

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

JANUARY 1974





Ministers' and Wives' Institute

Twenty-four people—ten Convention ministers with their wives, and four ministers alone—sat in a circle under Live Oak trees dripping with Spanish Moss on the grounds of Swedenborg House in DeLand Florida, listening to a teacher.

The teacher was Ken Beal, a United Church of Canada minister, serving as chaplain at the Kitchener-Waterloo (Ontario, Canada) Hospital. By sharing his intensive and well-analyzed experience in a most articulate way, he taught ministers and their wives



IN DISCUSSION ON SWEDENBORG HOUSE LAWN: (Top photo) Ken Beal, Paul Zacharias, Cal Turley, Pat Zacharias, Randy Laakko, Ivan and Eva Franklin; (above) Marilyn Turley, Horand and Cindy Gutfeldt, Millie Laakko, Erwin Reddekopp, Harvey Tafel; (below) Richard and Corinne Tafel, Lisa Reddekopp, Marian Kirven, Jay Lee, Perry and Ernie Martin.





The Rev. Kenneth Beal, at Ministers' and Wives' Institute. about ministry by bringing new insights and perspectives to bear on our own experience.

The listening was easy, as well as stimulating, because of the nature of the speaker, and because of the weather. While the newspapers described snow almost everywhere in the country except Florida, we sat out-of-doors: some wore beach clothes and sunglasses, soaking up the sun, while others chose the shaded part of the circle because the sun was too hot. The food was good, the companionship was wonderful, Daytona Beach and Ponce De Leon's "fountain of youth" were near-by for free times, and practically everyone spoke of what they had profited from the experience.

The teaching was aimed at ministers and wives alike, on the thesis that everyone ministers to others in some way, that the simple impact of one person's life on another's can be in itself a redemptive thing. In this framework, we discussed ministry to the sick, the dying, and the bereaved. In our later understanding, this came to include just about everybody: sickness was considered as every stumbling block to regeneration as well as to health, we're all dying of mortality if nothing else, and we all have lost or will lose loved ones. In this light, the business of ministering to the sick, dying, and bereaved over-lapped enormously with the business of handling sickness, death, and grief in our own hearts and minds. Guided introspection

and small-group work blended with lectures and full-group discussion.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS IN DE LAND, FLORIDA

The General Council held its mid-winter meetings at Swedenborg House in De Land, Florida, from January 10 to 13. Severe snow and ice storms blanketed much of the northern part of the United States and Canada, and many General Council members experienced travel delays. When they reached Florida, they were greeted by balmy temperatures and clear skies.

The Council meetings were attended by 14 of the 16 members. Absent were Chester Cook, treasurer, and Ethel Rice, secretary. Mrs. Rice was unable to attend because of the hospitalization of her husband, the Rev. Wilfred G. Rice. Mr. Rice is now at home recovering from a heart attack suffered in December.

The General Council voted to:

Approve a budget for the coming year of \$155,990.

Contribute \$15,000 to Urbana College for general operating expenses during the coming year.

Recommend several changes to the constitution and by-laws, including the abolishing of the office of General Pastor, and reassigning the duties and functions of the office.

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COVER PHOTO: Ministers and wives meeting in De Land, Florida, enjoy the warmth and sunshine during discussions.

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Robert H. Kirven, Editor

Margaret Kirven, Lay-out Assistant

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Secretary Pro-tem Marjorie Barrington, President Ernest Martin, Vice-president Adolph Liebert preside over meeting of General Council. Also facing the camera are Jim Zehner and Cal Turley.

General Council, Cont'd. from p. 3

Authorize the establishing of a small committee to explore the possibilities of a world assembly in 1980.

Accept the invitation of the Pacific Coast Association to hold the 1977 convention in the San Francisco bay area.

Establish a Planning and Development Committee to develop proposals for long-range planning and to make specific recommendations to the Council of Ministers, the General Council, boards and committees, and the Convention at large. Members of the committee include Captain August Ebel, chairman; Dr. Dorothea Harvey; the Rev. Messrs. Paul Zacharias, Calvin Turley, and Randall Laakko; and the President of Convention ex officio.

Appoint a 3-man team consisting of Adolph Liebert, Carl Heck, and Eric Zacharias to review the progress and management of the Bellevue Church.

Accept the recommendations of the Central Office Committee and to appoint a screening committee to review candidates for Executive Director of the Central Office of Convention. The chairman of

the committee will be Adolph Liebert. The director will be employed in the spring of 1975 and take office officially in July 1975 when the next president of Convention takes office.

