

# Candela



Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc

Organisational Details are provided on the next page

May 2015

ISSUE 80

## "BOOKS"

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

I wish you a very warm welcome to this edition of the Candela. I hope this finds you well and ready to delve into this edition which has the theme of "books".

The history of the book is very interesting and ancient. The proto-books were quite different to what we now know as books, how they are currently evolving and what they might become. The recording of information was originally in pictograms and symbolic. It is considered that this came about as we transitioned from hunter gathers to farmers. There were very practical reasons for developing writing and numerals as life became more complex. Swedenborg writes about how it became necessary to record the Word in the form of books, some of which are mentioned in the Bible.

The physical form of books has changed over the thousands of years of the history



of writing and recording information, for either sacred or secular purposes. Books gathered together into libraries provide rich resources of data which is available for our communal benefit as knowledge. As we read more and more of Swedenborg's writings we can see that his books ranged in volume from from what may almost be considered as pamphlets to the multi volume tome the Arcana Coelestia. Swedenborg speaks about the ancient books and the books of the heavenly realms.

\* \* continued on page 2 \* \*

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Two copies of this Newsletter are being sent to members as usual, the second for giving away.

### Next Issue – August 2015

We are not going to have a theme for the next issue so feel free to write about any spiritual matter or about Swedenborg and his influence and ideas.

Please send me contributions by **19<sup>th</sup> July**

Email to [ruth@duckworth.me](mailto:ruth@duckworth.me) or post to the registered office. *Ruth*



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Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9888 1066 or browse [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au), go to 'Organisation' in the menu and click on 'Membership.'

*\* \* continued from page 1 \* \**

Historically books have been very passive. In our current technological age books are become more interactive. However no matter how interactive books become, the writing within is passive until it is changed as we seek to understand and make use of the data within.

So within this edition of the Candela you will find articles shared by the contributors which it is hoped will inspire you to more fully explore and seek to understand Swedenborg's writings contained within his many books.

Wishing you good health, happiness and the enjoyment of reading.

With best wishes

*Robert*

*A room without books is a body without a soul.*  
*Cicero*

## BOOK REVIEW

By Geoff Forster

One of my five favourite books is **WHOLE IN ONE** by David Lorimer, who has been president of the Swedenborg Society in the U.K, and also Programme Director of the U.K. Scientific and Medical Network.



The purpose of the latter is essentially to harmonize science and spirituality.

The range of topics considered in the book, and of the authors mentioned and discussed, is quite remarkable. There are various references to Swedenborg, which cover his achievements and doctrines, and even some surprising mentions of some of his discoveries in the heavenly realms.

A highlight is the considerable space devoted to the Near Death Experience and its significance.

He describes how in modern times the growth of scientific materialism has obscured the spiritual outlook for many people, and explains how this trend can be counteracted.

A highlight of the book is one passage where he outlines what he calls the likely post-mortem scenario - inevitably in rather general terms - yet very clearly.

Towards the end of the book one feature is the ethical mysticism of Albert Schweitzer.

The book could be summarized as a grand attempt to harmonize science, philosophy and spirituality, and I believe that it succeeds in this magnificently.

**Please Note:** The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the Swedenborg Association of Australia or its Committee.



## CONFESSIONS OF A BIBLIOPHILE

By Joe Vandermeer

I own a lot of books. Some friends who know me well would even call me a bibliophile.

But, curiously, I don't read a lot of them. In fact, I don't read that much. Perhaps it's that I love variety. A varied diet of subjects is what enthralls my reading habits, so my books are more like a smorgasbord of topics of which I like to graze.

Amongst the subjects, large sections are devoted to science subjects, and other significant topics are mythology and religion. When I say religion, the plural might be more appropriate, as its authors range from Sufis to Christian mystics, Buddhists, Hindu writers and Hebrew material. But I

can't help thinking of them as aspects of a single religion. I regard the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg as being similarly inclusive and universal. But that aspect of his work was not immediately evident to me. In fact, as with many subjects or authors, I usually enjoy them at first second-hand, learning from another person's enthusiastic referencing that so-and-so's ideas are worth exploring.

