

Directory of Church Mediums:
David Oliver, Donna Kiss
Mary Jane Kapteyn, Margaret McLeod
For Private Readings Call 283-1102

CALGARY FIRST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE BOARD

Christmas is that special time of year for acknowledging and appreciating each other, and for expressing gratitude for the gifts of friendship, companionship and love that we receive from each other. The *Calgary First Spiritualist Church* has established a number of Christmas traditions to express the Spirit of the season. Ella Groves and Elsie Pytel will oversee the **Christmas Food Hamper** project. We will hold our **Volunteer Appreciation Service** on December 10, and we will hold **Christmas Carol Services** on Sunday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 20. We hope you will all join us in these celebrations. The Board of CFSC wishes you all a loving and joyous season. May you share the happiness of the season with family and friends, and feel close to the Divine Consciousness that blesses us all. We honour the tradition of the Birth of Christ, and give thanks for the light and love he brought to mankind. —Margaret McLeod, President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CFSC is delighted to welcome our most recent new members: **Susan Gormley** and **Loretta Letendre** with full membership status and **Norm Charles** with associate membership status. We appreciate the support of all our members since the church operates almost entirely on volunteer power! Please note that **Membership Renewal Time** is this month. At a cost of \$30 all full members may renew their membership for 2007. (Unfortunately, associate memberships are non-renewable as they are meant to be supplanted by full memberships whenever the applicant has completed all the requirements for full membership. For more information on becoming a member of CFSC, please see the leaflet on membership posted in the foyer of the church.) To renew your membership, please fill out a renewal form--available on or near the back counter of the church—and give it, along with \$30 to Marlene Harris, membership director, as soon as possible. (Make cheques payable to *Calgary First Spiritualist Church*.) Thank you for choosing to support our caring and vibrant church community by renewing your membership! —Marlene Harris

SPIRITUAL CHRISTMAS TREE

If you have a loved one in spirit whom you wish to remember at Christmas time, you are invited to bring a **special ornament** with a spiritual theme to put on the church **Christmas tree** in remembrance of that person. Each year the tree is decorated with these ornaments. Name tags to label them are available at the church.



SUNDAY	7:30 pm	SUNDAY SERVICE
Dec 3, 2006		Speaker: Loretta Letendre Topic: <i>Sonnets from the Heart</i> Medium: David Oliver
Dec 10, 2006		VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SERVICE Chairperson: Margaret McLeod Medium: Donna Kiss
Dec 17, 2006		CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Medium: Margaret McLeod
Dec 24 & 31, 2006		CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY	6:30 – 7:15 pm	HEALING
Enjoy an opportunity to receive Spiritual Healing with the church healers.		
WEDNESDAY	7:30 pm	ALL MESSAGE SERVICE
Dec 6, 2006		Medium: Donna Kiss
Dec 13, 2006		Medium: Louise Gebhart
Dec 20, 2006		<i>Special Carol Service with Laura O'Connor</i> Mediums: Donna Kiss & Elsie Pytel
Dec 27, 2006		CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

NOTE: Due to personal circumstances, program arrangements may be subject to change.

Address: 1603 – 6 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 0W1 Phone: (403) 283-1102
Email: info@calgaryfirstspiritualistchurch.ca
Website: www.calgaryfirstspiritualistchurch.ca

ONGOING GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY	7:30 pm	A.S.H.A. HEALING (Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1) Healing is offered every Monday. Donations welcome.
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	A COURSE IN MIRACLES (Closed Dec 12 to Jan 2) Facilitator - G. Deabler Suggested contribution - \$5
FRIDAY	7:30 – 9:00 pm	MEDITATION & PSYCHIC AWARENESS GROUP (Closed Dec 22 & 29) Facilitators - E. Groves & M. McLeod Suggested contribution - \$5
SATURDAY	6:45 pm	TRANCE HEALING Open Dec 2 & 16, 2006 - Enter East Door. Donations welcome.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAY SERVICES:

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SERVICE

Sunday, December 10, 2006
7:30 pm

ALL MESSAGE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 2006
7:30 pm



ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY SERVICES:

ALL MESSAGE CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20, 2006
7:30 pm

CHRISTMAS GIFT & FOOD HAMPERS

Donation Deadline:
Sunday, December 17, 2006



ALL DONATIONS WELCOME

DONATIONS TO THE FOOD BANK ARE APPRECIATED

SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

As we approach the **Holiday Season** with joy and anticipation, the same excitement imbues the *Calgary First Spiritualist Church*. We feel the joy in sharing the gift of fellowship with friends, family, church members and strangers that are made to feel welcome here. We extend our feeling of warmth and confidence in Spiritualism with its special gifts of Spiritual Healing, messages from the platform, and comfort in the Spiritual knowledge that the soul survives death and loved ones watch over us. To celebrate the season we will have **Volunteer Appreciation Night** on **Sunday, December 10, 2006 at 7:30 pm**. All our volunteers will be contacted and invited to attend, and acknowledged with a special gift. On **Sunday, December 17 at 7:30**, we will hold an **All Message Candlelight Service**. Everyone is invited to light a candle for peace in the world and celebrate the last Sunday Service on this year. On **Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 pm** there will be an **All Message Carol Service**. Laura O'Connor will play our favourite carols while we joyfully sing and raise the vibrations for the messages from Spirit.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Another joy of the holiday season is to have the **2006 Church Closures** and time for staff and congregation to rest from the busyness of life. The church will be **closed** for **Services** on:

