

COMMUNITY

Seven Epicenters of the Unity Movement

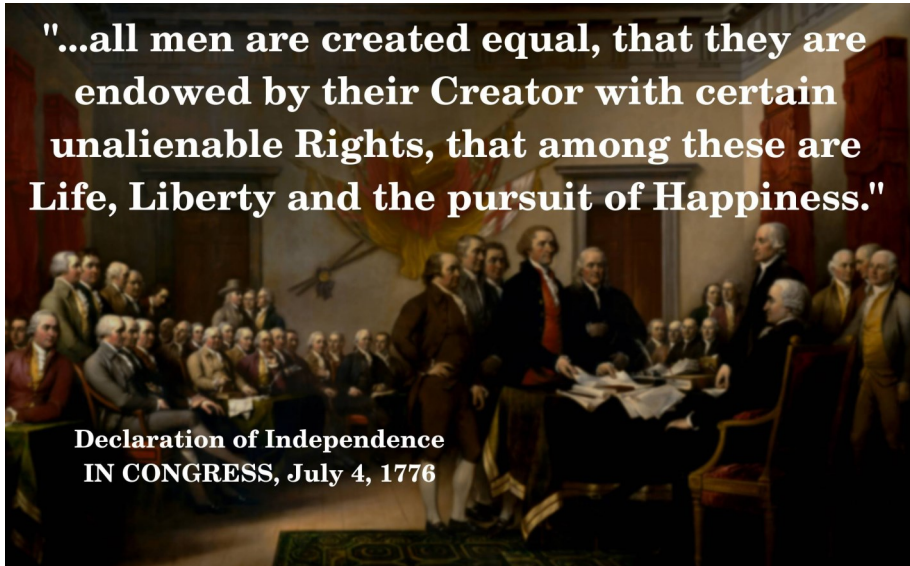
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6 JULY 2017

JULY EDITION OF COMMUNITY

Independence Day, the Fourth of July. There is much to celebrate in our history and our future and much to be considered deeply. Independence from the tyranny of Kings and Nobles, yes but also and simultaneously an Inter-Dependence on one another, on the Commonwealth. E Pluribus Unum "Out of many, one", this was to be the Novus Ordo Seclorum which is Latin for "New order of the ages". So much promise, so much left to be done and to make

amends for. Forgiving and seeking forgiveness is as good for nations as it is for individuals. We hope this Celebratory issue inspires you to connect your inner life and spiritual growth with your role as Citizen and as a physical child of Mother Earth. We are indeed more powerful than we can imagine. We can transform the world we live through prayer and mediation, through standing in our truth and in doing that which is ours to do.

"...all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



**Declaration of Independence
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776**

INTERFAITH NEWS

Last month's issue announced the Our Love Is Power Spiritual Summit. Your editor attended and on page 8 you'll find a report. The UICC (Unified Interfaith Community Coalition of Beaufort) presented the



launch of Beaufort's Spiritual Reconstruction a two day event detailed on page 9. Finally, Jim is pleased to share the news that he now serves as an Ambassador of the Parliament of World Religions.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ♥ *Brad Henty*
- ♥ *Through the Valley*
- ♥ *Dancing With the Universe, part two.*
- ♥ *Tribute to CG Jung*
- ♥ *Our Love Is Power*
- ♥ *Spiritual Reconstruction*
- ♥ *Yet More Positive Memes*



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THE STORY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is the confluence of several streams. It began as a suggestion by Rev. Nat Carter for a newsletter serving multiple churches based on a similar one that he published in the northwest. The seven church/centers came because of connections that your editor has made with folks primarily through SEE classes. It is a rather arbitrary selection in that several SC churches are not among them and the two

out of state churches are the only ones from their states. The **CommUnity** churches are geographically diverse, ranging from Unity of Savannah in the Coastal Empire of Georgia, up through the Lowcountry of South Carolina, on into the Grand Strand area of coastal South Carolina, stretching on into Brunswick County, NC, and our lone representative of the Upstate region of SC, Unity of Greenville.

