

New Story Newsletter: October, 2025

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is Monday, October, 27th, 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.

Topic for October: “The New Story and The Wisdom of Women” with Cornelia Parkes, co-convenor of the FMC New Story Group. Inspired by Thomas Berry’s “Fourfold Wisdom” (the wisdom of Indigenous peoples, women, classical traditions, and science) that Mary Kay Klein presented in August, we heard John Grim’s presentation “Indigenous Lifeway, Cosmovision, and Giving World” ([slides](#) here) in September. Cornelia is following with some challenging ideas about the wisdom of women. Who can step forward with ideas for a program on the wisdom of classical traditions? Talk to me at new-story@fmcquaker.org! Berry wrote:

As the human community experiences a rather difficult situation in its relation with the natural world, we might reflect that a fourfold wisdom is available to guide us into the future. (THOMAS BERRY, *The Great Work*, 176-77)

Topic for November: “How the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality Help Us Live into the New Story” with Rev. Gail Sofia Ransom. Follow Gail on the substack “[Meditation for the Nation](#).” Entry for October 11 “Do We Have the Heart for This? Emotions can confine us or transform our lives. Here is a way towards transformation.”

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.

WHAT WE’RE READING AND VIEWING

- [The Story of CO₂ Is the Story of Everything](#), Peter Brannen, HarperCollins, 2025. Thomas Berry called himself a “geologist” and would certainly have enjoyed this!
- [Evening Thoughts: Reflecting on Earth as Sacred Community](#), by Thomas Berry. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker. Berkeley: Counterpoint Press, 2015 (orig. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books & University of California, 2006).

What are Ways The New Story Lives in Us?

We highlight here how the New Story informs and has practical meaning for our lives. We hope others will share their pathways in future Newsletters! Please email

New-Story@fmcquaker.org *when you’re able to enrich our community by adding your view .*

For me plastics represent both crisis and opportunity for us as a species on Earth. As

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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 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!](#).

From: **Dave Damm-Luhr**

How is the New Story enriching your life?

Saturday, November 8, 7:00-8:30pm:

[A Celebration of Rumi](#) (Meetinghouse). You are invited to an evening of music, the whirling of dervishes, and inspiring readings from the work of 13th century Sufi mystic Jalaluddin Rumi, whose poetry is filled with a longing for God the Friend and the Beloved. This event is sponsored by [Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries](#), through its [Ruah Interfaith Spirituality & The Arts Program](#), and hosted by FMC's New Story Group. Free but donations are welcome. Register [here](#). Contact Cornelia Parkes at new-story@fmcquaker.org