

New Story News for November 2022

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is **Monday, November 28, from 7:00 to 9:00pm**. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome. We are planning a series of meetings around queries about the meaning of the New Story. The discussion will be supplemented with a short video that is relevant to the query. Newcomers and old timers are invited to submit questions that you always wanted to ask in advance of the meeting.

Report on New Story Meeting, October 24, 2022

At the meeting Monday night, Virginia Swain spoke about “**A Spiritual Renaissance to Restore Faith in Leadership: Living with our global soul**” and [Reconciliation Leadership](#), developed over 30 years in the United Nations and now focused on America. Learn how she brought the spiritual to the practical for an interdependent world [here](#) and [here](#). We opened with introductions and check-ins flowed by a meditation on the invitation by Dag Hammarskjold to the quiet room at the United Nations sung by Paulette Meier. [See picture and chant below](#). To request a video of Virginia’s talk please phone or write her at 508-245-6843 or at virginiawoodswain@gmail.com.

For more about Virginia’s work explore her [website](#) and [Friends of Virginia Swain: Restoring Faith in America](#). And a pdf to accompany her book [here](#). Note the following announcements especially.

“[Friends of Virginia Swain: A New American Leadership](#)” November 7, 7:00-8:30pm EST online. RSVP at VirginiaSwain.com/upcoming for zoom link’

Virginia writes, “We must regain the collective spiritual and moral essence in American leaders. In resources provided by [studies at the Fetzer institute](#), the link between spiritual development and the healing of our democracy is established. See our blog posts [here](#) and [here](#).” In 1992, Virginia did her master’s thesis project at the United Nations, Celebration: A Model for Building Global Community (Lesley University 1993) to learn and teach how to create sacred emotional space for groups to grow in human consciousness. She concludes with Pierre Teilhard de Chardin who wrote in 1914 what we need to hear today. (“The Significance and Positive Value of Suffering,” in *Human Energy*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1971)

*What a vast ocean of human suffering spreads over the Earth at every moment.
Of what is this mass formed?
Of blackness, gaps, and rejections?
No, let me repeat the potential energy.
In suffering, the ascending force of the world is concealed in a very intense form.
The whole question is how to liberate it and give it a consciousness of its
significance and potentialities.
The world would leap high towards God if all the sick together were to burn their
pain into a common desire that the kingdom of God should come to rapid fruition
through the conquest and organization of the Earth.
May all the sufferers of the Earth join their sufferings so that the world’s pain
might become a great and unique act of consciousness, elevation, and union.*

Suffering is not new. What is unique today is that it is the present and our actions in the present count. What is unique about today is that there are increasing signs of a transformation of consciousness in the human species, an increasing sense of our humanity. Virginia's talk and the news below are evidence of this.

Head of the Charles, October 23, 2022

Our fearless **Jim Serdy** joined the ranks of the "Octogenarian Eight" to prove age is just a number at Head of the Charles. View the pre-race video [here](#). Way to go, Jim!

November Events of interest to the New Story Group

Cosmogogenesis: An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe

by Brian Swimme. Release date November 15, 2022.

Author event: **November 9, 2022, online** at 8:00 – 9:15pm EST (5:00 – 6:15pm PST)

[Register here.](#)

Brian Swimme will be at this **Flaring Forth celebration** announcing the release of his new book Five years ago, Brian Thomas Swimme marked the 25th anniversary of *The Universe Story* book's publication at the first Flaring Forth Celebration. This year we honor with joy the 30th anniversary of *The Universe Story*. Join host Thomas Spiritbringer as we hear and celebrate other Great Work stories like the new Universe Story Calendar of 2017-2022 and maybe yours, too! We will also celebrate the 108th birthday of Thomas Berry. Contact: Thomas Spiritbringer, ouearthguy@gmail.com

[The Universe Story Calendar Initiative](#): Our New World Calendar of 2017-22ce that transcends, includes, and updates the former Roman Gregorian Calendar of 1582-2017ce for Humanity's Present and Future Generations.

Ecotheology, or Why Climate Crisis and Eco-Anxiety Require a Radically Different Kind of Theology

Lecture by Phil Clayton, November 10 at 7:00pm EST

Register [here](#).

Sponsored by the American Teilhard Association at the Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College. Philip Clayton, PhD. is a well-known expert in the science/religion dialogue and, as President of the Institute for Ecological Civilization, is a very active participant in climate change dialogues. Learn more [here](#).

If anything has been scientifically established, it's anthropogenic climate change. As we learned this last summer, climate disruption means floods, droughts, and fires — levels of social and economic disruption we could hardly have imagined a few decades ago. The result is eco-anxiety and a pervasive sense of

hopelessness, especially in younger people. What resources are available in the Christian tradition for addressing these challenges? Perhaps there is no other contemporary topic where theology and the natural (and social) sciences come together in more profound and important ways — and certainly none on which the fate of the world’s ecosystems more urgently depend. In sharing some thoughts for us to discuss together, I will propose a theology that truly incorporates ecology into the very heart of its method and conclusions — incorporates them as fully as Scholastic theology incorporated medieval philosophy. We will discover some amazing (and fruitful) implications for understanding God and God’s relationship to the world. The result is genuinely “theology in a new key” — not in an artificial sense, but in a, well, organic way. And, I dare say, it’s an approach to theology that genuinely can bring hope.

