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The HOLY ENCOUNTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

...when you meet anyone, remember
it is a holy encounter.



Love is the Way She Walked in Gratitude

Remembering the life of my friend Judy

April 12, 1931 - October 19, 2021

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

My friend of forty-four years made her "journey without distance" into the eternal life that we all share on October 19, 2021. At the age of 90, Judith Skutch Whitson was, as my dad would always say, 90 years young. And, that statement truly embodied Judy. Even though she openly shared how her body wasn't like it used to be, it did not diminish her quick wit and infectious laugh. She remained vital and enthusiastic in her work with the Foundation for Inner Peace, her love of her family, and watching anything interesting streaming on Netflix.

In one of my last communications with her, we laughed about watching *The Kominsky Method* on Netflix with actors Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin. She admitted her great admiration for Arkin and that her daughter Tam was once in a position to facilitate a call with Arkin, but as Judy put it, "I chickened out." Arkin wrote about his spiritual awakening, and I told her he probably would have cherished her phone call. But that was Judy. Yes, a very confident and capable woman who was also humble and a little gobsmacked by her incredible journey with *A Course in Miracles*.

The last time we talked, our conversation went on for over three hours. It took place about two months before her passing, and we talked about everything. Our long phone conversations were not uncommon, but in looking back now, I can see this one was a recap of our extraordinary and cherished



Beverly and Judy

friendship. We talked about friends and family, special times together, and the life of *A Course in Miracles*. She gave me the gift of closure with that sacred time.

During that conversation, she agreed to participate in our on-demand seminar, *Above the Battleground*, which was based on the text section in the Course of the same name. When I told her the title and the focus of the seminar, she paused, saying how important that topic would be in our world right now, and she was willing (as she always was) to share her voice for something healing. I was so grateful for her willingness to do a segment for the event that she recorded on September 22, less than a month before her passing. It would be the last event she would physically do for Miracle Distribution Center, which aired on October 23, 2021, only four days after her

Continued on page 3

Healing for You in 2022

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

A Course in Miracles invites us to "make this year different by making it all the same." It asks us to let all our relationships be made holy for us. This is its advice on how to make the year different from all our others: to consistently allow the Holy Spirit to heal our relationships for us.

You may think: "What are you talking about? All my relationships are just fine." But let's remember, we wouldn't be here if we were truly healed. We can all benefit by allowing the Holy Spirit into our minds and letting Him do the work.

So this year, instead of resisting healing by saying I can't do it... it's too hard... I'm not spiritual enough... there's nothing to heal... let's just invite Him in. Let's step back from what we think we know and become comfortable with the presence of God, the presence of love that only wants our happiness and healing.

Most of the time, we don't know why we are unhappy, depressed, or anxious. Don't let that stop you from inviting in the Holy Spirit's presence. He knows how to help even if you don't. Your understanding is not necessary for Him to work; only your willingness is.

I remember once going to a chiropractor for a backache. I was sure I knew where the problem was; it was where my pain was. However, the doctor told me the pain was just a symptom of the problem and that he would make the adjustment at the point of the problem, not at the effect.

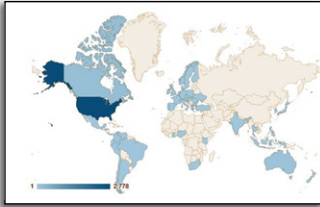
Continued on page 2

Beverly is the co-founder and president of MDC, one of the longest-running organizations based on *A Course in Miracles*. As a student, lecturer and author on the Course since 1977, her streamed weekly commentaries on Course principles have become an inspirational study and spiritual family for many around the world. View her free weekly livestream meetings at miraclecenter.org

What's Happening...with the Course and the Center

For more information go to
miraclecenter.org or call **714-632-9005**

● **Join with viewers from 88 countries around the world!** Our weekly livestreaming video meeting with our founder Beverly Hutchinson McNeff welcomed viewers from across the globe, including students from Botswana, Nepal, and even one viewer from the Faroe Islands. The map shows international viewership in light blue and U.S. viewership in dark blue. We invite you to tune in **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Pacific Time** to watch free or become a subscriber to watch meetings at your convenience and participate in the meetings through our chat room.

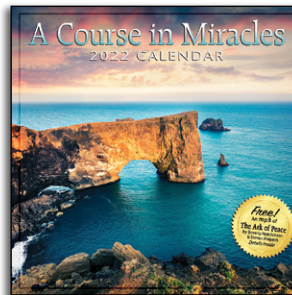


● **FREE Valentine ACIM e-Cards** - Share a thought from the Course electronically with friends and family this Valentine's Day! We have come up with a variety of beautiful, full-color e-cards with poignant Course quotes for every occasion so check it out. It's easy and FREE at our website!

● **Start the New Year with Healing** - The **Daily Lesson Email** is a great way to keep your Workbook Lesson from the Course by your side. Each day this email service sends you your own personal Course lesson for the day, automatically. During the quick sign-up process, simply indicate the lesson on which

you'd like to begin. On each succeeding day, you will automatically receive the next lesson. The daily messages can be read on your smartphone, tablet, or home computer. Each email includes the lesson title in an attractive graphic. Directly below it, a link will lead you to the entire lesson. You may start and stop at any time and even reset the number on which to begin.

● **Our 2022 A Course in Miracles Wall Calendar is still available** - Featuring stunning full-color photos along with inspiring quotes from the Course, this calendar will keep the message of the Course near you all year long. Quotes are from the recording *The Ark of Peace*, by Beverly Hutchinson and Steven Halpern, and contains a free download of that recording. It's a meaningful gift to give and receive.



● **"I am blown away** by how inspiring I have found the last on-demand seminar, *Above the Battleground: Finding Peace in Turbulent Times*. Thank You!!!!" We thank Mary Sue in Cheshire, Ohio, for sharing her comment with us. We currently have three seminars on the principles of A Course in Miracles with



Healing for You in 2022

Continued from page 1

He also massaged my hurting back (which felt soooo good), but just to do that would not have cured my problem.

This is how the Holy Spirit solves our pains: He deals with them at the source of the problem, not at the effect. We only see the effect; He sees the cause. He lovingly "massages" us through our effects, so we feel nurtured and comforted while He heals our problems in such a way that they will not return to cause us pain.

Let's not try to figure out how the Holy Spirit could heal our lives or this world. Let us be assured that if God says healing is possible, then it will occur. Let us make this year different by trusting in God and allowing His will to be done. ❖

Beverly McNeff for immediate viewing. Each seminar is six hours long with each having a unique focus. Find out more and how to access these on our site or call the Center.

● **"Love cannot be far behind a grateful heart and a thankful mind."** This powerful thought from the Course reminds us that love is our natural state and comes quickly to our awareness as our minds are focused on gratitude and thankfulness. Let us start cultivating this awareness that will produce the experience of love that we are entitled to by taking time each day to join our minds with God in prayer. Every day at 4:30 pm (Pacific Time), we invite you to stop and join us for a moment of prayerful support for yourself, your loved ones, and everyone in the prayer ministry. The gift you give is the gift you will receive! Thoughts for:

January: *I am Spirit.* (Lesson 97)

February: *I am entitled to miracles.* (Lesson 77)

March: *Into His Presence would I enter now.* (Lesson 157)

Our 2022 Bookmark is Available!

Thoughts in the Miracle Prayer Ministry 2022

Each day at 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) we stop for a moment of prayer as we join our minds with God for the healing of all His children. We hope these lessons from the Workbook of A Course in Miracles will serve as a guide for your prayerful joining.

January: I am spirit. (97)
February: I am entitled to miracles. (77)
March: Into His Presence would I enter now. (157)
April: God is the strength in which I trust. (47)
May: There is no will but God's. (74)
June: The light has come. (75)

July: Your grace is given me. I claim it now. (168)
August: I am not a body. I am free. (199)
September: I will step back and let Him lead the way. (155)
October: Forgiveness is the key to happiness. (121)
November: The peace of God is shining in me now. (188)
December: I am spirit. (97)

Please send your prayer requests to: prayer@miraclecenter.org - Include a postal address for a personal response.

