

# FRATERNAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## SPIRITUAL REVIEW

*"The Beacon of Light for a Brighter Tomorrow"*

November 16, 2003



*Our Church benefits from a beautiful paint job and a new color scheme!*



### ***From Our Pastor!***

*by Reverend Millie Landis*

Hello to all the Angel Friends in and out of the body. We are getting better and better working as a team with hands across the veil. Has everyone noticed the love volume in our Church? Love nearly raises the roof. Our little Church is filled with happiness. People greeting people. Old friends meeting new friends. This is what living Spiritually brings. It makes all life more enjoyable.

We have had wonderful marriages taking place. Reese can't stop smiling because he is so happy with Deb. Mimi and Bill are so happy with each other they hardly ever leave their home, except when they are given a free trip on a cruise ship to the Caribbean and then a special ride with Phyllis Chrisman to Northern California. Dr. Michelle and Steve have passed their first year anniversary and they seem happy as larks. Love is a wonderful experience when it pulls two people together so tight, they never want to part. Love is doing that very thing once again with the marriage of Dr. Kevin and Rosio, who can be seen on Sunday holding hands and smiling with contentment.

Our out-of-town friends are kept in touch by the website and e-mail. Judy Smith, Susan Smith, Sandy Smith and Lee Smith. Sounds like the Smith family, but they are not related and do not live in the same location. They know we love them and are sending them our prayers.

Our church board is amazing. They each work very hard to keep our church in top condition in every way, including the beautiful paint to keep it sparkling. They spend many hours thinking what would be the best for all. They volunteer their services both physically and mentally. Each one has so much to offer. They can have different opinions expressed, but in such a way that there is never a harsh word spoken, even when they are tired from a hard week of work. I am so proud to know them and I am so thankful for them.

Also, thank you Michael for keeping our church in repair and Jolene for keeping it bright and shiny clean. They offer their strength, knowledge and care, and this is a blessing to us. Michael is also our Webmaster and a very good one he is! Please be sure to check our [fraternalspiritualistchurch.org](http://fraternalspiritualistchurch.org) and [milliescorner.com](http://milliescorner.com)

Nancy became a land owner in North County and this is also an answer to prayers for so many of us, who love her. Liz honors her Guide by using his name for her new limousine business, "Black Wing Limousine" We know this is a gift to her loved one, who assists her from the free side of life. Liz and Cheryl were also kind enough to travel with me on some of my trips. We had the joy of planting seeds in God's Garden, so as to help the Angels with their work for the Creator. Cheryl helped to make my travel easier to North California and Liz helped me with North Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri. Patty and I enjoyed Woodland Hills with Sohn and Neil. I'm thankful for all the help because for some reason, the travels get a little harder each year -- but, I'm not going to stop unless God grabs my collar. I love planting seeds in God's garden.

Well, I better stop. Phyllis gave me permission to have a few words in the Pastor's Corner, but not to write a book. Thank you everyone for helping make our Church a wonderful home for all who choose to share it.

Love, Rev. Millie



### ***President's Corner***

*by Jeff McComas*

Greetings to all! A big warm welcome to our members, out of town guests and frequent visitors. Our fall program is now in full swing with lots of activities and classes for everyone to attend. There is something for everyone and your participation is always encouraged and appreciated.

First and foremost is that our church home looks different. Over the last 11 years the elements had taken a toll on our building. A lot of fading, cracking, peeling and termite damage were noted on the exterior. The building's exterior has now been repaired and painted the new crisp colors that make it an elegant jewel in the

Kensington neighborhood. I am certainly very proud of our Church and so happy that this project has come to a successful completion. I know that we will be satisfied with these results for the years to come.

Over the months we have added new members to our spiritual family. I would like to acknowledge all of these wonderful people who have joined and are actively participating. Tina Galvin, Tajinder Gill, Kelly O'Hagan, and Dee Tulipani have completed the healing class and are now serving as healers on Sunday mornings. Lindy Engstrom and Barbara Shafer are members of the wonderful choir. Josan Feathers, Debrah Sim, and Susan Mathers have taken Millie's Spiritual Development class. Others new members who have been attending our church for some time include Jodi Votel and Cindy Sonboleh. I hope that you will become acquainted with all of these new members and make them feel welcomed in our church.

We continue to have lots of social activities here at the church that everyone seems to enjoy. Our Annual Talent Show proved to showcase the obvious and hidden talents in our church family. It is funny how a microphone will bring out the actor in most all of us. Our annual activities for December will include the "Decorate our Church" Party, the Christmas Party and the Candlelight Service. See details in the Upcoming Events Section of this Newsletter. The ongoing GRASP support group facilitated by Pat and Russ Wittberger continues to touch those who have lost a loved one to drug dependence. I know they are making a difference to those they meet and I am thankful for their God work here at the church.

Rita Schumacher and Maza Goetz have organized the new healing class and this will hopefully start early next year. There will be new topics included in this 12 session class. Emphasis will be on teaching the healers the tools that they will be able to utilize not only while working the healing stool at Church but in their daily lives as well. I look forward to this new healing class and encourage everyone to attend.

