



September Newsletter



Our pictures this month include a piece of art work by our friend Linda Lube. This is called Lavender Man and is a humorous take on St. Germain. We never seem to grow tired of cute, little furry critters so this Wyoming prairie dog seemed appropriate as summer closes. We had a couple of pictures of the rock people from Castle Gardens and decided to share another one with you this month. I wish everyone could come and spend time in this awesome place. It is so quiet and peaceful. You can feel the spirits of the Native Americans that have camped in the area and done their ritual ceremonies there. This is a sacred power place and it is as though all who have gone before are blessing it with their best wishes for a better future.

Here we are into the ninth month of the year. School has started and even though we have not had a hot summer we are still looking forward to the cool of fall and its beautiful colors.

Every day we hear about another new restaurant that has opened. It really is amazing to see how we create. We have been holding an intension for some new places to eat in the area and suddenly after twelve

years these new places are popping up everywhere. We have the Meatloaf Company, a cheesecake bakery and a number of new coffee shops and small lunch spots.

I am watching the calendar pages flip until my annual trip east. It is only a matter of weeks now until I leave. My first stop is my class reunion and then on to Florida. I will be in Debary, FL October 14-20. Call Katy Kagan, 386 668-4311 for info and appointments. There will be a group in Debary.

Then I will be heading south to Sebastian, FL from October 22-27. There will be at least one group in Sebastian. My contact person there is Kathleen Edwards, 772 532-4210. Call for info and appointments.

Then on to Newborn, GA for two weeks at the Crystal Organic Farm from October 29- November 11. I will be available for private readings. There will be a group on October 30 and our intensive "Integrating the Magik of Your Mastery" will be November 6-7. Call Helen Dumba, 770 784-1060 for info and appointments.

This year I am hoping to see some fall colors in the east. I usually miss the autumn beauty in Wyoming and then arrive just a bit too late to see the colors in the east.

Dorian and I have been experiencing the changes due to the planetary shifts and they can be quite trying. We both have dealt with clearing that felt some what like a cold, but seemed to bring up a lot of old emotions.

Rainbow Center News

Our next group, "Seeing Beyond 2012" will be September 12 at the Rainbow Center, 4th & Lincoln in Lander.

CD's can be purchased on the website at

www.voiceofthegatekeepers.com/2010groups.html

On September 22, I will be presenting a free evening called "Everyone is a Channel". I will discuss channeling, how it works, what it means and how the personal channel works for everyone. There will be a short channeling session with St. Germain as a demonstration. The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Rainbow Center for the Humanities, with a social gathering time from 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Bring your questions.

The first six of the "Know Thyself" series are now available.

Both CD's and DVD's are available. If you purchase the set of six you get the sixth one free.

www.voiceofthegatekeepers.com/evenings.html

Fall Tour

Molly will be in Debary, FL October 14-20. Call Katy Kagan 386 668-4311 for information and appointments. Then she will be heading south to FL from the 21-27.

The next stop is Sebastian, FL October 22-27 where the contact person will be Kathleen Edwards, 772 532-4210. Call Kathleen for info and appointments for private sessions with St. Germain or astrology, tarot or medical intuitive sessions. There will be at least one group in Sebastian.

Our next intensive, "Integrating the Magik of Your Mastery" will be November 6-7 in Newborn, Ga at the Crystal Organic Farm. Molly will be available for private readings from October 30-November 11. Call Helen Dumba, 770 784-1060 for registration and appointments.



ASTROLOGY

NEW MOON

This Virgo New Moon is the second of three SuperMoons in a row. Virgo, by its very nature, being the second earth sign seeks to create a suitable container through which spirit may express in matter. Each one of us has come to bring a special gift and in order to share our gifts we must learn how to function optimally in the physical environment.

Connie Kaplan in her book *The Invisible Garment* discusses the 15th degree (degree of this New Moon) as the principle of resistance: "a friction that causes energy to experience itself, transform itself and realign itself with greater purpose." We are at the end of the Piscean Age, experiencing the death pangs of duality and attempting at the same time to embrace the full emergence of the Aquarian Age with its focus on equality, collaboration and respect for diversity. In this graduation we must transform the shadow side of Virgo, which is expressed as martyrdom, workaholism and the many ways that we seek to distract ourselves from the fear of not being good enough. Jupiter is preparing to reenter Pisces just hours after this New Moon underscoring again the requirement to allow forgiveness and compassion, not only for others but for ourselves. Jupiter represents faith, wisdom and abundance. It can bring optimism and a generous nature or swing to the extreme of extravagance and hubris. Jupiter will remain in Pisces until January 22, 2011. Its close contact with Uranus will expand our understanding of the more subtle dimensions or reality and guide us to reconnect with our spiritual path if we have deviated from our Soul script.

