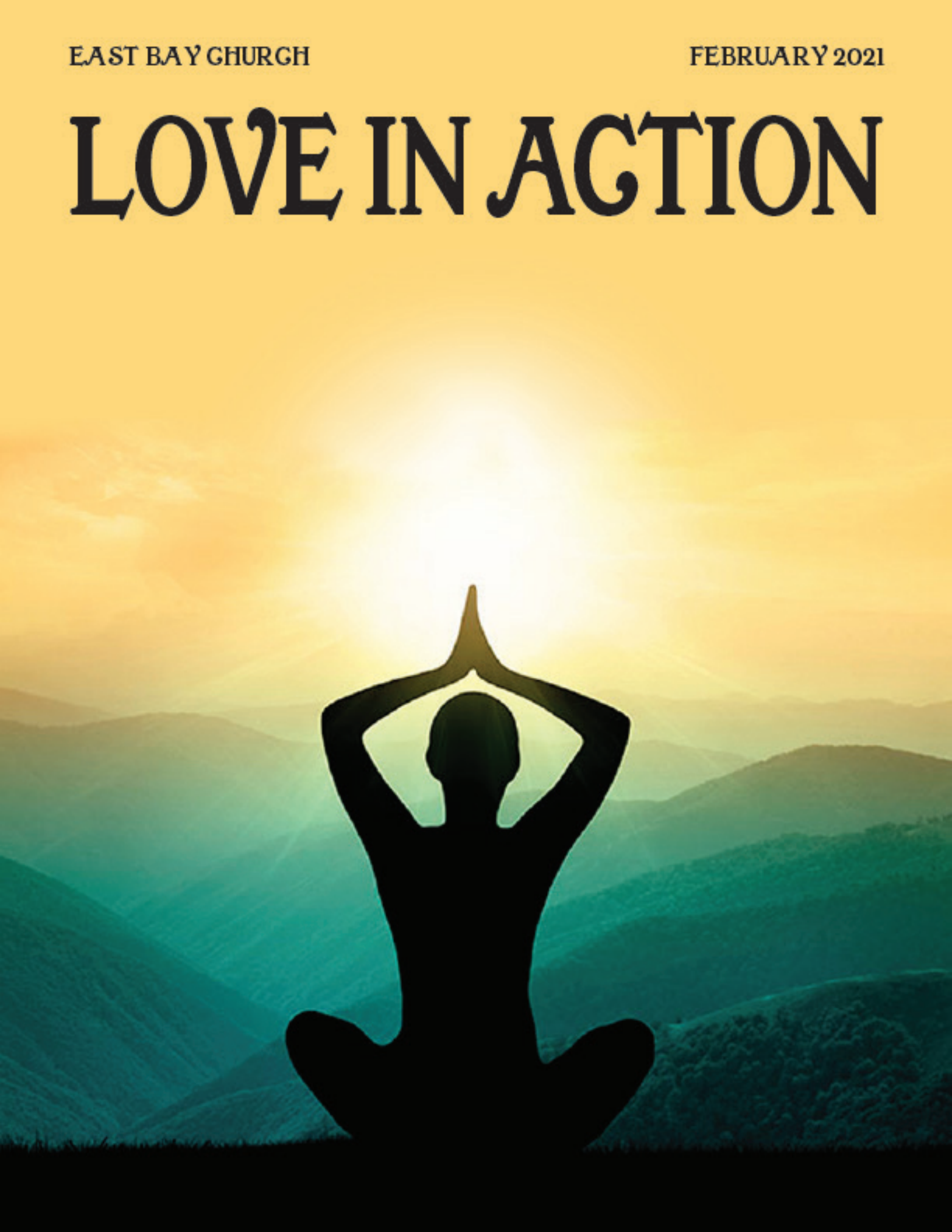
EAST BAY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021

LOVE IN ACTION



EAST BAY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

REV. FRANCIONE, PH.D
REV. ANTHONY JACKSON
REV. BADIA COOPER
REV. GIL OLMSTEAD
CHURCH OFFICE
4130 TELEGRAPH AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94609

