

On the Spiritual Side

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Patricia Walsh-Collins: Shared Teachings

Let your lives speak

"So how come history takes such a long, long time when you are waiting for a miracle?" These Bruce Cockburn lyrics resonate with a phrase that has been lodged in my mind for more than 25 years.

Recently, I have gained new insights into this phrase of being at "the edge of history." The "edge of history" is not a line, rather a space of undetermined time and circumstance. We are currently in that space in this country and on the Earth. There are two very significant circumstances unfolding, which will determine how we are placed in history.

Through a broadened scope, the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, is a pivotal issue for humanity. Its significance goes beyond that of a pipeline.

Unencumbered by politics and religion, this struggle reaches beyond the water. A very expanded view reveals that this event serves as no less than a spiritual catalyst for the rebirthing of our human experience upon this planet.

As the Original People, the Native Americans are rising above the traumatic barriers of oppression and genocide, in an effort to



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re-establish a balanced connection to, and respect of all life. Grounded in reverence for the Earth, this watershed moment has positioned us for a collective awakening of the human spirit.

Again, through the broadest scope, our presidential election is also beyond politics and process. It also is about our collective human evolution. Imprisoned by our own fears, we, the so-called leaders of the free world have allowed the dark, fearful aspects of our inner selves to take form. Mirroring our inner darkness, this contentious, shameful display of "democracy," has pushed us to the very edge, thus creating a portal for opportunity and change.

Zoom out to "see" with your widest vision. Zoom inward to "feel" with your deepest love for humanity. Being blessed with free will, these unfolding events serve as our invitation to declare and claim the human experience we wish for ourselves, our children, and our unborn descendants, for whom we hold a genetic, spiritual obligation. We are being asked to claim our path, to choose between fear or love.

Will we choose to continue down this toxic, fear-ridden path, creating our own black hole of existence? Or will we lean in with prayer and a collective consciousness, reaching for love? We are our own miracle waiting to happen.

The edge of history is not a comfortable space. Superficial responses are insufficient. Words are not enough. Congruent action and intention will transform this discomfort into the soul-filling harmonic, remembrance we all yearn for.

The Quakers say it best: "Let your life speak!"

Patricia Walsh-Collins is a 37-year resident of Bucks County, with more than 20 years as a professional educator. She is owner and creator of Art of Spirit and Art of Spirit's Earth School.



Penn State Gospel Choir

The Penn State University Gospel Choir, *Essence of Joy*, presents a concert of music from the African American tradition in the inaugural *Celebrate the Arts* concert of the year in the sanctuary at Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 137 E. Court St., Doylestown, at 4 p.m. Sunday Nov. 6. *Essence of Joy* is one of seven faculty-conducted choral ensembles in the Penn State School of Music. It performs sacred and secular music from the African/African American choral traditions. The ensemble has performed around the world. Parking is available in the church lot at Church Street and Selner Lane. A free-will offering will be received, and a reception will follow the concert.

JLI course offers secrets for leading a productive life

Young adults in their 20s are looking for a career that will make them feel fulfilled. Those in their 30s to 50s may be unsatisfied with their current career or think they could do better.

Those who are 60 or older are thinking about an encore career – something meaningful to do after they cut back or retire. At some point, people begin to realize that there is more to life than a good career.

Rabbi Weinstein of Lubavitch of Bucks County offers a new six-session course from the Rohr-Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) called "How Success

Thinks: Jewish Secrets for Leading a Productive Life," beginning at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7.

"How Success Thinks is designed to help people get more of what they want in life, and less of what they don't," said Rabbi Zalman Abraham of

JLI's Brooklyn headquarters.

"Throughout the course, we explore ways to cultivate people's signature strengths, adopt a growth mind-set, access their inner creativity, deal with weaknesses, and overcome procrastination and other obstacles ..."

At the core of How Success Thinks are six key productivity concepts, from motivation and goal setting to creativity and relationship building. The course draws on 3,000 years of Jewish wisdom the latest scientific findings.

How Success Thinks is accredited for continuing education for medical and mental health professionals.

All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship.

To register, call 215-497-9925 or visit jewishcenter.info.

Hindus organize Diwali celebrations

Diwali, the festival of lights, presents Hindus around the world with an opportunity to renew the rich traditions of their roots with great fanfare.

