



Helen Keller—Convention's Most Famous Speaker . . . Twice

BY FRANCESCA MCCROSSAN



One of the many things I am fortunate to be able to do as part of my work at the Swedenborgian House of Studies is to spend time in our library on various tasks. The scholar in me loves the time spent stewarding the archives and rare and older works. The organizer in me loves sorting things so that future scholars can make use of them in a quick and useful fashion. It was with the latter in mind that I began the project of re-

housing and organizing a group of sermons given to the library by Rev. Immanuel Tafel. There are almost twenty boxes of copies of sermons that date from between the 1920s and the 1960s. Some of them are typed and came directly from the home churches that had sermon mailing ministries. Many are from The Helper, a longtime Convention monthly Bible study and sermon publication.

While I was working my way through the boxes I came across the 1928 address Helen Keller gave to the annual convention. It first caught my eye because she is so well known. As I read through it, it held my attention because the subject still resonates. In fact you all will recognize the concerns she discusses in terms of both your own spiritual lives and congregations as well as current world affairs and our world view.

As I looked into the background of her visit to the convention that year, I found that this was not the first time she had come to speak to her spiritual community. She had come first in 1919 with her teacher Anne Sullivan Macey, and they had riveted the attention of the assembly. When she came to speak in 1928, her stature and abilities had grown and her reception was even warmer and more engaged. In both instances there is wonderful contextual material to set the scenes and help us travel in our imaginations to the Church of the Holy City in Washington, DC, in the springs of 1919 and 1928.

I hope you enjoy the journey as much as I have.

"Swedenborg's Message of Comfort" — Helen Keller at the 98th Annual Convention

"To a world destroying itself with war this message of comfort [from] Swedenborg offers a blessed haven of refuge"

Miss Helen Keller was invited to the annual convention for the first time in 1919, when she was thirty-nine years old. The world was at war, and Miss Keller was already internationally known, a published author and political activist. At this point she was fifteen years beyond her gradua-

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tion from Radcliffe College, and it was four years after her founding of Helen Keller International, an organization devoted to research in vision, health, and nutrition. And it was eight years before she published *My Religion*.

In the *Messenger* from April 9 of that year is a piece written by Jacob Emanuel Werren advertising her visit and encouraging people to come and hear her speak. Mr. Werren sings her praises as he outlines some of her biography. In closing he writes,

My more intimate acquaintance with her dates from the time when . . . she began to read the Scriptures, in the interpretation of whose spirit she showed an almost daring insight. It led her to the letter of the Word . . . To those whose privilege it may be to hear and see her at Convention, just this little hint: Listen with an ear that is free from phraseology, but oh, so full of life, and your soul will understand hers (*New Church Messenger* Vol. 116, No.15).

It was six weeks later, in the late afternoon of Tuesday, May 13, 1919, when she and Anne Sullivan Macey were introduced by then president, Rev. Julian K. Smyth. The *Journal* en-

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More Inside:

Swedenborgian Community.org Launches Stewardship Campaign • SPLATz Retreat—Da Middle!
Things to Bring to Convention 2012 • New Way of Doing Business for Convention 2012
What's Next in Seminary Education? • Nominees for Elected Positions

The Editor's Desk



Thank You

Although each volume of *the Messenger* is set and numbered by the calendar year, I experience a sense of completion when the June issue goes to press. I feel some relief as the pressure of deadlines abates until we gear up for the September issue. The hiatus gives us a chance to prepare for and attend the annual convention, a welcome change of pace and a busy time.

I am grateful for the opportunity to edit and produce *the Messenger*. But *the Messenger* would not be possible without its contributors and readers, to both of whom I owe a heartfelt thank you. I appreciate the willingness of the many people, ministers, members of the Church, and even some outside the Church, who give time and ef-

fort to a publication with such small circulation.

Thanks also to the Massachusetts Association for hosting the annual convention again. See you soon.

—Herb Ziegler

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Correction—May 2012 *Messenger*

Bekki Greenwood is a member of the Bridgewater New Church.

Church Calendar

July 5–8: Annual Convention 2012 • Bridgewater State University • Bridgewater, Massachusetts

July 15–21: Paulhaven Summer Camp • Northern Alberta

July 21–29: Almont Family Summer Camp • Allenton, Michigan

August 4–19: FNCA Family Summer Camp • Fryeburg, Maine

• October 26–28: Pacific Coast Association Annual Meeting

the Messenger

© The Swedenborgian Church of North America
Published monthly except July and August by the Communications Support Unit of the Swedenborgian Church of North America (founded 1817, incorporated 1861 as the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America), Ken Turley, president.

June 2012

Volume 234, No. 6, Whole Number 5371

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Subscription free to members of the Swedenborgian Church; nonmembers: \$12/year; foreign: \$15/year; gift subscription from a member: \$5/year; single copies: \$1.00

Free online subscription at www.swedenborg.org

Deadline for submissions is six weeks before the first day of the month of issue.

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the Communications Support Unit, or the Swedenborgian Church.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I have been serving as your president for two years now. And the one question I have been asked more than any other is “What is your vision for Convention?” It has taken this long to begin to comprehend where this question is coming from because, quite simply, it is not something that concerns me. That is in large part because I am learning to be more comfortable with improvising.

When musicians sit down to play, often there is a musical structure with which they are all familiar. That shared knowledge gives them the guiding parameters within which to creatively express themselves. Those parameters are both guidelines to work with and limitations to push against. But there are times when those familiar structures present themselves as simply not working for the current situation. In that moment, musicians will often, without much more than a common key signature, launch into music in which no one knows what the next note, let alone the end result, will be. In those situations, the quality of the music depends on each musician intently listening and observing and responding to what is unfolding in the moment. There is nothing familiar to turn to and depend on, no studying, no planning, or even agreeing ahead of time; there is only being fully present with what is happening around you coupled with who you are and what you have learned and letting the unfolding moment be the source of inspiration for what flows out. It is often frighteningly exhilarating! Yes, there are times when it just doesn't work. But there are also times when music of intense beauty and creativity emerges, music that has never been heard before, that defies description in any familiar terms—times when the music contains and is the result of a free, intimate, and intense reciprocal communication of thoughts



and feelings that could never have been planned out and written down ahead of the moment. It is music that is not for everyone, not for the faint of heart, not for those who find their comfort in the old, familiar tunes. It is music for the adventurous, courageous, and those who find fulfillment in the creative discovery that only comes from taking the risk to step out into the unknown.

