

New Story Happenings

May 21, 2018

Your monthly update on the New Story group at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, compiled by your convener Cornelia Parkes, new-story@fmcquaker.org . Previous editions and reports are on the New Story webpage, <https://fmcquaker.org/outreach/new-story/> .

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, MAY 29, AT FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE

DRAFT AGENDA

- 6:30 pm Gather in the Library for tea and fellowship
- 7:00 pm Program starts in Parlor
- Introductions and announcements
- Grady McGonagill will lead a discussion on religious naturalism
- Planning for June retreat
- Mary Coelho will continue her investigation of Carl Rovelli's bestseller *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*.
- Planning for June and summer meetings
- 9:00 pm Closing

REIGIOUS NATURALISM

“As is contained in its name, religious naturalism has two central aspects.

“One is a naturalist view of how things happen in the world – in which the natural world is all there is (and that nothing other than natural, including an active personal God, may cause events in the world).

“The other is appreciation of religion (which, for many, is mainly personal), with a view that Nature can be a focus of religious attention.

“Naturalist views, grounded in science, provide a framework for understanding what seems real. These include a central story, the epic of evolution that explains the origins of the cosmos and humans, with perspectives from which to consider why we do what we do.

“Religious orientation includes spiritual responses, which can include feelings of appreciation, gratitude, humility, reverence, and joy at the wonder of being alive. It also includes moral responses, involving values rooted in nature – to seek justice and cooperation among social groups and balance in ecosystems.

“Beyond these basic premises, religious naturalism has no dogmas or specific beliefs, and it includes a range of views on different topics.”

See more at <https://religiousnaturalism.org/what-is-religious-naturalism/>

“Are You A Religious Naturalist Without Knowing It?” by Ursula Goodenough, January 2010. (https://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2010/01/are_you_a_religious_naturalist.html)

“What is Religious Naturalism?” by Jerome A. Stone (http://faculty.uml.edu/rinnis/2000_stone_2_1.pdf)

CARL ROVELLI

All Reality Is Interaction (<https://onbeing.org/programs/carlo-rovelli-all-reality-is-interaction-mar2017/> , **On Being** podcast)

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. This physicist’s way of seeing the world helps make sense of what he calls “the huge wave of happenings” that is the human self.

The Order of Time (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgsoI4ZUkUA>)

Carl Rovelli explains that time doesn’t really exist in his new book *The Order of Time*, Penguin Books, April, 2018.

“The bestselling author of *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* takes us on an enchanting, consoling journey to discover the meaning of time.

“We are time. We are this space, this clearing opened by the traces of memory inside the connections between our neurons. We are memory. We are nostalgia. We are longing for a future that will not come.’

“Time is a mystery that does not cease to puzzle us. Philosophers, artists and poets have long explored its meaning while scientists have found that its structure is different from the simple intuition we have of it. From Boltzmann to quantum theory, from Einstein to loop quantum gravity, our understanding of time has been undergoing radical transformations. Time flows at a different speed in different places, the past and the future differ far less than we might think, and the very notion of the present evaporates in the vast universe.

“With his extraordinary charm and sense of wonder, bringing together science, philosophy and art, Carlo Rovelli unravels this mystery. Enlightening and consoling, *The Order of Time* shows that to understand ourselves we need to reflect on time -- and to understand time we need to reflect on ourselves.”

Read more at <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/301539/the-order-of-time/#lvdSUvvTBFpA5lsj.99>

NEW STORY RETREAT

The annual New Story retreat will be held from Friday, June 15, through Sunday lunch, June 17, at the home of Gwen Noyes and Art Klipfel in West Falmouth, MA. Previously, we have used this weekend for intensive discussion and workshop planning coupled with gardening, bicycling, beach going, and/or rest. We have not yet discerned the focus of this year’s retreat, but it is sure to be invigorating! Space in the house is limited so please let Gwen know at gnoyes@oakdev.com if you would like to attend.

PETROGLYPHS AND CONSCIOUSNESS—FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 7:00 PM AT FMC

Special event sponsored by the **David Anick** and the New Story group;

Ernesto Alvarado will give a talk and slide presentation on petroglyphs from around the world. He believes that some of these beautiful carvings and drawings by indigenous people refer to subtle energies and structures within Earth’s surface that permit communication from and with a higher level of consciousness. He calls it interdimensional communication. Ernesto is an internationally loved shaman and was one of 12 individuals around the world chosen to be interviewed for the acclaimed book, “Shamanic Wisdomkeepers” by Timothy Freke.

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Peter Durigon suggests a screening of *Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution*, a film by John Feldman. Trailer at <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/>

“*Symbiotic Earth* is the story of a scientific rebel. A model of female empowerment, Lynn Margulis fought the male establishment and, through her persistence, triumphed. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Margulis was ridiculed when she articulated a theory that symbiosis was a key driver of evolution. Instead of the mechanistic view that life evolved solely through random genetic mutations and competition, she presented a symbiotic narrative in which bacteria joined together to create the complex cells that formed animals, plants, and all other organisms. The idea that all of life is deeply interconnected

and collaborative has radical implications for how we look at ourselves, evolution, and the environment. “

Distributed in 2018, there have been no screenings in the Boston area. We can set up a screening by contacting <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/screenings/>

Steve Stodola recommends *Planetary* (84 minutes), Directed by Guy Reid from bullfrogfilms <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/plan.html> (2015).

“We are in the midst of a global crisis of perspective. We have forgotten the undeniable truth that every living thing is connected.

“PLANETARY is a provocative and breathtaking wakeup call -- a cross continental, cinematic journey. The film takes us from one of the truly extraordinary events of our civilization, space travel, and looks at how this gave us a totally different perspective on the Earth. It is a humbling reminder of the near-incalculable breadth of our impact on the earth, intellectually challenges us to reconsider our relationship with our home and the urgency to shift our perspective -- to remember that we are **planetary**.”

There are cameo appearances by many of our New Story favorites. The chapter on the New Story is very good. Steve has a copy of the DVD.