

# Akhi Lives!

Thanks to an out-pouring of letters and questions from his friends and fans, "Ask Akhi," *The Beacon's* own advice column, has been pulled back from the very brink of journalistic extinction. A big Beacon Street "Thanks" to all of you who wrote in with words of encouragement and questions about the nature of life, the universe and everything for Akhi.

## Ask Akhi

*Akhi, the beggar-sage of Damascus, sits in the market square gathering coins and wisdom and instructing all in the dance of life.*



Oh, Allah be praised! Just today a bearded man approached me at the city gate. He sat down in front of me with a look in his eye that made me think he had a treasure for me. Oh, I thought, a dancer!! He told me that people had written to Akhi seeking wisdom; would I please respond? Of course.

"Wondering in Cleveland" writes: "Oh, dispenser of wisdom, what happens to all the old clothes that are left in the stores when the season changes?" Also from W. I. C.: "Do angel's wings make noise?"

First of all, Akhi thinks "Wondering in Cleveland" is a very poetic name. Keep it. As for the clothes, I am told that, months before my friends receive them from the local shelter, these clothes begin a long and difficult journey. Many of them are draped over plaster figurines in fancy stores for weeks before they are red tagged and finally removed and shipped away. They travel to outlet stores, Value City, and T. J. Maxx. Finally, nearly exhausted, they are bundled in string and dropped off at the corner. There, at last, those who needed them from the beginning line up and receive them with grateful hearts. Akhi wonders why they are not dropped off at the corner in the first place.

As for the noise of angel wings, I have never heard such a noise. But I am told they can be heard in the forest.

Thank you for writing to Akhi. Continue to seek wisdom. Recognize it when you hear it. Share it with a friend. Be at peace.

*O Seeker of Wisdom, send your questions to "Ask Akhi" c/o Beacon Street 3570 Rocky River Drive Cleveland OH 44111*

*Previous issues of The Beacon have turned the spotlight on the performers who've worked with us over the years. Now, at long last, we begin to feature members of our wonderful board of directors, starting with our resident president, Joyce Conway. Take it away, Joyce!*

## BS SPOTLIGHT ON



Joyce Conway

**Occupation:** Intellectual tour guide and fellow traveler with 9- and 10-year olds

**Pre-Occupation:** Chocolate

**Birthday:** Ides of March - 1951

**Home:** Beacon Street

**Marital Status:** Independent

**Car:** Mid-life-crisis VW convertible

**Favorite Current Movie:** "Much Ado About Nothing"

**Books I'm Reading:** "Voices of Trouble, Voices of Pride" and "100 Great Fantasy Short Stories"

**Favorite Performers:** Sean Connery, B.B. King, Jody Foster, Ray Stevens

**Favorite Activities:** Reading, needlework, baking, and listening to jazz and R. & B.

**Personal Heroes:** My family, Val Johnson, Clementine Hunter

**The best part of my job is:** Seeing the "lights come on" for the students after they've worked hard

**The worst part of my job is:** Grading papers and "politics" of education

**Three words that best describe me:** Private, loyal, Martha (redeemed)

**Future Plans:** Keep living without hurting myself or others

**Why my mom is proud of me:** I let my hair grow

**Motto:** There is no such thing as normal

*The Beacon Street Beacon is published approximately quarterly by Beacon Street. Performers: Maria Livers and Artistic Director Bob Kloos. Board of Directors: Pres. Joyce Conway, Vice-Pres. Thom Foster, Sec-Treas. Suzie Thompson, Benoy Joseph, Stan Kozak, Fred Krause, Jo Ann Nagy, Joyce Needham, and Vic Pergola. Office: Jim Pipik. Printed by Orange Blossom Press. Send comments, questions, complaints, suggestions to BEACON STREET 3570 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44111, or call (216) 252-5650.*