



# VITAL SIGNS

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Submissions to *Vital Signs* are welcomed. Please submit materials to [vs@iands.org](mailto:vs@iands.org). Please use Word format for attached documents. All submissions are subject to *Vital Signs* editorial review and approval processes.

**Suggestions & Feedback**

We welcome your questions, comments, or suggestions. Your opinion matters!

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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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **IANDS is Doing Great—and Doing Great Work: Join Us!**

The buzz among long-time members of the IANDS Board of Directors is that IANDS is doing as well as, if not better than, any time in our memory. We are financially stable and have a harmonious team of dedicated members doing work that's amazing in both quantity and quality, from our traditional activities—such as conferences, publication of *Vital Signs* and the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, and leading IANDS local groups across the US and around the world—to our more recent endeavors—such as the many online activities of IANDS Groups & Events (IG&E, formerly ISGO), our in-process website update, the coming-soon second edition of *The Self Does Not Die*, and the Spring Symposium.

All of these activities and accomplishments are something of a miracle considering that, except for our one full-time employee, the amazing office manager Susan Amsden, and a few contractors, the vast number of IANDS's workers are volunteers! Something about near-death experiences (NDEs) and related experiences brings out the best in people, inspiring them to loving action. (Please note how artfully I wove our upcoming conference theme into this little article. ;o)

If you would like to join the special group of people who have been so inspired to action, and you have the skillset to fulfill one of IANDS's current needs, here are open volunteer positions:

- Assistant treasurer. This person will learn all aspects of the treasurer's job from current IANDS treasurer Robert Mays—in preparation for filling in for Robert and possibly assuming the role of treasurer whenever he decides to step down.
- Membership Chair (a board member position).

This person will do all things membership, including tracking, promoting, and periodically evaluating ways to enhance it.

- Media Chair. This person will organize IANDS's videos—from various sources such as IANDS's YouTube channel, conferences, and IG&E—and suggest ways to deliver and promote them in best fulfillment of IANDS's mission.
- Advancement Chair (a board member position). "Advancement" is a euphemism for "donations." This person will identify and execute ways to promote financial gifts to IANDS, including organizing the IANDS Champions' Reception at each conference for people who have championed the cause of IANDS by making major donations.

If any of these positions seems a good fit for you, and you have the time and energy to support IANDS in this way, please contact me at:

[jan.holden@unt.edu](mailto:jan.holden@unt.edu).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Janice Miner Holden, EdD, LPC-S, ACMHP





# IANDS 2023 Spring Symposium

## The Role of Near-Death and Related Experiences in Grief and Grief Counseling



Noelle St. Germain-Sehr, PhD; Ryan Foster, PhD; Karen Wyatt, MD; William Peters, MSW; and moderator Jan Holden, EdD

The 2023 IANDS Spring Symposium will address the topic of the role of near-death experiences and related experiences in grief and grief counseling. The event will be online on Saturday, April 22, from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern time. Speakers and topics will be:

- Noelle St. Germain-Sehr, PhD: Past and Present Perspectives on Grief and Grief Counseling
- Ryan Foster, PhD: The Role of Near-Death Experiences (NDE) in Grief and Grief Counseling
- Karen Wyatt, MD: The Role of End-of-Life Experiences in Grief and Grief Counseling
- William Peters, MSW: The Role of Shared Death Experiences (SDE) in Grief and Grief Counseling
- Noelle St. Germain-Sehr, PhD: The Role of After-Death Communication (ADC) in Grief and Grief Counseling
- Panel discussion among the four speakers and Q&A with Symposium attendees

In addition to learning about the most current research on these topics from our esteemed speakers, attendees will also see several recorded interviews with experiencers, including

- Mary Neal, MD, describing the role of her NDE in her grief for the passing of her eldest son
- Suzanne Giesemann describing the role of ADC in her grief for the passing of her step-daughter

Cost for the Symposium will be \$95 for non-IANDS members, \$60 for IANDS members, and \$30 for students with proof of student ID. Thanks to IANDS's partnership with the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling, a division of the American Counseling Association, Licensed Counselors can receive 5.5 CEs from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The Symposium Planning Committee is also applying for continuing education credit for nurses and social workers. However, this event is not only for health professionals; it is also for people who are grieving or who simply have an interest in this topic.

Registration will be open by late February: Watch the IANDS homepage ([www.iands.org](http://www.iands.org)) for notification.

