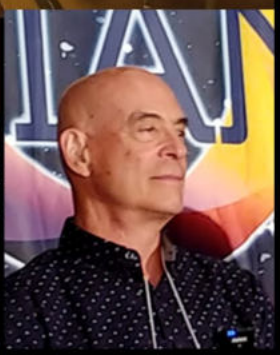


# VITAL SIGNS





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Founded in 1981, the International Association for Near-Death Studies, Inc. (IANDS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The organization is dedicated to encouraging scientific research, education, and support regarding the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual nature and ramifications of near-death and related experiences. IANDS associates comprise a broad audience from around the world including experiencers; researchers; medical, mental, social, and religious/spiritual healthcare professionals; educators; and the general public. For more information, or to become an IANDS member, visit <https://iands.org>

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## CONTENTS

2022 Salt Lake City Conference Recap	3
Research Trends 2022	4
A Blind Woman's Near-Death Experience	5-6
Book Highlights	7
Military Experiences Group, IANDS Groups & Events, BICS Challenge Grants	8
A Soldier's Ghost Story	9
IANDS YouTube Channel Recommendations	10
Multilocation/Parallel Realities/Simultaneous Experiences	11-12
NDE of a Native American Holy Man	13
Near-Death Meditations Workshop	13
Mom's Retrieval - Moving into the Light	14
PMH Atwater's New Research Project	15
IANDS 2023 Arlington, VA Conference	16



The IANDS Board of Directors and Conference Committee wish to express sincere appreciation for Salt Lake City IANDS Group collaboration and the incredible Volunteers who MADE IT HAPPEN!

## 2022 SLC Conference Recap

Jump-starting the largest IANDS conference ever was an optional and well-attended, Reiki I in-person pre-conference course taught by Reiki Master and Registered Occupational Therapist, Rebecca Austill-Clausen. Becky received accolades, and like the old Mastercard commercials - - she is PRICELESS!

The IANDS Conference in Salt Lake City centered around the theme of *TIMELESS ONENESS: The Luminous Message of Near-Death & Other Spiritually Transformative Experiences*. It included riveting accounts of NDEs, SDEs, and Related Experiences, Speakers, Panels, Workshops, Experiencer Lounge, Healing Rooms, plus something very special - - there IS such a thing as a Free Lunch! On Thursday, Sept. 1, the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS) treated everyone present to a free boxed lunch and presented their plans for 2023 of rewarding more grants to researchers on consciousness and afterlife studies! Robert Bigelow and Dr. Colm Kelleher were enthusiastic and excited to inform the IANDS audience of their plans. For more information, please visit their website on the 2023 plans: <https://www.bigelowinstitute.org/>

The Speaker Lunches with Dr. Mary Neal, Jeff Olsen, Dr. Jeff O'Driscoll, Dr. Jeffrey Mishlove, Mark Anthony, Suzanne Giesemann, PMH Atwater, Peter Panagore, Tricia Barker, and Dr. Melvin Morse were a sell-out as well as the Fund Raising Dinner on Friday evening with Dr. Jeffrey Mishlove. The food quality and presentations at the ticketed meals, as well as the Saturday night party, were given enthusiastic kudos by those who were able to attend.

The Thursday evening keynote, *Oneness and Who We Are*, by Jeff Olsen and his entourage of local musicians, set the inspirational and uplifting tone for the following three days of the conference. On Sunday evening, Jeff's closing comments included a heartfelt personal story, and he shared his father-in-law's last words with the audience, "We are all Divine."

We went home with a feeling of deep gratitude and love for being there in-person. Please join us next year in Arlington, Virginia for the 2023 Conference, in-person, and live-streamed!



*Jacqueline Arnold, MSLS (left) and Debbie James, MSN, RN, CCRN-K (right) IANDS Conference Committee Chairs*



### COMMENTS FROM REGISTRANTS

#### What did you enjoy most about the conference?

- \* *Being wrapped in a Bubble of Love and Light from everyone. It tied a lot of things together for me in my life (Not an NDEr).*
- \* *Inspirational philosophy—a way of life. Emphasis on Love and we are more than our human selves.*
- \* *Meeting old friends and new “old” friends. It was perfect!*
- \* *I felt so at home. Everyone is so kind. I can be my kind self and feel like I “fit in.”*
- \* *I am so grateful to IANDS! Thank you for putting on this conference. Will be at the next one.*
- \* *I joined IANDS simply to attend—LOVED it!!!*
- \* *The Precious Moments shared by first time attendees and those who will not miss an IANDS Conference are priceless and sacred as we Remember and Smile.*
- \* *The glowing, loving energy and the sharing of profound experiences.*
- \* *My time in the Experiencer Lounge and meeting other attendees. You did well!*
- \* *The people here—so full of love and can see past the veil together to grow in love and light.*
- \* *The loving, friendly atmosphere.*
- \* *Connecting and hugs.*
- \* *Everything!*

# Research Trends 2022

by Norman Klaunig, MA, MBA

This year's IANDS conference in Salt Lake City was not only an opportunity to connect with others, exchange experiences, and learn but also promoted research related to near-death and similar experiences. The Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS), which provided generous support to the conference, presented its current research challenge.

