

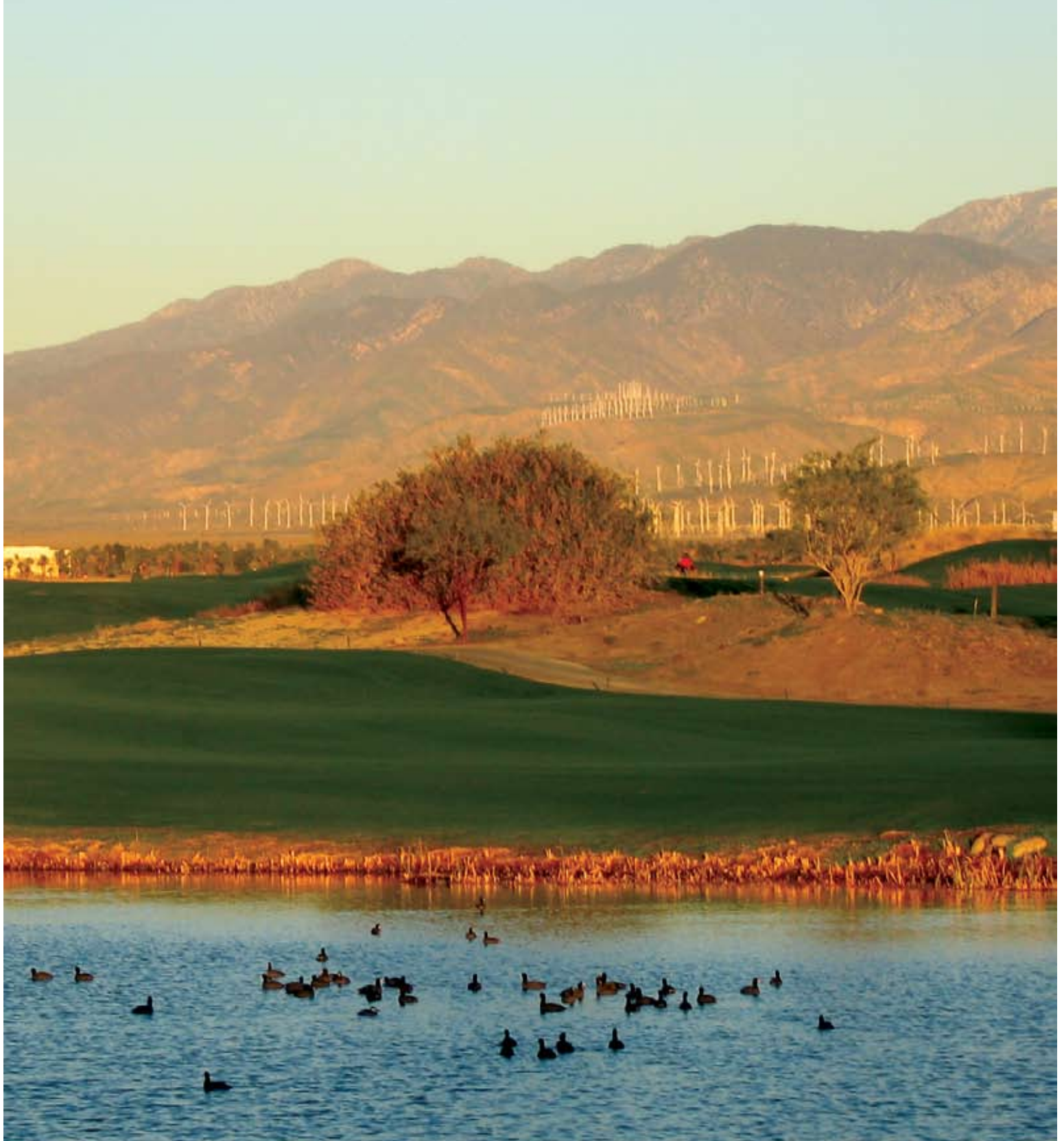


# THE LIGHT

THE MAGAZINE OF INNERFAITH MINISTRIES WORLD WIDE

Dr. Sharron Stroud - Founder

January/February 2009





*Gonna*

*Shine*

*In 2009!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! LET US SHINE IN 2009!**

As I reflect on the past year I Am amazed at how much we have experienced on so many levels, individually and collectively. The Paradigm Shift we have experienced is truly about going deeper inside ourselves and finding the secret place of the most High. It does not matter what we call it, however, to know that we are being guided and directed by its essence is the greatest gift of all. For me, I find tremendous confidence in knowing that “I will never walk alone”, for that One goes before me and prepares the way as I become a light unto my path drawing all good unto me. The beauty of the Path is noticing the blessings all around us.

Last summer I was a delegate for the World Forum and spoke in Oxford, England at St. Catherine’s College on World Peace. After my lecture the Chancellor of Madonna University in Nigeria, Africa approached me and said: “That was fantastic! We both have the same message.” He had written a book on African Metaphysics and had been speaking on this topic. While Professor Edeh, the Chancellor of the University was giving his message I was thinking, “This is fantastic! We both have the same message.” When Professor Edeh invited me to come to Nigeria to give my message for the International Convention of Experts and Intellectuals I did not hesitate to accept. I intuitively knew that it was the right thing to do. My goal is to reach as many people as possible with our life changing message. I get up every morning with a deep feeling of gratitude for being in this way of life. I feel so deeply blessed!

