



Book Review

Renewing Helen Keller's Mission

How I Would Help the World

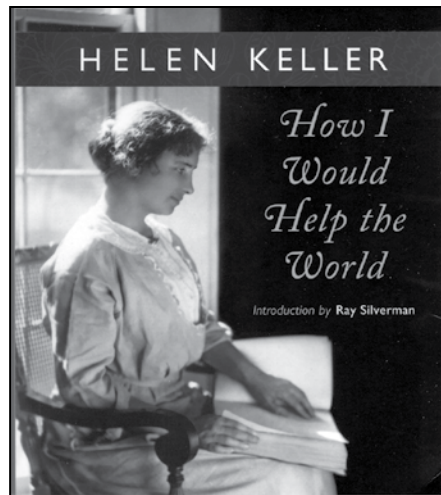
By Helen Keller
Introduction by Ray Silverman
Swedenborg Foundation

BY HERB ZIEGLER

Although Helen Keller is often cited as the most influential woman of the twentieth century, the gift she most wanted to share with the world was the revelations of biblical meeting revealed by Emanuel Swedenborg. The world marvels, in spite of her blindness and deafness, at her extraordinary intellect, compassion, and service to humanity while missing the driving force of her use in the world. Ray Silverman has resurrected a powerful essay written by Helen Keller in this slim (but not slight) volume, *How I Would Help the World*.

The first half of the book is Silverman's introduction. He recounts her meeting as a child with Alexander Graham Bell, who introduced her as a teenager to John Hitz, who wrote after meeting her, "I feel that in this child I have seen more of the Divine than has been manifest in any person I have ever met." Hitz and Keller became close friends until his death in 1908, and he was her mentor in learning Swedenborg's revelations about Christianity. She later wrote about that time,

The words "Love" and "Wisdom" seemed to caress my fingers from paragraph to paragraph and these two words released in me new forces to stimulate my somewhat indolent nature and urge me



forward evermore.
And so forevermore, from the age of

sixteen onward she became more deeply committed to the spiritual truths she found in the Bible through the lens of Swedenborg's writings.

We know Helen Keller as an inspirational speaker and writer, and an ardent social reformer, but as Silverman writes,

She knew that social reform was important. But she also believed that a lack of spiritual vision was far more destructive than the loss of physical sight, and that the ability to hear the voice of God was far more devastating than the loss of physical hearing.

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General Council Spring Meeting Biennial Conventions Considered

The General Council (GC) met by teleconference on March 1. Of the reports given and issues discussed, the proposal to replace annual conventions with biennial conventions engendered the most broad-ranging discussion.

At its November 2010 meeting, the General Council voted to explore the impact of Convention meeting every other year. The idea arose from a discussion of ways to reduce expenditures. Charged with delivering a report to the spring meeting, Polly Baxter combed the constitution and bylaws of the General Convention for articles that

would require amendment to accommodate biennial meetings.

In Article I of the constitution, the required changes pertain to the terms of office since the current standard of three-year terms does not comport with biennial elections. Officers elected every year (vice-president, secretary, treasurer) would serve two-year terms. All other offices and positions would need to be elected for two-, four-, or six-year terms. The president, at present, is elected for a three-year term and eligible for election to a second term—he or she is elected one year before tak-

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In This Issue:

Four Views of Fryeburg New Church Assembly • 2011 Nominees
Swedenborgian Community—Where Are We after 5 Years? • Do It Now!
Why I Am Following the Angels • Are You a Positive or a Negative?

The Editor's Desk

And Then the Water Came

Like the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, the residents of the northeast coast of Japan had only a short respite after a destructive event, an earthquake, before the more devastating rush of water came (and a continuing threat of nuclear disaster). The strongest Japanese earthquake on record, stronger than any we have known in North America, and the tsunami have killed over 18,000 and left over 450,000 homeless to date. We can empathize with the physical and emotional toll, but like



Matsushima Bay, before the earthquake, well-known for its beauty, was one of the three great views of Japan, the "Nihon Sankei" noted in 1643 by the scholar Hayashi Razan. A famous haiku attributed to Basho goes:

Matsushima, ah!
A-ah, Matsushima, ah,
Matsushima, ah.

The simplicity of the haiku signified that Basho could say nothing more about Matsushima's beauty.

the effects of war, only the victims can truly feel the enormity of their tragedy.

Some people's response to the tragedy includes monetary contributions to rescue efforts. Alan Thomsen informs us that Yoshiko Yamamoto, his friend and a friend of the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church, has created a beautiful color wood block print of Matsushima Bay that sells for \$30 (Go to www.artsandcraftspress.com.) All proceeds go to Empact Northwest (www.empactnorthwest.org), an organization that is in Japan providing medical relief in the Sendai area. Yamamoto and her husband Bruce Smith own and operate The Arts & Crafts Press in Portland, Oregon.

—Herb Ziegler

Proving God Is Hoffer Prize Finalist

Edward Sylvia's book *Proving God* is a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award, awarded to the best book from an independent press. The Hoffer Award Web site says,

The Hoffer Award . . . honor[s] freethinking writers and independent books of exceptional merit. The commercial environment for today's writers has all but crushed the circulation of ideas. It seems strange that in the Information Age, many books are blocked from wider circulation, and powerful writing is barred from publication or buried alive on the Inter-

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Church Calendar

April 15: Annual Reports Due

April 17–21: SCYL Easter Rally • Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone, England

April 29–30: SHS Board of Trustees meeting • Berkeley

May 27–30: SCYL Memorial Weekend Retreat • Fryeburg New Church Assembly

May 30: Deadline to register for Annual Convention 2011

June 28–July 3: Annual Convention 2011 • Cincinnati

August 29–August 3: Family summer camp • Fryeburg New Church Assembly

the Messenger

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Editor: Herbert Ziegler

Design and production: Herbert Ziegler

Copy editor: Robert Leith

Communications Support Unit: Sage Currie, Leah Goodwin, and Beth Harvie

Reproduction: Gnomon Copy, Cambridge, MA

Editorial Address:

Herb Ziegler, *The Messenger*

2 Hancock Place
Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: 617.491.5181

Email: messenger@swedenborg.org

Business and Subscription Address:

The Messenger, Central Office

11 Highland Avenue
Newtonville, MA 02460

Tel: 617.969.4240

Email: manager@swedenborg.org

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Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

As I write this, both wood stoves are going and I've still got a little shoveling left in order to get to the woodpile (having shoveled the roof). As you read this, spring will be bursting out all over!