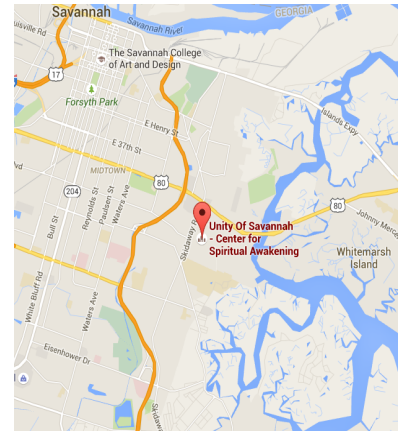


UNITY OF SAVANNAH, GA

Rev. Dale Worley has been a student and practitioner of Unity Truth teachings since 1996. In January of 2010, he joined the ministerial team at Unity of Savannah as Associate Minister and Minister of Creative Arts. In September 2011, Dale became a Licensed Unity Teacher. In January of 2014, he became Senior Minister, a dream and life goal that has been nearly 10 years in the making, and on March 13, 2013, he

was licensed as a Unity Minister through Unity Worldwide Ministries Field Licensing Program. Dale graduated from the Field Licensing Program at Unity Village on March 19, 2015, and was ordained at Unity of Savannah March 22, 2015 by Rev. Shawn Moninger of Unity Center of Norwalk, CT. He currently serves as Vice President of UMMAS.

www.unitysavannah.org



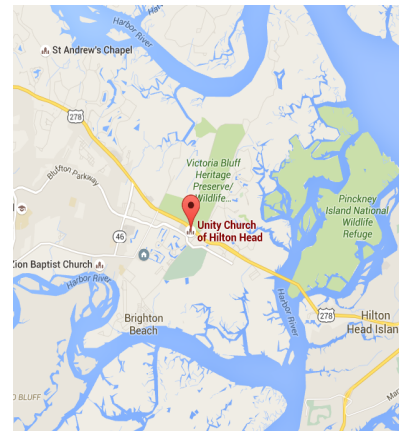
UNITY OF HILTON HEAD, SC

We have the privilege of announcing that Unity of Hilton Head has hired Rev. Therese Donlan Lee! Her "Just What the Doctor Ordered" messages assured the congregation that the search committee and board had done a splendid job of selecting our new Spiritual Leader (often used as a euphemism for someone working on their credentials it is truly what we've wanted and needed here). Rev. Therese has won

the trust of our better than a dozen prayer chaplains. She lives on the high watch!

Rev. Therese and her beloved/departed Tom created the Nehemiah Retreat to Unity Village, like a Habitat for Humanity. Their work has resulted in the restoration and rededication of the Tom Lee Fountains and Courtyard in the heart of the Village.

www.unityofhiltonhead.org



UNITY OF MT. PLEASANT, SC

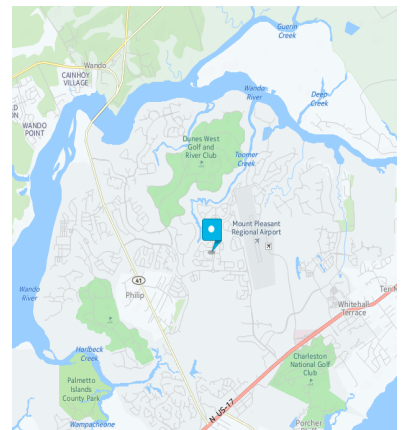
Kimberly Renollet Heck is the Spiritual Leader of Unity of Mt. Pleasant and is on a ministerial path through Unity Urban Ministerial School.

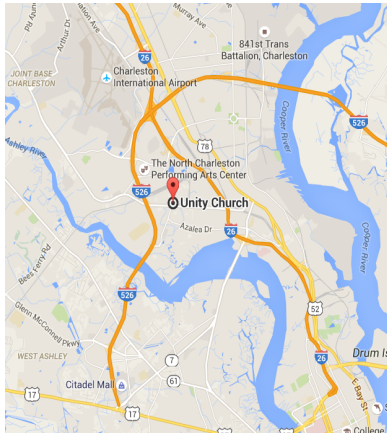
In the past few months she has conducted a Burning Bowl Ceremony, a White Stone Ritual Service, explored Louise Hay's Book, *You Can Heal Your Life*, led participation in James Twyman's 'The Great Abra-

hamic Pulse' among many other things!

