

VITALSIGNS







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## Submissions

Submissions to *Vital Signs* are welcome. Please submit materials to [vs@iands.org](mailto:vs@iands.org). Please use Word format for attached documents. All submissions are subject to *Vital Signs* editorial review and approval processes.

## Suggestions & Feedback

We welcome your questions, comments, or suggestions. Your opinion matters!

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In gratitude for both  
Nuestro Ñānamoli's tapestry cover photo  
and JeffMara's Youtube permission.

To view or order tapestry prints visit:

[Nuestronanamoli.com](http://Nuestronanamoli.com)

Instagram: [@nuestro\\_nanamoli](https://www.instagram.com/nuestro_nanamoli)

JeffMara Podcast with Nuestro Ñānamoli:

<https://youtu.be/Jo1rq2zFiOs?feature=shared>

Contact JeffMara if you are an NDEr and would  
like to apply to be on his show:

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Founded in 1981, the International Association for Near-Death Studies, Inc. (IANDS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The organization is dedicated to encouraging scientific research, education, and support regarding the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual nature and ramifications of near-death and related experiences. IANDS associates comprise a broad audience from around the world, including experiencers; researchers; medical, mental, social, and religious/spiritual healthcare professionals; educators; and the general public. For more information, or to become an IANDS member, visit <https://iands.org>.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## The 2024 Spring Symposium and IANDS's Beautiful Global Dance



On Saturday, April 20, IANDS held its fourth annual Spring Symposium entitled *Shared Death Experiences: What Healthcare Providers—and Everyone—Need to Know*. Symposium attendees included healthcare providers—medical, mental, social, spiritual/religious—many of whom could earn up to 6 hours of continuing education—and the public.

As I write this message, 35 attendees have submitted their program evaluations, with overall Symposium evaluations 91.4% *excellent* and 8.6% *good* – and none indicating merely *adequate* or *lacking* in some way.

Reflecting on everything involved in the Symposium, I get the image of a beautiful global dance. Consider these dancers whose involvement was vital:

- Planning Committee

- Lewisville, TX - Chair: Jan Holden, EdD, LPC-S, ACMHP
- Santa Barbara, CA - Co-Chair: William Peters, MA, MEd, LMFT, ACMHP, Founder and Research Director of the Shared Crossing Project, IANDS's primary Symposium partner
- San Antonio, TX - Fr. Martin Burnham, PhD, PSS – representing IANDS's Symposium partner, the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling, to provide continuing education to licensed counselors
- San Antonio, TX, and Parker, CO - Debbie James, MSN, RN, CCRN, and Judith Mandalise, MEd, RN, who arranged to provide continuing education for nurses
- Cincinnati, OH - Janet Melcher, PhD, LISW-S, who arranged to provide continuing education for social workers
- Durham, NC - Ginette Nachman, PhD, who investigated providing continuing education for psychologists

- Marketing Team

- Longmont, CO – Maryann Sperry, BAEd, who helped design the website, created ads for *Vital Signs*, created the Symposium PowerPoint master, and sent email announcements
- Summerfield, NC – Angela Harris, BAEd, who advertised the Symposium through IANDS Groups and Events emailings

- Tech Team

- Paoli, PA - Daniel Endy, BSCE, who helped create the website and co-produced the Symposium
- Tucson, AZ – Howie Hibbs, MSgt, USAF, Retired, who co-produced the Symposium
- Chapel Hill, NC – Robert Mays, BSc, who did all things related to registration and, as IANDS's invaluable Treasurer, all things financial

- IANDS office

- Durham, NC – Susan Amsden, BSc, and Teresa Blemings, BA, RN, who fielded questions

- Program Participants

- Healthcare Professionals
  - » Lowell, MA – Stephanie Bradbury, MDiv
  - » Medway, MA – Colleen Cove, BSN, RN, CDP, CADDCT
  - » Halifax, Nova Scotia – David Maginley, MDiv, CSCP
  - » Salt Lake City, UT – Jeff O'Driscoll, MD
  - » Georgetown, TX – Nancy Philpott, MSHP, RN, LVN
  - » Santa Barbara, CA – Monica Williams, MD
- Shared Death Experiencers
  - » Leesburg, VA – Martha Calihan, MD
  - » Bern, Switzerland – Sarah Friederich
  - » Gig Harbor, WA – Kathy McDaniel
  - » Burke, VA – Sharon Prentice, PhD
  - » Santa Barbara, CA – Madelyn Swed, LMFT
  - » Nellysford, VA – Scott Taylor, EdD

The Symposium dance card was filled by our 122 registrants who hailed from all over the US and from Australia, Canada, Latvia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, and the UK.