I have just returned from a quick trip to New York, dodging in between snowstorms, and with hospitality extended on all sides, I only got lost once and in the end made it back to Maine safe and sound. It's been a while since this country boy at heart ventured into the big city. It was actually a

very pleasant trip. My Sunday morning began in Queens trying to get to Manhattan and being gently and politely guided back on track by a number of quite friendly and helpful strangers responding to my request for directions. I was a few minutes late but was able to quietly slip into a pew

just after the first hymn and enjoy the worship service led by Rev. Young Min Kim for the New York Korean church. The entire service is delivered in Korean, but I could follow the liturgy and enjoyed the music provided by Esther Kim and two young and very talented violinists who offered an instrumental arrangement of a Korean gospel song. I was honored to take part in the baptism of two new members into their community and at the end of the service exchanged greetings and blessings with a warm and welcoming commu-

nity while exchanging not more than four or five words of English. It was a most enlightening experience. I think I now might have some idea of what it is like for a new person to enter one of our churches and be drawn to the warmth of a community without really being able to understand very much of what is being said. Entering a church as a stranger is an experience I would highly recommend for all of us who are longtime members and friends of our respective communities. Try it and then try imagining what it would be like to enter your own church as a stranger. You might be surprised!

A few minutes after the end of the Korean Service, which is held at the New York New Church in Manhattan, the congregation of the New Church began their service, and again I was honored to participate in the worship service, although this time in English and this time as the worship leader. And again it was a small but warm and wel-

coming group. The liturgy was simple and direct and familiar—the music provided by Earl Buys on piano and Heather Engebretson, voice. Both are virtuosos on their respective instruments, Earl, playing hymns and Rachmaninoff with equal ease and expression,

and Heather unleashing a voice that sounded like it was being produced by Mahalia Jackson when in fact Heather is a mere slip of a young woman who might weigh a hundred pounds! The result in any case was uplifting and inspiring. Both of these New Church groups have long histories and both are in a state of transition with many unknowns in the near and distant future.

Besides this trip, most of my “presidential activity” this past February has been with conference

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A winter's day—shoveling the roof

Four Views of Fryeburg New Church Assembly

At the Fryeburg New Church Assembly (FNCA) summer camp, there are four age groups: Sparks are the kids 12 and under; Flames are the teens through college-age; Bonfires are the adults; and Embers (the hottest part of the fire!) are the elders. So in chronological order, here are four views of the FNCA from people who attended last summer:

From a Spark

The FNCA is a fantastic place to me. One of the things I enjoyed most was the Polar Bear Club. It is quite refreshing to jump into a river in the morning—it really wakes you up and makes you appreciate how pleasant the morning is once you get out and stop shivering, which for me took approx-



Sparks engaged in crafts in the Goddard Annex

imately five seconds. Another thing I enjoyed was the religion classes. There are a lot of interesting things to talk about. Craft activities were fun, like spray painting tee shirts and making sun catchers. We got to color while listening to stories from the Bible. I also loved the Sparks games. Every day we had an hour of running games such as tag and red light green light. My fa-

vorite game was Indian stick: someone would sit with their eyes closed and the rest of us would have to steal a stick from in front of them without them hearing us.

The food was terrific. We had Jamaican meat pie, which I especially liked. There was also grilled cheese and tomato soup, hamburgers and hot dogs, fish and rice, and things like sausage, potatoes, eggs, bacon, oatmeal, and toast for breakfast. There was watermelon with every meal. Also at every meal was a salad bar. Every hour of the day there was a bowl of apples, hot water for tea and cocoa, and milk out on a little table near the kitchen doors. We had a banana hunt one night where everyone had a banana with their name on it hidden somewhere, once you found it, you could make a banana split.

I would like to thank all of the Flames for being so helpful, doing the dishes, setting out the food, and clearing the tables. I enjoyed having a bonfire one night and roasting marshmallows. I made a lot of friends at camp, people my age. I had been missing that during the summer, and I am very glad I came. It made my summer fun just when I was getting bored and wanting to go back to school. Thank you Fryeburg assembly!



The Flames spend a lot of time down at the river.

From a Flame

My First Week Ever at FNCA

During the summer of 2010—a very busy summer for me—I went to my very first week of FNCA. It was one of the best weeks of my life. I'm 15 and I was a Flame this year at camp. From the outings and events to the great bonds and friendships I made and developed, I loved it all.

I had more fun than I could have imagined I'd have. We had the greatest time doing everything we did. Swimming in the river, soaking up the warm water and warm sunshine, the whole camp had a chance to play and splash with each other. When the teens went to Emerald Pool, I took a risk and jumped from the tall ledge. I did Polar Bear Swim every single morning, and it was extremely refreshing and invigorating. Walking to the State Line Store gave all the teens a chance to get Ben & Jerry's ice cream and Jones Soda. The outings and activities were so fun and hilarious, and just goofing off with the teens was one of my favorite parts of camp. Lessons and religion classes were awesome, too. The lessons really helped me to think about my own life

—Celia White

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and to improve it. I learned something new every class.

The people themselves made going to camp worthwhile. The atmosphere is incredible and the feeling I get when I'm around them is indescribable. Every teen I didn't know before was my friend within a few hours of my arrival, and I got so much closer to everyone I did know. I got to see people I hadn't seen in months—in years! There was bonding time in the dorm with the girls, intense ping-pong competitions in Chalmers Lodge, and long meaningful talks with wonderful people. I felt like everyone there cared about me. I'll be going back this summer, for two weeks this time!

—*Celie Bauer*

From a Bonfire

Thanks to George and Lois Dole's encouragement, finishing my first New York Times crossword puzzle ever was the first thing that popped into my brain when thinking about my experience attending my first FNCA session



Sitting on the deck after dinner is very popular with the Bonfires

last summer—one of the many memories of new connections that felt like lifelong friendships. Lee Dyer and Jen Richardson have been asking me to go to summer Assembly for the last seven years, knowing that I would love it. In May 2010, I made a commitment to

myself to attend church as many Sundays as possible for a year and to attend the summer Assembly in August. I followed through on my commitment, and I attended every morning lecture at the Assembly. And Lee and Jen were right!

