



Candela

Newsletter of the
Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd.

A.C.N. 056 529 769

Secretariat & Registered Office:

The Swedenborg Centre

1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113

Voice/Fax: (02) 9888 1066

E-mail: sllandec@ozemail.com.au

Free to Members Cost \$2.00

Home Page: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~sllandec>

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Issue 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we prepare for our **fifth Annual General Meeting**, we can reflect on what we have achieved through the Swedenborg Association of Australia. Certainly a small beginning and still a small organisation with a membership scattered right across Australia. As I become aware of increasing numbers of people searching for true spiritual meaning in their lives, I become more aware of the enormous spiritual confidence available through some understanding of Swedenborg's universal spiritual writings. So I reflect on how the SAA may help more people to gain such spiritual confidence.

Our AGM will give our members an opportunity to influence the effectiveness of our Association. We intend to revisit our aims and objectives, and the benefits of membership of our Association in the light of our experiences over the past five years. What can we do differently or better?; what else could we do to benefit our members and neighbours? So respond either in writing or by attendance at the AGM on Saturday 17th August, 1996.

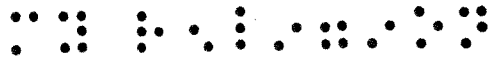
Fresh ideas will be welcome, particularly if you are able to contribute some of your energies in assisting the Board as a Director. Two Directors are stepping down, so new faces on the Board will be most welcome. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

With Love and Light,

Kevin B. Attwater

MEMBER'S BOOK DISTRIBUTION

The last issue (page 4) of *Candela* gave a clue to this year's offering.



These "symbols" are Braille lettering, which in the Swedenborg Movement, and often outside, is associated with that marvellously inspiring lady, **Helen Keller**. They spell out the name of the book being freely distributed.

Thanks to the generosity of the Swedenborg Foundation in the USA, and pre-planning by the SAA Board, SAA members will probably be the last persons to receive new copies of *My Religion* (why? - see page 5) which comes to all financial members with this issue. Many members will have already read it. Yet, treasure this copy, but don't hide it away. **Lend it to others to read or give it to someone you think will be helped by it.** It is being given to be of use, and Swedenborg's doctrine of Uses was perhaps the most meaningful teaching to Helen Keller.

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Swedenborg's Mighty Contribution

*Synopsis of the talk given to the Swedenborg Association of Australia by Dr. Philip Groves.
Prepared by Michele Kemp, Kulnura, NSW.*

To understand Swedenborg we can start with the title page of the **True Christian Religion** which reads 'By Emanuel Swedenborg, Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ'. To understand the meanings of this, we must look at it in correspondences.

A servant is one who communicates truth from the good of love. That means a person has to be conscious of love, conscious of what good is all about, to understand the truths derived from that good of love, and to express them. Also a servant is one who obeys the Lord God and communicates truth and services or uses. This is not egotism, or a show of humility; he is stating his function in life.

The Church is in man and not outside him

Swedenborg was preparing for the coming of the New Church. A Church is not what is popularly interpreted - a set organisation, with buildings, hierarchical priesthood, and various ceremonies, sacred rites to be performed and festivals of a holy nature to be pursued. Those things are all the externals of church. He explains in the **Arcana Caelestia** 8938 as follows: "*The Lord's church is with everyone who is in a state of reception of charity and faith from the Lord for the man himself is the church.*"

Christianity is an Eastern Religion and is common with all the religions founded in the East there are certain universal principles which are true in Christianity and equally true in the older religions such as Zoroastrianism. A relationship with God has to be established. Swedenborg says that the church is in man and not outside him (**Heaven & Hell**). The Lord said, "*Behold the kingdom of God is within you*".

Swedenborg says we are all created unique living beings; we are created for a purpose. We have a cosmic function to fulfil. We cannot fulfil this on our own. We must have interconnectedness with the source. Unless the energy, the wisdom, the love, intelligence, the "know how" is given to us from above, then we cannot, with our limited intelligence, become superb cosmic beings.

To understand this Swedenborg made it clear that *the Bible has an inner sense*. His mighty contribution came when he began to show how the *inner sense* of the *Word* can be uncovered. It was through the science of correspondences that he achieved this. A correspondence is a functional relationship between higher life and our life. Things down here are representative of things in higher life. But when we get into the functional nature of correspondence we live that relationship.

Many people use correspondence as synonyms. As an example some look at a flower and make the comment '*Spiritual Truth*'. This is simply a substitution of one word for another. That is not correspondence; that is only external semantics.

If we study a flower and meticulously look at the minute detail, we find an awesome amount of detail there. It is all this complex of detail which relates to spiritual truth. We begin to see that the flower itself is spelling out in its fine detail the details of spiritual truths what these begin to are. As we understand the details of these spiritual truths we come into a state of enlightenment.



To become a New Church one has to become a regenerated being. In the East, the idea of regeneration is not a new idea. For tens of thousands of years some people in the East have realised that it is impossible to go anywhere without a restructuring of the whole of human nature.

The **True Christian Religion** chapters 9 and 10 contain a condensed form of what every genuine spiritual school in the East has ever taught about producing newness of Being. This is the spiritual clarity with which Swedenborg presents his ideas that interests people. Swedenborg was a channel, a servant for the DIVINE, through which practical methods were given for the regeneration or rebirth of mankind.