This description of music is unsettlingly appropriate for where I see Convention at the moment. The familiar structures, understandings, and definitions of church and ministry are still quite functional and satisfying for many who have grown up and lived with them. They have the satisfying and reassuring affect of a song we have known and sung since childhood. Yet, just as the old hymns mean so much to some, they just don't “do it” for a steadily growing number. This is especially true for the younger generations, the *Millenniums* as I have recently heard them referred to.

From where we are now, looking to the future, I believe we are going to have to be willing to engage church and ministry with a sense of improvisation. We need to engage the music, but we simply do not, and cannot, see from where we are now where we are going to end up. It is a frighteningly exhilarating place to be! There is the fear and uncertainty of the unknown. But there is also the excitement and promise that only the unknown holds.

Rest assured, the inner need to know God, the interest in the Bible, the love of Jesus Christ (although not so much for Christianity), the need for spiritual community, the desire to learn and grow as spiritual beings—these have not waned in the least. But the way in which people engage, listen, learn, and participate in spirituality is changing rapidly all around us. The impetus for the future is not focused on buildings and organizations to support and join. And becoming “members” is not even on the list. Nonetheless, the need for what we still call church is still there, church as the spiritual community of shared mind and heart and ways of being. We just need to be willing to be improvisational in our becoming if we are to stay engaged and relevant to the evolutionary and revolutionary

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Nominees for Elected Positions in the Church

The Nominating Committee recruits and puts forward nominees for election to offices and positions 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 are submitted by the SHS Board of Trustees nominating committee.

Nominations to all offices and positions can be made from the floor of the annual convention.

As of *the Messenger* going to press, the candidates listed at right have been nominated for election at the 2012 Annual Convention.

Candidate Statements

General Council: David Viges



I bring thirty-eight years of work experience for the State of Michigan to the General Council, mostly in budgeting. I have leadership skills, currently

serving as president of both the Lansing Swedenborgian Church and the Michigan Association and as director, Michigan Office of Management Services, Bureau of Construction Codes.

I am honored to be nominated for another term on General Council. We have worked hard on the budget the past few years, but there is a lot more to be accomplished.

FPRSU: Paul Martin

I was ordained in 1982 and have served as minister of the Swedenborgian Church of Puget Sound for most of the past thirty years. I founded the Stonehouse Bookstore and Growth Center, which served



Position to be Filled	Term (Yrs)	Candidate
President	1	Ken Turley ¹
Vice-president	1	Betsy Coffman ^{1, 3}
Secretary	1	Susannah Currie ^{1, 3}
Treasurer	1	Polly Baxter ^{1, 3}
General Council layperson (2 to be elected)	3	Carl Helm ¹ David Viges ¹
General Council layperson ⁴	2	Open
General Council Minister	3	Kit Billings ¹
Communication Support Unit (ComSU)	3	Kristina Madjerac
Communication Support Unit (ComSU) ⁴	2	Steve Sanchez ¹
Education Support Unit (EdSU)	3	Open
Financial and Physical Resources Support Unit (FPRSU)	3	Paul Martin
Information Management Support Unit (IMSU)	3	Andrew Sciarretta ¹
Support Unit for Ministries (MinSU)	3	Open
Board of Trustees of SHS, representative class (2 to be elected)	3	Robert Leas ^{1, 3} Herb Ziegler ¹
Board of Trustees of SHS, at-large class (2 to be elected)	3	Karen Conger ² Robert Reber ²
Nominating Committee (2 to be nominated)	5	Martha Richardson ³ Linda Tafel

1 Incumbent

2 Nominated by the Swedenborgian House of Studies (SHS) Board of Trustees and elected at the SHS annual meeting

3 Statement appeared in the May 2012 Messenger

4 Unexpired term

the Seattle area for twenty-five years. My wife Sandie and I own and operate Mosswood Hollow Retreat Center, where we host about thirty workshops each year. I have served as the treasurer of the Careth Foundation for World Peace for many years, on MINSU for six years, and as chair of both CAM and the Council of Ministers for six years. These experiences have given me an understanding of budgeting and accounting and of how Convention operates, and I would be happy to serve on FPRSU.

IMSU: Andrew Sciarretta

I've been attending the Cambridge Society of the New Jerusalem since 2004 and now serve as president. My involvement in the church represents

an ongoing interest in psychology, consciousness studies, spirituality, and religion that began when I learned of Swedenborg while working on my psychology degree at UMass Amherst in 1996.

In 2002 my programming experience began with work on a voting machine project based on Perl, and SQL in a Linux environment. I then helped to develop all aspects of a "configurable return on investment web application" used to create spreadsheet style presentations that users can interact with. Although getting things to appear as they



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should on screen and in a manner that is clear to the end user is much of the work, the other part involves developing the ideas behind these models by working with companies as an industry analyst.

My programming skills are largely self-taught, and I routinely research methods for performing tasks by consulting coworkers, online resources, and books. I enjoy working with a team and tend to make sure people are on the same page by trying to understand the greater context of an issue and by boiling down technical concepts into clear and concise descriptions. I like to understand why a given technology or method may be best suited for a given task and how it may play out in the final result in terms of feasibility, maintainability, efficiency, and simplicity.

The aspect of the IMSU project dealing with how to present Swedenborg's message to the greater public is very interesting to me. Trying to understand the best way to present Swedenborg's thought to other people is something I ponder often, so I'd like to continue pursuing that endeavor as a member of the IMSU team.

SHS Board of Trustees: Karen Conger

I'm delighted to be asked to run for the Swedenborgian House of Studies board. I have been a member of the Church all my life, having been born into the Washington, D.C. Church and confirmed at the Wayfarers Chapel. I've been a member at the Urbana, Ohio, Church and the Los Angeles Church and now am a member-at-large of the Pacific Coast Association. I have served in a number of positions in the Swedenborgian Church, including the Ministries Support Unit, the Nominating Commit-



tee, and as the secretary of the Pacific Coast Association.

The educational opportunities that the SHS affords are of inestimable importance to the church and to the world as the Lord's Second Coming unfolds. The idea of being a part of the group of people who have the privilege of overseeing and promoting that experience is very exciting to me. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

SHS Board of Trustees: Robert Reber

Robert E. Reber is a longtime friend of the Swedenborgian Church, who served on the first board of Temenos Conference and Retreat Center and was on the board of the Swedenborg School of Religion in Boston when it decided to move to the West Coast and become the Swedenborg House of Studies. Over the years he has come to have a deep appreciation for the Swedenborgian Church. He thinks that the current situation in theological education in the United States is a tumultuous one posing many challenges and many possibilities. Fortunately, SHS is in a position to make a creative contribution to the education of clergy and laity in the life of the church and the larger society as well as the larger arena of theological education. He would look forward to working with members of the SHS board and exploring ways to partner with all who are committed to lifelong theological education of clergy and laity.

