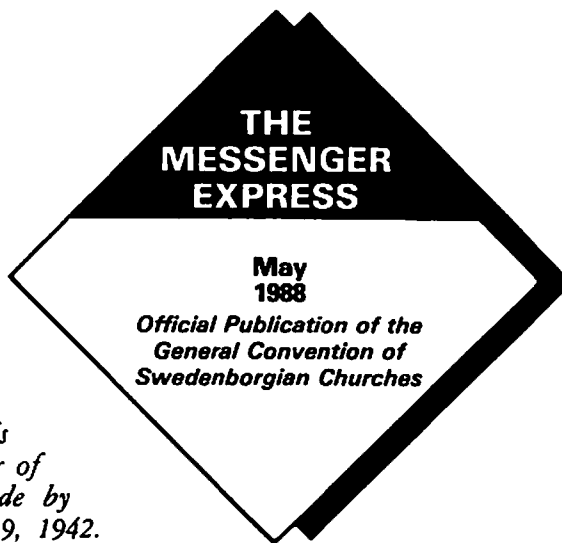


# Memorial Day

## An Act of Humanity in the Inhumanity of War

John Mellor

*(The following story is written by the author of the book, Forgotten Heroes, the Canadians at Dieppe. This story has been authenticated by several German soldiers, including his commanding officer, Hauptmann Hirschfeld, and the Mayor of Pourville, who both witnessed the remarkable sacrifice made by Friedrich Waltenheimer on the fateful morning of August 19, 1942. Here, then, is his story.)*



The German defenders in Pourville had been taken by surprise during the initial landing by the South Saskatchewan Regiment. It was a few moments before the enemy gun positions opened up; by then, most of the troops had cut the barbed wire and were safely over the sea wall. The rest of the story has been well recorded in many books and official versions of the raid. After succeeding in taking the village of Pourville and establishing a firm beachhead for the Camerons to advance inland toward Petit Appeville and the town of Dieppe, the Canadians were forced to withdraw back to the beach at Pourville. They had accomplished almost all of their planned objectives, but the Tanks of the Calgary Regiment which should have met up with the advancing SSRs and Camerons, had been decimated on the main beaches of Dieppe. The German defenders began to mount fierce counter attacks and Colonel Merritt, the commanding officer of the South Saskatchewan Regiment and Major Law of the Camerons, made the wise decision to evacuate the main body of troops as soon as possible. Unfortunately, German shellfire was now covering the beach, making a withdrawal an invitation to disaster. The tide was at a low ebb. The evacuation was delayed until shortly before noon, but of the twelve assault landing craft that approached the beach, five were hit by shellfire and sunk. Many of the men of the SSR and Camerons were either killed or wounded as they ran across the beach to the boats. Mortar fire was coming from all directions at once.

Until the evacuation, casualties had been comparatively light, but this picture changed drastically once the boats arrived. The beach was saturated with fire from the headlands to the east and west. Bullets and shell fragments seemed to fill the air on every square foot of beach. The men who were lucky enough to reach a landing craft and clamber aboard, were later wounded or killed as enemy shells holed the boats in a score of places.

The Canadian rear guard led by the gallant Colonel Merritt, made many daring attacks against the German machine-gun nests and pill-boxes which were slaughtering the men on the beach, but at the approximately 12:30 p.m., the rear guard was forced to withdraw to a point just beyond the sea wall. Valiantly they fought to keep the enemy at bay until the last man was evacuated.

They must have realized that their own chances of survival were slight, but they stuck to their posts. Colonel Merritt had received a shoulder wound by this time, but to continued to lead his men in counter attacks.

In their slit trenches, the combat group Hirschfeld, (named after their comanding officer, Hauptmann Hirschfeld, World Champion Shot Putter prior to the war) watched the slaughter as boat after boat foundered after being holed with shellfire. The Royal Air Force flew at zero level, strafing at will and forcing the German defenders to keep their heads down. It was obvious that the unequal conflict was rapidly drawing to a close. It was now only a matter of time before the final surrender.

From the sea, weak cries for help could be heard as the Canadians drowned helplessly one by one. About 300 metres off shore, one of the unfortunate landing craft had sunk by the stern leaving her bow protruding above the waves. Three wounded Canadians clung desperately to the sides of the craft as they called weakly for help. Hauptmann Emil Hirschfeld had always taught his men to see soldiers of all nations as human beings toward whom they should conduct themselves as sportsmen. Hastily conferring with his troop commander Friedrich Waltenheimer, the Medical Officer Dr. Giessauf and Sergeant Proglar, Captain Hirschfeld gave orders for his men to save the Canadians if possible. Rescue boats were not available but there were plenty of lifebelts abandoned on the beach.

At great personal risk, troop commander Friedrich Waltenheimer swam out under fire to the

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drowning Canadians with two of the lifebelts. After assisting them to put them on, he swam back to the shore holding them both. The third Canadian was badly wounded and could not be saved by a lifebelt and Herr Waltenheimer was forced to leave him on the rapidly sinking craft. On the beach, Dr. Giessauf and Captain Hirschfeld had found a badly leaking rowing boat belonging to a fisherman. In a vain attempt to make it watertight for the rescue attempt, they had stuffed field dressings in between its gaping seams. The gallant Waltenheimer swam out once again to the sinking landing craft, this time, towing the leaking old rowboat behind him. A few metres from shore, the boat filled with water. In a desperate struggle, Waltenheimer succeeded in turning the boat over and emptying the water out of it before laying the wounded Canadian in the inside. Towing the boat behind him, he at last reached the beach where the wounded Canadian was handed over to the German Doctor Giessauf.