OFFICE HOURS

DURING SHELTER IN PLACE
CALL FIRST PHONE: 510-420-1003
EMAIL: INFO@EBCRS.ORG
WWW.EBCRS.ORG

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SERVICE

JOIN US VIA YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK LIVE
MEDITATION 10:15AM
SERVICE 10:30AM

DAILY MEDITATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY 12:30PM TO 1PM
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE

DAILY PRAYER CALL

MONDAY - FRIDAY AT 8:00 AM
FACEBOOK LIVE

WEDNESDAYS

MIDWEEK POWER HOUR
MEDITATION 6:15PM
HEALING SERVICE: 6:30PM
ZOOM LINK

EBCRS PURPOSE STATEMENT

We, the East Bay Church of Religious Science, are dedicated to the spiritual transformation of the entire planet. We are committed to being a point of empowerment allowing Spirit to direct every thought, word, deed, and action for personal transformation. Our purpose is to serve as a spiritual development center by making available the knowledge and practice of the Science of Mind to all people by fostering their spiritual, cultural and general well being, and to provide facilities for public worship, education and fellowship.

JOIN OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

March 7, 2021

Meditation:10:15am

Service: 10:30am

Speaker: Rev.Dereca Blackmon

Facebook Live@eastbaychurch

Youtube: Type East Bay Church into the search bar

LOVE IN ACTION NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORS	LAYOUT/DESIGN
Arleen King, RScP and Precious Green	Constance Rose

Contributors: Evelyn Wesley, RScP, Emerita, Rev. FranCione, Ph.D, Kimberly Satterfield, RScP, Harriet Johnson, Mary Allen.

Please submit articles and poems for our March 2021 issue of Love in Action to ebcrsorg@gmail.com Next deadline: is 2pm, March 15, 2021. The March theme is "Open to Possibilities".

ABOVE THE BOARD

RAISING OUR CONSCIOUSNESS: THINKING ABOUT MINISTERS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

By Rev. FranCione Ph.D

Our friend, Rev. Dr. Michael Beckwith says:

"Those who are genuinely interested in breaking any agreement they have consciously or unconsciously made with mediocrity… replace them with stability and excellence… health, finance, livelihood, spirituality and community…"

Beloveds, this is why you – East Bay Church members and friends – are invited to join me & East Bay's Visioning Team for *Community Visionings For Our New Minister* on Sunday, April 25th at 12:30 pm.

I was inspired by one of the tasks we were given during the January Co-Creation Process for Our New Minister. We were asked to think about and list the ministers we've known.

Through this exercise, I realized that these spiritual leaders had formed the basis of my deep and hidden thoughts of what I think strong, weak, oppressive and inspiring ministers are. I also understand that collectively, our community energetically attracts to ourselves the minister grounded in the beliefs and feelings within our souls.

The Purpose of our Community Visioning is two-fold. First, it enables us to release beliefs and feelings that no longer serve us. Second, it invites us to be open to and embrace our highest good seeking to express to and as all of us.

The professional educational and spiritual leader within me invites you to consider the nature and ways of three types of Leaders so we can enhance the deep visioning work that lies ahead.

Leaders usually have a vision, or invite others to co-create a collective vision/purpose; go out ahead to show the way; see clearly where to go vs just preserve the existing system; and, usually provide ideas and structure.

A **Servant Leader** is a listener, an observer, a guide to attain an individually and collectively agreed upon purpose. A **Institutional Leader** is one who inspires an agreed-upon purpose. He or she models, guides, encourages and promotes leaders. The third category is the **Innovative or Inspirational Leader**. Rev. Kevin Kittrell Ross wrote about this leader in the January 2021 issue of *Science of Mind Magazine*. He noted that this type of leader guides the community from rugged individualism to compassionate community-centric values. They guide their group to be a kind and just community on a path for a world working for all – shades, faiths, political persuasions, genders, sexual orientations, etc. –

cont'd on page 4

cont'd from page 3

igniting the on-going evolution of humanity.

So, what is the Minister Within You, inviting you to see and be so East Bay is attracting the highest good for our next Spiritual Leader? Come to Community Visioing and let it be revealed!!