There is a wonderful story about a geography class; the teacher was discussing the 7 wonders of the world. As there are several versions of the list, wonders of the ancient world, wonders of the modern world, wonders of the natural world, the teacher asked each student to compile a list of their Candidates for the 7 Greatest Wonders of the

world. While there were many different candidates, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt’s Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal
3. The Grand Canyon
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter’s Basilica
7. China’s Great Wall

While gathering the votes the teacher noticed that one of the students, a quiet girl, hadn’t turned in her paper yet. The teacher asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, “Yes, a little. I couldn’t quite make up my mind because there are so many.” The teacher said, “Well tell us what you have and maybe we can help”. The girl hesitated, then read, “I think the 7 wonders of the world are:

1. To touch
  2. To taste
  3. To see
  4. To hear ....
- She hesitated a little, and then she added,
5. To feel
  6. To laugh
  7. And to love.

The silence in the classroom was palpable. In our quest to find the great wonders before us we often fail to see the simple wonders all around us. As we pursue our great truths, let us hope we never overlook the little obvious ones all around us.

Thank you for the honor and the privilege to serve you this past year. We are going higher! Let Us Shine in 2009!

Namast’e and Love,

Dr. Sharron Stroud, Founder



# Tea Time With Denise

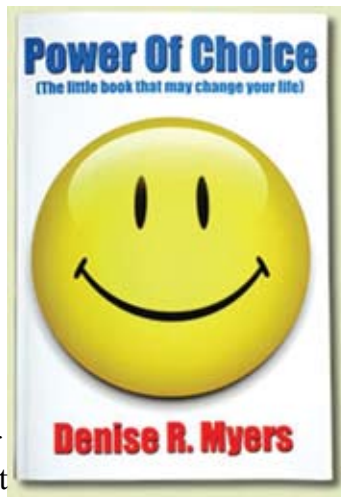
By Denise Myers, Minister-In-Training



It is a blessing to have the opportunity to share my insights and inspirations with our Innerfaith Community. I trust that some of my lessons may allow yours to be easier.

As most of our Innerfaith Community knows my husband, Michael and I are celebrating the purchase of our “Country” home. We love it and feel blessed to be here. It was an adventure and a challenge from beginning to end.

Whenever I have a major life change I turn to my book, ‘Power of Choice,’ to see if there is information to assist in this situation. I found that there certainly was. The power we discover in our ability to choose not only our reaction to events, but, also our action when in the midst of them. At all times I made sure that I told all the people involved with our purchase that I appreciated what they were doing for us. We also made sure that if we got a little frustrated as our humanness took over temporarily, we would phone them and apologize. They always understood and promised that somehow they would assist us with purchasing our “Dream Home”. They did assist us and we are exceedingly grateful and would recommend everyone involved to others.



Sometimes when we do business we forget to include our Spiritual way of being. We get caught up in thinking it is about them and not us. I know for sure that it is not true, and that when we have a challenge even in business transactions it is about us, and our belief in our deserving nature. We made the Choice to act with kindness and love and to believe that we deserved this “Dream Home”. We were successful and know that our dreams can come true in all ways by using the Principles of Successful Living.

Blessings on the way to your dreams!

Denise Myers

Minister-In-Training



**“WOULD YOU TELL ME, PLEASE, WHICH WAY I OUGHT TO GO FROM HERE?”**

**“THAT DEPENDS A GOOD DEAL ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO,” SAID THE CAT.**

**“I DON’T MUCH CARE WHERE--” SAID ALICE.**

**“THEN IT DOESN’T MATTER WHICH WAY YOU GO,” SAID THE CAT.**

**“--SO LONG AS I GET SOMEWHERE,” ALICE ADDED AS AN EXPLANATION.**

**“OH, YOU’RE SURE TO DO THAT,” SAID THE CAT, “IF YOU ONLY WALK LONG ENOUGH.”**

*(Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll)*

# Letters

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

Namast'e and Blessings!

I want to take this opportunity to say what an honor being Director of the Miracle Working Ministry of Prayer has been and continues to be and I especially want to take this opportunity to offer my prayer for everyone connected with the Prayer Ministry that coming New Year be one of renewal, rebirth, and a triumph over all of the challenges and transitions we are facing personally and globally.

This is the season of the birth of Light and Love and as the Angels sing in the coming of the Light of the World, let us bask in that light knowing that there is one life, that life is God's life, that life is perfect, and that life is our life now. And knowing this let us live accordingly. A Blessing to all of you in this time of Solstice and Light.

Love,

Rev. Ed



Dear Friends:

I can tell you how proud I am to have this wonderful woman and Speaker represent our worldly Metaphysical community. Good heavens, she represents the love and wisdom of our age old Truths that we are ALL ONE!

She is definitely in her right place at the right time.

ALL I CAN SAY IS CONGRATULATIONS!

IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE UNITY OF ALL PEOPLES.

I THANK GOD FOR HER GOD GIVEN TALENTS OF EXPRESSION; SHE SPEAKS WITH DEEP COMPASSION OF THE HIGHEST THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF OUR CREATOR FOR ALL MANKIND.

How blessed we are to have her in our lives.

With love and light

Dr. Sam Satkin

Dear Dr. Sharron.

What a beautiful evening unfolded last night giving everyone the opportunity to express their gratitude.

The emotions expressed were deep and sincere and this is the current & undertones of the waters that makes the river flow and purifies the water as we speak our heart sharing with others what is important and real to us.

We all have a great deal to be very Thankful for and you are certainly one of them.