Herr Waltenheimer adds that the three Canadians expressed their thanks and gave him their addresses, but at a later date, they were lost along with a photograph of the rescue during the siege of Stalingrad. Years later, his commanding officer, Emil Hirschfeld wrote the following letter to Friedrich Waltenheimer. . .

*My dear comrade Waltenheimer,*

*I can still see you in Dieppe on August 19th, 1942, as you heard the cries for help from the Englishmen after the unsuccessful landing at Pourville. After the shooting subsided you threw off your uniform, tied a rope around your body and swam out to sea with a rowboat in order to rescue the enemy, whom we were supposed to kill. The bow of the ship was protruding from the water, but your noble intentions were misinterpreted. This experience made on me the deepest impression of the entire war. Some time ago, an acquaintance sent me a report from the opposing side (who were taken prisoner) about this entire undertaking, which recorded almost literally the reports we also gave at that time.*

*With these thoughts I will close for now and wish you all the best for your continued recuperation.*

*Sincerely,  
E. Hirschfeld and family.*

Emil Hirschfeld, world famous sportsman, died in East Berlin in 1968. Friedrich Waltenheimer, the German soldier who placed humanity above the war to rescue three Canadian soldiers from drowning, was wounded as he tried to protect the Canadians from a strafing attack from our planes. Today, he is almost totally paralyzed from shrapnel wounds to the skull and spine and is forced to spend the rest of his days in a wheelchair. ◀

### **Mite Box 1988: will support the Swedenborg School of Religion Archives**

Page Lane, librarian and Louise Woofenden, archivist at SSR, are continuing the preservation work begun by former librarians Marian Kirven and Patricia Basu.

Some materials will be microfilmed; some will be photocopied onto pH neutral paper and stored in a temperature and humidity controlled environment. They have decided to begin the project with *The Messenger*.

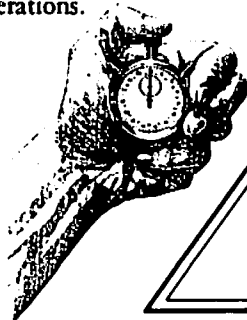
A preservation project is expensive and it involves an ongoing commitment since new materials will have to be transferred to other formats long before they enter the brittle stage.

A book published today will have a useful life of only 30-50 years, in contrast to a book printed on alkaline paper which has a life of 500-100 years.

If you want to preserve the history of your church and you family's contribution to Swedenborgian life in this country, you can help now.

A donation you make to the Women's Alliance Mite Box—or directly to the SSR Library Preservation Fund—will help to preserve the past as a resource for future generations.

The Future thanks you!



#### **THE MESSENGER EXPRESS**

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Rev. James F. Lawrence, Editor  
Ethelwyn Worden, Advisor  
Christina La Conte, Design

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## Tricentennial Events Reaping the Harvest In Kitchener

Eric Allison

Multi-colored, helium-filled balloons, the luscious aroma of fried chicken, and the wonderful music of Ron Hiuser and Mike Leech gave the birthday party a festive atmosphere as 114 people crowded into the Sunday School hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd. This was not just any birthday party. It was a celebration of Swedenborg's 300th. Many of the people wore t-shirts with the 300th logo on them and each helium-filled balloon carried a note about the celebration, the church address and a promise of a prize for the person who found the balloon the farthest distance from the church. At the end of the evening some braved the cold to release the party balloons along with a few extra large ones into the chilly night.

The food, fellowship, and games were as warm as expected, but two unexpected guests made the evening very special. The first was a man whose birth date was January 29, 1897, his parents named him Emanuel Swedenborg Seiler. So we really say that Mr. Swedenborg was at the party in the flesh. We sang happy birthday to him and to Joan Middleton, also born on the 29th, and Emanuel Swedenborg Seiler cut the birthday cake. Shortly after this all were asked to shift into a reflective mood. The lights were lowered and literally out of the mists, clad in 18th century garb, powdered wig and all, came Emanuel Swedenborg (or so it appeared), his echoing voice captured the attention of all as his shadowy figure talked of the spiritual world and answered the questions of those looking on. After about 15 minutes (earth time), he left in the puff of smoke from which he came.

The party was just one of many events which have made 1987-88 a very busy time at the church. The public in Kitchener first received notice of Swedenborg's birthday by way of a lecture series on World Religions held at the church on the first Monday of every month beginning in October '87. The series was well-publicized and well-attended. Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Swedenborg's vision of the second coming brought out as many as one hundred people. Each lecture was followed by a Coffee Hour. The final one, held on February 1, featured our own Dr. Robert Kirven, who very graciously came all the way from Boston to preach on the Sunday morning and deliver the Monday evening lecture. It was a difficult topic, which Dr. Kirven presented masterfully.

In light of the public interest in the lecture series, the writer has just taped six half-hour programs for broadcast on the local cable TV channel. Each program features an introduction stating briefly something about Swedenborg and his acceptance of other religions as being valuable.

