

“Meet John Curry: New Director of Steamboat Healing Center & Spa”



Steamboat Chapel of the Roses exterior after
2015 renovation PHOTO: Muriel Cervantes

EDITOR: How did you first come into contact with the Community?

JOHN CURRY: I was introduced to Gene [Savoy Jr.] by a mutual friend, Noel Foley, in 2000.

EDITOR: How did you first come to hear about Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center?

JOHN CURRY: Gene actually introduced Steamboat to me. He gave me a tour of the location last year.

EDITOR: How did you become the director of the healing center?

JOHN CURRY: Gene and I discussed some ideas and thoughts about the direction and future of the spa at Steamboat, and I offered to assist/volunteer my time and knowledge last year. Gene invited me to become the director in April of this year, and I was honored to accept this challenging role.

EDITOR: What is it about your professional background that prepared you for the position?

JOHN CURRY: Thirty years of successful hotel, resort, casino, and country club senior level manager experience. I have opened and rebranded several full-service operations.

EDITOR: Could you give us a summary of what you have done with the healing center since you have been director?

JOHN CURRY: The list of individual projects is quite long, but I'll try to list them.

Chapel of the Roses renovations are completed.

The wedding program is in its early stages. We hosted our first wedding successfully at the end of June.

We are freshening up the interior of building and treatment

rooms, painting and redecorating. This is ongoing.

Our event and private party program has been started and is ongoing.

Monthly craft fairs have been started and are ongoing.

We started a new yoga program in May and that is ongoing.

We also have also started monthly retreat programs. Rebecca Willis is heading up the Save-The-Date with monthly discussions/meeting with guest speakers.

We have begun to make available hotel/spa/retreat/wedding/event packages. This also is ongoing, with room to increase. We are already working with Holiday Inn and the Hilton Garden Inn.

We have improved our retail program, beginning with handmade soaps.

We are now carrying the Two Feathers product line.

We have increased our exposure to the Asian and Hispanic demographic populations in the area, which we currently have little to no impact on. This is started and ongoing.

We have continued training our staff and have regular team meetings. This too is ongoing.

We have also recently acquired two dry saunas and are making those available to out clients.

EDITOR: That is quite a list. I suppose you also have a number of plans for the future. Would you provide us a summary of them?

JOHN CURRY: First is the pool program. This is going to be one of our biggest goals for next year: adding a main outdoor pool for multiple treatment options and to increase our soak pool options.

Next is a water bottling company for the supply of residential and commercial drinking water. This could be a major project over the next five years. It is already in the works to start in October 2015, based on final approval.

And there are new Sonatherapy programs. I am working on getting a film documentary on Gary Buchanan and his Sonatherapy work and research. And we just connected with a former National Football League 10-season Player from the Buffalo Bills, Roland Hooks, who is going to meet with Gary to discuss treatment options. I am also working on building a networking opportunity with the Reno Aces for possible treatment options with Gary.

We are also planning to add a logo line of t-shirts and bath robes available for sale. This too is in the works to start Oct 2015.

We also plan to start a facial menu program by that time as well.

And we are developing wellness programs. The first one started with Blue Moon Harvest out of Truckee, California. This program is in the early stages with lots of room to increase and expand.

And we plan to renovate two more treatment rooms, the old Tea Room and the Crystal Room, with a completion date of November 2015. And at the same time, we plan to upgrade the Indigo Room by adding a Japanese soaking tub to the current shower area.



Tahoe Paradise aerial view

The Andean Explorers Foundation & Ocean Sailing Club will host its annual meeting and awards program for club members and guests during a fun adventure cruise on the privately chartered Tahoe Paradise Yacht at beautiful Lake Tahoe. The cost of the two-hour lake cruise, light refreshments, and wine is \$75 for non-club members or \$50 for active club members. There is a small parking fee at the marina. Non-member donations of \$75 will activate your club membership. Proceeds after event cost will benefit the club's exploration initiatives. This will be a fun time to spend with colleagues, network and make new friends, and learn about the club's upcoming adventure trips... and see one of the most beautiful natural wonders of the world – Lake Tahoe – at one of the most ideal times of year! For complete information see Andean Explorers on Facebook and the Facebook Events page www.facebook.com/events/915247708547480/.

RSVP asap to sean@xpedititions.org.

Make your donation securely by PayPal at www.aefosc.org/wordpress

or

Send checks to Andean Andean Explorers
PO Box 201, Reno, NV 89504



Tahoe Paradise dining area stern

Steamboat Chapel of the Roses Rededicated



Steamboat Chapel of the Roses exterior after 2015 renovation PHOTO: Muriel Cervantes

The International Community of Christ's Chapel of the Roses at Steamboat Hot Springs was re-dedicated Friday, July 10, 2015 at 12 noon.



Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. marking interior wall of Chapel of the Roses during rededication ceremony
PHOTO: Muriel Cervantes

Initially dedicated in 2005, the chapel underwent significant remodeling this year. It is now available to the public for weddings, baptisms and other services and events.

Guests may take advantage of the many spa amenities offered at historic Steamboat Hot Springs, including mineral baths, massage and energy therapies. An indoor reception hall with outdoor lawn is also available for parties of up to 40 people.

Steamboat Hot Springs is located at 16010 S. Virginia Street in south Reno. Additional information can be obtained by

visiting www.steamboatsprings.org or by calling 775-853-6600.



