December 2022 - February 2023 Trends.WE.net

WE, The World

TRENDS
in Global Grassroots Organizing

MLK: Manifesting the Dream
January 15th - February 28th

In This Issue:

Innovations in Healthcare
A Case of Mistaken Identity
"All Lives Matter"...Except for Yours
Self-Reflection as a Spiritual Practice
It's Time for a Franciscan Renaissance
The Problem of a Me Culture-It's Not What You Think
Climate Change and the Power of Urban Tree Stewardship

WELCOME & COMMENTARY

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF 11 CAMPAIGNS FOR CHANGE

Editor in Chief
Robert Levine

Marketing Coordinator
Alana Boyd

Design & Production
Angel Fullerton

Publisher
We, The World
Rick Ulfik, Founder

trends.we.net

WELCOME AND COMMENTARY

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF 11 CAMPAIGNS FOR CHANGE

By Rick Ulfik, Founder of We, The World at WE.net
And Robert Levine, Editor of TRENDS Magazine at Trends.WE.net

This past calendar year (2022) we saw the Russian military invade Ukraine, the contribution of wars in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world, the constant and growing threat of climate change, the threat to democracy in the United States and many other nations, as well as the attacks on freedom of expression (the banning of books as well the attempt to murder Salman Rushdie). As we discussed in the commentary in the September issue, we want to once again show how the 11 Themes of Global Unity address the myriad crises we are facing.

The goal of the action steps in theme one, Unity, is the campaign to work to end racism and intolerance. As we've seen recently with the banning of books, and banning teaching about racial and ethnic conflicts, we are concerned about losing our freedoms, our freedom of expression, and that is also in this same category working to end racism and intolerance, intolerance of all kinds, as part of the Unity campaign. Another action step is recognizing and promoting global awareness, especially WE consciousness. The Unity campaign works to create a cultural shift away from the culture wars that we've been seeing so much in the media - to make that shift toward WE consciousness, where we can realize that we have so much more in common than what divides us.

One of the action steps in theme two, Interdependence, is to expand awareness and action to protect and preserve our global commons, like our air, land and water, but also things like the internet and even DNA that we share with all humanity, and other life forms. Another action step is honoring indigenous wisdom. For example,
(Continued on page 7)

Get Inspired, Informed and Involved with TRENDS!

Whether you're a committed activist or new to the world of social change, Trends can deliver a mega-dose of optimism while connecting you to new and inspiring Change Agents working locally and globally for a better world. Trends is focused on the 11 Campaigns For Change which developed from 11 Days of Global Unity. Together they form a comprehensive blueprint for global transformation. Would you like to help us Inspire, Inform and Involve millions more people to create a better world? Here are 3 ways you can be part of this effort:

- Join the WE Team that creates Trends and does so many other things too! Sign up to become a Volunteer Coordinator here: we.net/volunteer
- Submit your own Trend Report for possible publication in Trends! Tell us whose transformative work for social change inspires you - including your own! Send to **Trends@We.net**
- Make a generous tax deductible contribution to help We, The World continue and expand our global networks of collaboration and action! Click here to make a secure donation or go to WE.net/donate to see an address where you can send a check.

Disclaimer
While We, The World offers Trends in Global Grassroots Organizing as a public service to promote peace, sustainability and transformation, We, The World and our board, personnel, volunteers, organizers, members, advisors, supporters, partners, friends, allies and others connected with us do not necessarily endorse, support, and are not necessarily affiliated in any way with, the people, organizations, activities, values, strategies and ideas that appear here. We thank you for your efforts to create a world that works for all!

Copyright © 2021 We, The World All Rights Reserved

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome & Commentary 02
By Rick Ulfik

Editor's Note 04

Resources 05

Contributors 42

UNITY

My Root Tradition - Kundalini Yoga 09
By Karuna

INTERDEPENDENCE

The Problem of a Me Culture 13
By Sande Hart

ENVIRONMENT

A Climate Carol 15
By Sue Blythe

Climate Change and the Power of Urban Tree Stewardship 16
By Catherine McKeon Mondkar

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

It's Time for a Franciscan Renaissance 17
By Brian Mclaren and Patrick Carolan

HEALTH

Innovations in Healthcare 22
By Gene Dolgoff

CHILDREN & YOUTH

International Children's Month 25

WOMEN

Women and Allies Campaign 28

HUMAN RIGHTS

"All Lives Matter"...Except for Yours 30
By Callum Cintron (They/Them)

FREEDOM

Self-Reflection as a Spiritual Practice 32
By Swami Ramananda

DISARMAMENT

Surviving the Killing Fields 34
By Kathy Kelly and Nick Mottern

PEACE

MLK: Manifesting the Dream 37

MEDIA, CULTURE, & THE ARTS

Poetry for R_Evolution 12
By Heidi Little

A Case of Mistaken Identity 39
By Jerome Henkin

BEC Inspired Crew Choir Uganda 40
By Heidi Little

VALUES, ETHICS, & SPIRIT

Rick Ulfik Receives Synergy Superstar Award 41

Reflection and Transformation for the New Year

As we come to the end of calendar year 2022, we are proud to release this issue of TRENDS (December 2022 - February 2023), the eighth quarterly issue in the two years since this magazine was relaunched with the March 2021 issue.

In this issue we are proud to publish articles covering all of the 11 Themes of Global Unity. Among them are The Problem of a Me Culture by Sande Hart (Interdependence), Innovations in Health Care by Gene Dolgoff (Health) and Surviving the Killing Fields, a World Challenge by Kathy Kelley and Nick Mottern. These articles, as well as all the others in this and past issues, seek to provide the reader with new ways to think about and deal with the issues facing us collectively.

As we enter this new calendar year we also want to share articles that challenge us to begin to reflect on our world and open us ways to begin to see opportunities to transform ourselves and our society from the perspective of some of the great wisdom traditions. We welcome the articles by Karuna (Unity), Brian Mclaren and Patrick Carolan (Economic Justice), and Swami Ramananda (Freedom). We welcome articles from the many other traditions for future issues. I also want to thank all of the authors who contributed to this issue.

Robert Levine is Editor & Manager of *Trends in Global Grassroots Organizing* as well as a poet, essayist, activist, performer and yoga instructor in the New York area. He is the author of *Without Knowing Where We Are Going: 108 Poems* and his latest book, *On a Journey*. (More info on page 19)

Please join the Facebook Event and share with your friends and family.

RECOMMENDED READING

As we enter the winter holiday season in the northern hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere, it is a good time to settle in and make time for reading books that can help you explore powerful visions that you will want to read.

The Power Broker by Robert Caro, Vintage Books, originally published in 1974

The ground breaking biography of Robert Moses, who shaped New York City and New York State, exercising immense power though he never held public office. Caro evokes the history of the city and state to show Moses brought his vision by using the channels of power at the expense of local communities in defiance of local, state and federal officials. If you want to understand how New York City developed in the twentieth century, laying the foundations of what it has become, read this book.

Kindred by Octavia Butler, Beacon Press, originally published in 1979

A chilling and powerful novel by one of the great writers of the 20th century. A science fiction classic, it explores the violence of slavery in the 19th century United States and the impact it has in the present day. I has been adapted for television, but make sure to read this book before you watch the series.

The Handmaids Tale by Margaret Atwood, Penguin Random House, originally published in 1985 and The Testaments by Margret Atwood, Nan A. Talese, 2019

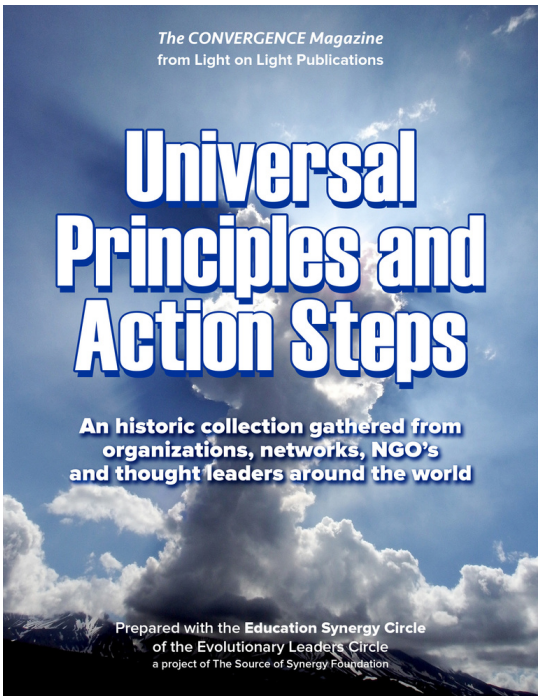
A dystopian tale of a future United States where women have been subjugated in patriarchal society where women have been stripped of all their rights and held as slaves. Serving as the basis of the 1990 film and the current television series, it describes an all too possible future based on the attacks on women, and their rights, in the United States and other countries around the world. It was followed by a sequel in 2019 which offers a vision of hope as people stand up against the dystopian society.

Writers Corner

Books and articles by the WE Team, Partners, and Allies

Universal Principles and Action Steps: An Historic Collection Gathered From Organizations, Networks, NGOs and Thought Leaders Around the World Curated by **Rick Ulfik**, Edited by **Kurt Johnson** and **Shannon Marie Winters**

How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide Featuring **Shannon CrossBear**, Interdependence Camapaign Coordinator



THE ACTION TOOLKIT: SUPPORT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The upswell in grassroots organizing throughout the world and in the United States since the presidential election, is a sign of the growing awareness among people in all the nations across this planet that we can each make a difference in determining the direction of our nations and our planet. There are amazing organizations working on a vast myriad of issues, along with so many inspired to generate many more to join in the ongoing evolutionary change to save our world and each other.

To support and inspire each other, WE, THE WORLD is initiating a new effort to generate the resources and the tools we can share with each other to organize our fellow travelers on our journey through the universe. This Action Toolkit is the inspired idea of Mahika Halepete, whose ideas and hard work were so critical in our launching the first issue of Trends.

The Action Toolkit can provide information and resources on how to perform outreach, to engage with organizations and individuals to raise critical funds, to reach out and share our ideas with like minded people, to advocate to elected officials, to motivate people to take action, and support each other to be active change agents.

Within WE, THE WORLD we are graced with so many talented and effective people and organizations that have been making positive change for years, if not decades. Join us in developing this critical resource to encourage and support so many others working to make this a better world.

As the legendary community organizer Fred Ross so eloquently said, "a good organizer is a social arsonist who goes around setting people on fire." Work with us to light thousands, if not millions, of beacons of change.

Have recommendations or resources for taking action?
We encourage you to submit them on the activism bulletin board where they'll be seen by thousands and also be considered for the upcoming publication!
http://trends.we.net/activism-bulletin-board/

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF 11 CAMPAIGNS FOR CHANGE

drilling for oil and gas on sacred lands in the US and other parts of the world results in indigenous peoples' lands being taken from them in places like the Amazon. People and companies are destroying the Amazon to raise cattle for beef basically helping to destroy the rainforest, which as we know is the lungs of our planet.

On the third theme, Environment, if our society really wanted to honor indigenous wisdom we would be working to stop the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. Our goal is to protect ecosystems and biodiversity which will help to prevent the mass extinction of species - which is contributed to by the climate crisis. Addressing the climate crisis, from international agreements to local policies, is one of the goals of our Environment campaigns. Another action step is to promote major investment in renewable non-polluting energy systems and fuel. In that regard, WE has a campaign that was recently launched called WE Power America - WE.net/wpa - which is kind of a subset of WE Power the World. It's a campaign to help engage solar and wind companies to create a consortium and engage the public to join in the transition to a clean energy future. One of the results, of course, will be to reduce the number of people that die every year from air pollution. In the United States alone, there are around 90,000 deaths a year. You can imagine that it especially hits elderly people and young people with asthma very hard. Worldwide I think the number is now up to 9 million people that die every year, according to the World Health Organization. And that's largely because of the burning of fossil fuels.

The fourth campaign is Economic Justice. The action steps for that are to fulfill all basic human needs (food, water, and shelter) and to participate in the movement to reduce economic inequality and economic injustice. As you know, a lot of people are becoming more and more aware of what's going on with the homeless populations around this country. And the homeless numbers are rising in the US while at the same time millionaires and billionaires are flooding our political system with money to influence legislation that they benefit from and which often hurts the general public. Economic justice is not just about increasing people's ability to have a good life but it is also about reversing the flooding of money into our political system.

