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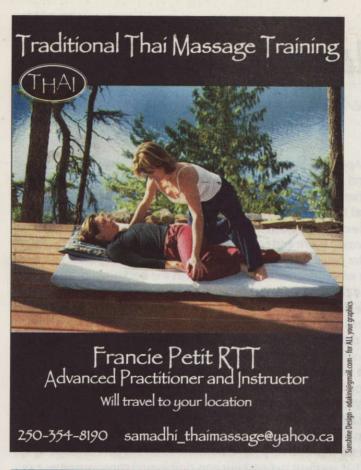
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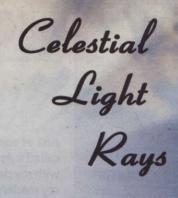


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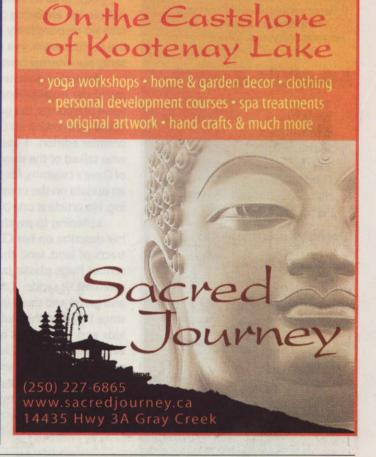


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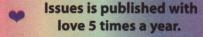
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Musing

with Angèle, the publisher



Just as soon as the April and May Issues came off the press I knew I should have called it April, May and June. I sweated it for few days, because I feel so responsible with my deadlines, then decided to let it go and sent a message via the ethers to let my readers know that the new summer edition (July and August) would be out at the end of June. This extra time allowed me to get the garden planted, help organize the *Opening for the Season* event and cook for the *Cabin Building* and *Solar Power Systems* courses. The solar panel on the front cover was installed during that class, near our 1939 Paris Dunn wind generator. It can be seen in the background, along with Tullum the horse; and the road up to the Retreat Center.

My musing these days feels really deep. I feel a sense of loss, knowing our planet and the animals are in such critical condition. Every day I get emails from groups wanting support so they can save the seals; the whales, our water, our forests, etc. The natural world as we know it is disappearing quickly.

From a New Age perspective the micro is a reflection of the macro. Can we really heal the planet by healing ourselves? And what does "healing ourselves" mean in the big picture? What about people who do not even think about healing themselves or care if they affect the planet? What if they did? Where would they begin? Rudolph Ballentine in his book *Radical Healing* says, "Start with what bothers you the most." He goes on to say that each of us is responsible to do our part so that change happens, but to do that we must get past our ego-dominated consciousness.

Most of us by now have come to realize that the government is not there for its people. We are being governed by large companies and their lobbying groups who take no responsibility for the health of our planet or the people who share it, only the profit margin. In a metaphysical sense, as in our dreams, the government represents our internal controls, the unconscious part of us that rules how we think.

Recently I watched a video on the use of depleted uranium which reminded me of the huge billboards on the highway in the 1980's asking the government to leave uranium in the ground. Dave Cursons, who wrote a column for *Issues Magazine* called *Networking for Change* - from 1990 to 1993, included a full-page article in the premier edition. I barely remember the details but was glad to support the folks who talked of the dangers and wanted to share that info. I could easily rerun many of Dave's columns, for the same issues are still being discussed. I asked Dave to write an update on the uranium issues so we can better understand how that is progressing. His article is one page 26.

Listening to psychic Sylvia Browne while doing the last distribution trip I heard her describe on her CD about Prophecy, a torrent of acid rain that wipes out huge tracts of land, land that will no longer be usable for growing food. She then describes huge plastic bubbles that we will build to protect ourselves from the environment. It saddens me to think that the Earth is being destroyed by our ignorance and greed and there is little I can do except change myself, which I have been doing since I started this publication twenty years ago, after living a 'normal' life, raising kids and working as a life guard/swimming instructor. With so much information available these days, it takes time to do the research and know the truth when you read it. I have learned to feel the truth in my body and 'see' the bigger picture by reading books like *Radical Healing*. I also highly recommend yoga and breath work.

I keep noticing my own patterns of doing and being, both positive and negative. My partner and others help me see my shadow side. Anytime my body reacts, I make note, thank it, and see if I can figure out a way to make change. We all have

continues on page 7

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STEPS ALONG THE PATH

Independence has such a variety of meanings that I find myself struggling to understand the magnitude of the word. On the cover of this month's ISSUES we featured some of our alternative energy technologies that reflect our efforts to become more self-sufficient, sustainable and therefore less dependent on external resources. Growing our food provides some independence on a physical level and the workshops and retreats we offer develop independence on emotional and spiritual levels.

Since my first sociology class in college I could see how the needs of the individual and the needs of the group were always in a constant dynamic. I must give up some of my independence in order to work effectively within society. When I work for another person I give up some of my autonomy, therefore losing more independence. Even within a group working towards a single goal, I find myself compromising my independence.

My life choices have mostly led me towards independence. I have either run my own businesses or taught in a setting where I designed the curriculum. With building and running a retreat center I find myself in uncharted territory, there are no proven routes to follow. For me it is exciting to explore new waters as I learn to synthesise my different skills to meet a new paradigm.

I have weathered several storms and more than once I have run aground, only to pull back, pick new direction and continue on my way. Independence has its price and I am becoming aware of the balance between energy used and distance travelled.

by Richard of the Johnson's Landing Retreat Center - Home of Issues Magazine



I am glad to have Bob Watters on board as we learn about solar panels, methane generators, windmills, vegetable oil fuels and Bio-Mass heating systems. Experience is a good teacher and I like knowing how things work since I am a tactile guy.

DECILI AD ITEMS.