A congregant says "From my very first visit I felt at peace and at home here. I've only been a part of Unity for two years now, but I've enjoyed every moment. It's the most accepting and loving environment I've ever experienced." Just what I would expect to hear about Kimberly's house!

www.facebook.com/unitymtpleasant





UNITY OF CHARLESTON, SC

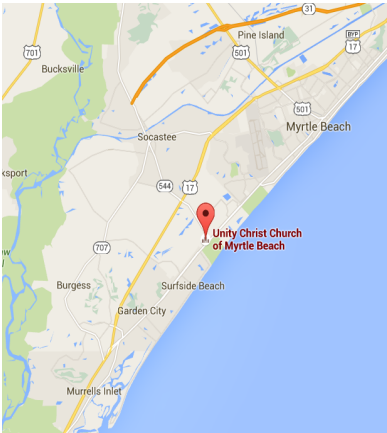


Rev. Ed Kosak has been at Unity Church of Charleston since July of 2002. He found Unity in 1989 when he walked into Unity of Chicago and experienced a wonderful meditation. Walking out the door that day, he consciously said to himself: "I'm gonna be a Unity minister someday!" He was ordained in June of 2002 and has been in Charleston ever since. Ed's personal mission statement is: "Facilitating the spiritual

and emotional transformation of those I serve, and to promote unity in our diversity."

Rev. Ed has had a deep and abiding calling in Interfaith work and now serves as the New Thought Representative on the board of IPSC (Interfaith Partners of South Carolina).

www.unitychs.org



UNITY OF MYRTLE BEACH, SC



Rev. Margaret Hiller took over the ministerial duties at Unity Christ Church of Myrtle Beach in April of 2005. She has over 35 years in ministry, presenting in churches, hospitals, colleges, and mental health agencies. Her wisdom and zest for life flow into humorous and heart-connected Sunday messages about current life issues.

Rev. Margaret has a Master's degree in Therapeutic Psychology and has vast experience in many areas of counseling. She and her husband, David, co-authored the book *Dare to Dream: Healing Fears, Creating Miracles and Living Your Dreams*. She and David travel extensively in the United States conducting worship services and presenting a variety of workshops.

Margaret holds a Master's degree in Thera-

unitymyrtlebeach.org



UNITY OF WILMINGTON, NC



Rev. Mindy Tucker's ministerial career began as Education Minister for her church of origin, Unity Church of Hawai'i. Prior to Rev. Mindy's tenure at Unity of Wilmington, she spent two years as Senior Minister in Hartford, CT.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Southern California, Rev. Mindy earned a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Hawai'i. After 20 years of corporate service, Rev. Mindy re-engaged in Truth studies and became a Licensed Unity Teacher in 2008 and an ordained Unity minister in 2013. Rev. Mindy is in a loving, committed relationship with her partner, Dr. Nickie Golden, who is also a Unity Minister.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Southern California, Rev. Mindy earned a Masters in Busi-

unitywil.com



UNITY CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, SC



Rev. James King knew at an early age that he would become a minister. He had been involved with three non-denominational churches in Indiana, and has been the Spiritual Leader at Unity Church of Greenville since 2004. He was ordained as a Unity minister earlier this year. Music—writing and playing—is a passion for James. He is the author of the books *Dancing with the Universe: Lessons in Synchronicity* and *Jesus*

Never Said That!: But What He Did Say Could Change The World.

James has served on the Board of Directors for the Greenville Interfaith Forum and is President of the Board of Directors for Unity Ministers of the Mid-Atlantic States (UMMAS).

www.unitychurchofgreenville.org

BRAD HENTY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

BY REV. LYNN HOLLAND

After a lengthy search for the perfect music director, multiple blessings reigned down upon Unity of Charleston in 2008 when Brad Henty strapped on his guitar and strummed and sang his way into the hearts of congregants. The search came to an abrupt end when Brad threw his guitar into the ring. The honeymoon has not ended as Brad continues to delight with his own talents as a singer/song-writer combined with a stream of incredibly talented local musicians. He has raised the quality of music and technology to a new and extraordinary level. Together with Brad's knowledge and a savvy sound technician, Unity of Charleston enjoys a state of the art sound system that rivals many larger churches and venues.

Brad is a long time follower of the Unity movement even serving with his wife, Fran as sponsor for the YOU.