Sent with love Happy Thanksgiving,

Your Favorite Martin



**Innerfaith Ministries Worldwide  
Receives 2008 Best of Palm Springs Award!**

Dear Dr. Sharron Stroud,

I am pleased to announce that Innerfaith Ministries Worldwide has been selected for the 2008 Best of Palm Springs Award in the Places of Worship category by the U.S. Local Business Association.

In recognition of your achievement, a 2008 Best of Palm Springs Award plaque has been designed for display at your place of worship.

The U.S. Local Business Association "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the U.S. Local Business Association identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional success in their local community and category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Carter

Selection Committee Chair

U.S. Local Business Association



# Congratulations



**Robbie Motter, Master Net Worker, Author, and Speaker Broker**

Many of our NAFE and For You members have met Dr. Sharron Stroud when she spoke for one of our networks years ago, and she also is being contacted to be the speaker for the Launch of the Palm Springs For You/NAFE network in Feb or March and she would love to do that, as she is an outstanding presenter.

She also has spoken at many of the Amazing Woman's Day events and always gets standing ovations from everyone there. Dr. Sharron was the recipient of the Amazing Woman Award 2008 for Feminine Leadership received at the Los Angeles Cultural Center.

Dr. Sharron is one of my very long time friends, and a beautiful human being. She just got back from Nigeria where she was invited to speak and that contact came because she was asked to speak at Oxford in England.

They loved her and someone there from Nigeria flew her to Nigeria to speak at three colleges and from that she got another speaking upcoming opportunity to speak in Africa. See this - SHOWING UP works!

She is one dynamic person that if you don't know her, you need to meet her. If you want to send her a congratulations on this latest award, send it to her at [godanco@earthlink.net](mailto:godanco@earthlink.net)

Her organization is called Innerfaith Ministries World-Wide. I have posted her BIO below, which you should take time to read, as you will see what an Amazing Woman she is, the BIO is below the information on her award so you can see how every day she is touching lives. She is also available to speak at networks as well and she speaks on motivational non-religious topics as well.

No matter where she speaks she motivates the audience, as she is one dynamic presenter. Years ago when she spoke at one of our networks she moved and motivated all that were there and her own story was so powerful that

they stood and applauded for a long time, recognizing that she has such a beautiful heart and is such a beautiful human being.

She conducts her service Sunday in Palm Springs at the Camelot Theatre and then on Wednesday night holds Wednesday Night Live at the Spa Hotel in Palm Springs.

I was honored to be her speaker last week Wednesday night at her Wednesday Night Live at the SPA Hotel, I talked on It's All About SHOWING UP and the POWER is in the ASKING, her audience loved it. Other For You/NAFE members, Marsh Engle and Barbara Whorley have also spoken at the Wednesday Night Live program at the Spa Hotel in Palm Springs for past events.

Her life has an incredible story as she went into the ministry and the following year she lost her husband, she is also a mother. If you don't know this incredible Amazing Woman you need to introduce yourself and let her know Robbie told you about her and her outstanding accomplishments. She is a fantastic person to have as a friend...believe me I am so glad she is a part of my life. Her congregation loves her...and so do everyone else that connects with her.

Robbie Motter,  
Master Net Worker, Author,  
and Speaker Broker

**THE  
INNERFAITH MINISTRIES  
WORLDWIDE  
MINISTERIAL TEAM**

Rev. Ed DiNicola.....	760-567-5862
Rev. Trent Blanchard.....	760-481-4445
Rev. Arline Hoover.....	760-360-8918
Rev. Lou & Lloyd Brushett .....	760-770-9263
Rev. Sharon Gibson.....	760-992-9682
Rev. Roger Bambenek.....	760-318-9977
Rev. Rich Cress.....	760-320-4453

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Friendship Sunday Brunch



#### The first Sunday of each month

Please join us at the Friendship Sunday Brunch *at the Hilton For January and February* (across from the Spa Casino on Tahquitz). Special price \$7.95 to InnerFaith members and guests! All are welcome.

### Healing Service

9:30 each Sunday morning facilitated by the Ministerial Team. Experience healing energy and the joy of deepening spirituality.

### Centering Meditation By Musicians

9:50 AM each Sunday Morning in the Sanctuary Theater.

### Children's Ministry

10:00 each Sunday morning

### Prayer Ministry

The prayer table in the foyer. Rev. Ed DiNicola will assist you with your prayer request and pray with you personally if you desire.

### Founder's Circle

Become a member of the Founder's Circle. Join today by tithing \$100 or more a month over your regular contribution. To join, write Founder's Circle on your check. Talk with Rev. Lloyd Brushett at 770-9263 about the miracles that come from giving to a Purpose larger than yourself. This works out to \$3.25 a day to be a Founder!

### Flower Power

Bring flowers to honor a special occasion for the service. Take them with you when you leave to brighten your day!

### Men's Group

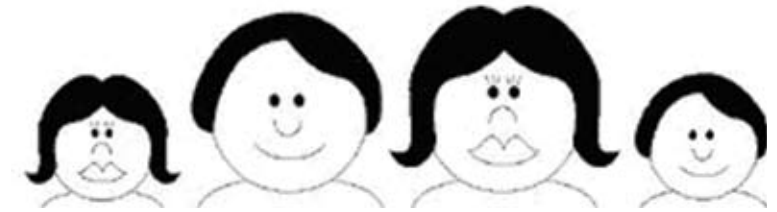
6:30 PM pot luck hosted by various members of the Innerfaith Community on a quarterly basis. Innerfaith Ministries Men's Spirituality Group, Our Mission: To create a group of Spiritually Minded Men Who Gather Together to make a Positive Difference for Themselves and Innerfaith Ministries Worldwide!