Recently Jennifer and Doug arrived to help for the summer with the cooking, maintenance and building projects. They have a four-year old daughter, Olivia, who is astonishingly mature for her age. It is a real tribute to her parents for the love, attention and respect that she is given. So now we have an independent four-year old around the Center that has an amazing sense of emotional balance. So how independent is this four-year old? The last time we had some guests drop in, Olivia was the one that took them on a tour of the Retreat Center!

Since my sixty-first birthday just passed I am becoming more aware of the parts of me that do not work as well as they used to. I will probably become more dependent on others to do tasks that were once very easy for me.

When my journey is over I hope that the work I have done will be of benefit, and the world a better place for my presence. As with each generation, I too will leave my charts and maps behind to help other explorers along their path.

Namaste

Richard

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Deborah and Paul will be speaking at the Celebration Centre on Sunday August 30th. Service 10:30 to Noon
441 Main St. Penticton (Penticton Music Club) Private sittings avail. Sun. afternoon & Mon. \$65 for approx. 40 min.
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The Awakening of Humanity

THE AWAKENING OF HUMANITY



ISBN: 978-90-71484-41-4 141 PAGES US\$6.00 available at bookstores and at Amazon.ca read it online at www.share-international.org/?d=AOH The Awakening of Humanity focuses on the day when Maitreya declares Himself openly as World Teacher for the age of Aquarius. It describes the process of Maitreya's emergence, the steps leading to the Day of Declaration, and humanity's response to this momentous experience.

Of the Day of Declaration Benjamin Creme's Master says: "Never, before, will men have heard the call to their divinity, the challenge to their presence here on Earth. Each, singly, and solemnly alone, will know for that time the purpose and meaning of their lives, will experience anew the grace of childhood, the purity of aspiration cleansed of self. For these precious minutes, men will know afresh the joy of full participation in the realities of Life, will feel connected one to another like the memory of a distant past."

This prophetic book gives the reader hope and expectancy for the joyful, world-changing events which are about to occur.

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Musings continued

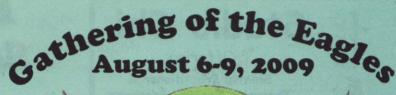
choice. A good place to start is by asking "What are my REAL needs?" The Nonviolent Communication model on page 25 helped me to understand my strategies for getting them met but they were not my REAL needs, just my programming.

I am really enjoying the feeling of balance when I walk or sit for many hours at the computer. Glad to have the stress gone from my shoulders.

I am grateful to all the like-minded souls who travel in my circle of influence. If you would like to join our network for a life-changing event please register for the Wise Women's Festival, Sept. 18-20 or sign up for a workshop at the Johnson's Landing Retreat Center.

I Need Help!

The Issues Magazine racks need to be tidied and filled once a month in the various towns ... if can help please phone Angèle 1-888-756-9929.





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Healing the Sacred Hoop

by LorRaine Armstrong

A new paradigm is unfolding. What will it take to transform our perception of Power and Leadership?

'Greetings, it is a good day. This is a day where we honour our Mother Earth. The earth is a part of all that is. It is the responsibility of all two leggeds. We are in a time where we are bringing in great messages to the world. The people of medicines have gathered together to create an awakening for Mother Earth. This is a long time vision that has manifested and we can all contribute in a most loving way.'

This repeated message of the Elders at the Return of the Ancestor's Gathering, which was held this spring in Arizona, was to bring constant awareness that the Earth is our Mother, and the Sun our Father, so that we can become fully aware of them as beings of great intelligence. It was a reminder for me to give thanks to them as I would my physical blood parents for taking care of me or the thanks I receive from my children for taking care of them.

Because we live on the Mother and rely on her for all our daily needs, it is Her that we need to focus on the most because of the precariousness of her health. As the world changes and globalization impacts every level of our experience, we expect new leadership to evolve. We know there is a better way of doing things that includes more insight from the female brain, guided by the heart with less reliance on the male logic. WE NEED A BALANCE OF ENERGIES. Sisters, we are responsible for stepping forward in the power of beauty and love so we may bring this balance. The masculine has ruled for 2000 years and it is time to come together to honour the equality of sharing.

As we engage in traditional ceremonies of prayer and healing our unity of intention and attention has an opportunity to create dynamic positive change. Every human being is part of the bio diversity (The Sacred Hoop of Life) of the planet and must be appreciated as such.

There is medicine within you. Many times we don't understand what our true gift is nor are we meant to know, but this innocence or naiveté is important. Listen to your heart and know that these are the times of new beginnings. Listen to the sounds of your surroundings, of the winged people, of the tree people, of the water people, of the four legged people, and the two legged people. Make a decision that allows your spirit to reflect your heart in a most beautiful way.

Let the activities of the day honour that you are alive, allow yourself time to contribute back to Mother Earth with ceremony. Honour the times, honour yourself, honour Spirit, honour all that is by the example you set, knowing that the balance you create is immeasurable.

LorRaine is presenting a workshop at the Wise Women's Festival and at the Johnson's Landing Retreat Center this September.

A Call to All Passionate Page Turners

submitted by Susan Faye for KBW

Whether you read for inspiration, information, relaxation or indulgence, there are others who share your love of books. Reading and discussing what you read can open up new avenues of thought and ways of looking at the fascinating worlds within us and around us. The books selected this year share the common theme of adversity and triumph of the human spirit. We each have a unique way of processing ideas and interpreting events. Come share your insights or simply enjoy the company of others who love to read.

The books up for discussion this year are:

Turtle Valley by Gail Anderson-Dargatz. A story wedged by history and regrets which lead to understanding of family, forgiveness and acceptance of the entangled choices we all must make to navigate our way through life.