Brad's has traveled extensively with bands, initially on the West Coast and now locally. In San Francisco, Brad even managed a flight operation for private jets, and his enthusiastic interest in antiques led to his own antique business in Charleston.

However, it is music that has always called Brad home. He is well known in the local professional music arena. Aptly led by Brad's high standards, Unity reaps the benefit of top notch music of many genres, from classical to jazz and lots between. Where else can you be deeply moved by Amazing Grace played on a harmonica? Whether Brad is joined by our pianist or hosting a variety of talented performers, congregants are sure to leave with spirits raised. Several of the guest performers have become attendees and even members based on the joyful energy they experience. Yes indeed, blessings reigned down, and we are grateful!

"The search came to an abrupt end when Brad threw his guitar into the ring. The honeymoon has not ended as Brad continues to delight with his own talents as a singer/song-writer combined with a stream of incredibly talented local musicians."



Brad Henty

"People say that the soul, on hearing the song of creation, entered the body, but in reality the soul itself was the song."



Hafiz

"Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience."

Sri Aurobindo

"Do you know that our soul is composed of harmony?"

Leonardo da Vinci

CommUnity

A service of

Unity of Hilton Head

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Rev. Ogun Holder

“We ministers sometime forget that we're ordinary people too. When we encounter traumatic experiences such as death of a loved one, or a life-threatening illness, we're faced with the task of taking care of ourselves while leading our spiritual communities.”

Rev. Ogun Holder. Senior Minister Unity on The River in Amesbury, MA



Rev. Therese Donlan Lee. Minister, Unity of Hilton Head, SC

THROUGH THE VALLEY: CLERGY SELF-CARE THROUGH AND AFTER TRAUMA

This important presentation was a part of this year's Unity Peoples Convention in San Antonio, TX. Rev. Therese Donlan Lee and Rev. Ogun Holder have both encountered the traumatic experience of the death of a spouse. In his article of the same name in the Unity Leaders Journal issue which was published February 1, 2017, Rev. Holder said “Therese and I have a unique relationship. We are friends and Unity ministers. We are also ministers who were married to Unity ministers who left this earth much too soon. Rev. Tom Lee passed away in 2012 at the age of 63. Rev. Jennifer Holder was only 43 when she left us three years later. Jennifer and Therese were best friends in seminary. Naturally, Tom and I became friends”.

Their shared history and experience led them into deep conversations about Clergy self-care. Out of their personal suffering and the perspectives developed in the years since their losses, it was with servant hearts that they forged useful tools for fellow ministers and indeed for congregants to love and support their ministers in times of trauma. Rev. Holder observed, “We ministers sometime forget that we're ordinary people too. When we encounter traumatic experiences such as the death of a loved one, or a life-threatening illness, we're faced with the task of taking care of ourselves while leading our spiritual communities. This seminar highlights the challenges associated with personal healing and recovery while leading, as well as provides healthy self-care practices to support our ministerial journey.”

Here are some bullet points from the article:

- ♥ You will be in shock ...
- ♥ You will be changed.
- ♥ You will never get over this experience.

- ♥ Get the help you don't think you need as well.
- ♥ Take care of your body.
- ♥ Make time for extra rest.
- ♥ Have a plan for you and your spiritual community.
- ♥ You will come back too soon.

Some of these points should catch your attention, and indeed may even seem counter to your understanding of Unity. If so I whole-heartedly recommend that you read the full article. If “You will never get over this experience” stood out for you then read this which followed, “We do not mean to say that you will never find a place of peace with this, that the waves of grief or flashbacks won't subside, or that you won't eventually be stronger because of it. What we are saying is that after the initial struggle with grief, which, by the way, could take years, you will realize that it will be a companion for the rest of your life in some form, and it will inform every choice you make as well as every relationship you have.” Here's the link to the Leaders Journal article:

www.unityleaders.org/inspiration/through-the-valley/

This topic has been on my mind for some time now. I was recently at the ordination of a Unitarian Universalist minister who is an Interfaith colleague and I was deeply moved when they read the covenant between the minister and the congregation. It spelled out in great detail the care the community is to take of and for their minister. I had long observed that all manner of “metaphysical malpractice” was common enough in New Thought communities when dealing with one another's grief . I am hopeful for the future of Clergy self-care AND care of the clergy by Unity congregations.