With testimonials by Suzanne Giesemann; Mary Neal, MD; and Brian Smith (pictured from left to right)





# My Daughter, Jaenet

## AFTER-DEATH COMMUNICATION

with **BILL GUGGENHEIM**

The Father of ADC Research, Bill Guggenheim, shared this personal ADC experience with us. It is a glimpse at the inspiring messages that will be in his upcoming book.



Around 9:00 a.m. on July 29, 2016 I was sitting at my computer and clicked on an icon that plays *Here Comes the Sun*. It's my favorite Beatles' song, and it always makes me feel happy whenever I hear it.

I like this song for an unusual reason. I've associated it for many years with my daughter, Jaenet. To me, the sun represents "energy," and I used to mentally send her energy to uplift her physically and emotionally whenever I heard it playing. I believed she had "low energy" and could use a lot more "sunshine."

After Jaenet ended her physical life on April 5, 2011, her mother, Gae, had a beautiful memorial website built for her at: [www.Jaenet.org](http://www.Jaenet.org). I read a number of the messages Jaenet's friends posted on her website, and I noted how much and how often Jaenet had helped them, inspired them, and uplifted them. I learned she had been the "sun" to many of her friends, and I began to perceive my younger daughter in a new way.

When *Here Comes the Sun* began playing on my computer that morning, I saw Jaenet in an ADC vision with my eyes shut at first, and then with my eyes open. We had two-way communication by telepathy. Tears of joy rolled down my cheeks!

I watched her twirl in one spot, and then she danced around in a circle. Everything was in clear, bright, radiant colors.

Jaenet told me she is very happy now and free because she is no longer trapped inside a physical body that has an emotional illness. She explained that most people accept someone who has a body that's injured physically. But they don't understand a person who has an emotional illness because they can't see that kind of disability with their eyes.

Jaenet said she can and will be even closer to me in the future than she was in the past because now she is free – she is no longer confined to her limited, physical body. I should rejoice for her and for all she has gained.

Then the vision faded and ended. I was left sitting there saying "Wow!" and "Thank you!" "Thank you!" "Thank you!"

This ADC account will be in my new book, *Stories from Heaven* – the prequel to *Hello From Heaven!* – when it's published.





## **Beverly Brodsky, Philadelphia and San Diego IANDS Group Leader**

*Hello IANDS peeps,*

*I got this email today from Beverly Brodsky's daughter, Lauren. Lauren has asked for help in letting IANDS friends and other IANDS group leaders know of Beverly's death. Please assist Lauren by passing along this sad news. Beverly was a rock star group leader both in Philadelphia and San Diego and a dear friend of many IANDS associates for several decades.*

*RIP dear, sweet Beverly.*

*Thanks for your help with this, Kimberly Sharp (Seattle IANDS Group Leader)*

*Hello Bev's friends & family,*

*I have sad news that my mom just passed away on Friday, 11/4/22 at about 1:25pm. We're thankful that she had her family with her when she passed. Her sister, Ruthy, was visiting from Philadelphia and everyone was in the room: me, my dad, Ruthy. Mom had no distress; she just stopped breathing. She hadn't been responsive for days, so everyone was a bit relieved. She was unable to move or speak. Luckily this awful form of dementia progressed very quickly, from Sept-Nov. So she didn't suffer too long. We're happy she's now in a better place.*

*We're just having a private family service with her sister.*

*Lauren Brodsky (Beverly's daughter)*

*I am just one of the many lives that dear Bev touched in a profound way. I had not shared my NDE with anyone for almost 20 years. When I read about her in Ken Ring's book, *Lessons From the Light*, I immediately contacted her as I saw we both lived in San Diego. Reading Ken's book and finding Bev was such a revelation to me. I discovered I was not alone, but that there were researchers and an actual organization—IANDS—devoted to the experience. Bev listened to me with such interest, compassion, and heart, it changed my life.*

*We instantly became friends, and I offered to help her with her San Diego IANDS group. I saw she led her groups with the same interest, compassion, and heart that she demonstrated to me—and she had done so for decades. In fact, I learned that she was one of the earliest group leaders for IANDS, having started a group in Philadelphia long before moving to San Diego. Despite her difficult health challenges, for decades she remained steadfastly dedicated to the hard work it takes to consistently organize meetings, bring in speakers, and market the events—all while being available to experiencers for support at any time.*

*She encouraged me to join the IANDS board where I saw a need to do more to support experiencers who were struggling—as Bev had done for me. Eventually, I stepped down from IANDS to start ACISTE along with Bev and other experiencers. She was brilliant with her combined gifts of commitment, love, dedication, and deep knowledge of the needs and challenges NDErs often face. Thousands upon thousands have benefited from her shining light. Now she has been called back home to be embraced by that light for herself—her purpose here fulfilled. Her light will continue to burn brightly in all of our lives.*

*Yolaine Stout (IANDS Past President, Founder of ACISTE)*

*Image of painting on this page courtesy of artist Stefan Senna (@ 50% transparency)*



# Remembering Beverly Brodsky

by Kenneth Ring, PhD, IANDS Co-Founder

In August 1990, I spoke at the IANDS conference in Washington, DC. The turnout that year was large, and I was delighted to see many old friends and colleagues there. One morning after my talk, I arranged to have breakfast with about a half dozen people I didn't know who had expressed a wish to meet and talk with me.