After attending all the lectures, meeting amazing people, and engaging in critical discourse, I feel as though I have met my *karass*—a Kurt Vonnegut term for “a disparate group of people linked together without their knowledge” (they are not your biological family or friends already known). This quote comes from *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman, one of my favorite books that I teach for freshman English. The main character uses the term *karass* in reference to the first of many people he encounters on his journey toward redemption and self-realization. I feel as though I fit in a spiritual community . . . and that the way I think about the Omniscient is accepted.

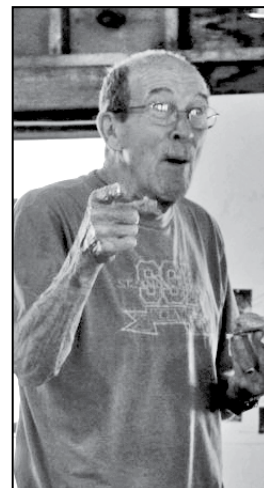
The connections engendered at the Assembly through lectures, conversations, and prayer nourished my mind, heart, and soul. I understand a little more of my life purpose. My commitment to my Swedenborgian community has deepened and expanded since attending the Assembly. As a result I chaperoned the SCYL youth retreat at Almont in December—another powerful experience. One final thought: I ecstatically checked off completing a *New York Times* crossword puzzle from my “bucket list”—our community of faith supports us in all our life endeavors—very cool! I am excited about experiencing camp this summer and seeing what changes will come as a result. Thank you to all who attended the Assembly last August—I cannot wait to see everyone!

—*Jane Fullerton*

From an Ember

My participation in the FNCA experience extends over a span of sixty-two years (1947–2010) with attendance at summer sessions in nearly half of those years. From the beginning, FNCA has been a crucial influence on my life and my faith.

As a Flame, I met amazing and varied young people. Many friendships made then have remained strong to this day.



Jim Perry wants you to attend the FNCA this summer!"

Equally important was the exciting, active, social interaction, not only with peers (especially girls), but with the full spectrum of campers

from infants to the very old. My faith and religious understanding got an important boost from the adult lectures that included important Swedenborgian scholars and especially the age-group classes taught by very qualified and empathetic teachers (including Anita Dole, who “wrote the book”).

As an adult with a family and a secular work career, I received valuable knowledge about combining marriage, children, faith, and usefulness. Soon, my own family was able to attend and get the exposure and benefits from the FNCA magic. Now as an Ember, I return for guidance in the later stages of my life—still from the wisdom of the pathfinders, but also from the enriching exposure to babies, children, teens, young adults, and peers. Often it is also a time to share with far flung adult children and grandchildren. Occasionally I offer some of my own hard

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Swedenborgian Community— Where Are We after 5 Years?

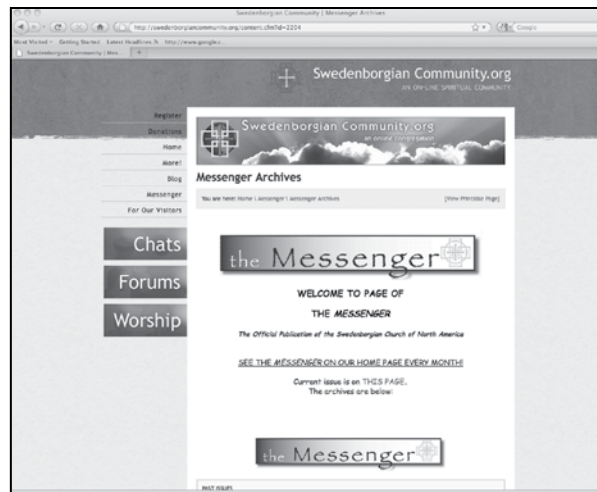
This is the first of a series of brief updates on the SwedenborgianCommunity.org (SC.org). Future SC.org updates will describe our Web site statistics and programs.

The SwedenborgianCommunity.org was established in 2006 by the General Convention (Swedenborgian Church) to be a connection point and community for isolated Swedenborgians as well as an outreach ministry for those who have no connection with the Swedenborgian Church. The Rev. Dr. Wilma Wake has served as its part time minister since 2008, following the inaugural ministry of the Rev. Sage Currie.

Our five years of operation have seen steady growth to over 500 registrants (members) in the US and Canada. We add about ten each month. These are people who desire access to the password-protected community programs for SC.org—to join, they must write a short statement and be invited by the minister.

Isolated Swedenborgians are the largest group (283, 57%). They include

ninety-five Swedenborgian Church members who are not located near a church, are home bound, or are unable to attend for other reasons; thirty-five registrants who self-identify as Swedenborgian because they grew up



www.swedenborgiancommunity.org

in the Church or have another connection to it; and one hundred fifty-three focused readers of Swedenborg.

Outreach ministry members (123, 25%) include fifty-three general seekers who have come across Swedenborg and want to know more and seventy unclassified members.

Active members of Swedenborgian churches include ninety-three (19%) who find additional value in SC.org, want to support this ministry, or join for other reasons.

International registrants beyond the U.S. and Canada number forty-seven: Europe with twenty-eight (fourteen countries); the Caribbean and Latin America with six (six countries); Africa with four (three countries); and Asia and Australia with nine (five countries)

Donations currently cover the Web site operating costs and about ten per cent of the cost of the minister. Donations can be made at www.SwedenborgianCommunity.org through PayPal or by credit card or check (payable to The Swedenborgian Church) by contacting Renee Hellenbrecht at (617)969-4240 or email: manager@swedenborg.org.

For more information about SC.org, please contact Rev. Wilma Wake at Revwilma@swedenborgiancommunity.org or members of the SC.org Website Committee (Matthew Fleming (matthewmallard@hotmail.com); Christine Laitner (kiplingcat@juno.com); and Page Morahan (psmorahan@att.net).

2010 Donations to *The Messenger*

The Messenger and the Communications support Unit wish to thank these organizations and individuals for their financial support over the last year. If we have omitted your name, please let us know. Please consider giving to The Messenger in 2011 to support our work and mailing costs.