The assumption that if your faith in God is big enough you will solve everything is just not

true. Before we can start acting out what is good, true, noble, loving, and useful, we have to correct the inevitable defects that are in our psyches. When we discover what negativities we have, we must try to resist them and genuinely ask for higher help to overcome them. That is how we begin to change ourselves and it is practical work of the highest order.

"Anyone who has not looked at or examined himself ends up not knowing what is the evil that damns him and the good that saves him".

True Christian Religion
(Chapters 9 and 10
The Study of the Process of
Repentance and Regeneration)

***The process of regeneration goes
on throughout our Life***

By putting some of these things into activity, we begin to fulfil something Christ once said *"If ye know these things happy are ye if you do them"*. We must change our leading love from just satisfying our whims and fancies into fulfilling our cosmic duties and functions and what God created us to be (a fully conscious soul in a living functional relationship and carrying out cosmic uses at spiritual and celestial levels).

The process of regeneration goes on throughout our life. Some people regard regeneration as an initiation. It is not. Once you start the process of self-perfecting and learn to examine yourself, you learn to connect with better, finer, richer states, with corresponding spiritual and divine states. Once we start we can never stop. What Swedenborg presents is a very self-disciplined, a very devoted, a passionate approach to truly make something big of our lives and it is worth the effort.

It has been recognised in the East for a long time that man is in two possible states; he is asleep or he is awake. If he is awake he is conscious. If he is asleep he lives as an ordinary person going around doing all the usual things, but he is simply not conscious of why he lives, how he lives or what he is living for. If we use a concordance to the Bible, we see many references to being awake, wakefulness, throughout the Old and New Testaments.

To be awake is to receive spiritual light into oneself. That means we struggle towards it. We have to aspire and pray for it. If we do not make an effort there will not be a reciprocal response from the Divine.

The Darwinians and neo-Darwinian theories appear on the surface to be very logical. But they have so many gaps and inadequacies. The dangerous part of them is that they say life started off fortuitously, accidentally and that this growth of life is only opportunistic. It doesn't have an aim and there is no purpose. Science does not give any hope for any individual.

Swedenborg presents a marvellous counter to all this materialism. He himself was a practising scientist and very meticulous in his calculation, measurements and records. When his spiritual senses were open, he directly experienced and moved about in the spiritual and sometimes the celestial world and sometimes the infernal world. With the accuracy, the honesty and the integrity of a good well trained scientist, he faithfully reported exactly what he encountered. His was direct experience for 27 years and he gave a direct description of continuing life.

As souls we are part of an enormously long stream of growth and development. This is the reality . . . we are expected to carry out certain functions and we can't exist for the fun of being here. We have a practical purpose for our life. Each person has an individual pathway to follow and each one of us must try to make the most of that best possible pathway for ourselves. We must become a functional church in which the Divine works in us and through us. By reading Swedenborg's writings you can gain many practical ways and methods in reaching this aim.

O O O O O O

Dr. Philip Groves is a member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia. He has a Ph.D. in biochemistry, a doctorate in biopsychology, a Diploma of Naturopathy and has practised for many years in Industry as a microbiologist and chemist. Many know Dr. Groves from his years as a teacher and therapist in the fields of spiritual psychology, Egyptology, and Esoteric Christianity.

*This talk, **Swedenborg's Mighty Contribution**, was audio-taped and copies are available for \$5 (member's price) from The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde (ph. 02 9888 1066).*

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members:
Simon Mervyn-Jones (Port Macquarie, NSW)
Michael Popplewell (Manly, NSW)
Alice Tchekmeyan (Wheelers Hill, Vic)

GROUPS NEWS

The North Ryde Swedenborg Association Group has continued its monthly meetings with a Guest Speaker on the fourth Friday evening. These have been most interesting and successful, reports of most being included in this issue of *Candela*. The day seminar in June run by **Chris Catsanis** on *Crystals & Vibrational Medicine* was well attended and good, positive feedback has been received from participants. It was clearly a very helpful session. Thanks Chris. Three representative from the Coptic Orthodox Church shared the stage in presenting *The History and Spirituality of the Coptic Orthodox Church*. The many questions that followed indicated that it was a most worthwhile evening, connecting with one of the oldest surviving Christian churches. Details of forthcoming activities/meetings are listed on the back page.

The Perth Group is continuing to meet on the third Sunday of every month. They have completed working through the **Heavenly Secrets Course of videos** to assist with their spiritual understanding of Swedenborg's writings. This month they begin looking at a series of talks introducing the main concepts in Swedenborg's spiritual writings, prepared by The Swedenborg Library & Enquiry Centre.

The Melbourne Group also continues to meet monthly (usually every fourth Friday) to hear and discuss a talk from a guest speaker or their Convenor Chris Skinner. In the last few months, subjects covered have included *The Harmony of Life and Heaven* (Leslie Sheppard, Brisbane) and *Conscientiousness and the part it plays in our Spiritual Growth* (John Teed, Woodend, Victoria). Both these talks generated good discussion from participants. The June meeting not only included a short talk by Chris Skinner on *How do we move our Focus from Material Things to Spiritual Values*, but also some entertainment by various members of the group incorporating music, singing and poetry. The link between the 18th Century practitioners of Animal Magnetism and Swedenborg was covered by **Dr. Al Gabay**, an historian at La Trobe University (Bendigo Campus) in a talk entitled *Swedenborg and Mesmer*. This proved to be a fascinating evening with Dr. Gabay well versed in the spiritualist movement of last and this Century. He has authored several major papers and the book *The Mystical Life of Alfred Deakin*, which examines the religious inner life and political career of this important Australian who was also a reader of Swedenborg.

