

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE



EDITION 161

July 2017

IN MEMORIAM

PETER MARTINELLI MBE 1930-2017



Peter Martinelli who died on 27th April 2017 in Tenerife aged 87

Peter was on the Market on the first day of trading after rationing ended in 1954 and worked there for many years, eventually establishing PJ Martinelli Ltd which continues to be run by his son, Paul. Peter was the first to recognise that the Market needed its own representatives on the Court of Common Council and he served himself from 1994 until 2013. He was awarded an MBE for services to the Market and was a member of the Worshipful Company of Butchers. He served on the Council of the Tenants' Association from 1973 until 1994 and was a past President. He was a former chairman of the BDCI and was a major force behind the Great Banquet held in Grand Avenue in 2004. He was also instrumental in the refurbishment of the war memorial in Grand Avenue. A memorial service will be arranged in due course.

I am not sure how Peter would have felt about being the cover story in this Gazette which he was the driving force behind for so many years. Little did we know when we were putting together the April issue that it would be his last. All we can do now is try to carry on as he would have wished.

THE SMITHFIELD GAZETTE

COMMENT

The last few months have been a time of great challenge, both on the personal and on the wider front. In April we unexpectedly lost our great friend and one-time colleague, Peter Martinelli. We had been in touch with him only the week before his death and he had been as irreplaceable as ever. He will be greatly missed.

On the national scale, there has been one blow after another – Westminster, Manchester, Borough Market, Grenfell Tower, Finsbury Park – all now to be added to the roll-call of disasters forever to be remembered. Although the victims will not be forgotten, we must not allow the locations to be permanently darkened by the events. People need to carry on living and working in those areas.

The Queen accurately described the ‘sombre national mood’ in her birthday message. Let us hope that we regain our natural equilibrium soon.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

When we meet real tragedy in life, we can react in two ways – either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits, or by using the challenge to find our inner strength. Thanks to the teachings of Buddha, I have been able to take this second way.

Dalai Lama

IN MY OPINION

The last twelve months in British and global politics, along with incidents of domestic and international terrorism, and the horrendous fire at Grenfell Tower in West London must surely be the wake-up call needed for those of us involved in public life to think again about what we do and how we do things.

The knife-edge outcome of the EU referendum last June, Donald Trump’s election to the US presidency, the ascendency of Macron and En Marche in France from a standing start, and the extraordinary result of our own General Election a few weeks ago, all point out the discontent electorates around the globe seem to have with the established ways of doing things, the failure of the political elite to build trust amongst the people, and the divisions in our society.

And is it any wonder, when it appears that the era of austerity, of doing things on the cheap, of reducing the size of the state, results in us failing to keep our

citizens and visitors safe in either their homes or on the streets of our towns and cities. At the same time, we have penalised the poor and sick, especially those who find it hard to get work or to stay in employment because they have mental or physical disabilities.

We have allowed an angry intolerant language to enter our lexicon with media headlines about ‘layabouts’, ‘shirkers’, and ‘scroungers’, creating an underclass in society who inevitably begin to feel that the rest of the nation cares nothing for them. And it is the same media who constantly whip up resentment against immigrants, against the EU, and against public sector workers and politicians themselves, with snarling editorials alleging impropriety or that it is somehow wrong to be paid a fair day’s wage when employed for the common good.

Here in the City of London, where we are surrounded by almost limitless wealth, and our ancient form of local government itself has investment assets in the billions of pounds, we have permitted austerity to become a mantra with cost-cutting, service based reviews, and efficiency savings dominating decision-making at Guildhall, often at the expense of our employees and those who rely on our services. Of course, we must not allow profligacy or spending money for the sake of it, but surely we can do things differently here, in a fairer, kinder way.

The City of London Corporation has built its reputation over 1,000 years through its munificence, its philanthropy, its contribution to establishing a civilised society. We have built schools, hospitals universities and homes. We have fed the people of London through our markets. We protect 11,000 acres of open spaces and promote culture, heritage, and the arts. We also have a track record of looking after our own people, of being good and generous employers, engendering loyalty amongst our staff. And yet, in recent years, that sense of uniqueness has dissipated, swept along by the tide of austerity.