DANCING WITH THE UNIVERSE, LESSONS IN SYNCHRONICITY

BY REV. JAMES KING

Step 3

All Events Are Connected

*"In all chaos there is a Cosmos;
In all disorder a secret order."*

~Carl Jung

Life is not accidental. All events in your life run together like a stream of water. You move naturally from one situation to the next. One experience leads to another. One foot moves in front of the other. Your path is a journey with many connecting links along the way. The people you meet and the places you go are all part of the natural unfolding of the dance of life. This concept was coined by Carl Jung and is called synchronicity. It is beautiful to behold.

After your soul begins to awaken and you become aware of the state of oneness, the next step is the icing on the cake. The definition of synchronicity is *meaningful coincidence* and it never stops. This is how you will discover the meaning and purpose of your life as being synchronistic. Everything that happens on your journey has significance and will automatically lead you to the next step. There are no accidents! Every push and pull serves to guide you along the way. Everything you have ever desired or needed already exists and synchronicity will bring it to you. As you recognize the meaningful coincidences in your life you will be able to look back and see exactly how you were led to this point. You did not come this far by accident and the rest of your journey holds many more synchronicities that will serve to take you further.

Are you paying attention?

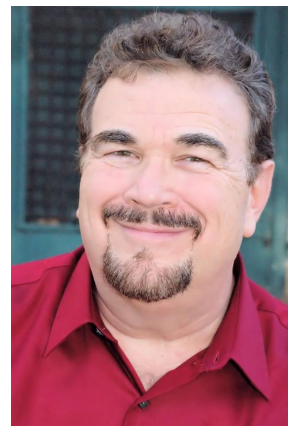
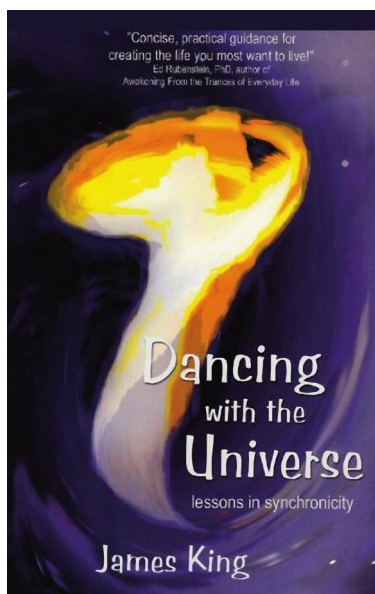
My Declaration of Self - Individuation

"I set forth this truth in my life today to be free from the influence and control of others; free from the rule of another; self-governing, free from the persuasion or bias of another; objective, relying on my own abilities and judgment; self-confident; self-reliant; I am my own person.

I choose to release my grip of unhealthy emotional ties to others. I honor all people and their right to be individuals. Even though we are all connected by one spirit, in this moment, I sever the ties that have caused me to respond to others in self-condemning or controlling ways. They are free to be who ever they choose to be and I am free to be me.

Because we are at different states of being, I no longer need to feel the binding pulls and tugs of another person's energy to control me. I close the door to manipulation and choose to view others from a higher spiritual perspective. In this moment I release all confusing and emotional ties that I as a healthy individual do not want or need. In this new sovereign state of being, I declare my independence from the good or bad opinions of others. I choose to honor my own state of Selfhood."

From the book, "Dancing With the Universe" by James King



Rev. James King

"Synchronicity is the bridge of meaning between the spiritual and the physical worlds.

(Or sometimes I say it like this: between the higher mind and the conscious mind Or between the universe and me)"

Rev. James King

Editors Note:

The concept of Synchronicity is an understanding that the things we call coincidence, because they occur with no causal relationship, may be found to be meaningfully related. We owe this to analytical psychologist Carl Jung.

“Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate.”

“Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.”

“Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.”

“I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become.”

“The privilege of a lifetime is to become who you truly are.”

“The most terrifying thing is to accept oneself completely.”

“Where love rules, there is no will to power, and where power predominates, love is lacking. The one is the shadow of the other.”

“Where wisdom reigns, there is no conflict between thinking and feeling.”