Currently our financial membership stands at 115 which is 8 less than this time last year, a somewhat disappointing reduction. During the last 12 months, 15 applications for membership, 2 resignations, and one death have been processed. Very regrettably, 20 have failed to renew their membership this year despite enquiries to ascertain their intentions; under the rules, they have been deleted from the membership list although we trust that some will reinstate their membership before the end of 1996. These figures are an up-date on those contained in the 1996 Annual Report recently circulated to members.

Please remember:

A.G.M. Saturday 17th August

Do support this meeting, and the Directors, if you possibly can.

The meeting will begin at 2.30 pm with a talk and introduction to discussion by **Chris Skinner**, Melbourne Group Convenor. He will speak on the Melbourne Group which is slowly growing - its formation, activities and the challenges for the future. Chris will be sporting a broken ankle and will be happy for anyone to sign the plaster.

As well as reviewing the various reports, the business part of the meeting will consider amendments to the rules to permit Honorary Life membership. **Very importantly, the meeting will have to find the services of a new Secretary and three Board members** - Alexis Jarvis having confirmed that she will not be renominating as Secretary, nor Guy Patching and Joe Vandermeer as Directors. **So volunteers are needed. Please consider your involvement carefully: send in your nominations now or if you would like to be nominated for a position yourself, please contact Alexis Jarvis via phone (02) 9871 1904 or via The Swedenborg Centre.**

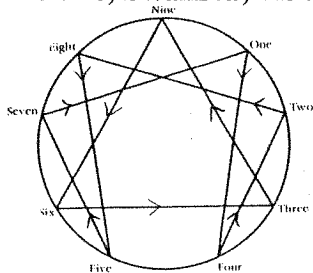
We are sure that the whole membership would want to join with the Board in extending hearty congratulations to **Joe Vandermeer** and **Danielle Francis** on their recent marriage in beautiful Bundanoon. A gift of the presentation edition of Swedenborg's *Conjugal Love* made our good wishes tangible.

Alexis Jarvis, Hon. Secretary

"True Marriage Love is the jewel of human life".
Swedenborg

The Enneagram Wisdom

by Rolf Zeltins, Swansea, NSW.



The reflections on my life experiences seem to have indicated that Swedenborg's Spiritual visions and mine have at last come to a parallel.

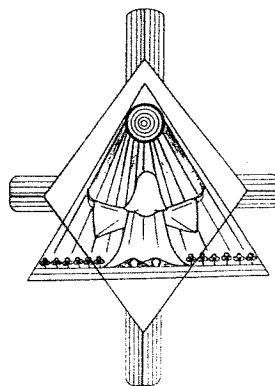
In this searching, first for knowledge of worldly matters and later for spiritual, also draws a parallel. In my case I was brought up into the Wars of Europe at a young age, the negative experiences of which contributed towards neurosis and followed by alcoholism. After recovery, with the aid of the twelve step recovery program, twenty six years ago, I began to search further as to my origin and purpose in religion I discovered the "Enneagram" wisdom through a priest who had the same growing in the spirit difficulties as my self. We both came to realise that each one of us is uniquely special in the eyes of God as we understand him, but very much different in the way we understand ourselves, God and others. The wisdom of the enneagram explains to me that there are individuals who *feel*, others who *think*, and a third type who *do*. The 'feelers' are the celestial in Swedenborg's writings, the 'thinkers' spiritual and 'doers' natural. The enneagram dates back long before Swedenborg and was imparted on to only the few. However Swedenborg has brought the essence of it to the masses and I am glad and grateful that I am in 'that number.'

My Religion by Helen Keller



Mention was made on the cover page that SAA members are likely to be the last persons to receive a new copy of this book. *My Religion* has led many people to read Swedenborg but that may be about to end as world-wide stocks of the book are now exhausted, being replaced with a new publication *Light in My Darkness*. This modernises the wording and adds other writings by Helen to elucidate and expand the original text.

Celebration of Easter '96



This year's Celebration of Easter, the second one sponsored by the Swedenborg Association of Australia, was held in the Seaforth Public School on Sunday 7th April. It drew a good number of participants and audience, and provided a mixture of various items of folk music, dramatic presentation, singing and group performances. Each item was introduced by Lorraine Godsmark, master of ceremonies for the evening, and at the end of the whole celebration, hot cross buns and drinks were appreciated backstage by everyone. Each of the nine items focussed on a different aspect of the message of Easter, but broadly so, expressing themes of joy, resurrection, spiritual sequences, harmony and integration.