Our Health campaign is interconnected with the impact of burning fossil fuels. One of the action steps for the Health campaign is to provide for universal health care worldwide. And in the United States, the health care system, and the social safety net as a whole, is full of holes. This came out quite powerfully over the last few of years when over a million people in the USA died from COVID 19. Our healthcare system contributed to that failure and continues to contribute to do so. We don't have family leave for example, to take care of an elderly family member or a sick child. Under the same category, we know that people of color do not benefit from the health care system as much as white people, Maternal Mortality of black women is significantly higher, something like 12 times as much as white women.

The next campaign is Children and Youth, of which one of the action steps is to encourage Youth Activism, such as through the program called an Urgent Message from Your Children – see WeYourChildren.org And that is something that's featured in TRENDS magazine as part of the 11 Days of Global Unity as well. Young people are helping to create major change in the United States and around the world, especially regarding the climate crisis, and especially in the United States toward reducing gun violence. Young people have been very quite active in this area,

The next campaign is Women, one of the action steps is to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. What comes to mind is opposing and reversing limitations imposed on women's access to reproductive healthcare and all aspects of women's health. There was a recent referendum in Kansas with a similar result. It was so interesting to

see that a conservative leaning electorate wanted to make sure their "constitutional freedoms" were not abridged. One of those freedoms, which was in the Kansas constitution, was allowing women to have access to reproductive health care. It was an interesting way of framing that in Kansas.

The next campaign is Human Rights, which includes reducing levels of incarceration in our society. In the United States this is a continuing problem affecting millions of people's lives and their families. It also affects asylum seekers and refugees, many of whom are being detained. International law allows asylum seekers to go through a legal process, however that process is not being applied consistently and the asylum seekers are often put into detention for indefinite periods of time.

The next campaign is Freedom. One of the recommended actions of this campaign is to promote responsible governance of, by and for the people for the common good. So at this moment, we are looking at threats to freedom and democracy, especially in the United States in so many ways. We've been hearing quite a bit about the January 6th hearings. The insurrection was motivated by the "Big Lie" that the election was stolen in 2020. Many politicians who subscribe to that idea are adopting that as a reason to curtail voting rights. And, of course, there are many aspects of voter suppression including Gerrymandering where the politicians are selecting the voters rather than the voters selecting politicians. There is the Senate and the Electoral College where you have a place like Wyoming with a population of about 700,000 to 800,000 (the size of just one neighborhood in New York City) having an outsized influence in the selection of judges, crucial legislation and the President, by comparison to populous states like California and New York. There is a movement for a National Popular Vote that seeks to get enough states to sign on to ensure that whoever wins the total national vote will be elected. Twice in recent history two people (George W. Bush and Donald Trump) ascended to the presidency with fewer national votes than their opponent.

Freedom is impacted by the fear of violence and the spread of guns in this country as well as throughout the world. Guns, not only nuclear weapons, impact us on many levels; children, freedom, environment, health. This is why the next theme, Disarmament, is so critical. We have an action step, to reform and improve laws governing gun sales and the global arms race. Another action step is to abolish nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. And, of course, touching on the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and everything related to that, looking to end that war, the action step is to strengthen security through diplomacy, nonviolent conflict resolution and conflict prevention.

Our final theme of Peace, ultimately working towards a peaceful world on all levels. There's always going to be conflict. We are humans, we disagree, but there are peaceful ways to resolve conflict. We don't have to resort to the use of weapons to such destructive effect. Working to create a culture of peace is one of the action steps for the Peace campaign. Also celebrating the UN International Day of Peace on September 21st is also important because the goal is to have a global ceasefire on at least one day a year to show that the world could do that. Imagine if we had a ceasefire in the Ukraine on September 21, as an example. And then there are some other interesting aspects of creating a culture of peace that are part of this Peace campaign of We the World and the We Campaign. So for example, imagine a call for September 21st being a day nonviolence in our communities. So it's not just a global ceasefire in conflict areas around the world. It could also be for gangs in our communities and a ceasefire for domestic disputes. People are calling for that, even Trump people are calling for that on September 21st. Another call is to have September 21st be a day for a media ceasefire – when all media agree to not show content that has graphic violence. What could that mean for our society?

MY ROOT TRADITION—KUNDALINI YOGA[1]

By Karuna

The landscape of "Yoga" is vast and it is the subject of tens of thousands of books worldwide. Interestingly, historians and other scholars apply multiple meanings even to the word itself. But from all these nuances, it is generally agreed that Yoga is about "union" and specifically "uniting human spirit" with "the Divine".

Yoga's history is equally fascinating and complex, dating back at least 5000 years, 3000 before our current calendar era, and through the more than 2000 years since. Because of this, there are histories of Yoga in multiple cultures and spiritual traditions.

My root tradition in Yoga is Kundalini Yoga and, even in that more specifically, Yoga as developed in the Sikh tradition. That is why it is such a privilege to write about it here, for Trends magazine, since often this special history of Yoga in the Sikh tradition, is not well known—although the special, Sikh-influenced, aspects of Yoga itself are utilized and taught everywhere that Yoga is practiced around the world.

Universally, history generally records Yogic practice as extending across the entire historical landscapes of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Of these, "Hinduism" itself is a very broad term-- encompassing the entire history of religions across the Indian subcontinent.

Sikhism comes on the scene in the 15th and 16th Century, specifically within an inter-cultural and multifaith context. The history of its primal founder, Guru Nanak (1469-1539) and of its foundational scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, include not only a rich multifaith heritage from across the Old World at that time, but a distinctive heritage contributing to origin, teaching and practices of Yoga.

During this period, often called The Bhakti Period

1 Taken from various sections of my forthcoming book "Yoga and Awakening" (Light on Light Press, ©Caroline Ashley).

Karuna hosting Yoga at her Hacienda de Guru Ram Das in Gold Hill, Colorado, above Boulder

(1470-1710 CE) the Sikh tradition produced its illustrious history of "The Ten Gurus" and the great work of its scripture: the "Siri Guru Granth Sahib". Guru Nanak himself propounded what was called a "Sahaja" or "Nama" Yoga centering on meditation on our relationship to, and identity as, the Divine. It is the word "Bhakti" that is important here because, as is universally known, "Bhakti Yoga" is the Yoga of Love and Devotion, and it is this distinction that marks not only Kundalini Yoga but my own devotion to it.

After this early and illustrious history, over time Sikh practitioners enriched the Yogic heritage of the Indian subcontinent and led a renaissance in the practices and techniques Yoga that are now known as "Kundalini Yoga" all around the world.

Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini Yoga is my root tradition and also one in which international interfaith organizations have ordained me as a "Wisdom Keeper". And, especially because I am privileged to be the Host Editor of *Light on Light* Magazine-- which annually does the Special magazine Issue with the United Nations Committee for the International Day of Yoga-- every year I get to see the panorama of Yoga, and Yogic practice around the world, unfold in front of my eyes with Yogi's and Yogini's all around the world.

Today, contemporary Yoga is what is termed (across this whole history of Yoga) as “The Modern Period” (1710 CE-present) when Yoga becomes known to the Western world. It was in this era, as well, that the mysteries of Kundalini Yoga came westward, particularly from the Sikh tradition of India. By the 21st Century Kundalini Yoga had joined the twenty-some brands and flavors of Yogic practice as a mainstay of global Yogic heritage and practice.

Of all of these, Kundalini Yoga distinguishes itself from some other forms of Yoga by its emphasis on the more deeply spiritual, meditational, and subtle-realm elements of Yogic practice. Although, yes, it utilizes all the poses and postures (“asanas”, “mudras”, “kriyas” etc.) and other actions today familiar across our world’s commercialization of Yoga, these are more deeply rooted in the Ancient Wisdom in Kundalini Yoga and thus with more creativity, variety and flexibility-- and yet with great precision.

Thus, Kundalini Yoga is often acknowledged as a “deeper dive” into the vast landscape of Yoga. It is uniquely anchored in both the Wisdom of the world’s Great Spiritual Traditions as well as our modern-day understandings of Consciousness and “nonduality”—authentic Awakening-- especially as it relates to the activity of our body’s “Kundalini energy".

Drawing from multi-faith roots, Kundalini Yoga is distinctive in its emphasis on the deeply mystical and subtle-realm knowledges that underpin all of Yoga’s worldwide heritage. While it employs the myriad poses and postures (“asanas”, “mudras”, “kriyas” etc.) familiar from today’s popular Yoga, it anchors profoundly in ancient Yoga cosmology and its finely nuanced understanding of the Awakening process. This puts it also in stride with our modern neuroscientific understandings of “nondual consciousness” and the role of the body in nurturing the highest potential for authentic Awakening and actualizing our fullest moral and ethical capacity. In a vision of a world Waking Up and Growing Up such an emphasis is paramount. Thus the provisional title of my forthcoming book from Light on Light: “Yoga and Awakening”.

Learn by Doing—My Invitations to You

Let’s turn now to the Yoga itself. Although Trends Magazine invited me to write “about” my tradition, it is, after all, in the “doing” – the direct experience of the Yoga itself-- that we find what we are looking for. Practicing Yoga is a developmental and evolutionary landscape that works from initial, foundational, understanding to more advanced understanding and practices.

The most exciting and fulfilling part of your Yoga practice will be building it step by step and discovering what really serves you from across this amazing landscape of spiritual practice and then building further and further. You will see the progress not only in your physical health, and emotional and spiritual well-being, but in new and expanding levels of discovery.

So, l want to take this opportunity to invite you into all of the programs, so many of which are free, that I am hosting on-line today— at Humanity’s Stream and Sacred Stories as well as at my own website (https://lightonkundalini.com/).

Denise Scotto and Gayatri Naraine of the UNIDY with the staff of Light on Light Magazine presenting the annual Special Yoga Day issue to Deepak Chopra at his "Metahuman" event in New York City

I invite you into my programs at Humanity’s Stream:

Awakening the Ten Bodies (https://humanitystream.vhx.tv/awakening-the-ten-bodies-with-karuna),

Healing Grief (https://stream.humanitysteam.org/healing-grief-with-karuna), and

The 81 Facets of the Mind (https://humanitystream.vhx.tv/81-facets-of-mind-with-karuna).

at Sacred Stories:

Healing Grief (https://courses.sacredstories.com/courses/healing grief),

Awakening the Ten Bodies (https://courses.sacredstories.com/courses/tenbodies?ref=fd31e1),

And, at the Light on Kundalini YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHPYY2oyX4SECUj3tjPfXaA)

And, for inspiration, these articles and interviews in various magazines and other media:

Kundalini Yoga: The Flow of Spiritual Energy

Wisdom Keepers, The Mystical Path of Kundalini Yoga

Mayhem to Miracles

Karuna with Dom Nightmon on Going North Podcast

Karuna in Light on Light Magazine
https://issuu.com/lightonlight/docs/lightonlight_issue_1/46
https://issuu.com/lightonlight/docs/lightonlight_issue_1/48
https://issuu.com/lightonlight/docs/lightonlight_issue_1/52

Karuna on Voyage Denver

Sacred Stories of Karuna as Luminary

Yoga Day Videos with Deepak Chopra

My fervent hope is that these holiday seasons will bring you, and yours, health, prosperity and well-being and the gifts of Yoga will enhance this season for you and be with you forever.

Sat Nam and Blessings,
Karuna

Karuna@LightonKundalini.com
lightonkundalini
lightonlight magazine

Submit nominations at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQkw0V1dAcHs1lfSHN4W8cDo4ufcPv_uQHZum8tJ-8myUxIA/viewform

The PACEY Award provides three prizes of €5000 each for youth projects that address peace, nuclear disarmament and/or climate issues. One of the prizes is for a European youth project. The other two are for projects based outside of Europe or with global application.

Finalists in each category will present their projects/proposals at the PACEY Awards event which takes place online on January 21, in conjunction with Basel Peace Forum 2023 (an annual in-person event in Basel). Participants at the PACEY Awards event, which is open to everyone, will vote to determine the three winners.

Poetry For R_Evolution

by Heidi Little

It's dangerous
The mucky murky dark
Black hole
Downward spiral
Leaves one reaching
Grasping for the light
Teachings masked in marketing
To keep the one seeking Inward
heart light lights
Mind pivots on a rose
A breakthrough in momentary
Relaxation
Voila!
Anew moment has arrived
Drenched in opportunity
As shining beings become
Something more
Inside out
Inside out
The day becomes brighter still.