With Swedenborg's writings, my first readings of his work, as I also found with the writings of George Ivanovich Gurdjieff, it was difficult to see the essence and beauty of the material and ideas. With Swedenborg, I struggled with the older style language, with references to the Christian forms of spiritual expression of his day, and of his methodical repetition as he goes from the general to the particular and back. The Christian language was one barrier. Not that Swedenborg was to blame, but rather my

conventional interpretations of what to Swedenborg has another meaning entirely. I was unfamiliar with the concept of correspondences, let alone specific examples of them. I struggled to understand what he meant by "goods" and "truths", "goods of truth" etc. At first, the level of my mind that was digesting his writings was the reasoning intellect, and I saw his writings as rather philosophical.

Now it is a different story. Other people's love for Swedenborg and their explanation

of what he means helped. I loved Dr Wilson Van Dusen's style of explanation. So, gradually I came to love

Swedenborg's breadth and depth and began to appreciate that all my searching in philosophical

works in the past was reflected and answered somewhere in the vast coverage and depth of Swedenborg's works.

So I encourage others to persevere with his works, and to seek good translations, like the New Century Editions, or clear writers such as Van Dusen or George Dole, to familiarise yourself further with the material.

Applying the material to my life only gradually occurred as I realised that philosophically understanding it was insufficient and as the recognition of the truth of some of his points clashed with the way I was living my life. I would say it took me a good ten years of familiarity before it started to be actively incorporated into action. To speed up this effect, I can highly recommend joining a working group which is practice focussed, such as the excellent Logopraxis\* groups of reading, experiencing and sharing reflections. These are very productive







ways of getting to know and seeing the value of Swedenborg's writings.

I am gradually helping my personal library lose some weight, but Swedenborg's will remain the backbone of what I look toward for satisfying my spiritual hunger for good and true ideas.

Hopefully the next few years will see a slimmer set of books on my shelves, so that when I do my final house move into the spiritual world the books will no longer be required as they are being lived out.

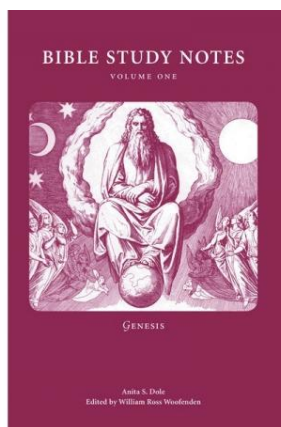
\* Logopraxis is a home study course organised by the Australian New Church College for those wishing to gain a deeper understanding of Swedenborg's writings and lead a spiritual life based on them. More information at <http://anccollege.org/>

*My early and invincible love of reading I would not exchange for the treasures of India.*

*Edward Gibbon*

### BOOK REVIEW

BY Wayne Kasmar



For many years now I have regularly dipped into my set of the **Dole Notes**, which is the name given informally to a six-volume teaching resource for those conducting bible study classes ranging in ages anywhere from the youngest Sunday school children through to adult level. It is an American New Church (Swedenborgian) publication written around sixty five years ago by Anita Dole.

The fact that it is still in print after so long says a lot about its quality, for despite its pragmatic nature, it is nevertheless a remarkable distillation of everything in Swedenborg's writings about the bible and the stories therein. Written in a simple and straightforward style, it is well worth checking out by anyone interested in Swedenborg or the bible.

There are some things to be aware of though. Firstly, it can feel sometimes like you're reading something from a different age; the values and attitudes of people having changed so greatly since it was written. Secondly, it is easy to find yourself quite overwhelmed by the great intensity of truth flooding your way. As it is the Word of God being explained, it is naturally going to be a lot to take in. But curiously, because the style is simple and straightforward you may not actually realise that you are struggling in this way.

