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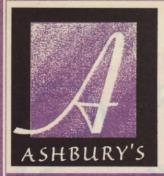


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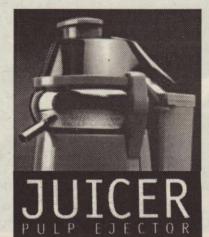
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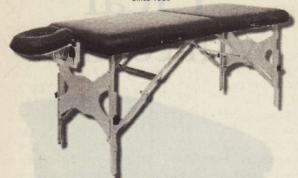
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ISSUES - October 1999 - page 04

Automobile Accident ~ Not Fibromyalgia

by Joel Whitehead

Recently, I have been disturbed by the number of people who are coming in with a

diagnosis of fibromyalgia who have had a major car accident within the last two or three years previous to that diagnosis.

I have been aware, for a long time now, that fibromyalgia is by definition of many doctors "widespread pain that cannot be cured", but in this case it is most likely failure to completely resolve the effects of the automobile accident.

One of the things that is remiss about the western understanding of what fibromyalgia really is, reflects a lack of understanding about how our musculoskeletal system reflects the condition of our internal organs. We see a traumatized area: neck, shoulders, back, etc. and we automatically see that as the be-all and end-all of the problem.

Our body is a network of inter-functioning systems. Whether we talk in nervous systems or systems of energy meridians as described in Chinese medicine, elements of affective and effector relationships exist on the same system between the organs and certain musculoskeletal groups. As I have demonstrated in many articles in the past, areas of pain can have a clear relationship with consistent organ dysfunction. This can be originated in the emotions or the diet or both and as the organ dysfunction persists, so does the proclivity towards emotional instability also grow worse. The very strong signal for us to get out of this vicious cycle is the pain all of this dysfunction brings us to bear. We don't feel this necessarily in the organ itself, but most often in a particular pattern of muscles and bone that represent them.

OUTSIDE INSIDE RULE:

What can often happen is that while the physical trauma occurs on the musculoskeletal level, with any time at all it is bound to become part of the organ-emotional system that represents them. Let's say you were injured along the right side of your body. In Traditional Chinese Medicine classical understanding, this line of pain is often caused by the Liver and Gall bladder and runs along their meridian. After a few days the affective line of pain, while predominantly muscular in nature, shares its affect with the Liver and Gallbladder.

After therapy and drugs, the pain can ameliorate, but come back in similar fashion because of the affected Liver and Gallbladder that was overlooked. "It seemed fine" I've heard many patients say, "but it all came back after awhile." So now the person goes back to the doctor and the diagnosis is no longer pain resulting from the traffic accident.

In many cases this is news the insurance companies love to hear. I had one young lady from Alberta who was denied coverage by her insurance company for problems she had been suffering from since her car accident a few years earlier. Her doctor gave her the deadly but vague diagnosis of fibromyalgia which to the insurance companies mind, can mean that they are not liable.

Fibromyalgia is still ill-defined. At the Lakelands clinic, our success with the problem lies in understanding it from the inside to the outside and back again. See ad to left.

A Fond Farewell

I knew when my dad died at the end of April that Reiki needed to play a larger role in my life and completed my teacher training by my birthday in June. The more I used Reiki, the more "buzz" I would get off the computers. I figured that the shift in my awareness of energy with Reiki was making me more sensitive and at first it was confirmation that I was perceiving subtler energies.

Also growing inside me was the sense that I was not fulfilling all that I should be doing; but what? I did Reiki sessions several times a week, created a Reiki manual for teaching, the spiritual emergence group helped me to see some of my emotional patterns, but the feeling of 'not doing something I

was supposed to' nagged me.

I took ten days off at the end of July. I had a delightfully lazy time of it — reading, walks along the lake, sleeping in, and visiting with friends. The first morning back at my desk I had pain in my left shoulder and for the next two weeks it intensified. I kept looking for the emotional base that would allow me to move through more old patterns, but could find none. The pain was more intense when I was at the computer so I started to notice that the different equipment affected me differently. For example, the energy coming off the printer would send a cutting pain through my arm if I got too close and other computers I couldn't even be near without pain ripping through the shoulder. I remembered the first morning on a new computer I felt sick within the hour, but when I walked around in the fresh air, the nausea went away.

For three weeks I begged and pleaded for guidance. What was this all about? Finally I asked Spirit to stop the pain if the message was for me to leave Issues and step into the unknown. For a few brief hours the next day the pain diminished and I accepted the sign that it is time to move on. An earth-angel named Tim showed up with magnets that deflect the electromagnetic energy from my shoulder so that the pain is less, but I am still buzzed every time I sit down at a computer. Sometimes the pain is so intense it is like something stabbing my hand or arm. It may explain the severe headaches and fatigue that have come and gone over the past while that I would attribute to my 'shift' without looking any further. My concentration is not as good any more, my thinking often fuzzy as I scramble for words or knowledge that used to be right at the tip of my tongue. The message is pretty clear that whatever my future holds it will not be eight hours a day in front of any electronic equipment.

I have been grabbing bits and pieces from several books as I try to understand this new aspect of my life. It will take several readings before I can comprehend all the information from Cross Currents by Robert O. Becker, Vibrational Medicine by Richard Gerber and Electro-magnetic Fields and Your Health by Michael Milburn & Maren Oelbermann. Research has been ongoing for many years, but how is a person supposed to know that they are electrically sensitive until some symptoms present themselves?

Perhaps this is the explanation for the dramatic kundalini awakening that I have been experiencing — as soon as the pain began, I stopped shaking; something that has been a big part of my life for the past three years. My physical body

has been "shifting", as evidenced by the restructuring of my face, for over a year and I have moved through a lot of emotional turmoil recognizing old patterns and coming to know myself at a deeper level.



by Jan Stickney

Saying goodbye to Issues, the Holistic Centre and all the people associated with it feels very 'weird'. I figured I'd be here until I chose to retire for my intention was always to provide education, information and support to my fellow travellers on this path called life. This has been an awesome learning experience for the field of holistic health is growing very fast as more and more people take responsibility for their wellness on all levels. My research for personal interests and to help others led to doing book reviews and articles, the practitioners working through the Centre helped me heal my back pain and the connections to so many interesting people has inspired and motivated me to keep moving forward. My adventures doing distribution every month have allowed me to connect with advertisers, practitioners, health providers and other interesting people in the Kootenays.