In marking the season, volunteers of all ages came together to organize a Diwali celebration at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 1561 Woodbourne Road in Levittown, on Oct. 30. The celebration continues with an event for children, at BAPS from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

At the upcoming celebration, organized by BAPS youth, children can enjoy the annual Diwali fare filled with games, activities and sweet treats.

They can experience the culture and traditions of the holiday, along with lots of fun and games representative of how Diwali is celebrated by youth in India.

At the Oct. 30 celebration, colorful, intricate designs called rangoli, decorative oil lamps and Annakut offerings of vegetarian food filled the sacred images of God before the atmosphere.

Diwali is an ancient Hindu festival commemorating many historical



Candy, sweets and hundreds of different vegetarian food items are offered in prayer hymns to the sacred images of God to celebrate the Diwali festival of lights and welcome the Indian new year.

cal events, including the return of Bhagwan Shri Ram to the kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.

His return brought about a period of enlightenment within the

kingdom and its people. The tradition of self-enlightenment continues today as Diwali presents an opportunity for self-improvement and progress through reflection within. Visit baps.org.

HAPPENINGS

Quakertown Ministerium Ministry leads Prayer Walk for Peace

Communities for Peace, an ecumenical working group of clergy and lay people in the Quakertown area, invites the community to join in a Prayer Walk for Peace at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6.

Participants will gather in the parking lot of St. John's Lutheran Church, near South 9th and West Broad streets (19 S. 10th St.) in Quakertown and proceed to sites throughout the borough, where they will pause for prayer.

The event will conclude with singing and candle lighting at the triangle in the downtown area.

For information, contact the Rev. Raymond Miller, pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, at 215-536-3593 or stjohnsquak@verizon.net.

Professor presents lecture at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

The School of Theological Studies at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary presents professor Marc Guerra on "Person or Type – Benedict XVI and Leo Strauss," from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, as part of the 2016-2017 Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Lecture Series.

All lectures are free, open to the public, and will take place at the Seminary, Vianney Hall Auditorium, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood.

Trinity Buckingham provides free, hearty community meal

Trinity Buckingham Church, routes 202 and 413 in Buckingham, will serve a hearty free lunch, open to the local community, from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6.

No RSVP or registration is necessary. Parking is behind the church off Route 413.

St. Andrew's hosts Evensong

The Choir of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, York and Main streets, Lambertville, N.J., will sing the Fauré Requiem during Evensong for All Saints - All Souls at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6.

An annual event, the service is offered in thanks-

giving for the lives of all the departed, and especially for those who have died during the past year.

The choir will feature music by Michael T. Keavane and Philip Stoford and conclude with the complete Fauré Requiem with orchestra.

The orchestra will include organ and Alison Simpson on harp. The rendering will use a reconstruction of Gabriel Fauré's original orchestration.

For information, call 609-397-2425 or visit stan-drewslambertville.org.

St. Philip's New Hope offers Election Day prayer and mediation

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 10 Chapel Road, New Hope, will offer a time of prayer and silent meditation at noon Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Take time to come together as a community and pray for peace and the future of the country and world.

All are invited to be a part of the healing process following an election season that has been "marked by fear, hatred, anger and exhaustion."

For information, visit stphilipsnewhope.org.

Makefield Friends host Games Night

Makefield Meetinghouse hosts Games Night at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. For information, visit online.

Quakers hold special election night Meetings for Worship

Area Quaker Meetings will hold a Called Meeting for Worship to hold the nation in prayer as we transition into what the future holds.

The Meetings are not intended to be a political gathering.

If you would like to share time on election night, Nov. 8, in quietness surrounded by peace and love, join Friends at any of the following meetings: Doylestown at 7 p.m., Solebury at 7 p.m., Southampton at 7:30 p.m., Wrightstown at 6 p.m. or Yardley at 7 p.m.

For addresses, visit quakersbucks.org and click on Find a Meeting.

Worship Directory

CARVERVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
United Church of Christ
 3736 Aquetong Road, Carversville, PA 18913

Worship and Church School 10 AM
 Coffee Hour follows church service
 Handicapped Accessible

215-297-5166 carversvilleucc.org
 carversvilleucc@verizon.net

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 6, 2016

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

9:30 am Worship/Communion/Sunday School
 Rev. David Green, Pastoral Candidate

10:30 am Fellowship and Refreshments
 Nursery Service available

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