Within a few days after this New Moon Mercury and Pluto end their retrograde motion, heralding a giant leap forward. Mercury ends its third retrograde of the year on September 12, having been retrograde since August 20. It will again reach the 19th degree of Virgo, where it went retrograde, on September 26. As a result of this retrograde Mercury spends more than two months in Virgo rather than its usual 3-4 weeks. This offers extra time to access and release those things that are non-functional in our lives. When Mercury transits Virgo the Winged Messenger spotlights the places in our lives where we are wasting precious energy on criticism and judgment, worry and fear. *Thoughts are things*. Therefore there is no such thing as an idle thought. What we think about today becomes our manifestation for tomorrow. Mercury is widely conjunct this New Moon and its trine to Pluto can

clarify the real issues in our lives and how we can most positively resolve them.

Pluto ends its annual retrograde on September 13. When planets turn retrograde it is as though we have been given a homework assignment over a holiday. We have had five months to discover where we can shore up our accountability and also require integrity on the part of others. If there was a willingness to recognize our shadow self and recognize and own our power then we are prepared to take some major strides forward. Pluto's passage through Capricorn encourages us to take responsibility for our own actions and the outcome of our choices. The creation of institutions that lean toward equality and balance with integrity and sustainability for the good of the whole are necessary. The circle of energy created when Pluto went retrograde at 5 degrees 25 minutes of Capricorn on April 6 will not be closed until January 3, 2011 when Pluto again reaches that point in the heavens.

(I continue to give the Sabian symbols each month. However, I feel with each progressive month that these symbols address perspectives that are not necessarily in alignment with where the ideology of the times is going. --Molly)

Sabian symbol for this New Moon at 16 degrees Virgo: Children crowd around the orangutan cage in the zoo. The lesson which the very old can give the very young in all realms. Vicarious experience. Inertia of instincts. Poise. Orangutan is called "the old man of the forest". The children are brought into direct confrontation with the primal power of nature. "Where have you caged your natural self to please society's laws? How have you inhibited your talents in order to be acceptable? What would you change if you could?" You don't have to have the answer; you just have to be willing to let yourself allow the directions to come from within. You cannot change the whole world, but you can, by your own shifts, change the world that is yours.

FULL MOON

This Full Moon in Aries takes place just two days before Sirius sets on September 25. July 25th, the day that Sirius rises and September 25th the day that Sirius sets are considered the two most powerful days of the year. That the setting day occurs only two days after the fall equinox just adds to the power and this year the Full Moon brings its impact just six hours after the equinox. In this energy we are encouraged to "think

outside the box" and release any attitudes or ideas that interfere with inner peace, equitable interaction and our ability to live real.

Other alignments at this Full Moon make it easier to step beyond our fears and outmoded beliefs. Once more the intense, ongoing cardinal t-square involving Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn and Pluto which has been in close configuration since last spring, is a factor. This time, the inclusions of the lunar nodes makes the aspect even more complex and compelling. This is a cardinal cross with eight oppositions and fifteen squares. Each opposition requires social awareness; every square demands that we be willing to radically change our perspective, as well as our direction in life. The Moon's Nodes in Capricorn and Cancer indicate that we are dealing with deeply entrenched opinions, especially around patriarchal institutions, where the feminine is both dominated and denigrated.

The Sun cojoins Saturn in Libra to highlight our current roles and realities. As the Aquarian Age takes its full place the role playing and role models of the past--connected with heroes and heroines--those who are superior because of their actions in a moment rather than their lives in general and appearances rather than truth--will pass away. The Aquarian Age requires living real. The Aries Moon is still closely cojoined with Jupiter and Uranus, which can assist us to become more detached from our codependent or addictive patterns. Pluto joins the North Node of the Moon in Capricorn and squares the Sun and Moon, as well as Saturn, Jupiter and Uranus. This grouping holds the cosmic key. We must move from duality to equality even though the idea of accepting that which we do not know or understand fully can make us quite uncomfortable. Once we forgive allowing fear to be the directive of our lives we begin to see/feel Truth clearly. The impact of this Full Moon is extended a full ten days from the Sun's exact opposition to Jupiter and Uranus on September 21 through the end of the month, when the Sun forms an exact square to the Moons Nodes and a precise conjunction to Saturn.

This Full Moon and the ongoing cardinal t-square, fall within 2 degrees of the Super Galactic Center, around which our Milky Way and 30 other galaxies orbit. This acts as a homing beam, a transmission of stellar intelligence streaming across millions of light years, impelling us to embody the energies encoded in our birth charts. Each year the Sun crosses this point, but for this to occur at a Full Moon and in concert with four outer planets is extremely rare. This Full Moon also squares the degrees of the last eclipse (on June 26 at 5 degrees Capricorn-Cancer). This has the effect of

an aftershock and jolts us into action. Every day we are encountering new truths and prospects for change. What was once dismissed as fantasy is becoming the reality of our times. Science is being disproved or revamped all of the time.