Hear a report on plans for the next post-convention conference, to be held at Urbana College the week following convention.

Issue the following statement regarding criticism of Convention policies and members:

"Various members of Convention have received letters making charges against the policies and persons of Convention. At its meeting on January 12, 1974, General Council adopted the following statement:

"While we welcome meaningful criticism of the policies and actions of the Officers and Boards of Convention, we deplore vituperative personal attacks on members and officers of Convention. We pledge that we will continue to review seriously suggestions and criticisms from any member. We urge that they be presented constructively and factually in a moderate vein, avoiding innuendo and vague rumor.'"

1974 CONVENTION ELECTIONS

Following are offices to be filled by election at the 1974 convention at Urbana College. We invite your suggestions for nominees to any of these offices. Please identify your nominees as to the local church they belong to and their main qualifications for the positions recommended.

OFFICE

INCUMBENTS

President: _____ Rev. Ernest O. Martin
(to take office in June 1975) (not eligible for re-election)

Vice President: _____ Adolph T. Liebert

Recording Secretary: _____ Mrs. Wilfred G. Rice

Treasurer: _____ Chester T. Cook

GENERAL COUNCIL (three 4-year terms)

Officers plus 4 ministers and 8 laymen

(Minister) _____

1974

*Rev. George McCurdy

1975

Rev. Harvey Tafel

(Layman) _____

*Capt. August Ebel

Carl Heck

*Stewart E. Poole

Roger D. Paulson

(Layman) _____

1976

1977

Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp

Rev. Dr. Calvin E. Turley

Mrs. Lewis Barrington

Mrs. Douglas Gilchrist

Don Lovell

James Zehner

(*Ineligible for re-election)

BOARD OF EDUCATION (One 3-year term)

Presidents of Convention, Swedenborg School of Religion, and the Sunday School Association, plus 3 elected members.

Mrs. Ernest O. Martin (1974)

Mrs. Robert L. Young (1975)

Dr. Dorothea Harvey (1976)

BOARD OF PUBLICATION (One 4-year term)

President of Convention and 4 elected members.

Mrs. Ellsworth Seibert (1974)

Mrs. Virginia Branston (1976)

Dr. Edward Bohlander (1975)

Dr. William R. Woofenden (1977)

AUGMENTATION FUND COMMITTEE (One 5-year term)

Rev. Edwin G. Capon (1974)

Rev. Owen T. Turley

Adolph T. Liebert (1975)

(1978)

Stewart E. Poole (1976)

Miss Ethelwyn Worden (1977)

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(one 5-year term) _____

(one 5-year term) _____
(2 to be nominated and 1 to be elected)

Rev. F. Robert Tafel (1974)

Rev. Paul Zacharias (1975) Rev. Galen Unruh (1977)
Roger D. Paulson (1976) Mrs. Paul Tremblay (1978)

(No person shall be nominated from the Pacific Coast, Canada, Illinois, Kansas, or Western Canada Associations)

BOARD OF HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS
(3-year term)

(Minister) _____

(Layman) _____

(4-year term)

(Minister) _____

(Layman) _____

Term Expiring 1974

Dr. Horand Gutfeldt
Rev. Randall E. Laakko
Mrs. Alan W. Farnham
Tomas H. Spiers

Term Expiring 1975

Dr. Ivan Franklin
Miss Margaret Sampson

Term Expiring 1976

Dr. George F. Dole
Robert W. Tafel**TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION FUND**
(one 3-year term)

Treasurer of Convention, ex officio

Rev. Galen Unruh (1975) Mrs. Robert W. Tafel (1975)
Capt. August Ebel (1975) Wilfred C. Locke (1976)

(Elected members shall consist of one minister, one layman, and one woman who shall not be a minister's wife or widow)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ADMISSION TO THE MINISTRY**

(Minister) _____

(Layman) _____

Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, plus one minister and one layman

Rev. Ernest L. Frederick and Mrs. Horace W. Briggs

**BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
SWEDENBORG SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

(3-year terms) _____

President of Convention, President of SSR, and 12 elective members

Term Expiring 1974

Dr. Horand Gutfeldt
Rev. Eric Zacharias
Mrs. John King
H. Page Conant

Term Expiring 1975

Rev. Andre Diaconoff
Rev. Ernest Frederick
Mrs. Rafael Guin
Steve Koke

Term Expiring 1976

Rev. George McCurdy
Rev. Jerome Poole
Rev. Walter Orthwein
Roger D. Paulson

Please send your recommended nominees to the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The Rev. F. Robert Tafel, Chairman
12122 Peacock Ct., Apt. B
Garden Grove, Calif. 92641Mrs. Paul Tremblay
Rev. Paul ZachariasRev. Galen Unruh
Roger D. Paulson

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Following is a list of meetings attended, churches visited, and services conducted since my last report, and a schedule of appointments for the next few months:

December 1-2 Visited church members in Washington, D. C. and conducted the Sunday morning worship service.