Ministers preparing for rededication ceremony (left to right) Rev. Canon Roger Weld, Rev. Mother Rebecca Willis, Rt. Revs. Gene and Sean Savoy, and Rev. Amanda Buchanan PHOTO: Muriel Cervantes

Solar Cultures of India Journey in Planning Stages

ANNOUNCING!

COSOLARGY® INTERNATIONAL'S 6th Annual
SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE & TOUR

"On the New-World Condition & Solar Teachings of India"

Co-sponsored by SATYACHETANA INTERNATIONAL



Featuring presentations by:

- Swami Sri Atmananda, author of *Manifesting Divine: An Action Plan for the Spiritual Man*
- Gene Savoy, Jr. & Sean Savoy,
Directors of Cosolargy® International,
offering the Sacred Teachings of Light for the New Age
- & other master lecturers

If you have the dream to make a meaningful visit to mystical India, an amazing opportunity is available. But it is still in the very early planning stages. In fact, the trip cannot be scheduled until there is enough interest from people to participate.

So if you are interested, **send an email to info@cosolargy.org right away.** The decision to finalize the India journey must be made by August 31.

Costs and itinerary will be developed once interest is shown. But typically, expenses in India are minimal compared to many other countries. Even flights to India are reasonable.

10 to 20 people need to join the tour group for the journey to be guaranteed to take place. Tour members do not need to be members of The Community, so feel free to **send a copy of the flyer to your personal mailing list.**

< [Download flyer here.](#) >

The tour is of spiritual interest as you will see by the flyer attached. Help make this a reality for February 2016!

Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. Invited to Speak at the Parliament of World Religions



We are pleased to announce that Bishop Gene has been invited to speak at the oldest interfaith summit in the world, the Parliament of World Religions, shortly after the 2015 Convocation takes place. The summit will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah USA from October 15-19, 2015.

This summit will host more than 10,000 participants from 80 countries and 50 religious and spiritual traditions. It is a milestone in our Community's history that our Human Spiritual Rights standpoint will be represented at such a gathering.

Keynote Speakers—26 in all—will include:

- His Holiness the 14 Dalai Lama of Tibet;
- Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma Gandhi;
- His Excellency Oscar Arias Sanchez, former president of the Republic of Costa Rica;
- Chief Arvol Lookinghorse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo of the Sioux Nation;
- Rabbi David Saperstein, U.S. Ambassador At-large for International Religious Freedom;
- Dr. Eboo Patel, sociology professor of religion from Oxford University.

Bishop Savoy has been invited to speak in the forum titled "Pathways to Peace: A Panel Presentation from Different Faiths." He will also be delivering an individual talk on peace based on the Advocates for Religious Freedom's standpoint of universal Human Spiritual Rights.

The idea to attend the conference and the invitation to speak came through Dr. Balwant Singh Hansra, whom Bishop Savoy and Rev. Ted Staver met at the religious conference held at Seoul, Korea in October 2014. Dr. Hansra, originally from India, but now residing in Chicago, Illinois, is a former member of the board of directors of the World Parliament. Dr. Hansra invited Bishop Savoy to attend and be part of his panel following the conference in Seoul.

The first World's Parliament of Religions of 1893 was an attempt to create a global dialogue of faiths. The event was celebrated by another conference on its centenary in 1993. This led to a new series of conferences under the official title "Parliament of the World's Religions" since that time.

* * *

10,000 People. 80 Nations. 50 Faiths.



What: The 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions

When: October 15 – 19, 2015

Where: Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

The Parliament is the oldest, the largest, and the most inclusive gathering of people of all faith and traditions.

The first Parliament took place in 1893. Since, this historic event has taken place in Chicago, USA • Cape Town, South Africa • Barcelona, Spain • Melbourne, Australia – and now in Salt Lake City, Utah!

If you care for religions and nations working together in harmony with each other for the good of humanity, you should attend.

You will find:

- Trainings in dialogue, interfaith activism, fundraising, and organizing
- World-class religious music, films, exhibits and

performances

- And shop ethnic, international, religious books & things

Your Opportunity to Share

In break-out sessions and circles you will share your opinions and ideas with others.

Networking & Connections

The Parliament is a great networking opportunity. 60 percent of people who attend are well-connected networkers around interfaith and common causes.

You can attend to share your faith, listen to others and ask questions.

Most people, however, attend because of the extraordinary experience and relationships which are formed at the Parliament.

How Much Does it Cost to Attend the Parliament?

You can register for as low as \$150 to attend if you qualify. Pricing will go up to \$550 if you register later. However, right now, you can access advance discounts open now for families, spouses, groups (like congregations, university classes, peace organizations), individuals, and children, too. The Parliament is committed to involving families and children in the Interfaith movement.

Registration and housing options range from camping, hostels, and hotels at affordable to world-class levels to meet your needs.

Once you register, reserved Parliament hotel blocks at Parliament-only rates are made accessible to you.

Camping

We are in serious negotiations to provide camping facilities.