### Women's Empowerment - led by Dr. Sharron Stroud

6:30 PM veggie pot luck and vital discussion from Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes. Sign up in the foyer.

## Volunteer

A big thank you to all the VIPS (Volunteer's In Progress) who make this ministry happen! You are a gift and you are loved and greatly appreciated. See Martin Anthony our Volunteer Coordinator or call 760-318-3196 to sign up.



### Food Drive

Chaplain Lloyd Brushett collects canned goods our partner in charity at The Well in the Desert. Please leave your canned food donations at the designated place in the foyer.



## CELEBRATE WITH US

### January - Sunday Theme and Topics

Affirmation: I let my Light Shine in 2009! It is a year filled with love, peace, joy, health, wealth, and wisdom! And so it is!

January Sunday Theme: **Happy New Year! Gonna Shine in 2009!**

4 – How Beliefs Control You  
Friendship Sunday Brunch at the Hilton

11 – The Success DNA

18 – The Wisdom of Your Cells

25 – Creating Miracles

### February – Sunday Theme and Topics:

Affirmation: I Speak My Word into The Law of Mind and it comes back Multiplied! My Life is Unfolding at the Highest Level! And so it is.

February Sunday Theme: **THE LAW OF ATTRACTION IN ACTION!**

1 – Attracting Vibrant Relationships  
Friendship Sunday Brunch at the Hilton

8 - Attracting Radiant Health

15 - Attracting Success

22 – Attracting Abundance

# THE SPIRIT, MIND, & BODY CONNECTION



WELL SPIRIT FITNESS CENTER  
SPA RESORT HOTEL

Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

*Tahquitz Room (Off the main lobby at the Encilia and Tahquitz Canyon entrance)*

## January

**7th – Helene Rothschild – Dare to Be Prosperous** – Helene shares the many unconscious fears that may keep you from achieving and maintaining your prosperity goals. Learn empowering tools to help you overcome blocks to your financial abundance and allow yourself to have the money you desire and deserve. Helene Rothschild, MS, MA, MFT, is a Marriage, Family Therapist, intuitive counselor, speaker, and author for over 28 years. Her latest book is, “All You Need Is HART!”

**14 – Marsh Engle – Envision The Possibilities ...** Marsh Engle celebrates a path to access the dynamic, clarifying energy of creative flow, an amazing, empowering resource you can return to time and time again! Her Envision Practice is a power-packed process to unleash your REAL potential for empowered success and realization of the individualized expression of your life! Find your greatest gifts & talents and bring them to life! Discover the power of vision for clarity of purpose, to unleash creative flow, embrace transformation for spectacular results, easily connect with and trust Divine intuitive guidance, and ways to quickly attract more of what you require. Marsh Engle, CEO of Envision Institute, author, life coach, and founder of Amazing Woman’s Day, leads women and men worldwide to create amazing lives!

**21 – Craig Ferree – Transformational Breathwork** – Join Craig Ferree, local rebirther and breathworker, to learn about breathwork, an amazing tool for personal and spiritual growth. When properly guided, this technique dissolves our physical and emotional barriers and leads to an openness of mind and body. Through breath and surrender, we open a connection between self and Spirit. In a single session you can find a feeling of stillness, well-being and harmony. Breathwork can be profound and healing.

**28 – Robin Hardy – Six Keys of an Empowered Journey** – Robin, an empowered options coach, discusses her step-by-step guide to positive change in your life! Robin introduces you to new ways to fresh options and opportunities to design a life beyond your wildest dreams. Whether career, relationships, finance or business, these are powerful and empowering tools that positively impact your life and the your daily life actions! Learn how to change your mindset, discover the wisdom of your past, re-invent yourself, create passion in what you do, embrace the empowerment of your gifts & talents, and generate positive inspiration that can be shared with others. Robin is an author, teacher, speaks nationally and does coaching with individuals, small business owners and entrepreneurs.

## February

**4th – Scott Meredith – Sound Healing to Balance the Body, Mind and Spirit** – Learn the many miracle working powers of sound. Based on ancient Pythagorean principals and study of exact progressive tones, Scott explores fundamentals of utilizing pure vibrational frequencies to “tune up” and align the energy centers of the body and mind. Experience the “music of the spheres” played on the Chakra Chime and learn the relationship between sound and color vibrations. Scott ends with a brief chakra balancing meditation using these sustained musical notes. Scott and his wife Joy own the wonderfully enchanting shop, Crystal Fantasy in downtown Palm Springs.

**11– Rev. Basia Durnas – What Future Do Your Cells Hold For You? - The Chinese Medical Qi-Gong Perspective** – Join Rev. Basia for an evening for Qi Gong and learn to take greater charge of your life and health. Our cells renew daily. Every 7 years we have a whole new body - so why do we of age, fall ill, and suffer entropy? Medical Qi-Gong holds our cells have consciousness, like little computer hard drives storing traumatic experiences, causing emotional, mental, physical bodies to react. We may “know” that our reaction is irrational yet have little power over it. Rev. Basia is a Medical Qi-Gong Healer, Spiritual Teacher and was born as a conscious bridge to the Ascended Master Realms. She has been impacting human growth potential for over 35 years, is a Certified NLP Trainer, Reiki Master, and is ordained by Dr. Sharron Stroud.