The Sabian symbols for this Full Moon underscore the indications that we are ready for new role models and ideologies. For the Sun at 1 degree Libra: "Pierced by a dart of light a butterfly is "made perfect". The symbolical death, through creative identification with the large sweep of cycles. Spiritual expansion. Renewed encouragement." For the Moon at 1 degree of Aries: "A woman has risen from the ocean; a seal embraces her. Potentiality of selfhood: the individual is emerging from the collective and realized self for the first time." We live in unprecedented times, when the old rules and formulas no longer apply. "We are rewriting the archetypes of reality, redefining what it means to be human and realizing that Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive." (The Dalai Lama)

CRYSTAL CORNER

At this point in my life I find I am drawn more and more to the magical aspects of what we are doing. I don't mean abracadabra but the ancient magik and the unseen realms. I'm discovering a greater affinity for animals and plants and trees. These things have always been there but the energy seems to have intensified. I've even spied a dragon watching over me and numerous 'little beings' running around my house and healing center. How wondrous it is to make these magical connections.

As I was leafing through my crystal information I found several stones that would facilitate those connections. The first stone is from England and is a beautiful coral color.



Celestobarite is somewhat like petrified wood. Its essence or energy would be much akin to the wood that would come from the Rowan tree. It is very magical, very mystical. This would bring forth anything

from flickers to a complete awareness of remembering how it was when the masters knew to call each other by their true names. It comes from a time when we knew the names of the trees and the animals and could call them but would not use the information inappropriately, only in love. So, this stone is a remembrance of that magik. It would be very attractive energy to a unicorn. If this is applied to the back of the head, it brings forth ancient memories in a peaceful and much more easily handled way. It could be placed on your pillow so that the back of the head would rest upon it. It could also be applied to the arch of the foot. This would begin to reveal the script of the Akashic records to the entity. The alpha would be the silica or sand. This stone is the omega.

The internet has an abundance of information about the Rowan tree. It has been considered very magical and also very protective. Be sure to read up on it.



Blue Hemimorphite/White Matrix facilitates the process of remembering and drawing in the energy of what is called the heavenly realms which are higher frequencies of consciousness. This definitely helps to make that connection with those places that would be called fairyland or the magical places, higher places of consciousness in the sweetest and purest form. This is a remembrance of the un-nameable names of God.



Spirit Quartz is especially amazing for stepping through the veil between human and fairy realms and to work with the fairies and to connect with them for it has been a bit of a joke to humanity that all fairies

were a bit like Tinker Bell. And yet, the fairy realm has a great influence on the human realms especially in working with the magik. The fairies carry a lot of the remembering of how the magic works which humanity really requires in these times. And so, these connect with the fairy realms.

Spirit Quartz refers to the formation of the crystal. It comes in clear or white **Quartz** and **Amethyst**. Colors vary some.

On another note, the Crystal Healing I class has been cancelled. DVD's of the first class are available for the cost of the class (\$200.00) and you will receive a complete printout of the information on the stones. Crystal Healing II will take place on October 23rd and 24th. Hope to see you then.

If you have any questions about the stones or just want to visit, give me a call at:

Linda Thomas
Eternal Ice Enterprises
(800) 757-8478
www.eternal-ice.com

Once again the website is under construction and will have some new animation so if you can't log on, it will get there!



TAROT TALK



This month's Tarot card is the Three of Crystals—Creativity. The movement of the planets is ever pushing us out of our old limitations. We are challenged to express our creative processes more and more all of the time. The celestial music touches your soul and brings inspiration. If you have been sitting on something great it is time to let your light shine. Let your talents be known. Show your creative expressions to the world. The fertile soil of your mind is germinating new ideas. Creativity is born out of love. Feel your loving nature. Like the Empress mother share your originality of thought and ideas, your most wonderful gifts with the world. Creativity is a product of synthesis, your union and communication with energies outside of your self. Diversify—experience different people, places and situations. Give your spirit freedom and you will discover an endless source of new life.

Let your inner consciousness meet external influences to create new ideas. Brainstorm. Try out your ideas on other people. Engage in abstract thought; imagine just for the sake of expansion. Meditation can open up the way for new concepts. Be grounded, down to earth, so that you can assist others to find the answers to their questions.

Let your fire spirit blend with your earth-matter brain to delve into the ocean of the collective consciousness to find the creative ideas (air).

When the Three of Crystals appears in your reading, you are being nudged to get out of the box of old, stagnant thinking. Express your talents and allow yourself to shine in the areas that draw out the creative forces that let you be all that you are. Listen to music, write a poem, paint, draw, read, walk in nature to fine tune your creative senses.

Surround yourself with beautiful scenery, warm people and objects de art. Redecorate, change your wardrobe, change your mind and above all let yourself have fun. Joy inspires creativity.