The BICS Challenge 2023 offers support for groundbreaking research focusing on contact or communication with the "other side," proving beyond a reasonable doubt the survival of consciousness beyond permanent bodily death. After the presentation of the challenge, Robert Bigelow, personally answering questions from the audience, acknowledged that traditional scientific proof might be challenging to establish for this subject. That challenge led to BICS setting the bar at the courtroom level: "beyond a reasonable doubt." Application details can be found on the BICS website at <https://www.bigelowinstitute.org>.

In a panel discussion, as a follow-up to the 2021 BICS essay contest, Robert and Suzanne Mays presented a summary of their essay, which had received an honorable mention. They explained their hypothesis and proposed the creation of a new framework helping to explain currently unexplained phenomena and neurological anomalies. The Mayses hope their research will yield medical benefits, such as helping coma patients regain consciousness.

Dr. Jeffrey Mishlove, who had been awarded the first prize in the 2021 BICS contest, shared a synopsis of his winning essay and his perspective on the ability of people to achieve NDEs. Panelist Dr. Jan Holden touched on the possibility of using the help of OBEs to map other dimensions. A suggestion by a member of the audience to include the heart in studies of perception and personalities was received with interest by the panel.

During the researcher's invitational reception, IANDS president Jan Holden put out for discussion whether the IANDS membership should be surveyed on philosophical questions, such as a post-material paradigm, dualism vs. idealism, abortion, death penalty, or euthanasia. By using approaches comparable to those used by prominent polling institutes, differences between the views of experiencers and the general public on these existential issues

could be shown.

Invited researchers discussed their projects. Dr. Melvin Morse's research areas include the studies of NDEs in children, remote viewing, the effects of being observed on the health of plants infected with a virus, the ability of Reiki healers to influence random number generators, and the role of the cerebellum as a possible gateway to consciousness.



Robert and Suzanne Mays are working on several books, among them one about how different religions view NDEs. An important focus of their overall research work is creating a new framework for understanding near-death experiences. Such a framework might subsequently help to identify "disorders of consciousness."

William Peters and Dr. Michael Kinsella are looking to explore the therapeutic and spiritual benefits of spiritually transformative experiences (STEs). Currently, they are designing a study to examine what happens during a shared death experience (SDE) and the impact of their Pathways program to help people accompany loved ones through a beautiful end of life. In addition, Kinsella is exploring the effects of near-death experiences (NDEs) and SDEs on spiritual beliefs.

Dr. Jim Roach observed that sensitive and compassionate individuals appear more likely to experience NDEs or STEs and is hoping to identify a gene mutation, a "God gene," that might be common in these people. Dr. Diane Corcoran's focus is on the education of healthcare professionals on the subject of NDEs. In her estimate, nearly 50% of combat soldiers have experienced NDEs. The military community needs a lot of support in this area. PMH Atwater is expanding NDE research by studying NDEs involving alien contact.

As much as NDEs have already been researched, during the 2022 IANDS conference in Salt Lake City, it became clear that more is to be done and that IANDS is an essential catalyst of research activity, providing a forum for researchers to exchange their ideas with each other and synergistically create paths into uncharted territory.

Norman Klaunig, MA, MBA

*Norman Klaunig, MA, MBA, is a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate supervised by Dr. Ray Wooten, LPC-S. With a special interest in counseling clients who have had near-death and related transpersonal experiences, Norman offers telehealth counseling sessions to clients in Texas. He can be contacted via his website:*

[www.normanklaunig.com](http://www.normanklaunig.com).

# A Blind Woman's Near-Death Experience

Interview with Vicky Umipeg as told to  
Greg Wilson, Seattle IANDES Meeting Coordinator for 34 Years

Between 1947 and 1952, 50,000 babies were blinded by excess oxygen, given to them in the newly developed airlock incubator. One of the clues to this tragedy was the discovery of the loss of peripheral vision among pilots breathing oxygen through air masks.

"I had been in the womb 22 weeks by December of 1950, when I was born at St. Luke's Hospital in Pasadena, California. Because I weighed just three pounds at birth, it would have been logical for me to be placed in one of the new incubators. Since then I have seen no light, no shadows, nothing, for 43 years. The optic nerves to my eyes were destroyed. When I dream, I dream with the same sensations I experience when I'm awake. There is no visual data, just other sensations such as touch and sound. There were two times in my life, however, when I saw, probably close to how you see now. Those were instances when I nearly died, left my body, and saw. This is what happened in my second near-death experience.

"On February 2, 1973, I was working as a singer and pianist at a restaurant in Seattle, Washington. It was 2:00 a.m. The owner was afraid of offending a drunk couple that had offered me a ride home, and overruled my objections, insisting that I accept their offer. He refused to open up his office so I could get change for a pay phone to call a cab. He left, and since no one else was going my way, I reluctantly accepted their ride. As we drove along, the driver mentioned that he was seeing double, and it really felt like we were weaving through the streets. Near the base of Queen Anne Hill I heard tires squeal, and we spun around. Everything became very slow. I screamed.