Marion Ives opened with three short pieces on the Irish harp, which she describes as having great purity of sound, yet allowing the creative ideas of the player to come through its expression. Her choice of pieces enabled her to introduce the flow of the evening with quiet beauty and that evocative Celtic lilt. Christopher Martin Murphy brought both lightness and seriousness into the evening with two contrasting songs and an instrumental piece based on a septad or sequence of seven notes. The Bells and Bowls group of four players gave us Easter Renaissance, a Tibetan based musical statement about rebirth, conflict, resurrection and final resolution into new order. The Persian setar, a long-necked single bellied lute, played by Shahram to increasingly wonderful virtuoso climaxes as it unfolded, was spellbinding, and contained improvisations on a seven part series of classical Persian systems, with five subordinates too. But what we heard was an intense rapt gifted performance.

The middle item of the evening was a dramatised re-enactment of the ancient Egyptian Djed ceremony, in which resurrection plays the major theme, and in which the king Osiris is annually remembered through dying and rising. The connections with the Christian Feast are very clear. A lot of work clearly went into both the production and the costuming for this drama and our thanks go to the six presenters and to Marion Van Den

Driessen who costumed the players. The **Enneagram** underscored the next item of Eastern ney flutes and harmonic singing as **Joe Vandermeer** and **Lachlan Hinds** gave us a pattern of life in which the parts and the whole work integrally together. Two carols and a traditional song, sung 'a capella' by **Danielle Francis** and **Rose Shakallis** brought feminine voices and rhythm into the evening, and as the program notes say, "*Song allows a message to come across through actual words as well as through sounds, which can be very powerful, especially to the performers.*"

The penultimate item brought us back to a solo work, **Kookaburra Sunrise**, performed by **Lachlan Hinds** on didgeridoo, with the instrument creating the awakening effect for the kookaburra in the morning time as he sees and begins the new day - a real Australian Easter idea of deep spiritual connection. Finally, we all "toned" together, performers and audience people, as we were given a single note to sound and keep going, and in which we were all one through the deep vibration of united pure sound. This was the program, in brief. But no written account can capture the atmosphere created that evening, the effect of which is greatly due to the mood, ability and spirit of giving of all those who took part in the joint celebration. We thank them all very much. A video was made of the evening and this is available from the organisers.

Julian Duckworth

Sydney Bush Foods

SAA Director and Horticulturist, **Guy Patching**, treated us to a truly interesting weekend in late May when he presented a Friday night talk on bush foods and then, the following day, lead a walk through some typical Sydney bushland.

The evening talk was topped off with some samples of bush tucker which proved to be an excellent supper. But first Guy gave a thorough introduction to what we would sample. By referring to various books on the subject he was able to give a very complete understanding of the many uses the aborigines made of the native plants. This enabled us to appreciate the extent of the dependency that the native peoples had on the flora and showed how they themselves lived very much a part of the natural environment. Guy displayed clippings of the numerous species he talked about, making it very easy to imagine the plants in their natural setting. Even the "nasties" - the weeds and the imported species - were displayed. Various jams, honeys and bush breads were greatly appreciated at supper time, but it was the good selection of native berries and teas that gave the best sense of the unusual taste experiences that the local bush provides.

Guy chose a track on the Allambie side of the Manly Dam Reserve for our bushwalk the following day. Pointing out many of the species that we had learnt about the previous night, he lead us on a lovely walk through heathland and forest, and from the lake edge to a secluded waterfall where we contemplated the correspondence of sandstone - an outstanding feature of this particular spot.

Our thanks to Guy for providing us with these two very interesting and enjoyable activities.

Wayne Kasmar

Hypnagogic, Meditative, Hypnotic States

This evening workshop with **Sioban Cruise** was held on April 26th in the New Church at Roseville. Seating and lighting arrangements were altered and some incense burnt, to set the scene for this altered consciousness workshop. Sioban spoke first about the hypnagogic state, which happens between sleep and wakefulness and which was one of Swedenborg's tools to come in contact with the spiritual world. The times to go into this state are either before waking up in the morning or before falling asleep at night.

The next state, which we had an opportunity to experience three times ourselves, was the light trance state induced by self hypnosis. Sioban introduced a short, effective trance induction. Once in the trance state the subconscious can be reached by direct commands (posthypnotic suggestions), which can be used to improve just about any aspect (health, relationships, motivation) one might wish to address. She recommended to create an induction tape for ourselves. The tone of the voice should be directive, using clear cut commands. It was a new, positive experience for most participants.

After a break we were treated to three different meditation techniques. The "*Pink Bubble*" meditation, taken from **Shakti Gawain's** book *Creative Visualisation*, let the creations of our minds float into the universe encapsulate into a pink bubble, so they could gather energy for realisation and return to the meditator. The guided meditation led us through the seven gates of the golden city, with different entities and experiences encountered at each gate and at each level, until reaching the centre of the city, where we could become one with the universe, when touching the precious diamond. The third meditation had us concentrate on to the light on our forehead between our eyebrows and experience ourselves as beings of light. Sioban explained the differences between the trance and meditative states and stressed the totally different pitch of voice and flow of words used for meditation induction in contrast to autohypnosis. A very enjoyable evening.

Waldis Jirgens

*Aboriginal Culture
from a Swedenborg Perspective*
with Jonathan Bryce

We are accustomed to confrontation when attending The Swedenborg Centre. The confrontation invariably challenges one's comfortable belief system which, if we accept the challenge, opens the door to an expansion of our understanding and awareness at a spiritual as well as practical level.