When I arrived, there was already a rather intense conversation going on between two of the attendees.

I was particularly struck by the woman of the pair. Small, slender, and swarthy in complexion, she spoke intently and with a tone of great seriousness about her own experience, which I quickly discerned had been her NDE. Frankly, I was more aware of her manner of speaking than of the content of her conversation, but I was already sure I would want to talk with her privately after the gathering had broken up.

I was able to track her down afterward, but at that time I already had another engagement, so our conversation had been brief and truncated. We didn't even have time for her to tell me more about her NDE, but I knew I was keen to know her story and more about her. I asked her if she would be willing to write out a version of it and send it to me at the University of Connecticut.

A week later, a long letter arrived from her with a detailed account of her NDE. I was immediately riveted. She wrote beautifully and with great eloquence about her NDE, which turned out to be one of the most complete and profound I had ever come across. I was really stunned, bowled over, full-dazzled, to quote a term I picked up from Walt Whitman. Who was this woman, Beverly Brodsky? I was determined to find out.

Thus began a deep and loving friendship that was to enrich my life for the next three decades.

Bev had grown up in a non-observant but Conservative Jewish home in Philadelphia. As she told me in her letter, "the atmosphere was materialistic, and, for me, claustrophobic. In high school girls were judged by their clothes and beauty. Bookish, shy, and serious, I went through my teens as an atheist. Since learning...about the Holocaust at age 8, I had turned angrily against any early belief in God. How could God exist and permit such a thing to occur?"

All this would change, drastically, after her NDE. I don't have the space here to recount her NDE – it is far too long – but you can read it in my book, *Lessons of the Light*, and perhaps elsewhere. All I want to do in this memorial to Bev is to tell you a little about Bev, as I came to know her over the years of our friendship.

We stayed in touch, mostly through correspondence, but before long, Bev had got involved in IANDS, so we were sometimes able to meet at IANDS's board meetings or conferences. Because I was Jewish, too, there seemed to be natural bond between us. We palled out, we took walks together, we had many deep conversations.

Because she wrote so articulately and had been so profoundly transformed by her NDE, I wanted her to write a book about her life. I thought her story was extremely important. She wanted to write that book, and in the years to come, she endeavored to do so, but never could, particularly because, as I was to learn, she continued to have daunting health issues.

When I was with Bev, I felt protective of her. I could sense her vulnerability, her physical fragility. Strong and passionate in her mind, but weak in her body. I was always mindful of her struggles with her health and other hardships of her life.

Bev was married with one daughter, and eventually both of us moved to California, she and her family to El Cajon, a town near San Diego, where I once visited her, and I to Marin County. I had just retired from the University, and Bev, who had a puckish sense of humor, made up a couple of signs for my office corkboard.

I'm not religious, but every Hannukah Bev would be sure to send me a little Hannukah card with dimes attached along with a humorous greeting.

By then, Bev was involved in leading a Friends of IANDS group and occasionally writing NDE-related articles, but she hated living in El Cajon, as she wrote me. She missed her family back East, and, worse, she had a stroke and could no longer drive. "Where I live, not being able to drive is a crippling thing, like a noose around your neck. With these health challenges, I wish my sister and my friends were here to come

over for a cup a tea."

But she was still thinking of writing her book. She sent me many e-mails talking about her plans to do so, her contact with potential publishers, etc., but nothing ever came of these hopes. The trials of her body just wouldn't permit it.

Gradually, Bev's e-mails got shorter and shorter, and eventually, she mostly got in touch when Hannukah rolled around. But after 2018, I ceased to hear from her.

I imagine she was starting to get really ill then. At that point, we lost touch with each other. I might have written her again, but I got no response. I gather from her daughter's notice about Bev's death that Bev had become demented before she died, but I'm not sure for how long.

