

# LOVENOTES

a publication of  
PEBBLE HILL INTERFAITH  
CHURCH

Exploring a ministry on the fringes with roots firmly planted in the center

## Our Hero's Journey or the "Gift of Conflict"

As Rob K. spoke about the "Hero's Journey," and how organizations also have their own hero's journeys—challenges that call the organization to make transformative changes, I was reminded of all the struggles with conflicts that Pebble has been through. If we were to assess how we are doing, our continuing struggles would indicate that this is one **"hero's journey" that is not yet over.**

I was also called to reflect on my own struggles with conflict. As a person who dislikes the tension created by conflicts, I have too often dealt with conflicts by trying my best to avoid them—frequently holding onto a seething resentment that simmered below the surface—and kept me from really "moving on". Being a "good student", I proceeded to "study" conflict resolution, attempting to learn the skills that would enable me master conflict—once and for all. Little did I realize that, if such a thing were possible, I would have been denying myself one of my best teachers! I did learn a lot—mediation, communication and problem solving skills—even taught these skills to others, mostly children and schoolteachers—following the dictate "we teach best what we most need to learn." However, I also learned some lessons along the way that were not part of the planned curriculum, but which proved to be more valuable.

Being a student of *A Course in Miracles*, I have often been blessed with "miracles" of changes in my perception, taught by teachers, who have appeared in some rather unexpected disguises. One such experience occurred, when I had a

summer job teaching "conflict resolution" to children as part of a leadership-training program run by the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation. Children who were strong swimmers were recruited for this program to strengthen their swimming skills, as well as their leadership skills, in an effort to develop future lifeguards for the city's pools. The program was well funded, but lacking in practicality. The children had swimming lessons in the morning, and then were expected to sit through lessons in the afternoons, inside a recreation center—without air-conditioning—while other children were heard splashing in the pool just outside. This was certainly challenging, but I gave it my best.

One hot afternoon, I was challenged by two boys who showed-up for their first day, having missed several days. They were determined to take control of the group; were constantly talking, making inappropriate comments and gestures, and defied me and every rule or limit I attempted to set. I felt weary and not up to the battle they seemed to be determined to have. In that moment, I surrendered, and turned to "holy spirit" for assistance. I made a silent prayer—telling spirit that I didn't know what to do and that spirit was going to have to "handle it." I felt better, and just continued to go through the motions of various planned activities with those who were doing their best to participate. Very shortly thereafter, one of the other children, a 12-year-old girl, commented that she thought that these two boys were behaving the way they were, because they were

nervous—it being their first day and all. She compassionately said that they were probably worried about being liked, and that we should reassure them, because we have all been the "new kid" at some time. The two boys sat and listened to her in stunned silence, with their jaws open—and were transformed into quiet, well-behaved, and cooperative group participants....And I said another prayer, this one of gratitude, for my 12-year-old teacher and the "miracle" she brought me.

I've had many teachers through the years—some in the form of books authors. Don Miguel Ruiz in *The Four Agreements* provided me with the mantra, "Don't take it personally," which I've repeated hundreds of times when I've been offended by "inappropriate" behavior. I've often faced a conflict remembering the words of Richard Bach in *Illusions*, "There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands. You seek problems because you need their gifts." Another lesson I recall, is a quote from Yogi Amrit Desai, "The challenge of being in a relationship, is that it brings up the stuff that you need to work on, and the gift of being in a relationship, is that it brings up the stuff that you need to work on." This is true whether the relationship is with one or with hundreds.

Our community is rich with the **gifts of opportunities to work on the many things we all need to work on.** Learning to deal with the logs in our own eyes rather than focusing on the specks in the eyes of others, is one such gift, as is seeing one another as teachers in all situations. May we be grateful for one another as the lessons, and the journey, continue!

-Karen H.-

**Pebble Hill Church Town Meeting Minutes**

March 16, 2008

Bonnie M., Facilitator  
 Nancy H., Acting Secretary  
 The Meeting commenced at 12:30 p.m. with twenty one members in attendance.

The agenda was announced:

- 1. Call for any new agenda items**
- 2. Council Meeting report**
- 3. Requirements for new membership**
- 4. Communications standards and agreements and limits**

The meeting was reminded that we would be operating by consensus. The meeting was further reminded that we are not a decision making body, but rather a deliberative meeting that works to make the will of the community known. Council can be informed as to the will of the community, but the "community's will" derived in the Town Meeting is not binding on the Council.)

**1. Call for any new agenda items**

A. The question was raised about which Sunday of the month Town Meeting should be held. Considerations of holding the Town Meeting the Sunday before the Council meeting, the difficulty of Council to consider the Town's input in the email heavy week before Council meets, and the problem of interfering with Peace Soup Sunday led to a consensus that meeting the [3rd] Sunday, after council meets, should be the fixed date. This practice is in place now.