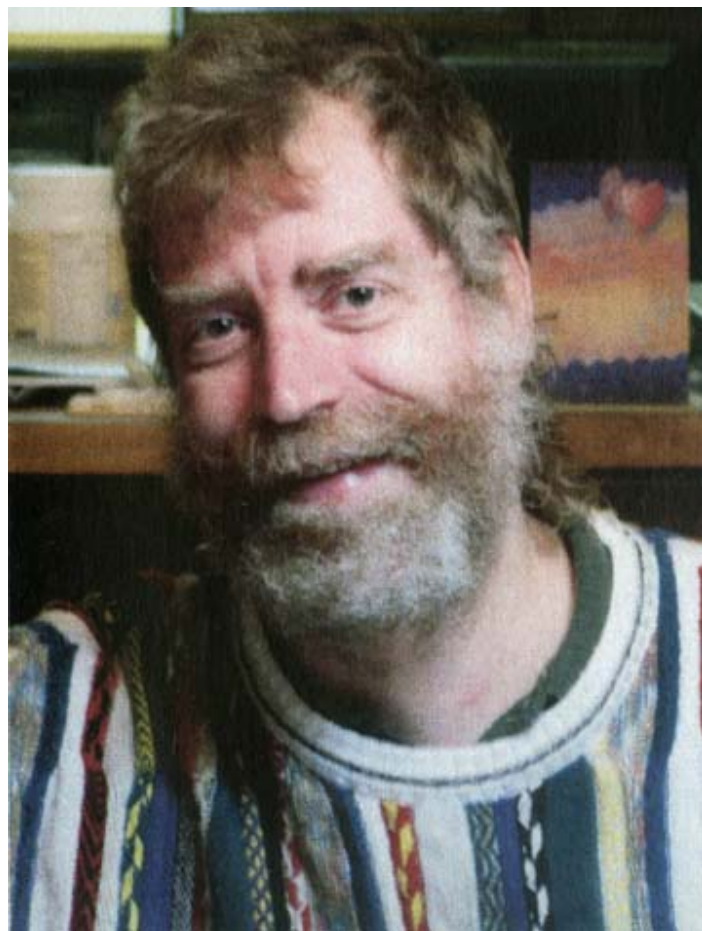
Food Concerns

There will be a food court offering all type of food options –

from vegan, to kosher, to halal – while there are all sort of restaurants surrounding the convention center.

< Visit www.parliamentofreligions.org for more information. >

PATH TO LIGHT: Russell Ault Jr.



Russell Ault Jr in 2007

Consociate Russell Stewart Ault Jr. (January 7, 1954–June 18, 2015) passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 18, at Pardee Hospital in Henderson, North Carolina. A self-employed accountant by profession, he also worked part-time in the Distance Learning Center at Blue Ridge Community College. Russell first applied to the Academy Program in 1985 and remained an active member of the Academy until 1989, when his financial and personal situation forced him to discontinue his affiliation with the Community until 2007. In that year Russell again enrolled in the Academy to complete the program and remained a Community member until his passing in 2015. The following account of Russell's "PATH TO LIGHT" is drawn from his own words shared with us in 2007:

From the late 1970s through the 1980s, I pursued spiritual studies through the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC), Astara, and ultimately Cosolargy International. I discontinued my studies when I married, because my wife (now ex-wife) did not support my seeking and meditation practices once finances became tight. But I still meditated 20–30 minutes each day, attended weekly dharma sessions at the local Buddhist hermitage, and studied the Holy Bible frequently.

Of all the religions known to me, mystic Christianity and Buddhism appealed to me most throughout my life. I was brought up Southern Baptist and had no problem following the beliefs of that church until I entered college. In college I started asking questions of the Baptist preachers and Sunday school teachers. Their responses typically quoted various Bible verses that did not answer my questions. I had read the entire Bible carefully by that point. And to my mind, the Bible gave examples of how each person could behave to become a more fully realized human being; however, I found that most Protestant Sunday sermons seemed to imply that emulating Jesus's behavior was an unreachable goal. The conclusion of the Protestants was to worship Jesus so he would be an

intermediary between one and God instead of using one's entire heart, soul, and mind to discipline oneself to become like Jesus with the goal of beholding God "face to face." That was my path of worship.

For me, the most helpful teachings of Buddhism were from the hermitage in my local community. The two Buddhist abbots held discussions on "Western" Buddhism. Their lessons were true to the teachings of the Buddha, but their practices did not include the long chanting and formal observance that are prevalent in Eastern Buddhist temples. The two abbots were ordained in both the Theravada and Mahayana traditions, but they discussed the truth given by all the great masters and welcomed seekers from all spiritual traditions. The discussions they led and the meditative practices they taught were intended to assist individuals to watch their behavior and improve their reactions bit by bit over time. The wisdom they gave was intended to be practical and for the purpose of helping individuals free themselves from destructive emotions so that they could walk in peace in day-to-day life.

I also became interested in learning more about the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Islam. Some of the seminars offered by the Seventh-Day Adventists that I attended revealed the incredible research they have conducted into the Christian scriptures, especially those that relate to prophecy. Where the prophecy given in one place in the Bible was unclear, the Adventists found verses in other parts of the Bible that quite plausibly explained the metaphorical language of the unclear prophecy.

I knew little about Islam—only that Muslims believe that Muhammad did not start a new religion but attempted to restore the proper teachings that were given first to the Jews and then to Christians. Both of these groups had distorted the true interpretations of their scriptures. With the large number of terrorists justifying their violent actions on the Koran, I was interested in learning more about Islam if for no

other reason than to be informed about the second-largest religion in the world. And I knew that most Muslims found Islam a religion that teaches peace and unity, not war.

The beginnings of my search for higher truths began when I was a senior in high school during the 1970s. I had picked up a copy of Test Your ESP by Martin Ebon, even though I had no idea what ESP (extrasensory perception) was. Once I found out, I wanted to learn more about using the higher faculties of my mind.