When I think of Bev, I don't think of her as embodied, with all her physical trials and hardships, but as a bright, lambent spirit, radiating pure joy and love throughout eternity. Her NDE is her testament, and it will continue to live and inspire everyone who is lucky enough to read it. I can think of no greater tribute to this luminous soul than her own words with which her account of her NDE concludes:

*Although it's been twenty years since my heavenly voyage, I have never forgotten it. Nor have I, in the face of ridicule and disbelief, ever doubted its reality. Nothing that intense and life-changing could possibly have been a dream or hallucination. To the contrary, I consider the rest of my life to be a passing fantasy, a brief dream, that will end when I again awaken in the permanent presence of that giver of life and bliss.*

*For those who grieve or fear, I assure you of this: there is no death, nor does love ever end. And remember also that we are aspects of the one perfect whole, and as such are part of God, and of each other. Someday you who are reading this and I will be together in light, love and unending bliss.*



# Near-Fatal Collision and Two Dogs Brought Artist a Richer View of Life

by Jeremiah Stermer

When I was 30 years old I had a near-death out-of-body experience due a motorcycle accident. After impact with the car, the next thing I knew, I was floating upright out in space, out in the Heavens. I felt no pain, no discomfort or worry. I felt perfect. None of what I was saying to myself was in words. It was a knowing. It wasn't until much later and over the years that I put any of this into words.

So, there I was out among the stars, hovering in space. The blackness of space was not dead and empty. It was warm like a special summer night—a perfectly clear night. All of space was not dead and empty but, rather, was teaming with life. I knew that this material was good stuff and went on forever. I was tilted back, happily floating. No gravity. No exertion. I was slightly looking up and out at everything, cradled and safe. A kind of safe I had never felt or heard of before which comes from—being perfectly connected.

There was no trace of fear. Absolutely none! I didn't know what fear was, nor did I question it. I didn't even know the word. I didn't know any words. Yet, I was knowing everything all at once, easily. There was no sense of time, so I didn't anticipate any end to this wonderful experience. This gave me a perfectly clear picture as to what we take with us, and what stays behind when we die and leave planet earth. I knew that my physicality, my ego-intellect, and any negativity or fears would not go with me when I die.

Everything was still wordless.

I knew that space, the substance, was made of pure Love and had full awareness, and that I, or the real us, was made of the same wonderful stuff that I was floating in. Science tries to measure it, but it can't be measured, not with anything physical, not with our minds. It can't be scooped up and put in a beaker. This stuff and its awareness, went on and on forever. I felt I was in nirvana.

During the experience I had added levels of perception, ones which I cannot perceive now. One perception was that I could perceive there were many other perception levels. Our earth-bound awareness of perceptions are completely inadequate. One must be out of their body in order to perceive higher levels.

While I was out of my body, I noticed, and in no words, I could always 'say,' "I am." I tell people that I was talking with God, wordlessly. I felt this most contented kind of smile on my face, like a sun beaming warmth and love out, and also back into, myself. The sense of temperature was reversed in a most unique way. Warmth was somehow cool and refreshing, and coolness had a comforting warmth to it. Maybe the experience lasted 8 seconds, 20 seconds, minutes—I didn't have any concept of time. During all of this there was a lovely subtle undercurrent of a message which flowed in and out at a gentle, easy pulse, and it 'said', "This is real."

I didn't go as far as seeing a tunnel of light the way some have described. I didn't encounter any deceased relatives. Yet, I knew I was on the voyage home. There was no question about whether or not to continue. Going home was perfectly attractive to me.

I found myself being awakened by two neighborhood dogs who were licking my face very quickly. They must have felt my absence and revived me by pulling me back into my body. I was awake then and had a small group of neighbors around me, all surprised to see me alive. A police officer arrived, so I sat up on the curb. The officer asked me if I wanted medical attention. I said, "No. I'm OK." I stood up and felt fine. I actually felt refreshed. A couple of days later though, my body felt like a football team had tackled me, but fortunately that went away soon enough.

The accident and how I got out of my body, are relatively insignificant. I tell people, not about the accident so much, but about what I discovered, and what it has done for me. It has eliminated the fear of being dead. What is wonderful is that I had this life changing experience!

I use what I learned from the experience in how it has changed my life—though it was not an overnight change. Back then, I forgot about it often. Later, I got curious and read books on the near-death experiences of others, which would help me realize more deeply that that's what happened to me. There have been tens of thousands, if not millions, who have had

an out-of-body experience, and with all sorts of variations on it. Some only went as far as hovering over their body, and some were all the way out there in the tunnel of light embracing deceased loved ones. Some were lovingly (wordlessly) told to return—they had more to do on Earth.