Luckily, you can read instead the material covering the same bible story that is pitched more basically at children. I often find myself appreciating greatly reading these sections. They reflect the great beauty of the sphere of innocence with which children respond to bible stories. Still, I always find myself drawn back to the adults section to experience the thrilling richness of deep truth. To help me mentally assimilate it, I sometimes take a pen and paper and just copy out the text in a leisurely fashion. This allows me to examine closely exactly what has been written and gives me the time to ponder it deeply. That seems to help understand the limitless wisdom of God as revealed in his Word.

*These volumes can be bought or borrowed from the Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde. A new paperback version has been published.*

*In books lies the soul of the whole past time, the articulate audible voice of the past when the body and material substance of it has altogether vanished like a dream. - Thomas Carlyle*



## THE SPIRITUAL IDEA OF A BOOK

By Julian Duckworth

In the Bible, the name of which in Greek means 'books' there are a large number of references to books, but it's probably best not to think of them being paperbacks or even bound hardbacks, just 'writings'. If you go back to before say 1400 AD when paper became widely used in Europe – leading to books and the printing press – the Chinese created paper (as we know it) around 0 AD and Moslem contacts with China led to its growing use from around 1000 AD.

So when the Bible talks about 'books' and we see that to be understood as 'writing', it would have been on wax tablets (normal in Rome), or on papyrus, using flattened reeds glued side by side on top of and at right angles to a lower set of reeds. And the Jews used stitched skins which were wound on to two poles to make a scroll, still formally used today. The Book of Genesis was the scroll of Genesis.



In Revelation 1 verse 11 it says very boldly, after the opening vision of the Son of Man, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches that are in Asia." This and all the other references in the Bible to books and writing is something we should relate to spiritually, which we will now concentrate on.

When you write something down, you have recorded it. It is there and it will stay there. That can be extremely useful, even essential to some of us, so that we can refer back to it when we have forgotten what we thought or needed to do. It's now

permanent. This is really the main spiritual idea of books and writing.

A good example of this is the Biblical account of the Book of the Covenant in Exodus 24, "Then Moses took the Book of the Covenant in which he had written down all the words of the Lord and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has spoken to us we will do, and we will be obedient.'"

It is almost impossible to overstate the importance of this, especially when we relate it to ourselves. Notice how very emphatic this passage is – Moses writes it all and reads all of it aloud and the people who hear it all promise their commitment to it all. Now come back to us. There are situations in our lives where we may do something wrong simply because we don't know it is wrong. Suppose I decide to cut down a tree in my garden which is making my front room too dark, or breaking up the path with its roots, I might think because it's in my garden I'm perfectly entitled to do that, but then I get a stiff letter from the local council along with a heavy fine. Ignorance is not always bliss.

This, then, is the meaning and the importance of things being written down. They become part of our knowledge and a reference point for us. Spiritually, when we make a personal commitment to a particular belief or to a set of values to live by, it is like us writing them down in our mind, even though we do not write them as such. We stand by them.

I have always found that I remember things much better when I write them down, usually in the form of notes and headings. I found this extremely useful in exams especially where a lot of information had to be got hold of. Writing bullet points in a clear orderly presentation meant that my mind retained them very well, so well that sometimes I could trust that the sheet of paper would reveal its contents when I pictured it mentally, like a snap shot. Sometimes,



my mind could almost just read through it!

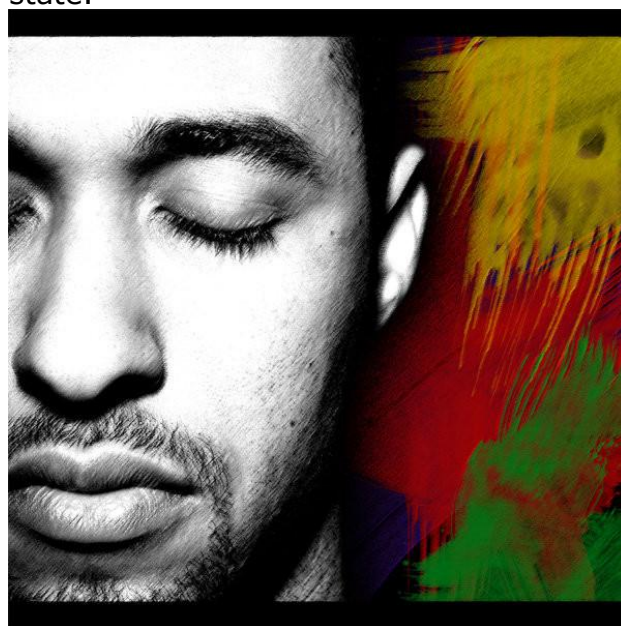
I might be unusual in being able to do that, but if I learned the same information only in my head from memory, it was much harder to recall it, even if I had gone through the stuff several times. So, if we take the same idea of 'writing' things down in our mind but now think about spiritual things like beliefs, values, insights, I think the things that we have confirmed as ours will come back to us more powerfully.