\$1000 and Over

J.C. & Gloryann Webb,

\$500 to \$999

British Columbia

New Church

Michigan Association

General Conference UK

\$250 to \$499

British General Conference

Barb Tourangeau

\$100 to \$249

Fryeburg New Church

Aaron & Barb Halle

Donald & Janice Krapf

Randall & Mildred Laakko

Jane & Ray Siebert

Ohio Association

\$50 to \$99

Bobby & Joan Buchanan

Steven Dyck

Jeannette Hille

\$10 to \$49

Anonymous

Alan Scott Barry

Alfred C. Bateman

Linda Brown

Forrest & Margaret Dristy

Sibylle Feroze-Odlin

Ann Graber

Sarah Headsten

Suzanne Ley

James Moran

Edward & Marie Morey

J.A. Moulton

Derek Parker

Ellen/Robert Shaw-Smith

2011 Council, Committee, & Board Nominees

The nominating committee recruits and puts forward nominees for election to offices at the annual convention.

In addition to the two candidates to be elected as representative-class trustees on the SHS board, two candidates are to be elected as the at-large class trustees; nominees will be submitted by the SHS board nominating committee.

The nominating Committee is still soliciting candidates, but as of *The Messenger* going to press the following candidates have been nominated for election to office at the 2011 annual convention:

Position	Term (Yrs)	Candidate
Vice-president	1	Betsy Coffman
Secretary	1	Susannah Currie
Treasurer	1	Polly Baxter
General Council layperson	3	Open
General Council minister	3	Randy Laakko
Committee on Admission to the Ministry (CAM)	3	Open
Communication Support Unit (ComSU)	3	Roz Taylor
Education Support Unit (EdSU)	3	John Maine
Financial and Physical Resources Support Unit (FPRSU)	3	Jennifer Lindsay
Information Management Support Unit (IMSU)	3	Kris Lange
Support Unit for Ministries (MinSU)	3	Gloria Toot
Board of Trustees of SHS, representative class	3	Jane Siebert
Nominating Committee	5	Open

The following candidates have submitted statements to date:

Susannah Currie: Secretary

The Rev. Susannah Currie, M.Div, BCC is part-time pastor of the Bridge-water New Jerusalem Church in Massachusetts and religious program coordinator of the Fryeburg New Church Assembly. She is also



the executive director of In Company with Angels, a non-profit organization she helped to found. She was on the original steering committee that organized the first two Gathering Leaves retreats. She has served three terms as treasurer of the denomination and has been attending and participating in General Council in that capacity. Her in-depth knowledge of Convention and its bodies has been cultivated through her past service to the Council of Ministers Executive Committee,

the Retirement Committee, PUSH, the Sunday School Association, and SCYL retreats. She was pastor of the Swedenborgian Church at Temenos from 1999–2008 and also served as executive director of the Temenos Conference and Retreat Center. Susannah places her talents and perspectives as an accounting professional, administrator, and minister, in addition to her name, into nomination for the position of secretary of Convention.

Randy Laakko: General Council (minister)

I was ordained in 1965, serving half-time in the Philadelphia and Wilmington churches from 1965–67. I have been pastor to the Wilmington Church from 1967 to present. I have worked on numerous boards and committees over the years, serving as chairman of the Council of Ministers for eight years. I was elected president of Convention in 1984 and served two terms through 1990. My love, dedication and experience in and for the church will serve well, should I be elected to a second term to the General Council.



Gloria Toot: MINSU

I have been a member of the New Church of Montgomery since about 1970, serving as a board member, secretary, and treasurer at various times. I am currently treasurer at the New Church of



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Nominees

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Montgomery, treasurer of the National Alliance of New Church Women and recording secretary of the Ohio Association. I previously served twelve years as secretary of General Convention. In 2006 I was appointed to fill a vacancy on MINSU until the next annual convention, at which time I was elected to fill that vacancy until the end of that term. I was then elected to a full three year term on MINSU. I am now running for my second term on this very important support unit, and it is my hope to serve the missions and ministries of this denomination with love and discernment as I grow in my service to the Lord.

EDSU : John Maine

I am seeking re-election to EDSU (the Education Support Unit) this year. About me: I have been a Swedenbor-



gian minister for ten years and am presently serving the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchen-er, Ontario. In addition I serve on the Sunday School Association and the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, and have been a member and past chair of the Ministries Support Unit.

I am seeking re-election to EDSU because I am very excited about the possibilities and opportunities for EDSU to grow into a new role, that of helping to facilitate a conversation between all those involved in religious education and spiritual formation at every level in our denomination—Sunday School, Youth League, Transitions, SHS, and others. I want to see our denomination develop a more co-

ordinated and fully articulated educational strategy for all ages, from young children to seniors.

I have submitted an EDSU proposal to General Council for an ongoing series of annual “theme years” for the denomination. Each theme is to express some key aspect of our faith. In consultation and collaboration with others, EDSU would help promote this theme year and active participation in it by our various church bodies and local ministries. Each can celebrate, for example, the Year of the Lord or the Year of Divine Providence in its own way, through learning, art, community service, etc., and all can celebrate together at the annual convention (at which the next year’s theme will be announced). This is just one approach toward helping us all to learn more about our faith and enable us to share it with others. And, finally, thank you for this opportunity to serve! ☩

Blairhaven Sale Moves Forward

Blairhaven, the five-acre retreat Center located on Kingston Bay in Duxbury, Massachusetts, will be sold to the Town of Duxbury in early July. A purchase and sale agreement was entered into last fall; after approval by several town committees and the town selectmen (the governing body between annual town meetings) the agreement was presented to the town meeting (see sidebar) in early March, and after a long, contentious debate and some parliamentary maneuvers, it was approved by the required two-thirds vote.

After serving for over forty years as a summer church youth camp and over ten years as a retreat center for Swedenborgian and other non-profit groups, the property ceased to serve a use that justified its value as an asset. Although

The Church and Town Meetings

The institution of town meeting is a legacy of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and its leader, John Winthrop. When the colony was established in 1830 (Boston, then Shawmut, was Winthrop’s “City upon a Hill”), citizen input into town governance took place at church meetings on Sunday afternoons, the church being Puritan and congregational in governance, and there being no line drawn between affairs of the church and affairs of the town. Within a few years it became institutionalized as a sec-

ular meeting of freemen to approve or amend articles proposed by the elected town officials (selectmen). It continues in some form in towns across New England, a model of direct democracy.

Ironically, Winthrop had no intention of promoting democracy. In fact, he called democracy “the meanest and worst of all forms of government.” It is ironic too that most town meetings are poorly attended—only 700 of 10,000 adult citizens, considered a large turnout, attended.