C. G. Jung

C. G. JUNG



I was very interested in celebrating the life and works of Carl Gustav Jung and saw it as opportunity to share Rev. King’s fine book on synchronicity entitled *Dancing With the Universe*, which was the result of deep thought on the phenomenon in this life and ministry. Synchronicity, since I first became aware of it, has always indicated to me that I was in the right place at the right time. The intensity and frequency of the synchronicities amplify that. It occurred to me not so long ago that perhaps in the state of enlightenment everything is a synchronicity!

C. G. Jung was a powerful influence on writers that in turn influenced many of us. Hermann Hesse, author of *Siddharta*, *Stepenwolf* and *The Glass Bead Game* was also a friend of Jung’s. Joseph Campbell the great interpreter of mythology was especially influenced by Jung’s understanding of archetypes. Alan Watts and Terrance McKenna are two others that particularly impacted me and my world view.

The following was extracted from the Wikipedia article.

Carl Gustav Jung was born 26 July 1875 in Kesswil, Thurgau, Switzerland and died 6 June 1961 in Küsnacht, Zürich, Switzerland. C. G. Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who founded analytical psychology. His work has been influential

not only in psychiatry but also in anthropology, archaeology, literature, philosophy and religious studies. As a notable research scientist he came to the attention of the Viennese founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. The two men conducted a lengthy correspondence and collaborated on an initially joint vision of human psychology. Freud saw in the younger man the potential heir he had been seeking to carry on his "new science" of psychoanalysis. Jung's researches and personal vision, however, made it impossible for him to bend to his older colleague's dogma and a breach became inevitable. Jung was also an artist, craftsman and builder as well as a prolific writer. Many of his works were not published until after his death and some are still awaiting publication.

Among the central concepts of analytical psychology is individuation—the lifelong psychological process of differentiation of the self out of each individual's conscious and unconscious elements. Jung considered it to be the main task of human development. He created some of the best known psychological concepts, including synchronicity, the shadow, archetypal phenomena, the collective unconscious, the psychological complex, and extraversion and introversion.



OUR LOVE IS POWER ~ SPIRITUAL SUMMIT

On June 10th in Asheville, NC I was blessed to attend this event. I have long believed that Unity's Fifth Principle is too often seen as merely a method of personal growth rather than something that applies to the beloved communities of which we are a part. That principle: "Knowledge of these spiritual principles is not enough. We must live them." This is now coming into emphasis in the Unity Movement. Charles Fillmore, Unity's co-founder, said that, "The Truth you know is the Truth you use. Otherwise, it is only theory and has no power to change your life." Or as our Quaker siblings like to say "Pray with your feet!"

This is a foundation of the spiritual activism advocated by Rev. Darlene Strickland, Senior Minister Unity of The Blue Ridge (the visionary behind this event) and the speakers and performers that presented. "My vision for **Our Love Is Power** began with an inspired Call to Action and Pledge. Now is the time and we are the ones! Not only do we proclaim a gospel and believe in inclusivity and love... we are here to champion our emerging world of a Beloved CommUnity." Although hosted by a Unity center it is truly an Interfaith initiative.

"Summit Purpose: Engaged Spirituality. To gather community around a common cause and higher purpose. Premise: Love connects us through our common spirit and emboldens us to actively live as a Beloved CommUnity. Love unites us in Peace, Compassion, Generosity and Respect for the sanctity of humanity, Mother Earth, and all creation. Our Love is power."

Core to the event and to the experience was the **Manifesto & Pledge** which begins with "I stand as an Ambassador, Advocate and Activist for the sanctity of All life." The entire text was published in the June issue. This Spiritual Summit was a launch of grand proportions, yet still just a beginning. I encourage you to visit the our-loveispower.org website. Read, watch, listen (there is a feast of materials from the event), become inspired and sign the Pledge!

The Summit was opened fittingly by Lumbee First Nations Elder Sharon Oxendine with a Native American blessing.

Among those presenting at this event were: Lei'Ohu Ryder & Maydeen 'Iao, In a warm and gentle manner they shared ancient Hawaiian teachings, songs, hula, and the practice of Ho'oponopono which is a spiritual process to make things right and restore harmony among people.