I re-read a book by Alan Watts on Zen — being at one with Spirit. I read the book years before, and I didn't get it. Zen made no sense to me. After my out-of-body experience and some life changes, I finally got it. My near-death out-of-body experience has changed my life in such a powerful way. I am so much more aware and at peace than I ever was. My life is so much better than decades ago. I am living a higher quality of life than I could ever have imagined.

Some people challenge me about my experience, saying it was just a trick of the mind. Whether it was real or not, the out-of-body experience changed my life and tricked me into a great and lovely new way of living!



*Cavalier Self*, 2005, painting by Jeremiah Stermer



[Youtube NDE video link](#)

[T5: A Semi-Fictional Memoir; Amazon link](#)

[Art/Paintings link](#)

[Maryland Public Television Interview link](#)

[Fine Art Connoisseur](#)



# MY TEENAGE EXPERIENCE OF MY MOTHER'S NDE

by Janet Harris, BA

My story begins in Austin, Texas, when I was a Junior in high school around 1987. Every Friday night our high school marching band played for the football games. I would return late at night and routinely go upstairs to kiss my parents good night. That night I went up to kiss them both good night as I always did and then went downstairs to my bedroom to change out of my flag girl uniform into my pajamas and go to bed.

As I was changing my uniform, something inside me shouted for me to go back upstairs now! Run! So, I followed this command and ran back upstairs to find my father snoring loudly and their ceiling fan on full capacity high and very noisy. In my parent's master bathroom, I could hear some strange loud monster-like noises that I had never heard before. I thought it may be our family dog having some kind of a mad fit that made it sound like a monster.

Dad was snoring so loudly that he was not waking up to these disturbing monster sounds. So, I went over and shook my father from his deep slumber. Dad was so startled and looked at me and asked what that scary sound was in the bathroom? I said, "I don't know what the scary sound is, I need you to get up and go check it out because I am too scared." Dad got up and flipped the light switch on in the bathroom, and I could see my mother with blood all down her front, blood all over the floor, and her eyes rolled back in her head. She was not breathing and not conscious. I could not move and was paralyzed in my uniform. Dad went over to Mom and started shaking her and yelling her name, Becky, and slapping her face and yelling "Becky, Becky, Becky, Becky" and slapping her and shaking her for several minutes. All of a sudden, Mom coughed up a giant blood clot onto the floor and started breathing. Her eyes rolled back to normal, and she said she was fine. We had the ambulance come and take her to the hospital. The next day, Mom called me from the hospital to tell me that I had saved her life by coming up and waking Dad.

Mom said all she remembers was going to the bathroom in the middle of the night, and then suddenly she was in an all-white light, beautiful loving space

and that she had never felt so wonderful and filled with intense joy and ecstasy. Mom said there were lush, beautiful gardens that extended as far as the eye could see and a lovely stream with a bridge. Mom was dressed all in white robes, and there was a Jesus-like figure in white robes that was leading my mother across the bridge. Again, Mom said she had never before felt so

euphoric. Then, as Mom was having this fabulous time with a Christ-like figure in an idyllic scene, she said all the sudden she heard the annoying voice of my Father yelling her name. She suddenly realized she needed to go back to finish helping myself and my sister throughout our lives, and like a rubber band, she snapped back from her beautiful, perfect, serene, all love, all ecstatic joy place of white light and perfection back to her body and life here on Earth.

My sister had been at a sleepover at the neighbor's house. The next day, our neighbor came over and cleaned up the mess Mom's bleeding ulcer had caused.

Having this intense experience as a teenager solidified my faith and belief in an all-loving, all-knowing Father/Mother/God/Creative Force.

Let NDErs know my Mom wanted to end her life because she said she was tired of and done with this life. She had experienced Shangri-la with her past NDE. Mom told all our family of her five-year plan for assisted suicide. Soon after learning Mom's plan, I told her that if she was checking out, then we would need to do a double suicide, because if she was going, then I was going TOO!!!!!! Mom was shocked and quickly changed her tune.

God bless you and all your team. Love Always,

Janet Harris, [Lcpclassical@gmail.com](mailto:Lcpclassical@gmail.com) 813.335.2997

Lakeside Chamber Players: <https://lcpclassical.com>

**Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (Press 1)**

**Spanish: 1-800-273-TALK (Press 2)**





# Exciting New Prospective NDE Study: Proyecto Luz—The Light Project

Research into near-death experiences (NDEs) is frequently initiated by those who have experienced them or are interested in these phenomena for various reasons. The prospective study Proyecto Luz was started by the International Consciousness Lobby Foundation (ICLOBY), whose founder, Dr. Xavier Melo, is a near-death experiencer. The foundation has approximately 100 collaborators, of which one-quarter are physicians. For this study, ICLOBY assembled an advisory board consisting of well-known experts on NDEs, including retired cardiologist Pim van Lommel, psychiatrist Bruce Greyson, philosopher David Lorimer, and retired neurosurgeon Eben Alexander.