Having said that, Friday night 26th July placed us face to face with a most extraordinary address by a man whose inner beauty and honesty shines, strong and bright. Jonathan is a man whose studies, embracing Swedenborg and more, have opened him to a gentle, but genuine, embracing of reality in other beings as well as himself. This has taken him into the world of the Yolngu, aborigines of the north.

His address was startling in its often stark revelation of a world of innocents whose culture obeys different terms of reference to any that we sophisticates can really understand. Amazement at the complexity of the relational database on which they work was compounded by the depth of understanding of that web by the youngest children who use its references, matter of factly, daily.

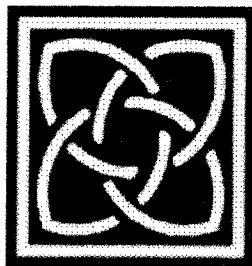
His dissertation walked on the dark side concerning the way in which the great traditions are being lost to disinterest and corruption by the new generations, fed by institutional grants of money without obligation and the lack of heritage pride. We heard taped singing by members of the Yolngu, apparently utterly simple and primitive but, on examination, full of complex percussion and very subtle chant - a dirge of repetitive shape.

The evening ended with a shower of questions by many present, the answers to which virtually constituted another lecture. Certainly all present were deeply stirred and totally absorbed by Jonathan's disarming manner, speaking naturally, from heart and mind.

Roy Simmonds



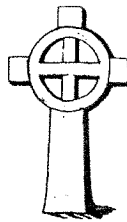
CELEBRATION OF SPRING '96



Can you believe it? -
Spring is almost here again!

And we will be celebrating it - our fourth annual celebration - at **The Swedenborg Centre on Saturday Evening, 7th September**, commencing at **7pm**. *An evening not to be missed if at all possible.*

Tickets are being pre-sold as seating is limited. Their cost is **\$10**, a very reasonable price for two hours of spiritual nourishment, music, light entertainment and a hot buffet super supper. It will all revolve around a **Celtic** theme.



Special guests will include:
Brian Hungerford, today's most revered professional story-teller in Australia. He has written many plays for ABC and BBC radio; he is a musician and well-known among folk circles and lovers of ballad poetry.

The f-Holes, an interesting name for this folk band which plays traditional music of the British Isles on violin, cello, accordion, tin whistle, mandolin, etc. (you will have to come along to find out what "f-Hole" means).

Clare Dunne requires no introduction, having given a talk at The Swedenborg Centre on Irish and Aboriginal Cultures and also opened the 1994 Spring Celebration. We will be very fortunate to hear Clare play her Celtic harp.

Singing, poetry reading, some "**wit & wisdom**", and **Folk Dancing** (we hope) will also play a part.

So organise your ticket without delay and avoid disappointment by ringing Lynne or Neville at The Swedenborg Centre - 9888 1066.

Also central to the Spring Celebration are the two associated competitions:

Swedenborg Prize for Religious Art - \$700 acquisitive.

Entry fee is just \$15. Closing date for submitting entry forms is now very close - **24th August**. You still have time to work on that drawing, painting, photograph, calligraphy, sculpture, stained glass work and printmaking piece, the theme being Spring, perhaps with a dash of Celtic magic.

Swedenborg Literary Award - Certificate Award.

All that is required is an original essay of between 1,000 and 3,000 words which provides contemporary insights into Swedenborg's writings, and to stimulate a search for applying them to useful ends. The date for submission is **17th August**.

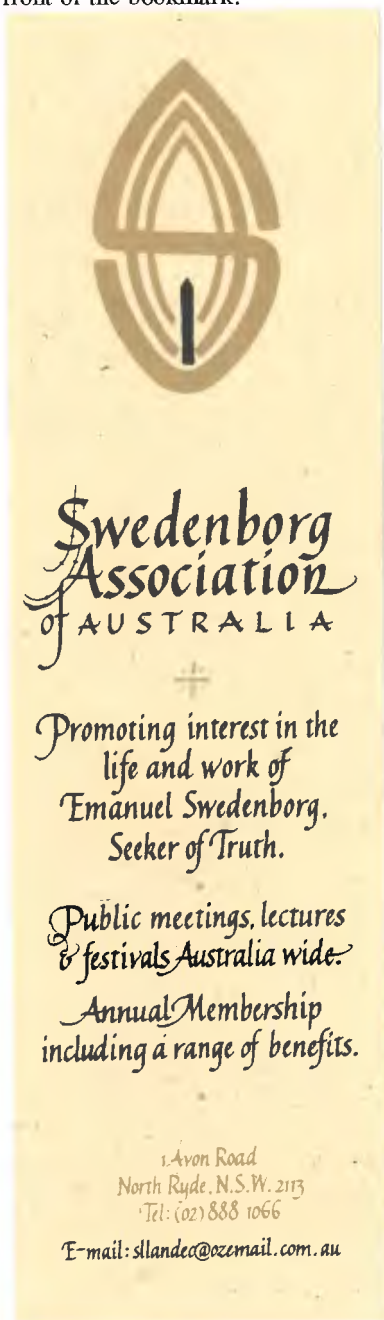
If you need information sheets/entry forms for either of these competitions, ring The Swedenborg Centre immediately.