Hl 12.06.2022
www.heidilittle.com

THE PROBLEM OF A ME CULTURE- IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.

By Sande Hart

A problem is something to solve, an irritant, an obstacle to a sustainable solution. Yet, we may be missing the mark on what the real problem is and where to invest our energy capital.

A Me culture is considered one of self-serving, narrow minded and often gluttonous consumerism-froth conditions. We think of a Me culture as one where we have lost sight of our oneness with the other, or all of humanity and our natural world, for that matter.

But what if we have it all wrong? What if being a part of a Me culture is the single most powerful and compassionate way we can be to manifest a safe, harmonious and abundant life for all beings? What's wrong with self-interest? Nothing, as long as it is Enlightened Self Interest; any decision I make for myself has been considered so as to also be in service to the whole. Transversely, anything I may do for you will also benefit me, my family, community and the world. Everyone wins, all the time, no matter what.

So that means, we needn't leap off of the concept of a Me culture. Perhaps it means shifting our understanding and belief system about what a Me culture is and then living in that direction. I think Rick Ulfik, and the amazing folks at We, The World, knew exactly what they were doing when they devised a concept of turning that Me upside down, and that's exactly what we need to do.

It is time for a power-shift in how we look at things. Let's not try to illuminate the source, but redefine and heal it. And the fastest way to impress change upon a culture is with our own personal manners of how we walk through our own life. That means how we respond to circumstance, the filter we see the other through, the opportunities for moments of "Aha!" and a life of integrity; of wholeness.

In writing The Liminal Odyssey, this awareness was disclosed to me like a blinding light. I started looking at my own life stories and became acutely aware of the moments in-between crisis and decision, dilemma and choice, and this evolutionary growth spurt we are in right now.
Evidence of this is clear. The piling on of crisis at an alarming rate is met with the lightning speed growth of numbers of visionaries, revolutionaries', scientists, and grassroots activists that are showing up in a new awareness saying much of the same thing; things are changing, and that includes us. Physicists are determining that we are in a 2nd Quantum Revolution. The spaces in-between are more vast and deep that we once discovered nearly 120 years ago. And, because we are nature ourselves, this must mean we too are expanding. My take: our minds are catching up to our spirituality in a race for awakening.

My conclusion after finalizing my manuscript and sending it off into the world is this is as elegant and simple as slowing down to the speed of awe and wonder of those spaces in-between. There we find what was once perceived as the mundane, yet look closer, follow the threads, and listen carefully. It is really the miraculous. This is how Spirit talks to us. This is a path to self-realization, a worthy path when asking the question, what is the "Me" in who I am and how I contribute to my culture?

We don't know where we are going but we know we are on our way, and we are heading there together. All I can do is be as clean and baggage-free as I can so as not to poison the water hole for all of us when we get there.

With over 300 books on my bookshelf, almost all of them (with exception ofGone with The Wind, To Kill a Mockingbird and a few other classics) a unique model, skill, practice, inspiration, or methodology, I had to ask myself, if my goal is to be a better me, then after reading all these books, why am I still struggling? (Here comes the "Aha!") It was my perceived perception of how I was practicing them as a single approach that was the problem. Like We, The World, I turned this assumption upside down and looked at it differently. I came up with a new plan.

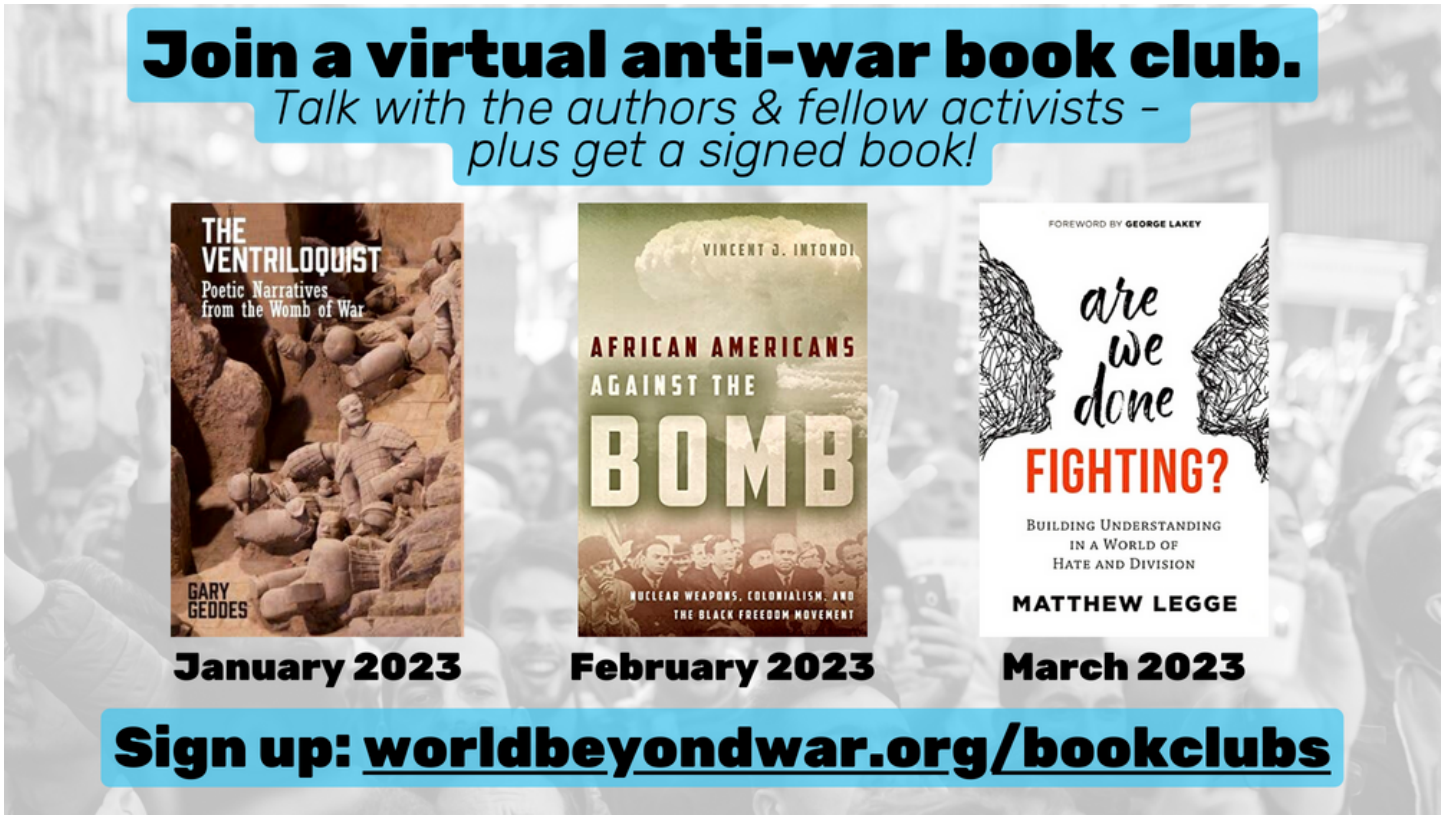
Questioning assumptions, sharpening my reverent listening skills, unpacking some intergenerational trauma and patterns, becoming intimate with trust, and cultivating synchronicities are just a few muscle-building skills I discovered successful in my personal healing. I know we all have practices that help us through stuff. The key is practicing them before we need them, and according to The Liminal Odyssey (as it wrote me), see them as building blocks, mutually supportive and interdependent. As long as they lead to slowing down in those spaces and stretching the edges of our understanding of who we are, we are in the right lane.

With this new awareness, I put it to the test as I was telling my stories. Suddenly, my once "insignificant" stories became in-significant. I saw the patterns, deep textures, and vibrant colors of every experience. A recipe of more than a few methodologies, theories and indigenous knowledge created a coherence of a multisensory discipline that immediately took shape as a super skill, greater than the sum of its parts. The big surprise? I found myself following my bliss right into the eye of my divine assignment, my planetary gift that I am here to contribute. This makes me a better Me, especially when I find opportunities for Enlightened Self-Interest. This is my hope for everyone.

Culture is nothing more than a collective agreement manifesting into a shared experience with a critical mass of people. That means each one of us contributes to our culture. We decide individually what we agree to. I agree to a Me culture that improves the world for We.

When we all move through the world through enlightened self-interest, follow our bliss, and practice, practice, practice our skills before we need them, we can spin Me in any direction and it will always shape our world up to be a safe, harmonious and bliss-full We.

Sande is a grandmother, mother, wife and Sister, founder of S.A.R.A.H. (The Spiritual And Religious Alliance for Hope women's global interfaith organization) and author of The Liminal Odyssey, The Alchemical Power of The Spaces In-Between.



A Climate Carol

By Sue Blythe, M.Ed.

The balance of nature has been upset. Our human right to a healthy environment is being abused. Around the world, people of faith and goodwill are building community in a changing climate. In Alachua County, Florida, as we near the 200th anniversary of the founding of our County in 1824, we have a story to tell. An illustrated Historical Scroll depicts significant moments in our county's social and environmental story from 1500 to 1996. The Climate Collaboratory continues that story in the 21st Century.

With homage to Charles Dickens, the Climate Collaboratory invites the ghosts of Climate Past, Climate Present and Imagined Future to guide us on a journey through time.

The Ghost of Climate Past takes us back more than 600 years, to the time before Europeans came to Florida's shores, when the Timucua tribe populated North Central Florida. Pictures on the 25-foot scroll show scenes from that time to the end of the 20th Century. This helped citizens to envision a sustainable, just and peaceful future in the 21st century.

The Ghost of Climate Present shows students in schools and community groups bringing significant moments on of Alachua County's history to life. They collect stories of real people remembering the early days of the 21st century, including the city and county's declarations of Climate Emergency in 2019-20. They invite people of all ages to use the United Nations Global Goals to build a better future.

The Ghost of Climate Future

Our story continues on the Road to 2030, 2050 and Beyond. In 2024, for Alachua County's 200th Anniversary, the Bicentennial Edition of the historical scroll highlights the growing awareness of environmental issues over two centuries. A groundswell of social, environmental and climate action makes Alachua County a leader in the Florida Climate Conversation-to-Action Program.

The children's collaborative storytelling adventure helps to unite people of all ages in purposeful action to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. And for Earth Day 2050, the people of the world celebrate the Earth's temperature coming back down. The human family moves together on the road toward peace on and with the Earth.

Sharing Our Gifts for Life on Earth

In December 2022, the children invite you to find your role in the story of Life on Earth. Let's pool the human, material and spiritual resources available for our collaborative storytelling adventure. We'll see Who is doing What, and use the Global Goals as we learn to cooperate, collaborate, and co-create solutions for a livable Earth. Together, we are learning to make a world that works for all. We are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. Let's make our story a good one!

USE THIS FORM to submit YOUR CLIMATE STORY -
https://forms.gle/9FV2mX6C4FqVvZVT8
We will post it on the blog at
climatecollaboratory.org

Join the INTERFAITH CLIMATE GROUP devotional and climate conversation, providing a spiritual foundation for the Climate Collaboratory. Last Sunday of the month at 3:00 Eastern.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84679754315?pwd=M3VweVdkZWZDNk52UHpZVHhXSGdadz09
Meeting ID: 846 7975 4315 Passcode: 268346
Phone 301 715 8592

For more information, contact Sue Blythe <sueblythe@we.net>
Climate Collaboratory - a Project of We, the World - **climatecollaboratory.org**

Climate Change and the Power of Urban Tree Stewardship

By Catherine McKeon Mondkar

Since pre-history, dating back as far as the stone age, human beings have utilized trees for spiritual connectedness, shelter, sustenance and their very survival. Builders from the indigenous Cherokee tribe of the eastern United States used the majestic tulip tree (Liridendron tunipifera) to construct straight and slender canoes, and the acorn nut from the prolific species of the Oak family (Quercus) was made into flour by many communities around the world for centuries. The influence that trees have had on culture and even language is profound, with the ancient Celtic tree alphabet Ogham, being one such example. Trees as extensive forests and as individual specimens are some of the most fascinating organisms on the planet and arguably the most important. Trees by their very function of omitting oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide are a major factor in managing global temperatures and fighting climate change.