MESSAGE FROM THE GARDEN FAIRY



Sunflower Sprouts

Amazingly, Sunflower Sprouts, pack a hefty nutritional punch. A ½ of a cup of these sprouts contain Vitamins: B complex and E. Minerals: Calcium, Iron, Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, and Chlorophyll. Sunflower sprouts are a complete protein. This is a major reason for the introduction of sprouts into the Western diet.

In the late 1700's, Captain James Cook, put his sailors on an anti-scurvy regimen that included lemons, limes, and freshly-grown sprouts. Since they're so easy to cultivate, Cook's crew produced sprouts continuously throughout their voyages, thus sparing the lives of many men who might otherwise have been stricken with scurvy.

Sunflower sprouts, are powerful antioxidants that can help prevent cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, and menopausal symptoms. They are also very easy to digest. Unsprouted sunflower seeds are high in fat and protein. However, sprouting activates the seed, with many changes as it sprouts: dramatic increase in enzyme levels, seed fats are converted to essential fatty acids and/or sugars, and vitamin levels increase substantially. Due to their active enzymes, sprouts are much easier to digest than dry seeds. Further, as the seed sprouts its flavor is enhanced. Sunflower sprouts have an earthy-nutty flavor and are very popular.

While the sprouts are pre-digested seeds, the greens are a tender baby vegetable, high in chlorophyll, and a substitute for lettuce. Sunflower greens have a slight salty taste that some compare to watercress. They are rich in chlorophyll, enzymes, vitamins, proteins, and the most important "nutrient", the life force. Some report the greens are a rich source of lecithin and vitamin D. Additionally, unlike most expensive freeze-dried supplements such as spirulina and algae, sunflower greens that you grow are alive up to the time you eat them (most freeze-dried items are dead).

Sunflower sprouts are a delicious addition to salads. They can be juiced and used in green drinks or added to carrot juice. If you find the juice too strong by itself, you can mix it with celery or pineapple juice.

Sunflower sprouts can be grown indoors for highest nutrient/life force content. It is suggested that they be grown in soil and in natural sunlight full spectrum grow lights.

Sunflower sprouts can be a nutritious and delicious part of a raw/living foods diet.

Sunflower Sprout Salad

- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup Champagne vinegar
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound asparagus
- Ice
- 1 head butter lettuce, separated into leaves
- 8 ounces sunflower sprouts (see Notes)

- 1/2 cup thinly sliced English cucumber
- 1 cup thinly sliced yellow bell pepper
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced radishes
- 4 ounces soft goat cheese (chèvre)

Preparation

1. In a small bowl, whisk together shallot, garlic, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Set aside.
2. Bring 4 cups water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Cut off and discard bottom halves of asparagus spears. Cut tops into 2-in. lengths. Cook asparagus until barely tender, about 3 minutes. Drain in a colander and transfer to a large bowl of ice and cold water. When cool, drain and set aside.
3. In a large bowl, combine lettuce leaves and sprouts. Add half of the reserved vinaigrette and toss carefully just until coated. Divide lettuce and sprouts among 4 plates, starting with the largest leaves for the bottom layer. Sprinkle each pile of greens with asparagus, cucumber, bell pepper, and radishes. Drizzle the vegetables with a little more vinaigrette.
4. Place 1 tbsp. goat cheese on each salad and serve with remaining vinaigrette and sea salt for sprinkling if you like.

Enjoy!

Ronda McLean, MG

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ST. GERMAIN'S MESSAGE

Beloved Masters, let us contemplate the power of your **words, thoughts and imagination.**

The power of the word is spoken about in the Master Book, "In the beginning the

Word was with God and the Word was God...." Also, there is reference to the thought, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Certainly, what you image or

imagine has the power and passion of your desires woven into the fabric of the picture.

It would seem that in these times more and more people, in anger and frustration, are exercising the right to say what ever they think without any consideration of the impact of those words on the lives, hearts and minds of the ones who hear them or those about whom they are spoken. There has been much discussion about "first amendment rights", the right to free speech. The right to express an opinion is a privilege. The right to speak words of hatred with an intention to wound was never the intended point of the First Amendment. Simply because someone knows words of cruelty dose not give them the express right of using that knowledge to destroy someone's life or character. Name calling has never, Beloved Masters, been of the highest nature. Children who have not learned the powerful lessons of love may engage in attempting to "level the playing field" through their taunts. However, as the pressure of the changing times is being felt more deeply all of the time it surely is bringing up the most undesirable use of language and no consideration of the power of what is being created by those words. When words are used for lies, deceit and defamation of character they can bring long standing damage even if the one who said them stands up and says, "I am sorry".

