

The Salem Sound Current

ECKANKAR

Experience the Light and Sound of God

March 2010

“Question: I am confused about detachment and how it works in terms of striving for anything, or if we should strive. Should a person try to get ahead or be successful in worldly terms, or should he just put his efforts into spiritual unfoldment (aside from supporting himself and dependents if he has them)? Is wanting, striving, and desiring just another negative trap?”

“Answer: The wrong definition for detachment is ‘don’t get involved in life.’ In Eckankar, we are detached, but we are also great lovers of life. Can it be any other way for a Co-worker with God?

“The path of Eckankar is only to enhance our spiritual growth. How does this unfoldment come about? Through daily duties. Yes, it is all right to set goals in business. We can set goals, work to accomplish them, and still be working in the arena of detachment. Detachment means that if our plans don’t work out as we think they should, life won’t crush us.

“The path of ECK ought to bring a zest for life. Each activity contains within it the seed of a spiritual lesson. We do not make spiritual progress by doing as little as possible in life. The individual must make an honest evaluation of his talents, interests, and training to decide what goals he wishes to strive for.

“Every time he sets out to win small goals, he is aware in Soul consciousness that their only purpose is to give instruction in becoming a citizen of the spiritual hierarchy.

“We must first give to life as we expect life to give anything in return. This is the divine law. Life presents a whole series of opportunities. These let us tap into the God Force for aid. This is achieved through the regular practice of the Spiritual Exercises of ECK.” From “Youth Ask a Modern Prophet about Life, Love, and God” by Harold Klemp. This book can be ordered from your local bookstore or at <http://www.eckankar.org/Books/index.html>.

New First Year Class Started

Experience the miracle of spiritual growth with ECKANKAR Membership and The Easy Way Discourse Class. Reading the ECK books is a nice start, but if you really want to get serious about your spiritual path nothing is as effective and rewarding as becoming a member of ECKANKAR, getting the discourses, and discussing them in an ECK Satsang Class. A new Easy Way Satsang Class is meeting after the ECK Worship Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Call Ed Bloom at 503-304-2988 to sign up. Call Kay at 503-362-2695 for information about joining any other ECK class you might like to attend.

Tell Your Friends, Family Members and Acquaintances

The Spiritual Discussion series continues. Based on the Spiritual Wisdom series books by Harold Klemp, this month's discussion is titled "Spiritual Wisdom on Relationships." First time attendees will receive a free copy of the book of the same title. Join us on Friday, March 19, 2010 at 5:30-7:00pm for this 1 1/2 hour discussion, held at Chemeketa Community College Building 28 room 101 (parking permits will be available). Another discussion is scheduled on "Have You Had a Spiritual Experience?" at the same time and location. Contact Marilyn at 503-538-7774 for more information.

Public ECKANKAR Events for You, Your Friends and Families

You're cordially invited to attend ECK Worship Services in Salem. ECK Worship Services give you a small taste of the ECK Satsang Class experience, one of the most stabilizing, educational, uplifting and enjoyable activities ECKists have the good fortune to attend. Someone reads aloud a brief passage about a spiritual topic. Then those attending sing HU, a love song to God, for a few minutes and follow that with a contemplation of the reading and topic. An open discussion of the topic and how it applies to one's daily life follows. Those who attend often discover how the spiritual guidance of the Mahanta, The Living ECK Master is at work and available more and more in their lives.

ECK Worship Services in Salem take place at Chemeketa Community College, Building 28, Room 101--a little north and east of Buildings 2 and 16 (take the sidewalk between Building 16 and the other small buildings and walk back to Building 28), on the third Sunday of the month, from 11 a.m. until noon. This month, on **March 21st**, the **ECK Worship Service** topic will be, **"Making Sense of Life's Chaos."**

ECKANKAR Membership

When someone wishes to learn a new skill or skills, sometimes, if they are fortunate, they get to study and work alongside a master craftsman who can teach them more than they could ever learn out of any book or training class. They get the benefit of all of that person's experience—specially developed techniques, tools, and shortcuts to getting the very best results. In ECKANKAR, we have the good fortune of having a master craftsman in the spiritual arts and sciences with us always. Membership in ECKANKAR enables us to study and work much more closely with the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master as we construct and travel our individual paths to God. Membership provides you with his writings in the form of monthly discourses, quarterly newsletters and members--only meetings to help you grow and unfold spiritually in ways you never dreamed could happen. You have the opportunity to attend Advanced Spiritual Study Classes called ECK Satsang Classes that help you and others to go ever deeper into the most secret of spiritual teachings with the guidance of the Mahanta and discover how to apply what you learn to your daily life. For more information or to join a class, please call Kay Marikos at 503-362-2695.

To have this newsletter sent to your email address, please call 503-362-2695.

ECK Clergy Services

ECK members and the public are welcome to contact a member of the ECK clergy about the following services.

The four ECK celebrations of life are: The ECK Consecration Ceremony for young children, celebrating new life and a new phase in Soul's journey home to God; the ECK Rite of Passage for boys and girls of about age thirteen, celebrating their personal commitment to the ECK teachings; the ECK Wedding Ceremony; and the ECK Memorial Service.

The ECK Spiritual Aide session, though not counseling, can help you find your own answers in challenging situations through the personal guidance of Divine Spirit. The ESA session is conducted by an ECK Spiritual Aide, (ESA) who is an ECK cleric specially appointed and trained to offer this assistance.

The ECK Initiator helps facilitate an Initiation when an ECKist receives an Initiation slip for the next Initiation and makes an appointment with the Initiator to receive it. The Initiation is actually given by the Mahanta. An Initiator is an ECK cleric specifically appointed and trained to offer this service.

There are no fees for the above services, but ECK clerics accept donations to-ECKANKAR. For more information, please contact:

Ed Bloom 503-304-2988
John Marikos Initiator, ESA
503-362-2695
Kay Marikos Initiator, ESA
503-362-2695
Anne Roberts Initiator, ESA
503-554-9700
Dave Van Grunsven Initiator

503-538-7774

Marilynn Van Grunsven Initiator
503-538-7774

Roland Reeb Oregon RESA (Regional ECK Spiritual Aide) Initiator, ESA 503-259-8765

For more information about ECKANKAR:
<http://www.eckankar.org> or
call 1-800-Love God.

For more information about ECKANKAR activities in Oregon: <http://www.eckankar-oregon.org>

For information about local activities call:
Marilynn and Dave Van Grunsven, Local Directors for Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, 503-538-7774.

If you are interested in helping others know about ECKANKAR, please contact Ellie Bloom at 503-304-2988. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Alan Gibson at 503-689-8910.

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of ECKANKAR or the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, Sri Harold Klemp.

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