

Interhelp Update, July 2008

Dear Interhelpers and Friends,

The season of summer is upon us. A blessing from my day: I watched a robin and an oriole sharing the birdbath, flapping together in the sun. I hope your day contains a special blessing, too.

See below for reports of upcoming events, recent Work that Reconnects events, plus some resource material to support you in your endeavors. Let me know what you're up to, or what your thoughts are in these times.

Paula Hendrick
editor@interhelpnetwork.org

EVENTS

Facilitator Training in Rhode Island Sept. 6-7. This just in from John Seed in Australia!

"My partner Ruth Rosenhek, director of the Rainforest Information Centre, will be doing a North American tour which brings her to the East Coast for a weekend training facilitators in deep ecology and The Work That Reconnects in Rhode Island on Sept 6-7 (see <http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/schedule.htm>). Her work is endorsed by both Joanna Macy and myself and I would be most grateful if you could help network this weekend training in whatever ways you can."

Mark Your Calendars now! Annual Interhelp Gathering, Nov. 14 - 16, 2008, Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA. For more information, watch for future announcements, or contact info@interhelpnetwork.org

Joanna Macy returns to the Rowe Conference Center in MA on Oct. 3 - 10. The weekend offering, Taking Heart in Tough Times, will be followed by a Sunday through Thursday workshop, World As Lover, World As Self. Not to be missed! For more information, go to www.rowecenter.org.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Presentation/workshop/film screening possibility in Cambridge. The message from John Seed (see above) continues:

"I was also wondering whether someone might be interested in hosting Ruth for an evening presentation and/or day-long deep ecology workshop http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/ESA/Site/ESA_Workshop.html in Boston/Cambridge September 1,2,3 or 5?

"The evening would consist of a presentation and discussion titled "Climate Anxiety - What, Me Worry?" followed by a screening of her new short film Earth Spirit Action (description http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/ESA/Site/Earth_Spirit_Action.html where you can also link to a low res version streaming).

"If you are interested, please contact Ruth at ruthr@ozemail.com."

REPORTS

On May 10, Eleanor Mathews and Rosalie Anders offered a one-day workshop in Cambridge at Rosalie's home. They had more people interested in attending than they could accommodate. It was initiated by a Lesley University student, who'd hoped to recruit other students, but it was too close to the end of the academic year, so several students had to cancel at the last minute. They will lead another workshop in the fall.

Where on Earth Are We Going? What Can We Do about It?

On the morning of May 31st Carol Harley and I (Paula Hendrick) traveled to an Audubon Sanctuary in western Mass. to attend a symposium called Where on Earth Are We Going? What Can We Do about It? The topic was, how do we create an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on the planet? In other words, how do we change the dream of the modern world? Sponsored by Pachamama Alliance, the program included several interactive exercises (including an adaptation of The Milling from Coming Back to Life) and is a great complement to the Work that Reconnects. There are trained facilitators around the country; Carol and I are exploring collaboration with a facilitator who lives not far from us in central Mass. For info on the symposium see: www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Reawakening Our Ecological Selves

At the Womongathering festival in eastern Pennsylvania in early June, Carol Harley offered a 3-hour workshop called "Reawakening Our Ecological Selves." Carol is grateful to Mary Gleason for her excellent 2004 description of the Words of Encouragement exercise (otherwise known as the "zipper" exercise), which served as a tender and well-received Going Forth for the 20 participants. She's also grateful to supportive friends Paula Hendrick and Nancy Burnett, who helped brainstorm ways to adapt the Bowl of Tears exercise as the central Honoring Our Pain for the World portion of this workshop. The June workshop was the third time Carol presented Work That Reconnects at Womongathering; Jo Lassetter also presented it there in 2005. Each time is a little different. This year's overall festival theme was water, so the Bowl of Tears was a natural. Women were invited to express any difficult emotions. Feelings of sadness as well as despair, fear, anger, emptiness, and shame were shared in a powerful circle. Carol says she's "hoping to work with Paula and Nancy to offer some local (central Massachusetts) Work That Reconnects initiatives" in coming months.

LINKS AND A QUOTE

For a global perspective on the Work that Reconnects, see Joanna's latest letter on www.joannamacy.net. Hear her dialogue with David Korten at <http://ourmedia.org/node/399129>, and with Bill Plotkin (author of *Nature and the Human Soul*) at <http://dharmaseeds.org/dharmtalks/dharmataks.php>.

Also see the latest Great Turning Times at www.greatturningtimes.org.

If you haven't encountered the illuminating book on the Great Turning by Paul Hawken called *Blessed Unrest*, check out his article at www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/265

"We live in an era where truth is most often found by looking away from the spectacle presented to us."
(Rebecca Solnit)