we summon it one last time, honoring it with our attention, thanking it, and saying good-bye. We then let it go out the door, out the window, out the top of our heads, or into the earth through the bottoms of our feet, liberating ourselves from any burden we have carried in association with it.

# Less Thinking and More Feeling

BY MADISYN TAYLOR

*When we begin to listen with our hearts rather than our heads, our whole world changes and becomes softer.*

Most of us were born and raised in cultures that value the head over the heart and, as a result, we place our own hearts below our heads in a sort of inner hierarchy of which we may not be conscious. What this means is that we tend to listen and respond from the neck up, often leaving the rest of our bodies with little or no say in most matters. This is a physical habit, which sometimes feels as ingrained as the way we breathe or walk. However, with effort and awareness, we can shift the energy into our hearts, listening and responding from this much deeper, more resonant place.

The brain has a masterful way of imposing structure and order on the world, creating divisions and categories, devising plans and strategies. In many ways, we have our brains to thank for our survival on this planet. However, as is so clear at this time, we also need the wisdom of our hearts if we wish to continue surviving in a viable way. When we listen from our heart, the logical grid of the brain tends to soften and melt, which enables us to perceive the interconnectedness beneath the divisions and categories we use to organize the world. We begin to understand that just as the heart underlies the brain, this interconnectedness underlies everything.

Many agree that this is the most important work we can do at this time in history, and there are many practices at our disposal. For a simple start, try sitting with a friend and asking him to tell you about his life at this moment. For 10 minutes or more, try to listen without responding verbally, offering suggestions, or brainstorming solutions. Instead, breathe into your heart and your belly, listening and feeling instead of thinking. When you do this, you may find that it's much more difficult to offer advice and much easier to identify with the feelings your friend is sharing. You may also find that your friend opens up more, goes deeper, and feels he has really been heard. If you also feel great warmth and compassion, almost as if you are seeing your friend for the first time, then you will know that you have begun to tap the power of listening with your heart.

**There will be a Membership Meeting on July 11 at 7:30 pm**

We are possibly changing Church Services to **a.m.** hours vs **p.m.** hours.

Vote your choice, and also the time will be voted on.

All congregates are invited to give input, but only members can vote.

This is an important decision!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please attend if at all possible.