

Exhibits

“Music is divine”

“All in Harmony: Mary Baker Eddy and Music,” a new exhibit at The Mary Baker Eddy Library, gives visitors the opportunity to experience through sight and sound the music of Eddy’s time and to read her inspirational thoughts about music and the role it plays in her theology.

In the nineteenth century, music was a shared experience that brought family, friends, congregations, and other social groups together to hear, sing, learn, and enjoy. Mary Baker Eddy and members of her household often gathered together to be entertained and inspired. This inspiration is often expressed in Eddy’s writings through the use of musical terms (such as harmony) as metaphors for God’s goodness, power, and love.

Four instruments used in Mary Baker Eddy’s homes at Pleasant View and Chestnut Hill help to illustrate the importance of music to Eddy and members of her household. Featured are a Prescott upright grand piano manufactured by the Prescott Piano Company in Concord, New Hampshire; a Regina Music Box that was a gift from two of Eddy’s students; an Aeolian pianola, a type of “player piano,” a unique instrument that attaches to a piano and requires a “demonstrator” or pianolist to mechanically produce music; and a Victor Victrola, purchased in 1909 and enjoyed by Eddy and her staff. These instruments, along with other artifacts, docu-

ments, historic photographs, and reminiscences from the Library’s collections, show the impact that music had in Eddy’s home.

Also on display in the Library’s lobby are exhibit cases containing artifacts related to the mechanical aspects of the instruments, such as needles used with the Victrola, and items that tell a story of Mary Baker Eddy’s fondness for home and the song “Home Sweet Home.” An interactive kiosk, featuring musical instruments like the ones on exhibit, allows visitors to hear a few songs that Eddy enjoyed listening to, as well as one of her hymns.

“All in Harmony” continues outside Lending and Reference Services on the second floor with a display celebrating music in Christian Science services. This case traces the development of the *Christian Science Hymnal* and provides details about the organs of The Mother Church, one of which is among the largest in the world.

The Research Room on the fourth floor is where the exhibit culminates, with a display of music books from Mary Baker Eddy’s personal library and the library of

Calvin A. Frye, her longtime secretary. Here visitors get a glimpse into some of the varied musical interests of the household with titles such as *Gospel Hymns*, *Male Chorus No. 1*, and *The Golden Treasury of Best Songs*.

“All in Harmony” is open to the public through November 2009.



Mary Baker Eddy wrote, “Music is divine.”
Check out “All in Harmony” to learn why.

Spring 2009 Issue

This periodic newsletter is provided to promote awareness of The Mary Baker Eddy Library, its exhibits, programs, and activities, to current and potential Library patrons and supporters.

Mission Statement

“The Mary Baker Eddy Library provides public access and context to original materials and educational experiences about Mary Baker Eddy’s life, ideas, and achievements, including her Church. The Library promotes exploration and scholarship through its collections, exhibits, and programs.”



©2009 The Mary Baker Eddy Library®. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States on 100% recycled, 100% post-consumer waste paper manufactured with Green-e® certified biogas energy and wind power.

www.mbelibrary.org
200 Massachusetts Avenue ■ Boston, MA 02115
617-450-7000 or toll free 888-222-3711

Research

Rediscovering the Library’s Electronic Holdings

Perhaps you’ve been one of the many visitors to the Library’s Research Room who has discovered our electronic database containing Mary Baker Eddy’s papers and our collections of historic photographs and images of artifacts. Now it’s time to rediscover it through the Library’s new database powered by Re:discovery Software.



The new system allows users to more easily search by topic through keywords and to refine these searches. Users can also search across collections to expand their research with one click into Letters & Manuscripts, Historic Photographs, Object Collection, and the Lending and Reference Collection. Come to the Research Room today to search on a topic that interests you.

The Research Room is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment on the first Saturday of the month. Call 617-450-7218 or e-mail research@mbelibrary.org.

Become a “fan” of the Library

The Library is now on Facebook.



Become a “friend” of the Library

Contributions entitle you to receipt of our newsletters, free admission for you and a guest, and a 10% discount on purchases from the shop for the next twelve months. **Contribute online at www.mbelibrary.org.** Call 888-222-3711, extension 7301, e-mail librarymail@mbelibrary.org, or write us c/o Friends of the Library.

Programs

February School Vacation Week— My World, My Peace



Children were invited to participate in a poster contest during February school vacation week.