Request your **FREE** full-color bookmark today which lists all the thoughts in the prayer ministry for 2022.

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passing on October 19th. Judy's heartprint has forever been imprinted on the life of the Center and my life as well.

I was a young woman when I met Judy. My brother, Richard, and I were mesmerized by this woman who only stood about five feet tall but always appeared as a mighty spirit to be reckoned with. She was mesmerizing to listen to, and we hung on her every word. Learning about the Course back in the late 70s was not as easy as today. There was no internet, no books about the topic, and the Course itself was not readily available in bookstores. In those days, it was the oral tradition of storytelling that inspired us, and no one could tell a story like Judy!

In my last conversation with Judy, I casually said something about her being like Ken Burns (documentarian famous for making history come alive for multitudes) for students of the Course. She quickly told me of an interview she had just heard about Ken Burns and how he got turned on to his style of history-telling. Burns said his dad never talked much about his time in WWII, but when Ken came home from school with a book about the war, something was sparked within his dad. Since Ken was to write a report on that period, he showed the book to his father. His dad said that the people who wrote the book didn't *really* know what happened, and he began to recall his personal stories about the war that captivated his son and



Front (L): Helen Schucman and Judy.
Back (L): Ken Wapnick and Bill Thetford.

started his life's work. Judy did the same thing for me; she ignited my life's work with *A Course in Miracles*.

I don't know if you would be reading the pages of *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER* or be helped by the life work of Miracle Distribution Center if Judy had not fulfilled her function so perfectly. The two co-scribes of *A Course in Miracles*, Bill Thetford and Helen Schucman, did their critical part in joining together to bring the Course into being, but they were not complete without someone who could make the Course come alive to us seeking souls.

When Bill and Helen met Judy May 29, 1975, the Inner Voice that had directed them to take down the Course once again perfectly guided them to Judy and Judy to them. Every year, Judy and I celebrated this day with a quick email of

celebration. For many years before his passing, Ken Wapnick, who was divinely guided to help Bill and Helen structure the Course and then become a powerful teacher of its principles, would celebrate this occasion with Judy after Bill's passing in 1988. She told me Ken had even sent her a cake a few times to commemorate the anniversary, but as years passed, even that faded away. But Judy and I continued our celebration of this event. I knew it was a significant date in her life, and frankly, it is a significant date in all our lives. She told me that she met Bill and Helen at noon on May 29, 1975, and then was "presented with the Course at 1:15pm." As she would reminisce about that day, I could feel how she remembered so clearly all that had to come together for her life to be transformed by this incredible event. I felt grateful to be able to share this important date with her. In 2021, I sent her my annual celebratory message, to which she replied,

Dearest Bev,

Only you would remember. No one else.
Thank you for that precious held thought, it

made me both laugh and cry for joy.
I love you sooooo much! - Judy



Judy in the 1970s

Needless to say, as I reread that email now, it makes me both laugh and cry for joy, too.

As I said, Judy followed Guidance to get the word out about the Course to a western world that was just beginning to embrace these ideas of inner transformation. Her approach was unconventional, but then Holy Spirit had the plan, not her. She did not write

books; she did not seek fame and popularity; she followed her Guidance and told her truth. The Holy Spirit had a way to use this one woman to ignite others, much like the way Jesus used his disciples and their disciples and their disciples, etc. We all became the conduits of her spirit and inspiration.

Her road was not always easy. Egos are strong, and occasionally people would get upset with her. Over her years of practicing the Course, she was able to see this as a call for love, and her response to extend love may not have always come in the way others liked, but it was how she was guided to do so. At the end of her physical existence, her body was "kicking her out," as she told her daughter Tam, but her spirit was at peace.

In those final hours, Judy shared that



Beverly, Sam & Bobbie Rothstein (Judy's dad and mom), and Judy.

the stories that make us all who we think we are, were over, and she wasn't going on to continue stories but rather to become everything. It was a

birth to our Oneness which was never born nor could ever die. This is the true gratitude Judy felt at that moment, and love truly was her path to that awareness.

Judy would end most correspondence with lesson 195 in the Course, "Love is the way I walk in gratitude." It is a beautiful truth, but it is not always "beautiful" to live. To be grateful for those calls for love can be challenging at best. Judy was always up for the challenge.

Remembering Judy

Ah, Beverly, you and Judy were indeed mighty companions! Thank you for demonstrating the consistent message that we are all One. The opportunity, every moment, to live this with each choice we make is love itself. Both of you are in my prayer of thanks.

Geoffrey in Massachusetts



Miracle Musings...

The Ordinary Amazing Judy

by Paul McNeff

In February of 1987, my wife Beverly Hutchinson McNeff introduced me to her friend, Judith Skutch Whitson, co-founder and president of the Foundation for Inner Peace, publisher of *A Course in Miracles*. Beverly had already known Judy for over a decade, but this was my first time meeting her. Our visiting party of five had been attending a business convention in San Francisco and decided to make the short 10-mile journey north across the Golden Gate Bridge to the beautiful little community of Tiburon where Judy and her husband William “Whit” Whitson lived.

Four years earlier, I had gone through a seismic shake-up in my life. This liberated me from my professional Christian ministry and, alternatively, freed me to enthusiastically continue my spiritual journey through other paths such as the Edgar Cayce material and the writings of Self-Realization Fellowship of Paramahansa Yogananda to name a few. Though my formative years were entrenched in evangelical Christian theology, which had

resulted in my being ordained as a Baptist Minister, I had been a searcher for a less condemning way of looking at the world. My searching eventually led me to become a student of *A Course in Miracles* which, to my mind, was a perfect synthesis of Jesus’ fundamental teachings on love and the Eastern metaphysical thought found in Yogananda’s teachings.

Beverly had told me so much about Judy and how she had been Spirit-directed to publish *A Course in Miracles* through the Foundation for Inner Peace. I had been both excited and intrigued to meet this wonderful lady that only 12 years earlier had been such a force in publishing the Course.

Upon our arrival, Judy and Whit were most accommodating as hosts. We took a little tour around their home, which presented a grand panoramic view from their patio of the San Francisco skyline across the Bay. Their home also served as the international base for the Foundation for Inner Peace. As we enjoyed a little refreshment, we found ourselves in the most engaging conversation over just about every subject in the world, from Christianity and *A Course in Miracles* to literature, politics, and movies.

Judy was a master storyteller. I remember being amazed at the breadth of her life experience and especially her remembrances of Helen Schucman and Bill Thetford, co-scribes of the Course. To say I was enthralled with this whole experience would be an understatement. I was struck by the contrast of my life journey from being a Baptist minister to



1987 MCD Conference. From (L): Bobbie Rothstein (Judy’s mom), Judy, Bill Thetford, and Beverly.

becoming a practitioner of a thought system that used Christian concepts, such as atonement and salvation, but metaphysically expanded them, giving the biblical quote, “you shall know the

truth, and the truth shall set you free,” a whole new meaning.

About four months later, Miracle Distribution Center (MDC) had the opportunity of hosting what had been billed as an “Evening with Judith Skutch Whitson and Dr. William Thetford” at a Buena Park conference center. Hundreds of people attended and were in rapt attention as Judy and Bill reminisced on the origins of the Course, its journey to publication, and how the Course had so

profoundly guided their lives. Both Judy and Bill recounted their Course-related stories that only they could tell. It was something to behold these two Course pioneers together, and I imagined that if they hadn’t said “yes” to Spirit, we might not have the Course. Witnessing them, their generosity of Spirit, and their humanness, was a great reminder to me to be open to

Spirit’s leading, even when you’re going through challenging times, especially when you’re going through challenging times.