SCYL, the East Coast ministers, and the Massachusetts Union have used it from time to time, those uses could be better served by income from assets realized from sale of the property.

Many have fond memories of time spent, friendships made, and lessons learned at Blairhaven, but times and circumstances change, and so Blairhaven will serve us in another form. ☩

Why I Am Following the Angels

BY AMANDA LIN COSTA

One cannot be impatient when shooting a documentary. Unlike traditional narrative filmmaking, the subject dictates the production schedule. Years are spent making a documentary film. Unique

restorers, museum curators, and ordinary citizens who flock from around the country to see these stunning examples of Tiffany stained glass. The awe they inspire in their viewers strikes me every time I film. I wanted to share two stories I captured in my document-

ary, *Following the Angels*, that represent why I continue to follow the windows with patience on their journey.

When the touring exhibit was in its early stages, I filmed a meeting discussing the details of putting together the exhibit. One particularly dedicated individual was enthu-



issues arise when at the center of the story are inanimate objects. After all, windows don't have opinions, emotions or goals—the human characteristics that capture audiences and hold their attention in a darkened room.

What the Angel Windows do have though is a complex history and a symbolic importance that touches not just on biblical references but their status as great works of art. The windows also represent broader issues, being the “victims” of the consequences of imminent domain and the modern-day financial hardships and complexity of non-profits in both the arts and religion.

I have been filming the Angel Windows for almost five years now and have interviewed many people, working directly with the *In Company with Angels* exhibits as well as

enthusiastic about assisting with fundraising and helping to bring attention and press coverage to the windows. When I asked him (as I often do) what his favorite window was, he replied he hadn't seen them yet in person. I was stunned by his response. Here was a volunteer drawn to the project simply by the photos he had seen and what they represented. I heard this story repeated many times over the years.



A second moment that stood out was when I filmed in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The Angel Windows were on display at Tulane University's art gallery. Museum curators and directors repeatedly told me that people were arriving in bus loads to visit the windows. In a city and state so devastated by a recent disaster, they said the windows spoke to the healing process. Everyone at the museum agreed that Many visitors spoke of a strong spiritual tie to the Angel Windows.

Tiffany was a master at his craft, and the windows are stunning examples of his work. Yet, in truth, they are only one part of what makes the film compelling. A big part of the story is the people dedicated to the project and those inspired by the windows. I look forward to filming this summer at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati and once again being inspired by the stories that surround them. ☩

Amanda Lin Costa is a filmmaker who has created a film about the restoration of the Angel Windows and is making another, longer film about their journey.

Angel Exhibition

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Visit to the Exhibition

Bus trips from the convention site to the Taft Museum of Art

*Friday, July 1, at 1, 2, & 3 PM
(organized by the New Church of Montgomery)*

You will experience the full effect of the restored Tiffany stained glass window series, *Angels Representing Seven Churches* at this exhibition.

For more information on the Taft exhibit and In Company with Angels check out www.taftmuseum.org/pages/upcoming.php and www.incompanywithangels.org ☩

Women's Alliance Annual Appeal

March 6, 2011

Dear Members & Friends,

I was driving home from the eastern part of Massachusetts recently when I passed two billboards for the Annual Catholic Appeal. I thought to myself, "Oh yeah . . . must write that appeal letter for the Women's Alliance." So here, it is. We can't afford a billboard, but what we do is equally as important. Consider this letter our billboard. Post it on your fridge, or put it on your desk, whatever it takes to remind you to send in your donations.

This year's Mite Box will go to support our denomination to send a delegate, preferably a woman, to the annual meeting of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA. <http://www.nccusa.org/> For about 10 years I was a youth delegate to the NCC. It was a wonderful experience for me to meet other young people from all over the country and learn about the different churches that are a part of the NCC. Our involvement in the NCC is very important, as Chris Laitner expressed at our annual convention last summer.

Soon we'll be gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the annual church convention and the Alliance's annual meeting and luncheon. At that time we'll hold elections, vote on a couple of amendments to our by-laws, and welcome new officers to our Executive Committee. This is my final year as president of the Alliance, and I want to say thank you to everyone for this opportunity. It's been wonderful to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to turning over the reigns to the incoming president.

Our fund-raising efforts also help support the SCYL, our summer camps, Swedenborgian House of Studies, and Mite Box. Please send in your donation today. Use the enclosed form to send in your membership dues and donation. Checks can be made to

North American Alliance of New Church Women.

—*Sincerely yours,*
Nancy F. Little, president

Women's Alliance 2011 Membership and Donation Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Member Church/Society
Affiliation: _____

PLEASE SPECIFY HOW YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DONATION DISTRIBUTED:
Amount: _____ Dues (\$5.00): _____ General Fund: _____ Mite Box: _____

MAIL TO: Gloria Toot, Treasurer
10280 Gentlewind Drive
Montgomery, OH 45242-5813

Reflection

Do It Now!

BY SHARON WILLIAMS



Subscribe to a Web site for removing clutter from our lives and homes (www.flylady.net). Flylady is a wonderful woman who overcame clutter

in her emotional and physical life by following some simple rules. Some she gleaned from The Slob Sisters, Pam Young and Peggy Jones. Others she discovered for herself, which she now shares with tens of thousands all over the world. One of her adages is *do it now*, whether it is folding laundry, cleaning a hot spot, sending a cheering message, making an apology, or making a doctor's appointment.

This made me think of intentions. Way back in June of last year I printed off a daily inspiration I get from <http://lists.newchurch.org>. This one came from *Divine Providence* 151: ". . . what is within is intending and what is outside is acting; for unless we do what we intend, there is a lack of real intention inside that eventually becomes unwillingness."

That's quite an eye opener!

When I was in college at Bryn Athyn, we were to pick a well known saying and decide whether it was true or not. I picked "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Well, being a young Swedenborgian, I *knew* that a person's intent was important, so I reasoned that doing something that you intended to be good and it turned out bad would not put you on the road to hell. However, I did not even consider the other side—intending to do something and not doing it. Now, I'm

continues next page

Reflection

Are You a Positive or a Negative?

BY LINDA KRAUS

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and said, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

He replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or . . . you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or . . . I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or . . . I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side

of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," he said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life."