The Lizard Cage by Karen Connelly. Set in Burma's military dictatorship of the late 1980s to mid 1990s, this is a story of human resilience and strength of spirit in the face of injustice and violence.

The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway. This fictionalized account is based on a true story from the siege of Sarajevo in 1992.

The Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill. This story delves into the history of how former black slaves in America settle in Nova Scotia after serving the British in the Revolutionary War. The book is written from the perspective of Aminata Diallo, an unforgettable woman, possessing strength, resilience, determination and will, whose survival instincts remain intact in spite of extreme hardship.

This thought-provoking event in Nelson, B.C. on Sept. 25, 26 & 27. Guest author Gail Anderson-Dargatz on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11 am.

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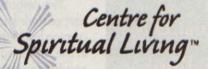
10:30 am @ 1375 Water St Kelowna Community Theatre **Phone: 250-860-3500** www.cslkelowna.com

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Journey to the Sound Within

Buffalo Rubbing Stone and Wisdom

by Sharon Carne

Buffalo rubbing stones are one of the interesting natural phenomena around Calgary. During the last ice age this entire area was covered with glaciers. As these glaciers receded, they dragged with them large boulders and rocks. When a rock became too heavy for the glacier to drag, it found a new home. Some of these rocks were carried for hundreds of miles and some were the size of a car or truck.

Later, when herds of buffalo roamed through this area, they loved to rub along these rocks, especially in the spring when they were shedding heavy winter coats. The buffalo are no longer here in the great numbers of the past, but people are. Calgary grew up and around a number of these stones. Many of them are popular tourist attractions. A relatively small buffalo rubbing stone lives in a park in my neighbourhood. It is tucked alongside a small grove of quaking aspens and surrounded by honeysuckle bushes, sage and wild asters. As the area was developed, this park was untouched and set aside as natural prairie land.

The neighborhood school regularly takes children on field trips to the stone as part of their study of the natural history of this area. I remember my own children coming home quite excited about this stone and sharing stories of buffalo hair found in the rock long after buffalo disappeared. The stone has the look and feel of great age, being covered with lichen and some moss. It stands about shoulder high to me and is about six feet long and three feet wide. This rock almost demands reverence. I find it interesting that it has been untouched by the youth of the area, while another smaller stone about fifty feet away in the woods is covered with graffiti and paint.

So, what does a buffalo rubbing stone have to do with wisdom? What is a wisdom? The human mind has been a great mystery to philosophy and science for eons. Our entire experience of life is created by our perceptions and our perceptions are colored by our beliefs. No two human beings will perceive the same event in exactly the same way. It's a miracle we even get along with each other at all.

To me, a wise mind uses its perceptions well, no matter how old or young the owner. The key to wisdom lies in understanding your perceptions and their underlying beliefs, knowing that no other human will see something the same way you do. Human beings usually assign great wisdom to beings of great age. Our stories are full of them. Think of Merlin, Gandalf, the wizard and the Ents, tree-herders from the ancient Fangorn forest in "The Lord of the Rings."

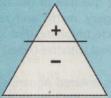
We have within our minds many layers of consciousness and/or perception. One of these layers offers a connection to great knowledge and wisdom. Carl Jung called this the "collective unconscious." I call it my "inner wise one."

If I have a problem or question that I feel needs the input of deep inner wisdom or knowing, I go into a meditative state, quiet my mind and ask my inner wise one to come forward. If my mind is quiet enough, I will feel its presence. Then I will ask my question, clear my mind and listen. If I receive an answer (usually the first thoughts that come into my mind), it is still my choice to decide whether or not to follow it.

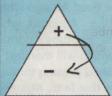
Since the ancient buffalo rubbing stone in our park reminds me so much of my inner wise one, I thought I would have some fun one day and create the perception of introducing them to each other. I offer this perception to you for your enjoyment.

Leaning against the stone, I connected to my inner wise one and asked what kind of wisdom would a buffalo rubbing stone share if it could speak. I cleared my mind, pen and paper in hand and this is what I heard: "Ancient is only a frame of mind, as is wisdom. Wisdom and knowledge are available for all no matter what the age. I have seen many ages come and go and people do not change. Their minds do. Where is your mind now? Does it serve you? Wise humans are a gift to each other and I encourage each of you to find the wisdom within. How will you know true wisdom? It supports all life. I am as old as the ages and never have I seen anything shine as bright as a wise human. Know that you are loved beyond measure by your planet and its beings." see ad to the left

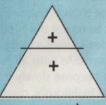
When Awareness isn't enough



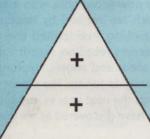
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Did you know that the outer planets move slowly through the Zodiac and wield a longer cycle of influence than the inner planets? Neptune spends over a decade in each sign, with both the positive and negative qualities of the sign directions permeating artistic expression, imagery, myths and religion. Every planet's journey is a set cycle, unfolding through the evolution of the signs, from personal initiative (Aries) to universal compassion (Pisces).

The planet Neptune, ruler of Pisces, and oceanic depths, entered Aquarius in January 1998, where it will stay until it enters Pisces in February 2012. Neptune is now being expressed in the manner or voice of Aquarius, the fixed Air sign which represents the intellect, freedom loving, and forward thinking. Aquarius, while humanitarian, is also eccentric, individualistic and detached. Neptune's domain includes illusion and imagery, hope, mysticism and magic, which will manifest in an individualistic and innovative manner. As it has nearly finished passing through Aquarius, we can look back on the last ten years and observe that faith, mysteries and imaginings of the decade are indeed very Aquarian and each of us have been affected both personally and as a society by Neptune's passage through Aquarius.

