



The Current

For members of ECKANKAR in Illinois and Iowa

September 2024

“Sing the word *HU*. Sing it every day.

“If you are ready, in a very short time you will have some definite recognition of a change for the better in your spiritual life.

“There will be some kind of communication from God, directly or indirectly, that will bring upliftment to your life that was never there before.”

—Sri Harold Klemp, *The Sound of Soul*, p. 57



Cindy Keeling

A Wonder-Filled Surprise

by Ami Bourne-Nisson

While volunteering at the ECK booth at the Iowa Metaphysical Fair in Des Moines, I had the privilege of facilitating a short presentation called “Spiritual Exercises to Recall and Resolve Past Lives.” During the presentation I told the story of a past-life dream. In the dream, I was a young woman dressed in a floor-length work-a-day skirt and cotton shirt, and I lived with my elderly grandfather. We were packing to flee the Confederate Army, which was marching north to meet the Union Army at Gettysburg. As the time for leaving neared, my grandfather pressed two gold coins into my hands. At that point I knew three things: He was not coming with me; I would not see him again in that lifetime; and my grandfather in that life is my husband, Burdoc, in this one.

After the presentation, several of the attendees came by the ECK booth. One of them happened to single Burdoc out for conversation. After a few minutes, she was heard to exclaim, “You were her grandfather!”

The Mahanta knows when and how people will make the connection to the ECK teachings. But for me, it is often a wonder-filled surprise.*

“So how does the spiritual program of ECK manifest on the inner planes? As far as a seeker is concerned, it usually starts right here on the physical plane after some initial contact with the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master. That contact may come through reading an ad or article on Eckankar, or an ECK brochure or book. An initial contact may also be a friend’s mention of the ECK or the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master.

“So the spark may be anything.”

—Sri Harold Klemp, *Those Wonderful ECK Masters*, p. 167

The ECK Is Always on the Field

by Debbie Bryk-Serva

On August 17th we had a Spiritual Experiences Fair and Picnic in Hinsdale, Illinois, at a park shelter. The weather was rainy on and off. The misty rain came down for a few minutes and then the sun would come out again. We stayed dry under the picnic shelter. We invited chelas and seekers as we explored spiritual stress relief via the HU chant, dreams, Soul Travel, spiritual freedom, and creative problem solving. The creative arts were enchanting as the sweet, refreshing breeze blew through the shelter after the brief rains. The day culminated in a beautiful rainbow.

Different modes of advertising were used: postcards, posters, newspaper ads, Meetup, emails, and so on. I postered in downtown Downers Grove and the suburbs around it. Going into one coffee shop, I asked if they had a place for a poster or a flyer. The man at the counter said they removed their cork board that was for posters because of the hate speech that was written on posters. I commented that I was surprised and said, “That is so sad.” Then he said, “Well, we have a table outside the bathroom, and you can put the flyer on the table by the bathroom.” I agreed to put one there but didn’t feel very hopeful since it was in the corner and out of the way.

On the day of the picnic, a visitor came for the spiritual fair. When I asked how he found out about it, I was amazed to hear that he saw the flyer in that coffee shop—on the table in the corner! I realized the ECK is always on the field and if Soul needs to hear about Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, it will. I need to listen and trust, for it is *thy will, not my will be done*.

Other ECK picnic posters were up in store windows, shops, the train station, etc. The ECK needs us to do the legwork and quietly share the ECK in our own way and in our own communities. There are many Souls ready to hear about the ECK and I see how the Mahanta needs our help and presence. ECK is a blessing of many lifetimes which we can share with others.★



Debbie Bryk-Serva

Debbie Bryk-Serva, Regional ECK Spiritual Aide (RESA) for Illinois and Iowa. (Note our beautiful new HU banner!)

Vahanas Converge on Champaign-Urbana

by Dennis Roberts

The ECKists in Central Illinois came together to host our first ECKANKAR information booth at Urbana’s Market at the Square in late July. This was the first of three Vahana events scheduled at this popular farmer’s market in downtown Urbana.

We staffed a booth offering several ECKANKAR booklets and a raffle sign-up for a free copy of *Stories of Past Lives, Dreams and Soul Travel* by Sri Harold Klemp. The Market is always heavily attended, and we gave away 16 copies of the book *ECK Wisdom on Dreams*, our featured topic. A flyer inviting the public to attend a talk (“The Spiritual Nature of Dreams”) the following week at the Champaign Public Library was tucked into each book. We also had a large poster displaying the QR code to the HU Song on the ECKANKAR website.



Vahanas giving joyful service at the Market on the Square in Urbana, Illinois.

Dennis Roberts

The booth felt like a great success and proved to be a fun experience. We even had a surprise visit from two Vahanas from Alton, Illinois, who just wanted to see how we were doing!

At our Introductory presentation on dreams the following week, I wondered if anyone would show up, as we’d had a rain squall an hour before and there was an important newscast happening in the same hour as our discussion. To my surprise, a visitor from the booth came to the talk. He said he’d thoroughly explored ECKANKAR’s official website and had applied online to receive his first study course. This led to a deep discussion on the topic of dreams and reality, which filled the hour.

Our Vahana efforts with the booth and the follow-up events have been successful ways to connect with sincere seekers—and a fun opportunity to serve the Mahanta and our ECK Community.★



Ami Bourne-Nisson

The Des Moines ECK booth crew gave away 164 ECK booklets and counted 196 spins of the Wisdom Wheel!



Debbie Bryk-Serva

Happy volunteers at the Minds Matter Mental Health Fair in Schaumburg, Illinois. (Note our beautiful new tablecloth.)

The Master's Presence

As you sit in contemplation, ask the Inner Master for more understanding of the words *I am always with you.*

Practice talking inwardly to the Master about anything that is in your heart. Visualize him sitting right next to you, and establish a dialogue. One day you may be surprised to hear him answer you, loud and clear.

Practice of the Master's presence is one of the four fundamentals of ECK.

—Sri Harold Klemp,
The Spiritual Exercises of ECK, p. 135



Cindy Keeling



Was your heart opened at one of our ECK events this past year?
Please share your story (or insights) with us!

December 2024 issue: *The Joy of Our ECK Community*

Send your submission to Cindy Keeling at angkeeling@me.com by November 1, 2024. We routinely edit to condense and correct errors of fact, punctuation, and spelling.

Would you prefer to read *The Current* on your computer or mobile device?

Our newsletter is available for download. Simply go to the Members Area of our state website to subscribe (eck-illinois.org). Your address will be removed from the mailing list for the printed version.

If you prefer to receive the printed version you do not need to do anything.

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.

Or write: ECKANKAR, PO Box 2000, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2000

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