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President's Report

LIGHT has completed its third year of operation and continues to expand its range of activities, and develop relevant and timely spiritual resources to serve the community. We have worked with a variety of interesting and creative people and made many new friends in the past year. We look forward to the coming year with a sense of optimism and excitement as we continue to fulfill our mission of increasing awareness of the world's spiritual traditions as a means of promoting personal growth and societal transformation. Among the highlights of the past year:

The monthly spiritual film series on Sunday evenings at Robert A. Steen C. C. continues to be popular. Many of the films have generated healthy debate as attendees shared their reactions and feelings in the group discussion following

viewing of the film. In particular, *Ram Dass: Fierce Grace* seemed to touch the hearts of many members of the audience, leading to a profound sharing of personal thoughts and feelings.

The LIGHT lecture series on the first Tuesday of each month at Charisma restaurant has established itself as something of a fixture in the community. The talks are well attended and LIGHT is pleased to provide an opportunity for gifted individuals to share their spiritual knowledge with the community. Topics have covered a broad spectrum, from astrology and the Tarot to the alchemy of perfumes to spiritual gardens and spiritual art. Perhaps the favorite event of the series was "An Evening of Spiritual Poetry," where attendees read some of their favorite spiritual poems (including their own) and shared their love of poetry with others.

LIGHT donated a second collection of children's spiritual books to the Winnipeg Public Library (see page 2) and continued our tradition of presenting storytelling events for all ages in the community.

The creation of the LIGHT Lending Library was one of our major initiatives and accomplishments during the past year. The goal of the Library is to share with the community the most valuable books, journals, audiotapes and films drawn from the world's great spiritual traditions. A number of sections of the Library are now available to LIGHT members and more sections are currently under development (see page 3).

The LIGHT website has continually expanded its content since its inception in 2004 and is currently attracting more than 700 visits a month.

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LIGHT's Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of LIGHT will take place on **Tuesday, June 13**, at Charisma restaurant, 83D Sherbrook St. (south of Westminster). There will be a buffet dinner available starting at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting scheduled to begin at 7:00.

The business part of the evening will include the election of Directors of LIGHT and a preview of the coming year's activities.

Following the brief business meeting, there will be musical entertainment by Roldo and Stahr. The duo, who play completely original acoustic music on a wide variety of instruments, have been a fixture on the Winnipeg music scene for more than four decades. The concert is not to be missed!

Your feedback, ideas and suggestions are more than welcome as we endeavour to make LIGHT a true

participatory community organization.

We encourage everyone to attend, and to become a member (or renew your membership) using the enclosed Membership Form. Fill in the form and bring it to the AGM.

If you don't plan to attend, you can send the form and payment in the mail. The price of an annual membership in LIGHT is \$20.00.

Second Donation of Children's Books to Winnipeg Public Library

On Friday, March 31 **LIGHT** donated a second collection of 160 children's books to the Winnipeg Public Library. The books, which will be available in each of the twenty branches of the library, feature spiritual content and themes and are wonderfully illustrated by accomplished graphic artists. Many of the donated titles are by writer Idries Shah and are based on teaching stories and fables from the Sufi tradition. Other titles are from the PARABOLA Story Time series and feature stories and legends from Native American oral traditions.

To celebrate the donation, **LIGHT** and the Winnipeg Public Library presented an afternoon of storytelling in the Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round at the Millenium Library. Karin Borland, Administrative Coordinator for Youth Services for the library, thanked **LIGHT** for the donation and welcomed an audience of 45 children and adults to the afternoon event.

LIGHT Board members Doug Staley and Richard Bredsteen began the storytelling by reading from two of Idries Shah's books, *The Man with Bad Manners* and *The Old Woman and the Eagle*. The

audience thoroughly enjoyed the stories and eagerly awaited guest storyteller Ruth Christie of Gimili. Ruth, who is of aboriginal and Scottish heritage, enchanted the rapt listeners with stories of her childhood adventures growing up in northern Manitoba and the family members and wise elders who influenced her life.

The afternoon was a great success and **LIGHT** looks forward to continuing our relationship with the Winnipeg Public Library in the future.



Storyteller Ruth Christie entertains a delighted audience.

President's Report

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LIGHT continues to support and work with other educational organizations in the community such as the Winnipeg Public Library, Simplicity Practice and Resource Center (SPARC) and the Manitoba Astrology Association.

In the coming months there are plans for:

- a second Evening of Spiritual Poetry
- a Spiritual Film Festival at a community theatre
- a series of public talks on important spiritual themes

- development of an artist mentoring project
- further expansion of the **LIGHT** Lending Library and website

LIGHT would like to thank everyone who has participated in our events, presented talks or workshops, facilitated film discussions, and encouraged us to actualize our goal of introducing spiritual teachings to as broad an audience as possible. We always welcome suggestions and ideas to enhance our organization and its effect on the community.



Expansion of the LIGHT Lending Library

The LIGHT Lending Library continues to grow, with the addition of a number of new DVDs and videotapes, and the opening of four new sections to complement the existing sections of spiritual books, journals and films. One of the most popular sections of the library is Spiritual Films and Videos.