Like mist that veils the morning, that passage promises to reveal the hidden dimension beyond the first impression. Truth and illusion in ideals, intellectual pursuits, and innovation are now openly discussed in public forums. As with all long term transits, changes in social standards and belief systems become slowly integrated into our way of life. Neptune's influence is subtly, yet insidiously, dissolving social norms. Diversity in beliefs and lifestyles are now acceptable, with many churches losing their flocks. Dreams and visions which are inspired by Neptune are now influenced by Aquarius, a unique, forward-thinking, free-spirited energy which rules alternative lifestyles, personal freedom, diversity, rebellion, eccentricity, electricity, electronics, internet, humanitarian ideals, aliens and angels. Neptune's expression of Aquarian energy will be increased currently as Jupiter, the planet of education, expansion, generosity and judgment spends the next year in Aquarius. We may grasp the truth about many of the secrets we have discovered as we commune with each other at a distance.

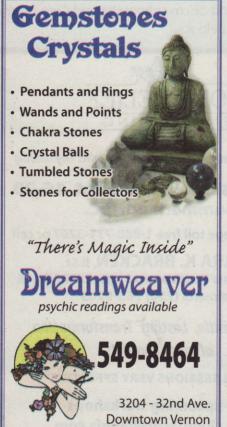
Social innovations will include more alternative production of electricity and energy, and our infatuation with communications and technology will increase daily, as millions become lost in the illusory world of role-playing games and invisible friends. Computer art and graphics offer simulations of life that seem more realistic than the real thing.

Positive aspects of Neptune include spirituality, devotion, sensitivity, sacrifice, creativity, compassion, dreams, mysticism, art, music, film, photography, and the beauty industry. Negative aspects are delusion, deception, disquise, denial, drugs, alcohol and alienation. Difficulty discerning the truth under Neptune's influence is compounded by quirky Aquarius tendency to change the rules without warning.

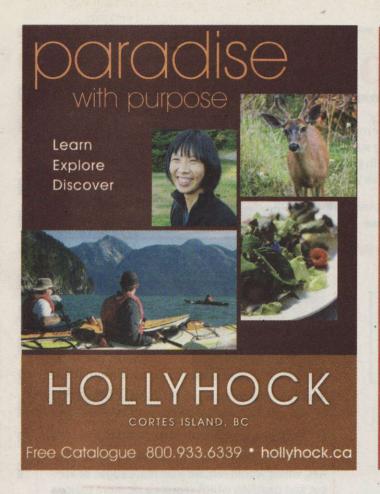
People with strong Neptune or Pisces placements in their horoscopes, who are artistic, idealistic, and/or sensitive, may need others to help them along the way, due to their penchant for diving into delusion and denial. Frequently their need for devotion may be met through romantic love or a vocation that involves serving the greater good, as it provides a sort of 'anchor' for them. Some may use their ability to manipulate or deceive others whether consciously or not, in order to attain a personal dream. Addiction to the internet, a devotion that amounts to deification of the cyber-scape is part and parcel of innovations we now find indispensable. Mystical manifestations include the dissolving of physical boundaries with instant commu-

nication around the world, bringing us closer to group consciousness. Internet dating regularly unites people who may never have met. As the concept of privacy dissolves due to electronic records of our words, images and purchases, our 'hidden' personal information may be used without our permission or awareness.

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The Cook's Corner

Vegetarian Recipes from the Johnson's Landing Retreat Center

Stews: With the warm summer months coming, lighter foods are now in the menu. For this edition I have chosen a simple summer stew. This month's recipe is from my friend Slava Estok of Sunnyside Naturals in Kaslo, B.C. As with most of the recipes, it is best to start with the printed version then follow your intuition the next time around.

I have also included a dessert that uses summer fruit.

Bon Appetit, Richard

LETCHO - Slovak Summer Stew



Utensils:

- A sharp knife
- · A cutting board
- A large pot (4-liters)
- · A wooden spoon

Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons of Oil (we use extra virgin olive oil)

2 Onions medium-sized, chopped into bite-sized chunks

4 to 6 Cloves of Garlic (optional) pressed or slivered

2-3 Tofu Wieners cut into 1/4 inch rounds

(we substitute cubed 'extra firm' Herbed Tofu)

3 red, orange or yellow Peppers cut into bite sized chunks 8 to 10 medium Tomatoes -or- 3+ Cups of canned Tomatoes Celtic Sea Salt and fresh ground Pepper to taste

- go lightly as people can always add more.

A great addition is spoon-sized pieces of zucchini.

Directions:

- In the large pot sautè the onions and garlic in the water until translucent (meaning they start to become clear).
- Add sliced tofu wieners or chunks fry with the onions (until tofu is warm).
- Add the cut up peppers.
- And salt and pepper to taste.
- On Medium heat cook, turning a few times until the peppers start to look glossy (4-5 minutes).
- cut up the tomatoes, stir them in, cover.
- Turn down the heat to simmer (it should gently bubble)
- Let it stew for about 15 minutes until the peppers are well cooked (stir occasionally). We add the olive oil last so that it does not get high heat which makes it harder to digest.
- -Turn off the heat and give it around 15 minutes to blend the flavours.

Serve it on a bed of warm brown rice -or- fresh bread. This is Easy, Simple and Delicious!



Fruit Crisp

Your choice of fruits may be influenced by what is in your garden, your freezer or your local market.

I mix Apples with Blueberries or pitted Cherries

A traditional combination is rhubarb and strawberries, which would require a bit more sugar, or apricot and peaches, which require a bit more tapicoa.

Utensils:

- A sharp knife A cutting board
- · 9" x 13" baking dish
- •2 mixing bowls A wooden spoon

Ingredients:

Enough fruit that is spoon-sized to fill the baking dish, one and a half inches (4 cm.) deep 1-2 Tablespoons of Tapioca flour (a thickener) 1 Tablespoon of Cinnamon, best with apples. 1/2 -3/4 Cup of Sugar

Directions: Preheat the oven to 350°F Mix the ingredients in the bowl or baking dish. Mix the topping ingredients in a separate bowl and sprinkle evenly across the top, then press down lightly. Bake for 35-45 minutes, till it bubbles.

