

Instrument keeper

To the Editor:

I have been a Gentle Wind Project Instrument Keeper since 1995. I am also an RN. I share this technology with all of my patients that desire it. As an RN I have shared this technology with hundreds of people and have seen with my own eyes the efficacy of an Instrument's use. To have something that treats a patient on the mental/emotional level after the physical trauma most patients endure, is a dream come true. When I leave a patient after sharing my Healing Instrument with them, I know the patient has received treatment on all levels and has had the most I have to offer. Most importantly there are no side effects. This cannot be said of most medical treatments out there today. I for one, stand behind this complementary technology.

Laurie Thompson RN
South Portland

Letter to the Editor

Balanced report

To the Editor:

Henry Garfield's balanced report (12-16-04) on the Gentle Wind Project's (GWP) recent self-promotion in Ellsworth and Blue Hill was much appreciated. We think that people in this area—who regularly exhibit large doses of common sense—are not easily convinced by full-page ads, radio announcements, balloons and candy. We wish that we had more of this good sense when we became enchanted, two decades ago, by GWP "healing" claims in connection with our own goals of helping people.

There have been many promotional statements made by GWP leaders and followers concerning their "healing products." To evaluate these claims, and the disparaging remarks that might be made by GWP about their critics, we offer two cautionary suggestions: 1) Follow one of GWP's claims or testimonials completely to its source. Who is quoted? Why? Are they followers of the group? etc.; 2) Determine whether GWP uses any "straw man arguments" to rebut the statements and credentials of experts or former GWP members. Such arguments can sometimes be used to redefine an issue so as to render

it more easily dismissible through distraction, while still not refuting the original issue.

Because the GWP leaders are suing us for telling our personal stories about experiences with their group over a 17-year period, we can't go into further detail here. For anyone who may possibly be interested in learning more about GWP, or our history with it, we suggest that you do some research on the Internet where you will find a wealth of information on a variety of websites, including Gentle Wind Project's. However, the *Ellsworth Weekly* article contains some of the best in-depth coverage we've seen on the subject, and provides an excellent overview.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding during our past connection with this group.

Jim Bergin
Judy Garvey
Blue Hill

Check the mirror

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article by Henry Garfield called "Holistic healing or new age hoodoo?" I am the Co-director of The Gentle Wind Project, a twenty-one year old Maine non-profit that offers free mental and emotional help to

anyone in the world. The Project has developed a proven, effective alternative and complementary mental health technology that comes in the form of hand-held healing instruments. We hope that readers will take the time to visit our website at gentlewindproject.org. I would be unable to respond to the myriad of inaccuracies written by Mr. Garfield. Mr. Garfield interviewed staff members of our Project at length without having the integrity to say that he was a reporter. He was given a Trauma Card, not because he said he was a reporter, but because he claimed to have a wife who was a nurse and could use the Trauma technology with her patients. Perhaps Mr. Garfield should check the mirror next time he tries to hunt down something he thinks is not honest.

When Mr. Garfield said that the Trauma Card did not alleviate the stress that he was feeling about meeting the paper's deadline with his article, did he mean that the Trauma Card failed to give him a good feeling about being irresponsible and not meeting his obligations? Did Mr. Garfield mean that it did not allow him to be lazy and feel good about not keeping his contract with the paper? Or, did

he mean that he conducted a mini-clinical trial using an accepted stress measurement instrument in order to determine stress levels before and after using the Trauma Card and that based on his clinical trial he assessed that the technology had no effect on stress levels with his subject population?

The Gentle Wind Project technology is available for use free of charge to anyone seeking help. Free means no obligation, no contract on the part of either party. People can choose to donate or not donate to Gentle Wind but the help is always free. While we do not claim the technology is perfect, many people from around the globe have found it to be effective in alleviating mental and emotional distress. We have a very high satisfaction rate among our supporters. Our records are in good order and we look forward to the upcoming litigation involving the false claims made by James Bergin and Judy Garvey of Blue Hill. Our instruments are used in hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, hospice centers and prisons. We are supported by a large number of health care professionals whose testimonials can be found on our website. We also invite readers to visit gentlewindiran.com where they can read about the successful use of the technology with Iranian earthquake victims.

Could it be that Gentle Wind is actually just what we say? Mr. Garfield asked me, with a scowl, why I would do what I do for a living? I thought this was a very telling question. When I told him that I do it because this technology gives some people relief, he seemed to find my answer puzzling. Could it be that there are people who actually want to make a difference in the world? Could it be that there are people in the world who would try to help without asking for money or anything else? It appears that when you are coming from Mr. Garfield's point of view, we are all suspect.

Mary Miller, MSW
Co-director, The Gentle Wind Project
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