B. The April meeting's subject was announced and will be "Do we want to look into searching for a new minister or not?"

**2. Council Meeting report**

Linda L. relayed the activities of Council's last meeting:

A. Anne B. has officially resigned. She was gratefully thanked for her service to the community. The question of who or whether to fill the vacant position can be answered in three ways

according to the bylaws -

- a. Leave the opening until the next election in the fall.
  - b. Tap the next highest vote getter from the last election
  - c. Council can appoint someone to the position
- The question has been tabled until the next Council meeting at which a full quorum of members are expected.

Discussion - Linda said that in October, 6 would be elected instead of the usual 5 if the position is left open until then. It was suggested that the next greatest vote getter from the last election be installed.

Linda encouraged anyone who was interested, to come to the Council meeting and voice their opinion. Council meetings are always open to all members.

B. The finance committee will meet at the end of March. The budget is for \$51,000 of which 56.6% has been pledged so far. The other sources of income are gifts (always welcome), the plate (which has been good), and rentals which have been very good. The desire of Council is for the pledge to be completed so that the budget can be fully realized.

C. The membership directory has been updated (see Beth for same.)

D. Camp is being diligently worked on.

E. Calls to members who have not yet pledged are being made by members of Council to complete the pledge.

F. Each Council meeting there will be a report from each committee so that Council can catch up on what is happening. The results will be posted on line and also posted on the bulletin board.

G. Plumbing repair has been made - \$1,500 expected and \$600 unpredicted.

**3. Requirements for new membership**

The Membership By-Laws were reviewed:

By-Laws say one must participate in Pebble Hill activities before becoming a member, and that Pebble Hill must create a New Member Sunday at least 3 times per year.

The by-laws give a broad indication of what constitutes the "courtship" period before membership is entered into, but the specifics of what "activities" need to be identified.

The consensus reached stated that it was necessary and sufficient to attend Pebble Hill Celebration "regularly" for three months so that the community and the prospective member could get to know one another.

Consensus was reached: of all the Pebble activities: Social activities, gallery activities, morning meditation, Sangha, rental of space and Sunday celebration, only Sunday celebration is sufficient to qualify a new person as having participated for three months.

Any existing Pebble members who came in by any other method are entirely and fully enfranchised members. This consensus of Town Meeting is meant to inform the community from this time onward.

**4. Communications standards and agreements and limits**

This agenda item was tabled because of insufficient time.

Bonnie Mettler, Town Meeting Chair

4/3/08

Your presence is requested as

Maggie Wilson  
 &  
 Lawrence Crouthamel  
 are united in holy matrimony

Saturday, the twenty-first of June  
 two thousand and eight,  
 two o'clock in the afternoon  
 At Pebble Hill Church

Reception to follow at Pebble

Please contact Rev. Karen to see how you can  
 assist in this very special event  
 (267-880-6084, kafairman@comcast.net)

**CELEBRATIONS**

**Apr 6 Wizard of Oz.**

A “Red Shoes” celebration—all you need do to get home is click your heels! (the answer is always within us). Susan Manning is on board to lead this Sunday.

**Apr 13 Edgar Cayce**

**Apr 20 Earth Day**

Tim McKenzie’s band may play a featured role.

**Apr 27 Charley Thweatt featured**

**May 4 Beltane/Spring Fling**

**May 11 Open**

**May 18 Open**

**May 25 Open**

**These are subject to change.** *If you would like to speak, dance, sing or write a skit,* let us know (Larry H., Tim M., Gail R., or Rick B.) or come to the celebration planning meetings on Tuesdays, 7:30 pm in the Red Barn office.

Larry Hall  
Celebration Coordinator  
610-847-2818  
alert@epix.net

**Pebble Hill Church Camp**

***is happening!!!***

The newly re-formed Camp Committee has been working to find just the right camp for our August 2008 Pebble Camp Site. The decision will be finalized soon as we are in the process of making visits to camps. We’ve discovered beautiful new camps, perfect for a fresh crop of Pebble memories. All on lakes suitable for water-skiing, tubing, canoeing, sailing, fishing, swimming, sunbathing, and smoozing. Soon we will be inviting you to help us create new traditions at this 1<sup>st</sup> time Pebble camp.

***This year the camp....  
Is the Virgin!***

**Pastoral Care**

Reverend Diane Bull is offering pastoral care to the Pebble Hill community. Diane is available from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Community Office, on the first through third Tuesdays of the month.

You can make an appointment (215-348-3428) or drop in. For insight into Diane's approach to pastoral care, see the Jan./Feb. issue of Lovenotes (available at pebblehillchurch.org).

*\*No counseling or psychotherapy services that would require a license in the state of PA are offered.*

**WANTED: Frustrated Gardeners in search of a Plot!**

By Suzan B.