Topping

- 1-1/2 Cups Quick oats or Regular oats
- 1 Tablespoon of Cinnamon
- 1/2 Cups of Brown Sugar or Maple Sugar
- 1/2 Cups of Oil or Butter
- 3/4 Cups of Chopped Walnuts or Pecans



Tired of swallowing a handfuls of pills? Tired of products that don't meet expectations? Have you tried the Quantum Stir-Stilus? It is LIGHT-YEARS ahead of anything else.

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Inside the incredible Stir-Stilus are dozens of magnetic-recordings from plants including rare herbs and herbal extracts gathered from around the world. Magnetic-signature recordings are more aligned with modern electronics than with so-called modern medicine. Magnetic recordings are the backbone technology of the electronic age as it is the foundation for permanently storing information. It was used for making floppy discs, hard drives, magnetic video and audio tapes. Most people probably don't know how a tape recorder actually works. If we were to explain the technology of the recorder before it was invented in 1900, or the phonograph before it was invented in 1877, most people wouldn't have believed it was possible... let alone the idea of wireless internet.

Everyone's voice creates a magnetic pattern, which can be captured on magnetic tape. What most people don't realize is that simple herbs generate their own specific magnetic signatures or signals along with emotional states, physical states and imagined states. In fact, our imagination and our beliefs create the most powerful magnetic signatures. When we imagine different emotions and/or physical states, the magnetic patterns or fields that are generated are recognized effortlessly at the cellular level. (And so they should, we created them.)

The Quantum Stir-Stilus generates in-phase signals or frequencies, which are recognized by the thousands upon thousands of receptor-like antennae found on all living cells. If the specific signature of a plant, for instance, is recorded and played back to the body, the body responds exactly as if the plant was ingested, except the effects are faster, stronger and safer. These magnetic-signatures of information cannot harm the body chemically in any way because chemistry is not involved, unlike ingesting drugs or specific plants, which can cause harm if taken incorrectly. Often the body will actually select the signatures that it requires.

Simply stir your favorite beverage for 30 seconds and enjoy! The fewer sips taken, the faster and finer the magnetic-signals become. The more sips taken, the slower and denser the magnetic-signals become. Any beverage that is stirred will maintain the magnetic-signatures for at least 30 days.

The Quantum Stir-Stilus is available for many applications such as fortifying the immune system and building energy. It can also cleanse the body, reduce inflammation, curb the appetite, balance blood sugars and enhance sex drive. For digestion we using magnetic-signatures from bitters, enzymes and Chinese herbs. We have magnetic-signatures from over 150 green super-foods that help the adrenals increase vitality in athletes, providing stress relief while creating calmness in the mind and body.

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THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

by Helena Noel

The Yogis have said for thousands of years "Short Shallow Breaths = A Short Shallow Life." The sad fact is that most North Americans only use 30% of their lung capacity which dramatically shortens their life spans. By taking shallow breaths not only do you not live as long as you could, but you are not going to live as healthily and happily as you could. Over 90% of the population walks around with poor posture which leads to those short shallow breaths and prolapse of the internal organs. When the organs are not properly supported by strong stomach and back muscles, they of course cease to function as efficiently as they should. These organs are responsible for digestion, elimination, reproduction and detoxification. When these organs are functioning properly we enjoy good health and stave off degenerative diseases and retard the aging process. We all know our internal organs are vital, but let's talk about the brain.' The brain requires three times more oxygen than any other organ in the body. You don't need to be a medical doctor to infer the dramatic improvement in one's own health just with proper breathing alone. Proper breathing is guaranteed to give you increased energy, vitality and calmness. Stress reduction is another great benefit that comes with proper breathing, it's almost instant and 100% natural. Science is now catching up with what the Yogis have been saying for thousands of years Diaphragmatic breathing or yogic breathing strengthens and lengthens lives. I have practiced yoga for over 25 years and have taught for seventeen. If I were only allowed to teach or pass on one technique, it would be the yogic diaphragmatic breath. There is nothing that can compare to the enormous benefits of this breathing technique.

Yoga is not about contorting yourself into pretzel-like shapes. The Yogis say "The breath reflects the body, the body reflects the mind and the mind reflects the spirit" Hence learning to control the breath means you learn to control your body and your mind. Then the world is your oyster! Self-mastery and self-growth are benefits of yogic breathing. One of the most beautiful things about yoga and why I love teaching it so much is that "The success is in the doing." It is never ever competitive and only personally progressive. The fountain of youth is as close as can be. Learn yogic breathing and reap the benefits. see ad below

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Co-Inspirational Learning for an Optimal Self and a Sustainable Community

by Brent Cameron

It was a beautiful fall morning, the sun was shining and a little girl was swinging on a swing. When the school bell rang, she realized that she really didn't want to go in the building. That evening, she asked her dad if she had to go to school. He said no she didn't have to, and wanted to know what had happened. She said that it wasn't very interesting and that she couldn't do the things she wanted to do. He listened to his little girl and began imagining how he could support her with a new kind of learning model.

She never did go back to school. Her dad started a program based on the way his young child had just tackled the most difficult neurological task of a lifetime, learning to talk. She, like all children, did it playfully and joyfully on her own terms and he called it natural learning.

This all started on the school grounds of the now closed Wynndel School in 1982. The family moved to Vancouver and he set up a small experimental school called Wondertree. He gathered together a group of children who for various reasons also did not want to go to school. He focused on how children naturally learning and the experiment was very successful. It is now called SelfDesign and has grown to over 1000 learners ages 5 to 18 over the entire province of BC. The program has won four national awards, Northern Telecom Award (twice), the Marshall McLuhan Award, and recently the Prime Minister's Award and numerous regional and local awards.