Most recently, Bob has been the interim president of Bexley Hall Seminary in Ohio. Before that he was the Dean of Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City. He has had experience as a teacher and consultant in many settings and as an evaluator of Lilly Endowment grants to theological schools and centers. He lives in



Worthington, Ohio, and volunteers at St. John's Episcopal Church, the Worthington Food Pantry, and Horizon Prison Ministry. His latest writing project focusses on the journals that he has kept of visits to fifty-two countries around the globe during the past fifty years.

Bob relishes the time he spends in retirement with his wife Wendy and the numerous visits with his children and grandchildren.

SHS Board of Trustees: Herb Ziegler

I would be honored to serve another term on the SHS Board. I have strived to be of use to SHS by facilitating negotiations with the Cambridge Society over disposition of the Cambridge Chapel property and management of the sale of the Dorothea Harvey bequest of her home in Massachusetts.

I am committed to fulfilling the mission of SHS and planning for our future, with full awareness that in these uncertain times especially, future plans need continuous revision.

As a trustee I feel it is my role to question thoroughly, think creatively, and seek to find comity and understanding, ideally consensus, with other members of the board.

Nominating Committee: Linda Tafel

I joined the Swedenborgian Church in Cincinnati in 1977. In the years since, I have served on the boards of the Swedenborg School of Religion (predecessor of SHS), the Pastoral Ministries Support Unit, the Ministries Support Unit, the cabinet, and the Executive Committee of the Ohio Association. Through working with these boards and committees, (and having attended every annual convention for thirty-five years!)



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SPLATz Retreat—Da Middle!

Nineteen kids, aged 10 to 13, traveled from three states to have the first ever SPLAT (Super Powered Lovable Almost Teen) retreat at the Almont Retreat Center in Michigan. How exciting it was for first timers and seasoned Al-

monters alike to pull into Almont. There were cheers and shouts of joyful glee as they un-piled from vehicles and raced to the ship, fort, swings, Pfister Lounge, and Heritage. It made me well up, seeing them so happy in a place I love so much. Once a significant amount of pent up energy was blown off, the kids came in and chose their rooms and roommates and had some pizza. About midway through, we remembered grace and

sang the SCYL version (the right version, some might say) of the “Superman” grace. Later in the evening we

the string towards agree, disagree, or somewhere in the middle, according to their answers to the questions.

We eased into Saturday with the early risers, who were also the late-stay-uppers, ready to go by 7:30 AM. SPLATz are nothing if not eager, energetic, enthusiastic participants in every retreat moment—I love that about them! Following breakfast, the first dish crew (a



Da Middle retreat leaders. (l to r) Rachael Sbrocco, Heather Guzik, Rev. Jenn Tafel, Lori Steinhiser

gathered together for our opening session, an icebreaker, and to go over retreat and camp rules. Our theme for the retreat was, “Being in the Middle,” which quickly turned into the nickname of a retreat on “Da Middle.” For the icebreaker, the SPLATz positioned themselves along a continuum string with “100% Agree” and “100% Disagree” at the two extreme ends. Then they were asked a series of questions like, “Do you like broccoli,” “Is your favorite color blue,” and more tricky ones like “Do you like yourself” and “Are you a good friend.” They moved along

new thing for SPLATz retreats that we think is here to stay, as it worked so well) took care of the dining room, kitchen, and dishes.

The gang then gathered in Pfister for the morning session, where we discussed the ways we are in the middle. We talked about being in the middle between childhood and adulthood, being in middle school or the middle dorm at camp, living in the present between the past and the future, and being somewhere between selfish and selfless or heaven and hell. We also dis-

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the SPLATz with their Almont love and wisdom fleece pillows

Continued from preceding page

cussed inner vs. outer, where we looked at the differences between our external physical body and brain and our internal thoughts, feelings, and soul.

The rest of the day followed the basic pattern of play, eat, session, clean-up, play, eat, session . . . And this group was so hungry for every bit of it, coming in to find out from Kurt, “When is the next session,” and “Could we please have a session now?” and “When are we making the pillows?” (Somehow, fifteen yards of fleece and forty-eight pounds of fiberfill clued them into the fact that we were making pillows.) What a delight!—and an exhausting, but incredibly rewarding day for all of the youth workers. We remain mystified about why we had about the same number of SPLATz as usual but triple the dishes to do compared to past retreats. The magic of Almont, I guess.

During the afternoon sessions the kids watched a nice little video about being in the middle of the macrocosmic universe and the microcosmic world. Then we delved into a simple lesson about the nature of God. We talked about how the Lord, being perfectly divine love and wisdom, flows into every living thing on earth, in heaven, and even into the hells. The kids discovered that nothing can exist without receiving the Lord’s good and truth: You are, because God is. Then we talked about how the colors red and white are symbols of God’s love and wisdom, respectively. In our last afternoon sessions we talked about drama triangles, which often involve a bully, a victim, and a hero. We looked to the Bible to find some examples of these drama triangles, for example the story of Saul, David, and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20).

In the evening, we created love and wisdom pillows with red and white fleece. We put suns or hearts inside them in-

My First SPLAT Retreat

BY KIRSTEN, AGE 10

I went to my first SPLAT retreat with Angela, my brother Cory, and Angela’s brother Cade. Ms. Rachael, their Mom, drove us. It was a long way from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Almont, Michigan. It took us about six hours to get there but it was totally worth it!

When we got there, we ate then played. Most people liked the free time best, but not me. I loved the sessions. I learned so, so much! The theme was being in “Da Middle.” Kurt was an amazing teacher and put the scripture into words I understood. I liked that. He taught us that Moses was in “da middle”—the Pharisee’s were the bullies, the Israelites were the victims, and Moses was the HERO! We learned about lots of other Bible heroes/victims/bullies. If we find ourselves in “da middle,” we can ask for help or maybe even be the hero.

I loved my first SPLAT retreat and hope I can go back for a second.

scribed with special words that reflected positive qualities that we possess or aspire to have. (Picture a huge, slightly messier, Build-a-Bear-type activity, without the cool stuffing machine, snazzy clothes, or accessories.)