Maybe times are changing again for the better. The City’s decision to develop 3,700 new homes for Londoners, the purchase of 68 new homes right away to rehouse the survivors of the Grenfell Tower, our investment in education amongst the disadvantaged communities in our neighbouring boroughs. All of that points in the right direction, an acknowledgement that we must do more to create a fairer, more equal society. I fear that if we don’t learn the lessons of the turbulent last twelve months, the City Corporation itself may fall foul of the recent revolution in the political world.

Deputy Edward Lord OBE was elected to Common Council in February 2001. He is now Deputy Chairman of the Establishment Committee and a Member of the Policy and Resources Committee

LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO SMITHFIELD MARKET



Pictured left to right – Alderman Sheriff Peter Estlin, Markets Committee Chairman James Tumbridge, SMTA Chairman Greg Lawrence, The Lady Mayoress, The Lord Mayor, SMTA Deputy Chairman Derek Berry Photo by Don Ryan

The Lord Mayor's annual visit to Smithfield Market took place on Friday 26th May. The Lord Mayor's party was greeted in Grand Avenue and then conducted on a tour of the Market by the Chairman of the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association, Greg Lawrence. The tour also included a short visit to the old General Market building, the proposed new location for the Museum of London.

After the tour, the touring party joined some one hundred invited guests for breakfast at Haberdashers' Hall. In his speech, Greg Lawrence paid tribute to Peter Martinelli, who had died in April.

SCULPTURE IN THE CITY 2017

From the 27th June you may notice the appearance of sculptures around the City. This is the seventh edition of Sculpture in the City and will include sixteen works by artists Paul McCarthy, Ryan Gander and Damien Hirst. You can download an app – SMARTIFY - which lets you scan sculptures for extra information, it also gives a map of the SITC trail.

Sculpture in the City are also offering the chance for young people to get involved with the City of London through a complementary education programme, run by Open City. Students from eight different schools will attend workshops with artists, architects and volunteers. Together they will explore and creatively respond to the public spaces, buildings and sculptures.

MUSEUM OF LONDON UPDATE

The Museum of London announced on 6th June that they had appointed the full project team to help realise the plans to relocate the museum from London Wall to the disused Market buildings at West Smithfield. The full team is

Stanton Williams & Asif Khan – lead architects
Julian Harrap – specialist conservation architect
J&L Gibbons – landscape architects
Plan A – design managers
Buro Four – project managers
Gerald Eve – planning consultants
Momentum Transport Consultancy – transport
Arup – building services engineers
AKT II – structural and civil engineers
London Communications Agency – communications

The design team is developing plans for the site which will go out to consultation in the autumn. They aim to submit a planning application to the City of London in 2018 and the new museum is due to be completed by 2022. The City of London has committed £110m to the project and the Mayor of London £70m.

CROSSRAIL UPDATE

It seems that no sooner does one street reopen than another closes. Charterhouse Street/Square has been closed from the Lindsey Street Junction to enable the removal of the acoustic shed that had been built to facilitate the delivery of high density concrete to the station. The rails will be laid on this concrete and it is supposed to prevent any noise or vibration affecting the Barbican Centre. There has also been some crane activity in the area. The road is now due to reopen, eastbound only, from 3rd July.

However, on 16th July, Long Lane will be closed again eastbound to enable the delivery of some large items to the Eastern Ticket Hall, including cladding for the facade, escalators and ventilation pipes. This closure will continue into mid November. At the same time, Citigen will resume work in Long Lane.

All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership.

John Kenneth Galbraith

GRENFELL TOWER **CITY OF LONDON RESPONSE**

The City of London has been actively assisting in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire. Personnel have been seconded to Kensington and Chelsea to help and advise and, following what was widely perceived to be an inadequate response from Kensington and Chelsea to the tragedy, a group – Gold Command – was set up comprising representatives from the City of London, Southwark, Westminster and K&C Councils, the Red Cross, Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade. This group is being led by the City's Town Clerk, John Barradell.