- **Sunday, December 24** - Christmas Eve
- **Sunday, December 31** - New Year's Eve
- **Wednesday, December 27**

The last meeting of the **Course in Miracles** for this year will be **Tuesday, December 5, 2006** and a **Pot Luck** will be held on **December 12, 2006** in a private home. **Closures** will be from:

- **Tuesday, December 12, 2006 to January 2, 2007.**

The **Friday Meditation & Psychic Awareness Group** will be **closed**:

- **December 22**
- **December 29, 2006.**

I am sure everyone will appreciate and enjoy the rest and restoration of the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD HAMPERS

Every year the church gets into the spirit of the holiday season by organizing the **Christmas Project**, providing **Christmas Gift and Grocery Hampers** for individuals and families that are experiencing hardship or separation from their families. It is a wonderful experience to see a church group work together to bring unexpected Christmas cheer to those who are less fortunate. The **Christmas Project** volunteers are always moved by the positive response and gratitude that they receive on behalf of the church.

There are a number of ways that you can help make this project a success. Donations of cash are needed so that the shoppers can purchase presents, groceries and Safeway certificates. Charitable tax receipts are given for cash donations. It would be appreciated if the cash donations were made early so the shoppers know how much money they have to spend. Also, there will be a **Christmas Wish List** for those who want to purchase a particular gift for an individual. Gifts should be under the church Christmas tree by **Sunday, December 17, 2006**. Lots and lots of non-perishable groceries are needed to fill the hampers. Groceries should be in by **Wednesday, December 20, 2006** so volunteers can gather at the church soon afterwards to do the wrapping and packing. If you want to make a donation, volunteer your time or ask about specific details, please see Elsie Pytel or Ella Groves, the **Christmas Project Coordinators**. Messages or inquiries related to the **Christmas Project** can be left on the Church message line at 283-1102.

IN MEMORY OF SYDNEY MASKEY

Syd Maskey's arrival at the *Calgary First Spiritualist Church* on a cold winter night just before Christmas some years ago was a memorable moment. Avril Oliver, the minister's wife, had just announced that the church was to be closed over the Christmas holidays so that renovations could be done to the sanctuary and adjacent board room. She said that donations toward the renovation project would be most appreciated. Syd had not been to the church before (although his mother had attended some years ago), but he stepped forward and offered to donate all the paint. When he learned that the church had just lost its original contractor, he immediately offered his services as general contractor for the project. He and his crew got to work and repaired the walls, sealed the windows and applied Syd's donated paint to the walls and ceiling. They did a wonderful job, and it was very much appreciated.

After that original encounter, Syd was a frequent visitor to the church and many people got to know him. There was a tough side and a soft side to Syd. He had a 'crusty personality' well known to anyone on the receiving end of his direct and cryptic remarks. On the other hand, he had a warmth and charisma that endeared him to his friends who appreciated his lively wit and keen sense of humor. Syd was an avid reader who loved an intellectual discussion and a good lecture. When he heard a Sunday lecture he considered worthwhile, he would order cassette tapes of the talk and send them to his relatives and friends. Lecturers took Syd's approval as a compliment for a job well done.

Sydney Maskey passed peacefully into the Spirit World on Friday, November 3, 2006 at the age of 74. His passing was caused by heart failure. Syd was born April 12, 1932 in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England. He came to Canada at the age of 21 and used his training as a structural engineer and draughtsman in the sheet metal industry to establish fabrication and construction companies across Canada. Although he had lived in the Maritimes, Quebec, British Columbia and different places in Alberta, Calgary became his home.

More than 150 people turned up at Syd's memorial service prepared in his honour by his family at the Inglewood Community Hall on November 18, 2006. His life was celebrated with music and memorable speeches that Syd would probably have appreciated replaying on tape. One of his daughters noted, to much laughter, that everyone there had one thing in common—they probably had an argument with her Dad at some time because that was something for which he was well known.

Syd Maskey was a free spirit and an unforgettable character. Spiritualism teaches that life is a continuum and that death is but a departure from the earth plane and a rebirth into a life in the Spirit World. Although he will be missed by his family and friends, he will no doubt embrace his new life with the same boundless energy and enthusiasm he approached this one. As we bid Syd a fond farewell, we know that his loved ones in Spirit have welcomed him home.

Syd Maskey is survived by his four children, Dr. Jean Maskey (Sreeni Kesava), Colin Maskey (Nora), Patrick Maskey (Lynne), Mary Maskey (Steven Pineo) and his children's mother, Alice Maskey, and their 7 grandchildren, his two sisters, Mary Hughes of Scotland, Edna Bravington of England and his second wife, Keera McSorley.

—Ella Groves and Lorrie Gainor