I am grateful to all the teachers who have appeared in the past five years. Angèle and Marcel have given me infinite opportunities to learn and grow in both the business and personal realms. To both of you, thank you for your support. The bodyworkers who have worked in our Centre taught me about alternative therapies from an experiential perspective and I appreciate the sessions and sharing as friends and co-workers. Thank you to all the other people who came through the doors and impacted my life by your presence.

The opportunity is now available for someone to buy my shares in Issues Magazine and the Holistic Centre and become part of this fascinating field. It's been fun playing receptionist, talking to people from all over British Columbia and Canada whether they phone re advertising or information for the Spring Festival or Wise Woman Weekend. If you think this is speaking to you, call or contact Angèle or Marcel through the magazine.

I don't know where I'm going or what I'll be doing but I'll let you know when I find it!!



Musing

with Angèle publisher of ISSUES

Whew! Finally a few hours to stop getting things done and get typing. Life has been feeling very full this past month but every night before falling asleep I say why I am grateful ... it's my form of prayers to the universe.



Besides my usual job of making soup and cookies for the Juicy Carrot, occasionally attending to my store the Rainbow Connection and publishing ISSUES Magazine, this month I also organized the Wise Woman Weekend and helped my carpenter do some renovations and canned pickles, tomatoes and peaches. Teaching yoga classes two nights a week helped me slow down just a touch but it was busier than I liked. I am grateful that Jan and Marcel were able to keep up with the ad info and phone calls as the deadline for ISSUES happened at the same time as the WWW event.

I am grateful that Nywyn, Samarpan, Laurel Burnham, Lynn Work and Christina Goddard were able to help out before and during the weekend. I am grateful that I have the energy to keep up with my willpower. My heartfelt thanks to all the women who expressed their appreciation for my organizing skills and efforts to make the weekend special, for it is my deep desire to make this world just a little better place to live, and it does my soul good to feel appreciated.

And to those women who felt I wasn't taking good care of myself because I looked tired, that is true; I was feeling tired, for I am not a late-night person and when my day starts at six am and I work past my bedtime, the next day I can feel my energy sag. But if I get half-an-hour off to rest, I can feel my energy surge again. I don't worry and I take each moment as it comes. I do not use coffee, chocolate or cigarettes to get myself moving any time of the day, so if I look tired it is because I am, and I will get over it quickly. I am grateful for all the organic growers who supply me with quality food that sustains my high level of energy and helps rebuild my blood and bones.

My last column drew many responses from my readers and family. It always amazes me what each person focuses on. My ex-husband was on my doorstep the morning after ISSUES was distributed. It surprised me, since he had told me he couldn't bother taking the time to find a copy of IS-SUES, let alone read it. He requested that I do not keep repeating the story of how I got pregnant before I got married. I asked, "Why not?" adding that twice in ten years is not always. He said, "Because you are hurting our son, Gordon." I asked, "How I am hurting him? The boys know what happened." When they were sixteen or seventeen and started dating, I talked with them about the hard work and frustration that I felt being a teenage Mom. I continued, "If Gordon has a problem with my column he will talk to me about it and share his feelings. Now, if you are feeling hurt or are having a problem with my column then we have something to discuss." His neck stiffened as he lifted his chin into the air and said, "There is nothing you can print that can hurt me." I replied "Then I guess we have nothing to talk about, unless you want to discuss the pain you are holding in your body." He denied the

pain as he used the chair to lift himself upwards and shake the stiffness out of his hips.

It is sad that he does not see the connection and refuses to discuss his feelings or his pain. I thank all of you who made comments about my courage to write about my feelings as I progress on my healing journey. My condolences to the anonymous person who wrote and said, "I pray your children don't read this article." I am delighted with how my boys turned out, for looking back I was a Wise Woman even as a teenager. I am grateful they never got a girl pregnant and I feel that talking about it to them helped prevent it. I am delighted to say that all three of my boys can cook, do laundry and have enough self-esteem to take their time finding the right mate.

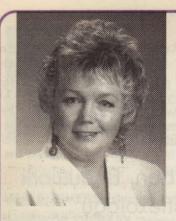
My oldest boy Gordon showed up several days after Rae was here and I could feel his distress about my column. His wife Britta, he and I had a good long chat, for they were upset with the fact that I didn't feel like I was part of the family reunion. They had worked hard to get everyone together and wanted me to feel like I was part of it. They wanted to know what it would take for me to come to another family gathering and I said, "Sharing a vegetarian meal where we take time to give thanks and enjoy. I would prefer to get out in nature and go hiking or horseback riding." Time will tell how all this goes but they seem determined. When Britta said, "We want you to be part of our lives." I cried, for I don't ever remember anyone ever saying that to me. After they left and now as I type, I can feel tears welling up which tells me this is a *Big Issue* for me.

Reviewing all that I do to create community in my life, I can see the reflection of my need and how deep it is. My emotional counsellor Ken and I are making slow progress as to why I feel like an alien on this planet but the layers are deep and full of tears, and the voice of knowingness has not made itself clear. I do this work and take the time to type for I believe that as I heal myself it resonates outward and will make it easier for others to do the same. Many thanks to those who resonate with my beliefs for a more compassionate world where we don't factory -farm animals so that rich North Americans can eat beef and destroy the rainforests. Where we are in touch with our feelings and can speak our truths and be honoured for our outspokenness, for the world is not fair. I believe there is enough for all, whether it be food, freedom or housing. We musn't allow the corporate and government systems to brainwash us into the fear of scarcity. We are creative humans, full of potential, and we have the resources if we want to change the system. I for one am willing to put my heart, soul and most of my waking day into making this a reality.

As for the front cover, I choose it because I was thinking of hunting season coming up. This young moose was found hours after someone killed the mother. When I showed it to Jan, she said this photo is more of a spring picture because that is when wild animals have their babies. And then I remembered Grandad's voice, cursing the poachers for shooting out of season. This photo is of my Mom honouring the process of life, hours after the birth of a baby moose. We bottle fed it until the game warden arrived and I don't remember hearing what happened after that. I am grateful to have lived in the wilderness and learned to work hard, and I give thanks for my good health and

the wisdom to take care of my body.

Now if I could just slow down.



Cheryl Grismer

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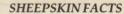
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From the Editor...



The Life Force or Life Energy flowing through and around our bodies, at all times, is our very essence. Yet it is only in recent years that medical science has begun to give it any recognition. A healthy energy field gives our personality and our lives strength and focus, so I feel it is worthwhile to give it my attention and try to sense its movement and influence in my life.

