

## Spiritual Biography of Suzanne duBois

My life on one page?! I must focus on one aspect ... the perhaps most important aspect...my spiritual life.

I was born into a traditional Christian family, attending a Baptist church where I was baptized at the age of 10. I thought I died. It was not a transformative experience. I did not see, hear, or feel God.

When my mother married a Catholic, I was 12, I was required to attend catechism, where I was informed that I was going to hell because I was not born Catholic. Now that was traumatic. I refused (even when my step-father tried to bribe me with money) to join the church. At 14 I had a mind of my own, but was still very interested in religion. I went to Youth for Christ meetings and rallies and read the Bible at night under my bed covers. I was, however, never moved to "accept Jesus Christ as my savior". When I went to college in my freshman year I attended at least 10 different churches, searching but not finding a home. I gave up the search for a few years. I was busy surviving, raising a child on my own, getting my degrees, and working.

I have had attended a 1,000 member all Black Baptist church in Chicago, dated a Muslim and thus learned a little about Islam, Lived in a community where we meditated and chanted based on Buddhism, was involved with AA and started an Alateen group (yes spirituality is at the center of those), and yet, when I walked through the doors of the First Church of Religious science in 1979 when Orin Moen was senior minister and Margaret Stortz was secretary. I was HOME. I became a member in 1980. Many changes over the intervening years included taking all classes including practitioner 1, then deciding to get my doctorate in education, and later attending the Golden Gate Center for Spiritual Living and earning my practitioners license, before returning HOME to OCSL last year.

This spiritual philosophy from which I have lived my life has been evidenced in the following examples (among many others); one, My business partner, Chia Vasquez, and I developed and delivered workshops on diversity. Our work centered on addressing the problems that result from experiencing discrimination based on race and cultural difference. Our participants were able to distinguish and honor their family heritage and put into their life practices those customs, values and principles which are true to their individual expression. As a result, our participants discovered new ways to extend possibility and opportunity of living in harmony with other American cultures while honoring their own. We believed in practicing compassion and supporting all individuals to embrace all that they are. Two, my work with teens, who I know despite the circumstances of their lives or the manner in which they present themselves, are always at their core precious unfinished diamonds, which resulted in years of success and joy. Three, I am blessed with a powerful, unique, rewarding relationship with my son and grandchildren and other family.

Finally, I continue to live my life daily in joyful play and vibrant health, knowing, "I am born of Spirit. I am in the Spirit. I am the Spirit made manifest." Ernest Holmes (365 Daily Wisdom)