THE CENTER
FOR REFLECTION
ON THE SECOND LAW

announces its
TENTH ANNUAL
FALL CONFERENCE 1994
October 28, 29, 30
Camp New Hope near Chapel Hill, NC

The Context
for Human Survival

CHOOSING GREEN

Why we Must Choose Green
and Some Important Ways to Get Started.

This annual conference by CFRSL will feature
Thomas Berry, renowned geologist and
philosopher, the seminal thinker on the human
relationship to Earth. Thomas will be joined by
Sabrina Merlo, nationally known Green City
activist; and Chapel Hill native, Dan Coleman
political activist, analyst, commentator and author.

THE CENTER FOR REFLECTION
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THEME
The Context
for Human Survival

CHOOSING GREEN

We are in a situation where self-
renewal, the primary long range
interest of the human race, is
being sacrificed to the interests of the business-
commercial-industrial-corporate world. Self-
renewal depends on the continuing well-being
of the Earth system, while the success of the
prevailing economic system depends on
unlimited free access to atmosphere, rivers,
oceans, soil, trees, and mineral treasures. These
are essential components of the well-being of
the Earth system within which humans belong
as functioning members. As a result of this
conflict Earth is being overwhelmed with
multiple disasters. The future of life on Earth is
at stake.

The ruling powers have objectives which
demand that environmental considerations be
subordinated to economic considerations as
managed by the corporate world. The
motivations of the corporate world do not reflect
the primary needs of the human race nor the life
system in which the human thrives. The
corporate world seeks its own success on terms
that cannot be met except by impoverishing
Earth. This is to say that the objectives of the
corporate world and the human race are in
direct conflict.

We have asked Thomas Berry to open our
conference on why we must be Green with his
ideas of what it is the human species ought to
be about. Thomas, a primary thinker of our
times, will tell us how necessary it is that we get
on a track that takes us toward harmony with
our world rather than disharmony. He says:
“The human community and the natural world
will go into the future as the single sacred
community or we will both experience disaster
on the way.” We are not a conglomeration of
individuals whose purpose is to buy stuff and
own stuff. We are a community of thinking,
feeling, spiritual creatures with an obligation to
ourselves and the system within which we
function. That obligation is to keep the system
(the Earth system) going. If the Earth system
does not succeed nothing succeeds. Everybody
knows that in their hearts. It’s just that the
money-makers have persuaded us it isn’t so.

Saturday we will focus on answers to the
question: “How do I get started working on my
obligation to renew Earth and myself and the
human species?” The morning session will be
devoted to the Green City project in San
Francisco run by the Planet Drum Foundation
under the leadership of two eco-giants, Peter
Berg and Judy Goldhaft. Sabrina Merlo, project
leader, described by Peter as the most
knowledgeable person in the country on the
Green City will speak on that program. She
says her work “is doing bioregional philosophy
in the urban environment, transforming
ideology into rooftop gardens and restored
urban creeks....” plus many other projects. The
Green City program goes on the belief that
urban sustainability is the primary work of the
nineties.

Saturday afternoon, Dan Coleman, green
activist, political analyst and author
(ECOPOLITICS, 1994, Rutgers Press) will talk
on Green Politics and how it could support
urban sustainability. He asks, “How did we
build a society with no stake in the future? How
can we build a green society?”

Also the conference will feature a
workshop and demonstration of home
applications of solar energy by Chris Carter, a
practicing professional who lives off the grid in
Graham, North Carolina. Many other
workshops will be available.

The conference will feature its usual
relaxed style and easygoing tempo.
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday**

4:00-6:00  Register  
6:00  Supper  
7:15-7:30  Introductions - Opening,  
8:00-9:00  THOMAS BERRY - Keynote The Depth of the Connection Between Humans and Earth.  
9:30  Conversation - Music

**Saturday**

7:30-8:15  Breakfast  
8:30-10:15  The Green City. Sabrina Merlo Discussion  
10:30-12:00  Annie Burns - Permaculture, Community Gardens; Chris Carter-Brother Sun; Joanna Haymore-Movement, Massage, Dance; Carmen Elliot - Art, Jim Gorman- Zen Meditation. Others

12:00-1:30  Lunch  
1:30-2:45  Green Politics - Dan Coleman. Responses and discussion.  
3:00-4:30  Repeat Workshops  
6:00  Supper  
7:00-8:00  Thomas, Sabrina Some Reflections on Philosophy & Practice  
8:30  Honor Ancestors and other Ghosts Around the Fire  
Afterwards  Music, Dave and Mark Conversation

**Sunday**

7:30-8:30  Breakfast  
8:30-9:30  The Cosmic Walk - A Celebration  
9:45-11:00  Thomas, Sabrina, Dan, Panel Discussion - Open Microphone  
11:30  Lunch

**Thomas Berry**

Thomas Berry, geologist and cosmologist, acclaimed worldwide, has produced a substantial and highly respected body of work on how the human relates to creation. He is the author of THE DREAM OF THE EARTH, and co-author with Brian Swimme of THE UNIVERSE STORY. It is Thomas who, following on Pierre Teilhard De Chardin, has placed the human, body and soul, firmly in Earth's evolutionary succession, firmly involved with the whole order of the Universe and totally dependent on the community of life. It is Thomas who has stimulated philosophers and theologians to reexamine their anthropocentrism and broaden their comprehension of cosmology to take in the startling discoveries of empirical science over the past hundred years. He will tell us it is our nature to think green and to be green.

**Sabrina Merlo**

Sabrina Merlo is the Green City Project Coordinator for San Francisco's Planet Drum Foundation. Sabrina also serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, and is publications editor at the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. Her work is doing bioregional philosophy in the urban environment, transforming ideology into rooftop gardens, restored urban creeks, cleared open spaces, traffic calming and greater citizen participation.

**Dan Coleman**

Dan Coleman is cofounder of the green movement in North Carolina. He helped draft the national platform for the Green movement. He has long been an environmental activist and a political analyst and commentator. His book, ECOPOLITICS, (Rutgers Press, 1994) has received excellent reviews. He revives the ten key values established at the founding of the Green movement in North America in 1984: Ecology, social justice, grassroots democracy, non-violence, decentralization, community-based economics, feminism, respect for diversity, personal and global responsibility and future focus. He asks, "Why do we allow such harm to our environment? How did we create a society with no stake in the future? How can we build a green society?"

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**CAMP NEW HOPE**

is located on NC 86, north of Chapel Hill on 165 acres of rolling pinewood and hardwood forest. This retreat-conference center has two fresh water lakes and recreation facilities. An excellent kitchen staff provides delicious meals (vegetarian).

Camp New Hope is 3.1 miles north from exit 266 on I-40, and 3.5 miles south from exit 165 on I-85.