For years I have read and heard people talk about energy and how they can feel it and/or see it. This has always been a mystery to me as I never seemed to be aware of energy. Even when I sat in meditation or tried to reach an altered state where I would focus on the energy in my hands, the best I could do was to feel a slight pressure between my hands like a big soft marshmallow. I had never been aware of an energy flow through my body or aware of good or bad energy in various places, like buildings or rooms or even other people.

Gradually over the past few years and even without my noticing, I think this has been starting to happen. All of a sudden I will experience a sensation that I know I have experienced before but I am only just then realizing that it is a sensation of energy. When I relax and breathe and focus inward I feel an intensity that I have felt before but now I see that it is energy and there is also a flow to it. I had never heard anyone describe energy as a feeling of intensity so I didn't realize what it was.

At one of our recent events I was doing a clearing meditation in one of the healing rooms. Someone came in and walked past me. I found this very disturbing, but after, I was actually grateful, because when they walked past I could feel a strong sensation like a freight train was tearing through my aura. I had never experienced any sense of feeling in my energy field before. I am sure we experience these sensations all the time but because we do not understand these feelings of energy and are not open to them, our logical mind interprets them as bodily sensations. I am now trying to become aware of the difference between energy sensations and physical sensations.

I think I experience this in my everyday life as well in very simple and subtle ways. When I clean my house, I always thought it felt better because it looked better. But now I realize it also feels better because the energy is better - more clear and free flowing. Clutter and dirt represent stuck and stagnant energy; when it is given my attention and removed the energy can flow freely again. I recently dusted and reorganized my bookshelves—sorting and weeding out what I no longer wanted. After, I was amazed at the feeling of clear, light energy around my books. The power of our attention is a great enhancer of energy flow. When various areas of our

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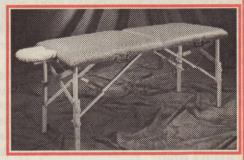
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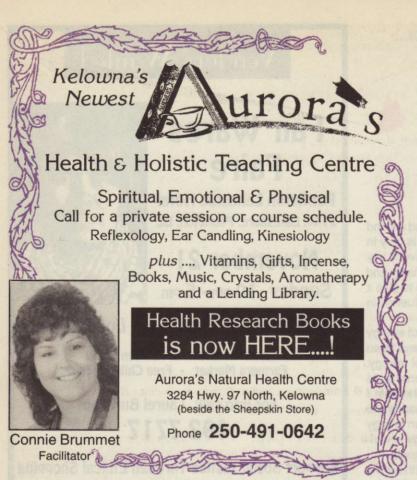


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lives are given our attention the stagnation is cleared and the energy can flow again.

It seems to me that where I was making my mistake before was that I was expecting monumental experiences of
energy awareness. Like Caroline Myss says, " Get ordinary.
Don't expect earth shattering experiences." Now I look for
energy movement and awareness in the ordinary
experiences of my everyday life.



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THE KICKOFF TO THE COSMIC CONNECTION

by Julie Severn

Since you have survived the month of August, 1999, how are you really feeling? Are you tired? Does your body ache for no reason? Are you feeling too much stress and cannot fathom the feeling? Are you disconnected from Spirit? How is your digestion? Are you in physical alignment? How are your sleep patterns?

These are important questions, and they require a lot of discussion at this point in our Now, because the month of August, 1999 hit all humankind with a double whammy.

Numerically speaking, every day in August, 1999 sent out double energy power to each of us due to the fact that each day in August added up to its day/month/year. If you understand numerology, you will know that it has immeasurable power to manifest, create and redesign your reality as you see it - NOW. For example, August 15, 1999 - 0+8+1+5+1+9+9+9 (4+4), which equals six and 1 + 5 adds up to six as well. Each day of the month has done this and this is the first time in the recorded history of humankind.

I am writing this article on September 9, 1999, which is also an important day in the NOW reality of humankind. Numerically, this day adds as 0+9+0+9+1+9+9+9 (4+6=10) which adds up to one, the new beginning. This is the new beginning for all of humankind. This is the time of great opening and enlightenment.

You will soon learn you see things either very positively

or very negatively. There is no longer the fence-sitter for the fence has dissolved and so it does not matter any longer. Feelings will be very high or very low, depending on the attributes you have chosen to bring with you to this NOW. The most wonderful aspect of this NOW - you have the power to change your negative to positive very quickly and effectively without too much consequence on yourself.

Many people who were in physical pain during the month of August could not understand the increased flow of energy, thus causing a feeling of confusion, pain and fragmentation. Many changes took place in this period of time and it is important to understand how it transmutes into you in your new reality and non-linear time.

You planned to be here for this and now your clarity can begin. You can now understand your soul purpose for you have moved into your contract during this period of time. You have also decided whether you will stay or whether you will depart this place in search of your own answers. Only you know what your decision was or will be. You now have the ability to fully know yourself and bring your clarity and light through.

As well, you have the ability to open to all of your powers if you so choose. Again, only you know your choices and only you can manifest them. All will heal, whether they choose to stay or not. If you are sure you have opened and can feel

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this happening, do not fear this power; rather, contact a healer and ask for assistance to guide you in order that you may learn to maximize what you have received.

You are all so powerful that you have granted yourselves the ability to see fear at its greatest or love at its greatest. Either way you will heal for you have planned this transitionary period of your NOW to lead you on to your path to love.

Bless yourself for having chosen to be here in this moment for it brings with it many gifts to receive and to give to others. If you are waking with the light (and all are) inside you and around you, share this light and spend as much time as you can communing with nature and with humankind so you can continue to heal others and to be healed inside yourself.

Answers to all of the health issues at the beginning of this article are inside you. Do you understand yourself well enough to pay attention? Are your eating habits coinciding with your new reality? Do you get enough exercise? Do you spend enough time with yourself in order to get to know what you really desire in your life? Are you clear in your goals for yourself? Did your goals just change in this new reality? Do you meditate and relax?

We have given ourselves a gift and it was August, 1999. We knew it was coming and now we can bless it for happening for it kicked off a great cosmic connection to ourselves and to our Creator. Bless the planet Earth for it reached its critical mass and gave itself a wonderful spiritual blessing in the form of a more open, aware human.