During this Black History Month let us look at examples of Ministers with Transcendent Callings. We see:

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreaming and taking actions for Justice

- Dr. Howard Thurman creating for inclusive multiethnic church Community

- Dr. J. Coleman unifying for Truth

- Our own Rev. Elouise Oliver listening and acting from Spirit's Guidance

- Rev. Dr. Michael Beckwith visioning to be Transcendent Living and Loving ■

Blessed Be!

Rev. FranCione

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BIG LOVE

Kimberly Satterfield, RScP

For the past week I've been thinking about capital L Love – big Love, all-inclusive Love – Love, the substance of the universe – Love, the very nature of life. This has not been an intellectual exercise, but a visceral inquiry leading to my experience of deep connection with Love.

I've been thinking about Love as the overwhelming presence that overtakes me when I am really trying to vilify someone who has harmed me, harmed someone I care for, or harmed someone I don't know personally – and this Love says, do not give yourself to hate, give yourself to Love – and I can't refuse the demand that calls me to loving action.

I have been thinking about the way Love makes a case for accountability that is not punitive, for justice that is not vengeful, for equity that makes abundance for all a universal imperative – Love the entity that rejects all isms and notions separation – Love that says, there is work to do and let Love motivate, guide, protect and provide for you all along the way. I've been thinking about how Love never gives up, rather unceasingly affirms life and thus never fails.

I woke up a few days ago with these words in my heart: *Loving is Life's Highest Calling, I Accept the Call*, and I felt I'd been initiated into the tribe of Love. I am grateful because I know the Love tribe is growing. There are so many of us who are hearing the call to join and saying YES! I am sure everyone who is reading this is part of the Love Tribe because East Bay Church of Religious Science community is certainly all about Love. Love lives within us, operates as us, through us, and all around us, of this I am sure. I am so grateful to know this Truth and I commit to embracing and expressing the Love that lives in me more fully.

Sacred writings, poetry, fiction and music from many traditions and cultures invite us to learn about and cultivate a relationship with Love. In Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Celie discovers all-encompassing Love on her life journey. The lyrics of the 1980's song Higher Love ask us to look inside our hearts to find this inclusive Love. Kev Choice in his song Universal Love sings, "spread universal love all around the world." St Francis de Sales reminds us, "we learn to love by loving."

I know what sparked this chapter in my big Love inquiry.

"LOVING IS LIFE'S HIGHEST CALLING, I ACCEPT THE CALL"

It was my great honor to serve on the East Bay New Minister Covenant Co-Creation team. Through a joy-filled, rigorous and thoughtful process, informed by input from our community co-creation process, we agreed on behalf of all of us that the purpose of our new minister(s) is Love. As Religious Scientists, we know that we must become what we call forth. So, let's all direct our thoughts toward Love. Let's say Yes to Love, and see what it is Love requires of us both personally and collectively. ■

TRANSFORMING THE PLANET THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

YOUTH SPIRIT ARTWORKS WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS

By Mary Allen

In July 2020, East Bay partnered with Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA) to support its East Oakland Tiny House Village. This community partnership has been an opportunity to expand our Sacred Activism beyond our church walls.

YSA is a Bay Area non-profit interfaith organization that serves transitional-aged homeless youth and young adults ages 16-25. It provides youth with holistic wrap-around services, allowing them to enhance their art and building skills, while providing job training, case management and other services they may need.

In 2016, YSA launched an ambitious campaign to provide "100 Homes for 100 Homeless Youth." The Youth Tiny House Village is one of the results. To make this project a reality, YSA reached out to several local faith-based organizations. East Bay answered the call to support these efforts to empower these youth. The East Oakland Tiny House Village, named the Empowerment Village by its program members, houses 26 POC young adults ages 18 to 25.

The community is located at 633 Hegenberger Avenue near the Oakland Coliseum. Half of the residents hail from Oakland and half from Berkeley.

The Tiny House Village is self-supporting. Residents are required to give 100 hours of community service much of which is devoted to operating their village. They handle the administration, cleaning, maintenance, gardening and other community needs.

There are many ways that East Bay can collectively and individually lend support to Empowerment Village residents. In addition to our donations and volunteering, we intend to share the Science of Mind philosophy, practices and our spiritual programs with the youth. We know that this will be beneficial to their life path. We also look forward to welcoming them to our community in person with all the love and joy we can.