The dad, Brent Cameron has recently written a Ph.D. thesis as a study of some of the graduates of the program, who are now in their 30's. Although they effectively dropped out of school as we know it, about 75% of the learners have gone on to university, and all have successful careers and are happy in their lives. They all mention that Wondertree changed their lives and turned them into self-responsible and motivated individuals.

This program is recognized as a school by the Ministry of Education because it does meet the educational requirements of the Independent School Act. However, it does so in such a unique way, that the learners who do not like school, feel that they are not going to school - because they really aren't.

SelfDesign is a unique program that supports each child to design their own individualized curriculum. Instead of sitting in a classroom being passive consumers of a curriculum, learners in SelfDesign discover how to be self-responsible and self-motivated enthusiastic learners. Learners who join our program are typically bright and talented young people who just don't fit into the classroom.

SelfDesign has moved its headquarters from Vancouver back to Creston. In 2009-2010 we are offering a joint program for home learning families in the Creston valley who want to work towards an innovative high school experience in conjunction with our SelfDesign-ISK program in Nelson.

please see ad on page 22

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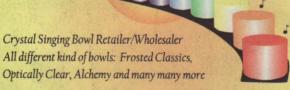
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The Komasket Music Festival

(KMF) is heading into its 8th year on the August long weekend, July 31- Aug 2. Once again the Okanagan Indian Band permits its beautiful Komasket Park on Okanagan Lake to be used by the KMF, which is becoming known across Canada for bringing some of the best global, vibrant, boundary-smashing music to the Okanagan for three days of celebration.

The KMF line up includes some the hottest acts on the International Festival circuit. The new slogan 'Okanagan's World Music & Dance Celebration' reflects the festival's increasingly diverse line-up which is attracting more international, national and regional performing artists of high acclaim.

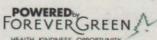
Last year's festival drew a crowd of over 3000 people. "What we keep hearing is that people come back year after year and bring friends and family, because the KMF offers them a place where they can camp and feel safe with their families, plus they can also shop from around the world, share in the Local Aboriginal culture, take part in creative workshops while their kids are safe and entertained. Word is spreading about the no drug/alcohol policy which helps to create this family appeal," says artistic director Devaki Thomas.

Members of Vernon's own Samsara co-founded and direct the KMF event, this allows for an insider's understanding of which artists are good live performers and can make negotiations easier, keeping gate prices reasonable, making it easier for families and youth to attend. see ad to the right

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Choosing Iyengar Yoga

submitted by Terry Tustain for the KYH

In the west, the word yoga describes many styles of an ancient practice. The most popular notion is that yoga is a physical exercise involving stretching with a spiritual dimension optionally attached. If you live in a city of any size, you will be able to go and "do yoga" in a variety of ways:

Why, then, choose to take classes at the Kelowna Yoga House? The style of yoga taught at KYH is lyengar, a yoga which focuses on asana, or the physical postures. This system was developed by B.K.S. lyengar, author of *Light on Yoga*, who, at the age of ninety, still practices yoga daily in Pune, India at the institute which he built some forty years ago. Mr. lyengar's style of yoga places a high priority on the body's alignment and on the use of props, so that students at all stages of development can work safely.

Certified lyengar yoga teachers are required to complete a minimum five-year national teacher training program. They are dedicated to ongoing professional development and to a life-long practice. Because of the intensive training they receive, lyengar teachers are able to work with students whose reasons for wanting to do yoga vary: some want to get into good physical shape, some require help recovering from injuries, and some are looking for a better way to handle the stress of life. Whatever the reason, the benefits are many. A regular practice will help develop physical mobility, strength, flexibility and mental clarity. Emotional stability and balance come with time. If the student is healthy, yoga will build strength and stamina; if the student is older or weakened by disease or injury, the practice will help expand range of movement and assist the healing process as chronic pain is diminished. Athletes with tight, hard muscles will develop greater flexibility. In short, everyone can benefit from yoga. Daily life virtually ensures that our bodies become imbalanced— we slouch while driving or sitting at our computers for hours, we lift and carry things, we garden, golf and do lots of forwardbending activities.

In a typical lyengar yoga class students are introduced to a full range of standing poses, forward bends, back bends and inverted poses. Proper stretching creates a lengthened spine with poses being held for a minute or longer depending on the nature of the pose and the level of the class. This builds strength and elongates muscles as both sides of the body are stretched equally. Hands and feet are pressed down evenly, and this equal pressure on leg and arm bones helps promote recovery from injury while correcting poor (injury-inducing) posture. Restorative poses relax and rejuvenate, help balance the hormonal system and soothe the nerves, while improving breathing and calming the mind, allowing the emotions to respond in a positive way. 'Gentle' yoga classes help students whose lives are in transition, or those with physical challenges such as arthritis, osteoporosis or fibromyalgia, including women who are pregnant or menopausal. Yoga does more than help the body--it lifts the spirit.

see ad to the left

Oh Goody it's Some "Bad Stuff"

by Layne Schmidt

How do you look at the unwanted stuff in your life? The unsatisfying relationship, the traffic jams, the ever decreasing amount in your bank account, the extra ten pounds, the crazy boss, the rude cashier, the whiney kid, the barking dog? Did anything happen today or yesterday that agitated you?

Did noticing it rile you up a bit? Did you do a little rant about your mate, your boss, or the morning commute when you got to work? Did everyone share and compare their stories, some with a great deal of flare or humor? Did you share yours or simply stew on it until something else distracted you?