In the 1990s, MDC hosted several conferences in which Judy participated. I remember when the young classical music composer and Course student, Richard Danielpour, premiered his Symphony No. 3, “Journey Without Distance.” Judy and Danielpour had been in conversation about the Course as he had been so inspired by its teachings that he was moved to relate his experience through his music. Thus, his Symphony No. 3 was born.

One aspect of Judy that many may not know of was her philanthropist side. When Beverly and I first started our non-profit, inner-city youth chorus called *KidSingers*, Judy



From (L): Bob Skutch, Judy, Whit, and Paul

Remembering Judy



Thank you for the beautiful memorial to Judith. I, too, will be forever grateful to her and for her. She was and is a true Teacher of Teachers, as are you, dear Beverly.

Sharie in Wisconsin

Paul McNeff is married to MDC’s founder and has been a student of the Course since 1986. He is a professional singer and conductor and holds a master’s degree in vocal performance. In 1997, along with Beverly, he founded *KidSingers*, an inner-city, afterschool children’s chorus. The program has won many awards and been featured on *Good Morning America*. Learn more at: kidsingers.org

was moved by the impact of our work with at-risk youth. As a board member of the Fetzer Institute, she was instrumental in helping *KidSingers* secure a grant from them.

One of my fondest memories was the first trip Beverly and I took to see Judy after our son Jeffrey was born. It was an instant connection of love. To see how they bonded in such a short time was like witnessing two loving souls seeing past all age and physical differences and moving straight to the heart. That was the story of Judy and Jeff. Beautiful!

In the late 1990s, about the same time Jeff



Judy with Jeff McNeff at 11 months old.

was born, Judy's daughter, Tam Morgan, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Elijah. Judy was so absolutely and lovingly devoted to "Lije," as Judy came to call him. On our subsequent visits, Jeff and "Lije" got to know each other and had a great time talking about things they had in common, like video games and such!

Throughout the 2000s, we visited Judy and Whit several times. What stood out most about Judy was her stories of how she was solely devoted to being a student of *A Course in Miracles*. She was never "done" with the Course but continually surrendered to the Course process of envisioning the world through the eyes of Christ.

The last time Beverly and I were honored to be in Judy's presence, she was getting on in physical age and living with limitations of her body. But Judy never lost the spark of Spirit on which she had learned to be totally dependent; that Spirit she had said "yes" to so many years before when it first summoned her to publish *A Course in Miracles*.

My most vivid memories of Judy are not limited to geographical location or places in time, but rather of her devotion to Spirit. She never lost the sense of being a "regular" person. It was the way in which she conducted her life in balance with all living things. She led by example what it meant to be "in the world, but not of it." She faced challenges and struggles in all too human moments, just as we do. She would be first to tell you that



Judy's Absence

by Darin Zakich

Waves of disappointment washed over us. My mother and I had driven to USC in early 1982 to attend the Festival of Mind Body and Spirit. It was to be three days filled with lectures, and the one we had most looked forward to was by Judith Skutch Whitson. My mother, a longtime spiritual seeker, had ordered and received the three-volume book, *A Course in Miracles*, earlier that year, and I was fascinated by it. This was our chance to experience a retelling of the incredible story behind how the material was received by Helen Schucman and Bill Thetford.

Suddenly an announcement came over the P.A. system: Judith was unable to make the flight from San Francisco because the airport was fogged in. In her place, the staff of Miracle Distribution Center, a Course-based organization in Southern California had been asked to present. This isn't what we wanted!

Even though Judy was not presenting, the room was still packed with people. The Course seemed to be of interest to everyone. As brother and sister Beverly and Richard Hutchinson were introduced, I took note of the fact that their Center was located just a couple of miles away from my home. Their presentation was inspiring and only got me more enthused about diving into the Course.

Within a few weeks, I had visited their Course study group near me, and we became friends. Within months we were

discussing ways we could work together to get the word out about the Course. I had just graduated from college and the timing for a change of jobs was perfect. The fledgling organization was housed in a couple of offices at their father's business. Most of the possessions of the Center were able to fit in a large trunk. We were ready to work together to expand the small Center's offerings to potential Course students around the world.



From (L): Whit, Beverly, Judy, Bridget Winter (BBC TV producer), and Darin.

So, you could say, in a way, that Judy's absence is what helped me begin my study of *A Course in Miracles*. It was a holy encounter for me without an encounter with her. How's that for a tribute to her? Of course, over the years I was able to meet and spend time with Judy. Every visit, whether to her home or in a call over the phone, was filled with captivating stories of the people she knew and the work she and the Foundation for Inner Peace were doing. She was a consummate storyteller and seemingly always the sharpest person in the room. Thanks, Judy, for the times you were there for me and for the time you weren't. ❖

Darin Zakich has been MDC's Administrator for nearly 40 years. The Center would not be what is it today without his business acumen and his deep commitment to *A Course in Miracles* and its transformative healing path.

she was not perfect, but just in process, like all of us. Being present was a big part of that. To me, when assessing an example of what it means to be devoted to a spiritual path and yet dealing with the "realities" of the world,

Judy stood tall as an example for all of us to follow. To that end, I say thank you, dear sister, for holding our hands along the path we walk in gratitude for you and your example of love. ❖

Recognizing Spirit

Sulking Teen to Loving Being: My Journey with Judy

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.



Most teenagers don't ask directly for loving-kindness, yet it is a gift to those lost teens when someone recognizes the call and answers it. This is how my nearly fifty-year-long relationship with Judy Whitson began. She started loving me and believing in me when I was 16, lost and using drugs, and she never stopped.

I used to say that Judy was like a second mom, but, in reality, she was even more; one of the rare people who are not so much there to help us along on the physical plane but instead, the spiritual one. I had no idea

the impact Judy would have on my life back then, but I certainly felt something different in her presence, and I feel it right now as I write. As simple as it may sound, that something different is unconditional love.

I was the sulking teenager on the couch, or in the background, while Judy, my Dad, Bill Thetford, Helen, Ken Wapnick, Carol Howe, and others had various meetings over the months and years. Slowly, almost without notice, something was shifting within me. You could say I got a "contact high." How could I not, right? And, a few years later, I was a dedicated student of *A Course in Miracles*.

As grateful as I am for the Course, I know that I would not have the Course in my life all these decades later without Judy. And, although I am grateful for Judy for all of this, what I am most thankful for is that I attribute to Judy the planting of the seeds of love and transformation within my father, my deepest and most cherished friend. I am not sure he would have made it if he had not met Judy. Decades later, they are now both gone, having passed from this life within months of each other. But the loving and gentle heart and mind that Judy first came into my

young life with lives on. Not just in me, but in the millions of individuals who *A Course in Miracles* has awakened.

Each day on my journey, I know that love is here with me now. I see the beauty of love within others in the same manner that Judy saw love in me. There is one thing of which I'm sure is a sacred way to remember Judy.



Lee and Judy.

I say these words to you, dear reader, and I feel Judy's presence as I do: "You are safe, forgiven, beautiful, and held in gentle love

for eternity."

Growing into adulthood with Judy's continued presence, I knew she was a rarity in that she genuinely embodied kindness, creativity, and a unique passion for life. Her commitment to family was inspiring. She also knew the bond that connects us surpasses blood, which she demonstrated by showing constant and genuine interest, respect, and joy for so many Course students. She treated a wide range of people as dear friends, and we felt the authenticity of her love and are the better for it.

Judy's body is gone, but her Essence remains as miraculous as ever. I feel it at this very moment, and I smile. She was one of the humblest people I have known. Though she was truly gifted in her ability to bring countless Course projects to fruition, she always had time and took an interest in what others were doing first. In our multitasking world, Judy was a breath of fresh air. You felt as though nothing else was on her mind when you were in her presence, despite

her busy life.