I am involved in a lot of writing and my experience is that before I start going on a given topic, there isn't much happening in my head. When I actually start writing – tapping on my keyboard – it's as if some floodgates open up somewhere inside and a whole cascade of ideas comes into play of related and relevant 'other ideas'. I have no idea why this happens; I can only think that I am tapping into a reservoir of material that was either already there or that these connections come into me to the extent that I allow myself to make use of them and get them caught in the writing.

I think that some of this 'flow through' is the reason why our most precise revelation from the Divine is in the form of a book such as the Bible, or through sacred texts in general, and including Swedenborg's writings. Such writings come into being through divine inspiration which is all about transmission. I can imagine that a writer like Isaiah or Swedenborg almost loses all sense of their own identity when they get caught up in writing, as point follows point and image follows image. The idea that God dictates it word for word is quite ridiculous. The idea that the writer ranges around in his mind for what to say next is equally absurd.

One of my favourite passages in Swedenborg's writings is in a book called 'De Verbo' which is Latin for 'About the Word'. It's a fascinating book on very exciting topics. One of the sections is on Enlightenment and I am going to quote from no. 29. "It is believed that people could become more enlightened if they

could have immediate revelation by talking with spirits and angels, but the reverse is the case. Enlightenment by means of the Word takes place in an interior way while enlightenment by immediate revelation takes place in an exterior way. The interior way is through the will into the understanding, the exterior way is through the hearing into the understanding. We are enlightened by the Lord by means of the Word to the extent that our will is in what is good, yet we can be instructed and enlightened by hearing, even though our will is in an evil state."

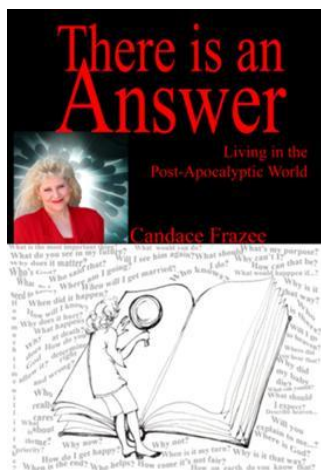


*Photo/artwork by Daniel Jobbins*  
<http://danieljobbinsart.deviantart.com>

I understand Swedenborg to be saying that the point of us having the Word is so that we will not be caught up in whatever fantasies and imaginations we may have at any given time, believing these to be true and revealed to us (Swedenborg talks about enthusiastic spirits coming along and confirming whatever we are enthusiastic about! (same passage)).

The point of a written Word is that it is there just as it was before and that we can come back to it when we are in whatever state we might be in at the time of returning. This, then, is the spiritual idea of a book – something that is there to bring us back into better connection and a true one at that.





## BOOK REVIEW

By Tracey Lee  
Glendenning.

THERE IS AN  
ANSWER- LIVING  
IN THE POST-  
APOCALYPTIC  
WORLD  
by Candace Frazee

This book, published in 2008 (the 250th anniversary of the release of "Heaven and Hell" by Emanuel Swedenborg) by Bunny House Books stands in a class of its own. It is personal, with Candace openly sharing many of the interesting details of her life, and it is also conversational in style. It is laced with humour and a deep and extensive understanding of the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, addressing many of the questions which people ponder in their spiritual journey through life. The book also contains many facts and details about Swedenborg's life and writings which Swedenborgians themselves may be unfamiliar with.

