



## MEMBER STORY

*Phoenix Rose, SRC*

Growing up in the fifties, I was under the spell of TV shows which commonly ended with a moral lesson. Jimminy Cricket told us “Always let your conscience be your guide”; while Roy Rogers might have said, “Think first, then act!” Being open-minded and sponge-like, these aphorisms stuck with many youngsters of that era. At the time I had no idea that that approach to life was a hallmark of AMORC.

Looking back, I would describe myself as a loner, self-critical, yet often outgoing, loving people and nature, wanting to help others. I learned compassion as I befriended the boy next door who had a heart condition. Inquisitive, optimistic, often more at ease with my elders, I was full of questions. As a teenager, I recall asking our minister what the Holy Spirit was and was left dissatisfied by his reply. But my search was on! After college, I briefly tried a spiritualist church, then studied astrology (I still rely on the latter for personal cycles, timing, and psychology, along with H. Spencer Lewis’ *Cycles of Life*.) It was my in-laws though who introduced me to the Rosicrucian Order. Joining in 1975, I knew I was Home! Ancient yet progressive, I loved the experiments, the rituals, the non-dogmatic material. As I avidly read the monographs, I’d say to myself, “I knew that!” or “I always thought that!” The answers were coming! I wanted to tell the world; but I learned a hard lesson. Many people don’t want to hear you. People don’t want to change. It takes work, and a letting go of erroneous beliefs. I learned we must each evolve in our own time and when we’re ready.

Besides largely validating the trend of my own thinking and understanding, new avenues of study and exploration fueled my passion for learning and understanding. Through membership in the Order and the blessings it affords for service, I have become more self-confident, learned to trust and act on my intuition, and thrive in my solitude as I walk a path less trodden. Like a child on a carousel, I’m reaching for the golden ring! Applying the principles helps create an inner state of imperturbability, tranquility, and balance. I sometimes sense that people notice “something” about me; it seems to either attract them or cause them to step away, depending on their own energy and needs. I’m okay with that. We all have choice. Our lessons emphasize tolerance, humility, seeing our oneness with everyone, and asking what is the lesson in each experience. We learn how to plant seeds, and how to visualize, meditate, and manifest our positive thoughts. Energy follows thought. As we think so we become.

Over the years I’ve learned so much from my Rosicrucian affiliation: gratitude for life, consciousness, health, each breath, opportunities for service; finding the silver lining

behind every challenge and experience; thankfulness and appreciation for all who have gone before, carrying the torch of light for us to follow. Although a very long way from all the answers I have been looking for since my youth and reaching any ultimate goal (if there is one); just knowing I have found the Path which resonates with me is an ineffable joy. I am eternally grateful!

## **LIKE A CHILD**

*A poem by Phoenix Rose*

Ever notice how a child can sit for hours on end  
Just watching ants in ordered drill march to and fro again?

Or how when only very small, perhaps just one or two  
Bright wrappings, ribbons and fancy bows are better than toys all new?

A dandelion when brushed or blown, by chance or with intent  
Can bring a smile or clapping hands watching dancing seeds' descent.

Youngsters puzzle that Luna so full slowly shrinks to a "C" pointing right  
But when she grows the "C" points left, yet sometimes she's clean out of sight!

Kids acknowledge wonderment everywhere, so this is the meaning of AWE  
In a blossom, the moon, for each head's every hair, Divine love is ever the law.

If we regain a child-like trust, and thrill in each simple thing,  
Shedding our often cynical eye, then our true inner being will sing.