December 5-6 Met with the Convention Planning Committee at Urbana College and also met with the Executive Committee of the Trustees of the college.

December 9 Conducted the Sunday worship service in Manchester, New Hampshire

December 11 Met with the Augmentation Fund Committee in Wilmington, Delaware

January 1-13 Meetings of the Post-Convention Planning Conference Committee, the Ministers and Wives Institute, and the General Council in De Land, Florida.

January 17-19 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Urbana College

January 26-27 Visit the Good Shepherd Community Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, attend the annual meeting, and preach at the Sunday morning worship service.

February 1-3 Conference on leadership education at our home in Weston.

February 9-10 Visit our church in Cleveland, Ohio, and preach at the Sunday morning worship service.

February 16-18 Department of Publication meeting in Narberth, Pennsylvania.

February 24 Preach at the San Francisco Church.

February 25-28 Meeting of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in Los Angeles.

March 22-24 Meeting of the Board of Education in Newton.

March 26-27 Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers in Newton

March 28-29 Meeting of the Advisory Committee

on Admission to the Ministry in Newton

March 29-31 Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion

April 1-2 Conference of denominational church leaders in Cincinnati, Ohio

April 26-27 Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Wayfarers' Chapel.

On Christmas Sunday, Perry and I attended services at West Concord Union Church in the western suburbs of Boston. The minister at the church is the Rev. Forster W. Freeman III. Forster is the son of Convention's legal counsel, and he spent one year at our theological school in the late 1940's. He is a Swedenborgian-Presbyterian-Congregationalist and keeps in close touch with the mission and program of our church. We enjoyed renewing our acquaintance with Forster and his wife, Julie. We hope they will be able to visit the Swedenborg School of Religion soon and discuss their experiences in experimental ministries with the students and faculty.

Plans are proceeding for the 1974 convention at Urbana College. Reserve the dates now—June 20-23. The theme is "People of the Way" and the convention preacher will be the Rev. Andre Diaconoff. The Rev. and Mrs. Obed Mooki from the Church of South Africa will be special guests. Mr. and Mrs. Mooki expect to arrive in New York on May 2, visit the Boston area from the 5th to the 10th, and attend the meeting of the New York Association on May 11. Mr. Mooki will preach at the New York church on the 12th, and attend the annual meeting of the Swedenborg Foundation on the 13th. We hope they will be able to visit a number of our church centers before they arrive at the convention on June 16th.

Bright red copies of the 1973 Convention Journal have been sent to all ministers, the presidents and secretaries of boards and committees. If you are not included in these categories, and would like a Journal, please send your request, and a check for \$2.00 to the General Convention, 48 Sargent Street, Newton, Mass. 02158.

Happy New Year to all!

Ernest O. Martin, President

The Messenger invites letters and short articles from readers. Letters of over 250 words, if accepted, may be edited for space requirements.

Open

WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?

Having separated itself as a reform movement within the body known as the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, by the year 1897 it became known and was named the General Church of the New Jerusalem.

Its Principles were set forth by Bishop W. F. Pendleton in a pamphlet published in 1909, with the proviso that they were not a dogmatic statement of faith, but more an expression of opinion open to modification as the church progressed in the understanding of the heavenly Doctrine. Irrevocable, however, was the fact that the Writings themselves be acknowledged as the only final authority in matters of religious faith.

There seems to be an element of caution, maybe even fear, among my associates in our Convention Church, that our members will drift away from us to the General Church, if exposed to literature published by the General Church's Bryn Athyn headquarters.

As Librarian of the Los Angeles Society, I have been cautioned by the Pastor and Board of Directors to consider books and pamphlets published by the General Church as secondary in importance to those available from the Swedenborg Foundation.

Perhaps it would be well for all concerned to expose, to the best of my knowledge, the essential differences between our two bodies of Faith.