The second mystically oriented book I acquired was written by one of Edgar Cayce's sons. The book discussed the psychic experiences of many people. The author found that many intuitive people were confined to mental institutions, perhaps because they were unable to cope with their gifts. Of course, back then there were many fewer individuals with knowledge of psychic matters so those who were overwhelmed by their psychic senses often did not receive the help and understanding they needed. The book also briefly mentioned how one could meditate and get in touch with these higher realities by using safe techniques.

The following year I went off to college. In addition to studying for my college courses, I was determined to learn more about the potential that one's mind could actualize. I reread the Bible, now looking more closely at the numerous examples of seekers reaching transient states of higher consciousness and then being inspired to write about their experiences of Divine Love and sometimes to write prophecy on what one should do or avoid doing.

The search was not easy. The ministers I spoke to about these topics were at best not sure how to respond to my questions and at worst would warn me that any investigations in these areas amounted to devil worship. This latter response hardly seemed true to me since the major prophets in the Bible had the mystical experiences about which I wished to learn more,

and they were definitely worshiping God. I finally decided to expand my search to groups outside the Southern Baptist tradition.

Fortunately, many spiritual groups had formed in the town where I attended college. When I joined some of them, I noticed how applying their techniques helped me as well as how other members of the organizations grew (or not) through their practices.

In 1982 I made a trip to India to meet the leader of the social service and meditation group Ananda Marga. At that time, the leader, Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, wanted his followers around the world to come to Calcutta to meet him. While there, a number of these travelers, myself included, visited Nepal with the special intention of going to the Monkey Temple in Kathmandu.

In 1985 I made a trip to Egypt with Astara to meditate in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid and to visit various energy centers in that country.

In 1988 I traveled to China with a t'ai chi instructor and a number of his students to visit Wuhan Mountain, where t'ai chi had originated, as well as other locations relevant to the origin and practice of t'ai chi.

My quest came to a sudden end in 1992 when I married a woman who claimed spirituality and meditation were extremely important to her; however, within a year of the marriage, she had changed her actions and spent most of her time in front of the television set instead of continuing her artistic crafts and direct contact with nature. Her constant complaints about finances led me to spend more time working and to eventually drop out of the spiritual groups I had joined.

A few years later she left me, but the divorce and property settlement were not finalized until 2000. During that time I joined no mystical groups but continued to meditate on—my own

at first, but after 2006, with the Buddhists who had moved into the area. I also attended a few seminars sponsored by the Seventh-Day Adventists.

Initially I felt that these organizations were enough to remind me of the ancient wisdom that had been given thousands of years ago and to help me grow spiritually. However, by that time things were not as they had been before. Ever since I had first encountered Cosolargy in the 1980s and heard how important our Sun was to not only our physical lives but also to our spiritual lives, I had been monitoring the unusual events taking place on the Sun.

Solar Cycle 23 was supposed to have attain its maximum in mid-2000, but the maximum continued for a few years longer. The intensity of the solar flares had also been at unusually high levels. From my findings, there seemed to have been more X-class flares (the most powerful class of flare) during the first few years of this millennium than during any period in the past. The general consensus was that global warming was due primarily to increased greenhouse gases around the Earth created by human technology; however, this belief did not explain why the Martian polar ice cap was melting at the same time as those on Earth. Nor did this belief explain the increased energy of the atmospheric storms on Jupiter and Saturn. What if global warming were due to the increased energetic output of the Sun? The next Cycle, the 24th, was predicted to be 30–50 percent stronger than its predecessor. And the peak of the Cycle was predicted to be in the auspicious year 2012.

Another major event that would happen in the year 2012, according to several reports, was the crossing of our solar system over the galactic plane, an event that happens twice every 62 million years. This period is about equal to that of the alautun cycle, the longest cycle of the Mayan calendar. Some authors stated that the Mayans believed 2012 to be the year that time was to end and then restart again (although I

had found one author who reported that the current cycle would not end until October 12, 4772). I considered that crossing over the galactic plane could be a time when the Earth would encounter more meteor strikes since there could be more debris floating in the region of the galactic plane than is usually found in our solar system; this could pose a new risk that Earth had not faced in recorded history.

I also considered that as the Earth was crossing the galactic plane and heading toward the northern side of the galaxy, its inhabitants might encounter ever increasing amounts of light-electromagnetic radiation—in the form of cosmic rays coming from a large group of galaxies in the direction of the constellation Virgo. The DNA of all living creatures might be damaged or transformed. In fact, a study of 500 million years of fossil data, which was published in *Nature* in 2005, indicated that the greatest risk of extinction occurred every 62 million years.

All of this might be relevant to the dawn of the new cosmic age spoken of in the Teachings of Cosolargy, I thought. If nothing else, this information provided fuel for my quest for truth, using both my brain, when researching data from the physical sciences, and my intuition, when contemplating information from mystical sources.

Even though I had developed my brain to process immense amounts of information and had attempted to develop my intuition as well, I still felt the need to really awaken my consciousness.

What I had not found was a system of spiritual transformation that incorporated information of the great changes in the energy coming to all people on the Earth as well as practices to use these ultradimensional forces to activate the higher centers in sincere seekers. And that is why I wished to again enroll in the Academy of Cosolargy to learn the spiritual disciplines and to be of assistance to others in these

changing times.

Russell Ault Jr, 2007

Sunbow over Japan



On Friday, May 22, 2015 the country of Japan was umbrellaed with a sunbow display that lasted virtually the entire day. Hundreds of people across the country submitted pictures of the phenomenon to local Japanese newscasts.