I am awed by the cooperation of all the participants in the Symposium endeavor. I so admire your capabilities and deeply appreciate your collaboration. My heartfelt thanks to all my dance partners from across the US and around the globe – and I look forward to dancing again at some future IANDS event.

Janice Holden, EdD, LPC-S, ACMHP

## Nuestro Ñānamoli's NDE Peace Tapestry

Nuestro Ñānamoli was floating on his back in a small North Carolina lake, immersed in a state of mindfulness and stillness that ignited a profound sense of gratitude. This marked a stark contrast from the past three months, which had been consumed by intense heartache following a breakup with his fiancée. Seeking solace, he had come to this lake to unwind and spend time with friends.

Feeling the need to rejoin his companions on shore, he swam towards an old, rickety dock adorned with a tall, slick waterslide. Ascending the steps, he launched himself down the slide, plunging headfirst into the cool water.

Immediately, he struck the lake bottom which turned out to be only 2-feet deep. He felt intense pain as though he'd been struck by lightning, and found himself underneath the water unable to breathe, his body convulsing beneath the surface. Then a voice within him, which wasn't his voice, said, "Slow down," and he listened. Standing up, feeling sideways and unable to walk straight, he suddenly saw six luminous 'stars' the size of basketballs, which felt as though they each had a personality. He states, "It felt as though they had each turned towards me, and the understanding that I suddenly had was when we hit our head, we see stars." The stars seemed to get very large, and he felt they were energies, guides, or spirits that turn towards us when we are close to death, to see if we need help.

Nuestro, a former Army Ranger from the 1st Ranger Battalion, knew from his military training that he was going into shock, and he told his friends that he needed to go to the hospital immediately, but they moved him to a bench to lay down. He heard the commanding voice from within saying, "You need to go to the hospital now!" From the time he broke his neck to the moment he arrived at the hospital, he employed meditation practices which he had been practicing for seven years. He says, "I trained for war and found war, and now I would like to train for peace." He began to find peace—so much so that he had devoted himself to becoming a Buddhist scholar, and was soon taking the first steps to becoming a Buddhist monk.



After the scans of his spine were complete, the surgeon told Nuestro that he was the luckiest guy in the hospital as he had fully shattered his neck, but his spinal cord was miraculously intact. The complicated surgery and team was scheduled for the next day, and he was required to sign a release form acknowledging that he could awaken fully paralyzed or may even die. Realizing he was near death, he used all his mental strength to be incredibly present. He believes that this allowed what happened next to transpire.

The next conscious memory he has is of standing at a doorway in deep space where stars surrounded a 15-foot-tall doorway.

There were six tall beings of light standing in the doorway facing him. They wore flowing robes silhouetted in bright white light that radiated out into a peaceful neon blue. They were incredibly wise and loving. They had a commanding presence, and he felt honored to be in front of them. He felt they had just finished some kind of tour of the cosmos or a type of communication

download. The meeting with the beings concluded with an agreement: Nuestro wouldn't remember anything he'd seen, and he needed to return to earth to "do the work." He found himself turning away from them but states, "it's not quite the right way to describe it, because I had no body."

His awareness was turned toward the Earthly Realm, and he found himself in a long hallway or tunnel, moving forward, and he felt like he was running. He felt like he was a spinning rainbow man with rubber "Gumby" arms, an image he later sewed this into his tapestry. He felt like a ball of energy racing towards his body on the stretcher, and could see himself getting closer and closer. He could see the nurses in the room doing various things to his body. Merging with his body, his physical eyes opened, but his overall perception and vision of the room never changed. He immediately lit up with joy as he realized he was not paralyzed. In that moment, he did not yet know what his work was to be, or who these beings were.

Returning home from the hospital, he slowly regained his strength, and had an overwhelming desire



to embroider a tiny red rose, which was totally foreign to him. The only sewing he had ever done was in the military, when he stitched his Army Ranger tab into his patrol cap. He felt that this mission of embroidery had been bestowed on him by the beings. As he began weaving red and green thread into a small piece of black cloth, he describes getting downloads of information of what he had seen when he left his body. He felt a sense of ease and purpose, and his sewing expanded into a tree, butterflies, and a dog.

Over the next three years, the beings began to teach him who they were and what his work was to be. He realized that the six luminous beings were the same beings that were with him when he was injured at the lake. The tapestry that was beginning to take shape would be seen by people as a part of his mission, which he felt the beings of light were channeling through him. He was instructed to choose a silent mantra that would imbue each thread with peaceful energy. As he sewed, he mentally recited the mantra, “May this stitch bring peace to many people.”