Candace lives in Pasadena, California, with her husband Steve Lubanski and is involved in a number of extraordinary activities. For a start, they both live in the only bunny museum in the world, containing over 32, 000 bunnies.



The museum is government approved with non-profit status and is celebrated in the Guinness Book of World Records. The story behind the inception of the museum is a journey in itself. Steve gave Candace

a plush bunny on their first Valentine's Day after Candace started calling him "Honey Bunny". Candace then gave him a porcelain bunny on their first Easter together. Then they gave each other a bunny present every holiday. Before long, they started giving each other a bunny present every day as Steve didn't want to wait for the holidays! Bunnies were also the theme of their wedding. As their collection of bunnies grew, they decided to open their home to the public and offer daily tours upon arrangement. I love this idea of giving bunnies to each other as it is a daily reminder to each other of the importance of innocence, vulnerability and softness, which I associate with bunnies and conjugal love.

Candace also produces a monthly not-for-profit newsletter, SILA (Swedenborg Information of Los Angeles). She has been doing this since 1988 and the newsletter is read all around the world. Candace was criticized by some New Church ministers and members when she started this mission: "Who do you think you are?! You're not a minister! A minister should check your answers before publishing them!!! You're making SILA too personal!!!! You shouldn't have your photo in SILA!!!!" To me, Candace is a heroine whom I regard with the highest esteem for the courage she has had to single-handedly pursue this mission of spreading the word about Swedenborg to the world. The fact that she is unashamedly open about her personal life serves to welcome people to approach her with their questions and to inspire their confidence. Candace welcomes anyone to write to her with their questions and you can do so by checking out her website, [www.candacefrazee.com](http://www.candacefrazee.com).

As many of us may recall, angels became something of a fad during the 1980's and 90's. Having been well-read in Emanuel Swedenborg- the #1 authority on angels throughout history- Candace was motivated to ensure that they were not just a passing fad but a trend, and so she created "The Angel Festival" in 1993. The festival is held in a "celestial-like atmosphere" in an outdoor park, and



celebrates everything to do with angels. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed like an angel. The festival was a hit and has been held every year since its creation.

After 20 years of receiving and answering questions relating to Swedenborg and his writings, Candace decided to publish this book, which incorporates her thoroughly researched answers to many of the questions which spiritual searchers have sent to her over the years. There are many photos and illustrations throughout the book, some of which came from Swedenborg's original writings. The areas which Candace covers in this book include:

- \*Acknowledgements
- \*Preface
- \*Introduction (introduces Candace and the events which have shaped her life and this book)
- \*Meet God's Ghostwriter (about Emanuel Swedenborg)
- \*Other Worlds (beyond this physical world)
- \*Who's God?



- \*Angels
- \*Cults (and false prophets)
- \*It's not difficult to get into Heaven
- \*Love
- \*Errors and Mistakes (addressing common misconceptions about Swedenborg)
- \*Real Dead People Swedenborg Visited
- \*Who's who in Swedenborgianism
- \*Bibliography
- \*Index

"There is an Answer" is a superb book for anyone of any age to read. It is entertaining, addresses many important life questions, and is an easy read. The fact that it incorporates letters and questions from many different people gives the book an eclectic feel which maintains the reader's interest. Candace herself is an inspiration to us all. Her consistent courage and confidence in promoting the life and writings of Emanuel Swedenborg to the world set an exemplary example of usefulness to us all.

## Swedenborg's words and terms

### **FREEDOM**

This word in the writings is very central to our whole life. We all want to be free.

To think and will from affection is to act freely according to what seems reasonable. Heavenly freedom is true freedom, which stems from self-compulsion. The more a person lives in and from the Lord, the more free he feels to be himself.

Spirits in hell are free to live as they wish though really they are slaves to their selfish way of life. Also they have to at times be prevented from harming others.