"My first awareness in the emergency room at Harborview Hospital was of being up near the ceiling. I could see!! Throughout this near-death experience I was in a state of stunned awe because I could see. It was so foreign to me that *seeing* actually became almost a painful complication in my efforts to cope. But it was like a foreign language that you don't understand, but want to hear again.

"Below me was a body on a cart that I wasn't sure was me. Then I heard a male voice say that there was blood on my left ear drum, and that I might be deaf. "I'm not deaf!" I was screaming at him. "Don't you

hear me? I'm right over here!" Then I watched a female say, "We don't know how much brain damage there is. She might be in a vegetative state." I yelled at her, "I'm not in a vegetative state!" I was frustrated and angry because I was yelling with every ounce of strength I had, and it was like I didn't exist! I just wanted to get out of there. Almost immediately, as if in response to my thought, I was drawn up through several floors of the hospital and was rising through space.

"I saw lights. I didn't know what they were from. I didn't care, though, because I felt so free! I was giddy with the ease of movement I felt as I rose. I felt like screaming and shouting with intoxication. In the distance I heard the most beautiful sounds, like wind chimes. They contained every single note you could imagine, from the lowest to the highest, all blended together. As a musician I was awed. There were so many different tones that I didn't know were possible!

"Then I was sucked head-first into a dark tunnel, drawn by a wind toward a distant light. There was a whooshing airy feeling, as though enormous fans were drawing me on. As I approached the end of the tunnel, the light became brilliant, and just before I reached the end I could hear singing. It was like all the hymns you've ever heard sung at once, blending together harmoniously! Somehow their combined singing was beautiful, not discordant!

"My exit from the tunnel was me, rolling out onto grass in a balmy, bright summer land scene of trees, where there were thousands of people singing, laughing and talking. Flowers were everywhere in different colors and varieties. I still recall a near-jasmine scent. Both the flowers and the birds I observed in the trees seemed to have light around them. Among flowers and birds of the same kind, I also noticed that some had more light than others.

"Then I saw four of my past friends approaching me from the right and left: Debby and Diane, and Mr. and Mrs. Zilk. I'd been very close to Debby and Diane at the Oregon State School for the Blind. Debby had died from a hydrocephalic condition when I was 10. Diane had drowned four years earlier. Debby and Diane moved toward me gracefully. Both of them

seemed to be healed inside, or somehow made better. I could feel them reaching out to me with love, and Diane seemed to have an almost desperate desire to say something.

“Then, for an instant, it seemed as if I knew everything, that everything made sense. It was as if this place was where I could find the answers to all the questions about life, about the planets, about God, about everything. Suddenly I intuitively understood math and science, and I don’t know beans about math and science. I didn’t ask about calculus. Now I understood it! Even without asking questions, answers were imparted about things I’d always wondered about. I had always been troubled about the Trinity. Now I was aware that the Father was what you might call the Being/Source aspect of God, that the Son was the Doing aspect, and that the Holy Spirit was the Imparter. I was aware that these three aspects of God, while separate, were One, similar to the way that a husband and wife are separate but can be one.

“As Debby and Diane approached me, now almost close enough to touch, I sensed a boundary across which I could not go. Then Christ appeared. His light filled my vision. Holding out a raised right hand toward me, He said very definitely, ‘No! You can’t touch them!’ This stopped us from coming closer to each other.

“His face was strong and kind. He had a beard, and His hair was long. Light came out of His body directly, as though He was made of light. Around His head the light was circular, and from that circle came other lines of Light. His eyes seemed to know everything, but they were tender. I almost wanted to look away from them, but I couldn’t. I felt that He saw everything about me, knowing more about me than I knew about myself. He even knew my thoughts before I did! It was scary to be so totally known and exposed—and yet so totally accepted and loved. I wanted nothing more than to be part of that.

“‘Well, hello,’ He said, and embraced me. I didn’t ever want to be away from Him, ever. Rather, I wanted to be inside of Him, or enveloped by His Love somehow. I was so excited about the knowledge I’d just found that I felt as if I was burbling and tripping over myself, trying to communicate it to Him with a kind of thought transference. He said, ‘Isn’t it wonderful? Everything is beautiful here, and it fits together. You’ll

find that out. But you can’t stay here now, it’s not your time yet; you have to go back.’ Inside I was falling, devastated! Then He said, ‘Watch this.’ Then I saw my whole life, from my birth to the current moment. As this was happening I was aware of Him, but my awareness of everything else around me disappeared. In this review I actually saw myself, and I was also aware of the thoughts and feelings of all others involved in every incident in my life. Christ left it to me to assess things, to arrive at conclusions myself. I became aware that I was being harder on myself than He was.

“Then Christ said to me, ‘You have to learn and teach more about loving and forgiving. Whether people deserve it or not is not the point. You shouldn’t try to select those who you think should be forgiven, and those who shouldn’t.’ He was referring to a tendency in my past to forgive only those who had apologized to me. He also told me before I left that it was going to be hard for me but to remember what I’d learned. Then there was absolutely nothing, for how long I have no idea. All of a sudden I felt heavy and full of pain, and I reentered my blind world in the hospital.

“The things I’ve been through since my second near-death experience have been unbelievably hard. I’ve been raped, almost murdered, and my children have been sexually abused. The struggle to forgive has been very difficult. However, I’m slowly learning about separating the sin from the sinner—and about judging less. I’m also letting go of some of my past sense of smugness and superiority. My path has been hard, but in walking it I feel I’ve grown.”

