

New Story News November 2024

The next meeting of the New Story Group is Monday, November 25, 7:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom.

Come at 6:30 for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

To participate in this event [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

Topic for November : Discussion of “Draft Summary for comment: New Story Group’s Intent & Direction” ([HERE](#)) with Dave Damm-Luhr convening. We will review slides of the Summary as part of launching a program plan for the coming months. To continue our discussion of community, Sophie Quest and Steve Stodola will share their experiences of living in an intentional community.

Editorial

Cornelia Parkes, November 22, 2024

A New Story Perspective on the Election

In a tirade about the election Quaker Jim Hannon blurted out, "But racists, sexists and Christian nationalists have stunted psychological development and are less likely to have access to their internal shadows."¹ I couldn't agree more, but I would take it further. Thomas Berry (1914-2009), a Passionate Brother, who was one of the founders of the new story movement, proposed that we need to reinvent the Human at the species level. Trying to heal the griefs of this election one by one is like playing whack-a-mole. The reality is that we live in a war zone. The weapons of this war are psychological—propaganda, fear, lies, and confusion--which cause very real casualties including deaths. Children are targeted not only in Gaza, but in our schools. Trump won the psychological war. The Democrats lost. Is there another way?

Quakerism was born during a similar period of intense political turmoil and revolution.² Their response was to create the Peace Testimony.³ Early Quakers would have probably called psychological warfare just plain wickedness and denied it as we do. What is our testimony today? In over 300 years of continuing revelations, we have modified our beliefs in ways that early Friends prepared us to do. We now face environmental crises as well as political ones and have a new cosmic perspective. We are called to become aware of the seeds of war within ourselves.

¹ Jim Hannon from Tambourines and Elephants <jimhannon@substack.com>

² See for example the delightful new history *The Blazing World: A New History of Revolutionary England, 1603-1689* by Jonathan Healey (Knopf, 2023)

³ “We utterly deny all outward war and strife and fightings with outward weapons for any end or under any pretense whatsoever,,,” (1660)

In her short pamphlet⁴ Quaker Elizabeth Watson (1914-2006) proposed five beliefs that need to be reconsidered for us to heal ourselves and the earth:

1. Our dualistic view of reality,
2. Acceptance of hierarchical models as the natural order,
3. Anthropocentrism,
4. An other-worldly orientation of our religious beliefs,
5. An outmoded authoritarian concept of God

Is it a coincidence or a convergence? These are the some of the beliefs that the New Story Group has been exploring for the past several years as we seek to reinvent the Human.

Other New Story News

Dr. Barbara Holmes

Dr [Barbara] Holmes died last Tuesday [October 15, 2024]. You can read her obituary [here](#). ...She believed that science and cosmology had something significant and beneficial to contribute to the idea of “Beloved Community”, revisioning that idea as, “The-community-called-beloved” – “*a geo-spiritual space where people seek and do justice because they remember all of their connections: cosmic, social, and divine. Once they have worked out the particulars of egalitarianism, they name this voluntary and sometimes difficult association desirable, healing, and beloved.*” [[Remembering Dr. Barbara Holmes](#), Author of “Race and Cosmos” by Clifford Berrien

Access the Creational Energy of the Universe

A Free Video Event With **Matthew Fox & Brian Thomas Swimme**

Thursday, November 14 at 8:30pm EST

Explore the 4 Paths of Creation Spirituality to Revitalize Your Work, Wellbeing & Evolution. Explore a path to spiritual evolution that is billions of years old — yet ever new — through the wisdom of the mystics and modern science. Discover the awe of being alive, connect with the energy and joy of the sacred, and experience yourself as a vibrant part of creation as you’re immersed in a new perspective that offers profound meaning.

[Register HERE](#) to tune in or receive the recording.

⁴ "Healing Ourselves and Our Earth" by Elizabeth Watson. Published by Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (1991)

Robert Putnam’s ‘Bowling Alone’ sounded an alarm we still haven’t answered

The Harvard Gazette, November 1, 2024

By Christina Pazzanese

Putnam argued in “Bowling Alone” that the glue that holds communities together comes not from formal institutions, but from social ties forged at places like churches, Elks Club meetings, and bowling leagues. That book, along with his earlier work identifying a now-widely used conflict resolution theory known as “the two-level game,” won him his field’s most prestigious honors. His desire to turn theory into problem-solving policy earned him the ears of Presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush, and Barack Obama.—a long read. [Click HERE](#).

Election Results in the US and Deeptime

by Orla Hazra, PhD

From a Deeptime perspective we know cataclysm to be a fundamental aspect of the Universe’s unfolding. Looking back through our 13.8 billion years of developmental thresholds, we have witnessed these moments of grace in the long time developmental cosmology of *Cosmogenesis*. Following catastrophe and cataclysm, the Universe draws itself back with greater complexity and diversity. We notice this pattern in our own personal lives as we begin to develop our own autocosmologies. Click [HERE](#) to read the essay.