The Village is still in progress and there is a lot to be done. And, you can help! YSA has a wish list of needs that includes:

- Bicycles (new, used – in any condition), and bicycle parts, tools, locks, and helmets

- Painting Tiny House Village fence planks (wooden planks with inspiring/ spiritual messages; safe outdoor painting)
- Purchase a Tiny Houses Big Dreams t-shirt for $25
- Tiny House and housing advocacy
- Support the YSA Tiny House Village GoFundMe
- Support YSA's annual gala
- Hands on help with murals, construction

I invite you to support where you can. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact me at 510.545.9149 or gmaryallen1@gmail.com. ■

MONTH OF MARCH

SUNDAY SPEAKERS

YOUTUBE LINK

MARCH 7

Speaker: Rev. Dereca Blackmon

Musical Inspiration: East Bay Women's Chorus

MARCH 14

Speaker: Rev. Dereca Blackmon

Musical Inspiration: Reflection Trio

FEBRUARY 21

Speaker: Eugene Holden

Musical Inspiration: East Bay Men's Chorus

MARCH 28

Speaker: Rev. D. Jacquelyn Edwards

Musical Inspiration: NuDay

MONTH OF MARCH

WEDNESDAY SPEAKERS

ZOOM LINK

MARCH 3

Speaker: Carol Johnson-Williams, RScP

Topic: Living in the Question: A High Idea

MARCH 10

Rev. KSuzanne Massey, RScP

Topic: God *is* the System

MARCH 17

Speaker: Al Gibson, RScP

Topic: With Open Arms

MARCH 24

Speaker: Brenda King-Randle, RScP, Emerita

Topic: Commit to Transformation

MARCH 31

Speaker: Helen Anderson, RScP, Emerita

Topic: I'm Coming Out

SACRED SEVA

SERVING BEYOND OUR WALLS

By Harriet E. Johnson

I'm sure you've heard it said that "God loves a cheerful giver." Well, East Bay is certainly that! For decades now our church has lovingly served folk within our church family and folk in the greater East Bay community. We give to those in need in the greater community through two channels:

- Our Community Outreach Ministry, led by Ona Afrae, RScP; and,
- F.A.C.E.S. of the East Bay (Family, Art, Culture, Education, and Spirituality), our 501c3 non-profit community partner, led by Dr. Evelyn Wesley, RScP Emerita.

Are you aware of the ways in which each of these channels serves every month? We want you to be knowledgeable about our outreach and the impact we are having.

RESULTS IN THE YEAR OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our Community Outreach Ministry's heart work is to provide services to those who are struggling financially, those who are unhoused, those who need food, and those who need referrals to shelters, counseling, rehab centers and crisis support.

In 2020 this ministry provided:

- Residents of homeless encampments in Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and El Cerrito with beverages, power bars, proteins (tuna, chicken, salmon, nuts), chips, food snacks, tarps, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tent supplies, raincoats, and over 10,000 Blessing Bags. Blessing Bags contain socks, baby wipes, other essential toiletries, and inspiring affirmations.
- $620 in funds to support our new community partner Youth Spirit Artworks development of a Tiny House Village in Oakland planned for unhoused Oakland and Berkeley young adults ages 18-23. These funds supplied future residents of three tiny houses with mattresses and welcome baskets that contained a wonderful supply of self-care items.
- All 26 residents of Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Village in Oakland with individual packets of toiletries.
- 35 Laney College EOP students and Single Parent Community Families with $50 gifts for Thanksgiving and these same student families were adopted for Christmas by an East Bay family and received donations ranging from $100-$700 per student.
- And delivered food and groceries to our Latino Ministry serving Alameda & Pittsburgh along with other families in the Greater Richmond Area (Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante, & Hercules).

To learn more, donate, or volunteer, please contact Ona Afrae, RScP at 510-472-6932 or visit East Bay's Community Outreach Ministry webpage at www.ebcrs.org/community-outreach-ministry You can donate via text by texting "OUTREACH" to 501-55.

In 2020 F.A.C.E.S. of the East Bay provided a consistent, safe food bag giveaway program.