*"It is not a matter of winning
but being in the race that counts"*

Bookmarks

Another of the projects initiated by the Board of Directors has been completed. Thanks go to **Wayne Kasmar** for seeing it through and to **Aurora Scarlett** for the design and artwork for the front side. The logo in gold is very striking. As members know, having received copies already, the bookmarks have been produced on three different coloured textured card. In total, 6,000 have been printed and will be distributed to the public in a number of different ways. This should heighten awareness in SAA.

The front of the bookmark:-



Information
Super
Highway

Reference has been made in earlier issues to information on Swedenborg being included on the Internet. We can now report that Australia has its own **Swedenborg Oz Home Page** which can be located through the URL:

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~sllandec>

Thanks to SAA members, **Waldis Jirgens** and **Neville Jarvis**, there is quite a lot of interesting detail available, including a section on the **Swedenborg Association of Australia**. Details about the organisation, Group convenors and activities/forthcoming meetings, etc. can be quickly located. If you have access to the Internet, or have a few minutes to spare when visiting a public library which has access, why not take a look. And you can go much deeper into the bowels of the Internet by following the connections to other Swedenborg pages around the world.

The **Swedenborg Oz Home Page** comes under the wing of The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre. There are eight sub-pages covering the Swedenborg Centre and its purposes and services, a short biography of Emanuel Swedenborg written by the late **Hector Haine** of Brisbane, tributes to Swedenborg, a summary of Swedenborg's Spiritual Philosophy, Swedenborg on Angels, Swedenborg on Chance, the Outreach talk (something that will regularly change), a full listing of books available and prices, and our detailed catalogue. There are order and enquiry forms which can be used automatically through the E-mail system or copied and sent by mail/fax.

There have been 300 visits to the site since 16th May 1996. We have been linked into over 20 search "engines" around the world, including the Australian ones, which makes the page quite easy to find even without knowing the location code. Already received has been a request to provide information from a NSW country enquirer; hopefully the start of many.

Bookmark reverse side consists of tributes to Swedenborg by 5 well known personalities - Jung, Conan Doyle, Carlyle, Norman Vincent Peale, and Helen Keller.

New Books - Advance News

"Everyone's talking About Angels!"

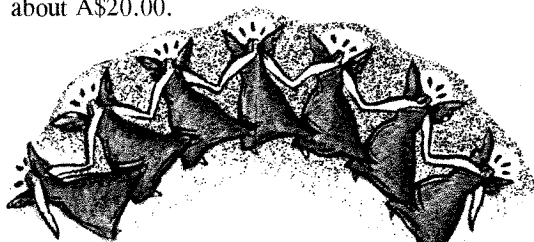
Well, that's certainly true so far as the Swedenborg Movement world-wide is concerned. About to be released in U.K. is the book *An Angel at My Shoulder* compiled by Glennyce Eckerley of the New Church (Swedenborgian) Training College in Manchester. It looks at the subject from a Swedenborgian perspective and incorporates some reports of angelic experiences and encounters, including at least one from Australia. It is being published by an independent publisher **JADE HOUSE**, which concentrates on more spiritually-based material. 10,000 copies have been printed and the major stationer and book retailer, **W.H. Smith & Son**, will be marketing it through their hundreds of stores around Britain. So that should certainly create interest.

It will be released in Australia on 27th October (an interesting date - see *What's Happening* on the back page) through an agent of **Jade House**. More news about the book, and a review, in the next issue.



AN ANGEL IS
SOMEONE WHO
BRINGS OUT THE
ANGEL IN YOU.

The Swedenborg Foundation in USA is about to release another book on angels: *Conversations with Angels: What Swedenborg Heard in Heaven* (edited by Leonard Fox and Donald Rose). It will be available in October also and it offers selections from Swedenborg's writings about the wisdom imparted to him via these angelic beings, bringing together many of the most beautiful and inspiring episodes. A paperback of some 160 pages, it will retail for about A\$20.00.



SAA member **Peter Black** picked up a copy of a miniature pop-up book entitled *Angels: A Celestial Celebration* whilst in London recently. It is a really delightful publication with six different "pop-ups" of angels singing, holding stars, playing instruments, playing with pets, delivering messages to those in this world, and bringing loved ones close together, "just a gentle reminder that Guardian Spirits come in all forms". There are 9 quotations

related to the pop-up pictures by well-known personalities including:

"It can in no sense be said that heaven is outside of anyone; it is within . . . Emanuel Swedenborg (1688 - 1772). Swedish Scientist, Philosopher, and Writer."

Angels: A Celestial Celebration is produced by Running Press Book Publishers in USA. We anticipate having copies for sale quite soon.



Swedenborgians
look beyond the
Near Death Experience

by
Leon Rhodes

Well, if everyone is talking about Angels, many people are still talking about near death experiences - according to writer, lecturer, professional motion picture animator, and SAA Member **Leon Rhodes** from USA, in his new, self-published book *Tunnel to Eternity*. Rather than dying away (excuse the pun!), interest in all aspects of the NDE is growing. That is real good news.

In just under 100 pages, Leon Rhodes provides a wealth of information about the NDE and, as a life-long member of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, draws in teaching from Swedenborg on the process of dying and the spiritual world. His interest in the NDE really began some 18 years ago, about the time of retirement, when he attended a lecture by Dr. Kenneth Ring (who endorses *Tunnel to Eternity*). Since then he has been closely involved with the work of IANDS (International Association for Near Death Studies) and has interviewed many people who have had these experiences. Once I started to read the book, I could not put it down. His conclusions include the following:

"Considering the history of mankind's intellectual development, it is apparent that people do change their minds about things. What was believed at one time is open to question, and we are capable of looking at the subject from another point of view which seems to fit better. It is my contention, then, that the message of the Near Death Experience is one of the profound awakenings of the ages."