Focusing on the unwanted stuff is a pretty normal response in our society. We have been well trained to observe what is, focus on what is, talk about what is and even stew on what is. Let's face it, telling a funny anecdote about the lousy traffic, the mate who never cleans up, the boss or the co-worker that doesn't have a clue gets us lots of attention.

We are a society that takes a perverse pleasure in talking about what's going wrong. Sitcoms, dramas and reality TV all count on you loving to focus on the bad staff. And let's face it, none of us sits down to watch the evening news to see all of the good stuff that's going on in our community and the world around us.

So what do you do if you'd like things to be different? Let's say for instance that you want a better relationship, you want the dog to stop barking, you want your boss to appreciate your efforts or you want your mom to guit nagging you.

Well, it might be hard to hear but Step 1 is: Stop Talking About It! Stop spending your energy focusing on things you don't want. Stop trying to get the laugh or the sympathy. And Step 2 is: Flip the unwanted experience around and make lists of what you do want instead, i.e. the unhealthy relationship turns into I want a healthy relationship; the glob of toothpaste on your shirt could become I want to be relaxed in the morning so I can be peaceful as I get ready; the aching back as you get out of bed could become I want to be aware of what I can incorporate into my day so my back gets stronger. As often as you can, practice focusing on what you want and where you want to go.

When you focus more on what you do want and less on what you don't want, what you do want has to come to you. It's a universal law.

When something comes into your awareness that you do not like, make the deliberate choice to not talk about it. That's it! Just stop talking about it and make a list of what you do want. You might have a thousand opportunities a day to make this choice – just be easy about it and make the choice as often as you can.

Layne Schmidt is the creator of **www.RubyShuze.com** a webbased learning tool for individuals interested in creating a better life for themselves. See ad to the right.

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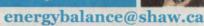


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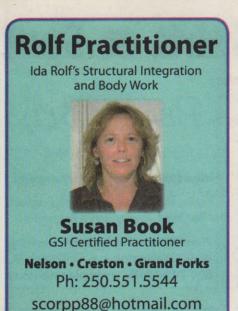
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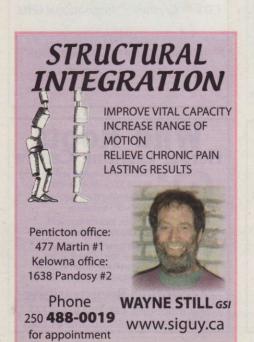
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JOINTS

by Wayne Still

The human body is a marvelous assemblage of levers and a tensioning system to move and balance what is essentially an unstable moveable tower. The levers are bones, the tensioning system, muscles. Working within a connective tissue matrix which comes in various forms to hold the whole works together, they make up the musculo-skeletal structure of the body. In order for the body to move and maintain balance there have to be places in the structure where controlled bends can occur as the muscular tensioning system acts on the bony levers. A deliberate bendy bit in a structure is referred to as an articulation. In the body the articulations are further identified as the various joints: elbow, shoulder, hip and so on.

Joints come in various configurations depending on their use in the body. The ball and socket of the hip and shoulder are probably the best known, but there are various other forms too numerous to list in this column. What all joints share is the binding system which keeps the components of the joint in place while allowing them to move.

The binding system is mainly composed of ligaments which attach bone to bone. Ligaments are highly specialized connective tissues. The tissue is very tough and strong yet flexible enough to accommodate the normal range of motion of the joint. What ligaments are not is elastic. When a ligament is stretched beyond its normal range of motion it will tear; this is known as a sprain. Such injuries are very painful and slow to heal because the tissue is highly enervated but has little blood flow to it, so nutrients for healing are not abundant.

Joints need to move so they are inherently the weak links in the body's structure. Movement outside of their normal range of motion or misuse are obvious causes of malfunction. But joints only move when they are acted upon by their associated muscle systems. Muscles are mostly made up of another kind of specialized connective tissue called fascia. Fascia responds to stresses of all kinds by shortening. Chronic shortening of this tissue will result in the tissue adhering to itself and creating permanent adhesions. The shortening and adhesions affect the manner in which the muscle acts on the joint and can pull the articulation out of alignment.

Joints allow two bones to move in relation to each other. Bones are the hard bits in the body and if they were constantly rubbing against each other would soon wear out. Nature has provided us with a lubricating and cushioning system within the joint capsule itself to prevent this from happening. If the joint is not properly aligned the cushioning system will be subjected to unnatural stresses which can cause it to wear out, allowing bone-to-bone contact. This results in pain and over time can lead to the complete failure of the joint.

The effectiveness of Structural Integration work lies in its ability to find and release adhesions in the fascial system thereby restoring the tissue to its normal length. Intervention by Structural Integration work early in an episode of joint pain can restore balance to the associated tissues. This will bring relief to the affected area in the short term and ensure its effective long term functioning.



NEEDS

A Foundation of Inner Freedom, Empowerment and Peace.

by Eric Bowers

The human needs that we all share are the foundation of the Nonviolent Communication, NVC, process because it is in connecting to needs that we find inner freedom, empowerment, and compassion. Unfortunately, many people have negative associations with the word 'need,' such as needy, weak, selfish, dependent, and so on. These associations come from a very different understanding of the word 'need' than that found in NVC. In the practice of NVC 'needs' are intrinsic, abstract qualities of our life energy, of our wholeness within. 'Needs' are unattached to outcomes and move us forward to express, grow, contribute, and connect in the world.

Needs are considered abstract qualities such as belonging, fun, love, learning, connection, authenticity, and so on, that everyone in the world shares. Material things or actions are strategies for meeting needs. For example, a cell phone is a material thing that can help meet a need for connection and belonging but it is not a 'need' itself. And washing dishes is an action that meets needs for order and cleanliness; however, who washes the dishes and when and how they get washed are all part of the strategy, not the 'needs'. Suffering can occur when we confuse strategies with needs and become attached to specific strategies or outcomes. We can free ourselves from suffering by letting go of strategies and outcomes that aren't working, returning inward to our needs, and then letting our natural, need-connected creativity lead us to other strategies for meeting our needs.

