

# On Golden Wings

VIRGINIA SATSANG SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • PUBLIC ECKANKAR EVENTS



## The Gift of Three Sunrises

By Linda Hiller, Co-RESA, Ashburn, Virginia

It was October, Columbus Day Weekend, and one of my closest friends was getting married. The couple wanted to give their family and friends a gift, so they decided to rent a house on the beach in Duck, NC. Twenty-five family and friends were to share the beach house for the weekend. As the guest list continued to grow, additional guests stayed nearby and joined us at the house for meals, celebration and festivities. The house guests were mostly friends on the bride's side and family on the groom's side.

I had been looking forward to this for months, as each detail was planned. But now that the time had come, I really needed to retreat. I wanted quiet. I wanted to be alone. The thought of sharing a house with 25 people, half of whom I didn't know, seemed overwhelming. I considered getting a hotel, but I didn't want to offend my friend. On the drive up, I decided my spiritual goal for the weekend would be to remain open and full of love.

The bride and myself are early risers. When we go to the beach together, we always get up to watch the sunrise. The first morning, we quietly got up to watch the sunrise. We opened the door to the large balcony, sat in comfy deck chairs, and looked out over the Atlantic Ocean. It was a time for us to catch-up. This was our time, quiet and serene, and I was selfishly grateful that the rest of the houseguests were asleep.

The sight was magical. There were clouds in the sky. As the sun began to rise, the clouds lit up in pinks, purples, reds and oranges. This scene was an ever-changing masterpiece in the sky that softly reflected in the ocean. A palette of merging and expanding colors growing ever higher and wider. We sat and soaked in this beauty.

Word got out. The second morning, the wedding day, some of the guests joined us on the deck for the sunrise. Inwardly, I accepted that I needed to share the bride, the deck, and the sunrise with others. For some it was their first ever sunrise. To share in this experience with them, was a gift. As the heart opens in gratitude, consciousness expands. It was a glorious, holy moment for all of us. Some went off to pray, others back to sleep. I went off for a walk along the quiet beach. It was just me, a fisherman, a gentle breeze, some birds, and my spiritual guide, the Living ECK Master.

That evening was the wedding on a bayside gazebo at sunset. The reception followed. Their honeymoon began in a house of family and friends. We stayed up late, singing and laughing. Speckled into the conversations were moments where people began to reveal themselves in deep and profound ways. The groom's family had become our new friends and the bride's friends were now becoming part of their expanding family.

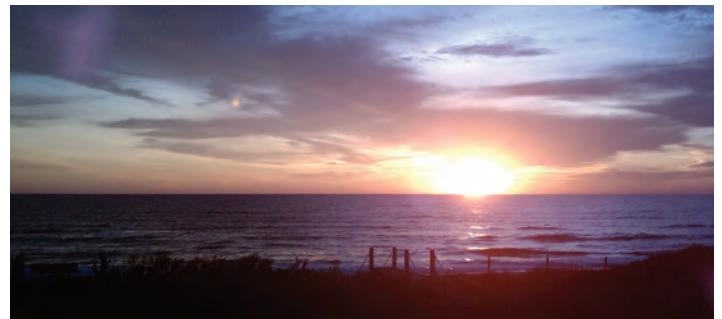
After the newly married couple went off to their room, a few gentle jokes went around that the bride would not be joining me for sunrise the next morning. It could go either way I thought, but my alarm was set to catch this last sunrise.

Just after I awoke, there was a text from my friend asking where I was. She and her new husband were waiting for me on the deck! As I greeted them, there seemed to be an expectation that something special, something spiritual, was about to happen. I *know* that feeling, but I had never felt it from them before.

Our third and last sunrise on the beach was nothing short of breathtaking. The sky was absolutely clear. As the sun peaked above the horizon we were "together" sharing this moment. The sun, big, bold, bright, and powerful began to rise slowly and steadily. Time slowed down. It is hard to say how, but at that sunrise the relationship between the three of us deepened. Much later it occurred to me that the traditional ECK wedding ceremony happens at sunrise. We had the husband, bride, and myself as clergy. Coincidence? It was truly a holy union, with few words. This sunrise we captured on film and video.

This three day weekend was coming to a close. I thought I needed a retreat but the ECK, Holy Spirit, had other plans, if I was open to them. Though I had wanted to hide away for a time, that weekend I was to be nourished through friends, new family, and nature. A healing had begun.

Though I did not retreat that weekend there is a retreat on the horizon. This April 27 – 29 will be the Chela Retreat at the Roslyn center in Richmond. I'd like to personally invite all ECK Chelas (members) to attend. This spiritual retreat will have a balance of deep contemplation, spiritual exercises, profound conversation, and some regular old fun. There will be talks and music, and time to renew, refresh and revitalize. This will be a place where friends become family and family become friends; all amongst the beauty of nature. Join us, nourish and be nourished, as we explore the Journey to Mastership.



Sunrise at Duck, North Carolina

MEET SPIRITUALLY LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

## Come to a Spiritual Event



Coming in April:

**2012 ECK Springtime Seminar  
Spiritual Renewal in  
The Year of Graceful Living  
April 6–8, 2012  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**

For more information or to preregister for this seminar, go to [www.ECKseminars.org](http://www.ECKseminars.org).

To view a video, "The ECK Seminar Experience," go to [www.ECKseminars.org](http://www.ECKseminars.org).

SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL IN A CHANGING WORLD

## Focus: How Past Lives Are Affecting You Today

"This incarnation is a gold mine, a rich life, worth every ounce of trouble that rebirth brings." —Sri Harold Klemp,<sup>1</sup> *Past Lives, Dreams, and Soul Travel*

FEATURE ARTICLE

## Learning about Ourselves By Sri Harold Klemp



During my first years in ECK, I had the good fortune to experience many past-life recalls. Some were pleasant. There were also a number of unpleasant ones, recalls of lost opportunities in reaching some desired goal. Not memories to celebrate in the least.

Yet each lifetime, even a supposed failure, gives a fuller understanding about your spiritual nature. You learn about yourself as a spiritual being.

1. Sri Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar. For the rest of this article or to subscribe to the journal, go to [Spiritual Wisdom Journal](http://www.SpiritualWisdomJournal.com).

*The Spiritual Wisdom Journal* is an online newsletter published by Eckankar. It is sent out quarterly to anyone who signs up for a free subscription

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Eckankar Web Site

Some of the most interesting questions asked by visitors are answered in this new section on the Eckankar web site:

<http://www.eckankar.org/FAQ/index.html>

### Local Area Contacts

Annandale ECK Center .....	703-916-0505
Richmond ECK Center .....	804-378-7815
Norfolk ECK Center .....	757-518-5683
Bedford ECK Center .....	434-384-7959
Roanoke .....	540-857-0950
Northern Neck .....	Thelma Pearl 804-580-5136
Winchester .....	Jan Livingston 540-877-3366
Harrisonburg .....	Margaret Reed 540-480-9217
Charlottesville .....	Sage Gibson 434-977-5485
Blacksburg .....	Fran Wells 540-953-1868
Graphic Design/Production .....	Jerry Leonard
Editor .....	Bruce Hickman
Newsletter Specialist .....	Jane Hawley
Linda & Jerry Hiller, Co-Regional ECK Spiritual Aides .....	703-729-3503

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