Da Middles! (l to r) Scout, Paige, and Caroline

On their own, the almost-teens decided to invite friends to sign their pillows, making them even more significant and special.

The day was wrapped up with what has become a tradition, the SPLAT Fireside Chat, and a slightly (oh-so-slightly) less energized group hit the hay at about 1:00 AM.

We had our final breakfast together not nearly as early as on Saturday morning (we had to ring the bell this time), took pictures, cleaned up, said our good-byes, and headed back home, old friendships renewed, new friendships formed, spirits recharged, minds filled with a deeper understanding of God, hearts filled with His love, and big plans for when we meet again!

Many thanks to our talented youth director Kurt Fekete for continuing to bless the Swedenborgian Church with his gift of providing leadership and a program for youth to be nurtured and to build lifelong, meaningful relationships with each other and the Lord. Thanks to Almont for providing the cherished space. And thanks to youth workers Rev. Jenn Tafel, Rachael Sbrocco, and Heather Guzik for their time and devotion to our SPLATz!

—Lori Steinhiser

Nominees

Continued from page 75

I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with many people from around the denomination. Currently I am a member of the New Church of Southwest Florida.

For the past eight years, I have served as head teller or assistant to the head teller for annual elections. From this experience, I have developed a thorough knowledge of the principles and rules guiding the Nominating Committee’s work. Having now “retired” from head teller duty, I am honored to have been asked to stand for election to the Nominating Committee. ☩

Hidden Gem in St. Louis

BY EMILY HARRIS

On May 3 The Church of the Open Word, Garden Chapel, in St. Louis, presented a program featuring St. Louis County historian Esley Hamilton's study on Mid-Century Modern Churches.



The Church of the Open Word was designated a landmark by the St. Louis County Historic Building Commission in 2011 to recognize it as an important building of exceptional significance for the quality of its architecture and its worthiness for preservation.

Thirty-five people attended, a combination of architects, photographers, others interested in modern mid-cen-

tury architecture, and several members and friends of the Church of the Open Word, Garden Chapel.

The event raised awareness in the community of the architectural gem in which we are privileged to worship. Besides making new friends and sharing our "hidden gem," (as several attendees referred to our chapel), another outcome of this meeting was that the Modern Mid-Century Architecture group of St. Louis hopes to join us on a volunteer basis to do some beautification projects on the church grounds in the near future. ☦

Letter from the President

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culture of which we are part.

So let me be clear: I have no well-formed "vision for the future." I don't even want one! What I have is trust in God, courage and creative curiosity, and a deep desire to be part of what "the Lord's *New Church*" is becoming. And make no mistake, it is becoming, with or without us. What we are witnessing is indeed the Lord's Second Coming, and it is not happening constrained to the old and familiar forms that we are so used to. The Lord is calling to us, but no longer by the old and familiar tunes we know so well. The question is not, "What is the vision for the future?" The future will take care of itself. Rather the question is, "How are we a part of the future that is unfolding now?"

Anybody want to jam?

—Blessings, Rev. Ken

Things to Bring to Convention 2012

If you are attending, here are some things to bring as you plan your trip to Convention 2012 at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

- *Bring your church's spirit . . . with a banner exclaiming your community.*

During the opening service, there will be a banner procession as we welcome each church and Convention body represented. We would love to have representatives of each in the procession.

- *Bring your children . . . they are the future of the Church.*

There will be child care offered during *all* scheduled convention events. And children (and adults of all ages) will love playing games on the 4th of July with Trevor the Games Man!

- *Bring your creativity . . . and ex-*

amples of how you've celebrated the "Year of the Lord."

There will be a table set up where all can share and be inspired by each other's creativity in responding to the call to be the Lord's Church together.

- *Bring your musical inspiration . . . and samples to share at an "open table for music."*

Are you actively involved in the music program at your home church? Would you like a chance to share your excitement about what most inspires you with other Convention musicians? This year we are providing a special table at the convention to display samples of favorite choir anthems, solo and instrumental pieces, CDs, resource lists, helpful Website information, and anything and everything of use to

church musicians. Please help us make this an exceptional resource by bringing with you to the convention samples of sheet music or listings of favorite pieces (with titles, composers or lyricists, price, and sources), photos or write-ups about special musical events or unusual offerings, and whatever else you would like to share. If you have special challenges or concerns about your local music ministry, this will also be a great place to consult with others and learn from each other. If you would like to participate in this effort, please send your comments and suggestions soon to Bet Giddings, music director at the Bridgewater church, at betgiddings@comcast.net. Thanks!

- *Bring your enthusiasm . . . to cele-*

Continues next page

New Way of Doing Business for Convention 2012

Here's how we'll be organizing the business meetings at Convention in a new way.

- *It will be more important than ever to read your advance reports packet!*
Reports will be emailed to delegates in early June; they will not be presented orally during the business sessions, with the exception of updates and the Council of Ministers and General Council reports, which will only be ready after those groups meet in the days before the convention. Questions must be submitted in advance, and they will be addressed on the floor by those best able to respond. As soon as you receive your advance reports, start reading and feel free to start sending any questions you have to the secretary of Convention at secretary@swedenborg.org. If possible, please bring electronic or printed copies with you to the convention.
- *We will have a session called "Presentation of Issues for Consideration."*
Topical issues will be introduced for discussion and input from delegates. You will receive information about these issues by email in early June so that you can think about them in advance.
- *A proposed bylaw amendment was announced on April 3.*
An email was sent to all of Convention and an article appeared in the May 2012 *Messenger* announcing that there will be a motion to amend the By-Laws of General Convention concerning "Privilege of Call" as a category of ordination. Copies of this and the background and basis for it can be requested from the Central Office at manager@swedenborg.org.
- *Announcements will need to be submitted in writing.*
We will be using the overhead projection system to bring announcements to your attention during the business sessions. Please write down any announcement requests, in advance or as they arise, and submit them to the secretary at secretary@swedenborg.org prior to Convention for projection in this new format.
- *Solicitations by affiliated organizations, other than the Mite Box Collection, will not be permitted on the floor of Convention.*
Any groups who want to attract support for their efforts are welcome to arrange to set up a table at Convention to tell of your good works and your needs.

