

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## The Special Spark Within

BY JER

I have a recurring dream.

My grandfather, Grandfather Wise, holds out his coffee-colored hand and takes me for a walk on the land I purchased some years ago. In this dream, we do not talk. I confess that I can no longer remember the sound of his voice. We communicate through our heart; words are not necessary.

We stop and stare at bluebells, my favorite flower. There are always butterflies. Sometimes, there are dragonflies. There is always great peace.

In this dream, my grandfather reminds me of the earth-centered spirituality I often explored as a child and then again as a young adult. In my middle age, his spirit urges me not to box myself in (to fit in) by claiming religious labels that do not suit me. He urges me to continue seeing God everywhere and at all times. He urges me to remember that spirituality does not need labels.

I am greatly blessed to be a chaplain. I do not fit the traditional mold, but the older I get, the more Spirit reminds me that my spiritual uniqueness is a gift. I am able to serve and to connect with so many since my language about the Divine is often inclusive and open. As I age, and as I more fully come into myself, I realize that I would not change who I am for anything. I would never alter my spiritual core. All of this is to say that things that make us “different” or unique are often the very things that enable us to be our best selves.

Instead of hiding our individual sparks, the quirky qualities we possess, we should live into them. Doing so leads to a more fulfilling (and I would argue a more sacred) life. Doing so can inspire others to be their best selves.

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For more information about the Spiritual Life Center, including info on our student groups, go to our webpage - link in the email signature. You can also visit our Linkt.ree



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by Chaplain Bryant

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# Sympathies, Concerns, & Congrats

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Steve Koudelka** (Men's Lacrosse) and his family on the death of his father. Robert E. Koudelka died on Friday, April 5th at age 85.

## *Did you know?*

April 9-10 is Eid al-Fitr (Islam) which marks the end of Ramadan.

Eid Mubarak is the term used around the world which means "Blessed Feast/Festival."

# Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

April 9-10

Eid al-Fitr (Islam)

- See box at left -

April 17

Ramanavami (Hinduism)

April 22-30

Passover (Judaism)

# The Special Spark Within (cont'd.)

In a world that often values conformity, I urge you, dear reader, to see your unique qualities as something to be celebrated, not diminished. I urge you to see your own beauty and to accept all of the wonderful contributions that you can bring to this world. I urge you to believe in yourself and to love yourself as you are.

In the dream, not all of the bluebells are the same shade or shape. Some dance in the wind, and some remain still. Some may not even be bluebells at all. Yet, each purple and blue flower blesses me as my dreaming body walks past.

# Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 10 - 5-9 p.m. TODAY!  
SigEp Fundraiser at La Carretta to benefit the chapter and the Lynchburg Cares Fund  
- See details below -

**La Carreta Fundraiser**  
**SIGEP**

On April 10th, 5-9pm, 10% of purchases benefit our chapter, with 50% of our chapter's proceeds **donated to Lynchburg Cares Emergency Funds.**



Location: 2245 Langhorne Road Lynchburg, VA 24501