LIVING INSIDE THE MATH

By Herman Geene

[The New Ecozoic Reader](#), Number 8, July-September 2023

[Living Inside the Math](#) is Herman Greene’s commentary on *Cosmogenesis* by Brian Swimme. “The story of the universe is an incredible, energizing story, because the universe is incredible and energized. Brian and Berry—and I would bring in here Brian’s co-conspirators too numerous to name but certainly including Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim—believe that as this new cosmic story insinuates itself into culture through deliberate transmission and otherwise, it will bring about the energy and creativity for the next stage of the human journey and, thus, for the journey of the universe too. On this hangs the future. As Berry says, “We live in a time that offers a significance only matched by the birth of life itself four billion years ago” (276).”

JOIN OUR FALL ECO-BOOK GROUP

Join us Monday, November 18th at 7-8pm ET/4-5pm PT for the first session of our fall eco-book group. Quaker EarthCare Witness is reading ***Hospicing Modernity: Facing Humanity's Wrongs and the Implications for Social Activism*** by Vanessa Machado de Oliveira. We will be led by avid reader and devoted educator Ethan Smith. This series will delve into discussions on how we can face the challenges of our time with integrity and reimagine how we learn, unlearn, and respond to crisis. Together, we'll explore ways to "hospice" outdated systems and nurture new paths that align with our values. All are welcome! The group will meet once every other week on Mondays. Register [HERE](#)

Davi Anick checked that the Monday sessions do not conflict with the New Story Group Monday meetings. He writes, "If you are reading this after Nov 18, and you are wondering if you can still register and catch the remaining sessions, my answer is "I don't know" but I suspect you can."

Hospicing Modernity with Vanessa de Oliveira Andreotti

In the Work That Reconnects we acknowledge that the unraveling of the structures of Business As Usual is an essential aspect of the Great Turning and we are invited to embrace the uncertainty of what lies ahead. But how do we navigate such uncharted terrain?

In *Hospicing Modernity*, Vanessa de Oliveira Andreotti guides readers through layers of this inquiry and directly into the experience of tenderly extracting ourselves from the entanglements of modernity. How can we see modernity through to its end with compassion, curiosity and dignity?

[In this webinar](#), Vanessa and Azul Carolina Duque joined us to reimagine ways of broadening our personal and collective response to the demise of modernity. Check out the Resources, too.

Listen to Azul's closing song – [Un Cuerpo Inmenso / An Immense Body](#) 

English lyrics at bottom of the webinar page.

Spanish lyrics in comments below video.

Beyond Jung 2024: Living Synchronicity

November 30 @ 5:59 pm (12:00pm 11/30)– December 15 @ 7:30 pm CET (1:30pm 12/15)

Six seasoned explorers of synchronicity share their insight into the topic, including how synchronicity, as an experience or as a principle, plays a vital part in their professional work.

This is the inaugural set of talks in a new 'Beyond Jung' series hosted by the [Pari Center](#), honouring

the seminal work and inspiration of the Swiss psychiatrist C. G. Jung. Our title, ‘Living Synchronicity’, refers to both the vital contemporary importance of synchronicity and the possibility of our living more synchronistically. Beginning with this topic seems especially apt in view of the seminal contribution to the study of synchronicity by the founder of the Pari Center, the late David Peat.

[Get Tickets HERE.](#)

Jane Cutting registered. She says that when she signed up she submitted her credit card number and it automatically came through as dollars on her bill (which comes out a little more).

Crisis Contemplation

At the center of every crisis
is an inner space
so deep, so beckoning,
so suddenly and daringly vast,
that it feels like a universe,
feels like God.

When the unthinkable happens,
and does not relent,
we fall through our hubris
toward an inner flow,
an abiding and rebirthing darkness
that feels like home.

—Barbara Holmes, “What Is Crisis Contemplation?”

Until the moment that the crisis begins, you feel relatively safe and situated. Suddenly, everything changes. You are stolen from your village, placed in chains, and loaded onto ships headed to the Americas to be sold as slaves. Or, you are rounded up, placed on trains headed for a German death camp: Auschwitz, Treblinka, Bergen-Belsen, or Dachau. Or, upon the orders of the US government, you and members of your tribe are rounded up to begin a forced march from native lands in North Carolina to Oklahoma. Or, without warning, they send you and other Asian neighbors to internment camps. In each circumstance, some of you will survive the experience, but many of you will not. [Barbara A. Holmes, *Crisis Contemplation: Healing the Wounded Village* (Albuquerque, NM: CAC Publishing, 2021), 19–20.]