Also during the fall I delivered a lecture on *Life After Death* at the Waterloo Motor Inn. About 70 people attended and more than 60 of Swedenborg's books were sold that evening.

In early January 1988 a one-hour live phone-in program on cable TV was hosted by the Rev. Lou Synnestvedt of the General Church and myself. The first half hour showed the film "Swedenborg: The Man Who Had To Know." The remainder of the show was our response to the callers. We both received many follow-up inquiries about books.

In April of this year Mr. Synnestvedt and I exchanged pulpits. In June we plan to have our church picnics joined together in one grand celebration on the General Church grounds at Caryndale on the outskirts of Kitchener.

In March the Schneider Male Chorus held an evening concert at the church for the congregation and the public. The Schneider Chorus is a group of about 40 men who are well known in Canada for their inspirational music. The Chorus practiced for many years at the Church of the Good Shepherd and was begun with the encouragement and support of a strong New Churchman and prominent citizen, the late Norman Schneider.

Along with additional advertisements in the local paper and offers for books at low cost, the church here is working hard to make 1988 a year in which the people will certainly come to know the name Emanuel Swedenborg.

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## OPINION

### Discretion the Better Part Of Valor

Dear Editor,

99

I found your "Between the Lines" article in the most recent edition of *The Messenger* (February 1988) to be most interesting but without insight as to probable reasons why "polite people" have an aversion to discussing religion and politics outside of private social circles. Ironically, you touched on very good reasons not to publicly discuss religion in your commentary of two great Bible Belt preachers, but surprisingly, you failed to recognize the connection. Equally suppressing as reasons not to publicly self-disclose would be the host of political entities who are represented in all realms of our society.

The effects of publicly discussing religion and politics could be very frightening for many and quite literally could be considered a "suicide wish" in terms of one's livelihood and ontological security. The existential anxiety that can be the result of even mild forms of ostracization can have lasting effects and negates the benefits one would derive from such a discussion. You seemed to be critical of those "polite people" who, I am sure, remain tight-lipped in such areas for good reasons. Being constantly in touch with these people, I have found an attitude that supports their survival rather than supports any political activism. This remains a country of "haves" and "have nots." Those who have the means (wealth, influence: power) to compete for internal political control will continue to do so and will likewise continue to lobby for their special interests regardless of any electoral outcome. The election that you express your concern about is in the hand of the electorate, including those "polite people."

My suggestion, then, is for you to carry forward your exposure of candidates and related issues but refrain from

critizing the voters who ultimately will decide. And what of organized religion? Well, those organizations less credible within the "religious kaleidoscope" are quite nicely self-destructing on their own accord (Robertson, Bakker, Swaggart). Reminds one of the concept of Karma, doesn't it?

Christian Oberlies  
Springfield, Ohio

sharing and loving. Since man could know nothing about God without some kind of revelation, God provided for that through His Word. In it we find the Road Map for our journey through Life, as well as the Rules of the Road, the Ten Commandments.

In Leviticus, 20:13, 15, and 16 we read, "Man shall not lie with mankind as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed abomination . . . and if a man lie with a beast, he

shall surely be put to death . . . If a woman approach unto any beast and lie down thereto, thou shall kill the woman and the beast . . ."

Homosexuality is NOT God's mistake, but the result of man's free choice.

Bruce Rose  
Yakima, Washington

## Free Will and Homosexuality

Dear Editor

The author of "Replace Ignorance With Knowledge and Compassion" (February '88) shows an unbelievable lack of perception of God and His creation. All life flows from the Creator but is differently received by differing receptacles. Plants, insects, animals and Man, all are receptacles of life from him.

Mankind alone was created in the image of God and although he is born on the animal plane, he has the capacity of opening up a higher plane and so to become a likeness of God as well. This is why man lives to eternity.

To accomplish this, man was endowed with Free Will, which Webster defines as the doctrine that human beings are NOT controlled in their choices by physical or Divinely imposed necessity. Homosexuals may wish to believe that they have no control over their sexual preference, but they forget that man has Free Will.

**GOD IS ORDER.** His order is in all created things, and He makes NO mistakes. Man can pervert God's order and that is not a disease, it IS DISEASE (disorder), insane perversion. A pervert is a person who practices sexual perversion. Perverted means deviating from what is considered right, natural or true.

Animals are born into their true order and have by instinct all necessary knowledge to fulfill their USE. Man is born in NO knowledge and knows only what he has been taught or learned by experience. He is basically self-centered, greedy and demanding. A child must be taught to be kind,



## Why Quantum Physics?

George F. Dole

There is a good deal of excitement at the Swedenborg Foundation about the Tricentennial Conference to be held in Tarrytown, New York, next August. The names of the Symposiarch and presenters—Renee Weber (Philosophy), Sir John Eccles (Biology), Frances Vaughan (Psychology), John Hitchcock (Physics), Robert McDermott (Philosophy), Larry Dossey (Medicine), and Raymond Moody (Near Death Experiences)—are widely recognized in their fields.

They do raise a question, though: what do these individuals have to do with Swedenborg?

Swedenborg spent much of the first part of his life trying to bridge the growing gap between science and religion. At the close of this period, he found himself faced with failure. Only when he was granted extensive spiritual experience did he reach a satisfactory synthesis, and his theology takes a startlingly modern view of the material world.

