Report on New Story Meeting on April 23, 2018

This is a report on our last meeting, not minutes, because there is no way to capture the rich discussion and insights that so enliven our meetings. These are the announcements of events and references that came up during the discussion. The report also includes further reflections and expanded quotes.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Fellowship at 6:30 pm in the Library

Program at 7:00 pm in the Parlor

DRAFT AGENDA

* **Grady McGonagill** will lead a discussion on religious naturalism.
* **Mary Coelho** will report on Carlo Rovelli’s *Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Journey to Quantum Gravity.*
* *Find a topic for our Spring Retreat*

Upcoming Events

**SUNDAY, MAY 6**, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, at Cambridge Cohousing, 175 Richdale Ave, Cambridge

**Active hope: an Introduction to the Work that Reconnects**

WE LIVE IN AN EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT ON EARTH. As we witness unprecedented destruction of ecological, biological, and social systems, we can feel overwhelmed by anger, fear, and other difficult emotions. How can we remain resilient, creative, and empowered to act for the healing of our irreplaceable world?

The **Work that Reconnects**, developed by teacher/activist Joanna Macy and others, draws on deep ecology, systems theory, and engaged Buddhism. Practices include group meditations, ritual, conversation in pairs, dance, and song. We will explore spiritual, emotional, and intellectual aspects of envisioning and creating a life-sustaining society.

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email john\_macdougall@uml.edu. Please register early, as space will be limited. Suggested Donation: $5-$20

**THURSDAY, MAY 10**, 6:00 – 9:00 pm at [Temple Ohabei Shalom,](https://www.ohabei.org/hours-and-directions.html) 1187 Beacon St, Brookline, MA 02446

**CMM's Anniversary Fundraising Dinner 2018** with Rev. Liz Walker on “Moral Courage in Public Policy**"**

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? Why do communities need to be a part of shaping public policy? What areas do they want involvement in? What are some examples in communities already? How do WE participate in society? It will be a night of music, community awards, and a great way to meet people across our different constituencies.

Come support **Mary Kay Klein**, who will be receiving an award!

**SUNDAY, MAY 14**, 6:30-9:00 pm at Cambridge Cohousing, 175 Richdale Ave., Cambridge MA

**An Evening with Apache Elder Tomas Eagle Bear**

APACHE ELDER TOMAS EAGLE BEAR will present an evening of Native American song and storytelling. Topics may include the Sun Dance, Vision Quest, Inipi (“sweat lodge”), and Coming of Age ceremony. Eagle Bear will also perform a hoop dance. He has kindly agreed hold a session for Quakers and any interested others on the evening he is in Boston while he is visiting the Northeast. It’s free but donations to support Eagle Bear’s cultural center are welcome.

Questions or more information: David Anick

**MONDAY, MAY 14,** 7:00 -9:00 pm at Friends Meeting at Cambridge

***Drawdown C02*** (video and presentation)

A VIDEO OF PAUL HAWKING speaking about his book [Drawdown](http://www.drawdown.org/) will be followed by discussion led by three distinguished local leaders showing already feasible strategies to lower and remove CO2 from our atmosphere.

Project Drawdown is the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. Our organization did not make or devise the plan—we found the plan because it already exists. We gathered a qualified and diverse group of researchers from around the world to identify, research, and model the 100 most substantive, existing solutions to address climate change. What was uncovered is a path forward that can roll back global warming within thirty years. It shows that humanity has the means at hand. Nothing new needs to be invented. The solutions are in place and in action. Our work is to accelerate the knowledge and growth of what is possible. We chose the name Drawdown because if we do not name the goal, we are unlikely to achieve it.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 15, to SUNDAY, JUNE 17**, at West Falmouth, MA

**Topic to be determined**

ANNUAL NEW STORY RETREAT at the home of Gwen Noyes and Art Klipfel, a time for relaxing and extended discussions. Past topics include ‘what is the New Story elevator speech’ and preparing workshops on evolutionary spirituality (2016) and recovering sacred presence in a disenchanted world (2017). What will it be this year? Whatever the topic, it will be a great time for sharing. Let Gwen at gnoyes@oakdev.com know as soon as possible that you plan to attend, because space is limited.

Resources



Reference to [Rabindranath Tagore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabindranath_Tagore)came up again.

Our passions and desires are unruly, but our character subdues these elements into a harmonious whole. Does something similar to this happen in the physical world? Are the elements rebellious, dynamic with individual impulse? And is there a principle in the physical world which dominates them and puts them into an orderly organization?