Hey, all—As many of you know, I live on a WONDERFUL piece of land\* in. . . where else? GARDENVILLE! As many of you may also know, I have two prevalent conditions, which make it very difficult for me to carry out much of the physical part of creating a garden. Fortunately, much of the pleasure of making a good garden is in sharing the toil and the take with others. I have a space already fenced If you love to spend a little time each few days working in the sun in beautiful soil toward the creation of a beautiful, bountiful garden, please let me know. I have up to 2 acres of full-sun space with worms a-plenty, abundant well water and years of experience. I’ve already had seeds offered for free and have a friend locally who will till this space and any additional space we choose to add to the garden.

Please call (Suzan – 215-766-9256) and let’s get together and to talk about how we can work toward a beautiful, bountiful Cooperative Garden for this summer!

## Pebble Hill Church Town Meeting

Sunday after Celebration **Feb 17, 2008** 12:30 PM  
36 Attendees

Bonnie M - Facilitator  
Bill M - Time Keeper  
Linda L - Minutes

**1. Agenda** Overview for the Meeting - Bonnie M. New topics were called for. None were suggested for this meeting, but anyone may suggest topics for upcoming town meetings. April was determined to be the Town Meeting at which to discuss the issue of a Minister of Pebble—do we want to continue as we are for the time being or look to make any change?

**2. Conflict Resolution Procedure** was outlined by Bonnie M.

- A. *Personal Discussion*: The two people in conflict try to work it out
- B. *Formal Conflict Resolution*: If A does not succeed, a Facilitator may be invited.
- C. *Town Meeting*: If B does not succeed, a conflict may be brought to Town Meeting. Future Town Meeting topics can include a conflict resolution discussion about a “facilitating cohort” of 2 to 6 people as a more effective **step C**.

It was emphasized that Step A needs to be attempted diligently first. Gretchen A. will research “Program for Going Beyond” from a former Council that may inform our present conflict resolution process.

**3. Consensus (outline of procedure and history - hand-out) – presented by Gary S.** Gary pointed out that the current bylaws state that meetings at Pebble are to be conducted by consensus (except for council which has the option of consensus). Many of the points that were reviewed pointed toward coming to agreement on issues, for example the guidelines encouraged people to be sensitive to the wishes of the group when possible. The remainder of the meeting was conducted using the consensus model.

**4. Feb Council Review** - Linda L. 2008-2009 Budget presentation with a huge, colorful and descriptive set of pie charts to illustrate the 2008 budget. Linda created a bit of live theatre demonstrating the income (enormous - checks received from the audience and out flow —bills came in from PECO stand-ins and other vendors.) Great fun. (2008-2009 Budget available online, on Bulletin Board or on request)

Requests were made for a report on Pledge progress & income/expense on a weekly basis in the Celebration Bulletin from the Financial Task Force / PHC Treasurer.

Pledge confidentiality vs. acknowledging donors was

discussed. The general consensus of the meeting was that our community must do the very best they can with pledging without a published pledge donor list as a lever (positive or negative reinforcement).

Request was made for a peace dove thermometer, to be mounted on the bulletin board as a visual encouragement for the community in its efforts to fulfill the pledge.

**5. Sangha Conflict** was brought up at the January Town Meeting as an off agenda item. Nonetheless Fran P.'s concerns about appropriate routing of inquiries on the website were addressed and have subsequently been apologized for and corrected.

Some discussion happened on the subject of whether the Sangha is a Pebble institution or rather an entity that uses Pebble facilities and has some Pebble members who participate. This consideration related to whether the conflict between Sangha members should properly come before the Town Meeting.

Larry H. asked whether prior attendance at the Sangha counted the same as prior attendance at celebrations in determining eligibility for membership in Pebble. By-laws simply state loosely that prior “participation” in Pebble is a requirement.

To clarify, Town Meeting will not be used as a forum for interpersonal conflict resolution. Other steps (listed above) will be employed more effectively than large group meetings.

Meeting adjourned.

### Gratitude...

We are grateful for all the pledges that have been made to Pebble Hill, and for all those yet to be made; for the donations placed in the Sunday baskets; for the Patagon and Inchantations concert and other fundraising events; for donations for our families in Nicaragua and Namibia; for the income from the rental of our facilities; for the efforts of all those who serve Pebble in so many ways—the ministers, speakers, singers, musicians, altar divas, set-up helpers, bulletin-elves, greeters, fire-keepers, sound-masters, and celebration imagineers—the council members and officers who keep us, our finances, and our property in their care—the administrators, artists, committee members, dancers, dreamers, drummers, painters, performers, poets, puppeteers, story tellers, web gurus, workers, and writers—the soup makers, desert bakers, and dish washers—the money counters and the check writers—the organizers and planners—the mediators and meditators—our members and attenders, past and present, and visitors—those who pray for us, and those who request our prayers. **We are grateful for all that is Pebble.**

**Nicaragua Update  
March 08**

Prepared by Carolyn Penta

Thank you, thank you, for all you contributed in interest and gifts to the Nicaraguan Mission. The trip this year was gratifying in terms of the help that Pebble Hill was able to give, and the progress made in this rural community in the hills of southern Nicaragua. From January 16<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>, Carolyn Penta and Mayra Gibson participated in the life of the community and delivered your gifts.