Students ages 17 and under were treated to free admission to the Library exhibits to become inspired and

to learn about the founding of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Christian Science Monitor*. Participants were provided with art materials and given the opportunity to get creative and answer, "What does peace mean to you?" in poster form.



Winner, "Best Craftsmanship."

We received many creative and colorful submissions from young artists!

Winners were selected in five categories (Best in Show, Most Creative, Most Colorful, Best Craftsmanship, Best Use of Theme) and the contest culminated with an awards reception at the Library on March 5.

Each category winner was awarded a certificate, a one-year subscription to the *Monitor* for their school, a free Library tour for their art or social studies class, and a box of art supplies. And, with thanks to the Museum of Fine Arts for their generous support, the "Best in Show" prizewinner also received four tickets to the Museum of Fine Arts' *Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese: Rivals in Renaissance Venice* exhibition (an additional estimated retail value of \$120).



Library President, Lesley Pitts, congratulates one of the winners.

Programs

April School Vacation Week— My Voice, My Song



On the heels of our successful "My Peace" poster contest, the Library provided another weeklong, free program entitled "My Voice, My Song," for the April school vacation.

"My Voice" coincided with the opening of the Library's new music exhibit, "All in Harmony," to teach children about music as inspiration, entertainment, and a form of expression.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote poems that were later set to music, so for the main activity of "My Voice," children



and teens wrote their own poems and then worked with local singer/songwriters Sara Wheeler and Victor Cockburn to learn how to put their words to music.

Additional activities included a make-your-own-instrument station, where children made their own drums using plastic plates, kazoos using paper towel rolls and wax paper, guitars using rubber bands and tissue boxes, and marachas using macaroni, beads, and plastic bottles.

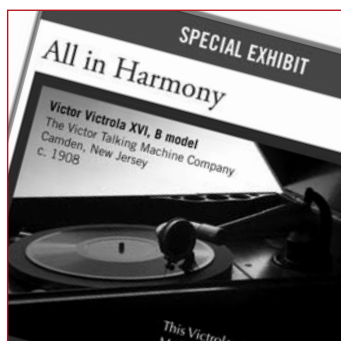
Tours of the new music exhibit and the opportunity to view the Mapparium® rounded out the program.

Check out the Library's Web site for upcoming programs for kids.



Programs

“All in Harmony” Program



The Library celebrated its new “All in Harmony: Mary Baker Eddy and Music” exhibit on Saturday, April 25, with a free concert and exhibit talk. This special program concluded the week of music-based activities for “My Voice, My Song.”

Making the Library collections accessible and relevant to our patrons is always the goal of each exhibit and program. This program demonstrated the universality of music to inspire and entertain.

Library Researcher and Special Projects Manager, Sherry Darling, provided a brief overview of the role of music in Mary Baker Eddy’s life, and then three diverse musical groups provided live performances and shared how music has inspired and transformed their lives. Each group is either affiliated with an educational program that promotes individual growth and musical training or celebrates ethnic diversity in music.



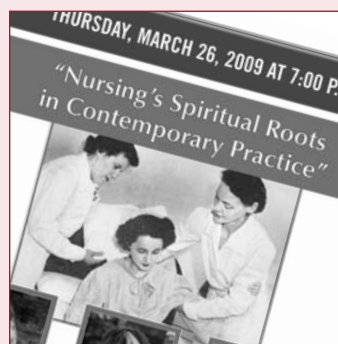
The Israeli Jazz Quintet from the New England Conservatory of Music performed first and treated audience members to jazz inspired by traditional Israeli music. Student musicians from Project STEP (String Training and Education Program) performed next. Young violinists from age six to high school students skillfully performed classical music from Mozart and Bach.

Our final performance featured the African, Haitian, and Brazilian root music of Zili Misik. This all-female band, originating from Berklee College of Music, invited the audience to play assorted musical instruments as they performed traditional folksongs.

At the conclusion of this diverse sampling of music, the audience was invited to view the “All in Harmony” exhibit. Library curators Alan Lester and Pam Winstead were on hand to answer questions about the objects on display.