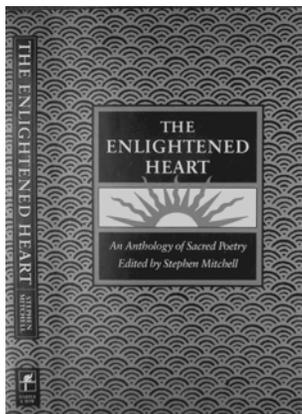
LIGHT is pleased to announce the addition of a number of important videos to the library, including:

- *Ram Dass: Fierce Grace*, a moving documentary of the life of spiritual teacher Ram Dass and the challenges he faced and overcame following a serious stroke.
- *Eckhart Tolle: The Flowering of Human Consciousness*, a face to face meeting and dialogue with respected spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle, author of the international bestseller *The Power of Now*.
- *Kundun*, directed by Martin Scorsese and featuring a soundtrack by Philip Glass, chronicles the life story of the Dalai Lama.

Four new sections of the library are now open:

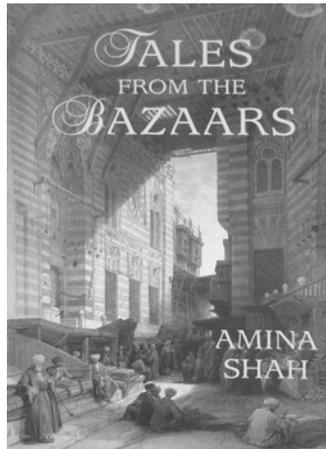
Poetry of the Spirit

Lovers of poetry will be delighted by these offerings from some of the world's greatest spiritual teachers, including Rumi, Hafiz, Chuang Tzu, Blake, Whitman and the Zen masters of China and Japan. Readers will find that these books touch the heart like no other form of written literature.



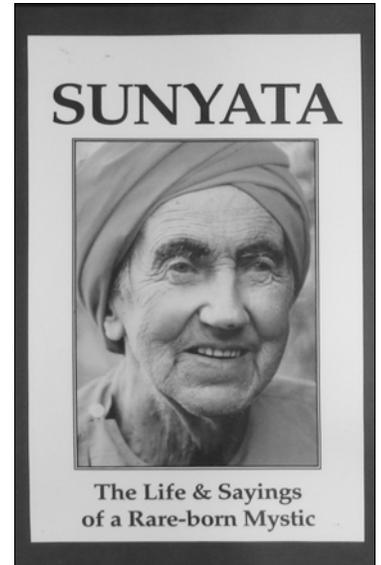
Teaching Stories and Fables

For countless centuries, teaching stories, fables, parables and myths have been employed in many spiritual traditions to transmit essential truths to succeeding generations. LIGHT has assembled the most valuable collections of these teaching tales from Sufi, Zen, Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and native spiritual traditions. The stories and fables contained in these books are not only entertaining and frequently humorous, but also roadmaps of the spiritual journey and repositories of human wisdom.



Audiotapes

LIGHT has assembled a collection of important audiotapes in CD or audio cassette format by a number of contemporary spiritual teachers, including Eckhart Tolle, Jean Klein and Idries Shah. A number of the audiotapes feature readings of Rumi's poetry by renowned translator Coleman Barks and readings of classic Sufi teaching stories by Amina Shah and the London College of Storytellers.



Spiritual Biographies and Autobiographies

This section of the Library contains biographies and autobiographies of many of the world's most influential spiritual teachers, including Mohammed, Rumi, Gurdjieff, Ramana Maharshi, D. T. Suzuki, Krishnamurti, Chögyam Trungpa and Shunryu Suzuki. The books offer a revealing look at the background, influences, controversies, teaching methods and spiritual impact of renowned teachers from many different traditions.

The library catalogue can be accessed through our website www.lightinc.org. From the home page select **About Us**, then select **Lending Library**. In order to borrow books, journals, films or audiotapes you must be a current member of LIGHT. Items may be borrowed for up to two weeks and as many as five items may be taken out at a time.



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In this period, between 900 and 200 B.C. [the "axial age"], the peoples of four distinct regions of the world created the great religious and philosophical traditions that continue to nourish humanity today: Confucianism and Daoism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism in India, monotheism in Israel, and philosophical rationalism in Greece...

The geniuses of the axial age were Buddha, Confucius, ... geniuses of religion. They expended as much energy seeking a cure for spiritual ailments as we expend today seeking a cure for cancer. And what they all hit on - the Greeks, the Indians, the Chinese, the Israelite prophets and, later, Jesus and Mohammed - was replacing "self" with "other," the Golden Rule. Love your enemies as you love yourself. Love the stranger...

The axial sages taught that what you believed wasn't important; it was how you lived your life that would save you. They taught that compassion brings you into the presence of God. They weren't saying this simply because it sounds good. They said it because it works.

- Karen Armstrong, as quoted in the
Globe and Mail, April 2006

Karen Armstrong, a former British nun and author of many best-selling books on religion, talking about her latest book, The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions.



Become a LIGHT member! Here's how:

- **Fill in a membership form and mail it to the address at the bottom**
- **You can get extra copies of the membership form on our website**

For more information, call us at 453-2717