

The Current

For members of ECKANKAR in Illinois and Iowa

December 2023

“In the course of your life, your path crosses the paths of many who are not ECKists. And yet, some among them are the Mahanta’s own....

“So everywhere you go, there are those among the crowds who are ready for ECK too. These are the Mahanta’s own.”

—Sri Harold Klemp,
Adventures in Spiritual Leadership, pp. 53 and 55



Painting by Connie Imler

Connie Imler

Co-workship of Divine Love at the TheosoFest ECK Booth

by Rhonda Ings

We were helping at an ECK booth on a gorgeous Saturday. One young woman exclaimed, “What a wonderful first booth near the entrance—you are setting the tone for the whole festival.” She was picking up on the love we were sharing with so many seekers. Books were flying off the table, and people felt open to sharing what was in their hearts.

One gentleman, appearing to be the picture of health, shared how he walks everywhere even though he has been diagnosed with leukemia. His shining eyes and glowing smile were evident despite his news. He said he would continue walking all over because meeting many interesting people makes him feel good. I offered the booklet *ECK Wisdom on Health and Healing*, and he was genuinely grateful for receiving this gift.

“The only way you can give (love) is to fill yourself with it until you become a magnet of love.”

—Rebazar Tarzs,
quoted in *Stranger by the River*,
by Paul Twitchell, p. 38

Many others lit up when they were offered a compliment or when invited to spin the wheel to find an ECK quote to answer their inner question. Two young women came, saying lightheartedly, “We’ve been summoned to the wheel!” After reading the quotes on their cards, they exclaimed how beautiful the messages were, and they left with HU cards in their hands and smiles aglow on their faces.

Every time I spoke with someone, I felt gifts being shared between us. Each Soul gave me something interesting, helpful, and beneficial. And the gift of sharing HU and love with each Soul was the most important gift of all.★

The Gift of Being a Loving Listener

by Connie Imler

There are always gifts for serving the ECK. When I volunteered for the ECK booth at the Schaumburg Septemberfest, many seekers stopped by our booth. Some spun the wheel, some took the free literature, some glanced at what was on offer, and some needed to reach out soul-to-soul in conversation. I fondly recall a young woman who laughingly grabbed a booklet on relationships. She then tried her luck at the wheel. Although she laughed when her message was *patience*, she did believe this was the message intended for her.

There was another of the Mahanta's own that came to our booth. The first thing she mentioned to me was that her family had recently suffered a great loss. I encouraged her to try the wheel, and to spin it while inwardly asking a question. After spinning the wheel and reading her card, she said that the answer was very close. She then shared that five of her grandchildren had died in a fire the year before. I expressed sadness for her experience, then shared a HU card and explained that singing HU would bring her comfort.

I know from my own difficulties that sharing a story with a loving listener can bring comfort. I am grateful that I was given the precious gift of being a loving listener. May the Blessings Be.★

“After spinning the Spiritual Wisdom Wheel, a woman took the corresponding card. As she read the card, she started to cry. Through her tears, she looked at us, gave a big thumbs up, and said, “Good job!”

—Cathy Johnson



A welcoming group of volunteers at the TheosoFest.



Happy volunteers at the Iowa City Metaphysical Fair.

John Russell

Spiritual Wheels in Motion

by John Dawson

I recently had the privilege of serving as an ECK booth volunteer at the Septemberfest celebration in Schaumburg. I found it interesting to watch the people walking by our booth. Some would never glance our way and kept walking. Others would read our sign but not stop. And some would stop to chat and perhaps accept some free literature. It reminded me that we are all at different places as far as what we are ready for spiritually. This caused me to reflect back on my own first exposure to the Eckankar teachings.

I was living in San Diego and bought a book in a used bookstore. A business card was tucked inside that said: Eckankar, the Path of Total Awareness [a description used at that time], San Diego Satsang Society, and a phone number. I figured Eckankar must be some kind of spiritual teaching, but I never did call the phone number to learn more. Looking back, I realize that just seeing that charged word, Eckankar, was all that I was ready for at that time. I remember how deeply the word embedded itself in my consciousness. It set spiritual wheels in motion which put me through some challenging experiences so that, in a few years' time, I would be ready for a deeper look into Eckankar. I'm guessing that a number of souls had their *own* spiritual wheels set in motion at Septemberfest.★

Sharing Love

“When you see the opportunity to share the ECK with someone who needs to know something about life, the most important thing you can give them is the HU. This is the ancient and sacred name of God. You may not need to mention Eckankar at all, depending on the situation.

“Simply tell the person about the HU. Tell them they can sing it quietly at any time to open themselves to the love of God. This can be a spiritual exercise for you.

“As the pace of karma speeds up in today's world, many of the conventional religions are simply not flexible enough to meet the growing spiritual needs of people. By sharing the HU with those we encounter, we can act as divine channels for the ECK. We can help someone find the spiritual assistance they want in their life.”

—Sri Harold Klemp,

The Spiritual Exercises of ECK, p. 195

Hearts of Love

by Miriam Olson

Hearts decorate the Christmas tree at our house, because it's my favorite way to tie Eckankar to this holiday that is so big a part of December for Americans. Of course, God is love, and the best symbol I know of for love is a heart! That's how my collection of heart ornaments began.

My dear husband (a non-ECKist) enjoys Christmas light displays, so his domain is many colorfully lit holiday shapes in our front yard. But, because he knows how much I love blue lights (because of the association with the Mahanta), he strings many feet of gorgeous blue lights around our back porch deck so I can see them out our kitchen and dining room windows in the cold winter evenings.★



Miriam Olson



We Welcome Your Newsletter Submissions!

March 2024 issue: *Stories of Divine Love*

If you have a story, photograph, or insight that you'd like to share, please submit it by February 1. We routinely edit to condense and correct errors of fact, punctuation, and spelling. Please send your submissions to: angkeeling@me.com

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For local ECK information, visit eck-illinois.org or eck-iowa.org or call 1-888-I-SING-HU.

For more information about ECKANKAR, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, visit ECKANKAR's website at eckankar.org or call 1-800-LOVE-GOD.

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