

New Story Newsletter August 2026

We will continue our [New Story Group conversation about interdependence](#) this coming Monday, August 31, from 7:00 to 9:00pm EDT, at our New Story program evening, by watching these two videos:

1. **New Science of Plants** - interview with Zoë Schlanger, and
2. **Plants Have Personalities. We're Only Learning to See It** | Conversation with Merlin Sheldrake & Zoë Schlanger (part 2 from the Harvard Divinity School Conference of May 2025)

Newcomers are always welcome. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship.

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.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view previous offerings in our summer video program.

Coming in September: On September 28, Arthur Klipfel will share his observations and personal experience in Cambridge Cohousing as a starting place to understand approaches to decision-making and governance that best fit community settings and align with Thomas Berry's three principles of differentiation, subjectivity & communion with a focus on subjectivity.

Coming in October: Capping the theme of interdependence, Betty Kissilove will, on October 26, lead us in a conversation about generating & holding a 250-year vision of Interdependence, using as a catalyst The Declaration of Interdependence: A Pledge to Planet Earth, described by David Suzuki.

Dave and Cornelia

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Learning is Spiral (Editorial)

Seeing old facts from a new perspective. I am reading *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence—From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror* by Judith Lewis Herman MD. This brings me full circle back to when I started my ministry in the 80's with a travel minute to address sexual abuse in Friends Meetings in New England and then to collaborate with Minga Claggett-Borne on a pamphlet "Addressing Sexual Abuse in Friends Meetings" (1994). I have travelled a full circle, but I'm not in the same place. Because in the meantime I convened a working group on racism as part of Ministry and Counsel of New England Yearly Meeting. This was in response to a group of Friends who had adopted children of color and had become aware that NEYM was not a safe place to raise them. In this work I experienced for one brief afternoon in (2005 or 6?) what it is like to be at one with the rest of humanity and how my white "privilege" is really a prison. A few years later I discovered the New

Story Group at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and my learning took off at warp speed. The mystical insights that I experienced in the 80's found their home in the New Story. I struggled to capture the essence of this work, but I think I have figured it out. The New Story is about healing. Nothing says this better than Mary Coelho's recent book *Invited to a Spiritual Journey: Discovering the Hidden Wound* (July 2026). This is her account of recovery from an early childhood trauma through her spiritual journey in the New Story. Our early pamphlet "Quakers and the New Story: Healing ourselves and the earth" by the New Story Group at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. (2014, revised 2017) emphasizes healing.

So why am I now reading Judith Herman's book on trauma and recovery? I think it is fair to say that the world today in this country is like a madhouse. Despite my efforts I am constantly exposed to political violence. If Herman has a way out, I want to hear it.

Cornelia Parkes