The feeling that you have in the center of your body, solar plexus, when you are speaking will quickly tell you whether the words that you are saying or even thinking are going to bring a positive outcome or lead to painful results. When you are angry the EGO takes away the gates of consideration and invites you to "say exactly what you feel". The challenge, in these times is, are you sure that what you are angry about concerns the person standing in front of you when you are pushed to your limit? Was it the last conversation that really set off your irritation and now this person in front of you said something that brought things to a boil? Can you actually talk to the person/people who make you angry? Do you even know with whom you are angry? Are you willing to deal with life in these times when so much fear and limitation has surfaced and you don't know where to put your frustrations and rage?

Beloved Masters, you are not helpless and there are no victims. This statement can really open the door for the EGO to set up a debate, but from a spiritual standpoint it is true. Do you say, "What next?" with a feeling of resolve into more and greater lack? You have just, very simply and very quickly, exercised your ability to create. You might say, "But I didn't mean

that I wanted more problems.” **You create with your words and the emotions that are behind them.** There are no *idle* words. To say “I didn’t mean to bring about an unfortunate outcome” is a bit like saying “I didn’t mean to cast the first stone”. Intension is a powerful force. When you are angry you do not consider the outcome of the action. When you are frustrated or “at the end of your tether” you do not want to be bothered with the fact that what you are saying is either helping you to move deeper into “the mess that you are in” or lifting you gently out of the morass.

The time to really be aware of the influence of your words is when you are in a quiet space. Contemplate how your words or the words of others how affected your life. What were you told by a parent or grandparent in your youth that changed the direction of your life for better or worse? Have you noticed how your own children are impacted by what you say? Even if there are no children in your life, have you noticed that just saying “good morning” can change the expression on someone’s face? A quiet word, a compliment can make a difference that you may never know. It would be much sweeter to find out later that your words made such an important difference that someone decided not to take their life or they took a step toward improving their life that they had been afraid to take, rather than to find that you pushed someone into sad or painful choices by your words.

Speak words that you would desire to hear from your boss or lover or friend and feel how those words rest in your solar plexus. Now feel words that have made you sad or stopped your progress and recognize that every word has energy, **EVERY WORD HAS POWER.**

You may begin to change the way that you speak right now. You may stop before you make a nasty remark, a racial slur or before you snap at someone who is not involved in your present bad mood. You can take the time to rephrase you statement. You might even find that there is nothing to say if you begin to align with your inner directive. **YOU ARE THE DESIGNER OF YOUR LIFE!!** With each word, thought or image of your life you create the next moment, the next day, the next phase of your journey.

There are those who take great pride in being spiteful, superior or intimidating. They are lonely, isolated beings and even when they are surrounded by people who “love them no matter what”; they keep a distance with their words so that those who care cannot approach. This often becomes the excuse to be even

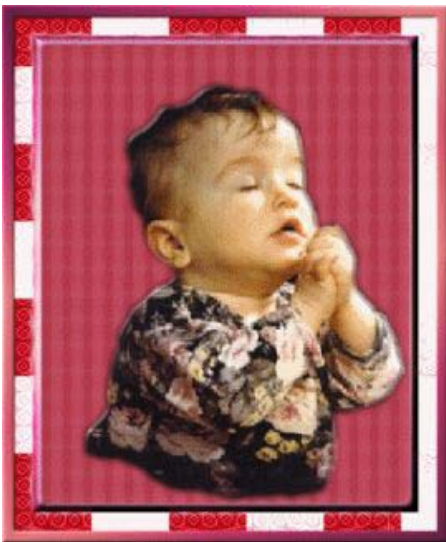
more disdainful and haughty. The thought may be that “if those around me were not such cowards they would come closer”. This thought may not be said out loud, but the sharp and critical words express the unsaid ideas. More often than not these entities live to regret their actions, but often it appeared to be too late to change the life that they created with their words and thoughts.

When the way of life seems to be rocky and fraught with obstacles is the perfect time to practice creating the life that you desire rather than perpetuating the gloomy place where you find yourself. The EGO will say that it is too hard to think of something happy when you have just lost your job, found out that you have a dreaded disease or been told that the person that you believed you would spend the rest of your life with is leaving. That is the most wonderful time to be there for yourself and spend your time paying attention to what you are thinking because in that moment you can make your life something new and positive or descend into the pits of Hell. You *will think*, so become the director of your life. Call upon the Angels, the Masters and God to help you rise up and live the life that you were meant to live. No one else can make your life work but you. If one strong support appears to be taken away then turn your eyes in a new direction and discover that there are many who are waiting to help you as you will allow. Make positive statements and place them where you can see them daily. Put your attention to opening a space within you that can be filled with greater love and joy than ever. The EGO wants you to look back and base your future on what didn’t work before. It is time for you to exert the power of your words to make a life that isn’t hooked into the pain of the past, but open and allowing to bringing in bright, new and different ways of being. **YOU ARE THE DESIGNER OF YOUR LIFE. YOU AND GOD ARE THE COCREATORS THAT SHAPE EACH EVENT.**

Beloved Masters, the gift of the Word and the ability to use it to craft your life come from God. These gifts are not to be taken lightly nor discounted as nothing. When you pray you are designing your life by what you ask for. Feel the power of your words and make the decision to use this most magnificent tool to the very best of your ability to make your world a better place.

