

## Member Story

Maitreya Maria Carrino, SRC

Synchronicity abounds after receiving the *Rosicrucian Digest* this week. About three weeks ago, I changed my Facebook background picture and I was struck by the synchronicity that the same image is on the latest *Rosicrucian Digest*. Then, reading the article "Discovering the Rosicrucian Path" confirmed the power of synchronicity. It says that synchronicity usually occurs right before or during critical or transformative periods in our lives. I am in that place now, as I prepare a plan for my next work, home, and life situation.

It was 2009 when I first heard of the Rosicrucians from a mentor/teacher, a very gifted person whom I hold the highest regard in his knowledge of physics, unified field theory, and ancient life sciences through sacred geometry. I have been following his work since then, attending various events, festivals, and conferences, etc., and watching his popularity grow exponentially. In 2015, I was able to personally and successfully invite him to speak at the retreat center where I lived and worked; it was a dream come true. My friend and teacher Nassim Haramein speaks very highly of the Rosicrucians and refers to the Order as having many of the answers that help with "The Mastery of Life." I have been aware of the Order and also knew becoming a member would require commitment, focus, discipline, and dedication into the initiatory process. At the time, with my lifestyle as it was, I didn't think it would be possible to make such a commitment, yet I knew there would be a time when it was right.

In October 2017, I left my reality of living in Northern California and moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to be close to my family. Before I made the decision to move here and leave my twenty-five years of West Coast living, I discovered there was the Triangle Rose Pronaos in Raleigh, North Carolina. I decided this was my time to become a Rosicrucian Member and make the exciting commitment. So in December 2017, I became an AMORC member and joined the Triangle Rose. I am now able to give the monographs and exercises the time needed to feel engaged, inspired, and committed.

AMORC has enriched my life tremendously! For about ten years I've been wanting to join, and it feels very rich to have finally made the decision to follow my heart. Meeting the fellow Fratres and Sorores at Triangle Rose is a blessing, as the members have been welcoming and inclusive towards me. I feel enriched to have a home sanctum where I can mediate, study, and perform the rituals the way AMORC recommends. I try to visit my sanctum every day, yet it's comforting to know I can't do it wrong.

Because of my membership, I can say at age fifty-one, I finally have a disciplined meditation practice. AMORC helps me to be a much nicer person, and to have more patience and more understanding as I get better acquainted with the Mysteries Of Life through the teachings in the monographs. Meeting Grand Master Julie Scott and being in her company at Jekyll Island Georgia around this time last year was very enriching. I was one of the four initiates into the Traditional Martinist Order, which made for a very powerful weekend.

The most enriching part about joining AMORC is having more structure and history behind many of the heart practices, concepts, teachings, etc., that I have been engaged with for the past twenty-five years. For thirteen years, I lived and worked at Harbin Hot Springs/Heart Consciousness Church in Middletown, California, where I actively participated in various heart-based modalities, yet deep in my soul, I was missing the element of context and understanding of the bigger picture. Now, because of AMORC, I have a chance to integrate the experiential and the practical, creating more balance and understanding of life's mysteries, which in turn creates more joy. Grateful to have some experience and understanding going into the monographs, I have many "ah ha" moments linking the connections.

Before the ninety-five percent destruction of Harbin Hot Springs from the Valley Fire, I was working full time as co-manager of events and workshops department and as a reverend of The Heart Consciousness Church. I am delighted to learn more through AMORC studies, as I have just entered into the First Atrium. I was truly inspired by the *Appellatio Fraternitatis Rosae Crucis*, a renewed call to all mystics and humanists to join us in working to overcome the intolerance and superstition of our day in order to create societies built on spirituality, humanism, and protection of the environment. This is my mission and intention for my life, trusting the "Big Hand" will move me into place me in the next transformative event in my life, a place where I can contribute my skills and experience towards creating these types of societies with maturity and feasibility. I am especially interested in the topics of the *Child Culture Series* and agree how important it is to share practices and techniques with children. I am currently working as a substitute teacher in the Chapel Hill School District, and often find myself imagining how inspiring it would be to teach these kinds of skills to children in public schools. However, I know it's not practical.

As I try to stay up to date with the latest technology, I'm inspired to know that AMORC and H. Spencer Lewis agree on using the latest technology to reach potential members. I feel resonance with most all of the teaching thus far, feeling the interconnected whole that lies beneath the surface of everyday life. I am happy that I have found AMORC!