



Covid-19 Outbreak

By March 12 a number of city schools and businesses were closing. Aware of the inconvenience and disruption in our activities, but accepting it as a wise precaution, the GGSC Board voted to take responsibility to close the church and suspend all activities until at least April 5. The Board will reassess the situation by the first week in April.

The Rev. Delaney Lauderback:

“We have all joined together to try to stop the spread of the new virus causing an outbreak of COVID-19. As part of the response to calls from all levels of our Government for us all to stay home, wash our hands, and try to keep at least 6 feet from each other when we do have to go out on essential business, our church suspended services so that we may all comply with the stay-at-home orders we are being asked to comply with.”

By March 27, the situation had not improved. San Francisco Mayor London Breed and community leaders closed parks and stressed the need for San Franciscans to stay home except for essential needs and brief local exercise in an effort to control the spread of this pandemic.

Zoom May Be the Way

As the Rev. Delaney Lauderback said, “Many of us miss our church and its lovely healing vibration.”

We may be “sheltering in place” for a while yet, and many wish to hear from our church workers and see friends and family face to face.

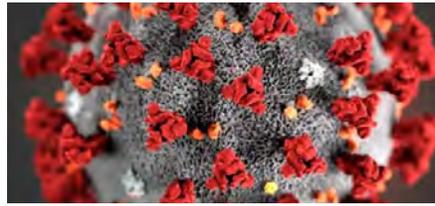


Photo of the lethal virus

Pastor Delaney Lauderback says, “In an effort to continue the important work of our church in proving survival of death and comforting the mourner, we have been investigating a computer program, Zoom, which looks like it may allow us to have some kind of church services on line.”

How to use Zoom

A simple video explaining how to join a Zoom meeting is available:

<https://youtu.be/7Qy90zY66WE>

On Friday March 27 Rev. Lauderback attended an online tutorial on the video chat platform called Zoom held by NSAC Board representative Stacy Kopchinski and James Bae of Celebrate Life to see if we can apply it to our church’s needs.

Everyone who is being asked to shelter in place is encouraged to take a few moments to acquaint themselves with Zoom if they have access to a smart phone, iPad or computer.

Unless one is hosting, it is not necessary to open an account at Zoom.us but for the best experience it’s a good idea to use it to check out your camera and microphone ahead of a meeting.

When an email invitation is received, the recipient can follow the prompts and connect a few

minutes ahead of the specified time. Some meetings require entering the ID# in the invitation.

April Events Cancelled

We’ve been looking forward to our Easter Sunday Tea and to meeting the Rev. Jim Kinnear from Canada, noted NSAC Medium Rev. Dr. Rosemary Calderalo and the wisdom and teachings of Haruka’s mentor, the international Medium Jikan Kaido. The virus pandemic has made it necessary to cancel all April events.

Going Forward

A Message from GGSC Board President

Dear members and friends of Golden Gate Spiritualist Church: We are living in strange and frightening times, facing personal and societal changes and disruptions unprecedented in our experience.

The Novel Coronavirus pandemic necessitated that we discontinue services and programs at our Church, and the still-increasing incidence of new cases of infection requires that we remain closed until there is a downturn or at least a leveling off of virulence.

I understand full well that it is very difficult in these extremely trying times to have access to the comfort and spiritual uplift provided by our Church and its services unavailable to us, but this virus is so new and unpredictable that we must take every precaution to avoid the opportunity of challenges to your physical well-being.

Per the Shelter in Place Order, the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church will remain closed until further notice. We will follow national, state, and local directives and keep you apprised on our re-opening date.

In the meantime, our healers and mediums and clergy are daily sending light and love and hope through the Spirit Realm to all. Each of you may also have good effect on yourselves and those close to you by using some of the quiet time attendant upon sheltering in place to reach further into yourselves, touching that tiny spark of Infinite Intelligence at the core of all of us, nurturing it and increasing within you its light, love and healing power.

Meditate, contemplate, study, sing, pray—do whatever it requires to grow that spark into the fire that can in time save us all.

Blessings, Michael Franklin

Recent GGSC Events

James Bae, the Treasurer of Celebrate Life Spiritual Community was a well-received guest speaker who gave us a timely and interesting talk January 12.

