
Interhelp Newsletter, Summer 2009

Dear Interhelpers and Friends,

The wheel of the year turns again, and summer is full upon us. We've had too much rain here in Massachusetts and the gardens are suffering, but the many shades of green are lush and the birds bring inspiration and delight.

The **2009 Annual Interhelp Gathering** will open at supertime on Friday, November 13 and finish up with lunch on Sunday the 15th. Once again we'll be at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA. We will engage our creativity, our love of Earth and our sense of fun, co-creating a Council of All Beings on Saturday. You will receive an announcement including registration information in September.

Letters to the editor, news about local events, and other submissions by readers are always welcome. Deadline for the next issue is September 5.

Blessings to all,
Paula Hendrick
interhelpeditor@gmail.com

Thanks to Cherie Westmoreland for permission to reprint this photo of Elm Dancers.



Cherie writes that about fifty men, women and children danced the Elm Dance at the entrance to the Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan public consultation held in June. Canadian Press, CTV, GLocal and CKRM radio were there; the majority of the 400 plus people present for the meeting expressed their opposition to nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan.

For more news from Canada, please see Joanna Macy's recent letter at

www.joannamacy.net. She reports on her tour of the Alberta Tar Sands.

Also recommended: “Resilience in a Time of Recession” by Chris Johnstone at www.greatturningtimes.org/current.asp

A heartfelt welcome to Joyce Reeves, our new Interhelp Council Member. Joyce lives in the Catskill Mountains in New York State, and is a psychotherapist, workshop facilitator, and healing guide. Joyce generously offered the following reflections about her ways of being in the world:

I love being deeply engaged with people and I love being alone and quiet.

I love adventure—whether travel to another culture/sacred site or a new path in the woods.

Mostly I don’t remember the names of things, but love to look at shapes of trees, birds’ beaks and wings, the insides of flowers, mountain vistas, streams, light streaming through the clouds. Beauty makes me weak in the knees.

I love to hike in the woods, explore life at water’s edge, camp out, be on the water in kayak or canoe, camping (which I haven’t done in a very long time).

I love to sing harmony to somebody’s melody. I have often thought that I would like to reincarnate as a social justice singer—a Pete Seeger or Pat Humphries or Holly Near.

Always wanting to make a difference....

I love inspiring and motivating and moving people.

I’ve been so fortunate to study a vast array of spiritual practices and expressive and transpersonal therapies with amazing teachers. And I have had the great good fortune to travel to other cultures and sacred sites around the world.

What moves me: soulful or spirited or passionate music, Rumi and Mary Oliver and Kabir and Anthony Machada for poetry starters, light on water, water on trees and flowers, colors in the sky and reflections on the water. Sparkling eyes and true presence of another—animal, bird, or human.

What delights me: “It’s Nana!!!” Bird song, kitten purr, doggy play, smells from flowers and fresh mown grass. Natural surprises: driftwood and stone and feather and bone, nests and pinecones and wildflowers in the woods.

What hurts my heart: war, hunger, poverty, illness, social injustices of every kind, environmental degradation, nuclear proliferation, problems of waste with all harmful materials, but especially nuclear.

Recently my work focus has shifted from the wounded individual, as a psychotherapist and workshop facilitator, to the wounded Earth. Peace, environmental and social concerns, always active as background, have moved to the foreground and I’m thrilled to be offering workshops based on The Work That Reconnects. Having traveled solo for

most of my professional life, it is good to be working in community. I welcome this opportunity to deepen my understanding of this powerful and inspiring work.

Joyce and Diane Reiner will be leading a workshop called For the Earth in the Boston area on October 31.

Carol Harley sends this report from an early June event in northeastern Pennsylvania:

I was pleased to facilitate a 3-hour Work That Reconnects workshop as part of the unofficial “ecology track” at a long-running women’s spirituality festival. This time I was joined by Paula Hendrick and Nancy Burnett, who helped with planning, skillfully led parts of the workshop, and brought their wonderful focus and attention to the group. The next day Honeybee spoke through me at the Council of All Beings, led by Paula. She shared her open heart and guided participants through the morning assisted by Nancy Burnett and myself.