In addition, The City Bridge Trust is supporting the London Emergencies Trust regarding the setting up of disaster funding.

The latest news is that the City of London Corporation is acquiring 68 homes in Kensington in order to re-house some of the victims of the fire. The City's existing council housing provision is located in seven London boroughs.

As well as providing assistance to those directly affected, the City has had to consider its own housing stock and its procedures regarding fire safety. New fire risk assessments have had to be carried out and new fire safety leaflets have been issued to every home, among other measures.

100 YEARS AGO

- 6 Jul TE Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) captures port of Aqaba from the Turks
- 9 Jul HMS Vanguard explodes at Scapa Flow
- 20 Jul Pact of Corfu signed – Serbs, Croats and Slovenes form Yugoslavia
- 31 Jul Third battle of Ypres begins
- 14 Aug China declares war on Germany and Austria
- 17 Aug Italy declares war on Turkey
- 3 Sep First night bombing of London by German aircraft
- 3 Sep Utrecht football team formed
- 15 Sep Russia proclaimed a republic

VOLUNTEERING FOR LONDON **AND THE UK**

The FANY (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps) is an association of women volunteers who provide emergency support to a number of civilian and military authorities. Founded in 1907 as a small unit of nurses on horseback providing a link between fighting units at the front and field hospitals, our role has evolved to meet new challenges. We have supported the City of London Police in every major incident over the last 40 plus years, but until March this year, our last call out for a real emergency incident was for the July 2005 bombings.

Now, in 2017, we've been called out four times in three months following three recent terrorist attacks in Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge and the major fire in Kensington. In each case our members responded brilliantly to the call out, stepping up at short notice and we were able to meet all the requests for support without any difficulty.

OUR ROLE

Our main role is to support the Police Casualty Bureau after a major incident, answering calls from the public, performing records cross checking, and providing Incident Support Officers to attend Survivor Reception Centres and collate information from evacuees.

We are all trained to Home Office standard in National Call Handling and we undertake refresher training twice a year to ensure we are ready to be immediately effective when called out. Although we primarily support the City of London Police, through their system of mutual aid, we can also assist an incident in Manchester or anywhere else in the UK.

In addition, when the military are called to support the Police by providing armed soldiers to guard key points and to bolster police staff on the street, we provide support for them in the London Military Operations Room.

When an incident involving multiple fatalities occurs we also support the Senior London Coroner by providing a team of two to undertake driving and staff officer duties, to enable the Coroner to concentrate on their crucial role and not have to worry about logistics.

Below is a summary of the support we provided for each incident.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ATTACK

Called out at 17:00 on Wednesday 22nd March and the first shift was in place by 17:20. We provided a total of 210 volunteer hours with 30 members supporting over 3 shifts.

MANCHESTER ARENA BOMBING

Called out at 09:10 on Tuesday 23rd May and the first shift was in place by 10:15. We provided a total of over 200 volunteer hours with 31 members supporting over 3 shifts.

LONDON MILITARY OPERATIONS CENTRE

Called out at 06:00 on Wednesday 24th May and the first shift was in place by 09:30 (members had to be in uniform for this support so our lead times were slightly longer). We provided a total of 230 volunteer hours with 27 members supporting over 17 shifts

LONDON BRIDGE/BOROUGH MARKET ATTACK

Called out at midnight on Saturday 3rd June and the first shift was in place by 02:19. We provided a total of 332 volunteer hours with 47 members supporting over 4 shifts.

KENSINGTON FIRE

Called out at 06:16 on Wednesday 14th June and the first shift was in place by 07:57. We provided shifts for 12 hours and then further shifts the following day and over the weekend. The statistics for the total number of hours and people volunteering were still being collated as I write.

CORONER'S AND GOLD COMMANDER SUPPORT

The Westminster Coroner was supported from 09:00 on Saturday 17th June for 9 days (and possibly more). As at 22nd June support was also being provided for John Barradell, Town Clerk, who was acting as Gold Commander for the incident.