His friends found it difficult to accept that he was now embroidering flowers. Thankfully, a good spiritual buddy living in Costa Rica, offered his guest house to Nuestro so he could continue sewing and healing. As his strength gradually returned, he began to sew from morning to night. Soon, his savings ran out, and he thought that perhaps it was time to become a monk. He shaved his head and sent his photo to a monastery who replied that, because of COVID, they would accept him after six months. Packing up his tapestry, he moved into the cheapest rental he could find on the beach in Costa Rica. With his money running out, he had to budget whether to buy food or thread. One day, while sewing on the beach, a man walked up and shared that he was once a Tibetan Buddhist monk, but was now happily married. He taught Nuestro that being a monastic was not the only way to progress on the spiritual path to Enlightenment. Another way is to have a partner—to really share your love with somebody like this monk had done. Nuestro felt the man was telling him to find love, and he soon did.

Through his new wife, Jeya, Nuestro was introduced to a 79-year-old woman named Amanda Feilding, who is heralded as one of the most prolific pioneers in the psychedelic field. Amanda told Nuestro that her godfather was a Buddhist monk named Ñānamoli, who translated the *Visuddhimagga*, “*The Path of Purification*,” a text written 1,600 years ago by a mysterious monk named Buddhaghosa. Nuestro was shocked. The only text he

brought with him to Costa Rica was this book! Amanda shared how her godfather had been a soldier in WWII, and later ordained as a monk. Yet, before he was a soldier and before she was born, he embroidered flowers into chairs that were still in her dining room in England.

Nuestro traveled to Amanda’s estate in Oxford to see the chairs. When he saw the flowers, he realized that these were the exact flowers he had sewn above the meditating Rainbow Man in his tapestry and that he had been that man in another lifetime. Following this encounter with the chairs, he spent time seated in the glow of the fireplace, sewing in the same spot that Amanda’s godfather had sewn. He continued to remember moments of Ñānamoli’s life and came to the realization that we humans are constantly in a state of change.

Nuestro then traveled to a small island in a lagoon in Sri Lanka, to visit the monastery he remembered from his previous life. There, he related his story to the monks. Amazingly, one of the monks remembered being Nuestro’s teacher in his past life, and the two men sat in silent meditation once again.

Nuestro now gets the sense that the times we live in are shifting, and that the immovable solid structures



He BROKE HIS NECK, Crossed Over & Came Back To Weave An AMAZING TAPESTRY - Near Death Experience

of the world are falling away in order to birth a new awakening on the planet. We are being increasingly compelled to enter the inner chamber of the cave—ourselves—and he has depicted this with a stairway going into the cave of wisdom. He now lives in Asheville, North Carolina with his wife and son, where he continues to sew daily, weaving a tapestry to capture the mind and ignite the heart with peace.

Watch his JeffMara video interview (click on video image) to hear what he learned from UFO inhabitants and much more.

# IANDS CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS



**Rebecca Austill-Clausen, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA**

## **Reiki Level I Certificate-Provided Training: Discover Your Natural Healing Energy and Enhance After-Death Communication**

**Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**

*(\$125 /\$150 separate registration required)*

Rebecca has been using Reiki for 28 years. She has taught thousands of medical professionals and all others the joys of Reiki healing. Reiki can be learned on one day. Experience one-to-one healing sessions as you receive and share Reiki with multiple partners. Learn to give Reiki to yourself, family, friends, clients, colleagues, animals, and even plants. Reiki's unconditional LOVE facilitates communication with those living in the afterlife. Reiki has been taught at every in-person American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference since 2015. Becky is thrilled to provide Reiki training at IANDS's Annual Conference for the fourth time. Access your self-healing abilities at this highly effective experiential workshop.

*Rebecca is an Occupational Therapist, Fellow of the American OT Association, and Reiki Master. She teaches Reiki at national conferences and universities, along with teaching after-death communication both in-person and online. Becky had a profound spiritual transformative experience (STE) and shared death experience (SDE) when she discovered the ability to communicate with her deceased brother even though she initially had no psychic or spiritual awareness. She has initiated five private practices including one that grew to a staff of 350 therapists. Becky is the Healing Coordinator at IANDS conferences and is honored to serve on the Ethics Committee. Her award-winning book Change Maker, How My Brother's Death Woke Up My Life will be available at the IANDS bookstore.*



**Suzanne Giesemann**

## **Making the Connection with Higher Consciousness**

**Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

*(\$80 separate registration required)*

Evidence-based mediumship reveals that you don't have to die to experience the same greater reality as those who have had near-death experiences (NDEs). There is a better way! It is called The Awakened Way®. Join Suzanne as she explains why anyone can connect with loved ones and higher beings in the non-physical realms and can gain the same powerful benefits that have transformed so many experiencers. This fast-paced workshop will include proven tools for living a consciously connected and divinely guided life.

