

Presidents' Letter 2019

Forward in Unity

Rev. Annette Cavender
HGSA President

As we approach the five-year mark since fire changed the landscape of Harmony Grove, we reflect on who we are as a community...where we have come from, who we are now, and how Spirit will help us thrive and evolve in the coming months and years.

In May 2014, we blinked, and most of what we knew as Harmony Grove was gone. Our community was scattered, and many of those who had called these sacred grounds "home" have since crossed over.

Others needed to move on and find a place to root their lives, as it became clear that it would be a long road ahead to rebuild our physical structures.

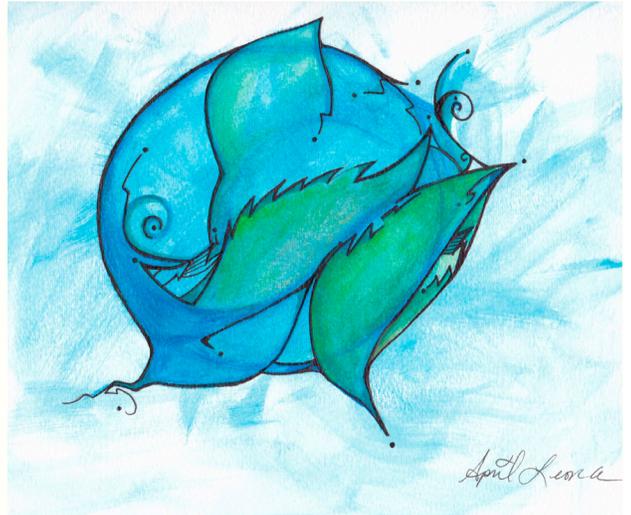
And yet, quite literally rising from the ashes, we find ourselves still here, with a new sense of community, an evolving sense of purpose, a contingent of former residents still eager to rebuild their homes, and a membership and congregation that perhaps looks different from several years ago but is unified around a love for Harmony Grove, our principles, and individual and collective spiritual growth.

So much has changed, and yet so much remains the same.

I have been blessed to have a front-row seat to watch Harmony Grove move through many seasons in the past five years. It has been a time of healing for all of us. A time of growth, hard work, reflection, visioning and imagining our path ahead. A time of patiently waiting for our next steps to open up.

In 2019, we stand fully grounded in the present, at the precise juncture between past and future, excited for what comes next. It has been a long five years of planning, engineering, and navigating the County approval process so we may begin rebuilding physical structures to provide the scaffolding for our future. We are nearing that moment of transformation into our next phase.

Numerologically, 2019 reduces to 3, the number of the creative child. This indeed is our moment to burst forth creatively, with individual and collective purpose. The number 3 reminds us of that spark of Divinity that created us in our human form. It is a number of change, of imagination, with an eye toward growth and manifestation.



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In keeping with the number 3, this year's President's letter is a collaboration by the three of us in office since May 2014. Rev. April Cunningham led with love and compassion during and immediately after the fire; Rev. Coy Johnston led with her strength and fiery determination beginning in the summer of 2014; both laid the groundwork for me to pick up the torch in Fall 2015, and I will remain forever grateful to them and to Spirit for lighting the way forward.

With gratitude to those who came before and those who will follow,

Rev. Annette Cavender

Gratitude and Compassion

Rev. Coy Johnston
Immediate Past President

As Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association stands at the precipice of its renewal, let's take a moment to remember our gratitude for Spirit guidance and assistance throughout this long five-year process.

Immediately after the fire, assistance came from the Elfin Forest-Harmony Grove Fire Department and the Southern Baptist relief workers. We will never forget their loving prayers as they cleared and prayed with us to hold the space to grieve and continue to heal. Then other volunteers came in to set up the donation center for our families who had been displaced and left with nothing except faith and hope to continue onwards.

The larger community of San Diego County responded with wonderful donations of gifts and the precious gift of time and service. Also, we send gratitude to those members and friends who came with their gifts of time and skill to put back in place all the items and information needed to carry on our spiritual work. This has allowed us to continue our unbroken Spiritual mandates from 1896 through the present time.

Now we, friends and members, are at the precipice with the Association to manifest our efforts to move into the energy of unity and compassion for all. Even though the world we live in doesn't always appear to be headed in this direction, it is the way Spirit is calling out to us. We have been called to purge ourselves of all that no longer serves us so that we can better fulfill our mission to assist those seekers who come to the Grove looking for answers to questions they have.

What a wonderful beginning for us as well! We also have the help and assistance of many who passed into spirit during this time and are ready to assist us moving forward. We function as their hands and feet and they uplift and inspire us from the spirit side of life. What a great combination of Spirit workers we will be as we put into practice the compassion and unity we have been learning. Search our hearts and see what Spirit is asking of us so that as we rebuild the Grove, it is in synchronicity with the highest and best of the new energy Spirit is helping ground on Earth.

Rev. Coy Johnston

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Into The Future With Love

Rev. April Leona Cunningham

Past President

Hard to believe it has been five years since the fire. Many epic changes have happened and are now moving into the moment it has been waiting for. I have been asked to write about Harmony Grove's future, I am honored to have been asked and I find it a privilege to do so.

Harmony Grove has always been an opportunity for anyone who was led here. Also in reality for everyone because what we did here fed the world; there is no little deed that happened here. Harmony Grove is a place that was built and manifested by the bigger picture. It was a divine and contrived plan to create a humble representative to not only heal this side of life but also the other. A mirror that was faceted to reflect the world's steps towards the transition that we are now in. A place where there were many stories...souls in flesh and spirit to heal, forgive, serve and seek not only their worth but to remember others' values. To show that being a bridge means separation is and was an illusion.

Harmony Grove was a sign of the future, the steps to the future and, in reality. Harmony Grove is the future. Harmony Grove has always been us and if we make the leap to the next level Harmony Grove will too. Mature and pure spirituality is what is going to be the glue of Harmony Grove's shining moment. When we shine, she shines is what spirit told me. The mirror which is Harmony Grove will reflect our intentions, our souls. The foundation of the steps in getting to this new dimension we have just entered are paved with all those who served and laid out the processes that they were guided to take.

What does the future look like and what am I shown? It looks like you, it looks like love, it looks like unity, it looks like the beloved Grove that always looked like opportunity. Harmony Grove is the great teacher through action...Harmony Grove is the sunset when we rise as individuals and she will never know failure because Harmony Grove was victorious the moment she was conceived.

She was the future all along because she was opportunity for anyone who wanted it...Love yourself, Love each other, serve in joyfulness and Harmony Grove will reflect the abundance and send out a light so bright many will find their way home. You are Harmony Grove's future and Harmony Grove has been there to make sure of it.

Love feeds Love,

Rev. April Leona Cunningham