As I see it, we do not agree that to marry outside of our church is "heinous in the sight of heaven." Nor do we say that it is an "abomination" to interfere in the procreation of offspring. We do not concur that the Doctrines set forth in the Writings are the 3rd Testament. Furthermore, we do not consider the Pastor of our church to be appointed by the Lord, chosen by Him, the instrumentality employed by the Lord for the establishment of the New Church.

We are more lenient in regard to baptism. We do not say you must be baptized in the faith of the New Church in order to be eligible to membership in it. Our Societies require a majority vote for a motion to carry, not a unanimous vote. We do not insist that the King James version of the Bible is the only one to be used in our churches.

There are probably other differences that I do not know. But these mentioned above may be ones that you do not know. But if you do know them, then you can decide for yourself which of the two churches is the right one for you. I believe this choice should be yours to make freely and knowledgeably.

As to the literature published by the two bodies of Faith it seems to me that each contributes to the other and to my knowledge the Swedenborg Foundation works with the publishing department at Bryn Athyn in an attempt to supplement each

THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCHES ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST ART FESTIVAL

Artists throughout United States and Canada are invited to exhibit their works at the 1974 Convention at Urbana, Ohio.

Anyone may display one to four items of each media.

Accepted medias will be: PAINTING—DRAWING—MIXED MEDIA—GRAPHICS—SCULPTURE—METAL WORK—CERAMICS—JEWELRY—SEWING—CHINA PAINTING—and DECOUPAGE

Each entry must have a label attached. Labels should be white cards 3"x5" in size. Labels should read as follows:

Forum...

other in offering the best possible selection of books and pamphlets. If one concentrates on certain aspects of the Writings (as does the Scientific department at Bryn Athyn) then this is all to the good of all, as I see it.

Essentially I do not believe that we are in competition with each other in any respect. We each have, or should have, a healthy respect for the other. Our purpose is actually the same: to disseminate every aspect of the Writings for the edification of knowledges so that the love of truth for its own sake can be the inception of and continuance of love to the Lord and the Neighbor.

Alice Spear
Los Angeles Society

Information taken from:
"The Principles of the Academy"
by W. F. Pendleton, 1958.

TITLE _____

MEDIUM _____

PRICE _____

NAME OF ARTIST _____

Entries to be hanged must have wire attached. Although all possible care will be given to the works exhibited, all are submitted at the artist's own risk. Convention cannot assume responsibility for damage or theft incurred before, during, or after the exhibition. Artists are also responsible for transportation.

In order that we may plan for needed space please send a brief description of the size and type of your entries to:

Mrs. Doris Unruh
P. O. Box 116
Pawnee Rock, Kansas 67567

To the Open Forum:

There has been critical discussion of Convention's support of abortion. Whether our particular organization should take an official stand in such matters is debatable, but what stand is taken should be in accord with our church's teachings.

Life is everything that grows; therefore the moment cellular division begins, life has begun. But this initial process in the human embryo is no different from that of animals until the human form has *evolved*. And this finally different form is no different in function from that of animals until *awareness* begins. The mechanisms for human awareness—the will and the understanding, called by Swedenborg "receptables" for God's love and wisdom—do not function until after birth. Although the heart beats in the unborn fetus, the lungs do not breathe; and so there is no "life of the mind" which distinguishes humans from animals. It is not until the "breath of life" enters the physical body that man becomes "a living soul."

Yet if the human fetus were a living soul, then death—which Swedenborg defined as "the continuation of life"—would not be the end of a human life but only of a physical mechanism which has not yet become involved with awareness. Swedenborg explicitly stated that all human souls which enter the Spiritual World during infancy, or childhood, are tenderly cared for by angels and educated for Heaven. If the unborn fetus has already become a human soul, what better existence could ever be given to it!

How could anyone choose for a child, instead, an environment of being unwanted, resented, neglected, abused, without love or opportunity? Our society is *overflowing* of such children and of the mal-adjusted adults whom many of them become. There is great ignorance among righteous people of the extent to which children are resented and, as a result, shockingly mistreated.

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Open Forum, Cont'd. from p. 9

In our confused world today the choices to be made are often not between clear-cut right and wrong, but only among greater and lesser evils. Abortion in itself is an evil because it is contrary to divine intention; but so also is the irresponsible indulgence of physical desire, which has led to the abortion procedure. Rationality surely indicates that abortion is less evil than it is to create and then to abandon the miracle that a new human life is meant to be.

Gwynne Dresser Mack

To all Members of the Church, Church Libraries and Book Stores, Librarians, Ministers, Church secretaries and Public relation Personnel.