The bad news is that you cannot buy a copy of the book. Leon published the book simply to give away copies until they are all gone. A magnificent approach but it is my hope that we may soon see a second edition more readily available to the general public. The book deserves, nay demands, that.

Neville Jarvis

CORRESPONDENCES

By James Lawrence (San Francisco)

Correspondence - a Swedenborgian theological term meant to depict the unique spiritual quality and power inherent in each particular piece or aspect of nature, with the assumption that nature is a self-revealing panorama of God's own nature. Every object in nature, from the massive to the minuscule, contains and communicates some specific divine feeling, some specific characteristics of God's essential nature. In thousands of references, Swedenborg provided detailed illustrations of correspondences. Much more ambitious than a merely sentimental picture of nature, Swedenborg's position is that these essential aspects of the divine have tremendous power. Their dynamic flow into the natural creation actually causes nature to exist. Each type of tree, flower, shrub, all bodies of water, types of skies, rocks, animals, the different parts of human anatomy; each and all embody as to their inmost genius some particular nuance of God's divine love and wisdom. Taken as a whole, the natural creation reveals the spiritual mind of God.



This was no mere placid principle: Swedenborg once likened the ratio of power between the spiritual and natural worlds to be ten thousand to one! The scientist-mystic posited a divine influx proceeding from an absolute and infinite divine *Esse* into a highly integrated series of degrees of descent into finite and increasingly dense dimensions of reality, terminating in what we experience as the natural world. Human beings, being immortal and essentially spiritual, live vitally, even viscerally, linked to the entire spectral range of these realms. The correspondences in nature are dynamic windows onto these higher dimensions and ultimately to union with the mind of God.

(originally published in *The Messenger*, USA)

QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE



According to the great Greek philosopher, Socrates,:

"The mind is like iron, it rusts when not used."

The mind is surely the most complex "organ" that any human has. Little is really understood about how the mind works. The majority of people associate it simply with the brain in terms of gaining, processing and using knowledge about themselves, their natural environment and the world. Most psychologists, even if they accept the place and role of a mind as something other than the brain, only recognise and analyse the more exterior behavioural manifestations of personality.

Certainly everyone knows (from observation if not experience) that the lack of mental stimulation quickly brings on a dullness in personality and ambition. We need to keep our mental facilities well oiled. Yet, it goes much deeper than that as Swedenborg shows in **Apocalypse Explained**, from paragraphs 401 and 1050².

Em. Swedenborg.

"There are two minds with a person, a spiritual one and a natural one. The spiritual mind thinks and perceives from the light of Heaven; but the natural mind from the light of the world . . . This mind is that which is called the natural man; but the former, the spiritual man. As the natural mind is below or outside the spiritual mind, it is therefore around it; for it wraps it round on every side; and therefore it is called (in the Word) 'sackcloth of hair'; for, when the spiritual mind . . . is closed up, the natural mind . . . is in thick darkness as to all things of Heaven and the Church; for all the light which the natural mind has, and which makes its intelligence, is from the light of the spiritual mind.."

"A person has two minds . . . the natural mind is opened with them by means of knowledges and the knowledges of truth and good; and the spiritual mind is opened up by means of a life according to them."

Submitted by Neville Jarvis

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

One of the benefits of SAA membership is a 20% discount on the regular price of nearly all books (excepting large sets), cassettes and tapes purchased through the various Swedenborg Book Centres around Australia. All you have to do when ordering in person, by phone or mail is to refer to your SAA membership. If you have not got a book catalogue and price list, you can get one from The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde. Below are titles which should be of interest.

Swedenborg: Buddha of the North

by D.T. Suzuki

Published by Swedenborg Foundation 1996.
134 pages, paperback.
Normal price \$17.50.
SAA Members price \$14.00

D.T. Suzuki not only brought Zen to the West, he introduced the Swedish mystic Emanuel Swedenborg and his writings to the Japanese. Newly translated and published in English for the first time, *Swedenborg: Buddha of the North* presents a general introduction to Swedenborg and then details parallels between Swedenborg's mystical insights and those of Buddhism. Suzuki found Swedenborg, who investigated the spiritual world with scientific care and intellect, to be a universally worthy example: "For you Westerners, it is Swedenborg who is your Buddha, it is he who should be read and followed!" The book was written after Suzuki had translated several of Swedenborg's writings into Japanese. Suzuki admired Swedenborg's message that spirituality is not a retreat from the world, but an engagement of it, and that death is a transition which is not to be feared.