To change the words of Tiny Tim, "God blessed us, everyone!" See ad to the right

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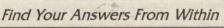
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Breakthrough to Prosperity

by Patty Shortreed

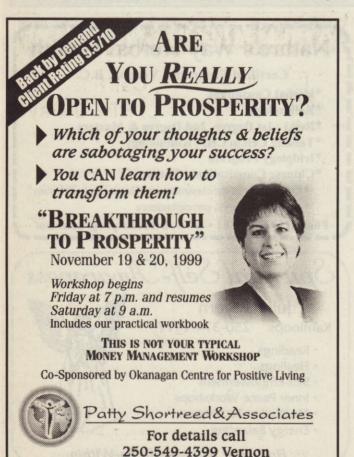
I am an ordinary person who has had some extraordinary experiences. While my conscious journey began 15 years ago, it truly has been an unfolding process over the entire 44 years of my lifetime. I grew up as the middle sister of three girls in a family living in Calgary. Clearly my belief system was that my happiness lay outside of me as I learned the many and varied secrets of pleasing other people and obtaining their approval. I got really good at projecting the image of the nice girl while inside I felt hollow and empty. Whether at home, at school, or with friends, I gave up trusting the truth within me in favour of doing it their way, going along with their point of view, compromising my needs to obtain their love and support. Any amount of criticism would put me into a tailspin. I managed life by trying to control and manipulate people and events around me. I rarely succeeded. Inevitably this led me to feel self-loathing and self doubt as a daily way of living and being in the world. Eventually, I crashed, no longer able to exist in the pain and suffering of that approach. I was fearful, unfulfilled personally and professionally, felt no passion or joy, overweight, depressed, confused, overworked, stressed-out, and feeling totally incompetent. In essence, I hated myself. I was caught in the rat race, living a mundane life, day in and day out asking the question, "Is that all there is? There has got to be a better way." From deep within me, I knew that life was meant to be joyful. I set out to find what was missing.

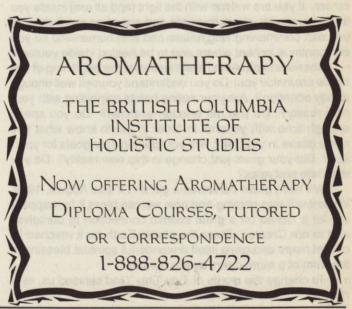
Over these past 15 years, I have been committed to my personal and spiritual growth. Step by step I have changed

my life. I changed careers, went back to school and wrote a master's thesis on courage and empowerment. Then I realized I had to start living what I had learned. To truly live my authentic life and be in integrity, I took a huge leap. In the summer of 1994, I finalized my divorce, a relationship of 18 years, stepped out of a well paying 16 year career in the oil industry, put everything in storage and went on a solo spiritual journey to Asia, India, Tibet, Nepal, that wound up at the 1995 United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing, China. The hours of meditation, various spiritual teachings and countless experiences helped me to arrive at a pivotal conclusion: I am the master of my experience.

When I came home, I saw my world from a completely different viewpoint. As I understood that my suffering was the product of my inner experiences, and that if I truly wanted to experience love, joy, and prosperity, then I had to stop being the victim at all levels of my awareness and start claiming complete responsibility for my life. I began to realize that I could create the life of my choosing, not by trying to manipulate the world around me, but by going within, facing my fears, changing my beliefs, and acting with courage. I began to see that if this was possible for me, it was possible for all of us, that we need not suffer pain and poverty needlessly, here in Canada or anywhere in the world.

My purpose is clear: my life is in service of bringing peace and love into the world. A key part of that is helping people to realize their inherent prosperity. We are all abundant to the extent we welcome abundance into our lives, be that love, joy or prosperity. I know that I am but one of many who are awakening to the true self within that knows itself as limitless abundance. My path now is to share the journey with others so that we might all know our Divine heritage. I continue to be a workin-progress, excelling in some things and bumping along in others. However, I know that when we realize how powerful we are, we will never lack for anything again. It's my belief that when you and I really learn this and live by it, we change the world. See ad to the left





Functional Integration

A Hands-on Approach to Feldenkrais

Movement Education

by Sandra Bradshaw

For three years eight-year-old Charles refused to pick up a pencil or scissors at home or at school. Mark was learning to sing and he wanted to increase his confidence for his upcoming recital. Laura wanted to walk the two miles to work but her right foot was bothering her making even short walks difficult. Six-month-old Stuart was constantly fussing and had difficulty nursing on the left side. What do all of these people have in common? They have all experienced Functional Integration lessons that have solved their immediate problems and have generally improved the quality of their lives.

Functional Integration is a hands-on approach to the Feldenkrais Method® that is perhaps not as well known as group Awareness Through Movement® lessons but is especially beneficial for anyone who needs to give attention to particular physical discomforts or wants to learn better ways of moving and functioning. Comfortably clothed, you lie or sit on a low padded table (with babies and young children you work at their level, usually on the floor). The practitioner guides you through a series of precise movements that relax tense areas and alter habitual patterns to provide new information to the nervous system that will then allow you to move with more freedom, flexibility and range of motion.

One of the greatest strengths of the Feldenkrais Method is the rigorous training of the practitioners. For me this was a challenging and fascinating endeavour as I began to log up the 800-1000 hours of classroom instruction and thousands of hours of independent movement exploration. Time consuming perhaps but it has allowed me to understand how movement travels through my own body, how I can make lasting changes in my own nervous system and then translate this knowledge into lessons for my clients that will allow them to experience new freedom and ease of movement.

Anyone who wants to move better will benefit from the Feldenrais Method. This includes seniors, musicians, infants, dancers, sports enthusiasts, computer operators, etc. The list, of course, is endless as we all want to move better. Lessons have been known to improve flexibility, balance, selfimage, breathing, learning and many other areas. The Method also shows you how to learn from your body and doesn't leave you dependent upon a practitioner or specific program. Nor does it require weeks or months to show results. You will notice changes after or even during your first lesson. The Method does not replace regular exercise but enhances other exercise systems making movement easier and more effective and enjoyable.

And the people I first mentioned? Charles is now learning to print and draw and takes great pleasure in using scissors to open his bag of potato chips. Mark sang with great confidence and control at his recital. Laura enjoys her walks to work with an occasional hike on the weekend and Stuart became very mellow and easygoing but began walking at nine months and is now driving his delighted mother crazy.

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Affirmations for Positive Humour

by Catherine Fenwick

Healthy laughter enriches all aspects of life. This Laughter Quotient test is from my book Healing With Humour and is designed to help people look at their ability to laugh at life.

