Spirituality is manifested and sought through a variety of pathways, but often a discernment factor is called for by seekers, clinicians, and researchers alike when importing practices from one culture into another. In our opening article Stephen Trichter adds a fresh voice to the challenges involved in transferring long-standing indigenous practices with entheogens into “western” culture. After offering a foundational understanding of how the plant brew ayahuasca has evolved in its use as a sacrament in the South American Amazonian region, he discusses its advent into North America, Europe, and Australia as well. While illuminating the benefits and safety of the brew, he stresses that the challenges involved in integrating the practice into a different cultural context are many—among them, the dangers of inexperience in guidance and the threat of charlatans. He calls for further consideration of therapeutic integration as well as ethical guidelines.

Reaching back in time once again, Mark Ryan, author of two previous historically oriented articles in the Journal (Transpersonal Psychology and the Interpretation of History: A reading of the Gettysburg Address, 36(1), 2004 and The Transpersonal William James, 40(1), 2008), presents the “Resurrection of Frederic Myers,” offering readers a foundational and fundamental understanding of Myers and his “groundbreaking” efforts in developing an expanded model of consciousness that he articulated as a “spectrum” that reached beyond the ego. He invites readers to witness the continuing revival of Myers’ work, tracing the continuity as well as “rightly” renewed interest and valuing of Myers’ legacy to transpersonal studies.

Co-authors Paul Grof and William Kautz hail from the medical arena, having researched bipolar disorder for decades. Based on the longevity of their research, they embraced the opportunity of time to revisit their previously conducted research during the early 1980s which, via the method of intuitive consensus, had suggested a number of insights regarding the etiology and course of bipolar disorder. Their review of recent research findings in this arena reveals that current scientific research corroborates the earlier perceptions of and specific understanding offered by medical intuitives, thus reinforcing a role for medical intuition in the future.

Continuing to pursue the measurement of spirituality, our Associate Editor/Research Douglas A. MacDonald and his first author Dawn Affledt have applied his 5-factor Expressions of Spirituality Inventory (ESI) to explore the relationship of spirituality to work and organizational attributes and behaviors of employees in a religiously affiliated health care context. In addition to Job Satisfaction and Work Ethic other organizational behaviors measured included organizational commitment and organizational citizenship behaviors. Two of the Five Factors of the ESI (Existential Well-Being and Religiousness) were

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consistently correlated with all work variables. Significant findings in other areas as well reinforce previous research regarding the association between spirituality and work. Due in part to the issue of low effect sizes, the authors call for both replications studies and additional inquiry into workplace spirituality.

Concluding the articles, four authors have teamed up with a vision to bring a transpersonal perspective to help Iraqi and Afghanistan war veterans who are transitioning to civilian life. Hadley C. Osran, a psychiatrist, and Daniel E. Smee, a medic, are both veterans of the Iraq War. Shoba Sreenivasin is a long time Frankl-oriented clinical psychologist and clinical professor, having served veterans in hospitals, VA Centers, and prison outreach and Linda Weinberger is a professor of clinical psychiatry and chief psychologist whose parents were holocaust survivors. Framed by Viktor Frankl’s existential philosophical and therapeutic orientation, an approach they have been honing for several years focuses on integrating difficult combat experiences into a meaningful life context, staying particularly mindful that by virtue of embracing a warrior ethos many combat veterans not only understand but embody a life motivated by a cause larger than their individual self-sense. Avoiding or healing the “existential vacuum,” a là Frankl, is a prime consideration in transitioning to civilian life. They issue a call for dialogue with and involvement of the transpersonal community.

Arthur Hastings, our book review editor, introduces a new element in this issue that reflects a growing body of media such as DVDs that focus on the transpersonal terrain. Three selected for this issue, and reviewed by Hastings, include The consciousness chronicles, Volume 1 (2 DVD set), produced by Nick Day, Stuart Hameroff, and Maurizio Benazzo, Wake up! Exploring the potential of lucid dreaming (DVD), directed and produced by Kira Sass and Chris Olsen, and Transpersonal conversations (DVD). Interview with Frances Vaughan, Ph.D., produced by Kevin Page.

Two books are also reviewed: The Handbook of Near-Death Experiences: Thirty years of investigation, edited by Janet Miner Holden, Bruce Greyson, & Debbie James, reviewed by Ryan Rominger, and Awakening to Aging: Glimpsing the gifts of aging authored by Myrtle Heery & Gregg Richardson, and reviewed by Gina Touch Mercer. The latter book offers a “sneak preview” into the topic of a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Transpersonal Psychology focused on Transpersonal Gerontology, with guest editor Quinton Wacks. Stay tuned and watch for it.

Concluding the issue is our time-honored Books Our Editors are Reading section. As always, we offer contact information for authors and encourage you to communicate with them. In addition, we are always open to forum type manuscripts that offer responses to recent articles.

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