A group of stalwarts had a fun Sunday afternoon attending the **Spiritualist Trivia** event in January. Three teams competed, while snacking, under the leadership of our generous and well-prepared Licentiate Minister Charlyne Spitzer. The winning team members with the most correct answers to the multiple choice questions were Vince Bonfitto and Barbara Dullea.

Congratulations!



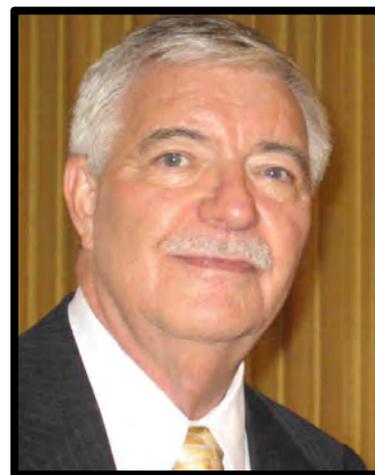
Our **Annual Birthday Dinner** on February 15 brought forth a bounty of home cooked dishes to serve ample portions to 77 attendees. Our thanks to everyone who contributed food and raffle prizes, and to all who purchased raffle tickets in addition to dinner. The room was filled with good cheer and all enjoyed a great deal of fun and fellowship.

The Rev. Lorraine Radice served the church on Wednesday evening, February 19, giving messages to all of the 70 attendees and on Friday 21 she conducted an Ectoplasm and Mediumship workshop that was also well attended and “enlightening.”

On February 23 we held our **Annual Members Meeting**. While sparsely attended, the meeting was informative and showed good communication and cohesiveness on the part of all.

**We are
Grateful**

On March 7 our friend **Hollister Rand** presented an evening of mediuship followed by a reception and book signing. Attendance was good despite the fact that the viral epidemic was already underway and we were already being careful and taking precautions against spreading the corona virus. Hollister gave a remarkable demonstration. During two hours she provided moving evidential details. She also offered a cheerful demonstration of a thorough anti-virus hand-washing technique done to the singing of “Happy Birthday to Me”. It was rewarding and a good fund-raiser.



James Stewart Ehrhart

November 6, 1937—
January 3, 2020

It was with profound and abiding sadness that Michael Franklin informed the GGSC congregation at our service on Sunday, January 5 of the passing to Spirit of **The Reverend James Stewart Ehrhart**.

“A wonderful healer and medium, Reverend Ehrhart was a significant part of the heart and

soul of our Church, and he will be missed. His wisdom, insight, and clarity made Spiritualism understandable, approachable, and complete.

“We were privileged to be his students, and I do not believe we will see his like again.”

Jim was a native of Le Roy, New York, the eldest of nine siblings. He completed a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in Cuba and later became a partner in Professional Communications, a San Francisco company managing multiple associations and providing print graphics services for over 38 years.

Jim’s greatest gift was as a teacher. Jim presented classes for more than twelve years, compiling and publishing new handouts for each class.

Raised as a Catholic, Jim became a student of all religions. He found his home in Spiritualism, attaining all credentials, Ordained Minister, National Spiritualist Teacher, Certified Medium, and Commissioned Spiritualist Healer, and served as a trustee on the

Board of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches

He authored and edited the 20th edition of the *NSAC Spiritualist Manual*, and the *NSAC Religious Services* book. In 2019, Jim developed and wrote a new 27-lesson MPI course, *Spiritualism: A Religion of Happiness*.

At the time of his transition he was Vice President of Morris Pratt Institute, America’s Spiritualist College; and Associate Pastor of Golden Gate Spiritualist Church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Morris Pratt Institute, 11811 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Support GGSC During Church Closure

We are most grateful for any amount you can contribute.

Help GGSC meet utility and maintenance expenses by contributing through PayPal on the Church website:

www.ggspiritualistchurch.org

A PayPal button, located on the home page at the bottom of the left column, will enable you to do this.

If you do not have a PayPal account your credit or debit card can be accepted on the site.

GGSC News

Published quarterly by the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church of San Francisco, 1901 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

To receive *GGSC News*, please send your name as well as the email address to which you want the News sent to: GGSC Information, info@ggspiritualistchurch.org. It will sent as a PDF file attached to an email.