

## NEW STORY NEWS MARCH 2021

The next meeting of the New Story Group is **Monday, March 22, at 7:00pm.**

Newcomers are welcome! Come at 6:30pm for fellowship and informal check-ins.

Topic: What examples inspire us to move toward the new story and away from the old story?

Have a look at the *Yes! Magazine*, Spring, 2021, issue “What an Ecological Civilization Looks Like” [HERE](#) and see what inspires you. We will watch and reflect on the main part of the recording of a discussion on the *Yes!* theme with panelists Jeremy Lent, Winona LaDuke, and Leah Penniman. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video in advance.

To participate in the March 22 New Story Zoom meeting, [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225 .

Contact: Cornelia Parkes at [new-story@fmcquaker.org](mailto:new-story@fmcquaker.org).

What does an Ecological Civilization Look Like?

*The path toward an ecological civilization moves us from an uncivilized society based on selfish wealth accumulation to one that is community-oriented and life-affirming.*

*This is the fundamental idea underlying an ecological civilization: using nature’s own design principles to reimagine the basis of our civilization. Changing our civilization’s operating system to one that naturally leads to life-affirming policies and practices rather than rampant extraction and devastation.*

*An ecological civilization is both a new and ancient idea. While the notion of structuring human society on an ecological basis might seem radical, Indigenous peoples around the world have organized themselves from time immemorial on life-affirming principles.*

Jeremy Lent

[“What does an Ecological civilization Look Like?”](#)

*As African Americans, our 400-plus years of immersion in racial capitalism—the commodification of our people and the planet for economic gain—has attempted to crush our sacred connection to the Earth. Many of us have forgotten that our cultural heritage as Black people includes ecological humility, the idea that humans are kin to, not masters of, nature.*

*Despite the pressures to assimilate, there are those who persist in believing that the land and waters are family members, cling to our ancestral ways of knowing, and continue to practice Earth-based technologies. Among the myriad Afro-Indigenous practices that can assist all of humanity on our journey to an ecological civilization, three are explored herein: Ifa divination, soil stewardship, and cultural biomimicry.*

Leah Penniman

[“The Gift of Ecological Humility”](#)

At this time not by coincidence, because he was behind the *YES!* Issue, we also became aware of two books by Philip Clayton on the Ecological Civilization. Philip worked with the New Story Group on our first pamphlet “Quakers and the New Story: Essays on Science and Spirituality” reproduced on the Quaker Earthcare Witness website [here](#). Philip is Founder and President of the Institute for Ecological

Civilization ([EcoCiv.org](http://EcoCiv.org)), which works internationally to support multi-sector innovations toward a sustainable society through collaborations between governments, businesses, policy experts, and NGOs. His recent publications are:

*What is Ecological Civilization?: Crisis, Hope, and the Future of the Planet.* By Philip Clayton and Wm. Andrew Swartz. (2019) See Question 7 “What Does Ecological Civilization Look Like in Practice?”

*The New Possible: Visions of our World Beyond Crisis.* Edited by Philip Clayton, Kelli M. Archie, Jonah Sachs, and Evan Steiner. Forward by Kim Stanley Robinson. (2021). A collection of 27 essays. See #27 “Telling a New Story” by David Korten.

## Other New Story News

“Creating a Post-pandemic Caring Economy” | [An interview with Riane Eisler](#)

*“How do we heal the splintered mind and move into a worldview/consciousness that not only perceives wholeness, but is capable of embodying the life-affirming values necessary to create a Caring Economy? How do we make the whole system changes necessary to support human and all life on our planet? The current pandemic is moving us at lightning speed toward finally recognizing the death-worshipping values (competition, judgement, shaming) inherent in our Dominator Culture and motivating us to consider how we can create a Caring Economy, one based on human values of love, connection, and living in harmony with nature.”*

“[The Great Divide: Dualistic Thinking](#)” | Posted by [Joe Masterleo](#) | Feb 20, 2021 |

Deeptime Network Blog

*“Along evolutionary lines, dualistic thinking (separation consciousness) is becoming obsolete in the noosphere, to one day be considered part of our growing-up history. Over deep time, it will phase-out altogether, replaced by higher levels of spiritualized consciousness, resulting in the emergence of an “ultra-human” phylum (chosen) that Christ foretold and Teilhard anticipated. The same will likely occur among world religions, especially Christianity, when the institutional Church Age will be viewed as the early stages of an antiquated Christology. The same will apply to other world religions that emerged independently during the First Axial Age, at their inception having differentiated themselves from other spiritualities, denominating the formless unitive field into tribal segments like so many cuts of beef. This promises to fully usher in the Second Axial Age, and with it the long-awaited Omega Point in history.”*

[Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation](#), Friday, March 12, 2021, “Living in Heaven Now.”

*Jesus spoke these things, and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, “Father . . . I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word; that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. John 17:1,20-23.*

“This beautiful prayer for union is from Jesus’ Last Supper address to his disciples. It might be the highest level of mystical teaching in the entire New Testament. Here Jesus connects everything: he in his Father, the Father in you, you in God, God in him, God in the world, and you in the world. It is all one.”

## Courses

[“Climate Crisis and Spiritual Wholeness”](#) On-line retreat with Brian Drayton and Jay O’Hara  
March 19 to 21, 2021.

*“As a new regime in Washington takes power, we can share the eagerness with which many will be promoting government action to reduce climate changing emissions, and government policies aimed at addressing centuries of racist energy and transportation policy.*

*Yet we know that the call from God is to enter a new way of being, a new way of life. At their core, the climate crisis and the Gospel are calling us to a new relationship between heaven and earth, and a new relationship of humans to the rest of creation. Both the Gospel and nature itself point us toward the new path of joyful liberation, empowered to take risk and transform by the Spirit.”*

Discover the Wisdom of Mary Magdalene, on-line course with **Cynthia Bourgeault**, April 21, 2021.

Join Cynthia Bourgeault as she brings to light what made Mary Magdalene one of Jesus’ most important and beloved disciples. Discover her legacy as an apostle to our times—revealing a path of conscious love that we too are invited to walk. Learn more and register for our 8-week online course [Mary Magdalene: An Apostle to Our Times](#). Apply for financial assistance by April 7. Registration closes April 14 or when the course is full.