

# THE UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL BROTHER&SISTERHOOD, INC.

Worldwide Headquarters, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

Founded 1956

www.TheUSB.org



eNL-12, August 2018

Dear USB friends:

Our twelfth e-newsletter is sent with our blessings of love, peace and light to all those who are dedicated to the universal spiritual brother-and-sisterhood of all humanity—the ideal of the USB. Do you know others who might like to receive our nonreligious newsletters? If so, please consider sharing these free publications with them. Visit [the USB website here](#) to subscribe to future issues or to view our archive of past newsletters (with considerably larger text).

First and foremost, we pass on to all our readers the constant reminder of our Illumined Inspirers to accept *nothing*—not even of what *they* say—that your reason does not wholeheartedly embrace *and* that your inner being does not unreservedly sense is true.

## ***In This Newsletter:***

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## ***Our Previous Newsletter:***

If you missed our eleventh e-newsletter (eNL-11 of April 2018) you can find it [here](#) (scroll down the webpage for a list of past newsletters). It included:

*Our Source*

*Ways to Share*

*The USB's 1950s Audio Recordings in England*

*Movies with Spiritual and Afterlife Themes*

*USB Website Security Increased*

*The USB's Need for Mediums and Groups*

*USB Membership – Past and Present*

## ***Newsletter Production Changes***

As the activities of the USB on earth continue to grow in scope and new project ideas for spreading the message of this organization take shape, it has become increasingly clear that producing our quarterly newsletter is no longer sustainable as a largely solo venture.

With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that several USB members have offered to assist John with the creation of this communication. Starting with this issue, producing the newsletter is now a team effort. And, in keeping with the USB Spirit Inspirers' counsel of the need for humility in all that we say and do (*Spiritual Light*, or *SL*, topic 106), the team members prefer to be identified by their initials only, which you will notice in the closing salutation below.

The timing of the newsletters will be changing as well. We hope to continue with quarterly issues, but for practical purposes, releases will shift to the second calendar month of each quarter (February, May, August, November) rather than the first. We appreciate your patience with initial delays as we transition to this new way of working as an editorial and publishing team across time zones. Your suggestions, comments and feedback are always most welcome.

## ***USB Happenings around the Globe***

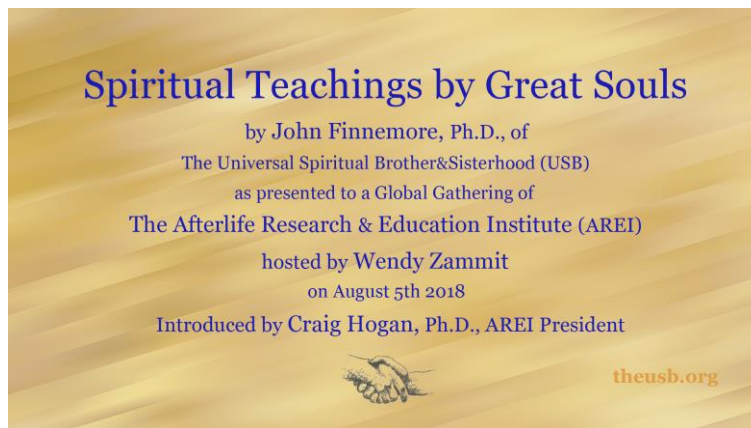
### ***“A Shared Spiritual Mission” Article Published by Reincarnation Research.***

Earlier this year, after a chance meeting between John Finnemore, lead volunteer for the USB on earth, and Walter Semkiw, MD, President of [Reincarnation Research](#), the two men realized that the spiritually-centered organizations they represent have much in common when it comes to their respective spiritual missions. Both seek to break down barriers between people, reduce human misery, and create a more peaceful world through improved understanding of the spiritual realms.

We are to thankful to Walter for having invited John to write an article about the USB and the aspects of its spiritual mission that it shares with Reincarnation Research, and for publishing the [article on his website](#).

***USB in another ‘Afterlife Report.’*** We extend our sincere thanks to [Victor and Wendy Zammit](#) for inviting us to make a presentation to the Afterlife Research & Education Institute’s (AREI) Global Gathering on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and for posting the announcement of this presentation in the [August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 issue](#) of their widely distributed, and enlightening series of [Afterlife Reports](#).

***John Finnemore’s Presentation to the AREI Global Gathering.*** On Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, a group of over 30 people gathered online to hear John’s presentation to the AREI’s weekly Global Gathering hosted by Wendy Zammit. The topic was *Spiritual Teachings for this Age from Great Souls*, in which John shared how a group of higher spirits worked with mediums Leslie Flint, Estelle Roberts and others to communicate to all seekers of Truth on earth the wonderful teachings that are collected in the USB’s book *Spiritual Light*. [A new video of this presentation](#) is now available on the [USB’s Afterlife Wisdom Videos](#) YouTube channel.



***Derwent Group in Hobart, Tasmania.*** Philip Crouch, the leader of this USB group, presented a three-hour workshop on August 18<sup>th</sup> by invitation. His presentation of “Exploring Spirituality Today” to 12 people in the town library of nearby Huonville included quotations from the USB’s book *Spiritual Light*, both in his discussion and in his accompanying information booklet. Philip hopes to present more similar workshops and to start an online Zoom discussion group. He may be contacted at [derwent@theusb.org](mailto:derwent@theusb.org).