Currently, at the forefront of several fields of science, there are clear signs of a convergence with religion. Dr. Weber's *Dialogues with Scientists and Sages* involves also dialogues between scientists and sages, and the synthesis that is emerging bears some remarkable similarities to Swedenborg's.

The Foundation believes that now is the time for Swedenborgians to enter this dialogue. We need first of all to listen and to reflect, to be willing to rethink our theological assumptions. We need then to identify the unique contributions Swedenborgian theology has to make at this juncture, and to make them clearly and constructively.

The Tarrytown Symposium is being carefully designed to enable this to happen. At a planning meeting, Dr. Weber observed, "You really want something to happen, don't you?" We do indeed.

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## ECLECTICA

### Snippets and Glimpses From Around Convention

As the church year begins to wind down in many of our parishes and as we head for the scattering that the summer months mean for many of our churches, let us catch up with some of our church programs around the North American continent. These windows into the life of the church are gleaned from local church newsletters and from the many pipelines of information that find their way to the editor's desk.

Beginning in my own backyard, the Revs. James and Rachel Lawrence have accepted a call to the Church of the New Jerusalem in Fryeburg, Maine, to begin July 1, 1988. The Rev. Edwin G. Capon will remain at the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church. The Rev. Dr. Horand Gutfeldt is retiring from the Hillside Community Church (Swedenborgian) in El Cerrito, California, and the local congregation is currently considering various proposals pertaining to their forward movement.

A thriving new ministry on the West Coast is the work conducted in the Seattle area conducted by the Rev. Paul Martin Grumman. His ministry, in which he is joined increasingly by his wife, Sandy Grumman, M.A., is offered out of the Stone House Book Room and Spiritual Growth Center. With activities almost every night of each month, with solid book sales, and with a mailing list approaching 900, there is much to heed in this new form of ministry in our church.

Elsewhere in the Pacific Coast Association, the ministry at Swedenborgian Church of Riverside, California is flourishing under the now full time efforts of the Rev. Dr. Ivan Franklin. He writes that he began his full ministry in January, and that each weekend is a new experience. He is frequently joined in the pulpit by his wife, Eva. Together they engage in "Dialog Sermons," which are spontaneous discussions between them on the subject of the day. At other times, layperson Evelyn Bentley is his pulpit partner. The congregation much enjoys this creative alternative to the standard delivery of a sermon.

The Swedenborgian Church of San Diego is bustling under the leadership of Eldon and Annella Smith. In February of this year an article appeared in *The Mid-City Press*, a suburban paper, tracing the history of the San Diego church. The Swedenborgian New Church of Los Angeles, is currently without a minister and they recently needed to vacate their church building due to earthquake codes. The congregation is investigating possible routes they can take for future ministry in their area. Wayfarers Chapel continues to be an outstanding service to the Southern California region. Served by the Revs. Harvey Tafel and Jaikoo Lee, the famed chapel is visited by hundreds of thousands of people annually, and is increasingly requested as a filming site for television and motion pictures. Jay's wife, Judy Lee, is the new president of the Friends of Wayfarers Chapel, a very active support group for the Chapel.

The Rev. Robert McCluskey will be leaving the New Church, Portland, Maine this May for his new ministry at the New Church (Swedenborgian), New York City. The longtime minister in the historic Manhattan church, the Rev. Clayton Priestnal and his wife, Marion, have retired to their home on Cape Cod in Yarmouthport, Massachusetts. The largely new and fledgling congregation in Portland is considering various options as to how they wish to pursue their Swedenborgian witness to Maine's largest city.

After considerable complications with immigration laws and regulations, the Rev. John Bennett and his wife, Muriel, have finally arrived and are fully engaged in their new ministry at the patiently waiting Church of the New Jerusalem, Pawnee Rock, Kansas. The Rev. Eric Zacharias continues to mind the store at the New Jerusalem Church in Pretty Prairie, Kansas—"in retirement!"

The Rev. Ken Turley has resigned from his position as Director at Blairhaven, the Swedenborgian camp and conference center in South Duxbury, Massachusetts, so that he may devote his full energies to his growing parish in Elmwood, Massachusetts. Ken is also a composer who will be presenting a new oratorio at convention this year based on the Book of Revelation. Attending convention this year may be worth it for this event alone!

The Swedenborg Chapel in Cambridge, Massachusetts continues to offer a most diverse program to the Harvard University series of exciting lectures to the general public; the church has presented "An Evening of Scandinavian Music," its annual "Festival of Flowers" and other attractive events, all under the coordination of their pastor, the Rev. F. Robert Tafel.

At the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem they continue with an interesting mix of classes and discussion groups. Their pastor is the Rev. Steven Ellis. The Boston church also sponsors a special ministry to minorities under the direction of Rev. Donna Sloan. In February the church celebrated their second Black History Month, complete with exhibits of Black culture, among which were displayed writings of Swedenborg expressing his vision of the inclusiveness of all people in God's kingdom.

The New Jerusalem Church in Bridgewater, Massachusetts is just finishing their second year under the guidance of their pastor, the Rev. Marlene Laughlin. Ms. Laughlin is also working on a doctorate from Andover-Newton Theological School.