On that same day, another little known and unusual event took place prior to the appearance of the sunbow. At 4:30 am, shortly before sunrise, about 30 people from Australia,

Canada, Ireland, Japan, and the U.S. gathered at Lake Biwa for a Sunrise Celebration. Lake Biwa is the largest fresh water lake in Japan, located 51km NE of Kyoto.

The sunrise gathering was embellished with music and chants from three different cultures and an early morning Japanese dance in traditional dress. During all the music and chants, the friendly appearance of two large hawks (4ft wingspan) circled above the celebratory gathering for a little more than 10 minutes.



Shortly after sunrise, a sunbow began to take shape and within a half hour a double bow fully encircled the sun. Everyone at Lake Biwa saw this spectacular display unfold. Soon after, countless people across the entire country began to notice, photograph, and share this wondrous event.

Photophones clicked, and clicked, and shared, and clicked. Thousands of people tipped their gaze to look skyward. This continued through the entire day. Everyone was noticing. It was as if the sun was casting a rainbow of kisses over the land. But before the sun would set for the day, one more and probably the most interesting thing took place: On that day across Japan many people saw and many people reported that Lake Biwa appeared within the face of the solar orb. And it was not just the outline or the shape of the lake, but Lake Biwa was superimposed on the sun.

"The hawks were spectacular. They were amazing. They took more than ten minutes from their morning to circle and prance above us all as we celebrated and greeted the morning sun."

“A bit later, these flying creatures began doing this really incredible thing. They would scout the shoreline and select a particular type of discarded tree branch. These special branches were noted by little pieces of bark hanging loosely from the wood. So the hawks would gather these branch pieces, fly over the lake, and drop them onto the water, where the branch would float, with the dangling bark below the surface. Not long after, fish would surface to nibble on the bark phalanges. These hawks would then skillfully swoop down and lift the unsuspecting fish from the water; all as a result of their cleverly devised ‘lures’. “– Amanda Buchanan

report by Michael McIntyre

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CAITLIN WATTS-FITZGERALD, EXAMINING ATTORNEY



Nichelle K. Lee
Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office

SONATHERAPY trademark certificate

The term SONATHERAPY ® has now been officially recognized by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a registered trademark as of July 7, 2015. Every use of the word should now be followed by ® rather than "TM."

< [Download a copy of the U.S. Patent Office certificate.](#) >

The process to register the word as a trademark was undertaken three years ago. Only now has the attempt brought results, and not without some struggle. Corporate lawyers were called in to advocate on behalf of the Church and the developer of SONATHERAPY ®, the Rev. Dr. Gary Buchanan, in order to prove that although the term has gained popularity around the world for various uses over the past several years, Dr. Buchanan was the creator of the term.

Sonatherapy is a vibrational healing therapy developed over the past fifteen years by Dr. Gary Robert Buchanan and practiced at Steamboat Boat Healing Center in Nevada. Sonatherapy combines light, color, sound, water & subtle energies in the promotion of self-healing. A practicing Sonatherapist, Dr. Buchanan regularly meets with clients from around the world each month offering “self-healing” via light, color, sound, water, and subtle energy therapeutics.

The SONATHERAPY ® web site links to several Sonatherapy videos and provides a general description of the therapy and its practice. There are also pages on Dr. Buchanan himself and links to order his newest book, Sonatherapy: Healing with Light, Color, Sound, Water & Subtle Energies.

< [Visit the Sonatherapy web site at
http://www.sonatherapy.com/](http://www.sonatherapy.com/) >

PATH OF LIGHT: Michael Spohn



Michael Spohn officiating Chapel Service November 22, 2014
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

A eulogy for the Rev. Mike Spohn, delivered by the Rev. Michael McIntyre, June 20, 2015 (with additional comments by others)

Good morning. Thank You for being here.

SECTION A:

Mike was born on August 17, 1955, in Tacoma, Washington. He had two children: Becca, who lives in Colorado, and Mark, he's in Germany.

Mike received his Third-Level Ordination in the ICC on October 14, 2007. Some of his accomplishments while here in Reno include the following:

- Regularly performed Services in this Chapel and the Sanctuary Churches
- Helped with mailings
- Performed in the Bell Choir for 20 years
- Red Rock resident for several years and had a hand in building pretty much everything you see out there
- Helped maintain the Chapel/Chancellery grounds

SECTION B:

Mike joined the Community in January of 1977 – Gosh, that's almost 4 decades! He moved to Reno in 1981. Wasn't long after being here he ran into a hurdle: He had a lot of trouble

finding an apartment that would accept his oversized german shepherd. His choices left him to sleep in his Ford Galaxy 500 with his shepherd for 6 months.

He finally settled in just up the road from here, across from a park that is canopied with 30- and 40-foot trees and very busy with bird life. It wasn't unusual for a curious crow to survey and follow him as he walked through the neighborhood from his home to mine.

Animals seemed to have a soft spot for Mike, especially cats. I can't count the occasions when unacquainted strays would spot him and freeze, become catatonic—then suddenly burst into a gallop to greet him with head-butts or figure-eight sharking and spend the next 15 minutes doing all sorts of pleads for adoption. It was like he had splashed on cat cologne. He just understood their language. He had this gift for languages.

SECTION C:

Mike liked languages. He was fluent in German and knew a little French.

One fall evening, he's on his way into the grocery market. I'm next to him. I ask him a question. He goes like this (puts index finger to his lips).

Ten minutes later we're coming out of the market. I begin to chatter, and he does the *same thing*. We make it to the car, and we're sitting down. I look over at him and say,

"It happened to you, didn't it?"

"Yeah."

"First time?"

"Yeah. It's been going on for the last 15 minutes; the whole time we've been here."