2012 Annual Convention



**Bridgewater,
Massachusetts
July 5-8 2012**

- *Groups are encouraged to sponsor one of the Business Session breaks.*
For a small donation, your group can sponsor the snacks during business session break and have an appreciation broadcast as a video announcement. You may submit images and text about your group to include in the thank you message. Contact Central Office operations manager Renée Helenbrecht at manager@swedenborg.org to volunteer.
The Bridgewater New Jerusalem Church, which will be hosting the ordination service and main convention worship on Saturday evening, July 7, at 7 PM, is pleased to announce that a handicap accessible ramp has been installed just in time for Convention. ☦

Continued from preceding page

- *brate the 4th of July with your Convention family.*
- Informal outdoor and indoor games all afternoon
 - Supper barbeque on the grounds
 - Evening outdoor games for all ages led by Trevor Woofenden 'the Games Man'
 - View the town's fireworks from the hill on campus.

- *Bring your curiosity and willingness to participate . . . to a pre-convention workshop.*
 - July 5, 9 AM–noon: "Spiritually Integrated Self-Care for Those Who Care for and about Others," with Rev. Dr. Gard Perry
 - July 5, 9 AM–noon: "Workshop for Ministers' Partners," with Kathy Black
 - July 5, 1–4 PM: "Can I Get A Witness: Stories of Vital Congregations

Fostering Lives of Transformative Faith," with Rev Sarah Buteux

- *Bring a worshipful heart to . . . the newly handicap-accessible Bridgewater New Jerusalem Church.*
The ordination service and main Convention worship with the 2012 Convention preacher the Rev. Andrew Stinson will be held on Saturday, July 7 at 7 PM, followed by a party on campus.

—Susannah Currie

What's Next? Adapting to or Leading in the Changing World of Seminary Education

BY JANE SIEBERT

At the meeting of the Swedenborgian House of Studies (SHS) Board of Trustees on May 4 & 5, the development sub-committee challenged the board to quote our mission statement. Many knew parts of it and its essence, but no one got it completely right. When we took a look at it, the question was raised, "Is this still the mission that drives our seminary?"

When we look back twelve years since the move from Boston to Berkeley, we see the adaptations that SHS has made to the changes in theological education. Students often are unable to pick up roots and move to the seminary, so we were the first at our host school, the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) to implement on-line education with courses in our Certificate in Swedenborgian Studies, which is required for ordination. We affiliated with other schools of theology like Earlham School of Religion as an alternative site for our students to study for their M.Div. degrees. As students from other denominational affiliations on the PSR campus were drawn to SHS, we individualized our coursework to the proficiencies of each student. As the need for professors grew, we looked around the world for good teachers and well-qualified scholars interested in teaching Swedenborgian thought and broadening the minds of our students and all PSR students. As women from the General Church sought SHS out for their preparation for ministry, we reached out and welcomed them.

As a board we are also closely watching what is happening in our denomination. The connection between SHS and the church is vital and especially important today. The church is changing. And it needs to change because the

larger culture is changing. We process information in new ways. We communicate with each other in ways that were unimaginable even a decade ago. We live in a world in which the realities of other religions interface with us on a daily basis.

It is an uncertain time and yet, and importantly, people are still being called to ministry in the Swedenborgian Church. God is calling and people are answering. We want to make sure we are appropriately preparing them for this unknown future and equipping them for success.

We are asking for your input. At the 2012 Convention the SHS board members will be talking with you about your seminary, the Swedenborgian House of Studies. We will be asking:

1. What are your views about SHS?
2. What can we do to better serve the denomination and you?
3. Does our mission fit in today's world?

The mission of the Swedenborgian House of Studies is "to prepare qualified women and men for ministry in the Swedenborgian Church, to serve as a center of Swedenborgian scholarship, and to make Swedenborgian resources for theological education available to the wider church and community."

If not attending the convention but would like to express your opinion, email me at janesiebert@gmail.com. If you particularly want to talk at the convention, look for one of the board members, and if we miss you, please drop me an email. ☩

The Rev. Jane Siebert is chair of the SHS Board of Trustees.

SHS Spring Board Meeting

The Swedenborgian House of Studies (SHS) Board of Trustees met May 4–5 at the El Cerrito Community Church (Swedenborgian) near Berkeley, California.

Dean Jim Lawrence reported that the IRS has notified SHS that it is not in compliance with non-profit status due to failure to file Form 990 for a number of years. This issue had been discussed with SHS auditors in the past, and they had advised that SHS was exempt from requirements to file; SHS must re-file for tax-exempt status. The auditors are working with the IRS to correct this situation, and some action is expected by summer.

Treasurer Jennifer Lindsay reported that to date SHS is on budget, with a small surplus—\$6,000 was reinvested in the Common Fund this quarter. The budget for FY 2013 (balanced) was approved.

Administrative assistant Francesca McCrossan reported that students, in their exit interviews, speak to the need for better education in Swedenborgian rituals and ceremonies.

The finance subcommittee led a discussion of investments and the structure and function of General Convention's Investment Committee, which manages the Common Fund, where the SHS endowment is invested. Although SHS comprises thirty per cent of the Common Fund, it does not have a representative on the committee at present. The board voted to empower the finance subcommittee to act for the board in negotiating the terms of SHS participation in the Common Fund and representation on the Finance Committee.

The academic subcommittee led a discussion about ways to better co-

Continues next page

Swedenborgian Community.org Launches First Fundraising and Stewardship Campaign

Our online community has proven itself to be a vibrant and growing outreach ministry of the Swedenborgian Church, and to better maintain and grow this ministry the Steering Committee is launching a fundraising and stewardship campaign this summer.



Swedenborgian Community.org continues to show impressive growth over the past four years. We already have had 10,629 new visitors this year as of April 9. We have seen a 152% increase in return visitors in 2012 as compared with 2009, demonstrating that visitors find the website valuable. Visitors have also increased their time on our site, from 2.75 minutes average in March 2009 to 5.65 minutes in March 2012.

A recent survey showed high satisfaction with the site among registrants but it also showed that few registrants understand that this ministry needs

support from its members in order to continue.

Our 2012 budget of \$26,170 is allocated to: (a) half-time minister salary and retirement contribution and guest minister honoraria; (b) Website hosting and updating and Constant Contact subscription; and (c) a major need for two hours per week of technical assistance (\$1200) so that our minister can provide more pastoral care.

We thank the Mission Fund for a grant of \$20,000 and General Council for a contribution of \$1200. This supports much of the minister's salary and retirement contribution.