It was somewhat rainy this trip, so there was the constant dealing with the mud— and the truck, as always, was a worry and a responsibility. We have not as yet found a way to deliver the equipment and supplies any other way. This year the truck could not be trusted to get us up the horse trail to the community of Sabalo, as the mud was too deep. The horse carrying two bags of school supplies fell in the mud on the way to the one room school house.

You could not be there to witness the astonishment on the faces of the people when we handed out the first-ever song books to the congregation assembled in the chapel. Nor could you hear Socorro say, “Oh, I wish I could read these words and sing these songs.”—words that launched a new “Adult Education Program”. Nor could you be there during the great “clothing give away”—finding the

right size person to fit the perfect shirt or pants. “We only get new clothes when you come,” someone remarked.

You missed witnessing the 4H Club’s great school bag distribution, with the explanation— “here is a card and picture from the

**To recap our mission:** We have a High School Scholarship Program that was started 2 years ago (10 students graduated last December and there are 8 students for this school year); an Adult Education Program; support for the Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades; clothing support for the large extended Garcia Family; and support for the rural chapel.

person who prepared the bag, and with this postcard, please write them a note and we will take it to them.” What a concept for them to grasp – “someone very far away did this for me— and I am sending them back a postcard”. Mayra and Carolyn translated these on the plane going home, and they were forwarded to Julian Bence. Country to Country, language to language— interacting with children who can hardly read and write—who are being taught in one room with 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades by one teacher!

Santo, the teacher, turned the school library that we furnished several years ago, into a lending library— with cards to sign out, to take the books home. We added to the library this trip. “Lending” libraries are not the norm in Nicaragua. This must be a first in the whole area.

A new and unexpected endeavor was the “Adult Education Program”. Socorro’s remark revealed her inability to read, and we learned other people were also unable to read or write. With that, the program fell in place like dominoes falling, one thing leading to another in rapid succession. There was a program available in the town, with free materials supplied by the Cuban Government. The materials turned out to be a TV, a DVD player, a DVD, and a book for the teacher. “Well, without electricity, how could this be done?” I asked. Simple—a

battery! At that point, all that was needed was a “let’s do it”. With the writing of a check, it happened. We have learned by e-mail, that it is up and running. There are 11 students. The battery is working! The program is a year long ,with material up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It turned out that students, who could read and write a bit, also joined—to learn, for example, math or history.

Our thanks to all of you for your generous attention and support to make a difference in people’s lives.

**The Pebble Hill Community Drum Circle** meets on the second Friday of every month in the Red Barn at 8:00 p.m. It is an improvisational drum circle. All hand drums, percussion instruments and experience levels are welcome. Dancing is encouraged!

The drum is for everyone, you don't have to be a musician to participate.

Caryn Cziriak is our facilitator.  
Suggested donation is \$10 per person.

**Pebble Hill Phone Tree:** Keeping everyone in the loop! Weekly news and announcements and last-minute invitations that were previously only posted on the website and PHC Announcements E-list will be recorded and sent to your home phone. If you are a computer-free person and are interested in this service, please call the office administrator (215-348-3428) or leave your name and phone number on the door of the Administration Office downstairs.



# The Moses Code and Global Peace Vigil:



Pebble Hill Church  
Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10.00 per person.

**Global Peace Vigil on Sunday, April 6th**  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

*This is an opportunity to use the Law of Attraction to create peace on the deepest level*

### About The Moses Code movie:

Thirty-five hundred years ago God gave Moses a gift that changed the world. Some of the most incredible miracles in history came from applying a simple code, activating the power of the creative force of God in the world. This code, if finally applied by humanity, has the power to transform the planet, as well as **add the richest blessings to your own life.**

Learn more about the movie and see the trailer at [themosescode.com](http://themosescode.com). **For more information, or to purchase your own DVD, contact Gary S. at 610-789-9833.**

Tickets are available on our website, on Sundays following Celebration and at the church office during the week.

### I AM Prayer - By Rev. Karen F.

Breath in on: **IAM**, Exhale on :  
*your creative prayer and intention.*

**I AM**  
*healed body, whole body, perfect body.*

**I AM**  
*healed mind, whole mind, perfect mind.*

**I AM**  
*healed soul, whole soul, perfect soul.*

**I AM**  
*healed spirit, whole spirit, perfect spirit.*

**(breath in)**  
*I AM that,*

**I AM**



## Charley Thweatt Concert and Workshop:

### Evening Concert - Sat., April 26

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 in advance,  
\$20 day of performance

### Course in Miracles Workshop - Sun., Apr. 27

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Interactive songs and play.

Bring your musical instruments.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of performance.