**18 – Rev. Rich Cress – The Healing Power of Prayer** – The Healing Power of Prayer Treatment is absolutely knowing the Truth for each and every soul that is drawn to us and speaking our Word that forwards the Divinity within each individual soul. Rev. Rich will bring us to the practical application of our Prayer Life and empower us to speak our Word in such a way that we are truly transformed by the renewing of our Mind!

**25 – Dr. Sharron Stroud – Ash Wednesday and Burning Bowl Ceremony** – The Lenten Purification with the ashes represents the purifying of our connection with this divine Self. To do this we first release the guilt and shame that prevents us from feeling worthy of that contact. Second, we cleanse ourselves of unhealthy attachments to things of this world. Like a parasite, they draw off spiritual, psychological and emotional energy; they prevent our hearts from blossoming. “My heart was pruned and its flower appeared, then grace sprang up in it.” (The Odes of Solomon)

We cleanse ourselves of these attachments by self examination, centering, and Invocational Prayers of Spiritual Mind Treatment.

The process is:

- 1) Take inventory of our egoic attachments.
- 2) Pick one to release for this season.
- 3) Write it down and release it forever into the Sacred Burning Bowl Ceremony.

These symbols potent and powerful in the unconscious and themselves. To have a conscious awareness of this power, we must empower the rite to reveal the meaning that for us.

Conscious awareness and meaning do not happen automatically. The sacrament does not happen out there, it happens in the heart.

Signing with the ashes also relates to the baptism of fire described in the Gnostic Book of Jeu. In this account, Jesus builds a fire of vines and incense. From the ashes of the fire He traces the Seal of the Virgin of Light upon the foreheads of the disciples gathered around Him. “and he sealed them on their foreheads with the seal of the Virgin of Light which would make them to be numbered within the inheritance of the Kingdom of the Light.”

For Greater Detail, Please Review Our Website at:  
<http://innerfaithworldwide.com/celebrate.htm>

# Celebrate 2008



*A Proud Moment for Dr. Sharron at 7 years and going Higher!*



*Our Solo Vocalist, Danny Mills in rapt attention!*



*Rev. Rich Cress and Volunteer Coordinator Martin Anthony - Getting down to Business!*



*Rev. Trent and Ted Telford enjoying the Celebration!*



*Marcella, Andy, and Denise Volunteers par excellence!*

## Founders Circle

Become a member of the Founder's Circle. Join Today by tithing \$100.00 or more a month over your regular contribution. To join, write "The Founder's Circle" on your check. Talk with Rev. Lloyd Brushett at 760-770-9263 about the miracles that come from giving to a Purpose larger than yourself.



*Rev. Lloyd leading the What We Believe*



*Volunteer of the Year, Linda Orrick receives her acknowledgment!*



*"Handy Andy" got the item sold at the auction!*



*Our Sunday Videographer and Gracious Table Host shares their Vision for InnerFaith Ministries Worldwide!*



*Almost 100 people came to Support the InnerFaith 7th Anniversary Celebration!*



*Shinto Priest, Dr. Yoshi Tsuyuki and Marsh Engle, Founder of Envision Institute came from L.A. to support Dr. Sharron and the InnerFaith 7 Anniversary!*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Special Events at InnerFaith



#### Founder's Valentine Brunch

You are joyously invited To the Lovely Home  
Of Carl Keith and Chris Porter

1567 E Twin Palms Drive, Palm Springs

February 15th

Immediately following Our Celebration Sunday Service  
Sign-Up in Foyer or Call 322-8837 or 318-3196

Classes that study Science of Mind principles are held on a year-round basis. From the basic studies of Truth to advanced meditation techniques, you'll find just the right class to advance your growth.

The Innerfaith Ministries is a campus of Emerson Institute, an accredited learning institution. Emerson Institute believes that learning is a lifelong experience and that to fully grow spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and socially, the individual needs to be "open at the top," as Ernest Holmes stated. Innerfaith Ministries offers programs through Emerson Institute toward Bachelor of Religious Studies, Master of Religious Studies, and other degrees.

#### Special Events: February & March

The tuition for each class is \$255.00 per person, with a 10 % discount for couples and seniors. A 20% Gratitude Consideration is available for all Founders. All classes are 12 weeks. Classes are located at 1359 E Caleta Way, Palm Springs.

Science of Mastery I Begins March 2nd Monday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Science of Mastery II: Begins March 3rd Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Science of Mastery IV: Begins March 5th Thursday Evening at 7:00 PM

Science of Mastery Practitioner Training: Begins March 5th Thursday Evenings at 7:00 PM T

#### Science of Mastery Classes

Monday Evenings Entry Level: 9/29-12/15 7:00 PM

Tuesday Evenings Practitioner Training Begins: 9/30- 12/16 7:00 PM

Monday Evenings Science of Mastery III Begins 9/29  
– 12/15 7:00 PM

Thursday Evenings Science of Mastery II Begins: 10/2  
– 12/18 7:00 PM

#### Why Take Classes? Isn't coming to Church each Sunday enough?

The basic principles we study are profound, but not necessarily easy to embody and practice in our daily lives. Sunday morning is where we hear about our potential, but the classroom is where we experience practical application of the principles.

The ongoing process of regular Science of Mind class attendance is where we begin to embody a true change in our consciousness.

#### What happens in class?

The dynamics in the Science of Mind classes offer fertile ground for growing new ideas. Each Science of Mind class takes on an energy of its own which stimulates the individual's mind.