*I will live in perfect freedom, because I try to obey your teachings. Psalm 119:45*

### **RATIONAL**

He uses this to describe the highest level of our conscious mind, forming the bridge between the natural and spiritual levels of the mind. It is a mental plane on which light from heaven can illuminate what is in worldly light.

Our rational level of our mind needs to be open before we can start on the path of regeneration.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*  
Joshua 1:8





## Vale Chris Skinner

For readers of *Candela*, the name Chris Skinner will be quite familiar from reports over the years on Swedenborg Group activities in Melbourne. Not only was Chris a Foundation member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia, he also served on its Committee for a good number of years joining meetings by phone. The experiences he was able to relate to other members of the Committee were always useful and helpful in discussions on ways forward to make the Association more relevant to the membership.

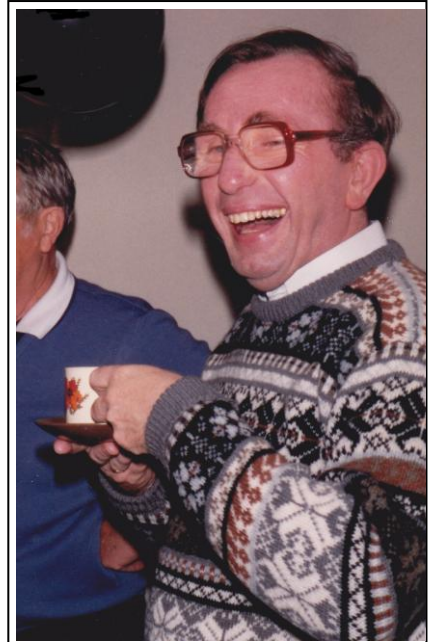
The Swedenborg Group in Melbourne began on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1992 when 12 people met together at Balwyn Library. This followed the first attendance by the Sydney Swedenborg Centre at a Festival for Mind, Body, Spirit in Melbourne, the stand theme being 'Life After Death'. Following the Balwyn Library meeting, and while still fully employed in business, Chris became convenor for the Group and over the next 22 years was effectively the sole organiser for meetings held on the last Friday night of each month. In the early days

especially, Chris himself was one of the main presenters at meetings aided by speakers within the Swedenborg movement from around Australia and sometimes further afield. The monthly spiritual topics reflected the various interests of those who attended regularly. In 1998 following early retirement from the business world and commencement of ministerial training for The New Church (Swedenborgian), Chris continued to source speakers and organise meetings. He was ordained in 2001 and accepted an invitation from The New Church in Victoria to become its Minister. From this time, Chris began networking with others involved in non-mainstream faiths, attending multi-faith activities. While still maintaining an essential focus of Swedenborg's teachings for the monthly meetings, Chris sourced interesting speakers from other backgrounds as a way of broadening interest in the Melbourne Swedenborg Group. His sincere contribution to harmony and mutual tolerance amongst all religious and spiritual groups greatly benefitted the Swedenborg Group as well as the Victorian Interfaith networks.

It was a devastating blow for Chris and his family when in December 2013 he was diagnosed with liver cancer. He spent the next 15 months courageously fighting this insidious disease to the end using both conventional and alternative treatment methods. For most of that time, he continued to carry through responsibilities he had assumed and didn't miss a Melbourne Swedenborg Group meeting. Sadly Chris lost the battle passing into the spiritual world on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 just two weeks before his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. While we personally and as an Association mourn the loss of Chris's physical presence, we know he is now exploring that country which he has read so much about and considered over the years, meeting family and friends who have already passed over and beginning to take up the greater use the Lord has called him for.

He takes with him all the wonderful qualities he has displayed since his earliest days as a boy growing up in an English coastal village which had a strong New Church presence. He brought these same qualities to Melbourne in 1970 to marry his fiancée, Margaret, who he had met in England. And what were these qualities? The welcoming broad smile; a magnetic warmth; a caring nature; a constant desire to help others when they needed practical advice or when struggling to avoid difficulties on which life can founder; and the ability to see the funny side of things, enjoy a joke, always with a hearty and infectious laugh.