Programs

“Nursing’s Spiritual Roots” Flower in the Hall of Ideas



On March 26, the Hall of Ideas was filled to capacity for the Library program entitled “Nursing’s Spiritual Roots in Contemporary Practice.” Well over 200 people attended, and there was a buzz of excitement as the audience took their

seats. For many, the source of anticipation was the presence of nursing theorist Jean Watson as part of the panel. Watson is a world-renowned speaker and author on the subject of nursing as a “caring science.” For Library staff, there was eagerness and expectation at the prospect of presenting a Library event to a whole new audience. The Library had promoted the program to the local nursing community and there was an impressive response from a number of hospitals and nursing programs. For the Christian Science nursing community, this was an opportunity to celebrate over one hundred years of Christian Science nursing and to share ideas and experiences about spirituality and care with a diverse audience of healthcare professionals.



Jean Watson

Library Executive Manager and President Lesley Pitts, who for many years was a Christian Science nurse, set the stage for the evening’s discussion. She spoke of her background in nursing, and the importance of spiritual qualities in this practice. She recognized that Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, and Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, occupied much common ground. They were almost identical in their dates (Nightingale was born just one year earlier than Eddy in 1820 and both women passed on in 1910), both were unconventional and pioneering women leaders in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and both were guided by

deep and abiding spiritual convictions in their ideas and practices.

Lesley indicated that the evening's three panelists represented the next vanguard of enlightened thinking about nursing for the twenty-first century: Margaret "Peggy" Burkhardt, professor of nursing at West Virginia University; Linda Kohler, supervisor of Christian Science nursing activities; Jean Watson, distinguished professor of nursing at the University of Colorado, Denver, and founder of the Watson Caring Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Moderator Jonathon Eder of the Library, together with our distinguished guests,

launched into a profound and energetic discussion about nursing as an agency for healing through care and love.

Burkhardt spoke of how spirituality was always at the core of her identity and in her practice of nursing. She asserted, "You cannot *not* be spiritual." Kohler described her life journey of moving from being a young woman who was "very familiar with the inside of a doctor's office" to a career as a Christian

Science nursing professional, where spiritual growth and the consciousness of the healing power of divine Love support practical care. Watson described her dismay as a young nursing academician in discovering that nursing had no foundational philosophy or science of its own, that it was relegated simply as a subset of medicine. Watson has devoted her career to discovering and articulating a distinct philosophy or science of nursing, and what has evolved is a "caring science" that brings "caring, healing, and love together." She averred that "perhaps, we can now acknowledge that the greatest source of healing is love."

Another compelling exchange related to a discussion of the panelists' visit to a Christian Science nursing facility, the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association in Brookline, MA, earlier that day. Watson exclaimed, "I felt that I was going to faint at one point to tell you the truth: it was so beautiful. I felt that I had this transcendent moment, because there was something powerful about that sense of presence that was greater than us.... That whole environment was a very inspiring and affirming experience for me, very personally as well as professionally." Burkhardt agreed, and added that she would love to have the opportunity to have her nursing students experience a setting of learning like the Benevolent Association.

The final portion of the program was devoted to questions and comments from the audience.

Most came from medical nurses, who expressed a deep appreciation for the evening's content and character. One commented, "I have been a nurse for thirty-three years, but I started my spiritual journey nineteen years ago, and I'm still scared to death to expose it.

But you have given me a lot of courage and strength and I hope to be able to do something with that." There has been much follow up interest in and discussion since the event and the Library looks forward to building on the success of this program.

Note to Annual Meeting attendees: this program was videotaped and will be shown on a continual loop in the Library's Atrium from Saturday, June 6 through Tuesday, June 9. The video download will be available at the Library's Web site as of June 10.



Margaret "Peggy" Burkhardt



Linda Kohler



on

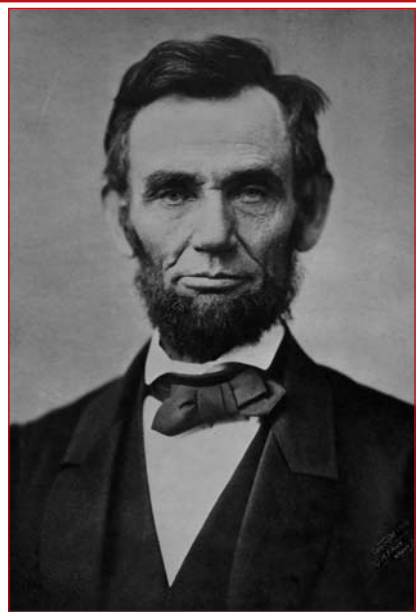
Exhibits

New Exhibit on Mary Baker Eddy and Abraham Lincoln

The latest Windows into Lending and Reference Services exhibit “Lincoln’s ‘Great Willing Heart’ and the Life of Mary Baker Eddy” goes on display in June. This exhibit examines the relationship between emancipation and the struggle for spiritual freedom in nineteenth-century America. The widespread support for Abraham Lincoln’s leadership and for emancipation was mirrored in Mary Baker Eddy’s poetry, public speaking, and scrapbooking.