Through lectures, discussions, and workshops, the student learns how to personalize the same metaphysical principles used by spiritual masters throughout history.

#### Is there tuition for classes?

Yes. Taking a Science of Mind class requires a commitment of both time and money. The truth is, little can be achieved without commitment. Your financial and emotional investment are important for change.

#### What will you learn?

- You will learn about your unity with an infinite power for good which you can use.
- You will learn how to apply universal principles in your daily life and get results.
- You will learn the art of positive prayer called Spiritual Mind Treatment
- You will learn the value of daily spiritual disciplines and commitment.
- You will learn that you have found new friends and relationships with your classmates - people who think as you do.
- You will learn you really can create a new life by changing your thinking and beliefs.

Dr. Sharron Stroud facilitates Science of Mastery I. & II.

# New Year - New Thought

By Trent Blanchard

[www.trentblanchard.com](http://www.trentblanchard.com)



I was driving down the highway one day when I saw a bumper sticker that read “you don’t have to believe everything you think.” It took me the balance of my drive home to absorb the statement and acknowledge the timeliness and power of this message.

It is a timely statement because the weeks around New Years traditionally offer the opportunity to take inventory of the events that have occurred over the past year and identify the behaviors that worked for us, so we can set an intention do more of them in the coming year, while also being conscious of the ones that didn’t and consider eliminating them. Whether the results were positive or negative, hopefully we learned lessons from these experiences and set goals accordingly that will benefit us going forward.

It is a powerful statement, because if we truly comprehend its message, we can start the New Year off right by setting a goal to think altogether differently about our thoughts and in doing so, drastically change our daily lives. We truly do not have to believe everything we think- what a fascinating concept!

You may be thinking to yourself “what are you talking about- we don’t have control over our thoughts,” which I agree with. We, in fact, don’t have control over which thoughts we have, but we do have control over what we do after we have each thought.

The fact is that thoughts fundamentally are neutral - we are the ones that give them either positive or negative meaning. A thought that greatly disturbs me quite might possibly bring another person deep joy! It is also important to know that more often than not, thoughts aren’t even relevant- they simply are just thoughts.

Many spiritual teachers compare the process of our thoughts with that of clouds in the sky; we have no control over clouds, their color, the routes they float or their frequency- we know that clouds just are! If we try to control

or stop these clouds from floating by- something that is out of our control- we will suffer and experience pain! How wonderful if we could treat our thoughts like we treat clouds- simply by observing and acknowledging them- not allowing them to have much effect on us.

This might sound like a lot of work, and quite frankly in the beginning, it is. Thoughts are relentless, insidious and never-ending. It takes a lot of conscious energy to observe our thoughts and respond in a way different then we are accustomed to, but what is the alternative- to continue living in the self-imposed jail of our thoughts?

Once you are aware that a negative, self-limiting thought is present, how about simply observe and acknowledge it. Gently say to the thought, “thanks for sharing” and focus on what is True- the Truth of who you really are! This, of course, implies that you already know that you are a perfect, divine and whole being-just as you are. It is my firm belief that any thought that comes forward not in alignment with this is irrational and self-limiting and needs to be discarded - if we want to live peaceful, joyous, truth-filled lives.

You will find when you successfully do this, what you have just done is assigned a new job to something that in your past caused you distress- your negative thoughts, hence using it to your advantage by focusing on what is True in your life.

Know this- the thoughts we feed are the thoughts that live and how we feed them is by giving them focus, energy and attention. If you want to live a joy-filled, truth-filled life, spend more time focusing on those thoughts. Our experience is totally up to us. How empowering to know we have a choice! How different would our lives be had we been taught this concept in grade school? The beauty is it is never too late to learn!

I strongly encourage you to consider changing your belief about your thoughts. If you do, you will experience a new found freedom and find your life quickly changing for the better.

Remember your experience is in your control. Start the New Year off right with the new awareness that says you don’t have to believe everything you think!

What do you “think” about that?

**Trent Blanchard is available for Life Coaching, Spiritual Direction and Commitment Ceremonies.  
Visit his website at [www.TrentBlanchard.com](http://www.TrentBlanchard.com) for more information.**

# The Pet Ministry

By *Kate Porter*



## ***THE CRITTER COALITION ...Why?***

Through my years of working with animal rescue here in the desert, I found that certain themes were repeated among the people and pets that I was called upon to help. One of the saddest of these was that of the Senior Citizen who, because of a meager or fixed income, was unable to pay for a Vet visit for their animal friend. Too frequently the pet was also a "senior" and needed special care to stay comfortable during its last days - care that was just too expensive.

Once told of the circumstance, I was usually able to call upon someone who was willing to help financially. Or, at the least, I was able to arrange for the Vet to take small payments, rather than let the pet (and the person who loved them) suffer.

Knowing of this common situation and then hearing from a volunteer at Animal Control one day about how many Seniors have to give up their pets to the shelter when they have to go into the hospital temporarily simply because there is no one to care for the pet while they are away or while they



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are getting well, I became passionate about creating a solution to at least these two problems. Thus, with the loving and determined support of my dear partner, Dr. Terre York, our non-profit 501C3, in 2002 "The Critter Coalition", was born.

Working with the Seniors and disabled of our desert community, is a great satisfaction to me. One pet, one heart at a time, life is made a kinder place because of what we do in the name of love. Each day brings new challenges, but with the support of those who know how precious our pets are to our very existences, we prevail.