Rev. Jack Bomar, the founder of Blessing Hands USA, Inc., a non-profit organization established to restructure and revitalize communities. Also a founding member of the We Love Memphis Movement, their mission is to create a wholesome new climate of caring, safety, respect, love and good will in the city of Memphis. In addition, he was a member of the USA delegation committee for the Parliament of World's Religions 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. He is presently Pastor at the United Church in Beaufort, South Carolina. I met Pastor Jack at Kanuga (the annual UMMAS retreat) last year where he was the keynote speaker. When he moved to the Beaufort area last November I invited him to a meeting of the Unified Interfaith Community Coalition where he immediately joined in, rolled up his sleeves and has been a tireless organizer and an inspired generator of ideas ever since. For more about that see the article on the following page.

Next up was the very charismatic Rickie Byars Beckwith. She is the Music & Arts Director of the Agape International Spiritual Center. Described on the **Our Love Is Power** website as "One of the 21st century's most revered singer-songwriters, her transcendent music deeply touches the hearts of all she encounters..." She has been very active in community development in the Los Angeles area, particularly in the area of education for under-served populations.

The final presenter was Marianne Williamson the internationally acclaimed spiritual author and lecturer. "Marianne has been a popular guest on television programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, Good Morning America, Charlie Rose & Bill Maher. Seven of her twelve published books have been New York Times Best Sellers. Four of these have been #1. The mega best seller *A Return to Love* is considered a must-read of The New Spirituality." A line from that book,

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure..." was used in a speech of Nelson Mandela's and is often incorrectly attributed to him. This idea is crucial to an understanding of Ms. Williamson's brand of activism.

In her talk she addressed the common confusion among *Course In Miracles* students that because this world of the senses is illusory our best approach is to sit back and watch it unfold. This excerpt from her marianne.com blog of 11/16/2015 "We are spiritual beings having a human experience. The mortal plane itself, in the words of Buddha as well as *A Course in Miracles*, is not what it appears to be; the three-dimensional realm is but a mere veil of illusion obscuring a truer truth behind it. But metaphysical principle is not meant to distract us from our mission of transforming the world; it's a tool to guide and aid us in transforming the world." This conveys a central theme of her talk.

Since the 4th of July, Independence Day is the holiday of the month I'd like to quote from her blogpost of June 3, 2017 titled LOVE AND FREEDOM. "In a free society we do not all have to agree with each other. That's pretty much the point of freedom. And no one has a monopoly on truth. Our challenge today, it seems to me, is to find a way beyond the propaganda and stereotypes to reclaim the high minded core of both conservative and liberal principles. Both deserve respect, and have had and continue to have an important role to play in our nation's history. At best, they form a kind of yin and yang of our collective conversation. It is not either one of them, but rather the radical perversions of both that form too much of our public dialogue today, that threaten the fabric of our democracy."

I Pledge My Love in Action... Will you join me?



BEAUFORT, SC'S SPIRITUAL RECONSTRUCTION

Unified Interfaith Community Coalition of Beaufort (UICC) launched our *Spiritual Reconstruction*, June 16th-17th. The Reconstruction Era National Monument in South Carolina was created by President Obama last January in recognition of The Reconstruction era 1861-1898. Described on the federal website as "the historic period in which the United States grappled with the question of how to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, economic, and labor systems, was a time of significant transformation. The people, places, and events in Beaufort County, South Carolina, reflect on the most important issues of this tumultuous time period." I was at the UICC meeting when Rev. Jack Bomar suggested the idea of a *Spiritual Reconstruction* which immediately resonated with the rest of us and culminated in this spectacular launch this past weekend.

My first experience with the UICC was at their candlelight Memorial service for the Mother Emanuel Nine who were assassinated in June 2015. This memorial service held at Grace Chapel AME in June 2016 was a powerfully moving event whose focus was on a candlelight service. Nine faith representatives lit candles and said a prayer one for each of the victims. This organization was founded by AME Grace Chapel's Rev. Jeannine Smalls, and contains a fine representation of various faith traditions in the Beaufort area. These individuals have collaborated together and organized a number of significant events this past year culminating in this year's candlelight service.