*Suzanne Giesemann is a metaphysical teacher, author, and Messenger of Hope, recognized on the Watkins' list of the 100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People. She is a former U.S. Navy Commander who served as a commanding officer and as aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Today, she guides people to the awareness of a greater reality. She has published 14 books, Six Hemi-Sync recordings, and YouTube videos with over nine million views. She produces the Awakened Way app and hosts the popular Messages of Hope podcast. Her gift of multidimensional communication has been verified by noted afterlife researchers, and her messages bring not only hope but also healing and love that go straight to the heart.*

**For more information, visit the IANDS Conference website at: [conference.iands.org](https://conference.iands.org)**

# IANDS CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

**Anita Moorjani**

## **Near-Death Experience, A Guided Journey with Anita Moorjani**

**Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

*(\$80 separate registration required)*



Join Anita on a transformative expedition into the realm of the other side. Connect with your higher self, guides, and deceased loved ones as you are comforted, inspired to reevaluate life's priorities, and offered a deeper understanding of life, death, and the interconnectedness of all beings. This experience will be followed by tips for integration and a Q&A.

*Anita Moorjani is a renowned author and spiritual speaker known for her transformative journey beyond the brink of death. While living in Hong Kong, Anita battled end-stage cancer before experiencing a remarkable near-death experience (NDE) that shifted her perspective on life. Her bestselling memoir, Dying to Be Me, chronicles her profound journey and miraculous healing. Its popularity established her as a premier NDE expert. A beacon of inspiration, Anita travels the world sharing her insights on self-love, consciousness, and the interconnectedness of all things. Her teachings empower others to embody the highest version of themselves and live vibrant, authentic lives. Anita continues to be a guiding light in the realm of spiritual exploration.*

**Nancy Rynes, BSc**

## **Shifts Through Time: Practical Time Travel**

**Friday, August 30 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

*(\$40 separate registration required)*



Have you ever wondered about the possibility of living other lives? Do you want to try out a very light level of regression before committing to an in-depth session? Let's have a little bit of fun together as a group and dive into some practical time travel experiences while we explore the possibilities of living multiple lives. Nancy, a Level 2 Certified QHHT Past Life Regressionist, will lead everyone on a quick trip through time with a group regression. Each participant will have their own experience of another life as Nancy helps you achieve a light trance to explore both the past and the future in a safe and fun setting. Make sure to bring a notebook and pen to jot down notes, and perhaps even a blanket to stay warm and cozy.

*Nancy Rynes is a geoscientist, archaeologist, artist, and explorer of all things weird and wonderful. As a near-death experiencer, remote viewer, QHHT regressionist, and energy worker, Nancy seeks to combine her innate curiosity about the nature of reality with a sense of discernment and groundedness learned as a geoscientist. She strives to make both scientific and "paranormal" topics easier to understand for everyone, Nancy has been featured on NBC TV's The TODAY Show, PBS Television, and the Netflix series Surviving Death. She is a popular keynote speaker and workshop leader and has appeared on many podcasts and radio shows.*

For more information, visit the IANDS Conference  
website at: [conference.iands.org](https://conference.iands.org)



# IANDS CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

**Ellen Wier, MA, MT-BC**

## **A Glimpse of Heaven with Crystal Bowls and Musical Imagery**

**Friday, August 30 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
*(\$40 separate registration required)*



“A Glimpse of Heaven with Crystal Bowls & Musical Imagery” is not just a workshop; it is a testament to the healing power of music, born from divine wisdom shown to me during my near-death experience and mystical events in my life. Designed to deepen our connection to the higher self, this process engages participants with the healing frequencies of crystal singing bowls and vocal toning to align the body’s energy centers, as they immerse themselves in guided music imagery. They will work with theta brainwave states and altered states of consciousness, allowing for a journey into deep meditative states and spiritual awareness. This unique combination not only supports personal healing but also fosters a connection with the collective consciousness, leveraging a powerful shared vibration for communal enlightenment and growth.

*Ellen Wier (Formerly Whealton) is a near-death experiencer, light worker, transpersonal and music therapist, healer, workshop presenter, and educator who uses numerous modalities such as music, crystal singing bowls, chanting, visualization, and meditation in her practice. She experienced an NDE at age 12 after being kicked in the head by a horse. During that time she vowed to come back to heal people with music, after which she experienced tremendously impactful spiritual downloads before being drawn back to her body by music. Ellen has hosted a spiritual series on the AwakeTV network, and her work was highlighted by Jack Canfield, New York Times bestselling author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul books*