**Neville Jarvis**, Melbourne. Life-long friend.



Chris enjoying a chat over refreshments



## Arabella's New Year

By Brian Kingslake

Taken from "Angel Stories"

Arabella was lying in bed on New Year's Eve, thinking over the happenings of the past twelve months, and making her resolutions. Suddenly a queer feeling ran down her spine. What was that strange patch on the wall near the head of her bed? She switched on the electric torch which she kept under her pillow, and saw to her amazement that there was a door in the wall which had certainly never been there before! She slid out of bed, put on her dressing gown and cautiously turned the handle. The door opened easily and she went through.

Beyond the door was a softly-carpeted passage which led to the foot of a magnificent flight of steps. A bright light shone down from above and she could hear subdued voices. Feeling very brave now, she tip-toed up the steps and found herself at the entrance to a kind of Public Library. Looking in through the windows she could see endless rows of bookshelves, full of leather-bound volumes, and wooden table at which a large number of people sat reading.

She entered timidly and approached a gentleman behind a counter. "What name?" he asked. "Arabella." He wrote it on a card which he handed to a young woman in a white overall. She smiled at Arabella and said, "This way please". The two set off down an avenue of bookshelves. Arabella was very shy, especially on account of her dressing gown and bare feet. But most of the other people in the library were also dressed in sleeping attire and no one took any notice of her.

"Here we are," said the guide. "A, AR, ARABELLA. There! Here is your book. Let's open it up on this table." "But – what book is it?" asked the girl, mystified. "Your *Book of Life*, of course. Didn't you want to see it?"

"My *Book of Life*?" gasped Arabella. She had once heard a sermon on the Book of Life and had often thought about it. "Do you mean the Book kept by the Recording Angels, showing my good and evil deeds? Can that be here, in this library?"

The young woman smiled. "Yes, this is the Records Office; and we are called the Recording Angels. But we are only librarians, you know. We don't write the books; you people write your own books. Now, sit down at this empty table, and I'll show you last year's page. There's a page for every year, and at midnight, on New Year's Eve, we turn over a new leaf."

When the great leather cover opened, Arabella was more surprised than ever, as the book was full of her own handwriting: just baby scribble on the first three or four pages, then a few straggling childish sentences, and so on – down to the thirteenth page, which was closely packed with pencil notes in her present neat school girl script.

"When did I write all this?" she gasped.

"You are doing it nearly all the time," explained the librarian.

"Whenever you have a thought and you wish to bring it into an action, you record that thought in this book." Arabella examined the page that was open before her. "How is it that some of the writing is much darker and plainer than the rest?" "Whenever you think the same thought twice, it gets written in on top of where you thought it before. Some of these very black sentences have been written and re-written over and over again."

Arabella began to read, and was horrified to discover that the thoughts she had written most plainly were unkind and nasty and selfish. She went red in the face, and put her hand over one deeply-written sentence which was really too awful to repeat.

"It's no use covering it up!" laughed the librarian. "You wrote it, and there it is!"

She grew nervous as her eyes fell on other dreadful sentences, written and re-written in her own tell-tale hand. "How soon will it be," she asked, "before I can turn over a new leaf?" The librarian glanced at a big clock on the wall. "Only a few minutes to midnight now. But don't be too upset, dear. Not all the things you have written are bad. Here, for instance, is a lovely thought."

"Yes, but it hasn't come out so clearly!"

Soon the clocks of the town began to strike, and the church bells to chime. People in the street were firing crackers and beating dustbin lids to welcome in the New Year. The librarian took the book from Arabella and turned another page. The girl sighed with relief to see it all white and blank. She would take more care in future with what she wrote.

But, wait a minute! The new page was not so clear as she had imagined. It was indeed covered with little indentations and grooves. She could read them quite easily when the light was in the right position. "Yes," said the librarian, "The words have come through rather, haven't they? You see, the sheets are very thin. If you press heavily when you write, it's bound to score the pages underneath."

Great tears started into Arabella's eyes. "What can I do about it?" she asked.