*— Interviewed by Einstein, 14 April 1930*

**Jennifer Morgan’s** website, <http://www.universestories.com> is a valuable New Story resource for books and related websites. She gives programs on the new cosmology for Montessori teachers and staff retreats for protestant clergy.

**Ursula Goodenough** is the author of *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. Here is a quote from pages xiv-xv, after discussing the range of religious practices . . .

“In the end, each of these religions addresses two fundamental human concerns: How Things Are and Which Things Matter. How Things Are becomes formulated as a Cosmology or Cosmos: How the universe came to be, how humans came to be, what happens after we die, the origins of evil and tragedy and natural disaster. Which Things Matter becomes codified as a Morality or Ethos: the Judaic Ten Commandments, the Christian Sermon on the Mount, the Five Pillars of Islam, the Buddhist Vinaya, and the Confucian Five Relations. The role of religion is to integrate the Cosmology and the Morality, to render the cosmological narrative so rich and compelling that it elicits our allegiance and our commitment to its emergent moral understandings. As each culture evolves, a unique Cosmos and Ethos appear in its co-evolving religion. For billions of us, back to the first humans, the stories, ceremonies, and art associated with our religions-of origin are central to our matrix.

“I stand in awe of these religions. I am deeply enmeshed in one of them myself. I have no need to take on the contradictions or immiscibilities between them, any more than I would quarrel with the fact that Scottish bagpipes coexist with Japanese tea ceremonies . . .”

Ursula is one of the best-known voices in [religious naturalism](https://religiousnaturalism.org/ursula-goodenough/), a worldview grounded in the sciences, the humanities, and the arts. She is a long-term member and served as President of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS).

*Symbiotic Earth: How* ***Lynn Margulis*** *rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution* is a feature length documentary which presents a portrait of the great scientist and teacher Lynn Margulis who was at the helm of a significant paradigm shift in biology that affects how we look at ourselves, evolution, and planet Earth.

You can view the trailer here: <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/>

**Steve Stodola** sent in a short blog post from the [Climate and Capitalism website](http://climateandcapitalism.com/2018/04/17/five-revolutions-how-bacteria-created-the-biosphere-and-caused-the-first-climate-crisis/): “Five Revolutions: How bacteria created the biosphere and caused the first climate crisis” based on **Lynn Margulis’** discoveries.

**Carlo Rovelli’s** *Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Journey to Quantum Gravity* has piqued the interest of several people in the New Story group. Wikipedia summarizes his position on religion as follows:

Rovelli discusses his religious views in several articles and in his book on Anaximander. He argues that the conflict between rational/scientific thinking and structured religion may find periods of truce ("there is no contradiction between solving Maxwell's equations and believing that God created Heaven and Earth"[17]), but is ultimately unsolvable, because (most) religions demand the acceptance of some unquestionable Truths, while scientific thinking is based on the continuous questioning of any truth. Thus, for Rovelli the source of the conflict is not the pretense of science to give answers—the universe, for Rovelli, is full of mystery, and a source of awe and emotions—but, on the contrary, the source of the conflict is the acceptance of our ignorance at the foundation of science, which clashes with religions' pretense to be depositories of certain knowledge. ("The First Scientist", pg. 153)

**Steve Stodola** found this interview with **Carlo Rovelli** and Christa Tippet on **“On Being”**

**All Reality Is Interaction**

“We don't understand the world as made by stones — by things. We understand the world made by kisses, or things like kisses: happenings.” Carlo Rovelli offers vast, complex ideas beyond most of our imagining — "quanta," "grains of space," "time and the heat of black holes" — and condenses them into spare, beautiful words that render them newly explicable and moving. He is the scientist behind the global bestseller *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*, and for him, all of reality is interaction — an everyday truth as scientific as it is philosophical and political. His physicist’s way of seeing the world helps make sense of what he calls “the huge wave of happenings” that is the human self.

Still Wondering what the New Story is All About?

Listen to Mary Evelyn Tucker from the [Forum on Religion and Ecology](http://fore.yale.edu/multimedia/-journey-of-the-universe-and-the-world-religions/) at Yale deliver a talk on the “*Journey of the Universe* and World Religions” at a conference at the Chautauqua Institution, June 24, 2013. Our great work is to envision a new planetary civilization.

Also from the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale is their [Newsletter, May 2018](https://mailchi.mp/yale/forum-newsletter-may-2018). The number of events, books and articles cited there tells you just how widespread and important the New Story movement is.