The Holiday Season is now upon us and I wish you and your family the very best. We all want to make this world a better place and we can start right here in our very own Church. I look forward to seeing you assist in building our spiritual family and making our Church the "Beacon of Truth and Light" that it has always been.



***Historical Perspective***  
*by Phyllis Chrisman*

Welcome to the Fall edition of the Fraternal Spiritualist Church's Newsletter. What a glorious season this is- with the "nippiness" in the air, fall colored leaves here and there and the general sense of relief that the heat of summer is behind us.

To many of you, the formation of our Church facility is unknown and it is, indeed, an interesting story. For many years, we had been searching for church property and the board had visited numerous church sites, none of which appealed to us. Previously, meeting in the Scottish Rite Temple in Mission Valley, we had been looking for a church home for a period of ten years. We had searched diligently, but no place seemed to have the right atmosphere.

We were celebrating Jack Dobrin's birthday and I was going in search of a birthday cake at the small bakery on Adams Avenue (now a restaurant). A "voice" kept saying to me, in the parking lot, what I thought was "go to the store." I finally realized that what the message from spirit was trying to convince me to do was "to go next door." As I looked through my windshield, I saw that a "FOR SALE" sign had just been put out on our property. The message continued until I took action on what was being sent to me by spirit. I contacted Jack Dobrin, our Church President. He and our Board all agreed that this would be the perfect

location and facility for our Church home. The facility was a restaurant which had been converted from a Craftsman-style home. The Board agreed that this would be a perfect church home and it continues to serve us well and is a mecca for all those who want spiritualism to thrive.

The story behind the Kensington house, landmark No. 170 on San Diego's register of historic places, is that it dates back to 1910 and was one of a few large Craftsman-style homes built in Kensington before the influx of Spanish/Mediterranean architecture. The home served as a private home until 1984 when it was purchased by Ronald and Judy Ridgway for conversion to a restaurant.

One of the first occupants was Silas St. John, an old West pioneer who was the first person to carry mail from San Diego over the great overland route, also known as the Sante Fe Trail. After an active life as a miner and Pony Express mail carrier, he retired in San Diego, living in the 4300 square foot house from 1913-1919.

Many people contributed to the present church abode. Dan Matticks helped with his power tools. Gene Gault volunteered her incredible talent in professionally designing the church's interior, which is a thing of beauty. Others involved in bringing about the necessary improvements were Bob Gouckenour, historical house painting specialist, architect Steve Davis, Realtor Sharen Gibson, and many church members. Our Church family once occupied another historical San Diego structure- the Temple Beth Israel in downtown San Diego. It was relocated to Presidio Park.

Our beloved Church president, Jack Dobrin, supervised the church renovation every step of the way. We owe so much to JACK DOBRIN for the dedication he showed and the love he had for our church and the religion of Spiritualism. We are so blessed in having the outstanding leadership of our beloved Reverend Millie Landis and our dedicated President, Jeff McComas. Many others participate in making our church so very

special. Music in our church is made special by our most gifted and beloved choir director, Jane Langdon. A brief biographical sketch of Jane continues...



**JANE LANGDON**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jane was born in and grew up in Northfield, Minnesota- literally known as the “Town of Cows, Colleges and Contentment.” Music was the center and singing songs after dinner was a way of life. Without a television in those days, singing, with her family gathered around the piano, was the main source of entertainment. It was expected for everyone in her family to participate musically and to play an instrument. It was part of their education. Her father played trombone and her mother played the piano.

Jane knew as early as the eighth grade that she was going to make music her career. (She did consider the possibility of being a social worker.) Jane loves the career she chose and seized every musical opportunity that arose.

Jane played the piano at seven years of age and the organ when she was thirteen. Later, the trombone became her first wind instrument. (The clarinet and French horn followed). In high school, she became the student conductor of the band as well as the choir. Later, she earned a B.S. degree in Music from the University of Minnesota in Duluth with a Major in Public School Music and a Minor in Piano. Are we lucky to have her in our midst AND in charge of the music at our church or what?! Having played for numerous churches, she became our music director eight years ago, following the death of Steve Malik.

Jane learned about our church from a friend who was taking vocal lessons from her. The friend spoke very fondly of a minister named Reverend Millie and her classes. In 1986,

Jane attended one of Millie’s classes and became very impressed with our teachings. Jane loves to help people enjoy music. She enjoys attending an occasional concert but prefers “doing rather than listening.” Well, because of Jane, we do enjoy music and don’t know what we’d do without her.”

Jane is truly the backbone and inspiration of all those who sing at our church. We are so grateful to her for the beautiful musical experiences that she brings us.

Thank you, Jane, for being such an inspiration to all of us.

***To Continue...***

A big round of applause needs to go to Barbara Schafer who accompanies the choir and is a much-loved and appreciated member of the choir. Her beautiful playing adds so much to our choir and allows Jane to better conduct all of those lovely voices.

The Choir, listed below, is a dedicated group of people. Most of them are always there for rehearsals and to sing on the first and third Sunday of each month.

