

## New Story Newsletter January 2026

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is Monday, January 26, 7:00-9:00pm Eastern. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

To participate in this event [click this link](#)

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87568811869?pwd=MERCv1pqbkJsc2l4WjRaYjc4RDlLdz09>) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

Our topics for January are “Wisdom from the Classical Traditions that informs us today” and plans for the coming year. Cornelia Parkes and Dave Damm-Luhr, co-facilitators. We plan to

- Summarize the core element of the seven classical traditions (can you identify them?)



- Surface shared questions we have about these.
- See how beliefs and assumptions from these are alive with us today.
- Identify what we'd like to
  - Emphasize and build on.
  - De-emphasize or set aside.

**If you haven't yet, please do the 1-minute survey of top New Story interests [HERE](#). Your responses will help in planning programs in 2026. Thanks to all who've already done the survey! We will have a summary of the results.**

For more information and list of resources, please visit the New Story [web page here](#). To be placed on the email list for New Story News and program announcements contact Cornelia Parkes at [new-story@fmcquaker.org](mailto:new-story@fmcquaker.org).

## Other New Story News

### **[“Teilhard and Thomas Berry”](#)**

Adapted from *Thomas Berry: A Biography*. President's Corner: John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker, January 2019 in TEILHARD PERSPECTIVE Volume 51, Number 2 Fall/Winter 2018-2019.

Not new, but an excellent introduction to Thomas Berry for those who would like a refresher on the foundations of the New Story Group.

### **“A Transformed Understanding of Matter”**

By Sarbmeet Kanwal (2021)

Script of talk by Sarbmeet Kanwal related to Chapter Two, A Transformed Understanding of Matter,’ in *The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics and Healing*, by Mary Conrow Coelho, 2021.

“I’d like you to reflect for a moment on the following question: What is the one attribute of God that pretty much all religious and spiritual traditions would hold as true?

I think you will agree that God being the creator of the universe is a good answer. If that is the case then, at the risk of sounding a little dramatic, I am going to put forth a bold claim: Science has found God, and it is called the Quantum Field (when devoid of matter, the quantum field is also called the quantum vacuum, but that is not a good description since even without matter it is seething with energy). Mary, in her book, refers to it as the seamless plenum.”

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### **The Living Earth Community: A Gateway to a Sustainable Future**

By Tim O’Riordan (Executive Editor) & Steven Kolmes (Editor-in-Chief)

*Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, Volume 68, 2026 - Issue 1

Drawing inspiration from the work of Thomas Berry and generations of ecological thinkers, the editorial invites us to move beyond seeing the planet as inert matter and toward recognizing Earth as a communion of subjects—an interwoven community of beings, landscapes, and elemental forces, each deserving of care and ethical consideration.

In Memory of Jane Goodall, April 3, 1934 – October 1, 2025. “The forest is for me a temple – a cathedral of tree canopies and dancing light.



### **Virtual Forum: A Conversation Exploring the “Living Earth Community**

With Jonathan F.P. Rose & Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker

Tuesday, February 10, on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. ET

This conversation will explore the varied spiritual responses to the intelligences of nature and the implications for our current ecological challenges. It will highlight the new [Living Earth Community](#) website as a source reference for this discussion.

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### **Awakening the Cartesian Dreamer:**

Universal Values in Solidarity with an Evolutionary Universe

By Orla O'Reilly Hazra

In relation to cosmology/educational philosophy this article is organized around four questions: 1. Where are we? 2. How did we get here? 3. What is possible now? 4. Where do we go from here?

*Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life...The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems.* [Preamble, Earth Charter]

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### **Thomas Berry: Spiritual Master of the Emerging Ecozoic**

Feb. 3 to 24, 2026, 10 AM Pacific | 1 PM Eastern

With Sister Kathleen Deignan

Join Sister Kathleen Deignan for this rich series to discover—among other gems—facets of wisdom and inspiration from the new publication by Orbis Books, *Thomas Berry: A Book of Hours*. May these sessions be for you what Thomas calls "moments of grace" as we, together, encounter a gentle, mighty, luminous prophet and a new spiritual master for our age.