While a crucial component in the reduction of carbon emissions is to drastically reduce the burning of fossil fuels, the studies on strategic ways of increasing trees carbon sink capabilities are considerable. From NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, where scientists discuss the potential of planting billions of trees globally, to MIT's studies on forest regeneration, afforestation and reforestation, there is no shortage of research on how to protect this precious natural resource that continues to be threatened by deforestation through irresponsible forest management practices around the world. While the information on trees and climate change is invaluable in establishing and maintaining policies that protect our precious forests, the stark reality of climate change on a local level for people around the world is nothing short of overwhelming. What can we do as individuals to engage with and protect the urban trees where we live? From attending a local tree stewardship event to planting and caring for a tree right down the block, the opportunities for citizens to get involved in helping to flight climate change through growing the urban tree canopy in their city is endless and organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture are there for guidance and encouragement along the way. For further reading and resources, check out the list below for books and sites that explore the anatomy, magnificence and importance of trees.

Books Oak the Frame of Civilization, The Song of Trees, Up by Roots

Tree Stewardship Resources in the US and around the world Tree City USA, NYC Tree Stewardship, ReLeaf Network, Bringing Trees back to Cleveland, Forest Stewardship Council Asia-Pacific, Tree for Cities UK, Increasing Urban Greenspace in Sub-Saharan Africa

Catherine is a Landscape Planner and an ISA Certified Arborist NY-5957A

IT'S TIME FOR A FRANCISCAN RENAISSANCE

By Brian Mclaren and Patrick Carolan

We live in a time of conflict and polarization — in the church in its various forms and in the world at large. In fact, our religious and secular challenges are so enmeshed as to be inseparable.

In the world at large, the planet is in crisis. From global warming to the great global insect die-off, from the impending tsunami of extinctions to multifaceted ecosystem collapse, the earth is suffering under the burden of too many people demanding too many resources while pumping out too many wastes. As Pope Francis said in Laudato Si, we are sowing filth and destruction into the earth rather than life and beauty.

The poor are also in crisis, as a tiny minority of super-rich global elites control a larger and larger percentage of power and wealth, leaving the poor farther and farther behind to survive on leftovers. Simply put: the wealth rises to the top and the troubles (what economists call "externalized costs") trickle down to the folks at the bottom of the economic pyramid.

In addition to the crises of the planet and the poor, we face a crisis of peace. Arrogant nationalism, ignorant racism, shortsighted militarism, and post-truth propaganda empower the Putins of the world to bomb innocents into rubble while the NRAs of the world proliferate guns. As we pump more and more weapons of increasing kill-power into human societies, as we dump more and more carbon and other pollutants into our skies and seas, as we redistribute more and more wealth and power away from the struggling masses and toward the elite upper classes … we create a perfect recipe for misery, for us, for our children, and for generations to come.

We could wish that the leaders of our Christian faith were paying attention to these crises. A few are. But many — too many — are obsessed with preserving their power, protecting their privilege, and perpetuating their institutions. They obsess over liturgical gnats while ignoring existential threats, and we wonder why younger generations are turning away!

The young see our churches as being fueled by theologies of separation, shame, punishment, and damnation. They experience our liturgies as being obsessed with individual salvation, appeasing a demanding God so our individual souls can assure their ticket to heaven when we die. They encounter our institutions as being more concerned with their own power, privilege, and survival than with the common good. Many feel frustration and hopelessness.

Younger generations know the reality articulated early in the last century by Teilhard de Chardin: "Evolve or be annihilated." They know the reality articulated late in the last century by Thomas Berry: "We will go into the future as a single sacred community or we will all perish in the desert."

When they read the gospels, they hear a resonance between Teilhard's call to evolve and Jesus' call to repent. And they hear a resonance between Jesus' good news of the kingdom of God and Berry's "single sacred community."

When they hear or recite the Lord's Prayer, the prayer most frequently prayed by every denomination of Christianity, they hear the words, "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." They see what so many of us miss: Jesus' prayer is not an evacuation plan, praying to get our individual souls from earth *down here* to heaven *up there*. This prayer is a transformation plan, bringing God's good will down here to earth from up there in heaven. The prayer asks us, "How do we join Jesus in his concern for God's good desires to become actualized on earth?" The prayer directs us to address this world and its injustices, joining God in God's healing work within this world.

The Sufi teacher Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee says, "The world is not a problem to be solved; it is a

living being to which we belong. The world is part of our own self and we are a part of its suffering wholeness. . .” Younger generations wish they say more in our Christian communities leading the way to bring healing and hope to this “suffering wholeness.”

We have a proposal that addresses both the crises in the world at large and the crises in the Christian church: the possibility of a Franciscan Renaissance.

The first biographer of St Francis, Thomas of Celano, described Francis’ return to God as reclaiming that which would free him both from a sinful nature and from a perverted society which was Christian in name only. Thomas of Celano could just as easily be describing the state of our world and religion today.

Neither of us are professed Franciscans. Our deep love and understanding of Franciscan spirituality came from our work and relationships with Franciscan sisters and friars in the US and across the World. When we talk about a Franciscan Renaissance, we are not referring to otherworldly piety and escapist rituals or propping up the status quo of Franciscan institutions. Rather, we advocate a Franciscan Renaissance centered in the spirit of St Clare and Francis, embodied in their examples, further explored in the works of brilliant Franciscan theologians like Blessed John Dun Scotus.

This renaissance is needed because dominant forms of Christianity are stuck. The Catholic Church is stuck; all the many forms of Protestantism are stuck. Whether you are Catholic, Evangelical Protestant or Mainline Protestant you’ve probably watched with horror from a distance as many of your leaders and fellow members were so easily sucked into Trumpism. It breaks your heart to see how many Christians have wandered into white supremacist backwaters, into QAnon and other conspiracy theories, where they’re in many ways ruled by nostalgia, dreaming of a mythical idyllic past when life made more sense to them.

Yes, there are beautiful pockets of light and growth and redemption in all our Christian traditions. But so many are stuck in deep ruts, hardly able to see outside. Even when they know they’re in trouble, it’s so much easier to live in denial and keep on with liturgy as usual. Along with ruts of routine, so many of us are stuck in our silos, just worried about our little group. So Lutherans are worried about renewing Lutheranism and Presbyterians are worried about renewing their Presbyterianism, just as Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox can act as if their group is the only group that matters.

Every week, more and more people, especially young people, leave the stuckness and stagnation, joining the 70 million-plus adult Americans who grew up going to Church but who no longer do. The failure of retention of younger generations brings us closer every day to what we might call a demographic cliff.

If Christianity were in trouble only because it’s stuck in ruts of routine and silos of sectarianism, that would be bad enough. But we also have to acknowledge that there are dominant forms of Christianity that have become dangerous. Too many preach that Jesus is coming soon, so we don’t need to worry about the environment. Too many preach, ‘The Bible says that the end is going to be terrible, that things are getting worse. That just tells us that we are closer to the end. And after that it is heaven and then we will all be able to party.’ Too many preach an intoxicating cocktail of Christianity and white supremacy, Christianity and nationalism, Christianity and unregulated capitalism. As a result, the earth suffers, people of color suffer, the poor suffer, and ultimately, everyone suffers.

The words of the prophet Jeremiah (8:8) echo in our ears:
“How can you say, “We are wise,
for we have the law of the Lord,”
when that law has been falsified
by the lying pen of the scribes?”

The vision of Francis and Clare are exactly what we need at this moment of peril and opportunity. Why is that legacy so precious at this moment?

First, at this time of ecological crisis, the Franciscan legacy is powerfully ecological. Living as we do at

the precipice of an environmental catastrophe; we need a spiritual vision that integrates love for God and love for our neighbor with love for the earth — exactly the vision of St Francis and St Clare and the movements that they gave birth to.

Francis' famous friendship with a wolf and his preaching to the birds are easily reduced to cute little tropes, birdbaths if you will. But the ecological vision of Francis was about more than birdbaths. It was about the interconnectedness of all creation, so that we see every creature as sister or brother. As Sr. Ilia Delio OSF wrote in her book, A Franciscan View of Creation, "Francis' respect for creation was not a duty or obligation but arose out of an inner love by which creation and the source of creation were intimately united…" Francis saw himself as part of creation, as being in relationship with creation, and not having dominion over creation or even stewardship of creation.

Second, in this time of violence, this time of school shootings and war in Europe, this time when many politicians seem to believe that the more guns, we have the safer we'll be, or the more bombs we have the safer we'll be, we need St. Francis' message and example of nonviolence as never before. If we follow the path of maximum armament … believing that we can never have too many guns and bombs … we will discover that this is a suicidal trajectory for our species: as Jesus said, "Those who live by the sword will die by the sword." We need a spirituality that is deeply nonviolent not just in words but in our action.

It is difficult to preach nonviolence when so much of our religion is focused on the wrath and fear of God. In fact, to many Christians today, world salvation means being saved from an angry God. Carl Jung, one of our greatest 20th century psychologists, once said, "If our religion is based on salvation, our chief emotions will be fear and trembling. If our religion is based on wonder, our chief emotion will be gratitude." Over the centuries, many forms of Christianity have become religions of fear. But Christianity wasn't always like that. It began as a nonviolent peace movement, a community known for love, a community gathered around a table of fellowship and reconciliation, a people armed with the basin and towel of service, not the bomb and gun of violence. A Franciscan Renaissance would invite us to become, in the language of St. Clare, not violent warriors, but nonviolent mirrors of Christ for others to see and follow.

Third, in addition to being ecological and nonviolent, the Franciscan vision is deeply economic. Today, a larger and larger percentage of wealth is being concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals and families. In spite of calling ourselves democracies and free market economies, many of our nations are returning to a kind of feudal oligarchy, where a small number of powerful families exert great power over governments and collaborate with transnational crime syndicates … all while collaborating with religions that give them cover. St. Francis arose in the early stages of modern capitalism and he saw its potential dangers. He exemplified an alternative value system where the poor, the leper, and the outcast matter more than money, luxury, and power. Our current economic model places no intrinsic value on creation, except as a source for raw materials that we consume. In so doing, it reduces us to consumers, and values us based on our productivity measured in money. A Franciscan renaissance would help us "redeem" — which means to re-assess and revalue — everything, so we rediscover the priceless beauty of the earth and its creatures, including our neighbors and ourselves.

Fourth, we live in a time of exclusion, division, classism, racism, and religious prejudice. We need the example of St Francis and St. Clare, who clearly modeled deep inclusiveness and solidarity. In the iconic paintings of St. Francis embracing a leper, we do not see a shallow inclusiveness that says, 'We're elite and we're going to bring a few of you as tokens into our exclusive club.' No, we see in St. Francis profound solidarity with the last, the lost, and the least, with the other, the outcast, the outsider, and even the enemy. In this spirit of solidarity, I see that my life and your life are interconnected. I refuse to settle for my own happiness, because my life is in solidarity with yours as my neighbor.

The relationship between Francis and Clare modeled this: we're all equal — male and female,

rich and poor, healthy and sick, well-clothed and clothed in rags, Pope and Bishop and lay person. Francis even teaches us to refuse to discriminate between Christian and Muslim, Jew and Atheist, for we all are beloved by God. We see this interfaith solidarity when Francis ventures without weapon or threat into the Sultan's camp in Egypt, bearing a message of peace - a heart for peace. This vision has been tragically lost in so much of our Christian faith. More than ever at this moment, we need the vision of Francis and Clare for an interfaith solidarity.

We have experienced this inclusive solidarity. Neither of us are professed Franciscans but we both have been welcomed within the Franciscan community. Not only that: in our work and travels we both have encountered Muslims, Jews, Hindus and even atheists who have a deep respect for St Francis, his life and works. A Franciscan Renaissance will expand beyond the traditional three Franciscan orders to a fourth order — of Franciscan-hearted people.

A Franciscan Renaissance would be ecological, nonviolent, economic, and inclusive. It would also be creative theologically. Too many Christians still imagine God as a big white guy on a throne in the sky, a cosmic dictator and Zeus-like despot and who will subject people to cruelty if they don't honor his magnificence appropriately. Looking back over the last eight centuries, it is clear that the Franciscan theological instinct was right, and we need it more than ever.