There were nearly two dozen ministers, rabbis and other spiritual leaders in attendance, including the President of the Beaufort County Ministerial Alliance Rev. Arthur Cummings. The keynote speaker was the Right Rev. Samuel L. Green Sr., presiding Prelate 7th Episcopal District, South Carolina whose jurisdiction includes Charleston's Emmanuel Church. Our host and worship leader was Rev. Smalls and the welcome was given by Rev. Dr. Jack Bomar, pastor of United Church. Rev. Jack had taken the lead in organizing this

event and our Day of Unity which followed on Saturday. This work was of many hands but other subcommittee leaders who also took part in the ceremony and deserve special mention include Rabbi TZiPi Radonsky and Mrs. Barbara Laurie. The sanctuary was packed, the mood was solemn and yet there was an atmosphere of hope and solidarity. As the representative of the Unity Movement it made my heart sing that the service was closed with James Dillet Freeman's prayer for protection, which was taken to the moon on the first landing by an Apollo astronaut.

The following day Rev. Shannon Mullen's St. John's Lutheran Church hosted our **Day of Unity** which included entertainment, snacks and a very generous lunch. This "Celebration of Spiritual Reconstruction" featured Penn Center director Dr. Rodell Lawrence, a promising report on gains made in the Beaufort County School District by guidance director Mrs. Geraldine Henderson and a fine testimonial by Ms. Jordan Johnson, a graduate of Whale Branch Early College High School. The event's theme was "Telling the Truth: the joys, challenges, fears and hopes of living in Beaufort County in 2017". In alignment with this theme the core of this **day of unity** was ongoing breakout sessions by all the participants in which they identified those joys and challenges and discussed them, later on they made collaborative collages to illustrate their common understanding. Not formally speaking, but very present and involved with the dialogue and activities was Mayor Billy Keyserling.

All of the above was of course important to report but before I finish I need to talk about a few issues and concerns that have come to mind since the weekend. On Monday I read a profound article from the Post and Courier dated June 17th written by J. B. Hawes. In it she addresses the day-to-day realities for the congregants and pastor of Emanuel AME church. In her article Ms. Hawes paints in detail the challenges and pains dealt with on a daily basis by the Rev. Eric S.C. Manning who serves as Emanuel's pastor. His every day choices are colored by such issues as the use and

treatment of the Fellowship Hall which takes up most of one floor and is the site where the murders took place. It is regularly used for various purposes, but some people are very uncomfortable and perhaps not even able to be in that room where the bullet holes remain in the walls. The pastor's decisions are very difficult with a congregation where there are many opinions on what should be done with them. Some strongly advocate preserving them as an important part of Emmanuel's history. This history in many ways began with the execution of Denmark Vesey who led plans for a massive slave rebellion in 1822, scheduled to launch at midnight on June 16th. The mob that hanged him and 34 others then torched the original Emanuel, forcing her members to worship underground for many years. There are those who very much would like to have the holes repaired and the social hall redecorated so that they can move on and enjoy the social functions which help knit a community together. After the Civil War Emanuel was rebuilt on Calhoun Street and over the years has hosted such civil rights icons as Booker T. Washington and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Besides these internal matters there is the burden or perhaps the responsibility to deal with the influx of visitors coming from all across the country and indeed around the world. Ms. Hawes quotes Rev. Manning in a sentiment that touched my heart "I did not want worship service to continue to be a spectator sport," he said. "Some people may not agree with me, and I understand that. But my job is to protect worship."

Not long ago U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn joined former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley in Emanuel's sanctuary to discuss the myth of a "post-racial America." This is a discussion that needs to be had across the breadth of this land and it is this soul-searching and recognition of our social realities that has the potential of making America "Great Again".



The background of the entire image is a vibrant display of fireworks exploding against a dark night sky. The Statue of Liberty is depicted in a stylized, glowing green color, positioned on the right side of the frame with her right arm raised. The fireworks are in various colors, including blue, red, white, and yellow, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Good...And Crown Thy
Good...With Brotherhood...

YET
MORE



**“TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM CAN
ONLY EXIST IN DOING WHAT’S RIGHT.”**

BRIGHAM YOUNG



**POSITIVE
MEMES**



Diversity: the art of thinking independently
together.
Malcolm Forbes



What then is freedom? The
power to live as one wishes.

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

COMMUNITY

Seven Epicenters of the Unity Movement

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CAN BE FOLDED, STAPLED AND SENT TO MEMBERS NOT USING EMAIL

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