SWEDENBORG'S BIRTHDAY SALE

As a result of a recent New England Book Festival held in the John B. Hynes Auditorium in Boston in which the Swedenborg Publishers participated, there is left a large stock of new paperbacks and hardcovers of Swedenborg's works and collateral publications which must be moved on and disposed of.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The New York Association presented a resolution to General Council at its mid-winter meeting in January 1973 to the effect that a Committee should be set up to screen resolutions and to publish them in *The Messenger* two months prior to Convention.

The council action at the time was to refer this matter to the Research Committee of General Council. This body felt it was most orderly to have such a Committee and recommended to General Council at its meeting in Edmonton in July that this be accomplished suggesting several ways to implement the New York Association resolution.

Believing that a Committee on Resolutions should not be a screening body but that any resolution presented according to the rules should reach Convention, the New York Association resolution was amended, and it was voted: to provide that the Research Committee receive all resolutions by March 15th for review and preparation for publication, in order to insure appearance in the April

The time is ripe in our society to benefit from Swedenborg's relevant spiritual message. All concerned New Church people should take advantage of this opportunity to offer gifts of books to relatives or friends on their birthdays or give away as wedding or graduation presents.

Book donations to your church or charitable institution are tax deductible, and of greater importance is the investment in the spiritual growth of the human race. With the extra time on our hands, let us make this year of crisis a spiritual retreat from the pressures of this senseless materialistic world.

We, the Swedenborg Foundation and the Swedenborg Spiritual Library of Boston, are offering all paperbacks and hardcover printed in this country at 20% discount.

This offer expires March 31st. You may send your order to either the Swedenborg Spiritual Library, 175 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. 02116 or to The Swedenborg Foundation, 139 East 23rd St. New York, N. Y. 10010

issue of *The Messenger*; except, that by a concurrence of two-thirds of the delegates in attendance at the Convention, requirements for prior submission of resolutions may be waived.

By vote of General Council, this orderly procedure is now in effect. All resolutions intended to reach the floor of Convention in June of this year, should be received by the Research Committee Chairman by March 15, 1974.

Address all communications to the Chairman:

Adolph T. Liebert
626 Park Place
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237

BOOK REVIEW, cont'd. from p. 13

gives breathing and other physical exercises for people to do to help them get more in touch with their own feelings. He tells how people often tense certain muscles in response to certain kinds of pain and such chronic tension can make a person physically misshapened.

Marian Kirven

Statistics

BIRTHS

To Alan and Susan Fox of the Fryeburg Church, a son, Daniel Calvin, on November 4th.

Myra Lynn, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Sawatzky of Boggy Creek, Manitoba, Canada was born on November 14th and baptized by the Rev. Henry Reddekopp on December 16th.

On November 22nd, Tori Lynn was born to George and Bonnie Turcotte of Fryeburg, Maine.

A daughter, Betsy Dianna Lau, was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Lau of Lansing, Michigan on September 25th.

Charles Robert Jr. was born to Chuck and Marilyn Haynes of Dodge City, Kansas on July 11th, and a baby girl to Arvid and Marilyn Unruh of Ventura, Cal. on September 7th, according to the Kansas Association reports.

Born to Barry and Helen Emery of the Fryeburg Church on September 12th, a baby girl named Marcy.

Born in Derby, Kansas—Denise Miquel, daughter of Dick and Judy Dearwester on September 8th.

Jim and Toni Michael are the proud parents of Tiffany Dawn, born in Dayton, Ohio.

On October 20th David and Betty Hatch became the parents of little David, and on October 21st Glen David and Penny Poland became the parents of Justin David. All are from Fryeburg, Maine.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jeffery announce the arrival of David John Duncan, born on October 12th in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

BAPTISMS

On November 18th, Keela Nichole, born on August 31st, daughter of Ronald and Patricia Pierce of the Boston Church.

Jason John Dienesch, son of John and Darlene Dienesch of Scarborough, Ont., was baptized on September 30th by the Rev. Paul B. Zacharias.

On October 28th Ingrid Anne, infant daughter of Lee and Mara Escajeda of Campbell, Cal. was baptized by the Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp at the San Francisco Church.

Amy Beth, daughter of Pamela and Peter Gardner, was baptized on September 30th; and Catherine Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney F. Davis, was baptized on October 21st. Both baptisms took place in the Boston Church with the Rev. George McCurdy officiating.