Still, we need personal giving to cover about twenty per cent of our annual budget to support areas such as

- retirement contribution for our minister: \$1470
- Website hosting and updating: \$1300
- honoraria for guest ministers: \$350
- Internet communication (email contact program): \$360

- ministry oversight and transaction costs: \$390
- our major need for two hours a week of technical assistance: \$1200

We thank our members who have already contributed almost forty per cent (through April) toward meeting this need. We also thank Chris Laitner and Val Brugler for providing our new logo, and our registrants for their helpful suggestions in developing the final version.

Rev. Wilma Wake and the Steering Committee have been working together to make both opportunities and reasons for giving more prominent on the Website. In June we will circulate an appeal letter among our registrants and make the need for financial support a topic of our chats.

Readers of *the Messenger* wishing to support our online community can go to www.swedenborgiancommunity.org and click on the new "Make a Donation" link in the upper right hand corner. Look around while you're there. We think you'll like it! ☩

Continued from preceding page

ordinate field placements and practicum in the SHS curriculum with experiences the Committee on Admission to the Ministry (CAM) requires for ordination. Kathy Speas will work with Ken Turley to develop a list of the educational needs of ordination-track students that are not being adequately met at present.

The board discussed the Privilege of Call motion proposed for consideration at the annual convention. Dean Lawrence said that SHS was ready to carry out its responsibilities should the motion pass. The board passed a motion to support passage of the Privilege

of Call proposal.

The development subcommittee led a discussion about better ways to invite donations for both the annual appeal and one-time gifts, which included more and better communication with members of the Church (see "What's Next?" on page 82).

Pacific School of Religion (PSR) president Riess Potterveld reported that PSR reduced its budget by 1.4 million dollars to address a chronic deficit spending problem. He noted that 2005 was the peak year of enrollment in M.Div. programs in the United States (81,000), declining steadily since then. In response, PSR is explor-

ing new programs, including an M.A. and doctorate programs in new specialties relating to the world beyond organized religion. PSR is considering a physical consolidation and building program to better serve students and to save money. Property would be sold or leased, and outdated buildings would be replaced with more efficient and useful buildings.

Benny Liew, dean of PSR, shared some of his work on the subject of Asian-American hermeneutics (Bible interpretation) and the problems and solutions surrounding perceptions and acceptance of ethnic/racial studies within theological disciplines. ☩

Helen Keller

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try for the occasion notes:

The President introduced Mrs. Macey (formerly Miss Sullivan), who, as Helen Keller's teacher, told in some detail about Miss Keller's education. Afterward, Miss Keller delivered her address upon "Swedenborg's Message of Comfort" (*Journal of the 98th Annual Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem*, p. 11).

The May 28, 1919, *Messenger* provides wonderful context for the address, including copious details from Mrs. Macey's introduction of Miss Keller. Mrs. Macey reviewed Miss Keller's biography to date, detailing her desire and achievement in learning to speak and in attending college. She recounts how Miss Keller entered Radcliffe without conditions, writing the entrance exam on a typewriter in the dean's office. She took courses including Greek, Latin, French, history, and literature, and almost all of the books had to be spelled into her hands as no Braille versions existed. Mrs. Macey also transcribed classroom lectures into Miss Keller's hand. The article recounts Mrs. Macey saying,

So far as Helen's heart and her mind are concerned, the prison walls of deafness and blindness are broken. The burden that remains is dependence upon other people . . . (and this) weighs heavily upon the proud spirit. . . . I speak of these drawbacks; these restraints that hamper Helen at the close of her triumphant achievement, because if you forget they exist, you miss something of the lesson of her smiling face, something of her message of courage (*New Church Messenger*, Vol. 116, No 22, pp. 432–433).

Rev. Smyth then gave further warm words of introduction, and Miss Keller delivered an address entitled, "Swedenborg's Message of Comfort." It centered on the idea of comfort in the spiritual

world, especially in relation to the ongoing loss of life in World War I. Armistice Day is still months away, and battles are being fought throughout Europe. Miss Keller spoke:

We are the inhabitants of two worlds, the material and the spiritual. We dwell consciously upon earth, but we are only dimly aware of the spiritual world which surrounds us because this "muddy vesture" of clay obscures our vision. . . . So Heaven lies about us and we perceive it not. Death draws aside the obscuring veil and lo, our souls' eyes see and our souls' ears hear! (*Ibid.*).

Miss Keller speaks passionately of the comfort to be found in the Word and uses her own deafness and blindness as a metaphor for the human inability to "see" the spiritual world before death.

"Love carries away the light when it departs." — Helen Keller at the 107th Annual Convention

"How then, can deliverance come through the churches which begin their deliberations by banishing love? Love carries away the light when it departs."

Nine years later, almost to the day, Miss Keller was again the featured speaker at the annual convention. This time the world was between wars, but not settled or completely recovered in much of Europe. At 4 PM, Monday afternoon, May 14, 1928, Helen Keller spoke to those gathered.

The business of Convention that afternoon had begun with Rev. William Worcester, outgoing president, and Rev. Paul Sperry, president-elect, sharing the podium as a symbol of the upcoming change in administration. Kind words were spoken by both men, and Rev. Sperry departed the podium noting that he had, "to hurry off to meet Miss Helen Keller at the train" (*The New Church Messenger*, Vol. 134,

No. 24, p. 442). Business proceeded with letters read from New Church societies abroad, and the report from Urbana College (University). Once that business was concluded,

The hour was now at hand for the main feature of the afternoon, the presentation of an address by that most remarkable woman, Miss Helen Keller: "A Vision of Service." The meeting was turned over to the President of Convention, the Rev. Paul Sperry. Miss Keller, accompanied by her Secretary, Miss Polly Thompson, entered from a door in the rear of the chancel, and sat down at the left of the platform, near the front. The church was packed . . . (*Ibid.*, p. 444).

The proceedings of the convention give more detail in Rev. Sperry's introduction of their honored guest:

I confess to a feeling of shrinking as I realize that these impromptu words are passing through the agile fingers of Miss Polly Thompson, this faithful secretary of Miss Keller's. We are all regretting exceedingly that illness has prevented Mrs. (Anne Sullivan) Macey from coming this afternoon, as we had hoped. Miss Keller arrived only a few minutes ago, and she is obliged to return on the 5:30 train . . .

The report continues,

Now Miss Keller was assisted up into the pulpit, that happy light and smile still playing over her features. Some roses stood in a vase upon the pulpit. Her quickened faculties detected them, and bending over, she paused for a moment to drink in their fragrance. . . . She spoke slowly and carefully, and with a clearness of enunciation that seemed like a triumph over the impossible.

