

NEWS FROM THE HOLLOW



There is a hidden side to life—each act and word and thought has its consequence in the unseen world which is always so near to us and that usually these unseen results are of infinitely greater importance than those which are visible to all upon the physical plane.

--Thought Forms, Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater

As we do every year in March, Pumpkin Hollow will welcome a group of Basic Therapeutic Touch students. For the staff of the Hollow this marks the beginning of the new retreat season in which we will have the privilege of welcoming people into our community and home. For many, if not most of these Therapeutic Touch students, this will be their first visit to the Hollow. Interestingly though, many of these first time visitors, as have other visitors before them, will feel like they are coming home, are connected, or are in some way deeply moved by the atmosphere of the Hollow.

In every conceivable case man must be a center of spiritual action and from him and his own daily individual life must radiate those higher spiritual forces which alone can regenerate his fellow men.

*--Key to Theosophy,
HP Blavatsky*

The Theosophical ethos holds that every action, feeling and thought affects all other beings and that each of us is capable of and responsible for contributing to the benefit of the whole. Those of us who live, work, and volunteer here at the Hollow are in reality the temporary guardians of Pumpkin Hollow's sacred space as envisioned by the Hollow's founders in 1937. Throughout the years, there have been many guardians of the Hollow with every thought of peace, spirituality, love and harmony adding to the reservoir of good will which permeates Pumpkin Hollow.

As a retreat center Pumpkin Hollow joyfully holds this sacred space for spiritual communities from all over. In us, communities find a home away from home where they can explore transformation, understand the wisdom of the ages, and unite in study, meditation and service.

We, the current guardians of the Hollow, are looking forward to welcoming back past groups and people who through their practice have contributed to the radiant atmosphere of Pumpkin Hollow. Equally, we are eager to meet and serve all the people who will visit Pumpkin Hollow for the first time in 2018 and in their practice contribute to the healing energy of our home.

Returning Groups in 2018

Greater Hartford Sangha, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, Phyllis's Singing Group, Northeast Theosophical Federation, Long Island Center for Mindfulness, Body of Light, Retiro Espiritual with Julio Bevione, Temple of Anu, Great-Full-ness Yoga, Traditional Martinist Order, and Dance of the Deer Foundation.



A GARDEN NOTE

After a season of tremendous growth, abundance and beauty; the garden rests under a blanket of snow. But more is going on than meets the eye, a gradual transformation and reawakening of creative energies is taking place. As the sun rises higher and the days grow longer, she will burst forth with the vitality and life-force of the winter slumber and once again nourish the Pumpkin Hollow community.

We are looking forward to Spring, to working with nature and to being a part of this creative process. It is inspiring to know there is a whole other realm beyond the physical with which we can connect and be fed both physically and spiritually. The garden does seem to have her own, sometimes mysterious way, of touching all who come to the Hollow.

We thank and appreciate the volunteers and staff who contribute and lend their helping hands to maintain the garden and all of her mysteries.



Try by looking at some beautiful scene from the life-side to see it as the angels see it, to realize something of the hidden forces which shape it and make it beautiful, and to draw those forces into ourselves. Thus we may experience that sense of unity and love and joy, and so, open ourselves to be channels for the forces outpoured.

--Dora Van Gelder Kuntz



HAPPENINGS AT THE HOLLOW

The Pumpkin Hollow Study Group, which like the Hollow itself, flows with the excitement of retreat season and ebbs with the quietude of the winter months, enjoyed studying with many members of the Pumpkin Hollow community this year. We began 2017 with Ernest Wood's The Seven Rays. In these quiet winter months we learned about and discussed the esoteric concept of "ray" groups, subtle spiritual impulses which motivate all of us. As we hit the full stride of retreat season the question/answer format of H.P. Blavatsky's The Key to Theosophy afforded us flexibility to welcome visitors to our study. The Theosophical truism as stated by John Algeo that words are powerful and thoughts have greater reality than either words or actions infused many of the discussions at Pumpkin Hollow this year. With that in mind, we finished our year with Thought Forms by Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater, and The Power and Use of Thought by Leadbeater.

The Hollow has been busy with repairs and renovations. Our biggest project in 2017 was the addition of a beautiful new roof to the Farmhouse. We are aiming for additional renovations to the Farmhouse in 2018 including new windows and have already added a fresh coat of paint to most of the interior public spaces. Other updates in 2017 included new windows for the Motel as well as ceiling insulation to help keep cool in the Summer and warm in the Fall, remodeling of the lower level of Cabin 19 (affectionately known as the Piggery), and new showers in two cabins. The Pumpkin Hollow Office also received a much needed update in the form of a new computer replacing the "dinosaur" which served us well.

We are looking forward to the arrival of Wanda Lee and Gary Atkinson, both of whom will be seasonal residents at the Hollow in 2018. Wanda will be working in housekeeping and Gary will be working on the grounds. Let's be sure to wish them a warm Pumpkin Hollow welcome when we meet them this season. We also want to acknowledge the volunteer community of Pumpkin Hollow. Volunteerism is the backbone of the Hollow and offers a deep and rewarding experience. To all who have contributed to the fellowship of our community we extend a heartfelt thank you.

For complete information about program descriptions, registration and program fees visit our website at www.pumpkinhollow.org or contact the office: (518) 325-3583; email pumpkin@taconic.net. Programs are added throughout the year.

Pumpkin Hollow Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Financial contributions insure continuity of growth and well-being in our sanctuary. Pumpkin Hollow depends on your generosity. You can also visit our wish list on www.smile.amazon.com.

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