The New Jerusalem Church of Brockton, Massachusetts and the Church of the Open Word, Newtonville, Massachusetts are both without ministers, but they maintain worship schedules using guest ministers. The Rev. Donna Keane is working on her doctorate at Andover-Newton Theological School and has joined Mr. Rafael Guiu in his work at the

Swedenborgian Library in Back Bay Boston. And no synopsis of Swedenborgian life in the Boston area would be complete without mention of the swirl of creative activity at 48 Sargent St., in Newton, which houses both the Swedenborg School of Religion and the Central Office.

Despite the rigorous demands of the presidency, the Rev. Randall Laakko manages to oversee a full program at the Church of the Holy City, Wilmington, Delaware. Recently, their newsletter indicates that they have pursued Christian fellowship with square dances, a Heritage Night, showings of Swedenborg Foundation films, and a Yard Sale. Of course, President Laakko receives lots of help from some very capable parishioners, including one with particularly germane training, the Rev. Jerry Poole.

At our National Swedenborgian Church in Washington, D.C., the church has embarked on a daring outreach initiative. Sending out 3,600 invitations to the surrounding neighborhood, about 75 newcomers came to an open house. Under the direction of the Rev. Richard Baxter, they have some more ideas for outreach. Keep us posted, Dick!

Also in the mid-Atlantic region are the ministries in the greater Philadelphia area. The historic Church of the New Jerusalem in downtown Philadelphia was finally sold by the congregation due to maintenance and repair costs that were becoming prohibitive. Under the pastoral guidance of the Rev. Ernest Martin, the church is carrying on a full program in rented quarters, but is actively looking for relocation possibilities. Half of the Sundays, the congregation worships at the new retreat and conference center site thirty miles outside Philadelphia, Temenos. This ministry is taking shape under the vision and direction of Rev. Ernest and Dr. Perry Martin. Situated on a stunning 55-acre spread and equipped with charming historic facilities, Temenos is one of the truly exciting ministries of the future in Convention.

After a long and prosperous ministry, the Rev. Ernest Frederick is retiring from the work at The Swedenborg House in Deland, Florida. He and his wife, Hazel, will be passing the baton to graduating seminarians Skuli Thorhallsson and Deborah Winter, who are married to one another.

In the Illinois Association, a new ministry has begun this year at the Church of the Open Word in St. Louis with the arrival of the Rev. David and Carole Rienstra. The reports in the

### Annual Meeting of the New Church Theological School

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the New Church Theological School to elect officers and to transact such other business as may properly come before it, will be held at Lasell College, Newton, Massachusetts, on Saturday, July 2, at 9:00 a.m. This notice serves as an official call to that meeting.

Virginia Branston, Clerk  
Corporation of the New Church  
Theological School

newsletter indicate that the choir and Sunday School have taken on new life, and the wedding ministry there is again picking up steam. The New Church, La Porte, Indiana, under the leadership of the Rev. Ted LeVan, also continues with a full program for all ages. The other three churches in the Illinois Association, the Church of the Holy City in Chicago, the Virginia Street Church in St. Paul, Minnesota and the Church of the New Jerusalem in Norway, Iowa, are all currently without ministers, but the congregations in Chicago and St. Paul are active with Sunday services throughout the church year.

There are three thriving ministries in the Michigan Association. The Rev. Steve and Kim Pults are on board for their first year at the Church of the Holy City in Detroit. Their newsletter reports lots of fun activities, like "Get Lost with the Minister" outings, where the teens go bowling or somesuch with Steve. Steve is also the Youth Director for the national Swedenborgian Church. Up the road a little over an hour is the Almont New Church Assembly, under the direction of the Rev. Ron Brugler. There has been a dramatic rise in the attendance at the summer family camp sessions, in the winter retreats for teenagers, and in the number of outside groups using the facilities since Ron and Val took on the "Almont challenge." The Rev. Gard Perry continues to develop his unique ministry through sports in the greater Detroit area.

In the Ohio Association, the Kemper Road Center for Religious Development in suburban Cincinnati is concluding another church year of wide-ranging programming. Under the leadership of the Rev. Richard Tafel, KRC has a lovely outdoor sanctuary where dozens of couples in the community celebrate their wedding vows each year. The Center offers numerous workshops on various spiritual growth topics. That congregation has also built their own retreat center, Beside-the-Point, on nearby Rocky Fork Lake. A little to the north, the Swedenborgian presence at Urbana University is in a state of creative flux. After many years of a profoundly-felt

### WANTED: EDITOR FOR *The Messenger*

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\* *Writing and Editing Skills Essential*

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Send all inquiries to:

Carol Lawson, COMSU Chairperson  
The West Farm, Route 1, Box 184  
Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

Deadline: May 10, 1988

ministry in Urbana, the Rev. Dr. Dorothea Harvey is retiring to Massachusetts. She has been the religion professor at the university as well as the pastor to the local Swedenborgian congregation, the Church of the New Jerusalem. Quite a number of former pupils from her legendary religion classes have been inspired to enter the Swedenborgian ministry. Her departure will be felt in the community in many ways. Recently, the university and the denomination joined together to hire a full time minister, the Rev. Carl Yenetchi, to be chaplain to students, faculty and staff at the university. The presence of Carl's many programs ensure that the university will retain a strong Swedenborgian ministry. The only other fully active congregation in the Ohio Association is the Swedenborgian Church of Greater Cleveland, which is currently without a minister.