My father and Judy had lunch together every Thursday for many years. When I was in the area, I sometimes joined them. Watching them together was beautiful, not because of any specialness, but quite simply the ordinariness of their friendship. What I mean by ordinary is probably better said as that it did not matter what they were discussing; the sweet feel of their deep friendship always left something beautiful. Judy and my dad seemed to know that whatever you did, you were to do it by infusing the moment with gentleness, love, and presence. They were not always calm, cool, and collected, but they always seemed to know that if we come

from a peaceful center and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit, life will become peaceful and beautiful, and those around us will feel it and continue to feel it after we are gone. In this way, my relationship with Judy and my father has not been severed by their passing but rather shifted to a larger awareness beyond the physical. In fact,

I'll let you in on a little secret. Last Thursday I had lunch with them. I can't say they ate much, but they loved me as big as ever.

My life with Judy has brought me a deepening of awareness of love that never dies and a discovery of a place within myself where peace and stillness reside, even amidst my challenging times. This is not to say that grieving is easy for me. Though I am a long-time Course student, I have learned this year much about loss and grief by way of feeling them deeply. I have chosen not to spiritualize my losses (four losses this year) and to allow myself to feel whatever comes forth. In the process of grieving, I find a new layer of my humanness, vulnerability, see the illusion of fears of being without those who have left their body, and the common thread of love that I share with all beings. There are still waves of sadness from loss, but increasingly



Jerry Jampolsky and Judy.

Dr. Lee Jampolsky is the Founder of Inspirational Psychology and the author of ten books in fourteen languages. For free articles and free online courses visit drleejampolsky.com. He is a retired psychologist and currently offers online spiritual mentoring and coaching. He can be reached at lee@drleejampolsky.com

I find a sense of peace between the times of sorrow. I think Judy and my father lived in this peace more than most, and I feel them lighting the way for you and me. The more I experience this peace, the more I come to know the timeless essence of the love God offers each of us. In this way, grieving becomes a sacred process of knowing my deeper connection rather than an end of anything cherished.

I pause in this writing and ask Judy if there is one guiding principle that she would have me know at this moment. I smile as I hear her words, "The same principle I showed you back when you were sulking on the couch, 'Be patient, kind, and gentle with yourself. Know love remains with you and will never leave, and every loving thought is true.'"

At lunches, Judy would frequently ask me to lead us in prayer or visualization. Therefore, I'd like to close by offering this thought in her honor...

"Imagine that the combined power of every loving thought that ever existed throughout time is living in this single moment, in this One timeless thought of Judy, and we are One with her and God. Tonight, go outside and gaze to the heavens, feel the vastness, the infinite, the divine presence of love you share with Judy and all beings." ❖

Remembering Judy



Just read your piece about Judy Whitson's leaving this earth. I'm not surprised, yet still

feeling a loss and sadness. Her podcast has supported me immensely in my daily drives, feeling like I had a friend and teacher along. Have listened to some episodes three times already. Because of the Course, I know Judy lives in all of us; it will take some time to adjust to her not being here in form. Please know that so many of us around the (seem-) globe are grieving with you right now. I'm in awe and honor of your 44-year-long friendship with such an incredible mentor, teacher, and individual.

Meg in Maryland

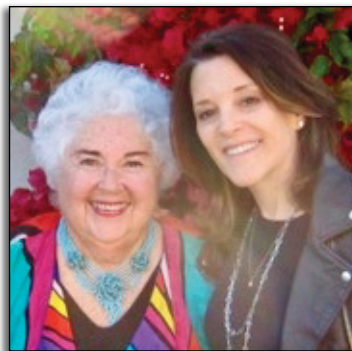


Judy the Rock

by Marianne Williamson

I was in my mid-twenties when I first met Judy Skutch. I had been told that *A Course in Miracles* was published out of an apartment at The Beresford in New York City; I had gone there to buy a second copy so my boyfriend and I could each read it at our own pace. Having just become a student, I was gobsmacked by everything about it.

Judy was married to Bob Skutch at the time. As I arrived at the apartment and Bob handed me the book, I saw Judy heading into the elevator. Bob told me she was on her way to give a talk about the Course in Houston, coincidentally where I was born and raised. I distinctly remember thinking, "Wow, going all over the country talking to people about



Judy and Marianne

A Course in Miracles! What an amazing thing to get to do with your life."

I don't remember why I went back to the apartment after that. I guess it was to purchase another copy of the book, but I remember Judy was in the kitchen when I told her I wanted to volunteer to help in the office. She said cheerfully, "That's great. I've been waiting for you!" I was smitten with her then, and I remained smitten with her until the day she died.

Judy was the rock. She was everything. It's true that Bill and Helen received the material, but Judy determined how it would unfold in the world. She directed its publication, its translations, and most particularly what today we would call its "brand." It was she who guaranteed the high vibration of its appearance in the world. Helen was directed very specifically to give it to Judy for publication, and I can tell you from my

own experience that her quiet, friendly influence was fierce in the way it put you straight into the light and held you there.

I'm one of those people who think *A Course in Miracles* is indeed a Third Testament; those who brought it into the world were very high souls who performed a most profound mission. They performed it well, none more so than Judy herself. She is now with those who were joined with her in that momentous task, and those of us all over the world who have studied

the Course owe them an extraordinary debt of gratitude.

I feel so grateful and blessed to have known Judy. She was a hero to me and will always remain that. Her approval meant everything to me, from the day I met her and for all the decades since. I have never known anyone who exhibit-

ed such quiet power. When I ran for president, I received a letter from her. When I opened the envelope, I saw a donation to the campaign. I remember it like it was yesterday, exactly where I was and how I felt when I saw it. I sat down and cried. I knew she knew what she was doing. It was about so much more than money. She was telling me she loved me, and she approved.

I'm among those who will love her, and bless her memory, forever. In *A Course in Miracles*, it says that one day we will realize death is not the punishment, it's the reward. And certainly, that's true for Judy. My God, what a job well done.

I have a vision of her now, and I can feel that she is happy. That doesn't mean that I won't miss her, though. There was something so wonderful, just knowing she was here. ❖

Marianne Williamson has been a leader in spiritual and religiously progressive circles for over three decades. She is the author of 14 books, four of which have been #1 *New York Times* best sellers.



A Death-Defying Departure...

by Tamara Morgan

My mother, Judith Skutch Whitson, chairwoman and co-founder of the Foundation for Inner Peace and publisher of *A Course in Miracles*, did not want a memorial service. Ironically, in the face of a very public persona, she never really wanted the spotlight on herself, always more comfortable with having an object of focus rather than being one.

When I was a child, my mother presented me center stage as a psychic wunderkind to the parasensory investigators of the world. Judy adeptly avoided accountability for her own extraordinary intuitive talents, which arose from her unremitting, profound connection to an inner listening and knowing. And in her most public role, it was not about publicizing herself, but all about a book and practice called *A Course in Miracles*. Judy Skutch Whitson, who was so completely devoted to love, actually wanted to be out of the focus because she, in truth, didn't know how to focus that love on her own self.

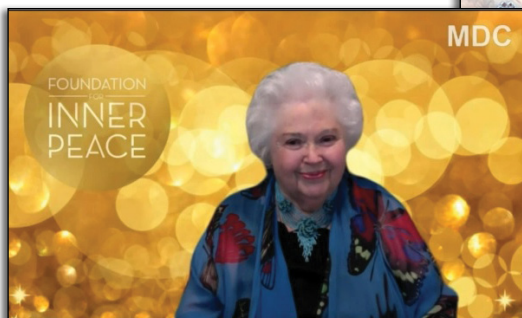
My mother never met a stranger. Most everyone who met this larger-than-life spirit felt completely enveloped by her unconditional love, humor, warmth, and a sense of being the most special person in the world while in her presence. She had an exceptional way of making everyone feel that they were extremely close to her. And yet, very few really knew that amidst her fulfilling, purposeful work and a world of loved ones who overflowed expressions and actions of love towards her, my mother could not completely bypass the very intimate, challenging experience of egoic projected aloneness and pain.