We are delighted to **welcome Charley Thweatt back to Pebble Hill Church.** Charley's spiritual, acoustic-pop music rings the bell of truth, opens hearts, and unites in joyful spirit. See [www.musicangel.com](http://www.musicangel.com)

Charley will sing during Celebration on April 27th.

**Tickets are available on our website, on Sundays following Celebration, and at the church office during the week.**

For more information, contact Gary S., 610-789-9833

**Gratitude Journals!!!**



A researcher at UC-Davis, Robert Emmons, found that patients who made a daily list of the five things or people they were grateful for, and why, showed improved scores for mental health and general well-being after 21 days. *Thanks, How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007).

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **The last Peace Soup Sunday will be held right after** \*  
 \* **Celebration on April 13th.** There will be a sign-up  
 \* clipboard on the Sundays prior to the 13th, or **call Gail at**  
 \* **610-346-1997. Bringing a pot of soup, a dessert, or a**  
 \* **salad entitles you to a free meal for your family.** \*  
 \* Otherwise, lunch is \$5.00 per person. We also need bread  
 \* and drinks. If you choose to bring something and want a  
 \* voucher, you are requested to bring enough for 10. \*  
 \*  
 \* **On May 11th, we will have our first Cafe of the** \*  
 \* **season.** There will be sign-up sheets for this too, but for  
 \* more than just food. **We will need someone to help clean** \*  
 \* **off ALL of the tables and chairs.** This will be a very big job,  
 \* as they've been sitting out all winter and are very dirty. We  
 \* will supply the burgers and hot dogs, but you can **sign up to** \*  
 \* **bring desserts, salads, or drinks.** The cost will be the same  
 \* (\$5.00). We will also need volunteers to man the grill, in  
 \* addition to the usual set-up folks. Vouchers will be available  
 \* for food-bringers, grill-person, and table & chair cleaners. \*  
 \* Talk to either Nancy H. or Gail R. \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**Coming in May....**

**Elaine Silver**



**Saturday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.  
Pebble Hill Church**

Elaine Silver has a voice you'll never forget. It has been described as stunningly clear and fine, magnificent, rich and supple. She sings a cappella or accompanies herself on guitar and banjo, and has performed in concert for hundreds of thousands at colleges, festivals, churches, clubs and children's events throughout North America and Europe.

Many will remember her from her previous concerts at Pebble and performances at celebration, as well as her CD's. It is always a delight to have her here.

**Tickets will be available soon—on our website, on Sundays following Celebration, and at the church office during the week.**

For more information, contact Gary S., 610-789-9833

**Pebble Hill Gallery**

**APRIL 2008 Show**

**Artist: Ron Brown, 3D paintings and wall structures**

**April 1 - 27, 2008**

**THIRD Friday Open-Mike**

**Friday, April 18**

**7:30 - 10pm**

Ron has a master's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education. For nearly thirty years he has been a software engineer. For many years he has been fascinated by the complex patterns and structures that can evolve from a simple knight moving on a chessboard. Recently he has begun to explore the possibilities that the puzzle, Sudoku, can provide. *His artwork is scientifically based and rather unusual, it is amazing.*

**Calling all Pebble Scientists!!**

**On THIRD Friday, Ron will be reading a scientific paper that he presented at Towson University:** *"The title of my talk at Towson University's 'Mathematical Connections in Art, Music and Science' conference in 2002 was, "The Knight's Tour Problem as a Conceptual Tool for Interdisciplinary Studies".*

**MAY 2008 Show**

**Artist: David Simchock,**

**Photography**

**May 1 - 25, 2008**

**THIRD Friday Open-Mike**

**Friday, May 16**

**7:30 - 10pm**

*"Every adventure has its mystery. Every culture, its soul. Every community, its spirit. The sights. The sounds. The aromas. The vibes. **The people.** Over the course of the journey, they collectively culminate to define the mood of the experience.*

It is this mood that I aspire to capture with my photography and with my words, both spoken and written."

**Recycled art happening**

*By Gretchen A.*

*"Trash is simply a failure of imagination."*

- Neil Benson

Sunday, March 9th, following Celebration, Rev. Susan and I transformed Pebble's labyrinth into a comfortable, relaxed art environment, with paints & brushes, drop cloths, and companionship. Susan brought in her various sized recycled windows and people chose the one that called to them. She opened the room to dialogue about the many interpretations of windows and vision:

*"Re-cycle" "...a new cycle...we have many cycles to our lives, to the lives of our things, to the lives of our organizations...Pebble is going into a new cycle, another new cycle. With this window project we are cycling again the idea of a window...as a canvas, as a view, as dream, as a song, as a window..."*

It is another 'call to beautify' the world. We are starting this process early and can draw on all of the inspiration of all four seasons, the earth changes, the awakening of humanity (even though we may not see it on mainstream media), our sacred connection to each other, our direct connection to the Divine (whatever that means to us), our inner process toward unconditional Love, Peace and Joy!....among the other things that inspire us to our art!!