**Rev. Kimberly Braun, MA, CSP**

## **Live a Life of Miracles**

**Saturday, August 31 at 5:15 - 7:15 pm**  
*(\$40 separate registration required)*



You are a living expression of the Divine; therefore, your life is meant to be an awakening to yourself as Love Incarnate and to give you the continuous satisfaction of being the flow of the Divine and being an agency of the miraculous. Join Kimberly, who discovered this liberating wisdom through her NDE and mystical experiences, for an experiential workshop that will provide the inspiration, inquiry, and exercises for you to touch your very center and understand how to live from this place more consistently in every moment of your life. The Divine Love of your being is pulsing to dissolve all fear, but how does this happen and what does it mean to be part of this process? The Divine Love of your being is inspiring your greatest life, a life of miracles, but how do you surrender all that limits you from this awakening? And how do you step in with great freedom and great intimacy? Come play with Kimberly and discover new answers to these eternal questions.

*Rev. Kimberly Braun, impelled from her earliest childhood experiences and her NDE at the age of 19, spent over a decade as a Carmelite monastic nun exploring the path of Presence and then obtained her master’s in theology and formal ordination where she explored the many facets of self-realization and the essence of Being. She lives to inspire others to connect to, and live from, Divine Love at their center with great freedom and joy. Kimberly is a TEDx speaker, Reiki Master, international speaker and retreat leader and former meditation faculty at the renowned Omega Institute who has served tens of thousands through her writing, speaking, retreats, online courses, and community. Her latest books are Miracles in the Naked Light and Beloved Found, Poems from the Source.*

For more information, visit the IANDS Conference website at: [conference.iands.org](http://conference.iands.org)





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## NEW THINKING ALLOWED DIALOGUES BOOK 1

During the past five decades, psychologist and parapsychologist Jeffrey Mishlove has been dialoguing with scientists, academics, experiencers, historians and mystics on the subject of life's biggest questions, the mind beyond the brain and the nature of reality.

This anthology titled *Is There Life After Death* includes luminaries in the genre such as Eben Alexander, Miranda Alcott, Stafford Betty, Michael Cremo, Alan Huguenot, Leslie Kean, Betty Kovács, Alexander Moreira-Almeida, Vernon Neppe, and a foreword by James Tunney.



Jeffrey Mishlove, Ph.D.



White Crow Books

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copy here ▶





**BOYCE BATEY, 90, REMEMBERS IANDS**  
by IANDS President Emerita, Nancy Evans Bush

## Salutation of the Dawn

Listen to the salutation of the dawn:

Look to this day,

For it is life,

The very life of life.

In its brief course lie all the verities and  
realities of existence:

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is but a dream

And tomorrow is only a vision.

But today, well lived,

Makes every yesterday a dream of  
happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Such is the salutation of the dawn.

Boyce Batey, who died last month at 90, was among the staunchest supporters of near-death studies from its earliest days and left a substantial bequest to IANDS.

Batey's enduring passion was inquiry into anything that might be called paranormal. He ranged through it all: near-death, past-life, Yoga, consciousness itself. He was an active ghostbuster and hypnotherapist. Bruce Greyson commented recently, "He was an incredibly well-read scholar of all things arcane. I visited his home once, and in his basement, hanging from the ceiling by a chain, was a wooden bench. He said that was a "witch's chair," and was spun around on the chain until the sitter entered into an altered state of consciousness and received messages from the beyond."

To it all, he brought sharp skills as a senior actuary with the Aetna Life Insurance Company: analytical problem solving, pattern searching in complex data, and statistical rigor. He trusted fact more than supposition. As John Audette remembers, "From the outset, 'Boyce held the strong belief IANDS could do much to provide the world with compelling evidence that consciousness does indeed survive physical death.'"

Well before IANDS existed, Batey was already a fixture among Raymond Moody's followers.

He was active with the infant organization which became IANDS and was on the editorial board of *Anabiosis*, soon retitled the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. As for the Board of Directors, it might be a toss-up whether Boyce Batey or Diane Corcoran spent more years serving in that capacity.

Greyson added, "He was always the consummate gentleman. I never heard him utter an unkind word about anyone, or raise his voice for any reason, no matter how sorely he was tested. And he often bore criticism with a gentle smile and a twinkle in his eye. He was as impeccable in his grammar and vocabulary as he was in his dress and presentation... He began every Board meeting—and many IANDS conferences in the early days—with the *Salutation of the Dawn*, by the 4th century Sanskrit sage Kālidāsa.

Thank you, Boyce!

**Join the Bequest Society—giving to IANDS supports IANDS both now and for the future. Click link for more information:**

<https://iands.org/about/helping-iands/iands-bequest-society.html>



## IN MEMORIAM --- BOYCE BATEY, BA

by John R. Audette

Boyce Batey had a poetic name and a glowing personality to match. He was one of the original members of the progenitor association that later evolved into IANDS. He was also an inaugural member of the editorial board of *Anabiosis – the Journal for Near-Death Studies*. He often gleefully attended IANDS's meetings at the local and national level. He was always one of the brightest lights in the room thanks to an amazing aura, a radiant countenance, and an endearing warm smile. He never knew a stranger.