## *Is the USB a Cult?*

The short answer to this question is a categorical “No,” but further elaboration accompanied by some supporting information clarifies how we arrive at this conclusion.

There are a variety of dictionary definitions for what constitutes a cult, but a predominant definition in our current times refers to a group displaying some combination of the following characteristics:

- ***Exclusivity:*** They may claim to be the only ones with access to the truth and restrict their followers from the free and open search for truth outside their group;
- ***Secrecy:*** They may require their members to take vows of confidentiality, make certain teachings selectively available among a subset of their followers, or prohibit the sharing of their teachings with outsiders;
- ***Authoritarianism:*** In a cult, a human leader may expect unquestioning obedience and loyalty, to the point of faddish devotion, sometimes bordering on worship;
- ***A system of religious beliefs, and rituals.***

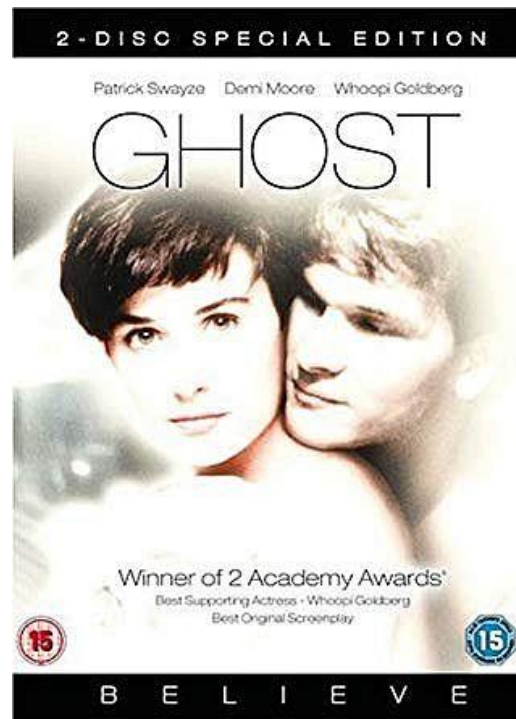
Reviewing various USB teachings as outlined in *SL* topics 107, *Worship Only God*, 108, *Personal Freedom for All*, and 110, *How the USB is Different*, **we can assert that the USB is definitely not a cult**, because:

- It is *not* exclusive, and acknowledges that all human beings are God’s children;
- It is *not* secretive, welcoming all who desire to explore its universal, higher teachings and philosophy without restriction;
- Is *not* authoritarian in any way, nor is it devoted to any leader;
- It approves the worship of *only* God;
- It promotes personal freedom, encourages reasoned, rational thought, and *not* fads;
- It is *not* a religion, does *not* engage in ritualistic practices, and does *not* require anyone to give up any beliefs they may find comforting.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, as the USB teachings routinely reiterate, “no one should accept anything unthinkingly from anyone, including from the USB”. (*SL*, Topic 110:6)

## *Movies with Spiritual and Afterlife Themes*

The 1990 movie *Ghost*, billed as a romantic fantasy thriller, was written by Bruce Joel Rubin and directed by Jerry Zucker. Molly, played by Demi Moore, is devastated when her boyfriend Sam, played by Patrick Swayze, is killed during a violent attack. Initially, Sam is unable to communicate with Molly from the spirit world, but as the story unfolds, and with the help of a psychic who discovers she possesses a true gift for after-death communication, the couple is able to reconnect across the “veil” before Sam returns to his eternal home.



Have you been inspired by a movie (or a book) with spiritual and afterlife themes? We welcome any such suggestions so that we can include them in future newsletters.

## *Helping the USB via Amazon Smile*

Recently, we were touched by the kind action of a USB supporter who told us about having adopted this simple and cost-free way of helping the USB. We're sharing this news with all of you for your consideration, should you feel called to follow suit.

If you shop online through Amazon, maybe you have heard about [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. As it turns out, the USB appears as an option in AmazonSmile's list of qualified charities.

Perhaps this appeals to you? If so, you can learn more at <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.



## *The Importance of Humor*

In closing, we leave you with this delightful reminder from a Blessed Inspirer about the spiritually elevating power of wit and humor, provided it is not used to disparage, ridicule, embarrass, or disconcert anyone:

A sense of humor is most important, as it is conducive to laughter, merriment, and joyousness. And when laughter, merriment, and joyousness fill one's being, it is easier to rise to a higher level, because they increase the rates of vibration. (*SL*, Topic 1326:5-6).



In love and peace and in brother-and-sisterhood,

Your USB newsletter production team,

*JF, PF, FG, PS*

If any teaching and/or philosophy in this USB document is in conflict with or is not supported by *Spiritual Light* (ISBN 978-0-9912422-1-4 deluxe flex-cover, 978-0-9912422-2-1 paperback), which contains the only complete *official* teachings and philosophy of the USB, then *Spiritual Light* governs. The inclusion of this statement, in a box in a prominent position, and worded as in *Spiritual Light*, is required on every authentic USB publication containing its teachings and/or philosophy.

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