Windows began to be transformed: Walter created a series of 8 "Wheel of the year" paintings; Sallie M.'s goddesses; Toni K. stayed after the children's program with her son, who drew the story of Captain Underpants on his window; Joanie F. took a clear pane and painted beautiful blue eyes and a hand reaching outward; 3 girls from our children's program painted a mermaid mother and child. While Chloe I., Nancy H. and Sybil W. took their window's home. It's the 1st time I have picked up a paint brush in years (outside of Camp) & I had so much fun creating an abstract purple & blue window frame in this encouraging group.

***"There are no rules... only materials"***

Gretchen read quotes from Philly Dumpster Diver Artists: Burnell Yow!, "...trust your intuition, your inner knowing...allow yourself to be immersed in the process of creation as a joyous and sacred dance of materials..." & "There are no rules, only materials."

The magic has started! We are creating art together, recycling windows and visions, **preparing once again for Pebble's November Recycled Art Auction.** We will hold more of these painting events, so we can enjoy each other's inspired company in the creation of luminous visionary recycled art. We ask those who might not be painting a window, but who may have ideas to further this project, to please share them with Susan or Gretchen.

Keep an eye or ear open for the next date and join us as we look through Pebble's windows toward our future...**windows on the world**, enlightening, opening, visioning, windows to the soul, wonderful, clear, expanded, free, revealed, spacious, unlimited, understandable, day dreaming, welcoming...

Rev. Susan M. & Gretchen A.

## February 2008 News from the Culps

Write them at: [jgculp2012@gmail.com](mailto:jgculp2012@gmail.com)

**Jen says: Please disregard the mailing address in my last note. If you want to reach us by phone our Vonage line is a CA number and it will cost you the same as a call to CA. 530-725-0931**

Hola, Dear Friends and Family,

Well it's been too long. That means we've been otherwise occupied because we really don't spend our days sitting at the beach catching rays, reading mysteries and drinking cerveza. But having taken in the sunset at the beach, I sit here solo eating leftover spaghetti with a thick slice of multi-grain bread made by a local Argentine woman, and a yummy fresh avocado with lemon while Gar has gone off to Tepic (capital of Nayarit, our state) to a Mayan workshop gathering with Mexican teachers and elders who have some land out in the jungle where they are hoping to create a self-sustaining farm and do workshops.

Yes, there is much interest in the Mayan calendar here and Gar can always enter a good conversation and strike up a friendship through this avenue! I remain content focusing on my little charges and trying to learn to speak this darn language. So now for a bit of an overview of the past two months: It's lonnnnnnggggggg so if you get tired, just stop reading.

Actually we have become really involved in our little community, both of us serving on a committee to restore the town's cultural center to its former grandeur - not very grand but it is a building with wonderful potential for housing galleries, a small children's library and space for art and music classes. There is so much to learn about our community and much to learn about working with the natives who have seen their little fishing village of 20 years ago turn into a major tourist hotspot for surfers, free spirits, retirees from North America (mostly Victoria, British Columbia, WA, OR, CA and CO) as well as young families coming here to settle in. But here we are and those of us who have always had our fingers in a pot seem to jump in head first. We are also trying to establish what our role will be in the private bi-lingual elementary school that is being built here. We are a natural "feeder" school to this project but lack the necessary papers to do so. Should we try to get under their umbrella? Do we want to work that hard? Do we want to rent them space while they build? Many many things to mull over - lots of

*We love it all and feel lucky to be having yet another life experience that is helping us grow.*

opportunity!!! Hmm, think we've decided to pan that idea! Maybe we will rent out our apartments and travel. Not a bad idea!

We are seriously "building a house", this one made of lots of sand, stone and concrete mix! Gar has been at the drawing board. I walk through and put in my two cents worth, sometimes after the fact, but we are excited and feel really confident that our builder will create something we are going to love. As you may remember, we started with a concrete block frame and some interior walls. They immediately knocked out huge spaces for sliding windows and doors and they are already putting the first coat of stucco on some of the surfaces. It's a fun crew of about 8 to 10 guys who arrive six days a week at 7:00 sharp. We know they are having "fun at work" because we hear the laughter and joking and an occasional song. At 9:00 they leave for an hour and have deyseuno (breakfast), work until 12:30 or so, sit around on the lawn and eat lunch and then they are usually out of here by 3:45. It's all happening so fast that by the end of February we will need to be picking out tile, bathroom fixtures and furnishings. It's exciting and yes, scary! Is it possible that we will be able to use the house in April when Aaron, Jen and Kira arrive??? Yikes.