I am particularly moved at the wonderful support of Innerfaith Ministries Worldwide, of our spiritual family in general and the guidance of our beloved Dr. Sharron in particular. Without her encouragement, I wonder if I would have slowed down long enough to really absorb the spiritual element of my work? It has become (as Dr. Sharron first saw it...) my Ministry and I will always be grateful for her perspective and how she saw what I only vaguely knew as I rushed about, bent upon the "doing". Being in touch with my greater purpose has enriched the service I do through the Critter Coalition and added a magic to my mission for which I will always be grateful. :)



Finally, I believe that in the end, how kind we are to one another and the living creatures who make our lives so much richer by just being a part of them will be what matters. With this sincere effort, and your prayerful support, the lives of hundreds of animals and the people who love them will become kinder places. And for me, this makes my world a true blessing. Thank you for caring and God bless each of you along with your furry, finny or feathery friends.

Hugs and heart, Kate (Porter)

CriticrKindness@aol.com

Join the fun & visit my CritterChitchat videos on YouTube!

<http://youtube.com/user/criticrchitchat>

PO Box 1841  
Joshua Tree, Ca. 92252  
[www.CritterCoalition.org](http://www.CritterCoalition.org)

# The Volunteer Report

*By Martin Anthony*

As volunteer coordinator, I enjoy sharing the stories of the good works of our volunteers from time to time. In sharing those tales of our volunteers' labors, I can also offer the much deserved recognition to our volunteers. Without our volunteers, much of our work as a congregation would not be possible. Without sharing tales of our volunteers efforts, it would be much harder to share the joys and satisfactions to be found in joining in such efforts.

Our 7th Anniversary Celebration volunteers brought dedication and enthusiasm to their tasks and from that sprang forth an incredible event enjoyed by all. The Celebration team included Denise Hasman (responsible for the Silent Bid Sheets), and Camella, Carol, Dr. Terry, Trish, Judy and Andy (present for all facets of the event set up, breakdown and operation), with Ted jumping in to lend a hand as well - while Kirby and I were privileged to serve as Co-Chairs.

We were blessed with the talents of Linda Orrick (keeping track of the guests), Lloyd Brushette (serving as event treasurer), and countless others.

To our surprise and delight, at the end of the day we found we'd doubled last year's numbers and raised over \$6,000.00.

Kirby and I are hugely grateful for the wonderful work of our team members.....and for the immense generosity shown by the many Innerfaith Members who so generously donated incredible items for both the Silent Auction and Live Auctions.

Beyond our talented volunteers springing to action in event organization and production, we found ourselves blessed with yet more volunteers who gave of their special talents.

Fleet Easton, our talented lead entertainer, graced us with a marvelous solo performance, as well performing a lovely duet with Danny Mills. In a special treat, Dana Atkins also gave of herself in a delightful volunteer perfor-

mance.

Jan Hassman, our entertainment coordinator, helped put it all together, assisted by Innerfaith Sound Engineer, Mike Berger. We all enjoyed wonderful entertainment throughout the day.

Serving as MC Rev. Rich Cress did a great job, and I was fortunate enough to act as auctioneer for the Live Auction.

The lovely centerpieces created and donated by Cache Fiore (owned by our members, Fred Dimeo and Ed Paquette) added an element of beauty to the tables. Fred and Ed's generosity and creativity is much appreciated and they have the gratitude of both our team and of Innerfaith Ministries.

The beautiful roses that Fred and Dimeo also provided went on to become an integral part of the fund raising process in a special raffle, raising a significant amount of money. Again, we share our gratitude for the good works of Fred and Dimeo. .

Eddie (Ed) Zavora gave of his time and talent with decorations, and personally took care of much of the pick-up and delivery that necessary for the flowers and decorations. As some may know, Ed always comes through and provides a new and wonderful creation for the Sunday Service each week.

As always, the sum of the teams' efforts exceeded even the greatness of all the parts, coming together through love and sacred service.

Kirby and I want to thank all of you very much for making this event a great success!

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***We have several opening for volunteers and look forward to your participation. Opportunities for service exist with several office functions (copying, programs, filing and other functions) that can use your help.***

***The hours are flexible and the work is fun as you will network with other volunteers at Innerfaith and this helps develop wonderful relationships with other members.***

***Please contact the volunteer coordinator by email [MagikMarty@aol.com](mailto:MagikMarty@aol.com) or call (760) 469-3264 and leave a message for Martin Anthony. We appreciate your participation and know that you will receive great joy by giving. The rewards for giving are greater than your gift and you will GO HIGHER YET! So step up to the plate and be a part of this wonderful movement.***

# Service Through Chaplaincy

How wonderful! Innerfaith has six Hospital Chaplains serving our valley family. Chaplains Lou and Lloyd, Chaplain Jean, Chaplain Roger, Chaplain Sharon and myself. It is such a gift to be able to give back to our Community. Both Desert Regional Medical Center as well as Eisenhower Medical Center are our homes. All of us have a definite feeling of ownership as we step forward in Sacred Service as Chaplains.. We all know that it is not us, but Spirit through us that does a work of infinite value for our Greater Desert Community.



It is always of interest to me when someone asks, “tell me what it is you do as a Chaplain?”.

I often say, “It is a Ministry of Presence”. After a number of years doing this work I’ve come to realize that my personal belief system is not the driving force behind my work. I’ve come to recognize that every belief has a value, even one of supposed non-belief. Once I found that the God of my understanding was indeed the same for everyone, I knew my personal beliefs had to take a backseat to a true Spiritual Belief. We all hurt the same, fear the same, grieve the same and love the same. Spiritual equanimity was the end game of this expanding work. My personal prayer is always, “God see through my eyes, hear through my ears and speak through this voice. I know all who cross my path as perfect, complete and whole”.