CONFIRMATIONS

At the October meeting of the West Palm Beach group, Mr. Henry P. Giddens was confirmed into the faith of the New Church.

Mr. Robert E. Jerome was confirmed into membership at the San Francisco Church on October 7th.

Mrs. E. Wayne Reddekopp (Libby) was confirmed in the faith of the New Church on December 2nd at the Church of the Holy City, Detroit, the Rev. Walter E. Orthwein officiating.

MARRIAGES

Francesca Galluccio, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Banus of the Boston Church, was married on November 24th to Phil Steele.

On June 23rd last, Merle Louise Peebles, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peebles, became the bride of Alfred Wilson Douglass, Jr. The Peebles are members of the Boston Church.

Norman E. Daigle and Marilyn Leach Pond were married on November 24th, according to the Fryeburg news.

In Fryeburg Robert Paul Pond and Marilyn Jean Frye were married on October 19th, and David Scott Pandora and Joanne Lynn Emery were married on October 20th.

Statistics, Cont'd. from p. 11

On October 6th in Saskatoon, Sask., Joyce Arnold became the bride of Albert Braun. The Rev. Henry Reddekopp officiated.

The Rev. Paul B. Zacharias officiated at the following marriages at the Church of the Good Shepherd: Paul Proulx and Karon Whitten on October 5th; John Semple and Alice Randall on November 1st.

The Kitchener, Ont. church announces two marriages. Donald Robert Klassen and Donna Henrich were married on November 17th in the Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hamburg, by the Rev. N. Keffer with the Rev. Paul B. Zacharias assisting. Paul E. Grant and Marcia L. Sherwood were joined in marriage on November 16th by the Rev. Paul B. Zacharias at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

On October 20th Joan Gretch and Wilbur Sullivan were married at Orlando, Florida, the Rev. Ernest Frederick officiating.

Philip Galluccio of the Boston Church was married on December 15th to Patty Dullea in San Diego, Cal.

The following couples were married in the Fryeburg Church recently: December 18th, Larry Samuel Stewart and Verna Alberta Clark; December 22nd, Carl Michael Rugg and Darlene Carol Smith; also Raymond Lerey Eastman and Nancy Joan Hamilton.

DEATHS

Mr. G. Rajamanikkam Chetty of the Swedenborg Book Depot, Katpadi, South India, passed into the spiritual world on November 5th.

The Boston Church notes the passing of the following into the spiritual world: Oscar Sjostedt, resurrection service on November 12th; Mrs. Helena O. Bock, resurrection service on November 16th; Everett J. Boothby of Chevy Chase, Md., resurrection service in Dorchester on November 19th; William Holmes in South Weymouth, resurrection service on November 1st. The Rev. George D. McCurdy officiated at each service.

Mr. Ross Woofenden of the Detroit Church passed into the higher life on June 11th at the age of 79. A memorial service was held at the Almont New Church Assembly on July 1st, with Mr. Delmar Anderson giving the memorial address. He is survived by his wife and two sons, Robert and William, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Archibald Aitken of the Kitchener Church of the Good Shepherd, passed into the spiritual world on September 12th. The resurrection service was conducted by the Rev. Paul B. Zacharias.

Mrs. Minnie I. Von Weber of Woodland Hills, Cal. passed away on October 16th, at the age of 89.

The Boston Church has just informed us of the passing of one of its members, Mrs. Winifred C. Millar, into the spiritual world.

Mr. Delmar S. Harder of the Church of the Holy City, Detroit, Mich. passed into the spiritual world on September 21st at the age of 81.

John Kelley of Albuquerque, N. M. died as the result of a car accident in July. He was the son of Mrs. Florence Warfield and the grandson of Mr. Ben Schwartz of Pretty Prairie, Kansas. The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Herbert Bobazer in the absence of the Rev. Eric Zacharias.

Lee O. Kraus of Pretty Prairie passed away suddenly on August 4th while he was out in the field with his son. The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Eric Zacharias. He is survived by his wife Margaret, one son and a daughter.

Charles Grey, formerly of Pretty Prairie, passed into the spiritual world on August 13th in his 84th year. He is survived by his widow, a son Charles, and a daughter, Mrs. Opel Albright. The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Eric Zacharias.

In Fryeburg, Maine, there were committal services on September 7th for Anna Creighton of Sayville, N. Y., and on September 8th for Clifford Craig of Bridgewater, Mass. There was a Resurrection Service on September 25th for James E. Ranger.