"Don't worry, dear!" said the librarian, kindly. "The indentations will soon get pressed out, so long as you don't write over them again. The trouble will be that your pencil will tend to slip along the old grooves and blacken them in. Here, for instance, I can read this clearly on the new sheet: *Miss Perkins is a cat. I'd love to smack her face.*"

"She's our school teacher," muttered Arabella. "Yes, I know," said the lady. "Well, you've written those words so many times that the paper is almost cut right through! It will be difficult for you to avoid following the same grooves this year. ...**go to last page**





## Discounted Items for the Quarter

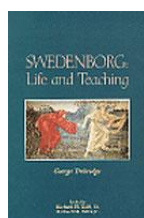
As a reader of **Candela**, if you order the following titles in the May to July 2015 Quarter, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (while stocks last). (see the discounted price and postage on the form below)



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- **Brisbane:** Ian Arnold on (07) 3841 2552;
- **Melbourne:** Michael Chester on (02) 9888 1066; email: michael@swedenborg.com.au;
- **Sydney region:** Michael Chester on (02) 98881066; email: michael@swedenborg.com.au;

It would be good to establish Groups in other areas. If you can help, please contact Michael Chester.

Our website is updated regularly. Go to meetings on [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) for more details. Please let us know if you would like to be informed via email.

**Brisbane:** New Church Hall, 21 Agars Street, Rosalie.

**Melbourne:** New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley.

Last Fridays commencing 8pm.

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June **Affinity** by Julian Duckworth

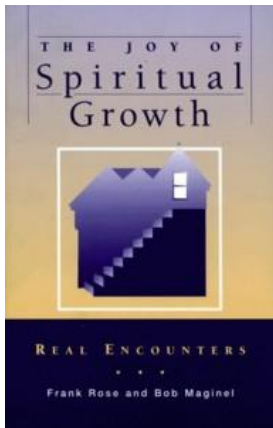
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> July **Cognitive Dreams and the Collective Unconscious** by Paul Kiritsis

**Sydney:** Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde. Commencing 7:45 pm.

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jun **How to think smarter and act more wisely?** by Joe Vandermeer

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> July **Loving Intuition** by Alexandra Browne-Hill

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### **The Joy of Spiritual Growth** by Frank Rose and Bob Maginel.

Frank Rose and Bob Maginel, drawing on decades of group work, provide people seeking spiritual growth and recovery a practical handbook for reaching their goals. Recognizing that spiritual growth can be stymied by materialism and external preoccupations, the authors offer tasks and exercises that can be used repeatedly to help tame the "wild beasts," the negative emotions that can control our lives and destroy our relationships with others.

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.....Continued from page 10

But, if you try hard and force your pencil to write something different – something much nicer, then, in time, these old indentations will get pressed flat, and the nice new sentence will take their place."

"None of my kindest thoughts seem to have come through," moaned Arabella. Then an idea struck her. "How many more pages have I to go?" she asked. The librarian looked serious. "That I cannot tell you. But the final page will bear the impression of all the thoughts you have written deeply on all the former pages. This will be the record of your character, and everyone will be able to read it."

Arabella was all excitement. "Will you lend me a pencil please?" she asked. "What for?" "I want to write a beautiful thought down now, and press so deeply that it will score right through the next eighty pages. (I'm sure to die before I'm ninety three!) It will be a nice thought. I shall write: *Arabella loves everybody in the world, even Miss Perkins.*"

"No," said the librarian sadly. "I'm afraid you can't do anything like that up here in the Records Office. All writing must be done downstairs. That's where a lot of people make a big mistake. They swarm up here on New Year's Eve, determined to write all sorts of wonderful things on the new page of their Book of Life. But, well, it can't be done, except during their daily lives in the world. Now, hurry along back to your bedroom, there's a good girl. Have a decent night's sleep, and then tomorrow you can start writing your beautiful sentence. But you will have to write it a great number of times if it is to mark through eighty pages! Now, goodbye, and don't forget to shut the door after you."