F.A.C.E.S. food pantry serves as a community partner and distribution center in collaboration with the Alameda County Food Bank. The pantry leadership team shops at the food bank and then transports the food to the church.

Pantry volunteers, affectionately referred to as Food Angels, sort, package and distribute grocery bags, through an outdoor Drive-Up delivery system at our church from 3:30pm - 5:00pm every first and third Wednesday throughout the year.

In 2020 the Food Angels maintained F.A.C.E.S.' commitment to serving the needs of the community in the following ways:

- Bagged and processed more than 51,000 pounds of perishable and non-perishable groceries
- Served more than 4,600 households, feeding upwards of 14,000 individuals
- Purchased and installed a commercial refrigerator and commercial freezer
- Purchased a van to transport and distribute food
- Secured funding for supplies and equipment to renovate the storage pantry
- Streamlined operations and implemented procedures to provide safety for volunteers and community members
- Tripled the transportation and distribution syste

If you'd like to learn more or serve with F.A.C.E.S. of the East Bay, please contact Dr. Evelyn Wesley, RScP Emerita at 510.531.7133, or visit the F.A.C.E.S. webpage at www.ebcrs.org/our-community. Make donations to F.A.C.E.S. at 4130 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 94609 or through PayPal.

Year round – every month, team members of Community Outreach and F.A.C.E.S. of the East Bay are focused on those in need in our community – showing them that they matter and that someone cares. With your ongoing prayers and donations, Community Outreach andF.A.C.E.S. can serve in a mighty, mighty way. ■

OUR SACRED COVENANT EASY PRAYER

There is only One Life! This Life is Good! This Life is God! This Life is my life now! In knowing that I am "one" with this Life that is God… I therefore know that I am "one" with all of Its blessed expressions, which includes the Presence of a New Minister for my beloved Spiritual Community.

Because I know that the highest Purpose of my New Minister is to glorify God, I therefore know that my New Minister is a Revelation of God as LOVE.

I further know that my New Minister is the fulfillment of that which has been promised by God, for it is written:

"True love has the power to heal and transform any situation and bring deep meaning to our lives. Love is patient, love is kind. It always honors, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Thich Nhat Hanh 1 Corinthians 13

As I stand in agreement with my beloved Community, I see my New Minister revealed before me as a Beacon of LIGHT growing us with LOVE and WISDOM.

Knowing that I and my beloved community must become that which we intend to bring forth and experience in our new minister, I now know these Truths about myself:

I am inspiring, uplifting and activating our community to live in HARMONY with all LIFE.

I am igniting individual and collective energetic movement toward SPIRITUAL TRUTHS and FREEDOM.

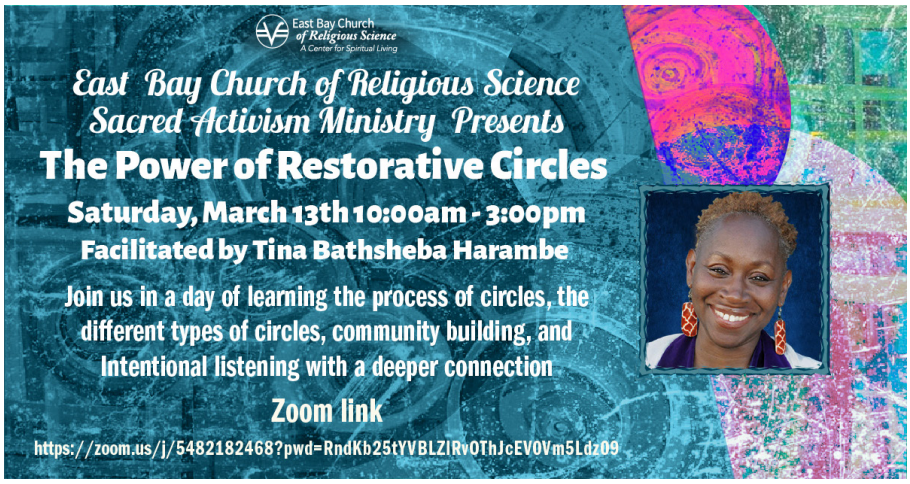
I am modeling and supporting profound levels of connection, HEALING, REVEALING and GROWTH in self and community.