Barbara Shafer	Phyllis Chrisman
Barbara Chistensen	Dennis Crayton
Bill Edellman	Laura Ortiz
Lindy Engstrom	Jane Kammer
Debra Kultals	Barbara Little
Larry Marsden	Rita Marsden
Pat Moore	Cindy Miller
Dennis O’Donald	Kelly O’Hagan
Joanne Smits	

Ordained ministers who actively participate in our church are Reverend Millie Landis, Reverends Alvina and Ken Davis, Reverend Patty Walsh and Reverends Connie and David Close.

## Interesting Reading:

“Talking to Heaven” by James Van Praagh

“Lily Dale – the true story of the town that talks to the dead” by Christine Wicker

## Upcoming Events:

- December 6** Annual “Decorate our Church” Party  
10:00AM - 2:00PM.  
Fraternal Spiritualist Church  
Join in all the fun. All are welcome.  
The more the merrier.
- December 7** Annual FSC Christmas Party  
1:00PM - 3:30PM  
Handlery Hotel in Hotel Circle, Mission Valley.  
A catered event with a gift raffle. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. \$1 for parking.  
Please sign-up and pay by November 30. See Jeff or designated other.
- December 17** Reverend Millie’s Annual Christmas Party  
7:00PM - 9:00PM  
Swedenborg Church, Downstairs  
Corner of Campus and Tyler in Northpark  
A must for everyone, and a favorite for children of all ages.
- December 20** G.R.A.S.P. Meeting in the Carriage House  
10:00AM - 3:00PM  
More details in remaining pages of Newsletter.
- December 21** Annual Candlelight Service  
7:00PM – 8:30PM  
Fraternal Spiritualist Church  
Theme: A Christmas Story

## FSC Sponsored Enrichment Opportunities:

### Reverend Millie’s Spiritual Awareness Classes:

Monday: 7:00-10:00pm 2377 N. Iris Lane Escondido.

Tuesday: 2-5pm & 7-10pm, Thursday 7-10pm at Fraternal Spiritualist Church.

For more information visit Millie’s website at [www.milliescorner.com](http://www.milliescorner.com).

**GRASP:** (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing) meets every third Saturday of the Month in the Carriage House. Pat and Russ Wittberger intend this to be a resource and help group for those people who are bereaving a death due to drugs. 10:00am is for parents who have lost a child. 1:00pm for all others. For further information please contact Pat / Russ (619) 656-8414, or visit their website at [www.grasphelp.com](http://www.grasphelp.com)

### Maintenance Committee Update:

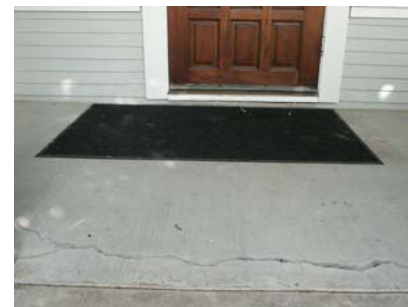
Along with the exceptional paint job, our Church also received other upgrades and repairs. These pictures speak volumes.



*Back stairs get renewed.*



*A barbeque for many, many future functions.*



*The side door with cracks and sunken slab.*



*The same door after build up and resurfacing.*

### **On Another Note:**

Several FSC church members and friends such as Barbara Christiansen, Masa Goetz, Nancy Jensen, Marla McBride, and Linda Smith have been inspired to start a non-profit music camp for all women who want to free their voices and make music together regardless of experience or ability. Their kickoff benefit concert stars Judy Fjell and Deborah Liv Johnson in a rare joint appearance on Friday, January 23rd at 7:30pm in Pacific Beach. Contact Masa for details: 858-270-7922 or [masagoetz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:masagoetz@worldnet.att.net)."

### **Talent Show Pictures!!!**



## ***Board of Directors:***

**President: Jeff McComas      Vice President: Ken Rundle**  
**Secretary: Mary Lou Ahern      Treasurer: Julie Jermstad**  
**Trustee: Stella Logan      Trustee: Andrea Dare**  
**Trustee: Bill Edelmann**

## ***DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES***

*We believe in God as the first great cause, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent intelligence.*

*We believe that the religion of spiritualism has been established in the world to promote physical, moral, spiritual, and intellectual development of mankind.*

*That man can glean truth from all religions, philosophies, and science.*

*We believe man never dies, that so-called death is but a chemical change, separating Him from His outer or physical body.*

*We believe that through the understanding of psychic laws and principles of nature, man in life beyond death, can and does commune with mortals, thereby establishing the truth of life immortal.*

*We believe in the endless progression of the human soul, and that illumination and progress result from the out-working of the Christ spirit within us, guided and directed by the cooperation of our own efforts of wise and loving unseen intelligences, and made manifest in the divine principles of unselfish love, rather than by blind faith of whatsoever nature.*

*We believe in the golden rule, "Whatsoever Ye Would That Others Should Do Unto You, Do Ye Even So Unto Them."*

*Our motto  
"With charity for all, malice toward none."*