In the audience that afternoon was a convention-goer who gave a verbatim report of the address in *The Helper*. The address itself resonates strongly today as it did then, and the context of Miss Keller's address to the conven-

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tion brings a wonderful fullness to the words.

The narrator wrote,

The formal address was prepared in leaflet form. Miss Keller had memorized it. However, so active is her sense of rhythm and so alive is her love of beauty that, in speaking, she transposed the order of words and phrases and made other changes here and there so that her spoken message was a composition even more beautiful in detail than that of the printed page . . . (*The Helper*, Vol. 82, No. 3, pp. 2–3: June 6, 1928).

Miss Keller began her address with this verse: “Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem . . . shake thyself from the dust” (Isaiah 42: 1–2). In relating a series of questions posed to her about her faith and reflections upon a deeper meaning of Christianity, Miss Keller says:

An earnest friend asks me, “What is the attitude of the people who believe in Swedenborg’s ‘Doctrine of Charity’ . . . toward the practical problems of our day? What are they doing to promote peace and goodwill among men?” These are only a few of the questions which have been brought to my attention the past six months. They indicate the feeling of many thoughtful people that Christianity is receding rather than growing in power. Some churches realize that their people are leaving them, and without understanding the cause. They try all manner of expedients to hold their flocks together. . . . Still the exodus continues, and the people murmur, and the light of faith grows dimmer in men’s hearts. . . . Why is humanity losing its belief in the liveableness of Christianity?

(*Ibid*, *Messenger*, p. 445).

Miss Keller notes that she found her answer in *True Christian Religion*:

“Where there is no good life, there is no longer a church.” Where people cease to apply their beliefs to practical living, there is not faith. . . . If the people are to find spiritual joy in the church, the church must establish upon earth practical Christianity. It must make of human life something more than a battlefield of ruthless competition. When Christians live by the Golden rule, there will be no empty churches (*Ibid*).



Miss Keller goes on to describe how the particular gifts of Swedenborg can be used for good in the world, and urges Swedenborgians to leave behind some of their normal reticence for evangelism and share the knowledge of their faith to a wider audience.

The Messenger of June 13 gives more rich details of what happened at the close of Miss Keller’s address. The chair spoke of the time during the writing of *My Religion*, and Miss Keller’s dedication to the idea that it be an act of love in her part.

When some of us hoped to give her more freedom, more time and

more facility in preparation, she earnestly and continuously refused any such assistance. Two or three times we have tried to express to her in some tangible way our appreciation, and today we have the privilege of expressing it in a way which we earnestly trust may be not only pleasing but satisfying to her . . . because it expresses the affection of the New Church, and its gratitude for this book. . . . A check made out . . . for \$1000.

In present dollars, that \$1000 would equal over \$13,000. The last paragraph notes,

Miss Keller has three favorite hymns, “O Love, that will not let me go,” “Lead, Kindly Light,” and “Nearer my God, to Thee.” The second of these was now sung as the closing hymn . . . after which Miss Keller said, “I wish I could express to you the happiness you have given me, and I send my love to all my friends and fellow-believers.”

Conclusion

In a letter dated May 17, 1928, from her home, Forest Hills, New York, addressed to Rev. Paul Sperry (who had given her great encouragement and assistance in the production of the now well-known book, *My Religion*), Miss Keller referred to the occasion of her address, writing,

I am still conscious of the attentive silence with which they listened to my imperfect speech. I thrill to the affection with which they gathered about me like one great family. . . . It was one of those sweet experiences of spiritual kinship that occasionally break through the commonplace of our earth-life. (*The Helper*, Vol. 82, No. 3, pp. 2–3: June 6, 1928). ☩

To read Helen Keller’s addresses in full, go to www.swedenborg.org.)

Dr. Francesca McCrossan is the administrative assistant at the Swedenborgian House of Studies and has a PhD in Folklore. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and daughter.

Church and Association Statistics for 2012

Article I, Section 3, of the Constitution of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem (the Swedenborgian Church) states that it is composed of “Constituent bodies . . . which . . . unite with the Swedenborgian Church in performing the distinctive uses of a church.” The constituent bodies are the state, provincial, and regional associations listed in the table below. The constitution continues, “The members of the Swedenborgian Church shall be

those persons who are adult, active members of a constituent body or who have been accepted as members at large through Rite of Confirmation and by vote of the Swedenborgian Church.”

Article IV, Section 2, states, “Every constituent body of the Swedenborgian Church shall be entitled to two delegates and an additional delegate for every ten members.” The table below displays statistics as of December 31, 2011.

Association (Conference)	Churches		Ordained Ministers		Lay Leaders	Members			Number of Delegates
	Active	Inactive	Active	Retired		Active	Inactive	Total	
Eastern Canada	1	0	3	1	1	108	21	129	12
Illinois**	6	0	4	0	0	90	22	112	11
Kansas	2	0	2	1	0	79	0	79	9
Maine	2	0	7	1	0	129	104	233	14
Massachusetts	5	0	8	0	0	82	69	151	10
Michigan	2	0	3	0	0	62	13	75	8
Middle Atlantic	3	0	3	0	0	64	31	95	8
New York*	2	1	1	0	0	34	32	66	5
Ohio	3	2	3	0	1	55	21	76	7
Pacific Coast	6	0	17	3	1	250	67	317	27
Southeast	2	0	4	1	0	32	3	35	5
Western Canada	5	1	1	2	0	122	18	140	14
At Large	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	5	2
SCYL									2
Totals	39	2	61	10	3	1112	401	1513	134

*Bayside Society did not report for 2002-2011

**Norway, IA Society did not report for 2010-2011

General Council Spring Meeting

The General Council met via telephone conference for its spring meeting on April 21. “A New Way to do Business” (see page 81) was introduced by the secretary, Rev. Susannah Currie, and the meeting gave the General Council a preview of how business sessions will be run at the convention this year. The first part of the meeting was to approve minutes from previous meetings. Then a series of reports were received from officers and other bodies such as Swedenborgian Community.org, the Central Of-

fice Review Committee, Urbana University, the Council of Ministers, and Revelations of the Spirit, a new ministry in the Eastern Canada Conference. Time was given after each report for questions and answers, and some items generated from these reports were added to the new business section of the agenda for later in the meeting.