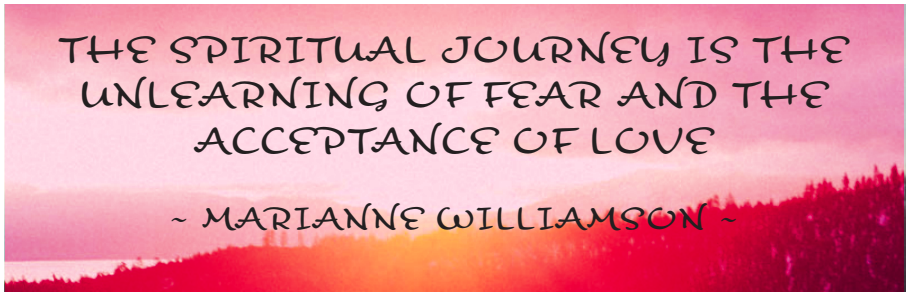
I am cultivating an environment in which SOCIAL JUSTICE and CARE for the needs of our greater community is part of our culture.

I am engaging in MYSTICAL teachings and practices that support deep personal and collective transformation and connection to ONENESS.

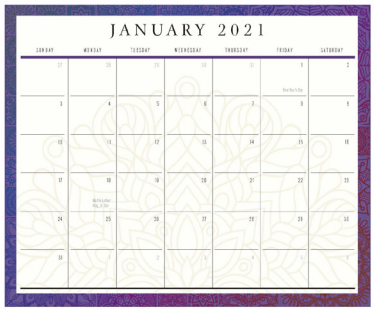
As I now accept the highest expression of a New Minister into my life, I know that they will be revealed in a way that will glorify GOD and serve the highest and greatest good of all who are touched by their Presence. I am grateful GOD is gracious. Amen. ■

VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE





ORDER OUR 2021 CALENDAR!



The Practitioner fundraiser calendar is on sale now and you can order yours today. The cost of the calendar is $18.00 and it is beautiful. The link to purchase the calendar is below. You may also share the link with others.

PRE-ORDER NOW!

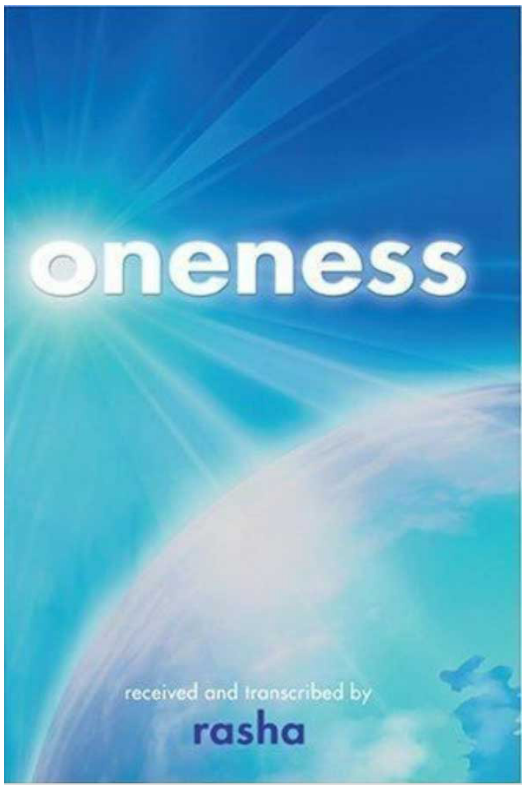
ONENESS CIRCLE

ONENESS CHAPTER FIVE

By Evelyn Wesley, RScP, Emerita

Several East Bay practitioners recently came together to read Oneness. In February 1998, rasha began a profound dialogue with the universal Presence, Oneness – the Divinity we all share. Word for word, she transcribed the principles for a new understanding of the mystery we call "life." Each month, practitioners will share their perspectives on the teachings in each chapter. We invite you to read along with us. This month, Evelyn Wesley shares her thoughts on the second chapter of the book.