The Library’s lobby will host the exhibit, which gives visitors a glimpse into a fraction of the Library’s expansive collection. Using books from the Library’s circulating collections, managed by Lending and Reference Services, and related documents and publications in the archive, the exhibit details the significance Mary Baker Eddy placed upon Abraham Lincoln’s presidency and the struggle for emancipation.

The nineteenth century was a turbulent time in American society, as civic and religious leaders strove to lay the foundation for the freedoms we take for granted today. During her time in Charleston, South Carolina, Mary Baker Eddy had witnessed firsthand the practice of human bondage. She passionately supported the abolitionist movement. Her opposition to all forms of slavery included the right of individuals to seek freedom from illness. To raise awareness of the first amendment rights that were being denied to Christian Scientists, Mary Baker Eddy gave a commanding lecture entitled “Bill of Rights for 1880,” questioning, “shall the iron hoof of oppression trample on the rights



Abraham Lincoln



Mary Baker Eddy

of the individual in Massachusetts?” [A10082]

Mary Baker Eddy also retained topical news stories in her personal scrapbooks throughout the Civil War and Lincoln’s terms in office. One of the more poignant clippings contained in her scrapbooks is “Abraham Lincoln’s Idea of Christianity,” which stated that Lincoln’s ideal church was one that held only one requirement for membership: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.” [SB032]

February 12, 1909, the centennial of Lincoln’s birth, was celebrated across Massachusetts by “scores of patriotic societies.” At a packed Symphony Hall in Boston, the proceedings were brought to a close with a “brief review of the deeply religious character of Lincoln’s life.”

[*The Christian Science Monitor*, February 12, 1909] In recognition of “Lincoln Day” Mary Baker Eddy commissioned a Lesson-Sermon on the subject “Freedom” to be read at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. This special Friday service at The Mother Church also included an address on Lincoln delivered by respected Boston lawyer Samuel J. Elder.

If you would like to learn more about Mary Baker Eddy’s admiration for Abraham Lincoln or her pursuit of freedom for all, please feel free to contact Reference staff at Lending and Reference Services (617-450-7325) or Research staff in the Research Room (617-450-7218). Or, if you are in the area, please stop by and learn more about “Lincoln’s ‘Great Willing Heart’ and the Life of Mary Baker Eddy.”

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

Is it true that Elvis Presley owned a copy of *Science and Health*?

The Research staff had heard this rumor over the years but like many rumors that come to us for authentication, we'd found no concrete evidence one way or another. Then *The New Yorker*, in its November 17, 2008 issue, published an article reviewing the work of the photographer William Eggleston. The accompanying illustration was a photograph of Elvis's bedroom at Graceland, showing an Eggleston photograph of Elvis reflected in a mirror above a dresser. On the dresser was a pile of books—and the top book on that pile was a copy of *Science and Health*!

We called the staff of Graceland, Elvis's home in Nashville, and spoke to researchers there, who were able to confirm that there was a copy of *Science and Health* in Elvis's personal library. It was placed in his bedroom for the photo shoot of the Eggleston portrait in 1984.

The researchers at Graceland suggested that the book had been a gift from Elvis's spiritual advisor, a man named Larry Geller. Geller, a hairdresser, became a friend and confidant of Elvis's after a chance discussion during a haircut. He often brought Elvis books to read and the two discussed many different outlooks on spiritual philosophy.

Geller later wrote a book about his time with Elvis called *Elvis's Search for God*. In it, he discusses Elvis's deep spirituality and includes one chapter titled "The Healer." Clearly, religion was deeply important to Elvis, who had started his career as a Gospel singer and continued to record popular hymns throughout his life.