Until we meet again, in what ever manner that may be I remain your most humble servant, the Lord St. Germain. Adieu

Sometimes we forget **the really important things in life.**



Last week, I took my grand-children to a restaurant. My six-year-old grand-son asked if he could say grace.

As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Nana gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my grand-son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my grand-son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my grand-son asked.

"Cross my heart," the man replied.

Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my grand-children ice cream at the end of the meal. My grand-son stared at his for a

moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."



The End

I love this story!
Sometimes, we all need some ice cream.
I hope God sends you some ice cream today!

This is an interesting provocative article that examines different facets of Marriage and or the lack of it and how the out focus of the society, looking for a place to lay blame outside of the traditional marriage, has created a social issue that no one wants to acknowledge.

In his August 5 editorial entitled "You Call This Marriage?" Alexander Chee wrote:

The week of the decision on Proposition 8 was also the week of the decision on "The Bachelorette." Ali Fedotowsky said yes to Roberto Martinez, one out of 25 who competed for the chance. ...

There could be no more perfect metaphor for the state of modern marriage this week.

In the U.S., a couple who barely know each other can marry in a publicly validated media spectacle with a sound track, soft lighting, promotional deals and a cash prize, as long as they are a man and a woman. So far, since the show's inception in 2003, Trista Rehn is the only one of the annual contestants to still be married.

Yet a couple who quietly have been together for 15 years and married twice, in California, each time it became legal, have had to see their relationship invalidated twice by the courts, by people claiming their marriage was threatening traditional marriage.

Despite the political firestorm surrounding the federal court decision that overturned California's Proposition 8 ban on gay marriage, little has been said about the real issues that are contributing to the dysfunctional American family. The disintegration of traditional marriage and the family, once the glue that kept society together, has set in motion a domino effect that, as it ripples outward, is relegating children to lives of poverty and servitude and destroying the foundations of freedom.

Contrary to what critics might say, same-sex marriage, while it may be a symptom of a cultural shift away from traditional marriage and all it has historically entailed, is not responsible for the collapse of marriage as a long-revered institution in this country. That blame rests squarely on the shoulders of heterosexuals for whom marriage -- and the family unit that arises from it -- has become a temporary arrangement at best, with divorce now seen as an immediate cure-all and cohabitation a happy, less permanent, alternative.

Even among professed evangelical Christians who tout

traditional marriage, divorce rates are comparable to those of non-Christians. And while the decline in divorce in recent years has been hailed as good news (it now stands at 40 percent, down from a high of nearly 60 percent in the 1980s), it is a false positive that is offset by falling marriage rates and surging cohabitations. As researcher George Barna observes:

There no longer seems to be much of a stigma attached to divorce; it is now seen as an unavoidable rite of passage. Interviews with young adults suggest that they want their initial marriage to last, but are not particularly optimistic about that possibility. There is also evidence that many young people are moving toward embracing the idea of serial marriage, in which a person gets married two or three times, seeking a different partner for each phase of their adult life.

That said, divorce is not solely to blame for the collapse of the institution of marriage. Marriage generally seems to be falling out of favor everywhere except in the realm of reality TV. For the first time in American history, unmarried households now make up the majority of all U.S. households. Younger generations are also more inclined to live together.

Where once the institution of marriage gave legitimacy to sexual relations and children, it no longer serves as much of a gatekeeper. This can largely be attributed to the sexual revolution, which paved the way for sex outside of marriage; the feminist movement, which pushed to legalize abortion, thereby making pregnancy a woman's "problem" to deal with as she sees fit; and the decreased role of religion in American life. Consequently, nearly 40 percent of all U.S. children are now born out of wedlock. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of unmarried-couple households with children has risen to more than 1.7 million -- up from under 200,000 in 1970. Moreover, there are 9.8 million single mothers versus 1.8 million single fathers.

The ramifications of the breakdown of marriage and the subsequent rise in single-parent households are far-reaching and alarming. For example, children living with a single mother are six times more likely to live in poverty than are children whose parents are married. The same study found that children in stepfamilies and single-parent families are almost three times more likely to drop out of school than children in intact families. And living in a single-parent home can cause a disconnect among children between family and marriage. Moreover, as W. Bradford Wilcox, director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, notes in "The Evolution of

Divorce":

Since 1974, about 1 million children per year have seen their parents divorce – and children who are exposed to divorce are two to three times more likely than their peers in intact marriages to suffer from serious social or psychological pathologies. In their book *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*, sociologists Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur found that 31% of adolescents with divorced parents dropped out of high school, compared to 13% of children from intact families. They also concluded that 33% of adolescent girls whose parents divorced became teen mothers, compared to 11% of girls from continuously married families. And McLanahan and her colleagues have found that 11% of boys who come from divorced families end up spending time in prison before the age of 32, compared to 5% of boys who come from intact homes. ...