In her last month, she shared with me a line from something she read that was meaningful to her. It was: *Old Age* by Lisa Wingate: "The music of old age is not for dancing. It

is sad and lonely." Judy embraced this not as something to escape or bypass but as something to name as an egoic projection and geriatric stage of development in her departure from this level of illusion. Despite the fact that in her physical being she experienced pain everywhere, she would often mock it, laughing as she quoted a Bill Thetford spin on the Course's workbook lesson 201: "I am not a body I am free. For I am still as



Daughter, Tamara with mom, Judy.



Judy on one of FIP's webinars.

God created me" into: "I am a body! I am sickly! Get me to a doctor quickly!"

My mother and I committed to trying to have her depart this world guilt-free in our relationship. No matter how loving my mother could be, she was not the pure saint many projected on her. She had the genetic imprint of a Jewish mother, whose displays of love were often accompanied by autonomic, unconscious guilt-inducing side quips, like: "I'm so glad you had a good day off. Me? Oh, (sigh) I worked all day and then was screaming in pain all night." When I shared that this triggered guilt in me, this remarkable ninety-year-old woman did not throw the (Course) book at me and preach to me that it was my perception that I needed to heal. Instead, she exemplified the capacity for change, as, in the last several months of her life, at age ninety, she actually consciously shifted the context

through which she shared her pain with me. She showed me that one of the miracles in practicing *A Course in Miracles* is that old dogs and new tricks are *always* possible!

In partnership, she actively helped release me from guilt by learning to express herself in new ways, such as: "It brings me such joy to know that you are getting a day off. My work is my distraction from pain, as I can actually forget it when I'm on a Zoom call, a webinar, or a podcast. But then it comes back in full force, and I can't avoid it in

the silence of the night. It isn't for you to heal – it's for me to learn from. It is my clear choice to be more consciously active than buffered by heavy doses of medication." This invited me to be more patient with her challenging balancing act. She committed to making it easier for me to hear what she was going through, and even though it saddened me, I agreed to accept it and partner with her through the straightforward reality of what was.

In the past eight months, during which she was also in home hospice care, I watched my mother struggle with how and who she wanted to **be** before she "departed." One evening, I found her in her chair, softly weeping. It was infrequent that she fell into bouts of depression as she fiercely aligned herself with gratitude and a positive attitude. But on this particular occasion, I wiped her tears and asked, what was her biggest fear? Her answer was: "That I won't accomplish what I feel I *really* came here to do." For a moment, this reply surprised me as this woman who'd worked around the clock for as long as I could remember, who'd given to the world *A Course in Miracles*, who'd personally brought a world of people to experience what

Tamara Morgan is co-president of the Foundation for Inner Peace, appointed publisher of *A Course in Miracles*. She co-authored the book *Double Vision* with her mother, Judith Skutch Whitson.

being loved meant in profound life-altering ways, and who'd practiced the Course that she herself believed would be the way to set her "free," was in fear that she would not accomplish this goal of being free from her own guilt, her own attack thoughts, her own pain, and her lack of love for herself.

I found myself compassionately sobbing with her and even for the state of the world in this very humbling, raw admission. I then found myself asking her what it might feel like if she could actually let go of caring

whether or not she achieved this? She listened to this question, *really* listened, seeming to taste it on her tongue, roll it over in her mind, and try to digest it in her being. Then, she marveled: "I don't know."

The next day she called me in a far better mood and told me that the "I don't know" had given her an opening to that release and was bringing her a sense of peace in its own right. I watched her begin to embrace the "I don't know," at first a little, and then more



Judy bathed in Tam's love.

and more, it began to replace all that she voraciously *wanted* to KNOW in her life. She was a self-effacing intellectual with a thirst for knowledge that seemed insatiable.

I will never forget, after her breaking both her ankle and leg and realizing that she would be awake at night more than ever because of the discomfort, she joined me for breakfast after a long, sleepless night. Surprisingly tireless, she looked at me and said, "You know honey, last night I had an epiphany. I realized that there is something I would like to master before I die."

Now, when most women of age 89 say this, it might bring to mind that they are considering taking up knitting or philosophically perhaps choosing to be more kind (which my mother was always trying to master). Knowing that my mother spent her nights listening to books and podcasts, I wondered, what could this be? When I asked her, she simply and seriously replied that what she wanted to master before she died was... "Quantum physics." I couldn't help but burst into laughter. "Why *quantum physics*?" I asked. Thoughtfully, she responded: "Because I have a feeling that it is finally being conveyed in a language that, for me, integrates all the research I was pioneering in the world of consciousness, with a deeper element that includes my own spiritual perspective." My only answer to that was: "Well, you go, girl!" And, so she did. Her eyesight was failing her, so she got every audiobook she could find on the subject, had weekend meetings with a friend so they could discuss this, and listened to relevant podcasts until she felt somewhat sated. My mother truly honored knowledge more than most people I've ever known, and, unlike her daughter, she actually remembered everything she read or heard. But in the last few months, the more she embraced the "I don't know even what I thought I knew," I saw something begin to shift in her.

As she began to grow weary of her physical pain, she also seemed to grow more and more peaceful and detached from it. On her last day here, during a massive heart attack that she had been heroically enduring for over four days, she allowed me to video record her, definitively stating that she had no interest remaining here in this level of pain, nor interest in being brought to a hospital, no surgery, no resuscitation, etc. She could not have been more certain or clear. She relieved me of any possible guilt over not seeking out more ways to keep her body alive, and I sent this video to my brother so we could enter her departure passage together, all on the same page on which she inscribed that she felt complete, fulfilled, and was consciously choosing to go. "And no one dies without his own consent." (W-152.1:4)

My mother's mask that she wore was pure love, and behind it was a very real, very enigmatic, and very extraordinary woman who struggled, like the rest of us, with being the

ego that she was in this existence. But what was so remarkable was that in her process of dying, which took well over a year, she worked with every fiber of her being to lighten as much of her hidden darkness in



Whit and Judy. Notice the painting off Whit's right shoulder. It shows the two of them forever dancing in love.

relationships as she could. On her very last day, she expressed to me with a sense of both awe and finality: "I am complete. I hold no grievances towards anyone... *including myself*." I kissed her and massaged her while her adored, youngest grandson snuggled with her throughout her last moments of consciousness.

As she talked with me, she began to express an outpouring of gratitude, telling me not to be upset about what her body was doing in pain and not to listen to its whimpering or cries. She elucidated that she was consciously appreciative of it and that her body was doing what she could not — it was actually kicking her out — because it was finally her time. She said that if it were up to her ego, she would still stay, work, and do more, but her body was knowing better and helping her to let go because she wouldn't be able

Remembering Judy



Sending you healing thoughts and prayers. Tears in my eyes, joy in my heart for Judy. Such

a brilliant Light in this world for all of us! How very blessed you are to share your long, Loving Friendship with her. I love the way Judy taught — relating her personal experiences through narrative and story. You teach in this same way, and this is how I learn the best. Deep gratitude for Judy and her courage and commitment all these many years for publishing and teaching *A Course in Miracles*. Truly a life of service and LOVE for all of us — just as you are, dear Beverly.

I look forward so much to the *Above the Battleground* seminar and seeing Judy's video! What a beautiful gift!

SandyB in Washington

Continued on page 11

Change Your Mind Change Your Life

Remembering Judy... Walking the Way of Love

by Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D.



