

Rising with

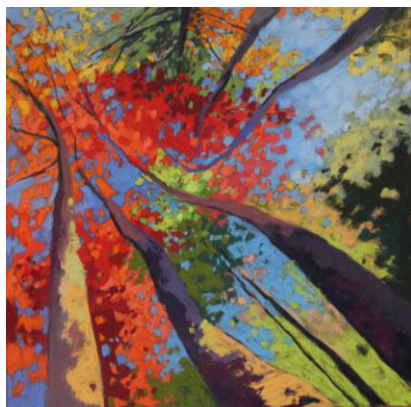
Roots:

Courage, Conviction & Community in this Beautiful, Teetering Time

A five-day workshop of the Work That Reconnects

June 2-7, 2017

at Hallelujah Farm in Chesterfield, NH



“If we surrendered to Earth’s intelligence, we could rise up rooted, like trees.”

-- Rainer Maria Rilke

In these dark times, how can we find strength and clarity of purpose?

How can we sustain our work for the healing of our world?

We are alive at an extraordinary moment in time. It is a time of growing uncertainty, as climate catastrophe looms, the sixth mass extinction accelerates, and the wounds of inequality and inhumanity are laid bare. It is also a time of great possibility when creativity, courage, and collective action can change the political and ecological landscape for future generations.

Join us in community as we follow the spiral of the *Work That Reconnects*, a groundbreaking form of group work that has helped hundreds of thousands of people face their despair and find new insight and inspiration. Developed over many decades by Joanna Macy and colleagues, this dynamic, interactive body of work draws on living systems theory, deep ecology, Buddhist philosophy, and the wisdom of countless poets, artists, and change agents. It invites us to touch our innermost responses to the condition of our world and to reconnect with our sense of wonder for the web of life. Strengthened by generations past and encouraged by those yet to come, we can tap our own deep awareness and creativity to chart a course for taking action in a way that brings us alive.

More About the Work That Reconnects

Originally called *Despair and Empowerment Work*, the [Work That Reconnects](#) (WTR) is known worldwide for empowering activists in social and ecological justice. Developed by the visionary social and environmental activist, Joanna



Macy, the late Fran Macy and colleagues, this group work has inspired many thousands of people to engage wholeheartedly in a transition, a Great Turning as Joanna calls it, to a life-sustaining society. Described in the books, *Coming Back to Life* (revised 2014 with Molly Brown) and *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy* (2012 with Chris Johnstone), the WTR brings a new way of seeing the world, as our larger living body, and frees us from the assumptions and attitudes that now threaten all life on Earth. The ever-expanding experiential, reflective and contemplative practices of the WTR follow a four-part spiral that includes: gratitude, honoring our pain for the world, seeing with new eyes and going forth.

About the Facilitation Team

This team formed in 2014 to co-facilitate the first Earth Leadership Cohort (an immersive experience in the Work That Reconnects for young adults age 18-30) in conjunction with a Joanna Macy workshop and then collaborated again for the second and third Earth Leadership Cohorts. Last spring they were delighted to offer their first five-day workshop for all ages where they experimented with integrating anti-oppression awareness and approaches - a learning edge for the Work That Reconnects. Each member brings a rich background of related experience and abundant ideas for keeping the work fresh and engaging for each unique group. The harmony of their styles is energizing.



Aravinda Ananda is a social ecologist with a master's degree in environmental management from Yale. She is finishing a forthcoming book called *Living rEvolution*, which articulates and invites a united movement for whole-scale transformation in humanity's relationship with Life on Earth to be mutually enhancing. For the past six years she has been facilitating the *Work That Reconnects* and other modes of experiential learning that help integrate our intelligences and ignite our love and passion for healing the human-earth relationship. She is a member of the Interhelp Council and has been a part of many *Work That Reconnects* co-facilitation teams. Each day she feels honored to increasingly live the rEvolution and support others to do the same.

Markie Babbott is a clinical psychologist in Northampton, MA where she lives with her partner and two teenagers. Following her interests in mindfulness, creativity, Buddhism, and nature-based ritual, she pursued a master's degree in Ecopsychology from Naropa University through the Transpersonal Psychology Department (2011). She has been fortunate to study with Joanna Macy many times since 2007 and is grateful to have been a part of the ELC I, II and III. A published poet, she volunteers with the Connecticut Watershed branch of River of Words, a place-based educational approach that integrates poetry and visual art for k-12 students.



Kirstin Edelglass is a wilderness guide, ecological educator, psychosynthesis counselor, and trainer of council facilitators. She began studying with Joanna Macy sixteen years ago and facilitates the Work That Reconnects in a variety of settings, including as Joanna's assistant. Before developing the Earth Leadership Cohort for young adults, she founded a wilderness rite of passage program for adolescent girls in northern Maine and co-led a traveling semester for graduate students in Alaska. Writing, weaving, gardening, and singing provide other soul nourishment. She lives in Marlboro, Vermont with her husband and twin daughters.



