

Tania Thomas — a medium's visions

I receive an abundance of questions regarding what I do for a living. Within my monthly column, I would like to share with you some of the questions that have topped the list as the most unusual and thought provoking.

Question from Rosie: "If a soul reincarnates into another physical lifetime does it mean that the soul no longer resides in the spirit side (heaven)?"

Answer: I love this question, Rosie. Thank you so much for putting it forward. You have provided me with the ability to answer two questions in one place. Firstly, to address that reincarnation does exist and secondly, to address that your human body only truly houses one aspect of your soul.

I chose this particular question because I often hear parents of young children specifically hoping to hold their children in their arms one more time. It's natural to want to finish out your human experience with them in attendance. It does affect us all regardless of the loss we have suffered, but parents tend to ask this question more often than most who have suffered a loss. However, this does apply to you all, whether it be loss of spouse, child, sibling, or parent.

"I lost my 3-year-old son, and miss him so badly. Can he come back into my lifetime

connected to one of my grandchildren or great grandchildren?" When I respond that the possibility exists of this occurring (it's the soul's choice to make), I am met by a wistful sigh followed by the inevitable distressed look when the realization hits that this may remove any hopes of a "happily ever after, together forever" in the spirit world when the parent makes their own transition at the end of their respective lifetime. One might consider this to be a conundrum; a trade-off of sorts. "I can have one or the other. A lifetime or an eternity"

I am here to tell you today that you will have both. If an energy on the spirit side makes the decision to have a quick turnaround back into the physical world, they leave a part of them behind in spirit. It's fascinating and beautiful!

This is beautiful because we are in two places at the same time. We all are. I call this the true soul mate connection. This is your higher self, your intuitive self, that little voice that tells you to choose direction A or direction B. That is your spirit self that assists your physical self on your journey. How cool is that?

Many people mistakenly refer to their "perfect match" as their soul mate when they are in a relationship type of manner, and they are correct. Your soul mate IS your perfect match, but for very different reasons that you might

have come to understand. Your soul mate is you. Your soul mate is the energetic aspect of you that resides in the world of spirit while you walk your physical journey here on earth.

Because you are pure energy, you are constantly connected to both worlds; at all times. So, while your loved one may choose to return to the physical journey in your lifetime, their other half or their "soul mate" remains on the spirit side waiting to meet you when your physical lifetime has come to an end.

To make this even more interesting, the soul aspect that will wait for you on the other side carries memories of every single lifetime you have shared together. You will come to understand exactly how that works when you arrive there yourself. It will truly be a reunion that is powerful to say the least. It will come with flooding memories of wonderful lifetimes spent together. All memories of the grief over the prior losses disappear completely.

Your connection to your loved one is never severed. Not by lifetimes, by centuries, or by circumstances. It continues to exist and will do so throughout the end of time.

So, when your grandchild is born and the energy rings so familiar and the child looks at you in a way that your son or daughter once did, take heart in knowing that they have

returned to your life. Returned to be a part of the remainder of your journey and they bring with them every beautiful memory you once shared. Feel safe in the knowledge that when your time comes to leave this world, that they will be waiting on the other side to meet you there also.

If you are one of the luckier ones, they will be there with you as you exit the human world. As well as one of the ones waiting to greet you as you enter the spiritual world.

The best part of all of this is that you also get to meet your soul mate when you go over. You will come face-to-face with your soul self. You will share all of your amazing and not so amazing experiences together and will plan for your next journey back to get the lessons you missed out on this time.

I love how the universe works.

In love 'n light,
Tania

Tania Thomas is author, spiritual medium, motivational speaker, and sometimes comedian.

For my North Carolina readers, if you have a question about the spiritual journey, you may email me at visionsvoices@outlook.com. I will answer one question in next month's column. I look forward to hearing from you!

Editor's Note: Tania Thomas offers her questions and answers each month at www.chathamcountyline.org. This was written expressly for our print issue.

Twenty Little Birds

by Patty Cole

Sandy Hook Elementary School, December 14, 2012

It was a day when the sun melted winter into spring.
We put the top down on the convertible and let it whisk us
from the city to the country.

The sky was lighter than cornflower blue,
no jet streams, just cumulus clouds floating
like tufts of wool from sheared lambs.

You said, God never makes mistakes.
I clicked on the radio.

A flock of twenty small birds, sparrows, flew
in a torrent toward an oak tree at the woods' edge,
then up through a sky that had suddenly ripped open.

STUDIO TOUR

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Edwin White was one of the first artists that Spina met in Chatham County as she was retiring from her profession as a psychologist and starting to make art. "I got past feeling uncomfortable saying that I was an artist. Eddie was my mentor though he may not know it."

Spina has already discovered a junkyard that is near her new home so this anticipation helps assuage her sadness at leaving Chatham County.

She said, "I will miss this gentle place."

Forrest Greenslade never intended to become an artist when he retired. "I was going to write books, give lectures, and do some management consulting," said Greenslade, who is #25 on the tour and like Spina, lives in Fearington at 149 Tinderwood. "Then, I had a heart attack and that life I had planned was not right for me anymore."