If anyone was ever greeted by a battalion of Light Beings upon entering the afterlife, it was Judith Skutch Whitson. Early on the morning of October 19th, 2021, I awoke into a half-sleep at 3:50 am. Not sure if I was awake or asleep, I “saw” Judy from her right side, looking forward and slightly upward. I was amazed that she looked so young, just like the photos I had seen of her just after receiving the manuscript of *A Course in Miracles*. Just in front of her was her beloved, youthful Whit, smiling with his arms by his sides and his hands’ palms up and reaching out gently to her. To the right was Judy’s brother-in-Holy Relationship, Jerry, emanating such a loving warmth towards her. Off to the left behind Whit were Ken and Bill and her mother, Bobbie, who was beaming with delight. I was filled with such peace and fell back into sleep. I awoke again at 5:10 am and read a text from Tam written at 4:46 am that Judy had just passed. I am sure that many were tuned in at this time to see her “off,” and I was humbly grateful to be one of them.

When Judy first greeted me 40 years ago, she placed her hands on my upper arms, looked me deeply in the eyes, and pronounced very clearly, “Thank God, you are FINALLY here!” What she was referring to was not only that one of her sisters-in-Light had shown up, but that she could finally release her beloved Brother Jerry into the realm of my unconditional Love. From that encounter forward, I experienced with her a sympathetic like no other, a sister-friendship bathed in humor and learning, and the deepest of all

gratitude for being here “again” together in this space and time.

The last few years were physically challenging for Judy, the breadth of which could only be accurately described by Tam, her daughter. But her spirit never wavered, and her intentionality to “be here only to be truly helpful” actually magnified. Her webinars and podcasts not only gave wisdom and learning

to all of us but clearly life to her. I remember her saying to me in recent times, “I want to be able to do the ‘work’ as long as I am able, and then I will ‘rest’ for a while.”

Volumes could be written about Judy’s dedication as scribe-directed

publisher of *A Course in Miracles*, and also as a founder of the Foundation for Inner Peace. What could never be captured, save in each of our hearts, was her incredible capacity to love unconditionally, to forgive, when necessary, to inspire at every turn, to nurture the global community of Course translators, to always be inclusive, and to see all others as her brothers and sisters – her students and her teachers.

We had lunch together often. Just a few weeks before, Judy transformed into her Ever-Present Presence, and as always during this last year, just before we departed, we had a similar interaction. I would say to Judy: “Now remember, Judy, if you decide to ‘leave’ before I see you next, please always remember how very, very much I love you, and please also remember to give Jerry my message when he greets you on the other side... and I, too, will see you there soon!”

For all those who could not say “Thank you” and “Goodbye” in person, we all know

that she continues to receive the very best of wishes, the deepest gratitude, and the most loving thoughts for an exciting and amazing afterlife.

Can you imagine the Celestial Beings celebrating, “Thank God, Judy is finally Home!” ❖



Judy and Diane.

Remembering Judy



I’m eternally grateful to Judy and all the other angels-on-earth who helped bring *A Course in Miracles* into this world. My life has been changed for the better with the wisdom of ACIM and guidance received by teachers such as you, Beverly.

Linda in Florida

Thanks, Beverly, for letting us know about Judy. When I read about her passing, I decided to sit quietly and say thanks. I’ve been a Course student for 37 years, and as I sat quietly, I became surprised to find that I had a huge smile on my face. What can one possibly say to Judy except “Thank You!”

Gary in South Carolina

What a beautiful tribute to Judith Skutch Whitson! And what an amazing group of angels that birthed the Course. Thank you ever so much! It’s a true blessing that her new video will be part of the *Above the Battleground* seminar. Let us all relax into deep peace and healing above the battleground, for this is where we all want to be.

Marshall in Oregon

Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D., is the Founder and Executive Director of Attitudinal Healing International. She is also a therapist in private practice, a businesswoman, author, and international lecturer.



Judith Skutch Whitson...

A Poem on her 90th Birthday

by Robert Skutch

The time was April '31,
A turning point came on that day.
Depression times had just begun;
A seer had something clear to say:
"To help cheer up the Brooklyn
world
"My crystal ball says that it looks
"As though the Rothstein's baby girl
"Will publish some important books."
The crystal ball was quite a source;
Judy heard what the seer did say;
Into her life would come a Course,
But for now, twas her age for play!
Her father, Sam, said "she's a joy!"
He knew she was no fool.
'Though she knew he'd hoped to
have a boy,
He enrolled her in a special school
Where there were many Einstein
types

About whom she had many words
That really were not Course-hypes;
They were more like
thoughtless nerds.
Four years of college and
her looks
Became part of the game;
Got her a job promoting books,
Books that none could ever name!
A turning point came on the day
The crystal ball became the
source;
It changed her life; it's clear to say,
Into her lap had come the Course!
She checked with Helen and with Bill
To California she did move,
Set up her salon on a hill
A site of which all would approve!
Years later she sat back at last,
And said, "I'm really past my past!"



Bob Skutch and Judy.

"Right now, my favorite form of fun
"Is seeing doctors, one-by-one!"
So here she was in party dress,
What's after 90, who could guess?
Her future? It, of course, will vary,
But sure, 'twill not be ordinary!

Robert Skutch is cofounder and director of the Foundation for Inner Peace, publisher of *A Course in Miracles*. His books include *Journey Without Distance: The Story Behind A Course in Miracles*. He has also written for television, radio, and the stage. He lives with his wife Lee in Northern California.

A Death-Defying...

Continued from page 9

to do so otherwise. It was this perspective that, instead of being angry with her body for inducing pain and suffering, enabled me to forgive, kiss, and hug her body and express gratitude for it having taken care of her for 90 years, without ever being exercised or paid much attention. I thanked it for housing this incredible spirit that played a role as my treasured mother. I held it and cheered it on, even when it caused her to contract or scream out in pain. She partnered with me in this as she imparted: "Sweetheart, my body may be suffering, but I promise you I have never felt so much peace and love in my life."

As I comforted her while she transcended, there were bouts in which she would drift in and out of consciousness. During one of the

moments of awakening (both literally and figuratively), I asked how she was doing, and she reported, bemused: "It's different than I thought." I wondered how so? As if she read my mind, she answered: "I really know **nothing**." I probed: "What about the Course?" She no longer seemed to question, but for my sake, quantified: "Even that." As an accompanying chorus to her experience, while she slipped back into a stint of slumber, I read aloud to her one of her favorite passages in the Course, Workbook Lesson 189: "Forget this world, forget this course, and come with wholly empty hands unto your God." And it was as though these words breathed, at that moment, the substance of life amidst death as it allowed me to witness this woman's wholly dedicated life *practice* finally becoming *perfect*.

Continued on page 15



Remembering Judy

I have such mixed emotions after reading your post. I'm happy for Judy in her transition. Although I never met her in person, I've come to love her dearly through films and lectures and feel as though I've lost a very dear friend.

Rachel in Virginia

Thank you for the beautiful memorial to Judith Skutch Whitson. I, too, will be forever grateful to her and for her. She was and is a true Teacher of Teachers, as are you, dear Beverly.

Sharie in Wisconsin



My Five-Year Plan

by Jacob Glass

I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do, because He Who sent me will direct me. (T-2.V.A.18:4)

Isometimes joke that I am 40 years behind in my five-year plan. While I'm kidding, it is actually quite accurate. Even as a teenager, I had notebooks and lists and plans and things that needed to be done yesterday. I was very organized and methodical. I suppose I still am. There are ways in which I live my life in a kind of military precision, and my life is filled with daily routine that keeps me from succumbing to anxiety. I am the least spontaneous person you are likely to meet. My routines are done in the early part of the day so that I can maintain an illusion of control, which is both hilarious and hopeless. Still, it is very helpful in some ways.

The only time I ever got to meet Judy Whitson was at one of the early Miracle Distribution Center conferences. She was the reason I changed my schedule around to arrive early. I usually had a Course lecture on that morning, but I was excited to see her in person and to get a sense of her energy and vibe. She was so much more than I even hoped for — a true delight in every way. Her humor and candor were thrilling to me, but more than that, she helped me with one of her fabulous stories in a way that influences my life profoundly to this very day.