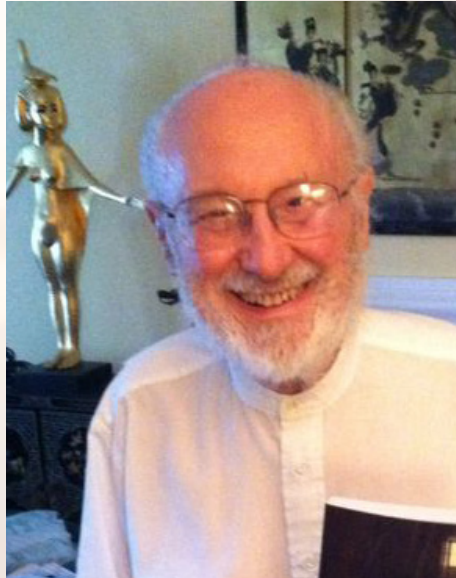
One of the greatest blessings of my involvement in this work over the past 50 years is the good fortune I have had to meet exceptionally beautiful spirit-filled people. Boyce was top of the roster, in a category all his own. My earliest memory of him was an interaction at an IANDS meeting in Storrs, CT, in late 1981. He deeply impressed me with his great enthusiasm for the work of IANDS. He made an indelible impression then, which still lingers.

From the outset, Boyce held the strong belief IANDS could do much to provide the world with compelling evidence that consciousness does indeed survive physical death. Beyond this, Boyce impressed me and many others with demonstrations of his advanced yogic abilities, such as the talent he had to roll and curl his tongue in ways that defied the ability of most humans.

For this and many other reasons, Boyce was a larger-than-life character to me. He was an exemplar human being, humble, yet quite gifted, awake, aware, attuned, and generous. I always left encounters with him feeling rejuvenated, as if he had somehow zapped me with a blast of uplifting spiritual energy.

Boyce enthusiastically supported IANDS from the beginning. He kept on supporting it through to the end of his life in the form of a generous bequest. He

was passionate about its mission and vision, which no doubt inspired this benevolent gesture. Thank you dear man. Your gift will sow many seeds that will blossom into greater achievements about matters that were of importance to you and to the world.



Boyce was born on November 22, 1932. He left this world for the next on July 21, 2023 at the age of 90, no doubt eager to reunite with his long-time spouse, Nancy, whom he married in 1958. She died in 2019 at the age of 89. They had two sons, Adrian and Gregory.

A graduate of Princeton University, class of 1954, Boyce considered himself to be a hypnotherapist and parapsychologist by avocation. He was also a graduate of John Marshall High School in Cleveland, OH, class of 1950. In both high school and college, he was a cross country track star.

For many years, Boyce served as the Executive Director of the Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies in Bloomfield, CT (ASCSI). He was also the lead investigator of the famed house on Lindley Street in Bridgeport, CT, known for significant poltergeist activities, which lead to the book by William Hall published in 2014 entitled *The World's Most Haunted House*. He also worked for the *Wall Street Journal* and for Aetna Life & Casualty Company.

Godspeed, Boyce, until we meet again. You will be sorely missed.

— John R. Audette, MS  
Co-Founder, IANDS, Founder, Eternea.org, and  
author of *Loved by the Light: True Stories of Divine  
Intervention and Providence*



# IANDS's Listing of Transpersonally Prepared US Mental Health Professionals Now Available Online



IANDS is pleased to announce its inaugural listing of US licensed mental health professionals with special preparation to work with clients with transpersonal experiences such as near-death experiences, after-death communication, and past-life memories. The creation of this listing was one of IANDS's 2023 strategic goals. We are pleased to have achieved this goal so that near-death and other transpersonal experiencers have access to a list of mental health professionals who may be more likely to understand them and their needs in processing their experiences. The listing is here: <https://conference.iands.org/mental-health-providers/>

If you are an experiencer seeking counseling or psychotherapy, check out the listing and the accompanying document about tips for choosing a psychotherapist: <https://iands.org/if-you-have-had-a-near-death-or-similar-experience-experiencers-guide-to-psychotherapy.html>

If you are a US licensed mental health professional with special preparation to work with clients with transpersonal experiences—at least one of the following:

- a graduate degree with specialization in transpersonal psychotherapy,
- a graduate course on the topic of transpersonal psychotherapy, and/or
- Certification as a Mental Health Professional by the American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences (ACISTE),

...please consider applying to be included in the listing: [CLICK HERE for application](#)

The IANDS Mental Health Committee regularly monitors submissions. One of IANDS's 2024 strategic goals is to have at least one mental health provider listed for every US state.