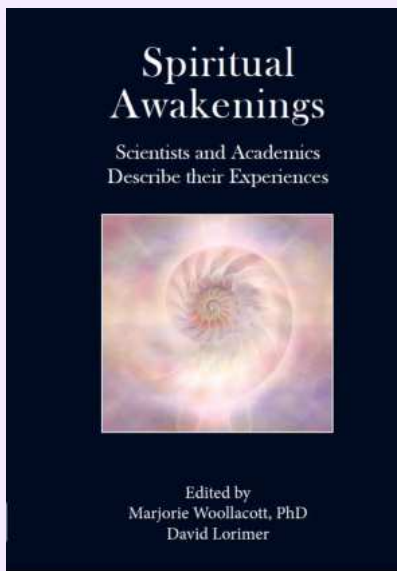
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*Note from Kimberly Clark Sharp, Seattle IANDS Group Leader for 40 years: Vicky Umipeg died in Seattle in June, 2022. She was one of the most famous and sought-after NDErs in the world because she had a full visual and validated NDE despite being blind from birth. She was an accomplished professional singer and pianist, a mother of five boys, and an incredibly good sport about her blindness. You can see Vicky talk about her experience toward the end of the video The Day I Died, where she is referred to by her former name, Vicky Noratuk*

<https://www.documentarytube.com/videos/the-day-i-died>



**Spiritual Awakenings: Scientists and Academics Describe Their Experiences**

Edited by Marjorie Woollacott, PhD, and David Lorimer

The essays in this volume are a wonderful and varied collection of personal insights into individual

spiritual awakenings and the resulting transformation in the lives of scientists and academics.

Scholars share the experience of their own spiritual awakening and journey, including encountering challenges to their credibility in academia, if they shared these experiences. Their comments about transformation in values, beliefs, and approaches toward life are very moving, expressing a deep inner wisdom and connection, not only with humanity but also with the earth and cosmos.

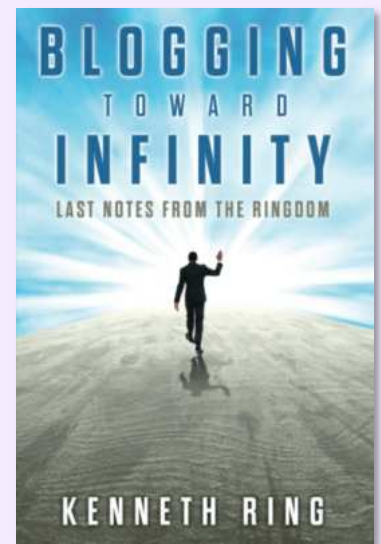
Ken Ring, PhD, is a legend in writing outstanding books about near-death experiences (NDEs).

**Blogging Toward Infinity: Last Notes from the Ringdom**

is his final book. Approaching his nineties, Ken is keenly aware of his limited amount of time left on Earth; and his "blogging toward infinity" book title is a reflection of this. His "last notes" are filled with wonderful insights that only an NDE expert facing the realities of approaching death himself can produce.

You will find fascinating insights concerning his long and interesting life; the people and multimedia having influenced him throughout his life; his great passion for animals and animal justice; and much more.

His wit and eloquence fills every page of this wonderful book. I highly recommend this book to everyone who wants to learn more about NDEs and about the NDE expert who has had the greatest influence in NDE literature.



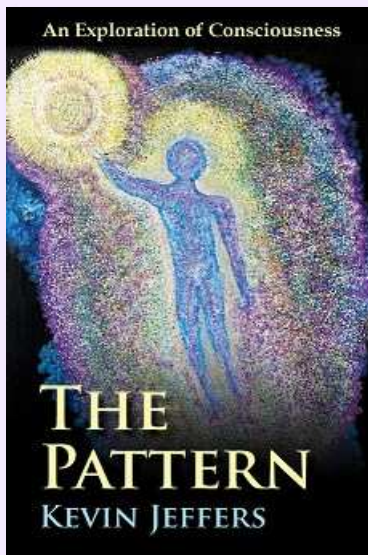
**The Pattern: An Exploration of Consciousness**

by Kevin Jeffers, BAE, BFA, MFA

**Spirit's design is the uplift of consciousness**

This book follows the experiences of a soul traveler, healer, and energy specialist. Readers will learn how a unique expression of consciousness guides each of us, while uplifting us to Spiritual freedom. Rarely written about, often discussed, spiritual freedom in higher consciousness is achievable to each of us now.

**The beginning:** Entering into a deep meditation, my consciousness lifted out from my body while shaping itself into a subtler state of awareness. A deep, vibrant, and luminous black energy filled my inner eyes, now unrestricted by time or space. As I focused my attention, I found myself within a limitless expanse of clear, sparkling blue and white lines, each intersecting the other.



These energy lines continued to shift, forming an energetic grid of light permeating and embracing all consciousness. The grid was neither constrained by time or of space, it simply was present, a source of countless manifestations of consciousness pulsing as glowing individual points of light, each striving for greater self-awareness.