Phil was co-author of the first pamphlet written by the FMC New Story Group.

So Many New Books!

Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World

By Karen Armstrong. Alfred A. Knopf, New York (2022)

“From one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world, a profound exploration of the spiritual power of nature—and an urgent call to reclaim that power in everyday life. Much has been written on the scientific and technological aspects of climate change.... But Armstrong’s book is both more personal and more profound. Its urgent message is that hearts and minds need to change if we are to once more learn to revere our beautiful and fragile planet.” —The Guardian

The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions

by Greta Thunberg. Release date **February 14, 2023**

In *The Climate Book*, Greta Thunberg has gathered the wisdom of over one hundred experts - geophysicists, oceanographers, and meteorologists; engineers, economists, and mathematicians; historians, philosophers, and Indigenous leaders - to equip us all with the knowledge we need to combat climate disaster. Alongside them, she shares her own stories of demonstrating and uncovering greenwashing around the world, revealing how much we have been kept in the dark. This is one of our biggest challenges, she shows, but also our greatest source of hope. Once we are given the full picture, how can we not act? And if a schoolchild's strike could ignite a global protest, what could we do collectively if we tried?

Inherited Silence: Listening to the Land, Healing the Colonizer Mind

by Louise Dunlap. New Village Press (2022)

An insightful look at the historical damages early colonizers of America caused and how their descendants may recognize and heal the harm done to the earth and the native peoples.

The New Story spirit hits economists

Homecoming: The Path to Prosperity in a Post-Global World

by Rana Foroohar, Penguin Random House (2022)

Neoliberalism is dying. What's next?

We don't yet have a new unified field theory for the post neoliberal world. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to question the old philosophy.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, the pandemic, the decoupling of the United States and China, and now the war in Ukraine, it's become clear that neoliberal economic models that assumed markets were perfect and globalization was inevitable were wrong.

[For neoliberal economists] , the interests of the nation-state and of democracy could pose problems for economic and political stability. The voting public could not be trusted, and thus national interests (or, more particularly, nationalism) should be constrained by international laws and institutions so that markets and society could function properly. [T]he balance of policy interests between domestic job creation and global market integration [was tipped] toward the latter. The idea was that cheaper consumer prices from imported goods would make up for flatter or even falling wages (in real terms for many working people). But they didn't. ... (Rana Foroohar, New York Times, Opinion, October 23, 2022)

Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist

By Kate Raworth, Chelsea Green Publishing (2017)

The Doughnut consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems.

On Climate

*Everywhere the message is being repeated:
First find peace in ourselves and then become an
activist for transformation. Repeat.*

Joanna Macy: Climate Crisis as a Spiritual Path

[Watch video here.](#)

This 20-minute interview with Joanna Macy will help answer an essential question:

- How are we going to live our lives fully, with inner peace and courage (and even joy) as we confront a world that is destroying itself?

Ask yourself these questions (submitted by Dave Damm-Luhr)

- How does attention to our individual practice link to our concerns for the earth?
- What propels us toward a larger, greener identity?
- What holds us back from a larger, greener identity?
- What actions in the world best match our sense of who we are?
- What are the implications of an expanded identity for sangha (community)?

Read these essays by Joanna Macy.

[Healing Begins with Gratitude](#) by Joanna Macy | November 23, 2021

[Why We Need the Great Turning](#). by Joanna Macy | June 8, 2021

[Joanna Macy on the Great Awakening the Planet Needs](#) by Melvin Mcleod and Joanna Macy | May 15, 2021

The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis

by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, Vintage Books (2020)

The stubborn optimist's guide to the climate crises Listen to Christiana Figueres and Zen Masters

[The Ripple Effect](#) We are in a partnership of resourceful farming families working alongside experienced and committed staff based in the countries where we operate, with support from our teams in the UK and US. Shop for Christmas gifts.

[These are Powerful Times](#). In this episode, co-host Christiana Figueres is joined by an all-female cast. You'll hear from climate activist Abigael (Abbie) Kima from Kenya about her recent visit with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, and Isabel Cavelier, Colombian climate activist and recent recipient of the

prestigious Climate Breakthrough Award, an initiative of the Climate Breakthrough Project. We also feature music from the British indie rock duo, Penelope Isles.

[The Way Out Is In](#) Many of us living through the climate emergency are asking, how do we support positive change in the world? How do I bring presence and insight into my daily life and the global challenges we face? How do I cultivate inner peace amidst these crises? How can I show up in my daily life as my authentic self?

Quantum Wisdom is a part of the Wisdom Tradition.

Helgoland: Making Sense of the Quantum Revolution

by Carlo Rovelli, Riverhead Books (2021)

Helgoland is a dreamy and poetic exploration of quantum mechanics. This slim volume describes the strange subatomic world where nothing is ever completely certain. [Blinkist](#) Rovelli is both a physicist and a philosopher, who is not afraid to apply conclusions from the world of quantum physics to culture.

For an introduction to Rovelli's reality, read this short piece.

[Do Objects Exist?](#) Michael Brooks took physicist Carlo Rovelli to the Tate Britain art gallery to find out what science and art can tell us about the nature of reality. (New Scientist, October 15, 2022)

Picture and chant by Paulette Meier

[Click here for Paulette Meier's chant.](#) (This is a mp3 file)

Figure 1 Meditation Room at the United Nations