-- IANDS's Mental Health Committee:

Janet Melcher, PhD, LISW-S, Chair

Diana Marquez Lyons DiFranco, MSW, LCMHC, LSW, LCSW

Susan Herrick, MA, LMFT

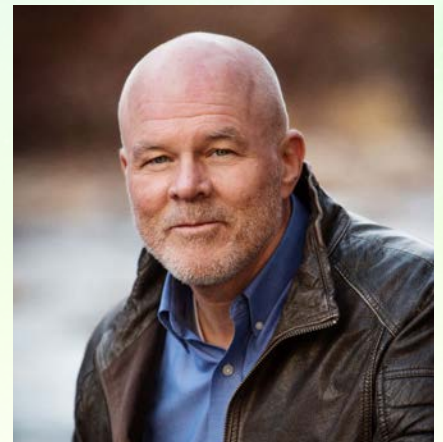
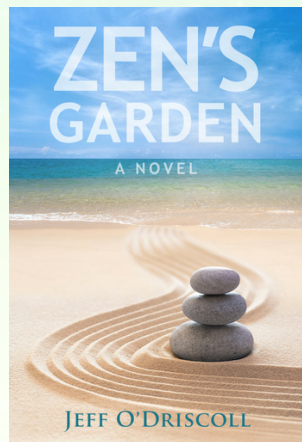
Janice Miner Holden, EdD, LPC-S, ACMHP

Rebecca Valla, MD, Licensed Psychiatrist

## ZEN'S GARDEN by Jeff O'Driscoll

Jeff O'Driscoll, MD, started writing more than 30 years ago while still a medical student. His most recent book, *ZEN'S GARDEN*, is fictional, but it draws on his 25-year career as an emergency physician. Dr. Solas Murphy struggles to get his head around the uncommon experiences he has in the ER that science can't explain. When his daughter, Zen, dies suddenly, it sends Solas on a quest to find himself and to save his marriage and career.

Dr. O'Driscoll's previous book *NOT YET* is a memoir exploring the tender and instructive segues between the mortal and spiritual realms. Through his many shared-death experiences in the emergency department, and through what he likes to call Near-Life Experiences, Dr. O'Driscoll offers insights into life and death and the connections between this life and the next.



Jeff is also the author of *WHO BURIED ACHILLES?*, *HYRUM SMITH: A LIFE OF INTEGRITY*, and numerous children's books

Jeff's straightforward writing style stems from his childhood in rural Utah, his 25 years in the emergency department, his 38-year marriage, and the powerful lessons learned from five children.

Jeff will be speaking at the IANDS Conference in Phoenix, AZ on Friday, August 30, and hosting a Lunch With Speaker table on Thursday, August 29. See the conference website for more information: [conference.iands.org](https://conference.iands.org)



## Your Brain on IANDS

Every day, IANDS shares stories of transformation and integration. What IANDS didn't know at the time of its inception in 1981 is that brain researchers would show the positive psychological and mental health benefits of the brain's response to acts of compassion, giving, gratitude, and/or reading, watching, or listening to story-telling with these elements present—the ingredients of most NDE narratives. The use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in brain studies showed participant increases in generosity, compassion, and caring for others, along with the mental health benefits of greater optimism, lower rates of anxiety and depression, and fewer physical illnesses.



One way in which IANDS provides these psychological and mental health benefits is by publishing personal stories of NDEs. IANDS is expanding on this offering with two of its 2024 strategic goals:

- Begin an update of the one-of-a-kind *The Big Book of Near-Death Experiences* by PMH Atwater, originally released in 2014 and containing numerous NDE accounts, and
- Pursue development of a virtual NDE—a 360-degree full immersion simulated experience with virtual reality glasses—and also something viewers can watch on our website without the glasses.

We need your help to achieve these goals so IANDS can have an even greater impact on stimulating the brain's natural well-being responses.

Consider a gift today by: (Tax-deductible receipt for US tax payers)

- Giving online: <https://iands.app.neoncrm.com/forms/general-operations>
- Calling: 1-919-383-7940 during business hours M-F 9:00 am - 4:30 pm (EDT)
- Sending a check: IANDS, 2741 Campus Walk Ave, Building 500, Durham, NC 27705-8878

**Thank you for your support!**

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(Phoenix, August 28 - September 1st)

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Contact [deborahc@iands.org](mailto:deborahc@iands.org) to discuss your unique placement.