Circle the number which is most true for you.

		almos	t never	seldom	sometimes	often	always	
1.	I hear myself laughing out loud.	alisate.	2	3	4	5	6	
2.	I am a fun person to be with.	bad 11s	2	3	4	5	6	
3.	My sense of humour helps me to get along with others.	signat a	2	3	4	5	6	
4.	I play spontaneously.	Isro 1	2-	3	4	5	6	
5.	I feel O.K. about acting silly in appropriate situations.	2001	2	3	4	5	6	
6.	I regularly plan times for playing and laughing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7.	I can laugh at my own mistakes.	erf c1 d	2	3	4	5	6	
8.	I make the best of bad situations.	88 19101	2	3	4	5	6	
9.	I use humour to help others feel better.	-002618	2	3	4	5	6	
10.	I avoid using humour that makes others feel uncomfortable.	100 1 0	2	. 3	4	5	6	
11.	I avoid sarcastic and negative humour.	to av 1 v	2	3	4	5	6	
12.	I can see something positive in most situations.	no field on	2	3	4	5	6	
13.	I take time out for holidays.	Show 10	2	3	4	5	6	
14.	My family and friends support my need for fun.	application of	2	3	4	5	6	
15.	When I feel stressed, my sense of humour keeps things in perspective.	1 1	2	3	4	5	6	
16.	I feel comfortable laughing at work.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
17.	I allow myself to play first and work later.	ritter 1vo	2	3	4	5	6	
18.	My sense of humour is one of my best qualities.	1	2	3	4	5	6.	
	I believe laughing contributes to my sense of wellbeing.	bont 1	2	3	4	5	6	
	The more I laugh the better I feel.	B 2011	2	3	4	5	6	

Add your total score: _____ See below for interpretation.

75 - 100 = High L.Q. You're doing fine, keep it up.
50 - 75 = Average L.Q. Pretty good, but could be better.
25 - 50 = Low L.Q. Look back over the questionnaire and see what you need to do to tickle your funny bone and get more laughter into your life.

A sense of humour helps us get through the tough times in life and makes the good times even better. Healthy humour is a symptom of physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual wellbeing. Laughter eases fear, reduces stress and brings greater self-awareness. Humour is everywhere. Look for it. Create it. Spread it around. Set a goal to laugh about one hundred times a day. Laughter helps us to get over the hurdles and the barriers. To increase your Laughter Quotient try these:

Affirmations for Positive Humour

- I will use humour for positive, healing and loving purposes.
- I will be open and caring about other's attempts at humour.
 I will encourage them to use positive humour.
- · I will express my humour as fully as possible.
- · I will not use humour to camouflage hostility or prejudice.
- I understand that laughter is a treasured gift and will laugh generously with others.
- · I will respect sensitive topics of my listeners and will avoid

giving offence with my humour.

- · If I offend another, I will make amends.
- All teasing and ethnic humour will be by mutual consent and will go both ways or not at all.
- · I will take myself lightly and my life's work seriously.
- I will be ever vigilant for the absurdities of the universe and will share my observation with my companions in life.
- In the midst of adversity, I will continue to use my humour attitude to cope, to heal and to grow.
- On the day of my death I will look back and know that I lived and laughed fully and well.

Catherine Fenwick is an author, educator, career and work consultant. She develops and delivers workshops and key-

notes on how to get more healthy humour into your work and your life. She has published books Healing With Humour and Telling My Sister's Story and manuals Workscapes: Keeping Spirit Alive at Work and Building Bridges: The Heart of Effective Communication. You can check out her website at healinghumour





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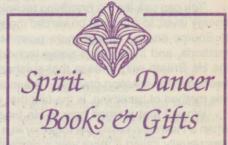
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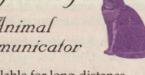
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Huna "Ha" Breathing

by Sue Peters

I want to share with you a method of breathing that instantly brings you to a place of "feeling good". The Hawaiian people have been using this method for hundreds of years. I use it on a daily basis. I have found it to increase my energy level, heighten my awareness and open the energetic systems in my body so I can think clearly and have a more positive attitude toward life. If you are doing any type of healing or shamanic work, it is very important to daily increase the amount of mana surcharge into your body. It keeps you clear, focused and in a uplifted, higher vibrational state.

In Huna, we practice breathing exercises which allow us to gain control of our bodies and ourselves, enabling us to send mana (life force energy), to any organ or area of thought (thought form), to energize it and thereby strengthen ourselves and others. By controlled breathing we can not only cure disease, but also practically do away with fear, worry and the baser emotions.

You can use the Ha breathing technique to increase your energy level, to eliminate unwanted thoughts, to connect you to Source energy, to add more power to your own healing methods, and if you have some techniques in manifesting, the Ha Breath will increase that surcharge of energy that is needed in the creating process. The most important value of this method of breathing, is the fact that you will feel good.

When I first learned how to Ha breathe, I was told that when a Hawaiian family got together in a family meeting (this was usually called if there was a problem that needed to be sorted out, the Native People here have similar meetings), the Elder would lead the family in prayer and the Ha Breathing Rite. The Ha Breath would assist each individual family member in clearing away the emotional baggage or reactions that they had brought with them into the meeting. Their whole

physical and energetic system would be cleared of the emotional hype, and they would then be able to be more objective and calm in the meeting. If for some reason this did not happen, then Ho'Oponopono would then be applied, and that is yet, another story to tell.

In practicing the Ha Breathing, it is important to remember that breath is not only the breathing of the lungs—it is sacred, the Spirit, the essence. We practice deep breathing to connect us to all life. We are oxygen burners and a deep full breath increases our functional efficiency dramatically. We breathe in not only the oxygen we need, but also the Mana, the Life Force Energy we must have not only in our lungs, but into our every pore and part of our being (the unconscious (Ku), the conscious (Lono) and our higher awareness (Aumakua), our energy bodies (the aura) and our physical form or body.

With the above thought in mind, I will now share with you how to do the Ha Breath. It is done in sets of four, ie; 4 breaths, 8 breaths, 12 breaths, 16 breaths and so on.