We did take a break after Christmas and had a great holiday with Jason and his girlfriend, Lanai, who were here for two weeks of "fun in the sun." (Now we really did sit around drinking cerveza and homemade margaritas while they were here!) Probably the highlight of their visit

was a boat trip hosted by one of the dads in our school who took us out looking for whales one Saturday morning. It was a marvel to see the coastline that we know only by car or beach walks - looking just like the pictures in magazines and postcards, white sand, swaying palm trees and fancy homes, condos and resorts. Jason was the first to spy the whales (humpbacks) who come here each winter to mate and give birth. Best viewing is Dec. 1 through March 31. It was thrilling to see these huge mammals perform and Enrique did his best to be respectful and yet get the show. We also saw dolphins, a sea turtle and huge manta rays leaping out of the water to "catch some rays." Wow! Wow! Other adventures: taking a boat out to Quimixto (south of Vallarta) to a beach and a hike up to a beautiful waterfall for some "cool" fun in the water,

(Continued on page 10)

*(Continued from page 9)*

an outing to Chacala, a beach town about 45 min. north of us, and hikes and picnics to other beaches within walking distance. One of our families invited us for sunset at their new beach house a la postcard and had a campfire complete with fresh grilled shrimp and mahi-mahi, a bag of marshmallows for dessert!

We loved meeting Lanai and feel excited that Jason has met such a special person, her laughter and generous spirit have endeared her to us.

Please disregard the mailing address I gave in my last note! It is NOT secure! Seriously, if you ever need to reach us, phone or e-mail. Our Vonage line is a CA number and it will cost you the same as a call to CA. 530-725-0931

Some highlights: Watching a mother sea turtle drag her huge body up onto the beach, dig a large hole and slowly begin to lay her eggs, one at a time, and then carefully cover them, slowly turning her body, carefully packing the sand firmly over the eggs before heading back into the sea. Hearing a rustling sound in our garbage one night at midnight after smelling a skunk, sending Gary out of bed for a look (nothing there, you foolish woman) and discovering a possum-like critter at the bottom of our deep garbage can the next morning. We kept it captive until the children arrived then let it go.

Celebrating the sunset at the beach with our school families and watching for the first star to appear (it was Mars, followed by Sirius) followed by a recitation of "Star Bright, Star Light" by one of our little girls. Clamoring over three miles of dirt road (hoping not to lose our car in a pothole) through mango groves and marshes to discover a sweet stretch of beach, and then coming

upon a Roseate Spoonbill (heron like bird with a long spoonlike bill) ambling down the road. Life IS sweet.

Mexico is a country with rich culture and beauty. It's filled with an amazing cast of people just like the good 'ole USA - some local characters full of color, the traditionalists, the hippies, the yuppies, the new rich, the old poor, the old rich, the young poor, close-mindedness, open-mindedness, friendly, suspicious, charming, witty, happy, sad, pregnant teenage girls, industrious hard workers, educated, uneducated, conservatives, liberals - a microcosm of the developing and more developed world. Which is best? Hard to say - We love it all and feel lucky to be having yet another life experience that is helping us grow.

So please let us hear from you. We loved receiving via Jason some of your greetings and Aaron read some of your letters to us over the phone. We will be back in PA to rustle up a little garden and some flowers in June and hope to connect face-to-face with many of you there. (We are only an airplane ride away as it is!)

Sending love and our very best wishes to you all.

--Jennifer and Gary

**House Share**, available now; \$425/mo, 1 month security; 2 rooms & full bath, share kitchen. Washer/Dryer, off-street parking (for 1 vehicle); Must love dogs. No smoking indoors, no drugs. **Call Anna May at: 215-766-9962 or 215-858-5918**

Classified advertisements are welcome. Contact the editor for fees and info. [Khakun@aol.com](mailto:Khakun@aol.com), 215 345-8238.

## A PLANETARY AWAKENING

Talk and Book signing by  
**Kathy Newburn**

Thursday, April 17, 2008  
Pebble Hill Church, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
free admission, all are welcome

This talk will focus on the Ageless Wisdom teachings of the Tibetan and Alice Bailey and their prophecies for a planetary expansion of consciousness. Many people understand that we are passing through a period of tremendous change and upheaval in our world. The wisdom teachings posit these events as the birth pangs of our entry into a new age. This talk will touch on the importance of this period in our planetary history and what we can do to contribute towards the process of change.

See [www.kathynewburn.com](http://www.kathynewburn.com)

Donations for the use of the space are welcome.

## Ongoing Group: Invest in Yourself Coaching Group

**Want to make a change? Be more assertive? Tap into inner resources?**

In this group, you will learn to improve communication, manage time and stress, set goals and be more positive. **Led by Pebble member Norm Danis, MA, MS**, former counselor and teacher at Drexel University, and long time Pathwork student. The group is limited in size and you may join at any time.

- Cost is \$15.00 per session. Special \$10.00 fee for Pebble members (if we have 6 or more participants.)
- There is an extra \$5.00 fee for first time participants; please arrive at 7:30 p.m. for an introductory session with Norm .
- For additional information or to arrange a personal session, contact Norm Danis at [215-855-2258](tel:215-855-2258)
- Ongoing 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Yellow Barn.

Nothing we do can change the past, but everything we do changes the future.