The Swedenborgian Church in Canada is prospering. Our largest church in Convention is The Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario, led by the Rev. Eric Allison. See the article (on page 2 of this issue) regarding their creative Tricentennial celebrations. In the Western Canada Conference, two ministers oversee programming for a very large geographical area. The Rev. Henry Korsten ministers to the Church of the Holy City in Edmonton and the Rev. David Sonmor serves groups in as far-flung places as Calgary,

Vancouver, Winnipeg, Roblin, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon and Rosthern. There is a great deal of life in the Western Canada Conference, as their monthly newsletter shows, and they are hopeful that another minister can be attracted to the many opportunities that exist there. The Western Canada Conference will be hosting the annual convention in 1990.

### Urbana University's Improving Financial Status

Urbana University, the Swedenborgian-affiliated four-year liberal arts college in Urbana, Ohio, is pleased to have made the second installment of \$36,000 as payment of interest on outstanding debt to the Swedenborgian Church for this fiscal year 1987-88. The third and final payment for this fiscal year is scheduled for June, 1988. This schedule of payments was arranged with the officials of the Swedenborgian Church and the University. Although the debt has remained unpaid over a period of years, the present administration has made a special effort by making significant payments over the last three years (\$10,000 the first year, \$60,000 the second year, and \$108,000 planned for this year). During the course of the indebtedness, the unpaid interest has been consistently added to the principal each year. This will be the first year that the payments will cover more than the current year interest. ◀

## New Secretary Joins Central Office Staff



Muriel Liddy, a Boston native, joined the Central Office staff in early March, in time to be broken in by a committee meeting there. She continues to enjoy people, activity and variety of the office and is looking forward to meeting people at Convention in June.

While growing up, in the Boston area except for three years in Cincinnati, Muriel was an avid reader and active in sports—swimming, in which she won

medals in national competition, lots of tennis, archery and ballet. In college she moved through physical education to education, history, and later secretarial training.

After college she joined the work force, and soon married (her late husband was a lawyer) and raised two boys, of whom one—an Army Air Force retired Colonel—is still living, married and the father of four children: twin boys getting ready for college, one boy in college, and a daughter who is a Registered Nurse.

Besides working long hours in Central Office or taking care of her nearby home, Muriel enjoys travel in foreign countries, driving in and around New England and eastern Canada, and walking on the coast whenever she gets the chance. She loves to explore new places, and still reads quite a lot.

So this is the new voice you have been hearing on the phone when you call Central Office—and please be sure to introduce yourself to her when you come to Convention, where she will be at the Registration Desk much of the time. ◀

## FNCA

Fryeburg  
New Church Assembly  
1988 Session  
August 6 to August 21

We are still seeking to fill the following *Staff Positions*:  
Teachers (all levels)  
Dorm Parents (Girls' and Boys')  
Assistant to the Waterfront Director  
Arts and Crafts  
Meal Crew Supervisors

Come and spend part or all of this vacation time with your extended New Church family in the beautiful state of Maine!

For information regarding compensation and/or other details please write or call:

Adrienne Frank  
31 Silent Grove  
Westport, CT. 06880  
(203) 227-7468

Thank you very much.

## Nominating Committee Report

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<p><b>Vice-President:</b>  <b>Secretary:</b>  <b>Treasurer:</b>  <b>General Council:</b></p> <p><b>Communications Support Unit:</b>  <b>Education Support Unit:</b>  <b>Financial and Physical Resources Support Unit:</b>  <b>Growth and Outreach Support Unit:</b>  <b>Information Management Support Unit:</b>  <b>Pastoral Ministries Support Unit:</b>  <b>Committee on Admission to the Ministry (CAM):</b></p> <p><b>Nominating Committee:</b> (two to be nominated, one to be elected)</p> <p><b>Board of Trustees of SSR:</b>          (Swedenborg School of Religion):</p>	<p>Frederick G. Perry, Jr.          Dorothy deB. Young          John C. Perry</p> <p><b>Minister:</b> Robert E. Bossdorf, Quincy MA  <b>Layperson:</b> Howard Torpey, San Francisco, CA  <b>Layperson:</b> Alfred Chivers, Kitchener, Ontario          Lorene Lederer, San Francisco, CA          Martha Richardson, Fryeburg, ME          Keith Mull, Larned, KS          Christine Laitner, Midland, MI          Steve Koke, Grass Valley, CA          Pat Zacharias, Kitchener, Ontario</p> <p><b>Minister:</b> David L. Rienstra, St. Louis, MO  <b>Layperson:</b> Elizabeth Johnson, Bellevue, WA</p> <p>Muriel Bennett, Pawnee Rock, KS          Norman Bestor, Cleveland, OH</p> <p>Mary Crenshaw, Detroit, MI          Margaret Kraus, Pretty Prairie, KS</p>
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## GENERAL CONVENTION Statistics as of December 31, 1987