BOOK REVIEW

PLEASURE—what it really is, how easily you can achieve it. *By Alexander Lowen, M. D. (New York: Lancer Book No. 44734110-150, 1970)*

I had seen this book among the paperbacks in stores and thought, "probably just another sex manual." Then I had a chance to look into it at a friend's home and I found it was not such a manual, but more interesting, so I bought a copy and read it. The book starts out: "To the casual observer, it would seem that America is a land of pleasure . . . Do Americans really enjoy their lives? Most serious observers of the current scene believe the answer is no." The rest of the book discusses what pleasure is and how people experience it. The author, Lowen, is a practicing psychiatrist, and he says on page 15: "One of the main premises of this study is that a total commitment to what one is doing is the basic condition of pleasure." He compares work and play and says work can be a pleasure. He says creative urges are stimulated by pleasurable excitations and a striving for pleasure. Pleasure and pain are known through bodily feelings. When people try to block off their feelings they may reduce their capacity to feel pain, but they also reduce their ability to feel pleasure. He

Cont'd. on p. 10

REFLECTIONS ON A NEW CHURCH PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE, OR ONE PARTIAL RESPONSE TO THE POST-CONVENTION CONFERENCE 1973

No one today is unaware of change. Prices, job opportunities, moral judgments, methods of educating, and college enrollments, refuse to stay in their accustomed places. Some changes seem good, others are disturbing, with external changes probably easier to handle than internal. When I notice, for instance, that my values have changed in ways I did not foresee, I am uneasy. And the question that comes out of my uneasiness is somewhat frightening: Will any identity, or any value be there for me to hold on to, or is my world just change? This question is enormous. Philosophers have argued it at length from many different perspectives, and have reached no one conclusion. But I believe that we in the New Church have some im-

A.N.C.L.

OUR RESOLUTION

The traditional time for making resolutions is at the beginning of a new year. We Leaguers often seem to be doing things the other way around, (all in jest), and in this case it's no exception—our resolution was made last July. What made me think of it at this time was a quotation that I saw on a certain poster which seems to apply to our situation. (In fact, if I didn't know better, I'd think it was written just for us!)

"Let us, then be up and doing
With a heart for any fate
Still achieveing—
Still pursuing—
Learn to labor, and to wait."

H. W. Longfellow

We're laboring now, and I'm sure that the waiting will pay off.

There's only one thing that bothers me—it seems that in the dead of winter our communication bogs down—I'm just as guilty as anyone! I wish we could keep the spirit going the whole year. I'll try to do my best—how about you?

Julie Rankin
ANCL Secretary

portant resources with which to meet it.

Some philosophers have argued cheerfully that all we know is change. Hume asked difficult questions of the romantics with their strong sense of the Self; What are you really aware of, when you claim this immediate experience of a Self? Is it not an intense sensation, a fear, a pain, a joy? Can you honestly say you have an experience of a separate reality, a Self, beside the vivid sensation of the pain or joy? Is it not true that the evidence suggests nothing more than a succession of ever changing sensations, and no permanent identity at all?

Campbell, in turn, saw a problem with Hume's questions. The very judgment that there is a succession of sensations, that one has followed the other, implies a point of reference, some self-same mind capable of making such a judgment. If Campbell is right, our awareness that there is such a thing as change, is proof of an identity persisting through the change.

Continued on p. 14

Sartre takes a different view of Hume's predicament, emphasizing its ethical implications. The fact that our experience is always of changing sensations, and that there is no permanent identity or value we can know, means that our choice of right or wrong is our responsibility as we create value in our choice of one action or another. Sartre's concept of God is of an absolute, judgmental Being, laying down arbitrary rules, making any real change or human creativity impossible. This concept he rejects, and chooses instead the position that man is solely responsible for inventing meaning.

For Sartre, then, the act that can make the difference between mere sequence of events, and adventure, is this act of inventing meaning by a choice of action in specific changing circumstances. The coward, afraid to risk his life in this act of invention, is like a man spending his time watching bugs, senseless blobs of color jerking unevenly toward him, stopping and swaying beside him for a moment, then unevenly retreating,—without ever noticing that he is the reason for these changes of perception as he looks out at a row of houses from the window of the street-car as his frame of reference. The kind of choice, of street-car, legs, or space-ship, for example, has no intrinsic value. It is only the refusal to choose, which can keep a human being less than human. Change in this view, is real, but it leaves man with no resources. His courage is the forlorn, anguished courage of a finite being, forced to invent meaning, because there is no meaning to be found.