What I experienced that day - what I now call the Pattern - informed the rest of my life. I strive each day to follow my Soul's full expression to its final destination. As I continue to merge with others into the Pattern, I experience the beauty of the

Creator's intent: the uplift of consciousness through the mysteries of Love.

**Check out Kevin on *The Afterlife Files* podcast available Nov. 2nd on YouTube.com. Kevin's book is now in position #23 on Amazon's OBE category. Kevin can be contacted at: [info@thepattern.pub](mailto:info@thepattern.pub)**



**ONLINE – FREE**

## MILITARY AND VETERAN NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE SHARING GROUP

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Hosted by

**DR. DIANE K. CORCORAN**

Army Colonel (ret), RN, PhD

(<https://isgo.iands.org/> - search the keyword  
“Military” under SHARING GROUPS)

A 1993 Gallup Poll estimated that **12-15 million** Americans had personally experienced an NDE. Estimates of NDEs among combat veterans have ranged from about **25%** (Goza et al., 2014) to **48%** (Hufford, 2019).

Research suggests that combat veterans have had a considerably higher incidence of near-death experiences (NDEs) than the general population has had.

Disturbingly, many clinicians who are unfamiliar with NDEs consider patient descriptions of their NDEs to be symptoms of mental illness that should be referred for psychiatric care. This misdiagnosis creates stigma, leaving the veteran feeling isolated, misunderstood, unsupported, and even doubting their own sanity. These factors may contribute to the high suicide rate in wounded veterans.

When an NDEr has someone who understands their experience and gives them the information they need, they can begin to heal.



**NDE: Veterans' Near-Death Experiences**

at: <https://youtu.be/iCwehw0XBFg>



**BICS**  
Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies

**The BICS Challenge Grants  
Program for 2023**

**Up to \$1,000,000 in GRANTS!**

The 2023 BICS grant program, “The Challenge,” will fund research into contact and communication with post-mortem or discarnate consciousness (also known as “the Afterlife,” or the “Other Side”) leading to the reception of higher order information of value to humankind (“wisdom acquisition”) with the allocation of a grand total of up to **\$1 million in grants**.

**For more information, visit:**

<https://www.bigelowinstitute.org>



# A SOLDIER'S GHOST STORY

by Scott Janssen, MA, MSW, LCSW

For months, as I've visited Evan as his hospice social worker, he's been praying to die. He's in his 90s, and he's been fighting cancer for more than four years. As he sees it, his life has turned into a tedious, meaningless dirge with nothing to look forward to other than its end.

On this visit, though, he's engaged and upbeat. This sudden about-face arouses my suspicions.

"You seem to feel differently today," I say casually. "What's going on?"

He looks at me cryptically. "Do you believe in ghosts?" he asks.

It's not the first time a patient has asked me this question. People can have unusual experiences when they reach the end of life: visitations from spiritual beings, messages delivered in dreams, synchronicities, or strange behaviors by animals, birds, even insects. "There are all kinds of ghosts," I respond seriously. "What kind are you talking about?"

"You remember me telling you about the war?" he asks.

How could I forget? He'd traced his long-standing depression to his time as a supply officer for a World War II combat hospital. "I remember."

"There's something I left out," he says. "Something I can't explain." He goes on to describe one horrific ice-cold autumn day: Casualties were coming in nonstop. He and others scrambled to transport blood-soaked men on stretchers to triage.

"I'd been hustling all day. My back felt broken, and my hands were numb from the cold." He grimaces and swallows hard. "We were hauling one guy, and my grip on the stretcher slipped." Tears roll down his face. "When he hit the ground, his intestines oozed out. Steam rose up from them as he died." Evan rubs his hands as though they were still cold. "Later that night I was on my cot crying. Couldn't stop crying about that poor guy, and all the others I'd seen die. My cot was creaking, I was shaking so hard."

I nod, waiting for him to continue.

"Then I looked up," he says. "Saw a guy sitting on the end of my cot. He was wearing a World War I uniform, with one of those funny helmets. Evan starts crying and laughing at the same time. "He was looking at me with love. I could feel it. I'd never felt that kind of love before."

"What was it like?"

He pauses. "I guess I just felt like all the pain and cruelty wasn't what was real."

"What was real?"

"Knowing that no matter how cruel the world looks, on some level, somehow, we are all loved. We are all connected."

This turned out to be the first of several paranormal visits. Each time the specter arrived, he would wordlessly express love and leave Evan with a sense of peace and calm.

"After the war, the visits stopped," he says. "Years later I was cleaning out Mom's stuff after she died, and I found an old photograph. It was the same guy. I looked on the back and Mom had written the words 'Uncle Calvin, killed during World War I, 1918.'"

We talk some more, then I ask, "What does this have to do with your being in a better mood?"

"He's back," he whispers. "Saw him last night on the foot of my bed. He spoke this time."

"What'd he say?"

"He told me he's going to help me over the hill when it's time to go."

As I'm formulating more questions, Evan surprises me by asking one of his own. "You ever have something strange happen? Something that tells you that no matter how bad it looks, you're connected with something bigger?"