SUMMARY

Although the full figures are yet to be collated, our volunteers have between them provided well over 1,000 hours of their time to support the City of London Police, the London Military Operations Centre, the Westminster Coroner and the Gold Commander over a period of less than 3 months.

Our volunteers are not paid for their time (either training to maintain their skills or on operational callout), in fact they all pay a subscription to be a member of the FANY (PRVC). We are a charity and rely entirely on the generosity of our members, friends and donors to provide the funds we need to run our organisation, to train our members and to ensure we can support them to remain on our callout list and to be ready to answer the call when it comes.

Mo Shannon, *Deputy Commandant FANY (PRVC)*
IT Manager with BT plc, based in the City of London

WHAT'S IN A NAME? **LONDON**

The origins of the name 'London' are not clear. The Romans called it Londinium when they settled the site in 43AD and some people assume that this was derived from an earlier name, but it is not known what that was. Suggestions include Plowonida from pre-Celtic plew and nejd for wide flowing river, or from the Celtic Lond – either a name or a word meaning wild. Around 368AD the Romans renamed the city Augusta.

In the fifth century the Roman legions were withdrawn from Britain (trouble at home) and not much is known about London for two centuries, although it was abandoned at some point. Anglo-Saxons established a settlement near Covent Garden in the seventh or eighth century and it was called Lundenwic meaning London settlement. In 886, Alfred the Great reoccupied the old Roman city and strengthened its defences. It was known as Lundenburh, or fortified town of London. The Anglo-Saxon settlement then became known as Ealdwic, or old settlement, and that gives us today's name of Aldwych.

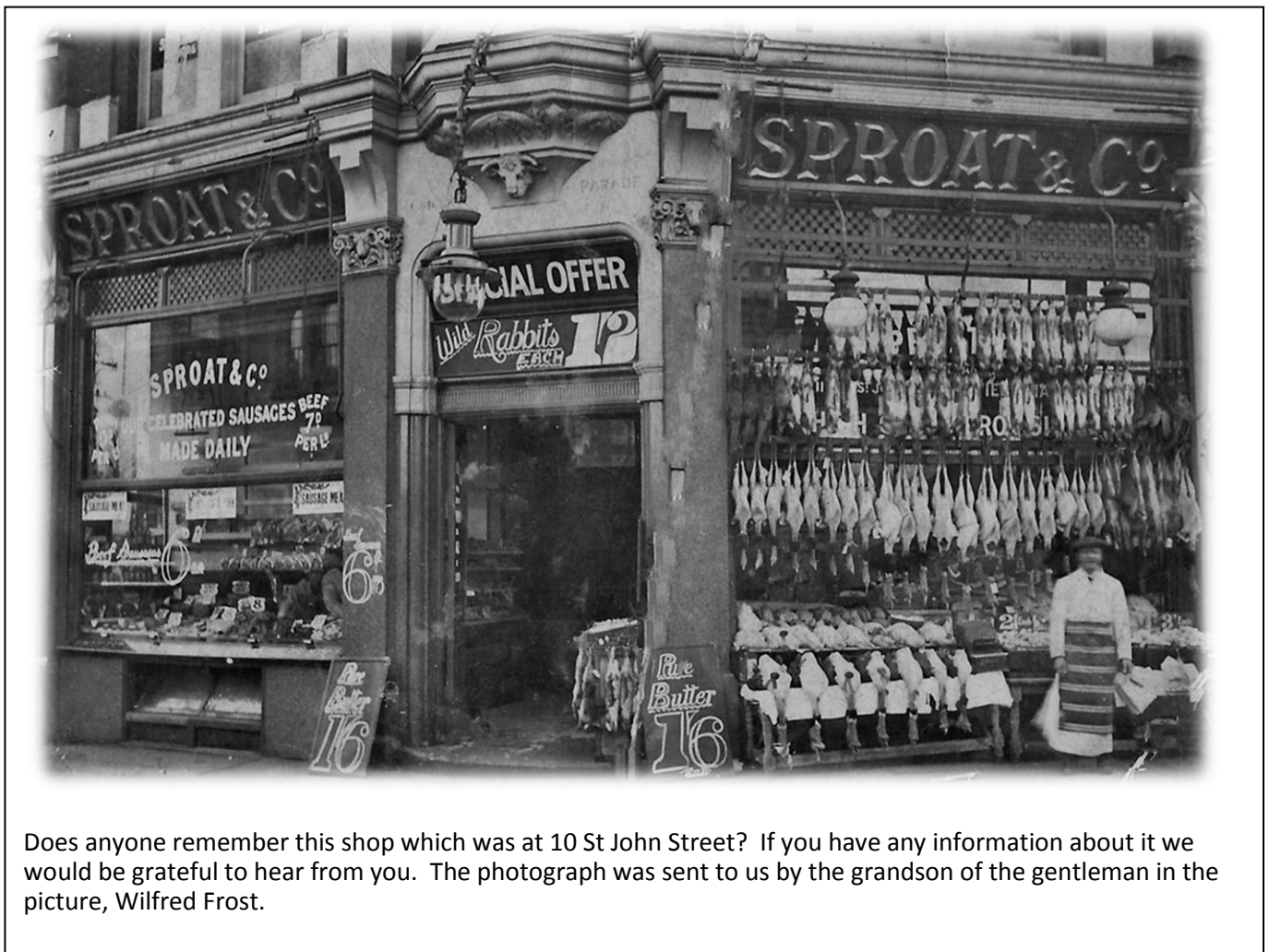
Following the Norman conquest a number of variations of the name were used – Lundin, Londoun, Lunden and Londen. The spelling eventually settled as London.