The next phase of the meeting was to confirm appointments to unexpired terms. Two appointments were made, Deane Currie to the Committee on Inquiry and Steve Sanchez to

the Communications Support Unit (COMSU).

Action items were next on the agenda, and the secretary made a number of motions that the Council discussed and voted on. The motions approved were that

- the Structure Review Committee be directed to design and implement a self-study of the denominational structure that will involve *all* members of the denomination
- the treasurer contact a professional advisor to investigate the wisdom of accepting an offer to buy some min-

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Passages

Deaths

Jean Bestor, long-time member of Swedenborg Chapel, Cleveland, entered into the spiritual world on April 11, 2012, at age 94. Jean is survived by her husband Norman. Her memorial service took place April 21, the Rev. Ronald Brugler officiating.

In 1947, Jean, who was from the Paisley, Scotland, Swedenborgian Church, was visiting her cousin Bob Nicol and his wife Rachel at the Lakewood (Ohio) Swedenborgian Church. At the young adult group she met Norman Bestor, and their friendship grew through correspondence after Jean returned to Scotland. They were married in 1949 and lived in Lakewood and Westlake, where they raised their family. Jean will be fondly remembered by her extended family and her many friends.

The Rev. Dr. **William Ross Woofenden** passed into the spiritual world on May 4, 2012, at the age of 90. He was

born in 1921, in Mull, Ontario, the son of Ross and Emily Anne Yeomans Woofenden. Bill grew up in Detroit, where he attended the Church of the Holy City. A veteran of World War II, he served in the 13th Engineer Battalion. He was awarded the Asia-Pacific Theater Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal.



Before beginning his life as a minister and teacher, Bill worked for several years as a proofreader and typesetter in New York City and then at the *Boston Globe*. After marrying Louise Dole Woofenden in 1950, in Bath, Maine, Bill earned his B.A. from Boston University in 1952, later graduating from the New Church Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He later studied at New York University and Harvard Divinity School and earned a master's degree in 1969 and a

doctorate in 1971, both from St. Louis University.

Ordained as a Swedenborgian minister in the early 1950s, he served as pastor of the New Church in Manhattan (and preached at the Church of the Neighbor in Brooklyn), the Church of the Holy City in Detroit, Good Shepherd Community Church in Des Plaines, Illinois, Church of the Open Word in Creve Coeur, Missouri, and the New Jerusalem Church in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, from which he retired. While serving the Bridgewater Church Bill also taught at the New Church Theological School in Newton and Curry College in Milton.

A leading Swedenborgian scholar, Bill was the author of *Swedenborg Explorer's Guidebook: A Research Manual*, founder and longtime editor of the journal *Studia Swedenborgiana*, and series editor of the redesigned Standard Edition of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg, from 1994 to 1998. He served on the boards of the Swedenborg Scientific Association and the Swedenborg Foundation.

After retiring, Bill and Louise remained in their home in Sharon, Massachusetts; after thirty years there, they moved to Bowdoinham, Maine. Bill was an avid tennis player and a great lover of music, particularly jazz. He was such a groupie of the New Black Eagles Jazz Band that he got to know the musicians personally, and they played at his eightieth birthday party.

Known affectionately by all as "Pop" in his later years, Bill is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Louise; sons Ross, Ian, Trevor, Lee, and Todd; daughters Jane Foster, Laura Grams and Ellen Woofenden; twenty-four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren (with a fifth on the way). He was predeceased by his older brother, Robert Charles Woofenden. A memorial service was held on May 19, 2012, at the Bath Church of the New Jerusalem, the Rev. Dr. George Dole officiating. ☩

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eral rights held by the denomination in Texas

- a revised "Procedures for Handling Allegations of Misconduct Against Our Ordained Ministers Or Our Lay Leaders" be recommended for approval by the Council of Ministers and convention delegates
- an article be printed in the June *Messenger* to outline the changes in how we will do business at Convention 2012 (see page 81)
- subscription rates for the printed version of *the Messenger* be established
- the logo for Swedenborgiancommunity.org be approved

New Business discussed included

- the Placement Committee's motion to amend the By-Laws of General

Convention by adding "Privilege of Call" as a category of ordination that will be brought to the floor of the annual convention for a vote (see the May 2012 *Messenger*)

- a review of procedures for new societies that want to join General Convention
- a request to the Committee on Library and Documents to recommend a policy on record retention.

The secretary asked General Council members for feedback on the format of the meeting so that we might continue to fine-tune it to use at Annual Convention 2012. Initial feedback was positive, and the conference call was concluded in the record-breaking time of a mere two hours. ☩

—Susannah Currie, recording secretary

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.

Swedenborg Bust Reinstalled

BY KAREN FEIL

The bronze bust of Swedenborg by sculptor Adolff Johnson, which was stolen from Lincoln Park in Chicago in 1976, has been replaced. Originally commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. L. Brackett Bishop, the installation ceremony was held in July, 1924. The granite base is inscribed with Swedenborg's name (unfortunately misspelled "Emmanuel") and a quotation by Franklin Roosevelt.

The monument is set close to and is easily visible from Lake Shore Drive, about four miles north of the downtown area, at Diversey Avenue. It sits on a narrow strip of land that rises between Lake Shore Drive and Lake Michigan.

Insurance funds from an auto accident in 2009 that damaged the platform facilitated the Park District's efforts to restore the monument to its original condition. The Park District architects contacted the owners of the original mould, and a new bust was poured. Extensive work was also done to the platform on which the monument sits.

Swedenborg now gazes southwest toward Chicago's near north side from his lakefront perch, holding a folio to his breast. Carved into the granite are these words,

**EMMANUEL SWEDENBORG
1688–1772**

**SWEDISH SCIENTIST, ENGINEER, PHILOSOPHER,
MYSTIC, WRITER AND THEOLOGIAN.**

**"IN A WORLD IN WHICH THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE
TOO OFTEN SEEMS STILL AND SMALL THERE IS NEED OF
THAT SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF WHICH
SWEDENBORG WAS A PARTICULAR EXAMPLE."**

F. D. ROOSEVELT.



At www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/fountains-monuments-sculptures/ you can see the original monument by Lincoln Park from the list and the Emanuel Swedenborg monument from the list of sculptures in Lincoln Park.

For an extensive article on the original monument, see New Church history at <http://www.newchurchhistory.org/articles/jonsson/jonsson.php>. ☩

Karen Feil is director of the Swedenborg Library in Chicago.