A memory from 35 years ago flashes into my mind. I was asleep in a graduate student apartment at Syracuse University. A siren's blare woke me. I sat up, adrenaline pumping, heart pounding like a hammer. From outside, I distinctly heard someone say, "Bring it here quick!" Then I heard a gurney being rolled across asphalt.

I went to the window and pulled back the curtain, certain there was trouble outside. No one was there.

Just before daybreak, Dad called to tell me that a few hours earlier, my Uncle Eddie had been killed in an automobile collision. On the kitchen table sat a beat-up radio. It suddenly switched itself on, and I heard the opening chords of the Beatles song "Let It Be." I'd never listened closely to the song before—but this time, I did. The music and words filled me with an almost otherworldly sense of peace and comfort.

For years, I tried to explain away those events. Inside though, a part of me knew they were real. After nearly 30 years as a hospice social worker, I'm certain of it. And I have patients like Evan to thank: dying patients who have convinced me that the world we inhabit is lovingly mysterious and eager to support us, especially during times of crisis.

I return to the present. Evan is looking at me, waiting for an answer to his question about connecting with something strange, something bigger. Outside, a flock of crows takes off in unison from the branches of an ancient oak.

"Yeah," I say with a nod. "I guess I have."

Great presentations from previous IANDS conferences:

[youtube.com/c/IANDSvideos](https://youtube.com/c/IANDSvideos)



**The Near-Death Experience of a Member of the United States Air Force**

Chase Demayo

[https://youtu.be/A\\_OKVbTFLIq](https://youtu.be/A_OKVbTFLIq)



**The Near-Death Experience of an Artist and its Effect on her Life and Work**

Renu Arora


<https://youtu.be/1e4HSPc49FA>



**Spiritual Technology Revealed by the Out of Body Experience**

Robert Kopecky


[https://youtu.be/\\_DXopq7z2Do](https://youtu.be/_DXopq7z2Do)



**NDEs and Experiences of Other Dimensions**

Bill Letson

<https://youtu.be/150Ouk1HjX8>



**Lessons of an NDE Without Having an NDE**

Brian Smith

[https://youtu.be/cYZq7\\_tzax8](https://youtu.be/cYZq7_tzax8)



**The Experience and After-Effects of a Childhood NDE**

Mary Catherine Volk

<https://youtu.be/9BUC0eQiR0s>

# **Multilocation/Parallel Realities/Simultaneous Experiences**

by Mark Pitstick, MA, DC

Could you be having more than one life experience at the same time . . . *but not know it?*

This is a very deep subject, so stay with me as I share foundational understandings. To be clear, there is no scientific research to document this phenomenon; however, there is some clinical and experiential evidence.

I first heard about the concept of viewing life from multiple perspectives simultaneously from Native American paintings and teachings from three friends who teach indigenous wisdom. A photo of a Native American warrior in profile caught my attention. Above him was a bear, pine trees, then an eagle. Above that was the moon and stars.

One of the teachers saw me studying the painting and asked what my thoughts were about it. ‘That he is experiencing life in other ways than just being a human.’ I replied. A smile and nod told me I was correct.

In college, I read books by Carlos Castaneda describing personal experiences of Yaqui Indians about this ability. I found the topic fascinating and made a mental note to learn more. Over time, I heard the phrases *parallel, simultaneous, and alternate realities*. Another term for this is bilocation that describes being in more than one place at a time. The term ‘multilocation’ describes being in more than two, and perhaps many, places simultaneously.

David Deutsch, PhD, a leading theoretical physicist at the University of Oxford, proposed the existence of *parallel universes*. Applying the laws of quantum physics, he argued that you simultaneously live in innumerable parallel existences or states of being. You live not in a single universe, Dr. Deutsch said, but in *a vast and rich multiverse* in which other versions of yourself live out other options you’ve encountered. Even after your current physical body dies, other copies of you may remain alive in other realities.

Some near-death experiencers return from their visit to The Light reporting that, indeed, one’s energy can manifest in more than one place at a time.

Michael Newton, PhD, founder of Life Between Lives therapy, and his team have worked with tens of thousands of people from around the world. Over dec-

ades, these clients provide impressively consistent reports about this source of clinical data. One report is that, on average, only about 25% of a person’s total energy is needed during an earthly incarnation. The rest may experience *other slices of life* as an animal, plant, or formed or formless nonearthly being. Clients also reported that part of a person’s consciousness never leaves Home and hence remains merged with Source Energy.

Most of the descriptions above of multilocation consider that it is *an unconscious process*. That is, the person on earth was only consciously aware of their earthly experience despite other simultaneous manifestations of their energy.

If all that seems too abstract or impossible to you, consider this analogy. On New Year’s Day, 2022, I watched the *Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts* interviews. As I watched these gifted actors and production team members describe their acting, the following metaphor occurred to me. Imagine that a gifted actress is involved in two different theater productions at the same time. In addition, she is a mother, wife, daughter, aunt, sister, neighbor, community member, and more. As such, she embodies a multitude of roles that are different depending on whom she is interacting with.

The idea of multilocation is similar. Our life force / totality of energy manifests in different ways depending on what we want to accomplish. Like the actress, we may enjoy experiencing different slices of life from varying perspectives simultaneously.

