

Andy Hogg

I was born in a small town in Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi River. I am still a Midwesterner at heart. I have moderately liberal attitudes about most social, political, and economic issues, and I'm overly nice.

My father was an alcoholic. When I was seven years old, my brother shot my father to prevent him from killing my mother. Many years later, my father committed suicide. I coped with the trauma by becoming president of the high school Student Council and co-captain of the debate team. Trauma can lead to putting up walls or deepening our empathy for others. Normal people don't become psychologists.

I went to a liberal arts college in St. Paul. The Sixties didn't reach Minnesota until the early Seventies. I became involved in political activism and learned leadership skills. I experimented with Eastern religions. I learned the importance of thinking for myself.

The first concert that I ever attended was Jimi Hendrix. I immediately fell in love with rock music. My favorite band is the Beatles. I held a job working as a disc jockey and got fired twice. Even when I didn't own anything else, I always had a great stereo system. Since then, my musical interests have expanded. All those thousands of songs are the friends that I take with me everywhere.

On the Enneagram test, my highest scores are the Helper and the Achiever. I went to college for eleven years to become a psychologist. I lived in Oregon, Colorado, and Maryland to pursue my education. I joined the Peace Corps to train rural counselors in Jamaica. I almost got killed twice in the Peace Corps, but there is always a price to achieve peace. I taught undergraduate and graduate courses at several universities. I founded the Arizona Psychology Training Consortium to help train residents in psychology. I have served as the president of the Arizona Psychological Association and held many other leadership roles in my profession. My most interesting role was briefly working as a sports psychologist for the Arizona Cardinals football team. Being a therapist is the easiest way to spend a lifetime in therapy.

My wife and I have been married for thirty years. I'm more in love with my wife now than ever before. The secret to our marriage is that I put my wife first and she puts me first. We adopted our wonderful daughter, and now we have amazing two grandsons. Parenting and grandparenting are all about learning to love with all your heart.

My other personal interests include reading science fiction, watching movies, and playing fantasy football. I often watch reruns of Star Trek. I see myself as equal parts Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock. Dr. Strange and Thor are my favorite superheroes. I am an amateur astrologer, which is one of the lenses that I use for observing and understanding the world around me. I love walking in beauty in the mountains. I am fascinated by just about everything. The human experience should be an adventure.

I joined the Beacon Unitarian-Universalist Congregation after I had a dream in which Carl Jung, the voice of the collective unconscious, told me that I needed to join a church. I discovered that I have always been a Unitarian-Universalist but hadn't known that such an organized religion actually existed. Being a member of Beacon fosters my parallel world views as both a social scientist and a mystic. They accept my eccentricities and allow me to host a rock n' roll service every summer. It has made me a more compassionate person, which is my highest spiritual value. Beacon encourages me to bring all of the multifaceted parts of myself to church.