

New Story Newsletter: September, 2025

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is Monday, September, 22nd, 7:00-9:00pm Eastern. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

For Zoom access [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

John Grim, co-director of the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) with his wife Mary Evelyn Tucker (who spoke at this past May's New Story evening), will present **"Indigenous Lifeway, Cosmovision, and Giving World."**

John Grim is a scholar of religion and ecology, particularly known for his work on indigenous religions and their relationship to the environment. He holds appointments at the Yale School of the Environment, Divinity School, and Department of Religious Studies. He has done extensive fieldwork with indigenous communities, including the Salish people of Washington and the Crow/Apsaalooke people of Montana.

Looking Back, Bouncing Forward

In **August**, at the FMC New Story Group, Mary Kay Klein presented "Creating the Spiritual Context of the Ecological Age" ([Slides here](#)) on the work of Thomas Berry. One slide shows Thomas Berry's vision for a path to the New Story future based on "The Fourfold Wisdom:"

- The wisdom of Indigenous peoples,
- The wisdom of women,
- The wisdom of classical traditions, and
- The wisdom of science.

In **September**, we are continuing our exploration of Indigenous peoples with John Grim's presentation (see above).

In **October (27th)**, we will discuss "The Wisdom of Women" with Cornelia Parkes. Please send her at new-story@fmcquaker.org any thoughts you have on this subject to be included in the presentation. Her list of references is pretty thin. Thanks!

In **November (24th)**, we will hear from Gail Ransom on "*How the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality Help Us Live into the New Story*"

In December, we usually skip our meeting because of the holiday.

For **January**, 2026, is anyone willing to tackle the wisdom of classical traditions? Does Berry mean the Greek philosophers? the stories of the Old Testament? or pre-Western

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civilizations? Are you curious? Contact Cornelia Parkes at new-story@fmcquaker.org.

For **February**, we hope to focus on the wisdom of science to round out conversation on the “The Fourfold Wisdom” that Mary Kay outlined this past August

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW STORY GROUP

- [The New Story Group website](#) - with information about past programs
 - [1-page Summary of The New Story Group's Intent & Direction](#)
 - For more information write to New-Story@fmcquaker.org.
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Visit Mary Coelho's New Website!



A Gate to Our Garden

This beautiful website. “My New Universe Story,” features Mary’s New Story related watercolors and a meditation for each. [Click here](#).

NEW STORY-RELATED UPCOMING EVENTS

- Garrison Institute, 3-part series on **Cultivating Ecological Civilization: Wisdom, Practice, and Systems Change**, (first was in August, 2025 - see below) - **Register** to receive Zoom link (and subsequent recording)
 - 6 October: [Spiritual Cultivation: Inner Practices for Outer Change](#)
- From [The Work That Reconnects](#)

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- **September 20th** - [Holy Grief! Emotional Vitality in the Great Turning](#) – Seasonal Ritual with Inna Alex
- **October 11th** - [Thrutopian Narratives: Creating Flourishing Futures](#) with Manda Scott
- [Events & Programs of the Creation Spirituality Communities](#)
- [One Earth Sangha](#): [Becoming a Force for Nature](#), 26 October

RESOURCES

- Garrison Institute - with Mary Evelyn Tucker and Peter Senge, Stephen Posner (mod.)
 - [Bridging Wisdom from Contemplative Traditions with Ecological Ways of Life: *The Ecological Turn*](#) (March, 2025)
 - 3-part series: **Cultivating Ecological Civilization: Wisdom, Practice, and Systems Change**: 1st part: [Why Ecological Civilization, and Why Now?](#) August 2025 (Recording coming)
- [Ecological Civilization: Naming and Creating the Future We Want](#), David Korten, 2023.
- [Sacred Planet, PBS](#)
- [The Work That Reconnects Network](#)
 - [Joanna Macy – In Memoriam](#) - from; also [here](#)
 - Matthew Fox, [The Work That Reconnects and the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality](#), July 2025, recording [HERE](#)
 - [Islands of Sanity: Cultivating Community in the Midst of Collapse](#) Webinar with Margaret Wheatley, August, 2025
- [Deeptime Network, Live Events and Online Courses](#)
 - [Earth's Seven Selves as a Pathway into the Ecozoic](#) - August, 2025
- [Council on the Uncertain Human Future: Reader For This Time of Reckoning](#)
- [Center for Ecozoic Studies](#)
- [The Great Turning Initiative at Findhorn](#)
- [Center for the Study of the Universe](#)

What are Ways The New Story Lives in Us?

By Dave Damm-Luhr
September 2025

For me plastics represent both crisis and opportunity for us as a species on Earth. As recently as two years ago, I believed that plastics could be recycled and as long as our family put them in the big blue bin, all was good. What I've

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learned: around 5% of plastics are actually recyclable, the rest are burned or buried. By now we know that as plastic degrades micro- or nano-plastics get airborne which we can breathe or into earth or water where they infiltrate the food we eat and have serious consequences for our health. It's predicted that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. And, you probably guessed already: it takes burning a lot of fossil fuels (e.g., oil & gas) to create them, which has climate impacts. That's the crisis part.

The opportunity part is to become more conscious of our interdependence with all life, of the earth-wide consequences of our actions and of the urgent need to rethink our place in the universe. Continuing to act as if we can with plastics exploit the land, air and each other endlessly, without consequences is living the Old Story. Turning away from plastics and "convenience" and creating with others new, non-harming options is living the New Story. ...so I'm now part of a team of 8 in [Elders Climate Action at the state level](#) to reduce our use of plastics through educating and by advocating for changes in laws. To view the latest activity watch: [Public Health & Plastics: Reduce Impacts Now!](#).