I reflected on what he said. Soon thereafter, I left the tower industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some sixty feet from a communications tower. After eighteen hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I saw him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I

did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was the well being of my soon-to-be-born daughter," he replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or . . . I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

He continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said John. "She asked if I was allergic to anything 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity!'"

Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude—I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." —Matthew 6:34

After all today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. ☩

Linda Kraus is a member of the Pretty Prairie Swedenborgian Church.

Reprinted from the January 2011 *Plains Banner*, the newsletter of the Kansas Association.

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sure not going to say that intending to send a birthday card and not doing it is going to damn you to your hell. What I want to say is this: follow through on your good intentions. They are coming from God anyway, so why not do it? We don't have time? We can't do it perfectly? No one will miss it if we don't? We can find all the excuses in the world. While we are making those excuses, we can get on the phone, find a card to send or an email address, get off our fannies and visit a sick friend,

go to church, and take a load of stuff to Goodwill.

These are small-potato intentions. Only you know what the large ones are, but sometimes when you start your actions with the small ones, the larger ones will fall into place. (I just did it—writing this piece). ☩

Sharon Williams is a member of the Edmonton Church of the Holy City (Alberta), and editor of *Conference Magazine*.

Reprinted from the March 2011 *Conference Magazine*, the newsletter of the Western Canada Conference.

General Council Meeting

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ing office to provide a year of tutelage from the serving president before taking office. With two-year election cycles the president would have to either be elected two years before taking office or take office immediately.

The other changes required are technical in nature, relating to references to the annual meeting.

Biennial conventions would effect more than elections and terms of office. A major function of annual conventions ordinations. Although many denominations conduct ordination at local churches, our size has allowed us over the years to celebrate both graduation from our seminary and ordination as a denomination-wide event—this has become a tradition. Biennial ordinations would require a *modus operandi* for accommodating the ordination of off-year SHS graduates.

Jonathan Mitchell, chairman of the Committee of Ministers (COM), reported to the Council on effects of biennial conventions on COM. He said this about their effect on ordination:

I am assuming that no one would want to see opportunities for ordination become as infrequent as every other year, neither from the point of view of candidates for ordination, nor from the point of view of employing bodies. The resolution to this question could well be different depending on whether COM met annually or biennially.

If COM were to continue to meet annually, it could continue to approve plans of ministry and to recommend candidates for ordination. In our current practice, ordinations occur at the annual convention after a “yea” vote on the floor by the delegates. In the following paragraphs I look at how much of our current practice is in fact required by our current constitution and bylaws.

Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Swedenborgian Church reads in part: “The Swedenborgian Church shall at its discretion, on recommendation of the Council of Ministers, and subject to the provisions of Article XII of the Bylaws, authorize the ordination and induction of qualified individuals to serve as its ministers.” Article XII, Section 1 reads in part, “Application for ordination or other matters relating to the office of ministry shall first be received and considered by the Council of Ministers.” Article XIII, Section 1 reads in part, “Any member of the Swedenborgian Church shall be ordained into or inducted into its ministry by recommendation of the Council of Ministers and by affirmative vote of the Swedenborgian Church” (The rest of the article specifies the ordination requirements COM shall consider.) Section 2 of Article XIII specifies that the president of Convention shall be the ordaining minister, if he or she is a minister, or the chair of the Council if the president is not a minister. The bylaws do not specify a place or time for the ordination ceremony.

To my mind this raises the question of whether General Council is empowered to make the affirmative vote required for ordination. Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution reads in part, “The General Council shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Swedenborgian Church, . . . and shall exercise the powers of the Swedenborgian Church in the interim of its sessions.” If these powers include ordination votes, that might allow for ordinations at any time a recommendation from COM is received.

On the impact of Biennial conventions on COM meetings he said,

Although currently COM meets annually on the days imme-

diately preceding annual convention, there is nothing in our bylaws that limits COM meetings to those times. Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Council of Ministers specifies that “Sessions of the Council of Ministers shall be held in conjunction with every session of the General Convention. . . .” Section 2 of the same article allows for “special sessions” of the Council and describes how they can be called, (essentially either by COM’s Executive Committee or by petition by members of COM).

As I read it, COM could, if it wished, and without changing its current bylaws, continue to meet annually to conduct its business. To be sure, we would realize less savings on that plan than if both annual convention and COM meetings were held biennially. On the benefit side, meetings of COM on the off year could dedicate more time to continuing education and professional development for our clergy.

Renée Helenbrecht, operations manager, reported that the denominational Web site continues to evolve. She has become involved on the process updating of keeping the site current with fresh news and information. She asked GC for guidance in this task. She is developing an email information delivery system for Convention.

The Council received reports, took votes on some administrative issues, and discussed a recommendation from our accounting firm, Accountability, to improve internal controls, to engage Accountability in the role of chief financial officer, and to perform a compilation of Convention financial statements for 2010. GC voted the first two recommendations and voted to hire another firm to perform a review of the financial statements to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility. The next meeting is at the annual convention. ☩

Helen Keller's Mission

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The second half of the book is Keller's essay, originally the introduction to an edition of *True Christian Religion* (*True Christianity* in the New Century Edition of Swedenborg's works). She offers a personal testimony to the profound impact Swedenborg has had on her life, both spiritually and in the world. She summarizes Swedenborg's writings by saying, ". . . his central doctrine is simple. It consists of three simple ideas: God as divine love, God as divine wisdom, and God as power for use."

This essay serves as a broadly accessible entrance point to Swedenborg's writings because of both Helen Keller's stature in American culture and the wonderful poetry and clarity of her writing.

For most people, Swedenborg is inaccessible; nothing draws them to explore this little-known Swedish mystic whom they may have heard of only as an anomaly in Christian theology or even a heretic. Keller, on the other hand, ranks with the greatest names in our history in terms of recognition and approval.

Swedenborg's writing can be formidable for many readers. The sheer volume of his writing and its straightforward, unpoetic, painstakingly precise, and sometimes repetitive nature are daunting for first-time readers. Keller weaves a heartfelt, evocative, and lushly written prose piece as evocative as poetry and as lucid as Swedenborg himself. We who appreciate Swedenborg's writings and wish to share them at large often struggle with the task of expressing the sweeping insights succinctly—Keller achieves this with ease.