For all of the Chaplains, we know the value of unconditional love, the un-judged and always identified Spirit taking form as one who is in need of a comforting messenger. We all understand the reflective quality of our work, at times we all experience heaven looking back at us through the guise of hell. We have blessed the infant as an Angel, the one yet to be realized though the continued process of a life lived. We have comforted the bereft the sick and fearful.

Through love and Spirit, the Innerfaith Chaplains

continue to live a deeply conscientious form of Worship. We have profound gratitude for the basics, heartbeat and breath. We go forward with a presence of love and peace as we meet our Desert Community, right where they are. And it continues to be our joy to always meet the Spiritual needs of our Innerfaith family when we are needed.

Love and Blessings

Rev. Chaplain Rich Cress



## *Founders Valentine Brunch*

*You are joyously invited  
To the Lovely Home Of  
Carl Keith and Chris Porter  
1567 E Twin Palms Drive  
Palm Springs  
February 15th  
Immediately following  
Our Celebration Sunday Service  
Sign-Up in Foyer or Call  
(760) 322-8837 or (760) 318-3196*

# A View to the Skies

Rev. Sharon Gibson

The last New Moon of 2008 forms on Saturday, December 27 (4:22 AM PST) at 6° Capricorn. Spirit is infinite; matter is not. As the tenth sign in an archetypal cycle of development, Capricorn represents the stage where we must master the challenges of the physical world. We learn to respect limits and boundaries — our own, as well as others'. We are forced to let go of victim consciousness, to recognize our responsibility and the consequences of our choices. We develop maturity, integrity, and autonomy. We become our own authority, the author, judge, and CEO of our lives, rather than blindly follow the dictates of our family or culture. We become a contributing member of society, doing the work we were born to do. As the third earth sign, Capricorn also is concerned with the responsible management of collective resources and structures--how we divide, share, and utilize the Earth — land, water, oil, mineral, and property rights, government, corporations, and institutions of all kinds. As the mythic Lord of the Underworld, Pluto is associated with power and wealth: the power of fear, the power of the shadow, and the wealth that is gained when we mine the unconscious. Pluto's journey through Capricorn marks the breakdown of plutocracy (where the real power is wielded by the wealthy) and the establishment of a new social order that is egalitarian and heart-centered, not elite and ego-centered.

From Thanksgiving until New Year's Eve, no planets are retrograde for the first and only time in 2008, a cosmic "Full speed ahead!" On December 31, Saturn, the ruling planet of Capricorn, stations retrograde, slowing the warp drive that began on November 27 when Uranus turned direct. During the mythic Reaper's retrograde phase (December 31, 2008 to May

16, 2009), we see more clearly what we need to fix or eliminate in order to progress. Saturn in Virgo says: Discern what really matters to you, focus on what is essential, and purge whatever is unnecessary, unhealthy, and not in support of your path.

Some relevant resources for these times:

- Deepak Chopra, as President and Founder of the Alliance For A New Humanity, has extended an invitation to everyone seriously committed to peace to take a vow of nonviolence; to participate, visit: [www.itakethevow.com](http://www.itakethevow.com) <<http://www.itakethevow.com/>>
- For a free "De-stress Kit for the Changing Times" offered by the Global Coherence Initiative, visit: [www.glcoherence.org/destress-kit-for-the-changing-times.html](http://www.glcoherence.org/destress-kit-for-the-changing-times.html) <<http://www.glcoherence.org/destress-kit-for-the-changing-times.html>>

Take time between this important new moon and the end of 2008 to reflect on your goals and priorities. What are your desires and intentions for 2009? What is in your heart and on your path? Remember: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." (Winston Churchill)

Namaste,

*Note:*

*Thanks to Stephanie Austin whose writings about this New Moon helped me to write this article for you. Stephanie can be reached at: [Stephanie@EcoAstrology.com](mailto:Stephanie@EcoAstrology.com) 360-379-3060*



# A Prayer for You



Dear Ones,

I Greet you with Love Today!

I Am Grateful to have you in my life.

I pray Knowing that you are having a blessed day.

And I Pray knowing that all your interactions are blessed.

Prayer is one of the best gifts we can receive.

There is no cost, just a glorious reward.

## **InnerFaith Ministries Worldwide**

P.O. Box 2102

Palm Springs, CA 92263

Phone: 760-318-3196

Fax: 760-318-9125

<http://www.innerfaithworldwide.com>

As you Pray, Pray Knowing God has already answered your Prayer.

“Before they Call I will Answer and while they are still speaking I will hear.”

I affirm with you that today is all you need it to be!

I know that the Peace of God and the Freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your Thoughts,

Rule in your Dreams tonight, and absorb any of your hidden fears.

I know that the Spirit of God manifests Itself today in ways you have never experienced.

I Know your Joys are Fulfilled, your Dreams Demonstrated in the World,

and your Prayers are Made Manifest Here and Now!

I pray Knowing that Faith enters a new height for you; coming from the depth of Love.

I give thanks that your Experience is enlarged.

I Pray in the Spirit of Peace, Healing, Health, Happiness, Prosperity, Joy, Wisdom

and True and Eternal Love for God.

I Know the Blessing of the Season is upon you!

And so it is. **Amen**

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