The primary goal of Proyecto Luz is to evaluate in Spanish-speaking countries the frequency, content, and depth of NDEs in hospital patients who survived cardiac arrest. The researchers aim for their study to be the most extensive investigation of NDEs among native Spanish speakers. Eventually, the study's results will be compared with those of van Lommel et al. (2001), in which 18% of Dutch subjects who experienced cardiac arrest reported an NDE.

In addition, the Proyecto Luz researchers will study correlations to relevant adverse neurological, psychiatric, and psychological events. They will consider factors such as a history of heart attacks, hospital lab results, and concomitant medication. They will also study correlations to social factors and the impact of NDEs on future life experiences. Study participants will receive an offer to be accompanied and supported on their NDE integration journey.

The Proyecto Luz research team is looking to include at least 344 study participants across 10 or more hospital sites. As of November 2022, the researchers had identified eight sites to take part in their study; current participating countries include

Spain, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, and Cuba, with Chile and Uruguay to be added in the future. Study participants must be at least four years old, have had a cardiac arrest, and have been resuscitated in one of the study's hospitals. Cardiac arrest and CPR must be documented in subjects' medical records, and site staff must have access to these documents. In Phases Two and Three, two and eight years after the initial phase, researchers will follow up with participants to document long-term effects. The researchers will gather data in Spanish but will complete case reports, perform analyses, and publish results in English.

The Proyecto Luz researchers are seeking additional site suggestions, collaborators, participants, and financial contributions. Readers with any of these types of contributions, or those simply interested in learning more, can contact or learn more about ICLOBY via their website:

<https://icloby.org/en/investigacion/>

## References

van Lommel, P., van Wees, R., Meyers, V., & Elfferich, I. (2001). Near-death experience in survivors of cardiac arrest: A prospective study in the Netherlands. *The Lancet*, 358(9298), 2039–2045.

Norman Klaunig, MA, MBA, NCC  
LPC Associate supervised by Dr. Ray Wooten, LPC-S





## PARTICIPATE IN AN NDE RESEARCH STUDY!

If you have had a near-death experience (NDE), NDE-like experience or related experience, please consider participating in the on-going research studies below. All of these studies have been reviewed and approved by the IANDS Academic & Research Committee.

### 1. The Social Self: Differences between Individuals with and without an NDE

- **Objectives:** A student from King's University College is carrying out psychological research to better understand the differences in the social self of individuals who have had near-death experiences compared to those who have not. There are no requirements for this study. It is open to both individuals who have had a near-death experience and those who have not. The study requires participation in an online self-report survey. You will be asked to state your level of agreement on scales measuring authenticity, self-monitoring and mindfulness.
- **Researchers:** Meglyn Murphy, King's University College at Western University, London Ontario, Canada
- **Type of study:** Questionnaire Time required: 40 minutes

Further information and link to questionnaire:

<https://iands.org/research/nde-research/participate-in-a-research-study.html#social-self>

### 2. Study of Transcendental or Spiritual Experiences

- **Objectives:** We are conducting a study of transcendental or spiritual experiences. If you have had one or more experiences of transcendental significance, you are ideal for our study, and we would greatly appreciate your participation. This is an ongoing project, which will culminate in some participants being contacted for an interview in 2023 (but there is no obligation to interview implied by taking this survey).
- **Researchers:** Jonathan Dinsmore, University of Tennessee Chattanooga
- **Type of study:** Questionnaire Time required: 20-30 minutes

Further information and link to questionnaire:

<https://iands.org/research/nde-research/participate-in-a-research-study.html#transcendental>



## CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE HAD A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

### 3: Dr. France Lerner is recruiting individuals who have had a near-death experience (NDE) for an online study.

NDEs are personal and transformative experiences that sometimes happen when one is close to death or under the threat of death.

To participate in this study, you will need:

1. Internet access.
2. A Gmail account (or, if you do not have one, create an account at <http://www.gmail.com/>).
3. A pen (blue ink ballpoint 0.5).
4. A printer with a scanner (or use a free cellular scanning App to scan your documents with your phone).
5. An indoor place where you feel physically and psychologically at ease.

Your participation in the study will take up to 30 minutes for the preliminary questionnaire and up to 2 hours for the online study questionnaire.