The prevalent theology during the time of St Francis was centered around the idea of substitutionary atonement. In this view, the purpose of Jesus' incarnation was to suffer and die as a sacrifice to appease an angry God. But for Franciscans, Jesus didn't come to appease an angry God; he came to reveal a loving God, as Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, says in her book, Franciscan Prayer: prayer "begins and ends with the Incarnation. It begins with encountering the God of overflowing love in the person of Jesus Christ and ends with embodying that love in one's own life, becoming a new Incarnation." This fresh vision of God leads to a fresh vision of everything everywhere.

Thomas Berry wrote in The Dream of the Earth. "The deepest crises experienced by any society are those moments of change when the story becomes inadequate for meeting the survival demands of a present situation." We are experiencing that crisis today, in the world and in the church. A Franciscan Renaissance will not come easily; it will be costly, challenging, even disruptive. After all, if renewal were cheap, easy, and convenient, it would have happened already. If we are willing to count the cost, commit to the challenge, and persist through obstacles, we can be agents of a true Franciscan Renaissance.

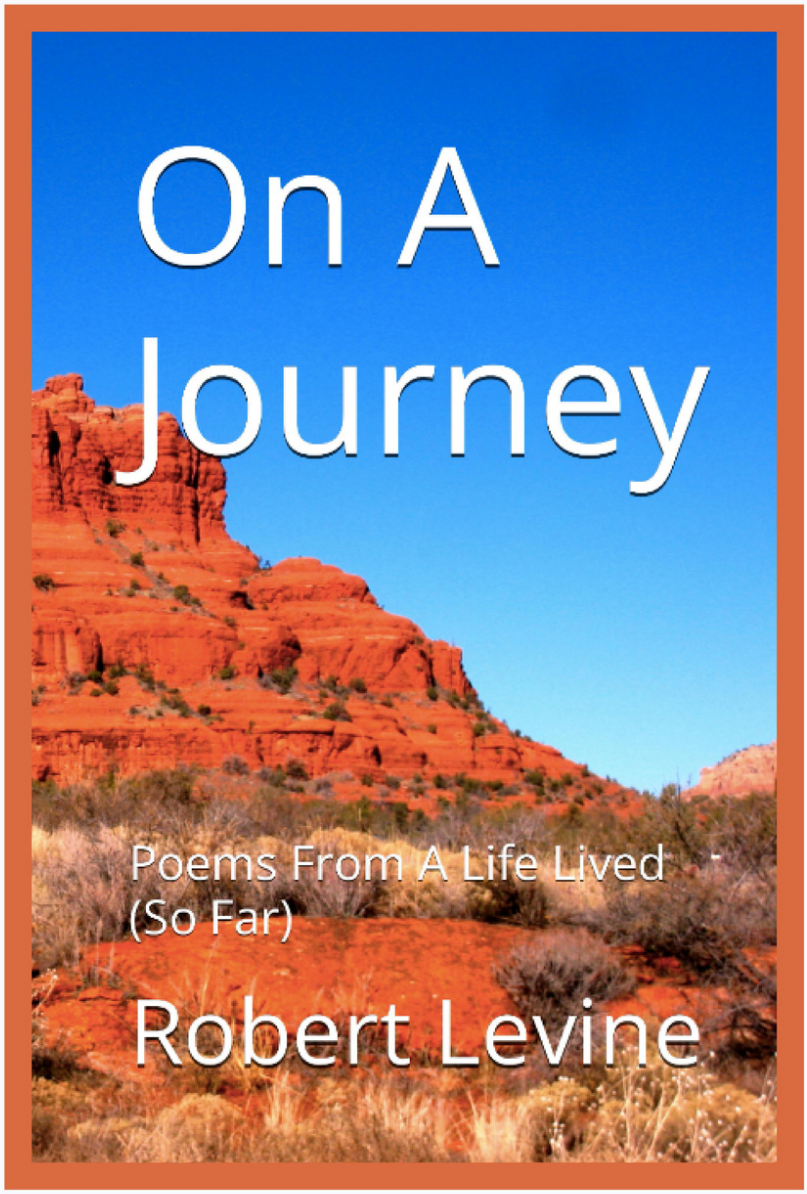
International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation (ICERMediation)

Annual International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

NYC September 26-28, 2023

You can submit a proposal for presentation or attend as a participant to listen to the presentations and participate in all side events, for example, World Elders Forum, World Youth Convention on Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding, and International Divinity Day Celebration.

GET YOUR COPY



CLICK HERE TO ORDER

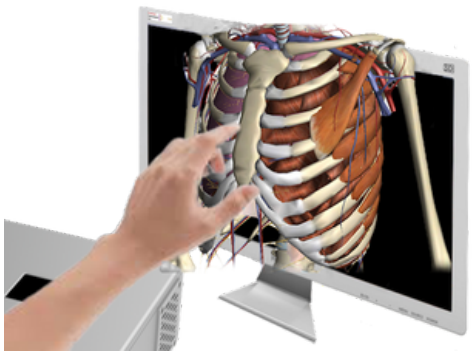
Innovations In Healthcare

By Gene Dolgoff

Rick Ulfik, the founder of We The World, and this magazine, (along with Robert Levine, editor) asked me to write a short article about my company Holobeam Technologies Inc. Rick and I have known each other since junior high school (age 13) and have had many wonderful experiences together growing up and going through life. Rick is the kindest, gentlest, most talented soul I have ever met, so I appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit about what we're doing with his readers.

At Holobeam, we are developing four new products in the medical field. They represent major advances in detection and treatment of cancers and other diseases. One out of every two men, and one out of every three women, will get cancer. In the U.S., over 600,000 people died from cancer this year, one every 53 seconds.

Our first product, which is expected to be ready for sale at the end of 2023, is our Holo-x-ray system. It appears to be a simple portable x-ray device on wheels, which can be wheeled up to a patient in a bed, for instance, to take a simple low-dose x-ray. However, what's different is how the data is displayed. Instead of a conventional black-and-white two-dimensional image, where all of the patient's anatomy from front to back is collapsed onto a single (somewhat confusing) image, our system will produce a holographic three-dimensional full-color image, floating in mid-air, for a doctor or radiologist to view. No goggles or 3-D glasses are needed. With the ability to also rotate the image and erase bones and other selected portions of the image, more accurate disease diagnoses can be accomplished.



The second product in development, which is expected to be ready for initial testing in 2024, is called the HET MRI scanner. It is a highly advanced MRI system with several important advantages over today's MRI systems. Instead of requiring an extremely noisy 30 minute scan, which isn't feasible for children or animals without risky anesthesia, it will complete a silent scan in a fraction of a second. Today's MRI systems, while extremely helpful in detecting various diseases and medical conditions, can't see anything smaller than about 1 mm. This means that early cancers, for instance, can't be detected. This is very unfortunate because cancers that are detected very early can be cured relatively easily. Our new system will be able to detect a single cell (as small as 7 microns), making early cancer detection possible. In addition to its superior disease detection capabilities, our scanner will also treat cancers at the same time using our patented HET (Holographic Energy Teleportation) technology. This unique process sends energy only to the detected cancer cells, while bypassing all healthy cells, eliminating side effects and collateral damage.

Our next product, due to be ready a year later, is our Portable HET Scanner. It is similar in capabilities to our HET MRI scanner, but uses advanced laser technology instead of MRI technology. This allows it to be much smaller and less expensive than an MRI, as well as portable, easily brought to a patient's bedside or put in an ambulance, helicopter, or SUV for use in the field.

Our fourth product, Called AdvaNan, is a new type of nanoparticle product which will be able to be injected into a patient when microscopic cells need to be detected, diagnosed, and treated. For instance, using either of our HET scanners, these nanoparticles, which are guided by monoclonal antibodies, will be able to detect microscopic metastasized cancer cells anywhere in the body of a patient, allowing them to be eliminated. Nearly 95% of all cancer deaths are due to metastasis.

We believe that these products will revolutionize the care of human and animal patients, especially cancers, as well as other diseases, dramatically reducing suffering and deaths. Our company is expected to be public on NASDAQ during 2023. Our website is www.holobeamtech.com. For more information, you can contact Gene Dolgoff, the CEO, at: gene@holobeamtech.com

#GLOBALFUTURESFORUM

Get involved through the Global Futures Forum: March 20-21, 2023

The UN Summit of the Future and its Ministerial Meeting (Sep 2023) provide specific opportunities to advance nuclear risk reduction and abolition.

UNFOLD ZERO is partnering with PNND, World Future Council and the Coalition for the UN We Need to build engagement of legislators and civil society in the UN Summit of the Future and its preparatory process. This included an inter-generational event on October 26, Nuclear disarmament, climate change and the UN Summit of the Future, at which we presented the Protect People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World to the United Nations.

And it includes a Global Futures Forum to be held as a hybrid event (in New York and online) on March 20-21, 2023 plus thematic and regional consultations leading up to the forum. For more information see Global Futures Forum.

The world is wondering if the Glasgow Summit will result in meaningful climate action, Will the USA do its share? Unfortunately, as extreme political polarization continues unabated in the US, national green jobs and green infrastructure plans are meeting tremendous opposition. And progress on Climate and related crucial issues remains inadequate if we want a Livable Future.

To address this, **WE Power America** is designed to shift political discourse towards **WE** and the Common Good, engaging multiple movements, and mobilizing at least **2 million people** who will act to accelerate the just transition to a renewable energy based society.

We are starting this campaign in the United States because the US is one of the world's primary polluters and greenhouse gas emitters. And the US has a tremendous influence on the rest of the world culturally, politically, economically and environmentally. We anticipate inspiring and working with sister movements such as WE Power Brazil, WE Power India and many other countries worldwide.

WE Power America Partner and Sponsor Executive Summaries

https://WE.net/wpa-2pager-partner.pdf
https://WE.net/wpa-2pager-sponsor.pdf

WE Power America Supporters, Endorsers and Participants

https://WE.net/wpa-supporters.pdf

Can we include you as one of our WE Power America Supporters
https://WE.net/wpa-supporters.pdf

WE Power America is a proposed program of **We, The World**.

International Children's Month

International Children's Month is celebrating its 10th year!

Each year there is a theme, and youth, and humanity throughout the world, unite to co-create, and uplift the theme and our children and youth. Previous years have circled with Water education and consciousness, Earth stewardship and connection, Whole Being/body, mind and spirit, Team work, Revolution youth voices and youth choices, Miracles/what are they and how do they work, Grace and Resilience, and more! This year;s theme is **International Children Love World Peace 2023!**

The big question:

What can you do to co create and support World Peace?

We invite you to consider this, come up with something and share with us so we may unite! Do you have a project, some art, or an organization that supports humanity, society and/or our planet? Then please partner with us!

For years we have worked with youth and educators, parents, and organizations all over the world! Organizations like: WE, The World, The Black Jaguar Foundation, Keep The Waters Flowing, Idle No More, Standing Rock, Youth Leaders; The Earth Guardians, This Is Zero Hour, Pakistan Youth Teams, African Youth Teams, we stand side by side with our Children and Youth, our Indigenous Relations Globally, our Earth, The Roerich Pact, Coral Vita, Mission Blue, Love Glasses Revolution, artists, poets, musicians and more!

What will you do, be or create, to bring on more World Peace in 2023?

We have some ideas too! And our Youth Leaders are actively pursuing this very mission!

Join us by visiting, and uniting at
www.internationalchildrensmonth.com

Reach out and let us know at
internationalchildrensmonth@gmail.com

2023 is the year we come together for World Peace! Here We Grow!

ICM Team: Heidi, Robert, Shannon, Bob, Raheen, Abba, Rick, Angel, Jana, Ben, Shy, John, and many more!

International Children's Month Mission: Love, Care and Respect for All Children of Earth! 2023 International Children Love World Peace!

2023 Invitation: International Children's Month Year Long Thematic Activity Platform and Annual Month of JUNE!

Welcome to International Children's Month and International Children Love World Peace 2023!

We are celebrating our 10th year this year and we are very excited by the possibilities and our new theme!

The world right now could use some extra love, and teamwork. And we hope you agree! We feel that a year focusing on World Peace will do us all good. And so we are growing for it!

The website is getting a brand new look and encompassing all 10 previous years international activities, and themes for greater ease. It should be completed by January 1st when we launch the new platform!