He moped. In an attempt to reverse his mood his wife Carol-Ann took her husband out on the Chatham Studio Tour one morning. "I saw just how satisfying it must be for the artists," Greenslade said.

The two came back to their home for lunch where Carol-Ann turned on the TV to watch one of the design shows she loves. "It was Martha Stewart's show, and she was making a garden pot out of concrete," Greenslade said. He put down his sandwich, went out to his potting shed and made a face out of concrete. "I was hooked." He sent a photo of the face to a

friend he had made in the local Toastmasters, and she told Greenslade that if he made more, she would sell them. "I was a practicing sculptor in one day."

This was 14 years ago. He began studying art and honing his skills and eventually was accepted into the Chatham Artists Guild. "Because the Studio Tour was my inspiration for starting, I really wanted to participate in it," Greenslade said.

The encouragement and guidance he received from other Chatham artists really helped Greenslade, and he credits Tamera Cooke with much of his progress. His daughter, Kathryn Armstrong, a longtime artist, got Greenslade started on painting.

"All of my work is pretty much nature inspired," Greenslade said. A series of 18 paintings that he recently finished was inspired by the pollinator garden that is down at the Chatham Mills.

Christie Minchew, who is a mixed-media artist with a specialty in felted art, is #12 on this year's tour. She is also the President of the Chatham Artists Guild.

"Being an artist on the Tour, I am jealous of all those folks who can get all over the county to find the wonderful, creative treasures to be had," Minchew said. "I remember when I wasn't part of the Tour, and I went to stops that were clustered, but there are so many talented artists who live a little farther away from the clusters. I hope folks get a chance to see them too."

Deborah R. Meyer is a Chatham writer.

VENTURE

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the Fearington nature trails.

"We had our first guest in May of 2014," Greenslade said. Since then, the Artist Garret has been booked about once a month, with guests typically staying for a few days. Usually they have come to town for family-related events, such as a graduation. One couple came to stay to be near a family member who was in the last days of his life. To greet each new guest, the Greenslades stock the studio with a chilled bottle of Prosecco, cheese and biscuits, and a bouquet of flowers from their sculpture-filled garden.

"What has been surprising is how wonderful people have been," Greenslade said. "I kind of thought it would be something I would

have to live through for financial reasons but it has turned out to be a joy. It also gives me another opportunity to show my work to a broader geographical audience."

Greenslade said that the Airbnb website takes care of all the financial aspects of this venture. "They take three percent from us and six percent from the visitor for use of their platform. The day after the guest arrives, there is a wire transfer into our bank account. It works perfectly for us," Greenslade said. "We have now met a lot of people around here who have used Airbnb when they travel."

This kind of shared economy is very democratizing said Greenslade. "You don't have to be a Paris Hilton to be in the hospitality business or have a music contract to publish your CD. Technology has made a whole world accessible to the average person if they will just learn how to use it," Greenslade said

JOURNEYS

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because we can't just throw everything out the window because of a life we'd rather have.

Gilberto (Isidra's husband): We have four sons and we want a better future for them, a life better than the one we've had. We want them to achieve their goals and dreams; that's what we want. When they can finally make it on their own, that's when we could possibly go back.

Deep in my heart I would like to return to Mexico but I can't. It's my only sadness: not being able to return to my hometown and to be able to see my family, my uncles, my friends. Not to be able to walk the same streets I walked in my childhood. It weighs heavy on my heart, but it's the price I have to pay to be able to be here in the U.S. At the same time it soothes me to know I'm the father of four boys and that this is their country. This is where they belong and we exist to help them realize their dreams. The economic situation, the immigration law, the driver's license issue; all of it saddens us, because it doesn't allow us to completely form part of this society. These things limit us in many ways.

The biggest reason we remain standing up and fighting to be able to stay in this country are our four children.

Alex: My mother's people I never got to know because of prejudices. I never got to meet my grandmother or any of my relatives on my mom's side. My mother's family was originally from Sweden and it became mingled with blacks during slavery times.

A long time later the family tried to live as

white people (hiding their African American heritage) in a white neighborhood, unknown to those around them. Until my mother's marriage to my father she was considered to be a white person. After the marriage to my father, she was ostracized. One of my aunts did communicate with us.

The night my grandmother on that side died, my father and I sat in the car waiting for my mother to come out and tell us the news. That's when my father told me what was going on with the family and why we were sitting outside and not inside. It was because we were black.

My other grandma, Nettie, told me that she was born as a slave. Her mother worked as a farmhand/slave plowing fields and planting in all kinds of weather. That was here in North Carolina, near where I live now. My last name would have been Matthews but because of my great-great-grandfather, it was changed to Graves.

He was not only a slave, but a slave-boss. He was in charge of other slaves and one time the master wanted him to whip another slave for some minor infraction of the rules. My great-great-grandfather refused and instead turned the whip on the master.

Because the Matthews family, as they were called then, was made up of such good hard-working people, they didn't kill him. Instead the master sold him to a man named Graves. Graves was a bit more tolerant and compassionate toward his slaves, and after slavery was abolished, he gave my great-great-grandfather 400 acres of land and his freedom.

Audrey Schwankl is a local community activist.

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www.ChathamCountyLine.org