One more observation about this book, apart from the writing: the volume itself is fitting and beautiful. In this age of Kindle Readers and iPads, a physical book must be more than a container for the printed word. *How I Would Save the World* is exquisitely designed and executed to meet that challenge. It is a slim volume, of dimensions and proportion appropriate to its length; it fits pleasingly in your hand. The book design, the cover, the typeface, page layout, and photo selection and placement are just right. They match the spirit and structure of Keller's writing. On many facing pages, pho-

tos of Keller (sequenced to illustrate her life chronologically) alternate with quotations from Swedenborg's writings germane to the text. The combined effect is inviting and soothing. Kudos to the designer, Joanna V. Hill. Kudos as well to Ray Silverman and the Swedenborg Foundation for seeing the project through, and to Laurie Klein. Silverman says in the acknowledgements,

This book has become a reality as a result of an inspiration that came to . . . Laurie Klein in a dream. Just before a meeting of women from various Swedenborgian denominations in July 2010 [Gathering Leaves], Laurie had a dream in which a large crowd insisted that we need to help Helen Keller help the world. She knew of an earlier work by that name that had been circulated as a booklet. At the women's meeting, Laurie told the dream and asked for help in taking this essay around the world.

This nice little book will delight any reader of Swedenborg, or make a nice gift to give as an entry into Swedenborg's writings. ☩

From the President

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calls and emails. These have included a surprising amount of activity wearing my chair of the Placement Committee hat, but also time with the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, General Council, the Ministry Support Unit, and PUSH (the Augmentation fund committee) and moving their agendas forward. It is gratifying to see so many capable and committed people doing such good work in their various positions.

Finally, I would like to thank the congregation of the Fryeburg New Church and their new pastor, the Rev. Sage Currie, for so warmly and gra-

ciously welcoming Laurie and me and honoring our ministry there by unveiling and adding my portrait to the gallery of pastors who have served this wonderful church up here in the north woods. It was and is an honor to have been able to serve there for so many years.

Looking ahead: preparations for Convention '11 in Cincinnati are well under way. The theme for this year is "Behold I make all things new!" It promises to be a wonderful event for all who are able to attend, including an opportunity to see in person the magnificent and moving display of the seven stained-glass windows, originally from the Cincinnati church, now known as

In Company With Angels. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements and information in upcoming *Messengers*.

—Blessings, Rev. Ken

Hoffer Prize

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net. Furthermore, many of the top literary prizes will not even consider independent books or previously unpublished prose, choosing instead to become the marketing arms of large presses.

Ed Sylvia is a member of the St. Louis Church of the Open Word and blogs at <http://thegodguy.wordpress.com>. ☩

Passages

Births

The Bridgewater New Jerusalem Church welcomes new lives!

A daughter, **Serena Elyse Greenwood**, was born February 9, 2011, to Beki and Jason Greenwood. Grandparents are Merrilee Phinney and Martin Vojtko.

Twin girls, **Reagan and Sydney Fraser-Swan**, were born February 17, 2011, to Brian and Jaclyn Fraser-Swan. Grandparents are Dick and Sharon Swan, great-grandfather is Albert Lemee, and aunt and uncle are Kelly and Mike Milne.

A son, **Alcida Joshua Enck**, was born February 21, 2011 to Joshua Enck and Llerena Searle. Grandparents are Colgate and Cecilia Searle; Great-grandparents are Ray and Betty Guiu.

Deaths

Herman Foegelle passed gently into the spirit world on March 5, 2011, his eightieth birthday. Herman joined The San Francisco Swedenborgian Church in 1994 and married Nancy Freestone (a member of the church since 1980) there on December 15, 2000. In Nancy's words,

Herman and I spent over eight years being communion Sunday ushers. We took great joy serving in this way. It was very difficult when one Sunday it became apparent that Herman was no longer able to balance carrying the wine trays. We often arrived at church early, and Herman enjoyed making the coffee. He also found satisfaction in making various repairs in the parish house and some in the sanctuary as well.

My most cherished memory is that Herman proposed marriage to me at the altar of our beloved sanctuary. It was one Sunday as we were tidying up after communion.

We were alone in that moment, but never again to be apart.

"He was a kind and gentle man, soft in voice and firm in his convictions. He was a man of old-fashioned manners who took great delight in being useful for the sake of others. His career as a mechanical engineer took him to foreign countries, oftentimes to set up production plants and train workers, a task that took a great deal of pa-



Herman and Nancy Foegelle

tience as he had to work through language barriers and local customs. As a young father he took great delight, with his former wife (Alice), in raising two sons (Dan and Mike) and a daughter (Deborah). He was an involved parent, always taking time to attend a game or a swim meet or simply taking time to encourage his children during their formative years.

Herman's style of loving was warm, cozy, secure and gentle. I have been very blessed.

A memorial is planned for 1:30 PM, Sunday, April 10, at the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church, the Reverend Jim Lawrence officiating.

Elvin Lane, 79, passed into the spiritual world on January 12, 2011. He was a Kansas native and longtime resident of Hutchinson. After marrying Veneta Zacharias in 1971, he joined the Pretty Prairie New Jerusalem Church. He is much missed by his family and those who knew him best. He is survived by two sons, Mike and Gary and three daughters, Jera French,

Tenley Hannah, and Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, two sisters, fourteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Eric Zacharias, his father-in-law, writes,

Elvin was a kind, gentle man who held tightly to his Western Kansas values. He was thoughtful, always considering possible consequences of his decisions. Nothing was done in haste. He was a man who enjoyed the possibilities of his mind. Widely read, he enjoyed the challenge of political debate and the values of self reliance, self determination, and big ideas.

The evening before he transitioned to the missed world of spirit, he and I talked about the reality of the spiritual world—the welcome of his arrival—welcomed by the highest angels. We spoke briefly about the joy of these many years—our togetherness, the dinners we enjoyed—his expertise preparing dinners so satisfying, so good. He was at peace.

To Veneta I'll simply say, "Thanks so much for bringing Elvin into the family. You made a fine choice for a life partner."

Mavis Lenderbeck Wiens of Creighton, Saskatchewan passed into the spiritual world on December 19, 2008, at the age of 93. Predeceased by her husband, Peter Wiens, she was a lifelong member of the Swedenborgian Church. ☩

Four Views of FNCA

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earned experience that I hope contains a bit of wisdom. Fryeburg New Church Assembly is very special. —Jim Perry

The FNCA bulletin and registration form are mailed in early May. The bulletin is available at www.fryeburg.org. (Online registration is coming)

187th Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, June 29-July 3

Council of Ministers: June 27-28

2011 Registration Form

Convention 2011 will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. To learn more about UC, visit www.uc.edu. To learn more about the 2011 Convention and view a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), please visit www.swedenborg.org or call the Central Office at 617.969.4240.