For now our Youth leaders in Pakistan are working on their contributions, our Youth leaders in Africa are working on their contributions, artists, poets, ocean lovers, forest lovers, children lovers, gardening lovers, are all figuring out what they can bring for the year, and we feel strongly that World Peace is built together, so … what have you got to offer World Peace?

We would love to see it, experience it, share it, and grow it with you! Our catch phrase this year is GROW FOR IT!

Social Media #ICM #Itnernationalchildrensmonth #growforit

Hashtags for the year! #ICM @ICM #worldpeace2023

Highlight Days:

March 22nd World Water Day
June 1st International Children's Day and ICM Kick Off Month!
June 18th ICM Youth Global Day Of Action Live on FB
June 21st The Children's Global Wave of Love 10th Annual 1:11pm in our heart and time zone and World Peace and Prayer Day
June International Children's month Festival TBA
Sept 11th-21 11 Days of Global Unity
Sept 21st International Day Of Peace

PURPOSE EARTH Grant Recipient Spotlight

UNLEASHING THE AFRICAN POTENTIAL

You can imagine our excitement when we learned Angelina Gabaiste, the founder of the project Unleashing the African Potential, participated as a panelist at the COP27. Speaking during the WHO panel discussion, Angelina shared her views on women's roles as health advocates in the midst of climate change.

Unleashing the African Potential is a Purpose Earth grant recipient based in Botswana. The project's vision is to offer a holistic and wholesome approach to tackling the various social ills that affect rural and remote communities by providing the beneficiaries with socioeconomic empowerment programs, coupled with environmental stewardship through storytelling, awareness campaigns and educational workshops.

Through the support of the Purpose Earth grant, this project has been able to train 120 individuals in Botswana. As well as to train other country chapter leaders in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Pakistan, Nigeria and Burundi.

https://www.purposeearth.org/grant-recipients

As people around the world react to the actions of the US Administration and Congress, new voices are emerging that may have an unexpected influence in high places...

Spanish & Italian

Subtitles Now Available

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHILDREN

Are you alarmed about the kind of world our children will grow up in? They are too! If you or your friends have environmentally concerned children who are 12 years old or younger in your life, here is an opportunity for them to express their fears, concerns and hopes for the future.

An Urgent Message From Your Children **WeYourChildren.org** is a Public Service Video Series featuring children under 13 speaking in their own words to adults, making an appeal to all of us to respond with appropriate urgency.

At **WeYourChildren.org** you'll see 20 inspiring kids speaking in their own words, and learn how the children in your life can create and upload their own videos to add their voice for a Livable Future. Let's spark a global children's movement that gets attention and helps to create major change!

WOMEN AND ALLIES CAMPAIGN WITH KAREN PALMER AS ORGANIZER

Karen Palmer offers a monthly networking gathering online for partners and anyone who would like to join We, The World. The following is information about our partners and ways to connect with them.

7 Days of Rest & Return to Essence! It's wonderful to feel the strong resonance of the community with the vital medicine of the Return to Essence theme and the themes of the 7 days.

Our partner at www.7days-of-rest.org is deeply inspired by the wonderland of offerings from around the world, including many that are presencing diverse non-human relations who will be joining this sacred, co-creative space.

In the coming newsletters – and on the new Community platform – they will be sharing more information about the evolving calendar of events. A fuller schedule will be available on the website in the last week of 2022.

To join as a participant and to offer events for *7 Days of Rest & Return to Essence*, January 1-7, 2023, please visit www.7days-of-rest.org

WELCOME TO OUR ONLINE ART GALLERY OPENING!
CameronBaxterGalleries.com

Our Partners Connie and Andrew through their work with The Trust Frequency, the spiritual founding of the United States, and Climate Restoration - the lifelong dedication to humanity's progress on the evolutionary upward spiral.

You may not have realized, however, that they are also fine art photographers! They have both been passionate practitioners of the art of light and shadow since the 1960s.They have exhibited In multiple locations - Mexico, England, South Africa and throughout the United States - and we have upcoming shows in Portland, Maine, East Hampton, New York and Philadelphia, PA in 2023.

Andrew's photographic adventure began in Africa in 1965, and takes you on a journey through a wide variety of subject matter from Zulu warriors, Kalahari bushmen, African wildlife and California seascapes to ancient Anasazi and Mayan ruins, city scenes from London and New York, landscapes from the American Southwest and much, much more.

Connie has been a highly respected photographer since her mid-20s. She was featured along with 50 of the world's most iconic photographers in the prestigious 1974 "20th Century American Photographers" exhibition. In addition, for the first time, she is offering prints of her stunning collection of male and female nudes created while she was an assistant at an Ansel Adams workshop in Yosemite National Park fifty years ago.

They invite you to step into the moods of the many magical moments we've captured over the past five decades. You will find a birthday, holiday or "thank you" gift for every taste and budget.... whether for yourself, a loved one, or a colleague. Visit them often as their curated content will be constantly changing, just like a bricks & mortar gallery.

GO TO: CameronBaxterGalleries.com

Join our amazing partner Teri Angel at
www.peaceonearthtour.live

The Peace On Earth Tour is a journey that began on September 11, 2020 in South Florida and progresses throughout the USA, and eventually into other countries. The mission stated above, to increase the level of understanding of peace, is always enacted upon each day through conversations with people of the communities visited, with business owners and through the ritual of the land blessings which involve local residents. Using inner guidance, Teri Angel has traveled across the country performing fifteen land blessings in various states in the last five months. Each day, more requests come in as word

spreads about the mission. These requests are usually accompanied with the plea “please help bring peace into our community.” .

What does peace on earth look like for you? Is it a wish, a curiosity or a passion? Contact us today to see how you can get more involved with this amazing journey and mission.

As the journey progresses across the USA, there are areas where a blessing is done for the land, the inhabitants, animals, water and nature and future generations. A crystal is placed into the ground to represent that state or region and ceremony is held to set the intention for peace to come to that area. Would you like to have a Land Blessing in your area please visit www.peaceonearthtour.live

Sarah4hope.org **Vision and Mission Statement**

Vision Statement
SARAH envisions a world where women’s equality is fully realized to achieve a world that is equitable and honoring of all creation.

Mission Statement S.A.R.A.H., women of diverse cultures, faiths and beliefs, is committed to making a positive and meaningful difference in the world by advancing solutions that end all forms of violence disproportionately impacting women and girls.

To that end, their aim is to help women recognize self-awareness and personal agency through our programs and initiatives. They focus on cultural and systemic violence, and all of our practices promote circle principles which are rooted in their leading core values.

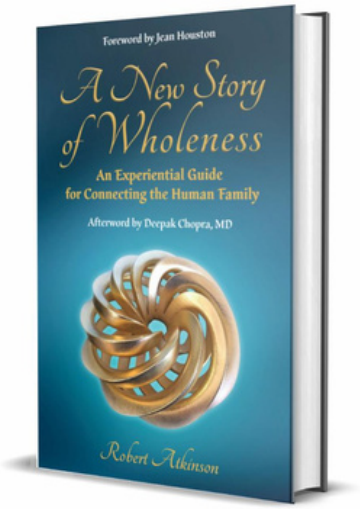
Through their programs and leadership alliances, they provide tools and skills to help and support women and girls through scholarship, education, mentoring, and a platform for their wisdom and voices to be heard.

Led by an Advisory Council and small volunteer staff, they listen carefully to their network of Sisters around the world. then respond respectfully with creative solutions through technology and in collaboration with others who share their vision.

So Many projects and fun programs to join please visit www.sarah4hope.org

A New Story of Wholeness

An Experiential Guide for Connecting the Human Family
by Robert Atkinson



Nothing may be more vital in our time than the healing vision of unitive narratives that guide us toward wholeness. This much-needed book offers just that by decoding a pattern hidden within the structure of story itself, as well as many other ways of knowing.

Discover an Inner Pattern that Guides Our Evolving Consciousness, Transforms Our Lives, Keeps Our Focus on the Wholeness of All Things, And Keeps Humanity on its Evolutionary Path.

Get Your Copy!

"ALL LIVES MATTER" ... EXCEPT FOR YOURS, YOURS AND YOURS: A BRIEF HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES IN 2022

By Callum Cintron (They/Them)

Eight years after #BlackLivesMatter and the movement as a whole increased in prominence in the United States, the oppositional phrase of "All Lives Matter" is still present. Those who use this phrase tend to be from communities our society deems normative: white, cisgender, non-disabled, male, etc. Since these communities are so adamant that "All Lives Matter" almost a decade later despite reality, let's take a look at how all lives mattered in 2022.

A little over 7 weeks into the new year on February 22nd, 2022 Governor Greb Abbott of Texas directed the Department of Family and Protective services in that state to investigate all reports of trangender care on minors as child abuse. S.B. 184 was enacted in Alabama in the Spring of 2022. Aimed at medical professionals, the law deems administering gender affirming to minors as a felony. The United States Department of Justice noted "the penalties for violating the law include up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to $15,000". Blocking access to care for minors was again implemented in November when the Florida Board of Medicine and the state's Board of Osteopathic Medicine voted to ban gender affirming care for minors experiencing gender dysphoria. This encompasses puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy and surgeries.

Gender diverse lives must matter in other aspects and across ages, right? Wrong. As of mid-December 2022 there are 144 anti-transgender bills across 34 states (68% of state). The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has been creating reports on gender diverse victims of fatal violence in the United States since 2015. That first year there were at least 21 confirmed deaths and in 2022 there were at least 34 violent deaths (2021 had at least 57 deaths). HRC data also shows that 85% of the victims were people of color.

People of color in the United States continue to face a plethora of inequities not just in relation to gender. In 2022 data has shown that Black people are still 2.9x more likely to die at the hands of police than white people. From January to May this year (151 days), 105 Black people were killed by the police. 64% of our states saw police kill a Black person during that 5 month period. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released earlier this year shows that maternal mortality rates for the Black population are 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. Statistics for the white population are only 19.1 deaths per 100,000 live births. This year it took 8 months and 21 days for Black women to earn what a white male made the previous year as they only earn between 58-67 cents per every dollar a white male does.

You might be thinking these are major cultural and institutional changes and America just hasn't had enough time yet to make large shifts to ensure LGBTQ+ and Black lives matter. So that means having had around 550 years to change our systematic relations with Indigenous communities has been successful? Wrong again. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relative epidemic has likely come across your radar lately after Canada has refused to search for two Indigenous victims of a serial killer who are believed to be at a landfill. The epidemic is treated no better here in the United States. Overall murder rates of Native American women on reservations is 10x higher than the national average and the 3rd cause of death in general. Additionally several studies have found that a majority of sexual violence cases against Native women are by non-Native perpetrators. As of October 11th 2022, the Navajo Nation and state of New Mexico have 192 cases of missing Indigenous peoples. Long held knowledge of Indigenous communities but a shock to non-Indigenous people came in spring of this year when 500 children who died at the hands of boarding schools were identified. Taking Native children from their families continued late into

2022 when the Supreme Court began hearing arguments for *Haaland v. Brackeen*. This case has the potential to overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) which provides legal protections to safeguard Native children's connection to their community and culture. Prior to ICWA Native children were placed outside of their communities 85% of the time despite competent family members being available.

This data only begins to skim the issues of inequities non-normative communities faced this year. As we enter 2023 I urge you to engage with the 2022 data reports that will be released and take appropriate action. But for now we finish 2022 off in the country where "All Lives Matter" with a *Summary of Terrorism Threat to the United States* from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). They warn of a potential increase in domestic terrorism with targets including the LGBTQ+ and racial minority communities. Americans have been found praising the Colorado Springs LGBTQ+ club shooter online and there is a worry of violence correlated with the increase of immigrant-positive culture. All lives do not matter when LGBTQ+, BIPOC and disabled people are waking up without basic human rights and a risk to their lives for existing. We say Black Lives Matter, Transgender Lives Matter, Disabled Lives Matter, Indigenous Lives Matter, Brown Lives Matter, etc not to divide us but to remind you that all lives do not matter in American society.

We invite you to an online Convergence: Enlightening Our Way Together. Seven days dedicated to Ceremonies, Offerings and a creative Open Space Technology gathering designed to connect, reflect, look back and move forward together.

Starting Friday, December 16th and continuing through Thursday, December 22nd, let us gather to contemplate, learn, co-imagine, play, and dream together with the healing and restorative work we are called to do, to be of deeper service to each other and our planet.