Now, my memory may not be recalling this exactly right, so please understand I am wildly paraphrasing, and I am going to tell you the way I HEARD it rather than the exact way Judy may have said it, okay?

It was in the early days of the publishing of *A Course in Miracles*, and Judy kept re-

questing that Helen ask Jesus for a five-year plan for the Foundation for Inner Peace. This is a perfectly reasonable request because Judy knew that as a non-profit business, you would have a business plan in place. If you wanted to get grants and things like that, I guess you would NEED one. It's just the

norm. So, at some point, they sat down to do one of their meditations where Helen said she would ask Jesus about this.

The answer they got changed my life in the most wonderful way, and it gives me peace to this very day. The way I remember it is that at the end of the meditation, Helen said that

Jesus told her, "You are on a need-to-know basis." He basically said that if Helen had known from day one of dictation that this process was going to go on for years and be over 1,000 pages and be turned into a book, she would probably never have done any of it at all! She told the story hilariously and beautifully, and I have shared that story with thousands of people over the years who have also been helped by this wonderful guidance.

"Take no thought for the morrow" is a wonderful Bible quote that greatly soothes me, but it does not quite have the fabulous punch of, "You are on a need-to-know basis so that you won't mess everything up." This is the amazing gift I received from that twinkling light that is Judy. It made me fall madly in love with her, and I have been talking to her and laughing with her ever since she made her transition into the non-physical. How wonderful that I got to give her a hug that day. It is a delightful, cherished memory of a holy encounter. I love you, Judy!



Judy and Helen Schucman.

The Consummate Purveyor of Miracles

Miracle Distribution Center had the honor of hosting over ten events with Judith Skutch Whitson, who was the president of the Foundation for Inner Peace (FIP), the original publisher of *A Course in Miracles*. Her husband, Dr. William W. Whitson, appeared at a number of those events, as well, as he was then in charge of FIP's translation process. Under Whit's masterful skills, over a fifteen-year period beginning in 1992, *A Course in Miracles* was translated into twenty-seven languages.

One of the many events where Judy and Whit spoke was in October of 1993. The Center hosted a speakers' series for its 15th anniversary, and they shared some fascinating stories. Prior to Whit's work with FIP, he was Chief of Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division for the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. With his work in Washington and his status as a retired Colonel in the United States Army, he had contact with



1993 MDC conference. Whit and Judy share a snuggle.

many high-ranking military officers. When he met Judy, he wanted to share her and her insight of *A Course in Miracles* with Washington and the military "powers that be."

He asked Judy to present her ideas to a small, elite group of military leaders at the National War College of the United States. Judy was a little uncomfortable with the surroundings and the idea of speaking to generals about God. At one of their round table meetings, she explained that when she is in doubt about what to do, she asks the

Jacob has a global ministry and his recorded weekly talks and can be found at jacobglass.com

"Behind-the-Scenes-Creative-Decision-Maker-Within." The room was dead silent.

Breaking the silence, one general looked her straight in the eye and said, "Do you mean God?"

Not wanting to put off the generals by bringing up God, Judy nervously replied, "Well, some people call Him that."

"Lady, if you mean God... say God!" barked the General. He went on to say, "When I was in the war, I was a paratrooper. When I jumped out of planes and pulled my primary cord to open my parachute, and it didn't open, I would go for my secondary cord, which was my last hope of survival. If every time I went for that second cord, I had to say, 'Help me, Behind-the-Scenes-Creative-Decision-Maker-Within,' I'd be dead before I pulled the cord! If you mean God, say God!"

God is alive and doing well in Washington, and He goes by name... no pseudonyms for Him! And He could not have found a better purveyor to escort His ideas than Judy. ❖

Remembering Judy



I never met Judith in person, but of "Course" we are inseparable! Her role in the uplifting of

humanity has been immense, so the whole world is a better place, and so we are eternally grateful! Although leaving the body behind seems sad for us still on this side, it is surely an incredible release for Judith. I'm sure she is in ecstasy, in joyful bliss with the Loving Fullness of Jesus.

Ron in Australia

I am sending you loving thoughts and holding you all in my heart as you go through this precious time of remembering your dear friend, Judy. I know she touched your life, and you had the benefit of a loving relationship with her. How lucky you are! I am so grateful for her willingness to listen to the call to publish the Course. Where would we be without this Miraculous teaching? Your gift of sharing the Course is an extension of her work. I'm forever grateful for you!!!!

Marilyn in California



Remembering Judy

by Gayle Prather

While Hugh and I did know Judy, we weren't able to spend as much time with her as we did with Jerry Jampolsky and Bill Thetford. However, one thing that always resonated with both Hugh and me was how strong, determined, and unstoppable she was when it came to making *A Course in Miracles* available to all.

From the moment she first read the Course, she committed her heart and soul to it; she believed the truth and beauty of it, and despite the criticism she received from some, she persisted in making it available to virtually everyone in the world. She never gave up, and she continued to focus on having it translated into many languages so that people all over the world could experience the Course as she had. It's also important to remember that this was in the early 1970s when the ideas presented were both unusual and even somewhat controversial in a country that was more traditionally religious back then. Also, women did not have the respect and/or power that they are still working to acquire today.

Because of the criticism, she could easily have given up and simply practiced the Course rather than working to make it available to all. Her efforts were often met by ego responses that would have deterred anyone who wasn't as strong and didn't have faith, not only in the Course but also in herself.

To put it simply, Judith Skutch Whitson was a remarkably strong and focused woman! She worked tirelessly to have the Course printed, and she set up a foundation from which it could be purchased. For many, that would have been sufficient. But

Judy was tireless and fearless! She gave talks about the Course; she answered innumerable questions, and throughout all of the turmoil and ego nonsense, she remained focused on what she wanted to do, which was to bring this profoundly spiritual and all-encompassing teaching to everyone. No one was excluded.

I never heard her attack anyone or criticize anyone; she not only set up the Foundation for Inner Peace as the publisher,



Judy poised at her desk, ready to work.

but she also got the Course into bookstores and spent the rest of her life faithfully practicing it and making sure that virtually everyone, regardless of their heritage or language, would have access to this momentous truth.

Without Judy, those of us who love *A Course in Miracles* would not have had this profound teaching in our lives. She was there when it mattered, and she was there for all of us until the end of her earthly life. She was truly a remarkable and loving woman who took on a mission and fulfilled it regardless of what obstacles lay before her. ❖

Gayle Prather, along with her late husband Hugh Prather, is the author of many books, including *Notes to Each Other* and *I Will Never Leave You*.

I remember her sharing about those early days before Helen Schucman passed in 1981. Helen was not the easiest person to deal with, but Judy never wavered. No matter what Helen would say, Judy would focus on the love that was Helen and not the ego that could be so challenging. She would tell me how Helen would take her hand and stroke it ever so gently while she lovingly called her Kitten and expressed her deep gratitude to Judy. That was Helen's truth, Judy would say, so she would take a deep breath and focus on that. She learned in one of the most challenging classrooms of life that what

someone was saying was not who they are, and if she did not focus on Helen's truth, beyond her ego cries, then Judy herself would not know her own reality. Judy beautifully taught that giving was receiving.

She loved her family dearly, her children and grandchildren, and her three husbands and their children. When her first husband, Howard Cohen, with whom she had her two children Jonathan and Tamara, died in New York in 2020, Judy was with him and his current wife by Zoom, sharing the completion of a healed relationship. When Whit, her third husband, passed in 2018, she was ever-present with a man who continued to be her great joy and deep love. She would often invoke the saying Whit would respond with when something tickled his funny bone, "What a honk!"

Judy's second husband, Robert (Bob) Skutch, still lives in Marin with his wife, Lee. Bob recently retired from his forty-six years as the "Swiss Army knife" of the Foundation for Inner Peace, meaning he pitched in and skillfully did anything that needed to be done. Bob wrote one of the first books, *Journey Without Distance*, in 1984, to tell the story behind the Course and the impact it was having up until that point. Bob and Whit worked like a team with Judy for the vital work of FIP; it was truly a holy relationship.