Living With God

by Paul Vickers

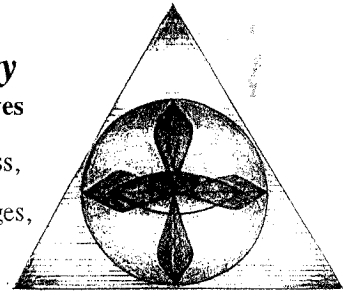
Published by Seminar Books (UK) 1996.
140 pages, paperback.
Normal price \$20.00.
SAA Members price \$16.00

In this book, Paul Vickers explores Christian belief thoughtfully and thoroughly, with caring compassion yet not sentimentally or sensationally, affirming the Bible and many traditional ideas in the light of Swedenborgian teachings. A former Principal of The New Church (Swedenborgian) Training College in UK, he draws on 50 years experience of Christian living, study and reflection, teaching, and pastoral care to throw light on the fundamental puzzles of life, and to illustrate how that light can help in life's challenges.

Spiritual Psychology

by Philip Groves

Published by
The Triam Press,
Sydney, 1996.
A4 size; 34 pages,
paperback.



Normal price \$15.00.
SAA Members price \$12.00

This is yet another most valuable series of lectures, given by Dr. Groves in Sydney during 1995. This is actually the first of two volumes under the same title and contains four lectures:

- ▶ *Introduction to Spiritual Psychology*
- ▶ *Regeneration & Human Potential*
- ▶ *'Die Before you Die'*
- ▶ *Information on Centres & Self Remembering*

The undercurrent for these lectures is Esoteric Christianity, being a gentle insightful blend of the Fourth Way (as taught by Gurdjieff and Ouspensky) and the teachings of Swedenborg.



Out of this World

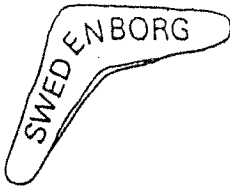
by Brian Kingslake

Published by Seminar Books (UK) 1996.
176 pages, paperback.
Normal price \$15.00.
SAA Members price \$12.00

This is a reprint of a book first published in 1978 and comes from the pen of the late and much loved Swedenborgian Minister, Brian Kingslake (1907 - 1995). It has been out of print for several years and this stimulating collection of talks is again available, now to honour the memory of a lively and learned man. Sub-titled *Lay-bys on the road to Heaven*, there are 25 short chapters dealing with topics such as "Hope and Despair", "Are you afraid?", "Blame nobody but yourself", "Making Choices", "The Spiritual Family".

To obtain these publications, simply contact The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE, 2113 (Tel/Fax 02 9888 1066) with your request referring to your SAA membership. Do not send any money; an invoice will accompany the book(s) including surface mail postage. You can pay by Bankcard, Mastercard or Visacard by quoting your card number, its expiry date and the exact name on the card. However, a surcharge of 5% (i.e. a reduction in discount) will have to be added to cover fees charged by the credit card organisations.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



For Group activities, contact your nearest Group facilitator - Sydney region (Kevin Attwater on 9634 7808); Melbourne which meets monthly on the fourth Friday evening (Chris Skinner on 9435 8599); and Perth which meets in the evening on the third Sunday of every month (Allan Uren on 271 0226). It would be good to see additional viable Groups established in new areas. If you can help, contact Kevin Attwater.

FORTHCOMING SAA PUBLIC MEETINGS

DIARISE NOW

MELBOURNE Fridays at New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mt. Waverley, 8pm
29th August (n.b. 5th Friday this month) *Relationship Between Love of Self, Love of the World and Love of a Higher Power* with Leslie Sheppard, Brisbane.

SYDNEY At The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde
Saturday August 17th, 2.30 pm, Annual General Meeting. See details on page 4.
Saturday 7th September, 7 pm. Celebration of Spring '96. See details page 8.
Friday 27th September, 7.45 pm. An evening of Poetry and Art, related to the Celebration of Spring Exhibition.
Friday 25th October, 7.45 pm. The Near Death Experience and Swedenborg with **Dr. Cheri Sutherland**, well known and respected author and researcher into the Near Death Phenomenon.
* * **Note: Change of Speaker and topic from published program** * *

Friday 22nd November, 7.45 pm Reincarnation and Swedenborg with **Kevin Attwater**.

Saturday 7th December, 10 am - 4 pm Dreams Seminar with **Brian O'Neill**.

FURTHER AFIELD - Just prior to the Olympic games, a five day *Angels Festival* was held in Atlanta which we hear drew a great deal of interest. It's Co-ordinator was a Swedenborgian and there was quite a lot of emphasis on Swedenborg's teachings on Angels and the Spiritual World. Many other groups also took part. We hope to be able to provide a report in our next issue.

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

a non-profit autonomous company:

- Promoting Emanuel Swedenborg as a scientist, philosopher and religious visionary through meetings, lectures, and other functions
- Making available information on topical subjects drawing on Swedenborg's own contribution to stimulate interest and discussion
- Establishing, operating and supporting branches around Australia
- Providing material for the purpose of maintaining local libraries

Everyone wishing to subscribe to these objects can take up membership. There is a once off joining fee of \$10.00 and an annual subscription of \$25.00 (concession rate of \$15.00).

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP include:

- + Ready access to pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through the availability of books, tapes, videos and films.
- + A free newsletter.
- + Participating in lectures, seminars, workshops and specific events.
- + A 20% discount at Australian Swedenborg book distribution centres.
- + Joining together as a group with other members living in close proximity.
- + A Swedenborgian based book, tape or video is sent to each financial member each year.

If you are interested in joining the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd., contact the Secretary at the Registered Office: The Swedenborg

Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113
(telephone 02 - 9888 1066 or 02 9871 1904) to obtain a membership leaflet.