



*Universal Brotherhood Spiritualist Church*

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## WHO WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD SPIRITUALIST CHURCH?

Eulogy by Ann Siddaway, President of UBSC Board of Directors  
August 15, 2009

*I*'ve known Reverend Mary Hietanen, often called "Mother Mary", for over 35 years as family member, a friend, a student minister and peer. She taught me a great deal and never ceased to amaze me with her humour, her candor, and her insight. As the President of the UBSC Board of Directors, I am a product of her dedication and profound teachings.

Nearly thirty years ago in 1981, this woman who raised six children and didn't know how to write a cheque until she was in her fifties, established the Spiritualist Church of Universal Brotherhood.

Her dream to build this church started in the early 1970's as she began to discover her own spirituality. She was drawn to a wonderful group of mediums, including David Young, Lillian Stubley and Irene Griffey, who mentored, taught and encouraged her to develop her own unique gifts of Spirit. She found herself standing before large audiences and chairing public demonstrations. She herself would eventually take the platform to share her mediumship, inspirations, teachings, and philosophy. She would never have imagined that she could be so public and achieve these things. She used to be terribly insecure about her lack of education, her accent and mannerisms of speech. Mary told me once that she had wondered about taking "elocution" classes. Fortunately she was told not to do so, and just be herself.

And indeed that's what she was. She was loved for her presentations, for the very endearing way she had of speaking, for her sense of humour and fun, and her directness. It was wonderful to witness her growth. The changes over the years were significant and none more prominent than when she took the platform. Her early inspired writings and lectures reflected the ordinary person she was, while those of more recent years expressed a language and profound philosophy truly inspired by her accessing the higher realms she so deeply cherished. Her church was her greatest and proudest accomplishment (next to her family of course, although at times I'm sure they thought she had taken leave of her senses).

I am fortunate to have been able to learn and grow in my own spirituality and mediumship within the UBSC sanctuary walls under her ever-watchful guidance and tutelage. In her honour I will continue to work to serve spirit and honour her memory.

Those who knew her and have been a part of the Universal Brotherhood Church she founded will always honour her and celebrate the vibrant (and never dull) life of our very own icon, Reverend Mary Hietanen.

Although we will miss her, we look forward to being reacquainted with her spirit as we know she will continue to serve God and be ever with us.

*This background is a drawing of White Cloud, Mary's Indian spirit guide.  
It was drawn by psychic artist Coral Polge in 1980.*