The study focuses on the type of spaces, feelings of motion, emotions, and sensations you experienced during your NDE. This research project has been reviewed by the Bar Ilan University Institutional Review Board Israel.

To be eligible to participate in our study you must be fluent in English, be at least 18 years old, and have no mental disabilities or need for a guardian.

If you would like to participate in this research study, please follow this link to the online preliminary questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/DHwK4mYmBT8Jkd1N7>



## WHY As Well As HOW

by William D. (Don) Coffey, MA

When Raymond Moody's spiritual findings were published in his 1975 book *Life After Life*, a wonderfully interesting new world opened for me and for many others whose interest in spirituality finds its most meaningful expression through science rather than religion. The founding of IANDS soon thereafter was icing on the cake because it enabled a new institutional focus for research and information sharing that probably would not have happened without it.

Remarkably, after these last few decades of paying closer attention to the fascinating phenomena Moody brought to public notice, a majority of the world population are at least aware of near-death experiences (NDEs), including even the hard-case skeptics who "know" such experiences can't possibly be real. Through ordinary, incidental publicity, a great many people now conclude—on rational grounds independent of scripture—that God (Higher Power) is very, very real and infinitely loving, that our lives continue in spirit form after our earthly bodies die, and that there is a far greater reality (Heaven, Valhalla, Unified Field, whatever) within which our evolved universe resides, nested like a Russian doll but veiled off, seemingly separate.

The sheer volume of these reports constitutes intrinsic evidence that the phenomena they so consistently describe are real and true. That absolute consistency prevails within and across the several huge and growing databases of NDE reports now accumulated. As evidence of non-material realities, these databases represent veracity at least as bona fide as the equivalent "evidence" of statistical probability, deductions, assumptions, and surmise on which science infers the non-material reality of quantum dynamics.

It has been of great interest to me, all these years, to be an observer of this old-but-new field's phenomenal growth in span and depth of research. My own felt experiences of seeking and inner growth, like those of so many other longtime IANDS members, confirm Ken Ring's assertion that the simple act of reading hundreds, perhaps thousands of the accumulated reports by near-death experiencers can and do lead to the reader's spiritual transformation as deeply as those who have personally experienced NDE/STEs. The evidence is convincing.

At age 85 I hold this conviction based on nearly a half century of deep interest and seeking at the interface of science and spirituality, which in my considered opinion are but two apparent faces of the same unity. I think all these years of reading and thinking would, alone, have been quite sufficient for the transformed perspective I feel, even had I not been gifted with several extra boosts. These include definably spiritual experiences I encountered unexpectedly at ages 3 and 72, plus a lifelong series of dramatic, very meaningful lucid dreams that have both shaped my quest and kept it focused. As a personally involved, long-time observer in the broad field of NDE/STE phenomena, over a decade ago I reached what feels to me like a deeply profound conclusion.

I think our traditional focus on the "how" of NDE/STEs—that is, "what happened"—should be balanced with more consideration of the "why." The positive benefit of this knowledge for individuals has been obvious from the start, but—in broad context of the human situation—what difference is all our new knowledge making for the benefit of humanity? How should we be responding to the lessons all these NDEs are teaching us?

Three straightforward examples from the NDE database amply illustrate the point:

1) From thousands of writings about life reviews, we learn unequivocally that God does not judge our choices. This lesson alone dispenses with the Abrahamic religions, all three of which place God's harsh judgment at the very core of their doctrinal reason for existing.

2) I have read many NDE reports that speak of the mind/soul's decision in choosing the parents to whom it will be born. They inform us that a mind/soul entering an infant body may enter, leave, and re-enter multiple times during the ten months between conception and a few weeks postpartum.

3) Again, focusing on the life review, I marvel at how often I keep running across reports in which God asked the experiencer, "What good have you done for your fellow humanity in this lifetime so far?" From this repeating lesson, I conclude that our foremost purpose in living a mortal lifetime is to lovingly help others, and that we should inform our minds and use our time wisely to benefit our fellow spirits.

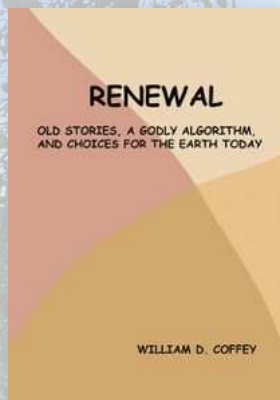
When I began truly delving into NDE reports in the 1980s I wondered: What are these thousands of reports telling us about our larger purpose for having chosen to live these mortal lives? I've wondered about purpose for my whole life. As individuals and collectively, where should we be directing our ethical priorities, our intentions and energies? This larger context within which the treasure of NDE reporting comes to us receives little attention, even as countless books are written about the fascinating details and their benefits for individuals.