Associations	Societies		Ministers Ordained	Members		Total	Delegates No. of
	Active	Inactive		Active	Inactive		
Canada	1	0	2	141	41	182	20
Connecticut	1	0	1	11	0	11	3
Illinois	6	0	3	118	35	153	13
Kansas	3	0	3	163	32	195	21
Maine	2	0	1	157	103	6	22
Massachusetts	6	1	13	214	102	316	33
Michigan	2	0	3	84	8	92	11
Middle Atlantic	3	0	4	140	59	199	21
New York	1	0	0	47	36	83	10
Ohio	4	1	3	81	3	84	10
Pacific Coast	8	0	13	260	37	297	31
Southeast	1	0	1	49	29	78	9
Western Canada Conference	7	0	6	208	0	208	22
	45	2	53	1673	485	2158	226
<b>Societies</b>							
Gulfport	1	0	0	20	0	20	4
Georgetown, Guyana	1	0	1	46	11	57	7
	47	2	54	1739	496	2235	237



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## ADVANCE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Convention, 1988, Newton, Massachusetts

Lasell Junior College

June 25 - July 3, 1988

(Convention Sessions: June 29—July 3 1988)

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROV \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMPANIED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN: NAME AND AGE:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*NCYL MEMBERS BETWEEN AGES 13 AND 18 PLEASE FILL THIS IN:*

\_\_\_\_\_ My parent/s will be at Convention. They are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My guardian at Convention (if no parents present) is \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEE

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check for \$35.00 (due to costs this year, no discount—*sorry!*) made out to GENERAL CONVENTION '88, to cover registration. Everyone 12 years of age and over must pay this fee. Registration is PER PERSON and covers some Convention costs and special events. Mail this form and your fee to Central Office, 48 Sargent St., Newton, MA 02158.

### TRANSPORT

(PLEASE FILL IN THOROUGHLY)

\_\_\_\_\_ ✈ I will arrive at Logan Airport on: Date & time \_\_\_\_\_

Airline & Flight \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 🚗 I am driving to Convention on: Date \_\_\_\_\_

My first meal will be \_\_\_\_\_ ☕ breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ 🍽 lunch \_\_\_\_\_ ⊗ dinner on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 🚗 I am a passenger in the car of: \_\_\_\_\_

Arriving at Convention on: date \_\_\_\_\_ time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 🗺 I need directions to Boston \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER MODE OF TRANSPORT \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date & time \_\_\_\_\_

Please also complete the reverse side!

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## HOUSING

- I would like a single room.
- I would like a double room, sharing with \_\_\_\_\_
- (If you don't have a roommate yet, be sure to answer the following:)
- I would like to have a roommate assigned to share my room.
- I/We would like (if possible) to have a room near \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Note: Lasell Jr. College does not have easy access for wheelchairs in most buildings.

- I am a vegetarian, with no other restrictions.
- I have these dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am not able to climb stairs or hills
-  I need wheelchair access
- I am not able to walk very far without discomfort
- I have these medical requirements \_\_\_\_\_
- I am \_\_\_\_\_ diabetic; \_\_\_\_\_ a heart patient; \_\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other physical/special/dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

(If you don't let us know, we may not be aware of your needs!)

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN

(Children's programs will run during Pre-Convention days beginning Sunday, and continue through the week until after worship on July 3)

- My child/children will be participating in the Children's Program for ages 5 to 12 beginning on: date \_\_\_\_\_
- My child/children will need the Child Care program for age 2 and under beginning on: date \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- My child/children will need the Children's Program for ages 3 to 5 beginning on: date \_\_\_\_\_
- My child's/children's special needs are: \_\_\_\_\_
- My child has \_\_\_\_\_ has not \_\_\_\_\_ attended a pre-school program

## OTHER PROGRAMS

I wish to co-register for the following programs:

- New Church Youth League Officers (June 25-June 29; officers only)
- Council of Ministers (June 25-June 29; ministers & SSR students)
- Ministers' Spouses (June 25-June 29; ministers' spouses only)
- \*Day at the Beach at Blairhaven on June 28.
- Women's Alliance Luncheon on Friday, July 1.
- \*Post. Convention Conference (July 3-6 at Fryeburg New Church Assembly, Fryeburg, ME)

NOTE: ASTERISK (\*) DENOTES ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED.

(We will be in touch with you to give you more information on your choice.)

## Rates for 1988 Convention Room and Board

### Dormitory

- Adult Single: \$35. — daily; \$280. — 8 days; \$140. — 4 days.
- Teen (11 - 19 years): \$25. — daily; \$200. — 8 days; \$100. — 4 days.
- Youth (4 - 10 years): Double: \$15. — daily; \$120. — 8 days; \$60. — 4 days.
- Child (3 and under): No charge if occupying same room as parents, and no charge for food when fed from parent's plate.

For financial assistance for Convention attendance for young people and children please write to: Susan Weiss, P.O. Box 305, Somers Point, NJ. 08244

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## COMMENCEMENTS

### Baptisms

**Brown**—Ronald Brown, Jr., son of Ronald Brown, Sr., was baptized into the Christian faith on July 26, 1987 in Lake Michigan in Chicago, the Rev. Gladys Wheaton officiating.

### Confirmations

**Gottshalk**—Peter and Holly Gottshalk were confirmed into the life and faith of the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches and welcomed into the fellowship of the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church on February 28, 1988, the Revs. Edwin G. Capon and James F. Lawrence officiating.