[CLICK HERE for PDF with more details - or use QR Code](#)





# The Hardest Problem of Consciousness

by Thomas Spitzer, BSEE

We often hear of the hard problem of consciousness. Why is there qualia or experience of anything in the first place? I would submit there is an even harder and more important question: Why do I seem to be a specific individual experiencing a specific subset of qualia? If material reductionism is to be relevant to the big questions, then it has to explain not how brains generate consciousness but how the specific brain in my head could create the specific consciousness I seem to be looking out of the eyeballs of this specific body. Why do I PERSONALLY EXIST as an individual in the first place? Out of the infinite matter in the universe how is it that only the three pounds in my head could create me? What is different about that three pounds for this to occur?

Consider that billions of bodies showed up before this one.

Billions show up after this one.

None of them seem to have created my existence.

This body could be running around without it being ME just like these billions of others

All bodies are made of the same elements.

All brains have the same basic anatomy.

If all brains are basically the same and are creating consciousness, then there should only be ONE consciousness looking out of every set of eyeballs simultaneously.

A hopelessly superimposed existence from every possible viewpoint at once.

I'm sure that materialists would claim that no, no, brains are so complex they are all different.

Okay, so what would have to be recreated in another brain for me to exist looking out of another set of eyeballs?

When the ontologies purporting to explain consciousness are examined critically, it becomes obvious that all materialist/reductionist strategies fail completely in attempting to address the individuality question.

What is the principled explanation for why:

A brain over here would generate my specific consciousness and a brain over there would generate your specific consciousness?

Integrated information over here would generate my specific consciousness and integrated information over there would generate your specific consciousness?

Global workspace over here would generate my specific consciousness and global workspace there would generate your specific consciousness?

Orchestrated quantum collapse in microtubules over here would generate my specific consciousness and orchestrated quantum collapse in microtubules over there would generate your specific consciousness?

A clump of conscious atoms over here (panpsychism) would generate my specific consciousness and a clump of conscious over there would generate your specific consciousness?

If an exact copy of my body was suddenly created in Antarctica, would I find myself to exist freezing there while also sitting in the comfort my living room?

According to the physicalists, that would have to be true, or their argument collapses into incoherence.

Materialism already fails because it cannot find a transfer function between microvolt level sparks in the brain and any experience or qualia. In addition, it's not possible for materialistic ontologies to address this question of individuality because no measurement can be made that could verify my consciousness vs your consciousness, and, therefore, no materialist ontology could make any coherent statements about the subject.

How could pure awareness even be individualized?

Physicalists demand measurements, but with consciousness there is nothing to measure.

There is electricity in the brain, they say. We'll measure that.

Is electricity consciousness? If so, then, once again, I should exist everywhere at once since electricity cannot be individualized.

My blender uses electricity.

Is it a genius?

Unless materialists can answer these questions, their premise collapses like the house of cards it is.

As far as other ways of thought are concerned, only Dualism and Idealism can account for our sense of individuality. Dualism assumes we are all individual spirits/souls matched up to a body through some undefined process. Idealism, based on the premise that consciousness is primary, also answers the question of why I seem to exist as an individual.

One consciousness exists looking out of every set of eyeballs, and in the process the illusion of individuality is created in each case.

In actual reality I am you, you are me, we are one.

*Tom Spitzer is an electrical engineer working with NASA building electrical power systems for spacecraft and satellites. He can be reached at email: tjssailor@yahoo.com.*





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Great presentations from our *Explore the Extraordinary* podcast, previous IANDS conferences, and more:

<https://www.youtube.com/@IANDSvideos>

EPISODE 62

## NEAR-DEATH LIKE EXPERIENCE AND LUCID DREAMING



Featuring **AJ Parr**

EXPLORE THE EXTRAORDINARY PODCAST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tqa05mlAjEE>



## Studying the Accuracy of Mediumship Readings

Julie Beischel

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRJaDZcx\\_hE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRJaDZcx_hE)



IANDS 2023 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

The Role of Near-Death and Related Experiences in Grief and Grief Counseling  
Saturday, April 22

## AFTER-DEATH COMMUNICATION WITH MY ADULT STEP-DAUGHTER

Suzanne Giesemann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTDG7xkcrOc>



## How NDEs Shape our Life, Future Life and Afterlife

Elizabeth Krohn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuAePSvxbOs>

EPISODE 56

## 3 NDES, SUICIDE, & SOUL CONTRACTS



Featuring **Michelle Clare**

EXPLORE THE EXTRAORDINARY PODCAST with Betty Guidagno

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ma9iAGSbl78>

EPISODE 59

## MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT NDE



Featuring **Billy Rubino**

EXPLORE THE EXTRAORDINARY PODCAST with Betty Guidagno

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbVj7Ju6Hv4&t=1021s>



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