What, then, are the resources in New Church doctrine for facing a world of real, far-reaching, and often frightening change?

In the first place, as Campbell recognized, the experience of change is essential for any consciousness of identity, or, indeed, as Swedenborg adds, for any life at all.

Life without . . . alternatives and varieties would be uniform, consequently, no life at all; nor would good and truth be discerned or distinguished, much less perceived. (A 37)

As far as the human being is concerned, change is part of consciousness, of growth, and so of life it-

self. To cease to grow is to die.

The exciting thing to me, as I have worked with the teaching of our church, is that I find Swedenborg values change not only in human life and consciousness, but also in the nature of truth itself. As truth is in the form of love, and as our love makes us seek ways of actualizing that love in continually varying form as our experience of the real becomes more significant, so each angel's

rational faculty is continually cultivated even to eternity . . . And so much of affection as any spirit or angel had in the world remains with him; and this affection is afterward perfected by being filled out, which goes on to eternity. For everything is capable of being filled out to eternity, since it is capable of infinite variation, thus of enrichment by various things, and consequently of multiplication and fructification. To anything good there is no limit, because it is from the Infinite. (HH 469)

Truth, then, is not some fixed limit, or final definition against which a particular item can be judged right or wrong. It is, rather, infinite process, infinite actualization or expression of the particular affection of particular angels as their awareness of what it means to love deepens, multiplies, and fructifies without limit, in the joy of the life of heaven. This sense of the nature of truth is consistent, of course, with the understanding of love as joy in the joy of the other, with all that that implies of respect for his freedom, his difference, his particular choices in his change and growth (DLW 4, 47).

We do face changes which are frightening and confusing. But for us this is no sign that there is no value or identity, or that our choices have no meaning in themselves. It is rather a sign that we are alive, and that God is making us part of the process of life, engaging us in growth in love. To be true is to change, to participate in all actuality in the life which God is creating. That process of change which is being born again, is a discovery of real identity, and the alternative to that process is death.

Dorothea Harvey

**Board of Education's Adult Work Committee's
3rd Post-Convention Conference**

RESOURCES FOR REGENERATION

Urbana College, from Monday noon, June 24, thru Friday evening, June 28

Staff: Dr. Dorothea Harvey, Director; Ms. Marilyn Turley, Registrar; Dr. Calvin Turley, Facilitator's Leader; and selected participants in Conference.

Cost: \$12.50 Registration Fee per participant (no registration fee for non-participating children), plus room and board at the same rate as Convention (approximately \$10 per person per day).

PROGRAM

Reflecting the process of Regeneration, the program will emphasize experiences of particular resources for regeneration, followed by theological reflection on the experiences. Full-group sessions will be alternated with meetings of small groups devoted to specific resources (e.g., meditation, artistic expression, Bible or doctrinal study, etc.), with both the membership and leadership of the small groups being chosen by the participants themselves.

Participants will live in Urbana College dorms and have access to swimming pool, gym and tennis courts. Baby-sitting will be provided without extra cost.

We need you—what can you offer to the conference? We are establishing a "tradition" of full participation and contribution of all people attending the conference. What can you offer?

**The Swedenborgian Church
48 Sargent Street
Newton, Mass. 02158**

Send registration to:

Application dead-line April 29

.....
Registration—Post Convention Conference

Name _____

Children _____

(names and ages: use back of sheet if necessary)

Address _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to:

General Convention – Board of Education

Arrival in Urbana _____

date

mode of travel

Departure _____

date

I would like to offer a specific
contribution to the conference:

I would like to be a facilitator of
a primary group. ☐ If yes,
I would see my group functioning
in the following manner, as a resource
of regeneration.

1974 CONVENTION IN URBANA, OHIO

The 1974 session of Convention will be held on the campus of Urbana College in Urbana, Ohio.

Ministers and wives will gather on Sunday evening, June 16, and hold their meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17-19. The formal opening of the convention will be on Thursday, June 20. The theme is: "People of the Way." Special guests at the convention will be the Rev. and Mrs. Obed S. D. Mooki.

It is expected that room and board costs will not exceed \$10 per day at Urbana. Registration forms and other information about the convention will appear in subsequent issues of *The Messenger*.

ARTS – CRAFTS

Bring your own thing to Convention to share with others your creative interests.

There will be opportunity to exchange ideas, or perhaps buy one of these treasures for yourself.

Sponsored by Ministers' Wives

THE MESSENGER
48 Sargent St., Box E
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THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 1974

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