Through these special Global Fires, Cermonies, and Offerings we aspire to learn, collaborate and celebrate our Beloved Community and our collective body of work.

https://globalfire.earth/

SELF-REFLECTION AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

By Swami Ramananda

As the daylight hours shorten in the northern hemisphere this time of year, it's natural to spend more time indoors. Plant and animal life alike pause from growing and withdraw from activity. We too benefit from periods of rest and reflection as a preparation for the next seasons of growth, and for some of us, retreating from interactions continues to be a way to protect ourselves from COVID.

As spiritual aspirants, pausing to reflect on our behavior, and the thoughts and motives behind it, are an essential part of the spiritual path. Increased self-awareness enables us to disentangle ourselves from the habitual thought patterns that cloud our vision. Then we can uncover the roots of our suffering and expose the unconscious beliefs that are the seeds for frustration and struggle.

There are significant obstacles to reflecting this way. Taking an honest look at the difficult moments in our lives can be challenging. Allowing ourselves to feel the sorrow or anxiety in our hearts is painful and can make us feel ashamed or depressed. For many of us, acknowledging our struggles threatens the image we are trying to live up to and project to others.

Instead of stopping to reflect on a moment of discomfort, we may simply divert our attention to some form of entertainment or escape, like checking messages or social media. In this digital age, our senses are constantly drawn outward by our numerous devices, making it easy to ignore feelings of angst or upset, and leaving no time to understand the reasons behind them.

One way to support an effort to sincerely look at ourselves is to talk with a trusted friend or therapist, someone with whom we can be completely honest. We may need the safety of their genuine care to allow ourselves to look in the dark corners of our hearts and allow ourselves to explore painful emotions. When we are able to release our anger or grief, we can often see the unhealthy expectations or desires that gave rise to it.

For example, we all like compliments and it can be insightful to see how easily we become angry or hurt when we are criticized. Looking objectively, we can see how our desire to be liked or admired compels us to go to great lengths to make ourselves look good or protect our self-image.

Writing regularly in a journal is another beneficial practice for self-reflection. Knowing it is only for our eyes, we can train ourselves to bare our souls without fear. We can experiment with giving a voice to our confusing feelings to see what lies beneath the compulsive behaviors that even we may not understand. What hidden need might compel me to twist the truth, fall again into an addictive habit, take more than my share, or blurt out some hurtful words?

A regular meditative practice makes it possible to stand apart from our own minds with enough mental strength and clarity to ask such questions. Meditation develops the neutral awareness needed to analyze our behavior without identifying with or rationalizing it. Only with such mindfulness will we be able to catch ourselves before reacting on impulse and slow down enough to make a conscious choice instead.

Making conscious choices is the only way we can expect to keep our balance and maintain a positive frame of mind in a world full of ever-changing circumstances beyond our control. We empower ourselves not by successfully controlling things around us, but by choosing to think and act guided by the deeper voice of the Self that keeps our hearts open and free of selfishness.

Taking time to reflect need not only apply to

difficulty. Reflecting on the many gifts we have received keeps the difficulties in perspective and reminds us of how blessed we are. Keeping the big picture in mind – knowing we are safe, relatively healthy, and have more than adequate food and shelter – exposes the petty nature of many of our problems.

And if we are serious about wanting to experience the unchanging peace that is our birthright, we must welcome the suffering that challenges us to seek it. Looking deeply, we have the opportunity to see how much of our pain is self-inflicted, often from clinging to things that don't last. Letting go of our efforts to arrange for some form of external happiness, we are free to experience the natural joy that comes from accepting what life brings us. Letting go of judgement, we are free to more fully extend loving acceptance to ourselves and each other.

Peace Restoration in Refugee Settlements Western Uganda

a partnership project with Rejoice Africa Foundation

The goal of this project is to promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and locals in hosting communities by facilitating peace restoration in refugee settlements in Western Uganda. This will be accomplished through peace-related sensitization programs, the formation of peace clubs, and the facilitation of mediations and negotiations on peaceful coexistence and resource sharing in order to promote peace in refugee settlements and host communities.

Read the full concept note at
https://wecan.we.net/peace-restoration-in-refugee-settlements-in-western-uganda_concept-note/

SURVIVING THE KILLING FIELDS, A WORLDWIDE CHALLENGE

By Kathy Kelly and Nick Mottern

October 10, 2022
Awaiting discharge from a hospital in Cairo, Adel Al Manthari, a Yemeni civilian, faces months of physical therapy and mounting medical bills following three surgeries since 2018, when a U.S. weaponized drone killed four of his cousins and left him mangled, burnt and barely alive, bedridden to this day.

Adel Al Manthari in his hospital bed Photo: Intercept

On October 7th, President Biden announced, through Administration officials briefing the press, a new policy regulating U.S. drone attacks, purportedly intended to reduce the numbers of civilian casualties from the attacks.

Absent from the briefings was any mention of regret or compensation for the thousands of civilians, like Adel and his family, whose lives have been forever altered by a drone attack. Human rights organizations like the UK- based *Reprieve* have sent numerous requests to the U.S. Department of Defense and the State Department, seeking compensation to assist with Adel's medical care, but no action has been taken. Instead, Adel and his family rely on a **Go Fund Me** campaign which has raised sufficient funds to cover the most recent surgery and hospitalization. But, Adel's supporters are now begging for more assistance to pay for crucial physical therapy plus household expenses for Adel and two of his sons, his primary caregivers during the extended stay in Egypt. The family struggles with precarious finances, yet the Pentagon budget seemingly can't spare a dime to help them.

Writing for the New York Review of Books, (September 22, 2022), Wyatt Mason described the Lockheed Martin Hellfire 114 R9X, nicknamed the "ninja bomb," as an air-to-surface, drone-launched missile with a top speed of 995 miles per hour. Carrying no explosives, the R9X purportedly avoids collateral damage. As The Guardian reported in September 2020, 'The weapon uses a combination of the force of 100lb of dense material flying at high speed and six attached blades which deploy before impact to crush and slice its victims.'"

Adel was attacked before the "ninja bomb" was in more common use. Indeed it is unlikely that he would have survived had his attackers hit the car he and his cousins were traveling in with the barbaric weapon designed to slice up their broken bodies. But this would be small comfort to a man

A screenshot from a video recorded by a local activist and lawyer shows the aftermath of the March 29, 2018 U.S. drone strike which killed four civilians and critically injured Adel Al Manthari near Al Ugla, Yemen. Image: Mohammed Hailar via Reprieve. from The Intercept

who recalls the day when he and his cousins were attacked. The five of them were traveling by car to examine a real estate proposition for the family. One of the cousins worked for the Yemeni military. Adel worked for the Yemeni government. None of them were ever linked to non-governmental terrorism. But somehow they were targeted. The impact of the missile which hit them

instantly killed three of the men. Adel saw, with horror, the strewn body parts of his cousins, one of whom was decapitated. One cousin, still alive, was rushed to a hospital where he died days later.

The Biden administration seems keen to depict a kinder, gentler form of drone attacks, avoiding collateral damage by using more precise weapons like the "ninja bomb" and assuring that President Biden himself orders any attacks waged in countries where the United States is not at war. The "new" rules actually continue policies set up by former President Obama.

Adel Al Manthari, then a civil servant in the Yemeni government, is treated for severe burns, a fractured hip, and serious damage to the tendons, nerves and blood vessels in his left hand following a drone strike in Yemen in 2018. Photo: Reprieve

Annie Shiel, of the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) says the new lethal force policy entrenches the previous policies. "The new lethal force policy is also secret," she writes, "preventing public oversight and democratic accountability."

President Biden can confer upon himself the power to kill other human beings anywhere in the world because he has determined, as he said after he ordered the drone assassination of Ayman al-Zawahiri, " if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out."

Martin Sheen, noted for his portrayal of U.S. President Josiah Bartlet on the 1999-2006 TV series "The West Wing," has provided the voice-over for two 15-second cable spots critical of U.S. drone warfare. The spots ran on CNN and MSNBC channels showing in Wilmington, DE, the hometown of President Joe Biden.

The Biden administration seems keen to depict a kinder, gentler form of drone attacks, avoiding collateral damage by using more precise weapons like the "ninja bomb" and assuring that President Biden himself orders any attacks waged in countries where the United States is not at war. The "new" rules actually continue policies set up by former President Obama.

In both spots, Sheen, who has a long history of opposing war and human rights violations, notes the tragedy of civilians killed overseas by U.S. drones. As images of press reports about drone operator suicides roll, he asks: "Can you imagine the unseen effects on the men and women who operate them?"

Humanity faces rising perils of climate catastrophe and nuclear weapon proliferation. We need fictive voices like that of Sheen's West Wing president and the very real, albeit sidelined leadership of people like Jeremy Corbyn in the UK:

"Some say to discuss peace at a time of war is a sign of some kind of weakness," Corbyn writes, noting "the opposite is true. It is the bravery of peace protesters around the world that stopped some governments from being involved in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, or any of the dozens of other conflicts going on. Peace is not just the absence of war; it is real security. The security of knowing you will be able to eat, your children will be educated and cared for, and a health service will be there when you need it. For millions, that is not a reality now; the after effects of the war in Ukraine will take that away from millions more. Meanwhile, many countries are now increasing arms spending and investing resources in more and more dangerous weapons. The United States has just approved its biggest-ever defense budget. These resources used for weapons are all resources not used for health, education, housing, or environmental protection. This is a perilous and dangerous time. Watching the horror play out and then preparing for more conflicts in the future will not ensure that the climate crisis, poverty crisis, or food supply is addressed. It's up to all of us to build and support movements that can chart another course for peace, security, and justice for all."

Well said.

The current line up of world leaders seem

incapable of leveling with their people about the consequences of pouring money into military budgets which then allow “defense” corporations to profit from weapon sales, worldwide, fueling forever wars and enabling them to unleash legions of lobbyists to assure that government officials continue feeding the greedy, barbaric corporate missions of outfits like Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Boeing and General Atomics.

We must follow the bright lights arrayed across the world as grass roots movements campaign for environmental sanity and seek to abolish war. And we must engage in the gentle personalism which endeavors to tell Adel Al Manthari we’re sorry, we’re so very sorry for what our countries have done to him, and we earnestly wish to help.

Kathy Kelly and Nick Mottern co-coordinate the BanKillerDrones campaign.
Mottern serves on the Board of Directors for Veterans for Peace and Kelly is
Board President of World BEYOND War.

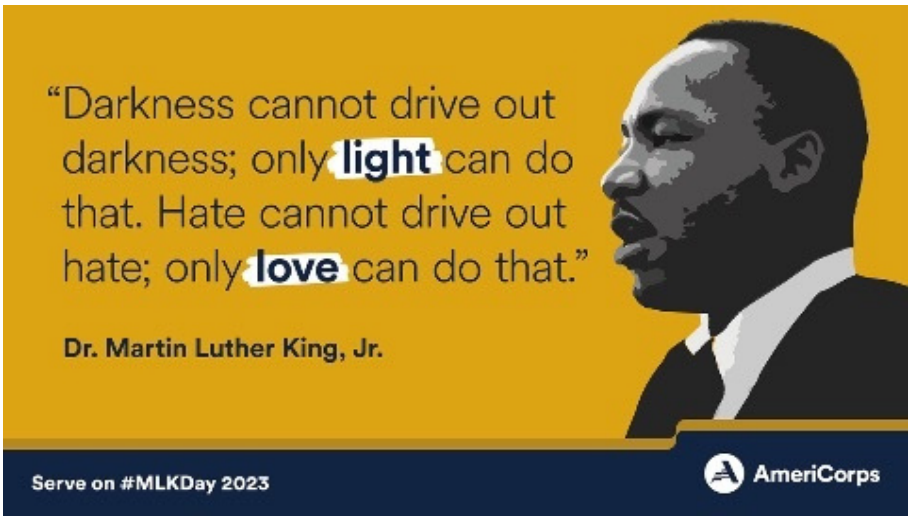
WE Tanzania

wecan.we.net in partnership with motherearthproject.org

MLK: MANIFESTING THE DREAM TAKE ACTION AND BE OF SERVICE

JANUARY 15TH – FEBRUARY 28TH

VISIT WE.NET/MLK



Join WE for the Annual MLK Day of Service and 40 Days of Peace

Join We, The World and leaders from across the country, to take action in a variety of ways to carry forward the Work and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 21st Century. Working together, we can create Community Service Projects, produce Interactive Broadcasts, Workshops and other activities that Inspire, Inform, and Involve volunteer participants, bringing forth words and actions of peace and love to the people of The United States and to the World.

