

## What Does Indigenous Wisdom Offer the New Story? [Continued]

The next meeting of the New Story Group is Monday, March 27, from 7:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome!

We will continue our program on Indigenous wisdom with new readings from *RESTORING THE KINSHIP WORLDVIEW: Indigenous voices introduce 28 precepts for rebalancing life on planet earth* by Wahinkpe Topa (Four Arrows) and Darcia Narvaez, Ph.D. (North Atlantic Books, 2022). We will read aloud and discuss precepts chosen by members of the group.

Last month Cornelia Parkes read Chapter 5 "Emphasis on Community Welfare" by Doña Enriqueta Contreras (Zapotecan), Mary Coelho presented Chapter 6 "High Respect for the Sacred Feminine" by Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna, Pueblo), and Karen Ribeiro read Chapter 7 "Respect for Gender Fluidity" by Laura Hall (Haudenosaunee). We had a good discussion on the Doctrine of Discovery.

To attend this meeting, [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

For more information and list of resources, please visit the New Story [web page here](#). To be placed on the email list for New Story News and notices of future meetings contact Cornelia Parkes [new-story@fmcquaker.org](mailto:new-story@fmcquaker.org).

### Afterthoughts

All too often I have my best insights after a New Story meeting. Does this happen to you, too? Please send me your thoughts, a paragraph, one sentence, or an essay and I will share them here.

My precept was "Emphasis on Community Welfare" by Doña Enriqueta Contreras. She wrote, "We are all one: mentally, physically, and spiritually." In Contreras' community everyone is poor. Welfare for her is well-being in a community that shares a tradition of equality. This stands in such contrast to what our society means by welfare—a system of handouts by the government to the poor. The poor are not a community but a class. These handouts are needed because of our extreme disparity in wealth. Welfare is politically contentious, seen as a slippery slope into socialism, which is contrary to our tradition of individualism. The gap between the two kinds of welfare seems too great to overcome.

Here is a puzzle. The other night I listened attentively to Beethoven's "Pastoral" symphony, not just passively as the pleasant background music it has become. For the first time I asked myself how does Beethoven's view of nature reflect an objectified, Western point of view? The music is "romantic". A walk in nature comes across as a walk in the park. What is wrong with that? Well, if we romantically view nature as a walk in the park, it means that we have tamed it; we are the masters. What do you think?

Karen Ribeiro presented the precept on "Respect for Gender Fluidity" by Laura Hall. In the following editor's discussion Darcia Naváres added that physicist David Bohm expressed what Indigenous wisdom understands: "The world is one of dynamic unity; everything is connected and interacting with no separable or static objects." This reflects the influence of Indigenous thought in his worldview. But Bohm's implicate order is part of his "hidden variables" theory of quantum physics. There are other

theories to choose from that are more compatible with the New Story, namely, the relational theory of quantum physics proposed by Carlo Rovelli, which also assumes that everything is connected and interacting.

There is a quote that is not part of anyone's chosen chapter that has deeply impressed me. In the percept 18 "Conflict Resolution as Return to Community." Wanda D. McCaslin (Métis) writes:

*Looking beyond those immediately involved, Indigenous people tend to interpret hurtful actions less individualistically and more as signs of imbalances within the community as a whole— imbalances that affect everyone. In this sense, offenders help the community by drawing attention to imbalances. Their actions tell us that the essential fabric of the community is starting to unravel and needs mending. ... Instead of placing all the blame on the offender, our traditions acknowledge that everyone in the community has played some role in the patterns that culminated in hurtful actions. The responsibility for harms is distributed and shared.*

I feel that Friends Meeting at Cambridge needs to hear this message. How do I get them to listen to it? (And act on it?)

Bring your thoughts, inspirations, insights to our next meeting! See you there!

Cornelia Parkes

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## Did you know? You live in Anmoughcawgen

Cambridge Day, March 11, 2023. From Susan Davies

"For millennia before this area became known as Newtowne and then Cambridge, it was called Anmoughcawgen. In the Algonquin Natick dialect this means "fishing weir" or "beaver dam," which accurately described the neighborhoods stretching from Alewife to Kendall/MIT. The Charles River was the Quinobequin, or "meandering still water" and what is now Putnam Avenue was referred to as "Wigwam Neck."

The pronunciation of Anmoughcawgen is unclear. ... Anmoughcawgen would therefore be pronounced: An-mou-CAW-gen (in which "gen" rhymes with "hen")."

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## The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations

By Shirley N. Hager and Mawopiyane (Mawopiyane is a name chosen to describe the full group of co-authors. It means, in Passamaquoddy, "let us sit together.") University of Toronto Press (UTP), 2021.

The book tells the incredible story of how Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples came together in Wabanaki territory to explore some of the most pressing questions at the heart of Truth and Healing efforts in the United States and Canada

UTP Talks presents a [Book Launch for The Gatherings](#). June 2021.

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## [Deep Time Network](#)

### Creating Ecozoic Practices with Margie Abbott, RSM

4-week course, April 4 - May 2, Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9 PM ET

Thomas Berry created the term "Ecozoic" to describe an era following the current Cenozoic Era, one in which humans have a mutually enhancing relationship with Earth. How do we tap into the deepest part of ourselves to create personal and communal practices that will help birth an Ecozoic Era? Participants in this course will experience that sense of communion with the larger creative field and develop practices that are needed for our time. For information and to register [click here](#).

### [A Whiff of Green Dragon Breath](#) - Brian Swimme on Auto-Cosmology (3 min)

This video was created by Clifford Berrien for a celebration of Brian Swimme's new book, COSMOGENESIS, that took place on Feb. 23, 2023. All audio components -- except voices and drums/percussion -- are NASA sonifications of Earth, Sun and Cat's Eye Nebula.

### [Up-Coming Course](#)

July 12 - Aug. 4: Quantum Wisdom: An Inquiry into the Nature of Time, with Sarbmeet Kanwal

Time is not what a clock reads. Measuring time and comprehending its essence are two entirely different things. Time is an enigma that lies at the heart of our universe. In this course we will explore these and other mysteries inherent in the nature of time. It will be a combination of science concepts and drawing wisdom from these concepts. More info on the course will be available soon.

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### [Let's Get Bored Together: The Practice of Silence and Resisting the Attention Economy](#)

Blog by Wes Daniels, Professor at Guilford College, February 27, 2023

I am teaching a class this semester at Guilford College called, "The Practice of Silence." The class is both what it sounds like and a lot more. We are studying the Quaker theology behind the Quaker practice of silence but we're also studying it from the broader lens of building focus, attention, and learning how to be still. ... For those wondering: We have three main texts books. The first is the amazing book by Jenny Odell, "How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy." The book is great if you are interested in reading stories and practices that are meant to help move toward a more attentive life.

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### [On Being with Krista Tippett](#)

Listen to the episode that features technologist and artist **James Bridle** sharing information about their book [Ways of Being Animals, Plants, Machines: The Search for a Planetary Intelligence](#) which is beautifully entitled: The Intelligence Singing All Around Us. Expect '*an enlivening opening of imagination to possibilities that are emergent now: the notion of the "broad commonwealth of life" that we are "inextricably entangled with and suffused by" all told via 'an intriguing, refreshing lens on our lives with technology — and with all that artificial intelligence is and might become'.*

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