People who study NDEs are very well informed on how NDEs unfold. We know all about out-of-body experiences, the tunnel, the light and the love, the life reviews, the temporary download of total knowledge, the go-or-stay line, the abrupt return... Profound as they are, these familiar things may be thought of as the "gee-whiz factor." We all understand how fascinating they are to read about, as deficient as that may be compared to actual personal experience of an NDE.

I believe our potential to apply our NDE/STE knowledge more effectively for the benefit of mankind has barely begun to be realized, and I believe it devoutly. All these matters and more are addressed in considerable detail in my book *RENEWAL: Old Stories, a Godly Algorithm and Choices for the Earth Today* (see ad in this issue). I would love to hear from fellow spirits who agree (or disagree on reasoned grounds) with the matters raised in this article. My email is [dscoffey9@mis.net](mailto:dscoffey9@mis.net).



## RENEWAL: Old Stories, a Godly Algorithm, and Choices for the Earth Today by William D. (Don) Coffey, MA



This broad exploration of the unity of science and spirituality presents ascending perspectives in three frames of reference. Four chapters explore the field of near-death and spiritually-transformative experiences (NDE/STEs) as accumulated to date, the author's personal STEs between ages 3 and 70, the relevance of native spiritualities and conventional religions, and the unity of science and spirit based on accumulated scientific and NDE/STE evidence.

These matters are then considered in a broader context of four sequential evolutionary phases that unfold, unguided, from lower to higher complexity: i.e., emergence of the self-organizing universe, self-emergent life on planet Earth, rising cultural evolution in humans and animals, and spiritual growth as the purpose and goal of evolution. In this context, the unguided but self-evident rise of complexity since the big bang is perceived as a "Godly Algorithm."

All the above is then considered in context of ethical choices we confront as the over-consuming imperatives of capitalism cause globally worsening weather, climate, degrading earth systems, and deep concern for our descendants' future.

Available on AMAZON - [Click here for more information](#)

Published 2021. Total 582 pages as a two-volume set, paperback. Volume 1 \$23; Volume II \$23.

(Option: An oversized (8 x 10) single volume of 475 pages, paperback: \$35 while limited supply lasts.)

## NDEs for Medical Professionals - Spanish Version

A documentary on near-death experiences designed for healthcare professionals with collaboration by various patients and professionals who have treated these experiences.

- Includes testimonies of Spanish doctors, psychologists, and NDErs
- Illustrates examples of the NDE phases and characteristics
- Role of the healthcare professional
- Suggested protocols
- Spanish foundations to contact for further information
- References to studies and articles for healthcare professionals




Watch on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/SZ7cNbtzGqQ>



Great presentations from previous IANDS conferences:

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



 **Rob Gentile**

**Saved by a  
Doctor's Deceased  
Father and Meeting  
a Suicide Victim  
During an NDE**

[https://youtu.be/NQxVltc\\_Gn8](https://youtu.be/NQxVltc_Gn8)



 **Melvin Morse**

**A Medical  
Doctor's Studies  
in Near-Death  
Phenomena**

<https://youtu.be/N2ilz5nuh2M>



 **James Owen**

**In Search of  
a River  
  
A Near-Death  
Experience  
Following a Major  
Heart Attack**

<https://youtu.be/Q9yRQBk1-UA>



 **Scott Drummond**

**Out of Body  
in the  
Operating  
Room**

<https://youtu.be/Kkzz5OtPbp4>




 **Christine Clawley**

**An Experience  
of Timelessness  
in a Near-Death  
Experience**

<https://youtu.be/MeupzTypGnc>



 **Ellen Whealton**

**Meeting Jesus  
and the Buddha  
in a Childhood  
Near-Death  
Experience**

<https://youtu.be/lay-5hNWskw>





# EXPLORE *Groups & Events*

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**NEW! Podcast with Betty Guadagno. Keep watch for episodes on the IANDS YouTube channel.**



### *Sharing Groups*

Listen to community members spiritual experiences, and share your own in this safe, private space. No one will know you attended. Donations requested. Attendance is free for everyone.



### *Live Talks & Videos*

Learn from researchers and listen to spiritually transformative experiences. Talk directly with the speakers and get your questions answered during the Q&A! Can't make it? The video is included with your RSVP! Or, choose one of our over 200 videos!



### *Workshops*

Series of classes with a common theme are presented by community experts such as Mark Pitstick!







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## INSPIRED TO LOVING ACTION

*The Transformative Power of  
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