Over the last four years, I’ve had many conversations with Gary E. Schwartz, PhD, about the nature of reality. He is a systems theory expert, co-founder of behavioral medicine, premiere researcher in the field of consciousness survival, two-time near death experimenter, Harvard PhD, and more. We agree that cyclical life events may be best viewed as *a series of virtual reality experiences*. While living on earth, many people enjoy reading different books, watching movies, and visiting interesting locales. We infer that post-material persons – those who are no longer living on earth – may want to do the same.

Eternity is a very long time; it makes sense that forever beings would want to experience different parts of reality by having *what seem to be actual visits*. However, these excursions may actually be more like virtual reality programs: The person / consciousness is one with the One and, at the same time, can pretend to be a separate being who can really die. This latter perspective is extraordinarily useful for immersing oneself in a variety of settings to learn, grow, and understand. It's a cosmic and open-ended way to walk a mile in the shoes of others.

To review, two simultaneous views of reality are perhaps the best way to envision Life:

1. From a dualistic perspective, you appear to be a separate physical being who suffers, changes, and dies. After this earthly experience, you can choose to have other *seemingly* separate experiences in distinct times as, for example, a Viking in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and a peasant women in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
2. ***At the same time***, your consciousness is always one with the One and part of Source. It may *choose* to play different roles and explore with part of that awareness. Seeing this perspective, even a little, can greatly lighten your struggles and suffering while on earth. Knowing who you are also helps you realize that these various experiences are brief adventures that can aid growth, learning, service, and enjoyment.

In 2018, as described in our book *Greater Reality Living*, I asked several questions of the A-Team with Dr. Schwartz and a top evidential medium present. These post-material luminaries have provided SoulPhone Project team members snippets of information delivered by research mediums. To learn more about this fascinating topic, visit Hypothesized Collaborators at SoulPhone.org. We aren't saying much about who is on the A-Team these days but, rather, will let them speak for themselves when reliable 'spirit' communication technology exists. However, we shared in our book that Albert Einstein, David Bohm, Nikola Tesla, and three other very well-known luminaries were present.

One of the questions I asked was about their ability to experience life from more than one vantage point at the same time. (I asked this because we didn't want to detract from their current goals by asking them to assist the SoulPhone Research & Development. We

wouldn't feel so badly if, however, they could indeed multilocate.)

I asked the big question: '***Can you be in more than one place at the same time?***' Several of the attending A-Team members purportedly said, 'Yes, easily.' I replied, 'Are you saying that you can be in more than two places simultaneously?' They readily agreed as if that were child's play. My curious nature then had to ask: 'What is the limit? Five, 10, 20, 50?' (I felt like an auctioneer: 'Do I hear 60?') The luminaries present agreed that they could, on average, be in 50 or more places at the same time doing different tasks with various people.

I'm not ready to leave earth, but I am really looking forward to consciously multilocating after I change worlds. ***Finally, we will be able to learn, enjoy, and achieve all that is on our lists.*** It would be like having 50 clones in different forms.

When I work with bereaved parents and family members, I share the possibility of parallel realities. It's an immense potential comfort, considering that ***grieving persons may actually be together right now in another time / space possibility with their beloved 'departed' ones.*** My mind envisions the grieving persons – with their obstructed views of life – mourning deeply. However, at the same time, they are sitting with their loved one and watching it from another vantage point.

This model is especially sensible if, indeed, we choose major life events with soul mates who play the roles of family, friends, and enemies. For example, souls *pretending to just be* grieving parents are watching the drama unfold with the soul pretending to just be 'the dead child.' Everyone is rooting for the grieving persons, encouraging them to remember the big picture of life and to let go of fear and misinformation.

The possibility of multilocation is also a big relief to those who struggled about which fork in the road to take. If Dr. Deutsch is correct, parts of their consciousness ***explore both paths*** and the resultant outcomes.

And, as mentioned, there is the prospect of having more time to enjoy and explore the vastness and richness of life.

I hope this article helps you experience more peace, joy, love, gratitude, enthusiasm, and other higher energies / emotions / ways of being, now and always.

# The NDE of a Native American Holy Man

Dan Punzak, BChE, St. Louis, MO IANDS Co-Leader, & Former IANDS Board Member

After signing up for a trip to Mount Rushmore through a Road Scholar program, they provided me with a list of reading materials related to that area. One of the books was titled *Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux* by John G. Neihardt (1881-1973). Black Elk (1863-1950) was a cousin of Crazy Horse (~1840-1977). Black Elk had a minor role in the battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's Last Stand) in 1877 but was only 14 and was not injured. He was also involved in the Wounded Knee massacre in 1890. The interview with Black Elk took place in 1931 through an interpreter, and the first edition was published in 1932. Black Elk had refused interviews with other writers, but when asked if Neihardt could interview him, he felt that Neihardt had a strong desire to know the things of the Other World. Neihardt wrote many books on the West, and a bust of him is in the Hall of Fame in the Nebraska Statehouse. About a million copies of the book have been sold over the last 90 years. There are translations into many languages, with Carl Jung recommending the German version.

At an earlier IANDS conference, I presented the

similarities I find between a shamanic view of the other world and those described by near-death experiencers (NDErs). I believe Black Elk's vision was an NDE.