Judy often referred to the three of them as "a three-legged stool" of FIP, with each leg vital for its function.

In my last conversation with Judy, I recall saying to her, as I had said many times, that without her, the Course would not be in our hands today. She was the reason any of us ever found the Course. Holy Spirit orchestrated everything perfectly to bring it into being, and everyone played their part flawlessly in arriving at the place where they were ready to assume their assigned mission. I was, as I always was, deeply grateful for her incredible effort, diligence, and commitment. She knew this was a sacred duty that was healing millions around the world. She was

humbled by the enormity of the power that controlled all our lives, but she was confident in her assignment, which she did with incredible grace, elegance, and laser-focused brilliance.

A few years back, I received a gift in the mail from her. It was one of Helen Schucman's poems from the *Gifts of God*. Judy had found a wonderful

calligraphist who put the poem onto parchment and then placed it within a beautiful golden frame. The poem was "With Thanks," and it reads,

WITH THANKS

No one can know just what his part will mean
When God from little lights completes a star
From what we give to Him. Each is unseen
Until the other parts from near and far
Are joined by Him into a form that He
Can use to light the darkness. In His Hand
The stars are born, to shine upon the sea
And to enchant all things upon the land
And raise them Heavenward. Perhaps your gift
Is set upon a star tip, or perhaps
It shimmers at the center point, to lift
A heart from sadness. Or perhaps it caps
A silver star-side. Do not then forget
In what we value little God may see
A new-born star, unknown to us as yet
Who cannot look on glory still to be.

I cherish this gift for many reasons but especially because it came from my friend. This was a poem about her, as well. She had no idea as a little girl or as a woman growing

up in New York City what her gift to the world would be. I am so profoundly grateful to her that my words are incomplete. I hope you realize this poem is about you, too. No matter how you see yourself, you have a mighty purpose for healing, and I thank you for walking this path of healing with us.



Judy and Bev at a favorite restaurant in Tiburon, CA, "The Caprice."

I close by saying thank you, my dear friend, Judy, for following your Guidance so perfectly and for joining with me in fun and friendship and love while we abided in this world that is not our Home. I know you are experiencing your true homecoming because your heart was always filled with gratitude and love for everyone.

"And gratitude to God becomes the way in which He is remembered, for love cannot be far behind a grateful heart and thankful mind. God enters easily, for these are the true conditions for your homecoming." (M-23.4)



Thanks for the beautiful description of beloved Judy. I loved her from the first time

I saw her in person at one of the MDC conferences, and I have grown more and more in love with her as I've listened to her podcasts and webinars over the last year. I especially appreciated her sense of humor which always sent me into a state of happiness. Love and gratitude to you, Beverly, for being the reason I met her. I so look forward to the *Above the Battle-ground* seminar to see her last recording.
Lyn in Washington

Before my very eyes, after all those years of her acting “as if,” she was becoming that which **was**, no longer acting. When she awoke yet again, I encouraged and offered: “Soon you’ll be with your beloved husband and mother and all your loved ones on the other side,” to which she replied, “I don’t know anymore.” I wondered if this brought



Judy waving goodbye.

her fear or concern, and she said, “No, honey. It is different than I’d ever imagined. I am melting into the love, that is all. I don’t need story anymore.”

My mother’s final sentiments to me were about how she could not have wanted for anything more, that she’d never felt so loved in her entire life by me, by everyone, and finally, finally, finally by her own self. I never felt so proud of anyone in my life. Brava Mamma! Ebulliently, I held her hand and adoringly, devotionally kissed her visage as her breathing became more labored. Her last conscious words to me still reverberate as a personal reprise of her signature Course quote, which she placed at the bottom of her every correspondence, “Love is the way I walk in gratitude.” (W-195) Her luminescent smile dominated her face as she locked her eyes into mine with direct transmission while also imparting verbally, through death-defying labored last breaths: “I-am-so-LUCKY!”

Indeed, she truly was. As it was, so was and am I. It was amidst the suffering that I got to witness my mother actualizing the choice to both see and be “peace instead of this.” (W-34) Before my very eyes, Judith Rothstein

Our Friend Judy

by Ann and Richard Hutchinson

I’m so grateful to Judy Skutch Whitson and the other individuals who have dedicated their lives to bringing *A Course in Miracles* to the world, a teaching that has blessed and transformed the lives of so many of us.

When my husband Richard co-founded Miracle Distribution Center (MDC) with his sister Beverly in 1978, they had no idea of the impact the Course would have on the world. They were just doing what they were guided to do one step at a time. Their close relationship with Judy and many of those who were responsible for birthing the Course was not something that seemed special or unique, but rather a joining with those partners on the path of healing. They worked with them to help share the message of the Course to students who were hungry for its transformational truths.

When I met Richard, we joined in a holy relationship to be truly helpful in any way we could to help in the Course’s outreach. I became a member of MDC’s Board of Directors and served for many years. When the Center presented events and conferences, we were both active in providing our support and service. When Richard and I retired and moved to Arizona, our connection remained in spirit but not as much in

form. Nevertheless, we both stayed dedicated students of *A Course in Miracles*.

Richard and I have been honored to know Judy as a personal friend, and we continued to visit with her whenever we were in Northern California and then by Zoom the last year and a half. Judy never lacked



Whit, Judy, Ann & Richard at the Whitson home.

a story to tell, as she was always a skillful raconteur. Her keen mind and sharp wit always delighted us and kept us interested and informed.

Although Judy’s body was failing, she never talked about that and remained joyful and enthusiastic about life and people. You could feel the peace and love shine through her, and she accepted that she would be here as long as she could still be of service. She was such an inspiration to me personally as I think about what’s important as I age.

We send our fond and loving wishes to you, Judy, as you continue on this journey through eternal life.

Cohen Skutch Whitson did indeed become that which she was working so hard on being her entire life as, through every pore of her being, she evanesced into love and peace.

Mother, may you eternally rest in your own foundation for inner peace. God bless and thank you for showing the Truth on your way out so that I may remain in your Foundation for Inner Peace, now as your gift to me as my own.

A friend once expressed that my mother and I together were a force of nature. My response is that now, perhaps, I can release the force and simply let nature take its Course.

I know that Judith Skutch Whitson, a

practitioner of *A Course in Miracles* from what she humorously and humbly called the “Slow Learner’s Group,” would finally allow for an actual memorial service for a lifetime of a soul’s service so well done, her Course practice ultimately brought to perfection. I finally feel free to invite all to come together in a Zoom gathering at a date to be announced to share and celebrate this miracle-working warrior and lover. Let’s gather and thank one another for being part of the love in the way we all walk, one-by-one, two-by-two, and in totality, in gratitude for that which appeared as Judith Skutch Whitson. *Hallelujah*.

The HOLY ENCOUNTER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



A Special Issue
Dedicated to

*Judith
Skutch Whitson*

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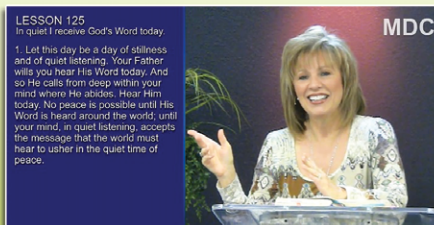
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LESSON 125
In quiet I receive God's Word today.
1. Let this day be a day of stillness
and of quiet listening. Your Father
wills you hear His Word today. And
so He calls from deep within your
mind where He abides. Hear Him
today. No peace is possible until His
Word is heard around the world, until
your mind, in quiet listening, accepts
the message that the world must
hear to usher in the quiet time of
peace.

MDC

*"Bev's knowledge of the Course and all of her explanations are wonderful.
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