The appearance presented by the streets of London an hour before sunrise, on a summer's morning, is most striking even to the few whose unfortunate pursuits of pleasure, or scarcely less unfortunate pursuits of business, cause them to be well acquainted with the scene. There is an air of cold, solitary desolation about the noiseless streets which we are accustomed to see thronged at other times by a busy, eager crowd, and over the quiet, closely-shut buildings, which throughout the day are swarming with life and bustle, that is very impressive.

Charles Dickens, *Sketches by Boz*

London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*



Does anyone remember this shop which was at 10 St John Street? If you have any information about it we would be grateful to hear from you. The photograph was sent to us by the grandson of the gentleman in the picture, Wilfred Frost.

LONDINIUM FESTIVAL **28TH JULY TO 29TH OCTOBER**

The City of London is built on the original Roman settlement of Londinium. Founded in around 50AD the settlement grew to become a major road hub and port and the commercial centre of Roman Britain. This remained the case until the fifth century, when it was abandoned.

This summer, 2,000 years on, The City of London is celebrating its Roman history with a series of events.

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths weekend tours – June to November, Sats/Suns, 10.30am & 12pm

Roman Fort Gate tour at Museum of London – 28th & 29th July

Guildhall Art Gallery and London's Roman Amphitheatre tours – 28th July to 29th October

Roman London – The City Beneath our Feet guided walk – 28th July to 29th October

Roman themed outdoor cinema – 7th -15th August in Guildhall Yard, open from 6.30pm, films start at 8.45pm

Gladiator Games at Guildhall Yard – 25th -28th August

Other events include walks and lectures by acclaimed historians and experts, including Mary Beard and Peter Marsden, readings, Boudica – a new play about the Queen of the Iceni at the Globe Theatre, musical events and projections.

For more information go to - www.visitlondon.com/romans

AJ BELL LONDON TRIATHLON

22ND-23RD JULY 2017

This event will be taking place in central London and will mean road closures over the weekend in central and east London.

<http://livetotri.co.uk/london-triathlon/>

PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON

29TH-30TH JULY 2017

This will be the fifth year for this event with 100,000 or more cyclists participating. Roads and bridges in central London will be closed on 29th July and across London and parts of Surrey on 30th July.

<https://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/>

IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

4TH-13TH AUGUST 2017

The IAAF World Championships take place on 4th – 13th August with most of the events being held at the London Stadium and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford. However, on Sunday 6th August, the marathons will take place in Central London. Due to this, some roads in the City will be closed.