After two brief introductory chapters, chapter 3 is titled "The Great Vision." That vision happened when Black Elk was nine years old, but he first began hearing voices when he was five years old. When he was nine, he heard a voice say it was time for his calling, and then he became very sick. His legs, arms, and face were all swollen. Finally, he heard the words, "Your grandfathers are calling you." I will not go over the visions and how Black Elk could understand later incidents in his life connected to his vision. Although they may not have been genetic grandfathers, he met Six Grandfathers who may have been wise deceased tribal elders. They were having a council about what to teach him. When he regained consciousness, which took 12 days, he would feel homesick for his vision and often preferred to be alone and out in nature. A few years later, he began manifesting various *powers*, including premonitions, often preceded by a strange feeling. For his power as a healer, he would also use plants. He could also call upon those Grandfathers for their assistance when in danger.

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# Mom's Retrieval - Moving into the Light

by Kevin Jeffers, BAE, BFA, MFA

I had a dream in which my mother, who had passed, visited me. We chatted and enjoyed a festive and happy time. Then she said she had to leave. I asked where? She didn't know the place but said I would have to find my way. Then she "blinked" out. In the morning, I thought about this experience and decided to go to where she was and see for myself what her situation was. The partial house, repetitive behavior, diminished capacity pointed me to the Shadow land. She was stuck. I reached out to her from the dream—and promptly found her again. This time was for retrieval. I needed to build a case for moving on to the Light. I did not want to lose her.

The next night I relaxed, then moved my consciousness out of my body and started to scan the energy lines of the gap between here and there. Eventually, I found her residing in the Shadow Lands where people who passed under difficult circumstances are directed for healing and balancing of their energy bodies. Functioning within a space of no time, healing could take centuries of earth time, but in Spirit this is a simultaneous transaction—a process that starts as seemingly as it immediately ends. Time logic does not fly here. This place is also a holding station between earth and the City of Lights. When a soul is ready to move on to the Light, they are assisted in doing so.

Eventually after tracking her energy identification pattern, I found her location. She was in the Shadow Land!

I arrived at her kitchen. There was no house, backyard, or television room. There was only her beloved kitchen. I stood by the door and watched her. Not seeing a way to the Light, or even understanding there was a future for herself, she was happily cooking in her kitchen. Her awareness and mental strength were significantly diminished. Yet Mom was happily cooking in her kitchen—repeating the same meal again and again. Unaware of her repetitious cooking, she smiled and hummed. There was only her kitchen. Mom (or now her essential Self) was presenting herself at about 55-years-old, wearing her standard, thick, black-framed glasses; her brown curly hair, and her favorite sky-blue daily dress.

When she finally saw and recognized me, she lit up. We chatted about going to the Light, something she had no interest in. This was a shock to me, as she spent her life searching for Spirit and mentored me in esoteric books such as Steiner and Blavatsky as well as the theosophists, introduced me to the A.R.E. (Association for Research and Enlightenment), and read and reread *The Aquarian Gospel*. She discussed the angelic houses and collaborated with me in *sessions* of self-hypnosis to relax and find my way to the inner planes where I could heal friends and understand the winding road that led to the Light. She introduced me to a hypnotist, and I had my first past life experience that explained one of the marks on my body. At 17-years-old, these were all powerful messages.

I repeated myself and again, holding her hand, expressed what she needed to hear. I said, 'Let us walk into the Light.' But without success. I decided then to simplify the message. I told her she could see her beloved older sister again. My mom had died with her sister's name on her lips. Eventually understanding she would see her sister again, then her mother and middle sister, she agreed to go the Light. With initial reluctance to leave her house we shifted to the City of Lights (I decided then that in the future, I would hold the severely damaged people close to me for security and comfort).

Her mother, father (my maternal grandparents), sister, and others of her clan were there to greet her and help her fully transition into the Light. Happy, satisfied, I shifted back to the meditation chair. Later, if appropriate, I will visit her again.



**Note: See Kevin Jeffers's new book, *The Pattern: An Exploration of Consciousness* on page 7.**

**You can contact Kevin at: [info@thepattern.pub](mailto:info@thepattern.pub)**

At 3:53 am this morning (8-18-22), The Voice from my third near-death experience spoke to me once more. I argued for over an hour but finally accepted the request as reasonable and doable. Thus, I will be doing one more research project as concerns near-death experiences. —PMH

## PMH ATWATER'S NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

Any near-death experimenter who had an encounter with an alien being – either during their NDE or within a year afterward – is eligible to participate.

If during or after a near-death experience, you have seen or **encountered an extraterrestrial being thought to be not of this Earth, or if you felt yourself as one of them**, please describe what happened.

(Near-death experience is defined as an experience that occurs when nearly dying, coming close to death, or being pronounced or thought dead – and then reviving.)

Drawings are welcome, and must be black and white; color not accepted. Everything sent must be accompanied by you giving your permission to use it; signed and dated - please include that note in your email or letter. Without that permission, PMH will be unable to use your story.

**PMH says, "I am no one's judge, only a friendly researcher who is curious about what we often hesitate to discuss: alien encounters."**

Please send your experience to:

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