Joseph Rotella is a musician, small business owner, activist, and lover of life. As a small business owner he has used this position in society to advocate for a better world. He has been vocal on various social justice and environmental issues and has had letters to the editor published, spoken on the radio, and testified at the MA state house. He has studied with Joanna Macy numerous times, is a member of the Interhelp Council and has been facilitating the Work that Reconnects since 2011. He lives in Watertown, Mass with his wife and enjoys spending his spare time making kombucha and hard cider, keeping bees and growing and preserving vegetables.



We feel fortunate to have singer-songwriter Fred Small weaving music through our days, inviting us to join our hearts in song. Praised by Bill McKibben as “one of the true stalwarts in the fight against climate change,” **Fred Small** is an activist, singer-songwriter, and Unitarian Universalist minister. As a young folksinger, he learned from teachers like Pete Seeger, Bernice Johnson Reagon, and Holly Near the power of song to galvanize, uplift, and sustain movements for social change. “It’s not about the singer,” Fred says. “It’s not even about the song. It’s about what happens to us, within us, and among us when we sing together.” In 2015, Fred resigned his position as Senior Minister at First Parish in Cambridge, MA, to devote his energies to climate advocacy. He is currently Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church, Boston.



The Importance of the Workshop Community

During our time together we strive to create a safe and supportive container together for healing and transformation. The design of the Work itself has its own power which is enriched by the strengths and experience of the participants. The facilitation team greatly values a diversity of experience and of age of participants. For this reason, the fourth [Earth Leadership Cohort](#) (ELC) will first convene with attendance at this intergenerational workshop. The ELC is an immersion program in the Work That Reconnects open to up to fifteen young adults age 18-30. If you are in that age range, please check out the [full program description](#) (application deadline is March 15).

It can be powerful to do this work with elders, youngers, and everyone in between. We look forward to an intergenerational group and the gifts that each generation brings.

Another important emphasis for the workshop community is building a learning community together and striving to create life-sustaining culture during our time together. In the past few years an inquiry has been deepening in the Work That Reconnects community exploring anti-oppression awareness and approaches. Oppression is deeply ingrained in the dominant culture and this deep conditioning surfaces in all spaces and groups. It doesn't feel like work that reconnects if these dynamics are ignored. We aim to collaboratively form a learning community where we can explore elements of the toxic culture that separate us and build beloved community and a life-sustaining culture that enhances our sense of interconnection. This facilitation team deepened in this inquiry with their 2016 five-day retreat and is looking forward to an ongoing exploration with the 2017 retreat.

The Importance of Place: Our host, Hallelujah Farm

We are fortunate to be able to immerse ourselves in a quiet natural setting for this five-day retreat. [Hallelujah Farm](#), located near Brattleboro, Vermont, in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, offers beautiful sunlit indoor spaces and 500 acres of fields, forests, and ponds. The bedrooms are newly renovated and very comfortable. Those who prefer to tent can enjoy spacious meadows under a clear starry dome. This young retreat center was born with a mission of giving generously to the world: “to provide hospitality in the deepest sense of the word... a welcoming and sacred space for rest and renewal, deepening of relationships, and a setting for contemplative practices and creative possibility.”



Cost

The cost for this workshop varies according to accommodations choice. The cost includes meals (Friday dinner through Wednesday lunch) and program. Please pay at the upper end of the

sliding scale if you are able to do so in order to help those who need to pay at the lower end of the sliding scale.

Accommodations/Housing Choice:	Total Workshop Cost:
<input type="checkbox"/> Commuting	\$300 (lunch and dinner only)
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	\$375 - \$450 sliding scale
<input type="checkbox"/> Shared room, female occupancy	\$500 - \$575 sliding scale
<input type="checkbox"/> Shared room, male occupancy	\$500 - \$575 sliding scale

Shared rooms at Hallelujah Farm include sheets, pillows, blankets and towels. There are typically 2 to 3 beds per room, a few rooms have one double bed for couples.

Note: If the lower end of the sliding scale is still prohibitive, some additional partial scholarships are available. Please fill out the scholarship application to apply.

Registration

Space is limited to 35 participants. Please register by May 1.

To register, please submit a completed registration form and either payment in full or a \$100 non-refundable deposit, with the balance due at the start of the retreat.

To register online, please use this [Google Form](#)

To register by mail, please print and return a copy of the [Registration Form](#) with your payment.

Questions?

Please email workthatreconnectsus@gmail.com with any questions.