"Wow. Well , can you compare it, Mike?" (pause: he starts to choke up a little bit.)

"I've never heard music like this before. The calls. The landscapes. Indescribable."

"Is it still going on?" He just glared at me!

"It's so beautiful! It's so beautiful!"

So, another time, there are three of us. You know the stones that border on the Chapel lawn, out there in front? We're putting in those stones. Mike is watching two of us do this. We're both haphazard, so he goes:

"Here. Let me show you something. See this flat face. This side wants to be out. Facing out."

He rolls over another one, spins it slowly like a top, looking at each side. Release
and-boom!—it falls in place. He says,

"See? It's that side. That face. Looks right, doesn't it?"

So we take his little lesson, and we're doing pretty good. Then I get stuck. This one stone is being misfitted. He notices, comes over, kneels next me:

"You're not listening."

"Nope. I heard everything you said, Mike. This rock just seems really stubborn."

"You misunderstood. *You're not listening to the rock.* Each one has a voice. They talk. You have to be carefully silent to hear it. Watch."

Boom! The stone falls into place.

Mike had this ability to recognize the hidden intelligence in things, make a bond, then operate through that.

SECTION D:

One of things Mike had was—how do you say this?—he had this incredible intuition for finding the bottom of an ice cream carton. He would stage his tactics like a professional boxer: (In an announcer's voice): "In this corner, the challenger, weighing in at one-half gallon, in the chocolate-marshmallow trunks, ROCKY ROAD!

"And your undisputed, undefeated, lifetime world champion, MICHAEL SUGAR-SPOON SPOHN!"

It was always a knockout. Three rounds or less.

A&W root beer was another of his favorite "adversaries."

And you could call him on the phone; say, "pizza"; and hang up. Ten minutes later, he was there.

He was a "self-spoiler." Anybody know what that is? It's this terrible condition where . . . Let's say you have a glass of wine from a \$10 bottle. A few days later you have a glass from a \$20 bottle. And what you find is you can't go back, no matter how hard you try, you can't go back to the \$10 bottle. So what happens, over time, is that this escalates. As your love for these refinements grows stronger and bigger, availability gets smaller and smaller. You paint yourself into a corner. Doesn't happen to everybody, but, uh . . . Any of you have that? Mike was the classic example.

SECTION E:

He was pretty rich with peculiarities, but nothing was more

peculiar than his sense of humor. One of the things he would often do—and he would come up with one every week—he would characterize everyday people we know in the light of a celebrity. Here's an easy one, just to get you warmed up:

“Ever notice how Roger looks like Clint Eastwood? And not just his appearance, but the slow, precise, closed lip delivery when he talks? All the guy needs is a poncho, stick of dynamite, and measly mule that he can trade for good horse.”

The Gladiator. It's the closing scene—are you all familiar with this film? Mike and I are watching this together. The notorious Emperor Commodus is fighting Russell Crow in the Coliseum, and Mike jumps up and points to Commodus [played by Joaquin Phoenix]:

“Look! Look at that guy. It's . . . (any guesses ?) It's Geno! He looks just like Geno. Tell me it's not true! And he's [Geno's] got a little bit of that emperor thing going, too.”

At one point Mike went on this long run comparing everyone he knew to the characters in the long-running animation *The Simpsons*. Mike would do this thing. He would “test” you; have you guess at his insights.

“Ok, Some girl we all know [named Marie], she's Lisa Simpson. Who do think Bart is?” Or, “Ok, who is Principal Skinner? [as he looked right at Petro and said,] “Bob!”

This went on for weeks. One day—there's this [*Simpsons*] character, Ned Flanders, a goody two-shoes, mild-spoken, humbly righteous type of fellow—one day, Mike comes up to me:

“I figured out who Ned Flanders is.”

“Yeah?”

“Yeah—it's you!”

I'm like, “*What!* That's not even close. I'm more like Crusty

the Clown.”

“Nope, Shane gets to be Crusty.”

He used to do this a lot. He told me that he once introduced Nelson as Jerry Garcia to a stranger. Just off the cuff. Out of the blue:

“Hey, buddy, know who this is? Huh? This is Jerry Garcia.”

Nelson and Mike didn’t even know this stranger. The fellow actually asked for an autograph!

Little did Mike know that others also characterized him!

SECTION F:

One day, the two of us are listening to this Bruckner symphony, which is rich with this emotional struggling. It sort of weaves these layers of waves that surface and drown, in an effort to glimpse elation. After about 15 minutes, Mike is making these little choking sounds, and he’s shivering. He wipes his eyes and looks at me with this intense, sympathetic glare. He gently shakes his head in utter disbelief. Then he went around humming the main theme for the next two weeks.

Certain musical expressions would leave him emotionally helpless.

This was normal. I saw this happen to him dozens of times. Often it was joy, enthrallment. He recognized passion immediately. Instantly. It came on very quick.

What’s interesting is that Mike was also a great musician, a guitar player. Very expressive. He and I played together. A lot. He’s over one afternoon and saddles up his Instrument. I ask him:

"Need a pick, Mike?"

"Nah. It's ok."

"Sure?"

"It doesn't matter. Anything will do. Or not."

So, he pulls a coin from his pocket: [McIntyre makes a guitar-picking sound] *dudla dudla dudla*; then a cigarette lighter: *dudla dudla dudla*; then his car keys: *dudla dudla dudla*. He looks at me and says, "Got a teddy bear?"