Ways to Participate

➡ Register to attend events and receive updates

➡ Sign up to volunteer

➡ Become a partner

➡ Start and share your community service project

➡ Add your events to Global Unity Calendar

➡ Explore highlights from past Manifesting the Dream events

➡ Subscribe to the Global Action Newsletter

Join Us for a

MOMENT OF SILENCE ON CEASE FIRE, ACTS OF PEACE

9/21/23 12 Noon ET

to Support the International Day of Peace in TIMES SQUARE, New York and Everywhere else!!!

2023 Plans: In Times Square 3/22/23 World Water Day Press Conference, 4/22/23 Earth & Water Day Concert, 9/11/23 Press Conference, 9/21/23 International Day of Peace Concert.

Also, A Major Event on 9/11/23 in the Great Lawn in Central Park, New York and World Wide. For Respect for 9/11 and to announce 11 Days of Global Unity and the Upcoming 9/21 International Day of Peace. UNIFY to Broadcast.

International Day of Peace, Sizzle Reel 2022 from Paul Sladkus on Vimeo. https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/772457663

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

By Jerome Henkin

On Saturday, my wife and I finally purchased a dishwasher and gas range – success after two months of agonizing and indecision. Afterward, she agreed to accompany me in search of several black walnut trees in White Plains. Zilch from four different trees that bore heavily last year -- I didn't find as much as a split husk. So when she spied a CVS pharmacy on Central Avenue on the way home, and she remembered that she desperately needed to purchase a certain conditioning shampoo, what was I going to say? She assured me, "I'll just be five minutes." Of course, that translates to at least 20 to 30 minutes, and although I was getting really hungry, I didn't want to keep driving home: I'd never hear the tragedy that resulted if I did.

The day was turning cooler, and I decided that while I was waiting, I would satisfy the rumbling in my stomach with a nice hot meatball hero. I went into a deli. Alas, the menu only contained cold cuts, an assortment of veggies, and cheeses. The Manager, who was young enough to be my grandson, came out and saw me squinting at the lists above workers heads. "Can I help you sir?" he politely asked. Maybe he recognized the look of someone lean and hungry who just wanted to go home. "You don't have any hot food," I said sort of foolishly. This was, of course, obvious from the lack of steam that should have fogged the windows. I turned and walked out slowly. I schlepped along the walkway to the other stores, passing an Asian fusion restaurant and a fancy burger place. The last would have been an OK substitute, except there was a party going on with very excited elementary school children and their parents. I turned in resignation and sauntered back to find my wife in CVS. That's when the cop car stopped me.

Now, for much of my 78 years on this Earth, people have thought I was Irish. Some went as far as to say I reminded them of a certain parish priest. And so I should have been honored when one of the police officers approached me and asked, "Are you James Mulligan?" (I have changed the name to protect the innocent.) I was speechless for about three seconds, until I simply said, "No." With gentleness, the officer asked again, "Are you sure your name is not James Mulligan? Is your first name James?" This time, instead of giving a negative response, I came back with, "Officer, could you please tell me why you're asking me this question?" He replied, "Mr. Mulligan left his senior home and may be lost. Someone called to say they saw an elderly gentleman that matched the description." (Maybe I just should have bought a cup of coffee in the deli.) "I hope that you can find him soon," I said, and started to walk away. He quickly asked, "Where are you going?" "I live in Yonkers, and I'm going home." Evidently this didn't let me off the hook, so, undaunted, he tried one last time, cleverly asking, "What's your first name?", hoping I'd say "Jimmy", or better yet, "I'm not sure." "Jerome," was my response, and I turned my back on him and went into the CVS to retract my wife.

Talk about a missed opportunity! Had I taken on the mantle of the poor James Mulligan, who probably has dementia, within fifteen minutes I would have been taken to the precinct, given a comfy chair in front of the television, and handed a hot meatball hero with extra sauce. With any luck, they would have given me a Heineken. By the time I finished eating, my wife would be coming out of the CVS, concerned with not finding me by the car.

Hey, hunger can make you do strange things.

GALDEF Genital Autonomy Legal Defense & Education Fund

BEC INSPIRED CREW CHOIR UGANDA AND THE POWER OF MUSIC TO UNITE

By Heidi Little

A youth choir surprised singer Heidi Little, with a rendition of a song she wrote called : Release. In this issue of TRENDS Magazine, we wanted to know what prompted them to choose this song, and how it all came about. Read on for this heartwarming story of solidarity through music.
What made you decide to do this song?

It is known that nothing cuddles our souls like music. Therefore, because music is a universal tool for cuddling our souls at all times, we need to make it available even to the hard to reach places because we all have souls that need to be cuddled by this music.

We all know that music connects humanity. With the existence of technology, rural communities just need to have the internet, music instruments and a projector. Then we get our youth connected through music/art. Then we get the music/art trainers to offer an hour or two to train these poor rural youths, who are amazingly talented but not fully supported to achieve their dreams through their talents.

It is so, because they can't hire a trainer, they can't have a projector, reliable internet connection and things are made worse when a certain community does not have electricity to power the mentioned machines.

With this specific song, Release, it inspires us not to lose hope in what has happened to us because of where we are. We are hopeful that the world is ready to stand with us and break the chains of isolation and talent immaturity.

We are aiming at letting the world know that rural communities have talents and they deserve holistic support to reach higher horizons.

Passionate artists like Heidi Little inspire BEC INSPIRED CREW members to do more! because this artist is standing with the youth and BEC, regardless of where they are. That is so humanitarian and inspiring to us to believe in ourselves and the future will be enjoyable. And that is the role of music/Art.

Listen and watch here:
https://youtu.be/xqYz4CpI804

Rick Ulfik Receives the Source of Synergy Foundation's 2022 Synergy Superstar Award

The award recognizes Rick's exemplary work in fostering We Consciousness around the world. This Award is given to extraordinary individuals who Source the power of Synergy to expand human consciousness, increase our connection with the totality of all and utilize their vast gifts in service to the great evolutionary awakening which sets into motion Potent Forces of creative transformational change.

Rick joins distinguished past awardees Barbara Marx Hubbard, Dr. Don Edward Beck, Dr. Jean Houston, Dr. Ervin Laszlo and Dr. Kurt Johnson.

In awarding this honor to Rick he is recognized for his work including as the Founder of We, The World and the WE Campaign at WE.net. We, The World is an international coalition-building organization whose Mission is to maximize social change globally - until we have a world that works for all. To fulfill this mission We, The World creates and promotes Programs, Platforms and Campaigns that unite and amplify the efforts of changemakers working for the Common Good.

Rick is the Co-Creator of the annual 11 Days of Global Unity - 11 Ways to Change the World September 11th through September 21st, the International Day of Peace. Launched by We, The World and global partners in 2004, 11 Days has become a worldwide platform for the promotion of peace, justice, sustainability and transformation that annually includes as many as 700 associated events in over 60 countries. Supporters and participants include: Desmond Tutu, Jane Goodall, Deepak Chopra, Bill McKibben, Marianne Williamson, Daniel Ellsberg, Amy Goodman, Ralph Nader, Hazel Henderson, Patch Adams, Eve Ensler, Arun Gandhi, Riane Eisler, Robert Thurman, Barbara Marx Hubbard and many others.

Rick has worked with Nonviolent Communication (NVC) since 2004 and has been an NVC workshop facilitator with the New York Center for Nonviolent Communication. He has participated in many workshops led by internationally acclaimed mediator and creator of NVC Marshall Rosenberg who joined the Advisory Board of We, The World.

Rick Ulfik is also an award-winning composer and keyboard player who has written, arranged, produced and orchestrated music for ABC TV, NBC, CBS, the Olympics, feature films, commercials, records, and has performed with Queen Latifah, Phoebe Snow, Carlos Santana, Bernadette Peters, and Judy Collins.

Rick serves every year as an Emmy Awards Judge for News, Documentaries, and Music.

Karuna works with yoga communities around the world, is founder of Light on Kundalini (.com), a co-founder of Light on Light Publications and Media and The Convergence Series on VoiceAmerica. Annually she joins with The Committee for the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations in their creation of the annual Yoga e-magazine by the Committee and Light on Light.

Sande Hart is a grandmother, mother, wife and Sister, founder of S.A.R.A.H. (The Spiritual And Religious Alliance for Hope women's global interfaith organization) and author of The Liminal Odyssey, The Alchemical Power of The Spaces In-Between.

Sue Blythe, M.Ed., is a peace educator in formal and informal settings, having taught at all levels from preschool to college to senior centers. She is currently teaching climate action for peace in a community-engagement pilot program with We, the World and the University of Florida Extension. The Florida Climate Conversation-to-Action Program tells an evolving New Story for the human family and the community of life on Earth. She dedicates this story to her eight grandchildren and their great-grandchildren.

Catherine McKeon Mondkar is a Landscape Planner and an ISA Certified Arborist (NY-5957A)

Brian Mclaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" He is a core faculty member of The Living School and podcaster with Learning How to See, which are part of the Center for Action and Contemplation. He is also an Auburn Senior Fellow.

Patrick Carolan is a Catholic activist, writer and storyteller. He served as the Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network, co-founded the Global Catholic Climate Movement, the Faithful Democracy Coalition and the Catholics Vote Common Good organization.

Gene Dolgoff is a physicist, engineer, and inventor, specializing in coherent optics and holography, developer of holographic X-Ray, CT, ultrasound, and MRI medical imaging, a former member of the Fonar Corporation MRI development team, Inventor of HET (Holographic Energy Teleportation), Advanced Nanoparticles, the LCD Projector, Holographic Transfer Printing, US HDTV system format, Instant 2-D to 3-D Converter, Holographic Video Projector, ANSI Digital Projection Standards, Cloaking Device, the Star Trek Holodeck, and was the Founder, CEO, and CTO of Projectavision, Inc. (NASDAQ), the world's first LCD projector company. Mr. Dolgoff taught Optics, Lasers, and Holography at the City College of the City University of New York, and authored the text used. He has published various articles and technical papers, and has over 65 patents worldwide.

Heidi Little M.ED is a Vocalist/Songwriter/Performing Artist -Self Love and Empowerment Educator, Owner at Omnipresent Entertainment, Director at International Childrens Month, Creative Director Music and Children and Youth WE The World, Founder The Center for Advancement in Social Emotional Learning, Radio Host One Love Rising, Owner One Clothing and Author Child Of The Heart Series and SEL Modules/Curriculum 2022.

Karen Palmer is a best-selling author and popular online talk show host. Karen regularly does shows online to help promote 11 Days of Global Unity and other We, The World programs. Her organization is dedicated to educating children and families about environmental issues, animal advocacy, kindness, mindfulness, and compassion. She is the mom who made a wish and started a kindness revolution!

Callum Cintron (They/Them) is a volunteer residing in Northwest New Jersey on the traditional land of the Munsee Lenape. They are the Director of Operations and Human Rights Coordinator at We, The World. There they have created a program called Rethinking Community that serves the LGBTQ+, BIPOC and Disabled communities. The goal of the program is to foster community and support among historically underrepresented communities. Callum has a degree in Anthropology with a focus on diversity studies. They are a part of the LGBTQ+ community and are passionate about creating an equitable world for all.

Swami Ramananda is the Executive Director of the Integral Yoga Institute in San Francisco and a greatly respected senior teacher in the Integral Yoga tradition, who has been practicing Yoga for over 45 years. Ramananda offers practical methods of integrating the timeless teachings and practices of Yoga into daily life. He leads the Yoga teacher training programs in San Francisco and offers a variety of programs in the US, Europe and South America.

Jerome Henkin is a retired high school English teacher. To further his mission in feeding people healthful food, he promotes the use of nuts and seed sprouts for human consumption. Planting nut trees is a long-term approach for food security; growing sprouts can help supply folks with healthy, low-cost food all year long. He participates in yoga, tai chi, and the Feldenkrais Technique for good health.

To contribute to
Trends in Global Grassroots Organizing
visit trends.we.net for more information.

December 2022 - February 2023

Trends.WE.net

WE, The World

TRENDS

in Global Grassroots Organizing

The WE Campaign - WE.net