Lodging: We will be staying in the Campus Recreation Center Housing: <http://tinyurl.com/63mhz2k>. These rooms are all single rooms. If all of our spaces in these rooms do fill up, the Central Office will contact you about alternate housing arrangements. The Kingsgate Marriott (on campus, about a mile away) is a good choice for families or those who would prefer a hotel: <http://tinyurl.com/4yqufc>.

Childcare: The childcare program will run June 29-July 3 during meetings and receptions for children ages 3-12. **If you will be bringing children to Convention, please read the Convention FAQ or contact the Central Office for details, rates, deadlines and to obtain the necessary forms.**

Teen Program: The youth program runs from Wednesday, June 29 through Sunday, July 3, and is supervised by Kurt Fekete. If you want your teen (age 13-17) to attend without a parent, please see the FAQ or contact the Central Office for details.

Parking is available for an additional charge. Please indicate on the form below that you will be bringing a car, and the Central Office will contact

you. Gym passes are available for \$10 per person for the week. Contact the Central Office for details. Wired internet access will be included with each dorm room. (Bring your own ethernet cable!) Wireless internet is available to guests on campus, but it does not work everywhere.

Registration and Payment Deadline: Monday, May 30 by 5PM EST. No exceptions. Any reservation not fully paid by this date will be cancelled.

Cancellations: If made by Wednesday, June 15 by 5PM EST, you will receive your full prepayment. If you cancel twelve days prior to your arrival, you will receive your prepayment, less the cost of one night's room and board. If you cancel two days or less prior to your arrival, you will forfeit your entire prepayment. Cancellations must be done by calling the Central Office directly during normal business hours (9AM-5PM EST, M-F).

Room and Board Packages:

- Package A (June 27 -July 3, six nights), Council of Ministers:**
\$349 per person
Includes six nights of lodging, four breakfasts, four lunches, two brunches and six dinners.
- Package B (June 28-July 3, five nights), General Council:**
\$290 per person
Includes five nights of lodging, three breakfasts, three lunches, two brunches and five dinners.
- Package C (June 29-July 3, four nights):**
\$230 per person
Includes four nights of lodging, two breakfasts, two lunches, two brunches and four dinners.

Name	Attending Women's Alliance luncheon?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Name		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will you be parking on campus?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Street		Apt. #
City	State (Province)	Zip
Home Church	Email	Day Phone
Names, ages, and genders of children accompanying you		
Requests (dietary, mobility, roommate)		

Please print any additional names or information on the back or on a separate sheet

Registration	Amt	# People	Total
Adult	\$120		
Teen (13-17)	\$90		
Child (3-12)	\$55		
Under 3 years old	Free		
*Family maximum	\$300		
One Day Registration	\$40		
Local Volunteer	\$55		
WA Luncheon	\$15		

Room & Board	Package	#People	Total
Room and Board Package (see package descriptions for rates)			
Gym Pass (\$10 per person)			
Grand Total (from both Registration and Room & Board)			

Payment Information

All prices are in US currency. **If you pay with Canadian funds, please add US\$5 for handling of each Canadian check. Please be advised that all prices are listed in US funds, and must be converted for other currencies. All bills must be paid in full before May 30.** See "Cancellations" above for refund policy. Bills may be paid by check, Visa or by MasterCard. You may also call the Central Office to make a secure credit card payment at 617.969.4240. Please do NOT email any credit card information.

Visa MasterCard Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Send checks payable to The Swedenborgian Church to:

Central Office, The Swedenborgian Church
11 Highland Ave., Newtonville, MA 02460

*Family maximum price applies to immediate family members (i.e., parents/guardians and children) only.

About the Swedenborgian Church

Emanuel Swedenborg was born January 29, 1688, in Stockholm, Sweden. Although he never intended a church denomination to be founded or named after him, a society was formed in London fifteen years after his death.

American groups eventually founded the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches. As a result of Swedenborg's spiritual questionings and insights, we as a church exist to encourage that same spirit of inquiry and personal growth, to respect differences in views, and to accept others who may have different traditions.

Swedenborg shared in his theological writings a view of God as infinitely loving and at the very center of our beings, a view of life as a spiritual birthing as we participate in our own creation, and a view of scripture as a story of inner life stages as we learn and grow. Swedenborg said, "All religion relates to life, and the life of religion is to do good." He also felt that the sincerest form of worship is a useful life.

In Company with Angels in Cincinnati for Convention 2011

Louis Comfort Tiffany's stained-glass window series entitled, *Angels Representing Seven Churches*, resided in the Church of the New Jerusalem at Oak Avenue and Winslow Streets in Cincinnati from 1903 to 1964. When the church was taken by eminent domain to provide a path for the I-75 highway, they were removed, crated, and stored in garages, basements, and sheds. The windows were almost forgotten by all but the few who had saved them until the museum exhibition, *In Company with Angels: Seven Rediscovered Tiffany Windows*, brought them back into the light. This year is especially exciting as the annual convention of the Swedenborgian Church will be held during the Angel Windows' homecoming exhibition at the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati. The convention planning committee and *In Company with Angels* (the non-profit that has restored and manages the windows) have arranged some special events to celebrate.

In Company with Angels Mini-course

Thursday, June 30, from 3–4:45 PM (open to the public)—Hosted by In Company

with Angels board members Ken Turley, Susannah Currie, Carla Friedrich, Laraine Mosteller, and documentary filmmaker Amanda Costa

Here you will learn the history of how the restoration and museum exhibition project began and how the Angel Windows have inspired a musician and composer, an administrator, an artist and writer, an accountant and a filmmaker!

In Company with Angels Reception

Thursday, June 30 8:30–10 PM (after SHS graduation)

Documentary filmmaker Amanda Lin Costa will be present at a showing of her short film, *Restoring the Angels* and clips from *Following the Angels*, now in production. Amanda is making these films independently of *In Company with Angels*, and we hope this viewing will inspire individuals to donate to her continuing work documenting the journey of the Angel Windows. She will be filming interviews with people who would like to share their experience with the Angel Windows.

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