Somebody lent me this story a week ago. This was before Mike and I met: He's at this bar. The band is onstage but taking a break. Mike goes over and has a chat with one of the band members. A bit later Mike's onstage, strapped in. The band starts up. And he does what he does best—for almost 10 minutes. People's jaws drop.

Two or three times a week Mike was over at my place, instrument in hand. Soaring all over the place. My son's friends would stop in—usually dead in their tracks—and stare, heads pitched forward, mouths wide open, with these uncontrollable bad etiquette displays.

After these little episodes, Matt, my son, would come with a smile or chuckle, recounting his friends' reactions: They were like, "Whoa! Who *is* that guy? He have any CDs?" Or, "Never heard anything, *anything* like that before! Unbelievable!"

Most people were stunned seeing him play the first time. He did it so effortlessly. He would wrap his paws around the thing and the notes would just fall out—like a ballet company exiting a burning building.

And that's when he'd really shine. He'd light up just like a Christmas tree, with this big smile on his face.

SECTION G

Bell Toll

So, here's another thing Mike would do. Let me see if I can do this for you. [picks up large handbells]. A lot of you may recognize this. First [enlists Stephan Fuelling's help] I would like to show you a few things They are a bit heavy, as you might guess. Let's see if we can replicate some of the nuances he would use. [tolls the handbells]. Ok, let's see if we can do the *toll*, Stephan. [They toll the bells as Spohn did at Sunrise Service while waiting for the sun to appear: C, E, C, E...]. Thanks, Stephan.

Those two bells are the bells that Mike played virtually every Sunday—early dawn for a good 20 years. So, those sounds, that toll, that was Mike singing—singing to the Sun. For all of us it's an irreplaceable loss.

Retiring the Vestment:

[Asks Rev. Gary Buchanan at the organ to play a slow toll, like a bell, in A]

These are the acolytes bringing up Mike's bell choir vestment for retirement.

[returns to podium as acolytes exit]

Closing Remark

So I have a little closing message. Let me read this and make sure it's right. This is for all of you:

"My life is little more than these reflections . . . reflections of the kindness and love each of you has given me." He wanted you to know that.

A moment for you, now, to reflect your wishes.

Below are a few thoughts from Community members. We ask that you add your own in the comment section that accompany this article:

“He was a dear man, and through his struggles he emerged a sensitive and wise Man of Light.” –Sean Savoy

“Few people knew he was a gummy bear connoisseur. He would only have the ones imported from this one particular country.” –Ted Staver

“He was like the Uncle I never had.” –Matt Madonna

“I’ll miss seeing and talking with him.” –Bob Anderson

Nevada Tax Exemption Bill Passes into Law



The Governor of the State of Nevada, Brian Sandoval, on May 25, 2015 signed into law legislation revising the religious property tax exemption statute in the state of Nevada. This important amendment to the law effectively treats all religious organizations in the state equally, irrespective of how they worship, for the purposes of receiving property tax exemption. Therefore, as of July 1, 2015, the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary will be 100{1fa2ef75e2e78439128d99df03acfel8ee3047374abe3d4676fe3470ff8b909} tax exempt after a long and arduous chapter in the life of The Community spanning some thirty-five years since 1980.

The bi-partisan bill, crafted by Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. with legal advice, was passed unanimously in the State Assembly and the State Senate. Both Democrats and Republicans supported the revised language to the law. The elected officials of Washoe County, and their staffs as well, supported Bishop Savoy's two-and-a-half year campaign, thus putting behind a long history of misunderstanding between the Washoe County Tax Assessor's office and the International Community of Christ. Washoe County Assessor Michael Clark, who was newly elected in November 2014, attended the first Nevada Assembly meeting on the bill as an interested party. When he left that first meeting, he said he reviewed the Church's files on the case and found that mistakes had been made in the past. Since that time Mr. Clark said he was behind the bill one-hundred

percent; he even spoke on behalf of the bill as it was going through the Senate Tax Committee.

Many within the interfaith and interreligious community in Northern Nevada also offered their support once the bill came to committee in the Nevada Assembly – delegations from the Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and other churches, the Jewish, Muslim and Hindu communities, as well as professionals and private citizens all over Nevada.

However, this accomplishment could not have been realized without the dedication, commitment and expertise of Frank and Michael Hillerby of the firm Kaempfer Crowell, the lobbyists hired by Bishop Savoy, who worked with him over a period of two-and-one-half years and who fully supported the cause from the outset. Without them, the Community's effort to modify existing legislation may not have succeeded.

The Community's struggle for property tax exemption at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary began in the early 1980's. When the Sanctuary was purchased, Washoe County initially granted property tax exemption . Unfortunately, that was later revoked, and the Community sued Washoe County in district court. The suit was successful. However, the Community's court case with Washoe County from 1980 to 1990 cost the Community well over \$100,000 in legal fees and one decade in precious time.

Then in 1990 the County appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court and the decision was reversed in 1990, and the ill-fated Supreme Court decision cost the Community over \$400,000 in back and forward taxes and assessments over the past 35 years.

When lobbyists Frank and Michael Hillerby of the law firm Kaempfer Crowell took an interest in the case two-and-one-half years ago, they believed they could propose an amendment to the law that would grant the Community property tax exemption on the Sanctuary specifically without involving a lawsuit or

the courts. Ultimately, Bishop Savoy chose not to seek specific tax exemption for the Red Rock Sanctuary only but to seek a modification of existing law that would provide tax exemption of all lands used exclusively for religious purposes by any and all recognized religious organizations.