- 1. Take a deep breath through your nose quickly, not so deeply as to be uncomfortable or cause strain.
- 2. Then exhale slowly through the mouth, making the sound "ha" as you exhale, just a soft sound on the exhaled breath. The mouth is only partially opened.
- 3. Repeat this four times in groups of four. Making sure that you are relaxed and comfortable.
- 4. Do the breathing standing with feet apart, knees slightly bent and hands held slightly out to the side and forward with palms upwards. (I also found that I can do this seated, lying down...once you get the hang of it, it can be done anytime, anywhere and almost in any position.) Experiment!
- 5. As you release your breath, let the exhalation carry off and release all your tensions and troubles. As you breath in, let yourself be aware of pulling in the healing breath to fill each part of your being with healing light and energy.
- 6. You may become more focused and mentally clear and energized in a calm and peaceful way from doing the Ha Breath. This can be done as many times a day as you want.

See ad in the NYP, Hawaiian Huna



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ISSUES - October 1999 - page 16

The Spirit of Wise Woman

by Laurel Burnham

The Third Wise Woman Weekend has come and gone, and I am left with images to hold in my heart and mind until the next. The numbers of women that came to Naramata Centre this past Sept 17, 18, 19th were both gratifying and significant. From its humble yet golden birth in 1997, with 80 women, to 150 participants in 1998, to over 200 beautiful, strong wise women this year, it would appear that Wise Woman Weekend will continue to grow.

We sounded beautiful, singing together. Right from the opening ceremonies, I could hear women's voices carefully picking out the harmonies, as our voices rose and fell, almost as one. How diverse we are in shape and size and aspect, each of us unique, extraordinary and essential to the whole! Over the course of the weekend, I noticed how radiant and expansive we all became, as women relaxed and blossomed into the beautiful setting of Naramata Centre at its end-of-summer best.

What is it about gatherings of women, like Wise Woman Weekend that feel so special? Over my years of soul searching, I have come to identify very strongly with other women and their life stories. I have found meaning in my own story, and the stories of other women, and similarities in the threads of joy and pain that are woven through our lives. We are connected because of our experiences that have been shaped by our precious and amazing women's bodies and women's minds. This female path is also the road to the Divine. It is important that we acknowledge and celebrate our passages, both the bitter and the sweet, the light and the dark. This is the way of the wise woman, coming home to her true self, finding significance in the connections we share.

The Wise Woman Weekend is a reminder of how much we need community. I need other women to nurture and sustain, support me, laugh and cry, teach and share with me this amazing story, the journey of our lives. For all that every woman shares of herself, we all become wiser. We also have a reminder of the magic of synergy: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts! When we come together in a sacred manner, we call to us an energy that is bigger than all of us, that can both bless and energize.

We were particularly blessed by our honored Crones, Betty Nickerson & Noor-Un-Nisa. We thank our instructors and healers, and all who came and shared so willingly of themselves. Until next time... May we all walk in Beauty & Peace.

Blessed be the women who are wise and strong, who heal with their loving hearts and sing Thy sacred song.
For sisters united all are we, spinning and weaving in harmony.
So let the magic now be cast, to mend the sorrows of the past, so together we may be in love for all eternity.

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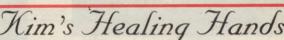
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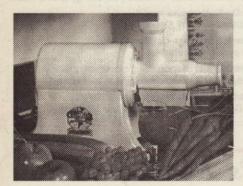
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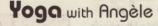
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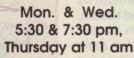
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Astrological Forecast of October

The upcoming square-dance between reality and change will heat up the month of October (Saturn square Uranus). Tensions will progressively mount as those who are entrenched in a position come up against inevitable change. The natural momentum of life picks up as well when two of the outer planets station and turn direct.

October will have its moments. There are favourable indicators for personal education. You can take an accurate reading of the direction of on-going change, and some will experience accidental moments of intrusion from other dimensions. The Moon and Mercury will trigger a release of the August 11th eclipse energy on the following days October 11th action, 17th rhetoric, 19th revolt and 25th resistance.

The news is likely to dominate the first few days of October. Real negotiations will come on line with Mercury's entrance into Scorpio on October 4th. Mercury in Scorpio will bring a life or death quality to all communications this month. Carefully consider if there really is a gun to your head before you pull your trigger! Your point of view is every thing(?) on October 6th! Co-creative activites get a boost from this Mercury crossing.

The Libra New Moon is at 4:34 am on October 9th. The Moon cycle starting today places emphasis on responsible action in your social relationships. Can you lead/support/contribute by following the crowd? The highlighted degree symbolism is "A boat landing washed away" The keyword is respite. On a personal note you can make a commitment to refresh your social life this month. Relationships in general will require a mature focused commitment during this cycle.

Neptune stations and turns direct on October 12th. The days surrounding are favourable for connecting to other dimensions of reality, and to swindlers! People who don't normally tap in, may find they have some weird stuff happening. The stuff that creates paradigm shifts!

The voices that are the most strident during the 14th, 15th, and 16th, will be announcing where the mounting tension requires a shift (by November the 10th), if chaos is to be avoided. On a personal note conversational sparks will be flying during this time. Be clear and conscious eh!

Mars moves in to industrious Capricorn on October 16th. During its sojourn here people with discipline can accomplish a great deal. The machinery of society, if stable, will roll along, deflecting easily any attempts to alter its course.

On October 22 Uranus stations and turns direct, releasing the energy of change in all of us. Throughout the world revolution which has lacked consensus amongst its ranks will be released from doubt. Taking a barometer reading of released energy today will yield very useful information.

The Full Moon in Taurus/Scorpio on the 24th is at 2:02 pm. We shed the light of awareness on our ability to sustain creative endeavours with others, while not losing faithfulness to our essence. Consider examining your visions and the meaning you make out of what's happening to make a shift. The highlighted degree symbolism* "a broken bottle and spilt perfume", and the keyword is Permeation.

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We end the month as we began with world news taking over our attention. October the 29th will be particularly challenging and requires someone to put on the brakes! In the tension department relief is coming. see ad above

* taken from "The Sabian Symbols" by Marc Edmund Jones

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The Doula

In the Service of Women

by Joanna Norman

What is a Doula? Doula is a Greek word referring to an experienced woman who helps other women. The word has come to refer to a professional, experienced labour companion who provides continuous emotional and physical support to a labouring woman throughout the entire childbirth experience.