Sociologist Paul Amato estimates that if the United States enjoyed the same level of family stability today as it did in 1960, the nation would have 750,000 fewer children repeating grades, 1.2 million fewer school suspensions, approximately 500,000 fewer acts of teenage delinquency, about 600,000 fewer kids receiving therapy, and approximately 70,000 fewer suicides every year.

These statistics tell some painful truths about America at the dawn of the new millennium. They show that our priorities have clearly shifted. Despite the billions we spend on childcare, toys, clothes, private lessons, etc., a concern for our children no longer seems to be a prime factor in how we live our lives. What are the consequences of all this?

First, the loss of the traditional family structure has led to a destabilization in society of "mediating structures" - neighborhoods, families, churches, schools and voluntary associations. When they function as they should, mediating structures limit the growth of the government. But when these structures break down, people look to mega-structures, such as the state, for help. According to Wilcox, the public costs of family breakdown among working-class and poor communities exceed \$112 billion a year "as federal, state, and local governments spend more money on police, prisons, welfare, and court costs, trying to pick up the pieces of broken families."

Second, major religious institutions have virtually little to no moral or spiritual impact on American society – apart from politics, that is. The Christian church is a prime example. Intensely political, many Christian organizations today work feverishly to enact such anti-

gay measures as same-sex marriage amendments while doing little to impact the traditional family positively. Indeed, despite all the money (\$40 million and counting), politicking, fundraising and energy that conservative Christian groups put into defeating gay marriage in California, nothing was accomplished in terms of shoring up the traditional family structure.

Third, the data supports the premise that the decline in the family leads to a decline in our democratic form of government. Indeed, the family, not schools, is where children should learn self-government, basic moral values and the beliefs that determine the future of democratic institutions. Thus, it stands to reason that without stable families, we can have no hope of producing self-reliant, responsible citizens.

Finally, traditional marriage plays a critical role in the structure of free societies by interposing a significant legal entity between the individual and the state. None other than D. H. Lawrence, author of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, once recognized:

The marriage bond is the fundamental connecting link in Christian society. Break it, and you will have to go back to the overwhelming dominance of the State, which existed before the Christian era. The Roman State was all-powerful, the Roman father represented the State, the Roman family was the father's estate, held more or less in fee for the State itself. Now the question is, do we want to go back, or forward, to any of these forms of State control?

Lawrence continued:

It is marriage, perhaps, which has given man the best of his freedom, given him his little kingdom of his own within the big kingdom of the State, given him his foothold of independence on which to stand and resist an unjust State. Man and wife, a king and queen with one or two subjects, and a few square yards of territory of their own: this, really, is marriage. It is a true freedom because it is a true fulfillment, for man, woman, and children.

There can be no easy fix for these problems. Certainly, there are no legislative or governmental solutions, and fighting gay marriage isn't going to do it. Morality and the decline of the family have become convenient platforms for those on both sides of the political aisle. Having reduced the very real problems plaguing America's families to sound bites bandied about in the quest for political dominance, today's politicians, gay rights activists and traditional marriage activists are not providing a lasting solution to the

marriage meltdown.

The solution, if there is one, is to be found where the problems start: with each man, woman and child taking responsibility for keeping their family together. So let's forget about politics. Forget about the debates over who gets to marry whom. Instead, let's look around at what's left of our neighborhoods, our communities and our families, and put our children first.

Comments from an astrological view: By the end of the 1940's the planet Uranus, ruler of the sign of Aquarius, had entered the sign of Cancer, naturally related to home and family. The Second World War had just ended and women who had been considered only "home makers" had gotten a taste of freedom from domestic duties as their basic lot in life. Uranus is associated with conflict and upheaval so there were changes in the perspective of exactly what we had been taught for thousands of years about women and family. The home unit began to dramatically shift. As "the little woman" grew up and stood tall in her own understanding rather than asking the permission of men as to how she should act, live or be the divorce rate began to soar. Some divorces occurred because the men who went over seas to war found that they had outgrown the women who pleased the boy, but not the man. (Big changes in the home and family occurred as so many men left to go abroad) Some divorces came, because the woman, who had been forced to become the head of the house, by war, could not go back to being "just a wife". Then there was a general breakdown in the beliefs around the "institution of marriage". As the Aquarian Age moved into place relationships began to change from the old ways and beliefs that the family must stay together for survival, to a different perspective that is more in alignment with what the Aquarian Age is about. The Age of Aquarius celebrates diversity and honors different points of view. Relationships based on Love don't fit into a box. There are people who, for decades, have stayed together in the hell of a relationship that has no common bond, except a certificate of marriage. Very often the assumption that "if we get married things will just work out" falls apart because the two entering the marriage have very different opinions and did not want to discuss the differences with each other until after the marriage took place, for fear that the marriage would not happen if they revealed who they were. "Polite society" does not make for honest relationships, especially in the old order.