Like peeling back the layers of an onion, it is essential that you peel back the layers of your experiential history in order to achieve your higher purpose. Your experiential history includes dramas and interactions that triggers emotional issues. These emotions are being triggered intentionally to stimulate, reveal and allow you to release your reactions to cataclysmic events. These events are the parts of your cellular history that have brought you profound levels of pain, grief, hurt and disappointment. When you encounter deep emotional intensity that appears to be disproportionate to the incident at hand, it is likely that you are releasing emotions from your past energetic patterns.



Trust your process, allow yourself to surrender and relinquish the urge to control and direct your transformational journey. You are being guided from a place within your spirit that understands precisely what is happening and why these experiences are necessary for your growth and development. You are on track. This lifetime is unfolding as it should even if it's different from what you envisioned for your life. These deviations are what make your journey fascinating and rewarding in ways that really matter.

Others traveling with you may or may not have similar experiences to yours. Be gentle with yourself and others. Do not attempt to direct their process. Everyone deserves the grace to experience their experiences as they see fit. Everyone is on a pilgrimage, engaged in their own personal journey to Oneness.

You are moving between the realities of what you thought life would be and new levels of existence, sometimes without knowing its occurring. You are learning to stabilize the energies of these moments, and to control their effects on the reality you perceive as your life. ■

FEBRUARY AND MARCH BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

Gabriella Ramos
February 1

Lisa Baylis-Joseph
February 2

Charlotte L. Parker
February 2

Hameed Islam
February 5

Juanita Oliver
February 5

Kathy Clemons
February 8

Sandee Dennis
February 8

Tyrone Cosey
February 17

Jennifer Sousae
February 17

Marsha Vaughn
February 17

Brenda Byes
February 19

Badia Cooper
February 19

Constance Slider Pierre
February 22

Jendayi Plaid
February 24

MARCH

Arleen King
March 1

MaryAnna Alderete
March 6

Adjoa Wynn
March 7

Barbara Abrams
March 9

Cynthia Chang
March 10

Lenore Anderson
March 12

Brett Richards
March 13

Dereca Blackmon
March 15

Al Gibson
March 15

Anthony Jackson
March 16

Julie Ida Baker
March 20

Jaliza Eagles
March 20

Victor Mayo
March 21

Lynne Mendoza Williams
March 22

Margaret Patterson
March 23

Gabriel Ramos
March 24

Zelma (Zee) Lewis
March 25

Helen Anderson
March 26

Jamylle Carter
March 27

If you don't see your birthday listed, please let us know by using one of the options below.

Send us an email to info@ebcrs.org

Update your information online through our Membership Portal Here.

To find out about all EBCRS activities, click here. ■

East Bay Church *of Religious Science*
A Center for Spiritual Living

East Bay Church of Religious Science
Weekly Ministy Program
March, 2021 Update

SUNDAY

SUNDAY SERVICE
Meditation: 10:15am
Service: 10:30am

YOUTH & FAMILY
12:00pm to 1:00pm
Please contact
Stacy Saadiq at
ebcrsyouthandfamily@gmail.com

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER
Call: 669.900.6833
Meeting ID: 977 3859 4793
Password: 030144

MONDAY

MORNING PRAYER
8am to 8:30am
Facebook Live
Live@eastbaychurch

MID-DAY MEDITATION
12:30pm to 1:00pm
Facebook Live
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TUESDAY

MORNING PRAYER
8am to 8:30am
Facebook Live
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MID-DAY MEDITATION
12:30pm to 1:00pm
Facebook Live
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WEDNESDAY

MORNING PRAYER
8am to 8:30am
Facebook Live

MID-DAY MEDITATION
12:30pm to 1:00pm
Facebook Live

MID-WEEK POWER HOUR
6:15pm Meditation
6:30pm Service
Zoom Link
https://zoom.us/j/91791685888?
PW: bW1tQ3U3ZnVNTzlLWHlQYWJW
MWdxUT09

THURSDAY

MORNING PRAYER
8am to 8:30am
Facebook Live
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MID-DAY MEDITATION
12:30pm to 1:00pm
Facebook Live
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FRIDAY

MORNING PRAYER
8am to 8:30am
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MID-DAY MEDITATION
12:30pm to 1:00pm
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GIVING

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