A Doula understands the physiology of birth and the emotional needs of a woman in labour. She can assist the woman and her partner in clearly determining their goals and in carrying out their plans for the birth. A Doula stays by the mother's side throughout the entire labour, without breaks or shift changes, providing constant emotional support and reassurance, and physical comfort measures. Trained and experienced in all aspects of labour and childbirth, including all the usual medical interventions, a Doula can help the woman get the information she needs to make informed decisions and she can facilitate clear communication between the labouring woman, her partner and the health care providers. A Doula always advocates the woman's informed choices and wishes for her birth experience, free from personal bias. She perceives her role as nurturing and protecting the woman's positive birth experience, recognizing childbirth as a vital, lifechanging event that significantly affects mother-infant bonding and the development of positive family dynamics.

The acceptance of Doulas in maternity care is growing rapidly with the recognition of their important contribution to improved physical outcomes and emotional well-being of mothers and infants.

"The presence of a Doula is a major advantage for physicians, the women and their families. They provide a level of support that is often very difficult to achieve in a busy maternity care service. We see increased satisfaction with the birth experience, lower intervention rates and excellent infant outcomes." Dr. Michael Klein

Research studies have shown that the attendance of a Doula during labour and birth consistently results in shorter labours, fewer complications and less need for oxytocin to speed labour. Studies indicate significantly fewer requests for pain medication, fewer epidurals and less need for episiotomies, cesarean deliveries and invasive procedures such as forceps or vacuum extractor deliveries. The mother's overall birthing experience is more positive, babies are healthier and less traumatized leading to greatly increased mother-infant bonding and easier initiation of breastfeeding. With the constant comfort and reassurance of a professional Doula, women feel safe, more relaxed and confident in their ability to give birth naturally with the guidance of their doctor or midwife. In the event that medical intervention is necessary, a Doula can help the woman remain calm and provide constant emotional support so that her positive birth experience remains intact.

Some Doulas offer postpartum services and infant care education. In this role a Doula will visit the new mother regularly for a few weeks to a few months following birth, providing a wide range of services depending on the mother's needs

DIVINE - ing

by Victoria Fabling

Let me tell you an interesting story about what happened when I dowsed for blocked energy using copper-coated divining rods.

I knew Elaine was very keen to sell her property near the bridge spanning Okanagan Lake. I usually wait for clients to approach me, but this time I asked whether I could come and identify what may be hindering the sale. By simply walking in a meditative state I found two particularly uncomfortable areas, which gave me a headache each time I passed them. This, I suspected would affect all prospective buyers even if they didn't quite realize why. So, I returned with my copper rods, holding them straight out in front of me, parallel to each other and one-half inch apart. When I walked in each of the places which had previously caused me discomfort, the divining rods automatically opened. I noted the angle they made from the center of my body and inserted a cure, of another copper-coated rod with the end bent over, pointing in that direction. I placed four cures only, and amused some of the tenants who thought I was witching for water only yards from the creek! Two days later Elaine had sold her property and I. feeling inspired, told this story to RoseMarie and Peter who asked me to check their property. I felt a headache outside their front door and inserted a cure. I checked the Feng Shui inside the home too. A week later I enquired whether RoseMarie had noticed a change and she said I did "too good a job" for they had sold their home and were moving "upmarket".

I share this story because it is amazing how much we are influenced by energies that we cannot see. I like to teach my clients how to dowse themselves, and this is also a good check because the rods do open in the same place when the client tries their hand at divining.

So, if you do feel intuitively that your environment may not be supporting you, and could even be hampering your progress and opportunities to live harmoniously then give me a call. Clear Sight is about opening up to all our senses so we intuit naturally extra, useful information about our environment. As our awareness increases so does our intelligence and our feeling of connectedness to everything around us, which keeps our energy and spirits high. See ad to the right

Doula continued

and wishes. These may include instruction on care of the baby, diapering and bathing the baby, help with breastfeeding or bottle feeding, preparing meals, cleaning the house, laundry, purchasing groceries, care of baby and siblings while the mother rests, emotional support and more. The postpartum Doula recognizes the potential challenges of the early postpartum period. The birth of an infant is also the birth of a mother. A Doula passionately believes in the long lasting benefits of non-judgemental, undivided care and attention to the needs and wishes of the mother while she and her baby begin their journey into a new world. See ad to right.

To locate a Doula in your area, contact the Doula Services Association: (604)527-5045. Water Birth talk by Doula Moreah Hillstrom from Rock Creek • Penticton, Oct. 29, see page 23

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Interesting People

by Urmi



TYPHOON RAMA

Sometimes I view the people I know in relation to molecular understanding. Some molecules move slowly and some move so quickly that they are of a different quality all together. Then there are the independent electrons and the free radicals. My friend Ramakanta (Beloved of the Divine) is like a fast moving electron. She will have travelled around the world several times in the space of time that most of us might begin to plan a future vacation. To say the least Rama is an energy phenomena.

International level.

Born in Ontario, Rama's youth was dedicated to sport and the disciplines of training. She was a competitor in gymnastics and later chose canoeing as her sport. She mentioned to me that she chose canoeing because she liked the look of the healthy bodies of the marathon canoeists. There was something more relaxed and natural about the people who competed in this outdoor sport that drew her in that direction. She competed up to the

The next step was coaching and working at the University of Alberta in Edmonton where she was completing her PhD in Sport and Political Science. In the early eighties Rama heard about an enlightened Master in Oregon and headed down there to check things out. That was the end of her life in university. Once she felt the energy she set off on a journey of discovery that just keeps on unfolding. Rama now chuckles when she remembers how worried her family and friends were about the sudden changes in her lifestyle. She explains: "Meeting a master is like falling in love—once it happens you are never the same, there is no turning back. Once certain doors are open, one can never return to a mundane lifestyle." Rama remembers that when she first went to the Master Osho she started participating in the many groups and programs offered. "I was completely unaware of my feelings. I had focused so much on my body and perfecting it that I had a kind of armour around me". It took Rama a few years before she really had a breakthrough into the realm of feeling and understanding. Once that happened she started leading her own groups and workshops. Her talent, sensitivity and trust in herself is very motivating to others and there is never a dull moment around Rama. She demands authenticity and will do whatever it takes to spur people on to their true energy.

About seven years ago when I met Rama she asked me to cook for one of her weekends. This opportunity allowed me to participate in the workshop. Rama seemed to think that since I had children I must know all about cooking. I was not so confident and had never cooked for large groups. I remember actually praying that my lunch for twenty would turn out. Rama's trust in me and encouragement to go beyond my limiting mind helped my confidence immensely and I no longer experience any anxiety around cooking.