In May 2014 this firm spoke on the Community's behalf with representatives of Washoe County, advising them of our intent to seek an amendment to the law that would grant our Sanctuary a tax exemption. The representatives of the county were supportive and said they would not oppose us making a change to the law. This was a major step forward.

The Community's lobbyists visited the Sanctuary for the first time shortly thereafter and were extremely impressed. They followed up by making appointments to speak with legislators and the Governor's office for the change to the law, which was presented in the state legislature early in 2015.

The signing ceremony with Governor Brian Sandoval is expected to take place sometime in July shortly after Independence Day.



Michael Hillerby, Rebecca Wilis, Pat Hickey,
and Gene Savoy Jr. In front of the Nevada
Legislature building after the Nevada Assembly
Taxation Committee hearing. PHOTO: Ted Staver

**Read the rest of the history of the Sanctuary's tax exemption
case in the Community Communique:**

[April 23, 2015: "Sanctuary Tax Exemption Bill Makes Its Way to
Nevada Senate"](#)

[April 20, 2015: "Sanctuary Tax Exemption Bill Starts Its Way
Through Nevada Legislature"](#)

**FALL 1991: "Church Seeks Tax Refund from County
 *Opposition Causes Church to
Withdraw*"**

< [To read the, download a copy of the FALL 1991 Community
Communique here.](#) >

**SUMMER 1991: "Church and County Reach Agreement
 *Ten-year Sanctuary Tax
Dispute Settled*"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the SUMMER 1991
Community Communique here.](#) >

**SPRING 1991: "WILL CHURCH LOSE ITS SACRED SANCTUARIES?
 *Payments of Back Taxes Only
Way to Save Land*"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the SPRING 1991
Community Communique here.](#) >

WINTER 1990-1991: **"Church Not to Pursue Federal Appeal
Alternative
Legal Options Explored in Full"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the WINTER 1990-1991
Community Communique here.](#) >

FALL 1990: **"Nevada Supreme Court Reverses Schouweiler
Decision
Justices Mandate Sanctuary
Taxation"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the FALL 1990
Community Communique here.](#) >

SUMMER 1990: **"SERMONS
On the Nature of the
Sanctuary of God and 'The Way'
delivered by The Head
Bishop of The Church
The Most Right Reverend
Gene Savoy"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the SUMMER 1990
Community Communique here.](#) >

WINTER 1989-1990: **"Nevada Supreme Court Hears Church's
Tax Case
Church in
Court Again After Washoe County Appeal"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the WINTER 1989-1990](#)

[Community Communique here.](#) >

SUMMER 1988: “Schouweiler Grants Red Rock Sanctuaries Tax Exemption

***Exemption Status Denied
to the Sanctuary of New Mt. Zion”***

< [To read the article, download a copy of the SUMMER 1988 Community Communique here.](#) >

SPRING 1988: “Struggle to Secure Tax Exemption on Sanctuaries Continues

***Case Goes to Trial before
District Court Judge Robert Schouweiler”***

< [To read the article, download a copy of the SPRING 1988 Community Communique here.](#) >

WINTER 1988: “Church Makes Deposition to Washoe County Court

***District Attorney’s
Office Seeks to Impose Taxes on Sanctuaries”***

< [To read the article, download a copy of the WINTER 1988 Community Communique here.](#) >

WINTER 1986: “Church transfers civil rights suit to Washoe District Court

***State Court to test
validity of DA’s interpretation of law”***

< [To read the article, download a copy of the WINTER 1986 Community Communique here.](#) >

WINTER 1985: **"Judge criticizes Washoe County's decision
Commissioners did not act
rationally, says magistrate"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the WINTER 1985
Community Communique here.](#) >

FALL 1984: **"County attorney vows to fight Church:
Court orders Commissioners to
defend position"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the FALL 1984
Community Communique here.](#) >

SPRING 1984: **"Federal suit filed
County reverses land tax-
exemption"**

**"Court Order: Land remains
with Church"**

< [To read the articles, download a copy of the SPRING 1984
Community Communique here.](#) >

DECEMBER 22, 1981:
 **"Church develops desert sanctuary as base for
Second Advent Ministry"**

< [To read the article, download a copy of the DECEMBER 22,
1981 Community Communique here.](#) >

December 1, 1980: “FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT RED ROCK”

[To read the article, download a copy of the DECEMBER 1, 1980 Community Communique here.](#)

AUGUST 15, 1980: “COMMUNITY ACQUIRES LAND AND BUILDINGS”

[To read the article, download a copy of the AUGUST 15, 1980 Community Communique here.](#)

* * *

The text of the new law signed into effect on May 25, 2015 appears below. Note that *italics* indicate newly added words or phrases:

*THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:*

*Section 1. NRS 361.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:
361.125 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:*

*(a) Churches, chapels, other than marriage chapels, and other
buildings used for religious worship, with their furniture
and*

*equipment, and the lots of ground on which they stand, used
therewith and necessary thereto; and*

*(b) Parcels of land used exclusively for worship, including,
without limitation, both developed and undeveloped portions
of a*

*parcel, owned by some recognized religious society or
corporation, and*

parsonages so owned, are exempt from taxation.

*2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 361.157, when any
such property is used exclusively or in part for any other
than*

church purposes, and a rent or other valuable consideration is received for its use, the property must be taxed.

3. The exemption provided by this section must be prorated for

the portion of a fiscal year during which the religious society or

corporation owns the real property. For the purposes of this subsection, ownership of property purchased begins on the date of

recording of the deed to the purchaser.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.