**Thomsen**—Alan Thomsen was confirmed into the life of the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches and welcomed into the fellowship of the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church on February 28, 1988, the Revs. Edwin G. Capon and James F. Lawrence officiating.

### Marriage

**Korsten-Weiher**—Robert Korsten and Monika Weiher were united in Christian marriage at the Church of the Holy City, Edmonton, Alberta, on February

6, 1988, the Rev. Henry Korsten, the groom's father, officiating.

### Deaths

**Houghton**—Frank N. Houghton, 87, husband of Miriam H. (Stearns) Houghton, entered the spiritual world on March 9, from Cardinal Cushing hospital where he had been taken after being stricken ill at his home several days before.

Born in Somerville, son of the late Francis and Mabel (Nickerson) Houghton, he was a 1918 graduate of Bridgewater High School and a 1922 graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Houghton retired 20 years ago as a patent specialist for the Arthur D. Little Co. in Cambridge.

He was a member of the Church of the New Jerusalem in Bridgewater and Satucket Lodge, A.F. & A.M. in East Bridgewater.

In addition to his wife, he leaves a daughter, Nancy A. Jackson of Minnesota; four grandchildren and two nephews. He was the brother of the late Eleanor Edson.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

*The Blairhaven Committee is now accepting applications for*

## DIRECTOR

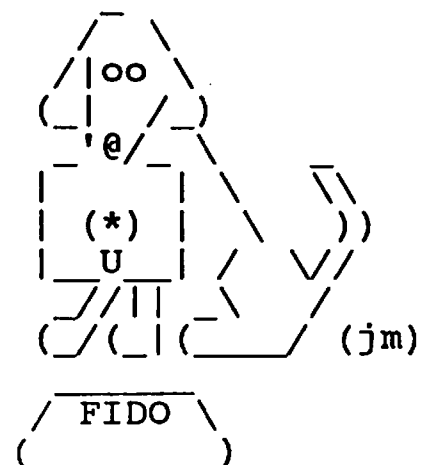
of Blairhaven Camp & Conference Center at Duxbury, Massachusetts to begin September 1, 1988.

For details, write to Blairhaven Committee c/o Swedenborg Library 79 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116 or call (617) 262-5918

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## Meet FIDO!

FIDO, the computer bulletin board which operates out of Central Office (Muff Worden is the "SYSOP," or System Operator) now has a toll-free number! Have your modem-equipped computer dial 1-800-232-FIDO (3430) to leave a message, or to pick up or add to files. This number is answered only by a computer—no voice! This service is provided by the Information Management Support Unit as an incentive to tie in with Convention's network. Hope to see you soon!



**ATTENTION!! Artists and Artisans**  
*Are you coming to convention in Boston?  
Then bring your artworks or crafts to sell or exhibit.  
There will be space available ideally located  
in a room adjoining the general meeting room.  
Brighten our corner by sharing your artistic vision.*

*Please contact:*

Louise Woofenden  
48 Highland Street  
Sharon, MA 02067,

*stating how much space you need.  
It's free. it's fun.*

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General Convention of the New Jerusalem  
*The Messenger*  
48 Sargent Street  
Newton, MA 02158

## Central Office Memo

*Ethelwyn Worden, Director*

Goodness! Here it is mid-April, and the Forsythia outside is trying to convince us that Spring is here in spite of the chill, and daily convention-related questions and decisions remind us that June isn't that far away—only two months. Time to think about buying thirty-day advance purchase airline tickets, about whether or not you can take a couple extra vacation days in New England, about finding a dog-sitter or plant-waterer.

Lasell College, with its 12 mostly Victorian house-type dorms, is readying itself for graduation, Alumnae day (it's a ladies' college) and for us, and it is presenting quite a lovely face as flowers come up and trees and bushes begin to green. Several of our local Convention committee went over recently, and felt that the various

meeting spaces were pleasant and more than adequate. The newly-remodeled dining hall is a pleasure to be in, and the folks who work there are looking to feeding us well.

Ken Turley has finished scoring his oratorio, "Revelation," and we are looking forward to a grand evening of world premiere and party on Thursday night. The music will be a happy experience for all of us, and excitement is building as we get into the rehearsal period and the reality comes closer.

SSR Graduation will be held at SSR, nicely enough—it is only four miles from Lasell by the "long route," and will be in festive dress to welcome familiar faces and newcomers to an open house that includes the Central Office on the third floor.

And, after a meeting of the Local Committee chairpeople, we realized that we are again dealing with Fourth of July weekend, which is celebrated

here in a big way—with lots of traffic everywhere. So we are modifying the Saturday outing to include options of a bus tour to Plymouth, the Mayflower II and Plimoth Plantation your own trips into Boston and its many offerings, by "T," (the nearby trolley line that goes right downtown) or by car; trips to Concord and Lexington to sample the territory involved in the first skirmishes of the American Revolution including the Old North Bridge, and to see (and swim in?) Walden Pond, made famous by Thoreau, who lived there almost two years.

We locals are becoming more and more excited about our full, but wonderful, program, and look forward to seeing everyone here in the East once again. We especially look forward to receiving your registration forms early, so we may complete some plans that are dependent on knowing numbers—so here is where you can help! See y'all soon! ◀