

Our Special Gifts and Talents

CHALICE LIGHTING AND OPENING WORDS -Adapted from Peter Lee Scott

We come together in an attitude of openness - not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts. ... We come ... seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us ... seeking reconfirmation and renewal of life, of love, and of hope.

CHECK-IN

READINGS

We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light.

-Mary Dunbar

Success means we go to sleep at night knowing that our talents and abilities were used in a way that served others.

-Marianne Williamson

A community can use all the skills of its people.

-Maori proverb

There's something wrong in not appreciating one's own special abilities, my girl. Find your own limitations, yes, but don't limit yourself with false modesty.

-Anne McCaffrey, Dragonsinger

Having a low opinion of yourself is not "modesty." It's self-destruction. Holding your uniqueness in high regard is not "egotism". It's a necessary precondition to happiness and success.

-Bobbe Sommer

You have a good many little gifts and virtues, but there is no need of parading them, for conceit spoils the finest genius. There is not much danger that real talent or goodness will be overlooked long, and the great charm of all power is modesty.

-Louisa May Alcott

I don't have a lot of respect for talent. Talent is genetic. It's what you do with it that counts.

-Martin Ritt

I knew I was a winner back in the late sixties. I knew I was destined for great things. People will say that kind of thinking is totally immodest. I agree. Modesty is not a word that applies to me in any way. I hope it never will.

-Arnold Schwarzenegger

People of talent resemble a musical instrument more closely than they do a musician. Without outside help, they produce not a single sound, but given even the slightest touch, and a magnificent tune emanates from them.

-Franz Grillparzer

QUESTIONS (Respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer. You may also respond to any of the readings that you find to be particularly meaningful.)

1. What special gifts or talents of yours have been important to you, and how have you used them?
2. What special gifts or talents in others have enriched your life?
3. Do you have any undeveloped or unused gifts or talents that you would like to explore, and what would be involved in doing that?
4. What has been your experience with the seemingly contradictory advice of, "Be proud of your gifts and talents," and "Be modest and humble?"

CLOSING WORDS

As we leave today may we remember with appreciation the gifts and talents of others and ourselves that have enriched our lives.