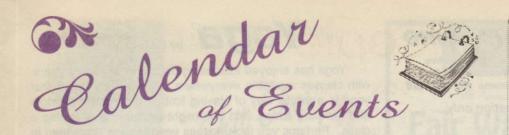
Rama's next step after leading workshops, was to create a one-month retreat called Osho Energy School. This residential experience allows for a deeper journey into the unconscious patterns we all harbour. She explains; "During this workshop, a safe space is created to encourage the unfolding of some of our limitations. It is fascinating what motivates us from our unconscious mind and of course it is invisible to us. During the retreat the situation is created so that we cannot escape from seeing ourselves. People act as mirrors for us and removing all distractions from the outside environment brings even the smallest inconsistency to a head. When our unconscious patterns become known to us they are no longer unconscious and do not have the same push and pull that they do when we are not aware of them.

Basically what people are hiding is their light. We all know how to suffer but love terrifies us. To be in our energy is magnificent. Not that it is always "nice" but it is authentic and feels a lot better to everyone around. It is amazing how certain experiences get stuck inside the system and they can colour all other experience the person has until the original issue is dealt with. If the original pattern is not addressed then the repetitive re-enactment can cause physical breakdown and illness."

What Rama does is not psychotherapy and she is often only using the person's story as a springboard into their energy. She says, "Once we get to our energy then everything becomes a flow and incredible healing and magic can happen. This is what I call Osho. Osho is my spiritual mentor and around an enlightened being, energy flows very freely. Changes that would take years, happen instantly. It has a lot to do with love; when people feel loved they begin to shine, they begin to peek out from behind the curtains that their conditioning has drawn around them. I am just a catalyst for people to make a jump into the unknown. I use Osho's meditations and his teachings as a guide for my work." She has not really had a home base, except for the ashram in India, for the past ten years and has travelled extensively learning and sharing her understanding of Osho Energy in a multitude of countries. This may be her last school in Western Canada.

Over the years I have cooked for Rama in B.C., Hawaii and Thailand. This year's retreat is in the Monashee mountains of Cherryville at the Weeping Willow Retreat Centre. Every School is a different adventure as Rama really has no fixed agenda and lets the school unfold according to the participants and the Venue. This year we have twelve people who have come from Taiwan, where many are eager to experience life beyond their cultural conditioning. These people are energetically working through the recent earthquake tragedy that has affected their immediate families and friends.

This month as a part of the school we are hosting an open weekend called *Music Celebration and You*. An excellent opportunity to experience Ramakanta in a celebratory atmosphere. We will also feature a drumming night with ManDido, master drummer from Vancouver. All proceeds will go towards helping Taiwanese families. *see ad page 3*



October 5 - 9

Creative Insight, Astrology with Moreen Reed in Kelowna. p.19

October 8

Drumming Madness with ManDido, Master drummer in Cherryville, BC. p. 3

October 9

Qi Gong Weekend Workshop, in Kamloops at A Natural Experience, p.17

Healing Your Back, Feldenkrais with Tyson Bartel in Kamloops, p.15

October 16 & 17

Integrated Body Therapy 2 with Cassie Williams in Kamloops, back cover

October 23

Mini Health Fair to raise funds for the Montessori School. Treatment opportunities. Details on p. 3

October 22 - 24

Reflexology Certificate-level 1, with Yvette Eastman in Coquitlam. p. 16

October 23 & 24

Michael Simonson Workshop, spiritual teacher & healer in Vernon. p. 15

Feldenkrais with Syl Rujanschi in Westbank. p. 31

October 30 & 31

Calgary Health Expo, speakers, exhibit booths, demos, etc. back cover

November 19 & 20

Are You Really Open to Prosperity with Patty Shortreed in Vernon, p. 12

November 21

Fare Wares Faire, Penticton, p. 9

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Yoga by Barbara Young

Yoga has enjoyed increasing popularity in recent years, with classes available everywhere. You've likely heard that yoga is a terrific way of staying limber, developing strength and lowering stress, and you might be thinking of joining a class. Perhaps you took classes years ago or have tried to work at home with a book, but you miss the motivation and support of a regular class. When you begin to make inquiries, you might well find yourself bewildered by the long list of yoga possibilities, even here in the Okanagan - Iyengar, Sivananda, Kripalu, Hatha, Ashtanga, Kundalini... what do they all mean?

The yoga tradition with which I'm most familiar, lyengar yoga, is very much alive and well in the valley, thanks to teacher Margaret Lunam, whose studio is perched high on a ridge overlooking Okanagan Lake. Margaret has taught lyengar yoga for many years and has encouraged students to deepen their understanding of this tradition by participating in workshops at the studio and elsewhere.

Yogacharya BKS lyengar is one of the great contemporary figures in the development of yoga in the twentieth century, though he is emphatic that no one yoga tradition is of greater or lesser value than another. He is now eighty years old, a consummate teacher and practitioner of yoga, and author of many books, including the definitive "Light on Yoga". His teaching is known for its precision and attention to balance and alignment in the asanas, or postures. In an lyengar yoga class, if people can't touch the floor or get the alignment of a pose because of stiffness or injury, props are used to support and teach them.

One of the strengths of lyengar yoga internationally is that the quality of teacher education is very high. The Canadian Ivengar Yoga Teachers' Association has recently introduced a program of lyengar yoga teacher certification. Training and apprenticeship take place over a period of at least three years, and include an introduction to anatomy, physiology, yoga philosophy and teaching techniques. A number of lyengar teachers in the Okanagan are presently involved in the teacher training program offered by the Victoria Yoga Centre.

Students sometimes ask about the relationship between meditation and yoga. Mr. Iyengar would answer with another question: "What is the difference between postures and meditation?" After a two-hour class of focusing their full attention on finding balance and alignment in the poses, students usually realise that they haven't given a moment's thought to whatever was preoccupying them before class, and they bask in a new experience of tranquillity and serenity. The first change they may notice in their lives after regular attendance at yoga classes is that their sleep is deeper and more refreshing.

People often decide to attend voga classes because they are suffering from physical problems or mental stress. With competent teaching and regular practice, positive changes can indeed take place. Some students discover that with dedicated and persistent practice, their lives become enriched in ways they could not even have foreseen. Traditionally, glowing health and peace of mind are simply steps along the path to spiritual enlightenment. Though spiritual enlightenment is an elusive goal for most of us, yoga practice does seem to draw us irresistably toward exploring the profound mystery of human consciousness. see the NYPages for a list of instructors

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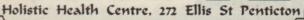
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