Uranus has continued to implement change, **change, CHANGE** over the last sixty plus years. As it moved through the sign of Leo ideas about what love is began to change. Uranus, in the 1960's moved through Virgo while cojoined with Pluto. This brought about a focus on "free love" (Uranus) or sex (Pluto) without the governing factor of marriage. Major changes in the work place, as more and more people made relationships at work, because they were spending more time there than at home. When Uranus transited Libra, the sign associated with marriage and partnership, during the 1970's the "institution of marriage" took another turn. This was when the legal profession began, more than ever, to insidiously push divorce as a solution because it was so lucrative to their business. All of the mental, emotional and moral changes opened the door for divorce to become commonplace. From the mid-1970's to the end of 1981 Uranus moved through Scorpio where the emphasis was on both sex and spirituality. These might seem to be at opposite ends of the scale and yet our sexuality and spirituality are both powerful expressions of our basic selfhood. As 1982 opened Uranus took its challenges to marriage into Sagittarius, which is about investigation and exploration. The Age of Aquarius was dawning brighter and brighter. The desire for personal freedom was overriding the old instinct to take a mate just to be safe. By December of 1988 Uranus took its first steps into the bastion of the patriarchy as it entered Capricorn. Here in the halls of the patriarchy Uranus began to truly undo "that's just how it is" as Revelation began to shine the light on the dark and hidden places of the "good ole boys club". The double standard for women, those of other cultures, those of "lower status"—money, education, accomplishment—began to show up. The standard for marriage that "a man needs a woman to make the façade look real" began to crack open. More and more, in place where the *standard of ones morals was the measure of the man*, revelations of immoral behavior in the institution of marriage began to really show up. (Now those revelations are so common place that there is the momentary "tut, tut" and then on to the next scandal.) Seven long years later (a cycle of Uranus) at the beginning of 1996, Uranus leaped into Aquarius to really prepare us for what would emerge as we crossed the line into the new millennium. Liberated thinking around relationship, sexuality and what unity is all about emerged from this transit. By March 2003, Uranus entered into Pisces, which deals with religious beliefs, faith, karmic patterns and victimization among other things. There has been a resurgence of religious fervor and the media has made marriage a real "three ring circus". Romance sells, but it is an illusion, and so, it is appearing to be is

marriage, just for the sake of show—"See us be married. That means we are acceptable." In May of this year, Uranus moved into Aries (the "I" sign) to join Jupiter, which hold the lofty thoughts and ideals about all factors in our lives in place. Uranus brings its nature of disruption to all of the self-centered practices that have sprung up around relationships of all kinds—friendships, business and, yes, marriage. Tina Turner sang "what's love got to do with it?" and as Uranus journeys through Aries we will be brought to fully consider "Where did the love go over the past centuries?" Perhaps the Aquarian Age will help us to remember.

The psychology of the collective mind is different and even though there are many people who would attempt to cling to the old ideologies those concepts are dissolving in the energetic shifts that the new order is bringing.

Whether a relationship is between a man and a woman or two men or two women, the most important factor, especially if children are involved, is that the two really love, care for and appreciate each other deeply so that the relationship has strong foundations. The sign of Aquarius is about fairness and equality. A marriage license may be binding under man's law and therefore costs a lot of money to break, but love is the finest element of God's Love in a union and when it is missing all of the legalities in the world will not make a strong, vital, supportive relationship. You cannot legislate true love.

Perhaps, in the energy of the Aquarian Age, it is to stop asking permission of a body of your peers to sanction the relationship and begin to ask serious questions of yourself, "Who am I and what am I bringing into this relationship? Who am I really? What do I want for myself and my partner? What am I willing to give and am I willing to accept the things that I am asking for out of this union?" Clarity is a healer in this case.

The old order made marriage appear to be sanctified. It progressively gave the church and the legal profession more control over the lives of the people. Since World War II there has been less and less concern about whether a marriage existed. The energy of Aquarius sees that it isn't just appearances but the truth of the relationship that matters. As the old order passes if you do not love yourself enough to love someone else all of the reasons that society has given for marriage (security, sex, social status, legal opportunities, protection of money and goods) are not good enough. Will Uranus make such changes that

marriage as we have known it will take a new form or will we just become more conscious of our part in the relationship called marriage?—Molly

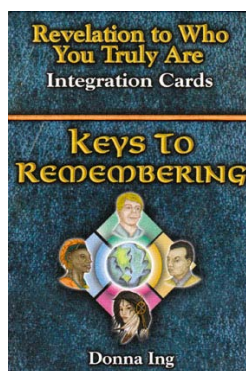
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