The race will take place on a 10 km route around the City of London and Victoria Embankment. The race will start and finish at Tower Bridge, following Lower Thames Street/Upper Thames Street towards Victoria Embankment and turning close to Richmond Terrace before heading back towards St Paul's Cathedral, Guildhall Yard, The Bank of England and The Tower of London.

There will be temporary road closures in place on 6th August including Tower Bridge/Tower Bridge Road from Tooley Street to East Smithfield/Tower Hill which will be closed from 4am – 8pm. Other roads will close from 6am to 7pm, including the Limehouse Link Tunnel westbound and East India Tunnel Westbound.

Vehicles will not be able to cross the route while road closures are in place but local access will be maintained for as long as possible. A number of bus routes may be diverted or stopped short from their usual destinations. A number of roads surrounding the route will also be affected and parking restrictions may apply in some areas. Cars parked on restricted roads will be removed.

<http://www.iaafworldchampionships.com/marathon>

GRAYS PACKAGING LTD

In 1984 Terry West, my then boss at a packaging company in East London, asked me to join him in setting up a new company (Westwrap Ltd) in Smithfield Meat Market supplying all the stalls and visiting butchers with their polythene bags. I was only 24 years old, but with trepidation I handed my notice in at "Quick Wrap Tubing Co Ltd" and joined Terry at the start of a fantastic journey that would change my life forever.

We initially rented stall number 212 in the Poultry Market and from there we sold bags, cling-film, sawdust and roast net to name but a few. We quickly expanded into opening the two stalls next door, numbers 210 and 211. It was easy at first. Everyone used the same clear unprinted bag. But then the European Economic Community insisted on all the bags being printed with "UK 5102 EEC" inside a circle on the bags. Later the circle got changed to an oval. Then the EEC changed to EC, then changed again to EU. It was as if they were making it up as they went along. But the worst was yet to come. They then insisted on every single shop having their own individual shop numbers printed on the bags. I had to take out extra storage to hold 37 pallets of differently printed bags.

It was hard going, especially as there were already three other packaging suppliers nearby in direct competition with us: Thomas Ford, WG Pinsent and Dewhurst, but we persisted, eventually leaving the Market for bigger premises in a unit at Beckton. By then we were supplying to meat wholesalers and abattoirs all over the country.

In 2004 Terry West retired leaving me to run the company. To personalise things I changed the name to Grays Packaging, the name of the town I was living in, and I never looked back. We now supply a variety of packaging materials all over the country and abroad. To this day we still deliver bags to Smithfield twice every week, never forgetting that it was at the Market where we started our humble beginnings and the majority of customers there have been loyal to us for over 33 years.

I wanted to write this article to sincerely thank you for all your custom over those years and to say that if you ever need more packaging – it's in the bag!

Nick Dobie
Grays Packaging Ltd

NEWS IN BRIEF

John Barker OBE, Common Councilman of the City of London and Chief Commoner in 2008, died on 26th May 2017. A funeral service is to be held at 11am on Thursday 6th July at St Lawrence Jewry Church.

Don Tyler, Chairman of the London Fish Merchants Association, died on 12th June after a long illness.

The Smithfield Gazette invites tenants, staff and others to forward items for inclusion in the Gazette. These could be personal or company news and events or anything else you might care to write about. Your stories are of great interest to your colleagues and will go unnoticed without your input. Who's getting married? Is there a new baby? Are you looking for sponsorship for a charity event?

Let us know by email

smta.smithfield@btconnect.com

telephone 020 7248 3151

or by mail to

225 Central Markets, London, EC1A 9LH

GAZETTE BY EMAIL

If you would prefer to receive the Gazette by email, please email us to request this at

smta.smithfield@btconnect.com

DIARY

19 Jul SMTA Council
19 Jul Markets Committee
13 Sep SMTA Council
20 Sep Markets Committee
18 Oct SMTA Council
22 Nov SMTA Council
29 Nov Markets Committee



RIP

Fred

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death,
open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and
the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your
silent knowledge of the beyond;

And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your
heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate
to eternity.

Kahlil Gibran