**PHC Calendar—April and May 2008**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>Mar. 30</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration	<b>31</b>	<b>Apr. 1</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 Children’s program mtng	<b>4</b> 7:30 The Moses Code movie	<b>5</b> 7:30 The Moses Code movie
<b>Apr. 6</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 12:00 Peace Vigil 1:30 ElderWise	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>9</b> 7:00 Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00 Drum Circle	<b>12</b>
<b>Apr. 13</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 12:30 Peace Soup 1:00 P&SJ	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 3rd Fri Gallery & Open Mike	<b>19</b>
<b>Apr. 20</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 12:30 Town Meeting 1:00 Membership	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>ELECTION DAY</b> 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 Voluntary Simplicity group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30 Charley Thweatt Concert
<b>Apr. 27</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 1:00 C. Thweatt W/S	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>30</b> 7:00 Financial TF	<b>May 1</b> 7:00 Children’s program mtng	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>May 4</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 1:30 ElderWise	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 Drum Circle	<b>10</b>
<b>May 11</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 12:30 Cafe 1:00 P&SJ	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>14</b> 7:00 Council	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30 3rd Fri Gallery & Open Mike	<b>17</b>
<b>May 18</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration 12:30 Town Meeting 1:00 Membership	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 3:00 Pastoral Care 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 Voluntary Simplicity group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>May 25</b> 9:00 Quiet Med. 10:30 Celebration	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 Celebration team 7:30 Mindfulness	<b>28</b> 7:00 Financial T/F	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30 Elaine Silver Concert

**How to schedule Pebble building use:**

1. Go to [www.PebbleHillChurch.org](http://www.PebbleHillChurch.org) and click "Calendar," then "Monthly Calendar." Check to see if there is already something booked for the space/date/and time you want to reserve. If the space/date/time is already taken, pick another space/date/time.
2. Go back and click "Calendar Scheduling" then enter the requested information

- Your Name, phone number, name of event  
Date & Space you wish to reserve  
Beginning and end times you want to reserve,  
including time needed for set up and clean up. Be sure to include AM or PM on all times.
3. "Submit" to the office manager to tentative hold the space/date/time, [office@pebblehillchurch.org](mailto:office@pebblehillchurch.org).
  4. Present your idea to council or contact Anne (215-860-4760, [abrentano@donorperfect.com](mailto:abrentano@donorperfect.com)) if it is a fundraiser.

## LOVENOTES

April—May 2008

Pebble Hill Interfaith Community



320 Edison –Furlong Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-348-3428  
www.pebblehillchurch.org  
office@pebblehillchurch.org

### STUDY AND SUPPORT GROUPS AT PEBBLE

- A Course in Miracles.** Thurs. 7:30 pm at Kalie M.'s, 215-672-1599.
- Bucks County Zone AA.** 3rd Mon. 7:00 pm, Yellow Barn UL
- Came to Believe AA.** Tues. 7:30 pm, Red Barn UL
- Community Drum Circle.** 2nd Friday at 8:00 pm.  
Contact Caryn C. 215-361-2709
- ElderWise,** 1st Sun. 1:30 Red Barn UL; Contact Elly M. 610-847-8599
- Eleventh Hour NA,** Sat. 11:00 pm, Yellow Barn UL
- Freedom to Live NA.** Wed. 7:30 pm, Yellow Barn UL
- Mindfulness Sangha.** Tues. 7:30 pm, Yellow Barn UL
- New Hope Metaphysical Society.** 4th Wed. 7:30 pm, (3rd Wed. in Nov. & Dec.), Red Barn,  
Contact nhms@spiritvision.com
- Peace & Social Justice.** 2nd Sun. 2:00 pm, Yellow Barn UL
- Poetry & Arts Gallery.** 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, Red Barn UL, Contact Gretchen A. 215-579-1443
- Steps to Serenity OA.** Mon. 10:30 am, Red Barn UL
- Voluntary Simplicity.** 4th Thurs. 7:30 pm, Yellow Barn UL, Contact Jim, 215-598-9762, or Karen K., 215-230-9899.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**April:** 1 Rhonda Greenberg; 2 Daniel Dench, 10 Barbara Kirk; 21 Fran Pulli; 22 Barbara Atkinson; 26 Mike Sturgeon, Sr.; 27 Jason Iceman

**May:** 5, Gary Scarpello; 16 Ray Windfelder, Alex Rocke; 20 Alan Dench, Jasmin Rocke; 25 Susan Manning; 27 Ann Brentano, Bill Mettler

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#### Birthday Update

If you want your birthday listed in LOVENOTES—be sure to get yours on the list. Look for it in celebration or on the bulletin board in the hall—or contact Karen (KHakun@aol.com, 215-345-8238).

#### Next LOVENOTES deadline: May 15th

Submit articles to khakun@aol.com

Anyone interested in reporting on Pebble events?—or committee activities?—*gentle* feedback welcome—let me know what you want in *your* newsletter.

Thanks, Karen