THE DREAM OF THE EARTH - A CONFERENCE

When we turn to our traditional centers for explaining things and ask why the human species meets almost no objection to a disposal of the earth we do not get answers nor do we get a call to stop and find out how to live properly so that the earth and the entire life system can prosper. The clergy, the churches, the universities, the government, the media and the commercial world are all equally unresponsive to the question.

This is the classic situation out of which immense changes in human perception, worldview, paradigm, "science" occur. When science is very, very wrong and nothing close to a required response is permitted by the political, economic or cultural structures, upheaval is inevitable. Even more clearly apparent is that our way of living cannot be justified nor tolerated if there is to be decent life for our children, and their children. Decent human life is dependent on a flourishing non-human world. And the non-human world cannot flourish unless we quit plundering, poisoning and polluting. A story, a paradigm, a worldview centered purely on human considerations, as ours is, is entirely inadequate to human purposes or to the purposes of the natural world either. The human is non-viable in an anthropocentric context; the earth is non-viable in an anthropocentric context.

While it is true that the traditional centers for explaining things have failed, there are a growing number of non-traditional voices rising into prominence; voices which tell us that the human must find fulfillment through joining human capacities with earth capacities so that both are enhanced by their interaction, both flourish, and both can be sustained. The human must become earth raising and take up earth saving and earth love and earth celebration. A human role must be defined which complements the earth. Foremost among the voices setting out the new worldview, guiding us into the new age, (some call it the Ecological Age or even the Ecologic Age), is that of Thomas Berry most clearly expressed in his book THE DREAM OF THE EARTH. (Sierra Club Books). Working with him and adding enormously to his vision is the brilliant woman, MiriamTherese MacGillivray, a student of Thomas Berry and an acclaimed lecturer. She has added her own unique dimension to the expanding life-centered philosophy, particularly in articulating a new understanding of the human role in creation.

This conference is not designed to produce gloom and despair but rather to point the way out of gloom and despair toward a new appreciation of how true fulfillment awaits the species as it begins to realize that combining human qualities and capabilities with the qualities and capabilities of the rest of creation must inevitably work for the success of both.
THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

Miriam Therese MacGillis is a Dominican sister from Caldwell, New Jersey, founder and Director of Genesis Farm and Center for Earth Stewardship. Genesis Farm is sponsored by the Dominican community with Global Education Associates. As Director of Genesis Farm, Miriam coordinates programs which explore sustainable agriculture, bio-regionalism, simplicity of life, and education for effective world order institutions. The farm is a ministry of the Dominican Sisters and welcomes all people of good will in the search for achieving human and earth security. Many of the programs focus on the connections between the health of our global commons of air, soil and water and the health of our local communities and bio-regions. She also lectures widely on educating children to deal creatively and positively with current global challenges. She has conducted over 500 workshops, lectures and conferences on the issues of ecology, justice, peace, and world order in the United States and the Philippines.

Amy Hannon of Greenville, North Carolina, and Leigh Hollowell, Christina Morrison and Marnie Mulley of Asheville will lead sessions on ritual and on body movement.

Sponsors, Advisors, Supporters, Workshop Leaders

Thomas Berry
Marnie Muller
Roger Corless
Rev. Claudia Miller III
Leigh Hollowell
Anthony Hecker
Christina Morrison
Jane Sharp
Gay Cheney
Stephanie Barsby
Cladis Miller III
Nadia Saad
J. Linn Mackey
Jim Lewis
Zachary T. Ralston
Charlene Speera
Brian Swinney

THE DREAM OF THE EARTH
THE PROGRAM

Friday, November 10, 1989
4:30 PM Registration
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Welcoming circle and introductions.
7:30 PM Miriam Therese MacGillis. The Dream of the Earth. An Overview.
8:10 PM Open discussion
8:30 PM The Dreambody and Movement (Amy Hannon)
9:15 PM Celebrating the Dreamer Music and Movement Improvisation.

Saturday, November 11, 1989
Breakfast - 7:15, Lunch - Noon, Dinner - 6:00

9:00 AM Miriam Therese - Cosmology and the Origin Story
9:30 AM Open discussion
10:15 AM Workshops: Exploring the Origin Story through Evolutionary Remembering. A Meditation (Claudis Miller III).
1:30 PM Miriam Therese - Differentiation, Subjectivity and Communion. "The three basic laws of the universe at all levels of reality are differentiation, subjectivity and communion."
2:15 PM Open discussion
7:15 PM Miriam Therese - Reinventing the Human at the Species Level.
8:00 PM Open discussion
8:30 PM A Journey of Celebration and Remembrance Around the Fire.

Sunday, November 12, 1989
9:00 AM Morning Circle
9:30 AM Miriam Therese - Reinhabiting the Earth. The Biocultural Story
11:00 AM Open discussion
11:30 AM Closing Circle
12:00 PM Lunch

CAMP NEW HOPE

Camp New Hope, located on NC 86 north of Chapel Hill, lies nestled among 165 acres of rolling pine and hardwood forest. This retreat/conference center has two freshwater lakes, basketball and volleyball courts, nature trails, and boasts many other recreational facilities for individuals, families, and groups of 200 or more in the rustic cabins. An excellent kitchen staff provides delicious meals in the modern dining hall.

Camp New Hope is 2.5 miles from I-40 exit #266 and 3.5 miles from the intersection of NC 86 and I-40, exit #165.

The N.C. Humanities Council has been asked for advice and financial assistance to this project. NCHC is a foundation, supported by federal tax funds and private gifts, whose purpose is to encourage and assist public education activities in the humanities for adults.

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