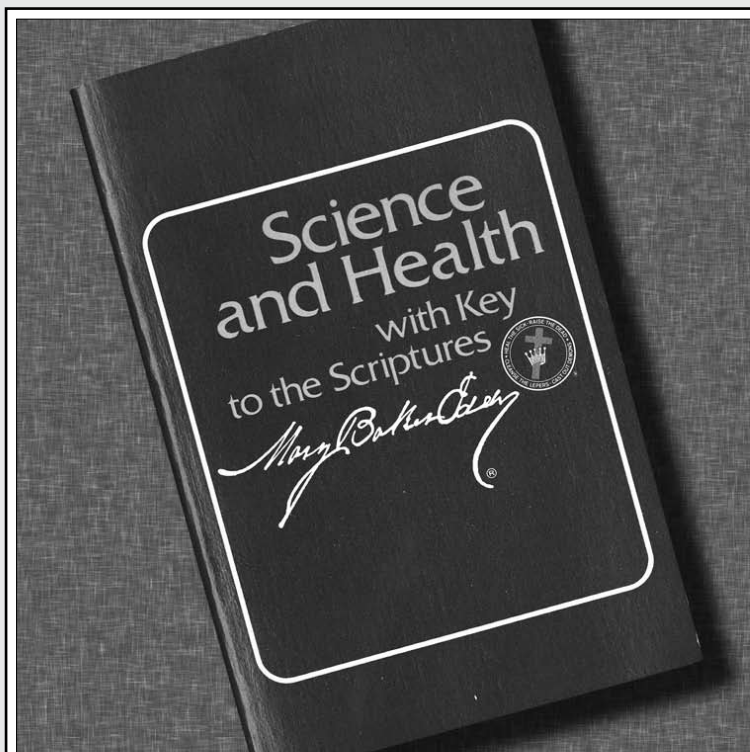
We were able to get in contact with Larry Geller, who confirmed that he did give Elvis the copy of *Science and Health* that is still at Graceland today. He said that though Elvis had been raised in a fundamental-

ist home, he searched for new spiritual ideas throughout his life, and that he and Elvis had many conversations about Mrs. Eddy's ideas. Several others from Elvis's household have spoken about his spiritual search, including a nursemaid who was a Christian Scientist. Geller spoke of his own lifelong interest in Christian Science, and of how much he had enjoyed his own visit to The Mother Church years ago.

If you have any additional information about Elvis's interest in Christian Science, we'd love

to hear from you. We always enjoy hearing stories of public figures who were interested in Christian Science, and Elvis's seemed to be a fitting one to share as we open our "All in Harmony exhibit."

Do you have an historical question? Need a copy of an archival document? Want information on donating manuscripts or artifacts? **Contact the Research Room at research@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7218.**



Elvis owned a copy of this edition of *Science and Health*.



200 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brockton, MA
Permit No. 1000

Upcoming Program

One World 2009

Join us for the fourth annual “One World” children’s summer enrichment program. Held on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for six consecutive weeks beginning on July 7, “One World” features free cultural events for local children aged 4-10, including arts and craft activities, book giveaways, exhibits, and interactive activities that teach about the Library’s collection. This year, “One World” will complement our new “All in Harmony” music exhibit with performances from a variety of local musicians. Each week features a different performer and craft activity.

“One World” is open to all families and youth groups, but space is limited. Program capacity is 150 participants per week and **reservations are required**. If you are interested in partnering or contributing to this important community program or would like to make a reservation for your group, please email groupvisits@mbelibrary.org or call 617-450-7330.

Ongoing	MARY BAKER EDDY: AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE (orientation video) An introduction to Mary Baker Eddy’s life and a brief overview of the Library.
Ongoing	ALL IN HARMONY EXHIBIT Featuring the role of music in Mary Baker Eddy’s life.
Ongoing	LINCOLN’S “GREAT WILLING HEART” AND THE LIFE OF MARY BAKER EDDY Revisits the power of the anti-slavery movement in 19th-century America as a symbol for universal liberation.
July 25	CURATOR’S CAMP FOR KIDS Learn from and work with curatorial staff behind the scenes in one of the largest collections by and about an American woman.
past programs available as audio and video downloads- www.mbelibrary.org	
NURSING’S SPIRITUAL ROOTS IN CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE Panelists discuss the spiritual foundations of nursing care (story on pages 4-5).	
ONE WORKING BAND: MUSIC IN MARY BAKER EDDY’S NEW ENGLAND	
MEET THE AUTHOR of <i>Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900.</i>	

09/03-077