Negative associations to 'needs' come when we look outside of ourselves and see things such as money, material possession, status, and approval from others as 'needs.' There is a lot of conditioning in the world that trains us to try and get people to do what we want so we can feel whole inside, or acquire material possessions so we can be happy. Looking outside of ourselves for our needs leads to associations of lack and neediness with the word need. With NVC the order is reversed. We find empowerment by connecting to the abundant wholeness of our 'needs' that is always present inside and then inviting others or life in general to meet our 'needs'.

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Marshall Rosenberg, the originator of NVC, says, "Everything we do in life is an attempt to meet a need - to allow our life energy to be expressed in the world." If we choose to do something that we later regret, we can find compassion by looking at the needs we met and those that weren't met. Exploring what could have been done differently, instead of blaming and judging ourselves, will help us learn and grow and make better choices in the future.

If we remember to connect with our needs as abstract qualities of life energy within us, stay unattached to strategies and outcomes, and find compassion and learning for how we choose to meet our needs, then we can create more peace within ourselves. And we can also find more freedom, empowerment, and compassion with how we express, grow, contribute, and connect in the world. see ad above



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Depleted Uranium

by Dave Cursons

At the outset of this article I wish to declare a profound anti-military bias. I deeply deplore the complicity of the Canadian Government in US imperial adventures abroad. Today's wars present a myriad of spectacular, convergent and agonizing humanitarian crises. The important concern about depleted uranium seems almost too colorless and innocuous to capture popular attention. But try this, for a starter:

The US ranks first in the world in terms of military spending and arms import – and first in the world in infringing upon the sovereignty and human rights of other nations. You know, we hear so much about the US military using torture, a violation of human rights. The even bigger violation of human rights we rarely hear mentioned is our Depleted Uranium use – or DU – our radioactive poisoning of people here at home and around the planet – and the wanton contamination of the air, water, and soil upon which we all depend on in order to survive.

from a speech presented by Cathy Garger at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Commemoration at the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC on August 5, 2008.

Some DU History

By the turn of the 20th century, physicists knew that certain elements emitted fast-moving particles of alpha particles and beta particles. Elements like uranium were very heavy, which is to say that their atom nuclei were massive. Heavy nuclei are unstable and `decay', meaning that they spontaneously split into smaller nuclei and emit stray particles. This is called radioactivity.

Fast forward the science through the Manhattan Project and the subjugation of Japan with a two A bomb attack that ended the First Nuclear War. The so-called Cold War followed. The Second Nuclear War began in Iraq in 1991 and has been going on since.

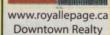
The DU Danger

There is an obvious difference between sudden massive bursts of destructive gamma rays from an atom bomb blast and a drifting cloud of radioactive particles following a hit on an armored vehicle. The harm from radiation in suspended particles of depleted uranium is less awesome than that from the big bomb. A nuclear bomb blast will emit radiation with devastating short and long term harm. Harmful radiation from present nuclear warfare comes from uranium in ordinance and armor - bullet heads and tanks.









ROYAL LEPAGE

This particular uranium called 'depleted uranium' (DU) is a by-product of the nuclear industry. No longer useful in a reactor, it is radioactive waste. It is awkward to secure and store. It is marketed to the military because it can harden metal to the degree that it will penetrate tank armor. Tank armor, in turn, can be hardened with depleted uranium.

Ordinance and armor made from depleted uranium (DU) bursts apart and evaporates in the intense heat at explosive impact. DU is thereby made air-borne and is inhaled and ingested by living organisms. The lasting menace of radioactivity – the kind that brought slow death at Hiroshima and Nagasaki – affects today's soldiers and civilians as it floats from battlefield to forest, farm and town.

This present Second Nuclear War instigated by the military organizations of The Pentagon and NATO commenced in Iraq (1991), continuied in Bosnia (1996), then The Balkans (1998), and lately in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Dr. Rosalie Bertell, a Canadian Gray Nun and physicist, has written and lectured extensively on the dangers of low level radiation in the environment and has helped lead a public outcry about the use of DU weapons.

At this juncture a passionate plea to end the use of DU weapons will often include images of fetuses and infants horribly disfigured from the effects of radiation in the womb. These distressing images can be viewed via numerous online sources. At minimum it needs to be explained that there are at least two kinds of harm that radioactivity from DU can bring to living organisms and, in particular, ourselves. One, called carcinogenic or cancer-causing has to do with the collision of radiation with cellular tissue as may occur through intrusion of depleted uranium particles in the lungs or digestive tract. The effect is an aberrant and uncontrolled cell growth, which is the cancerous tumor. Some organs of the body withstand such cancers very poorly and treatment is often arduous, if possible at all.

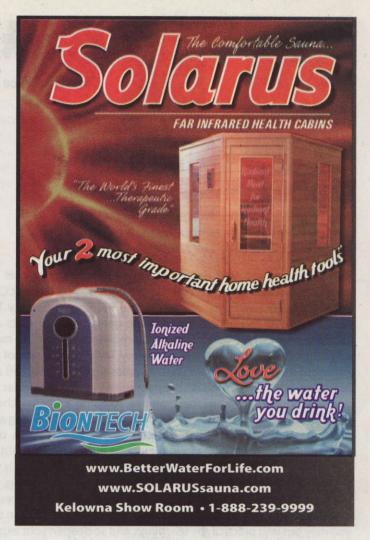


The black star in the image at left shows the tracks made over a 48-hour period by alpha rays emitted from a radioactive particle lodged in the lung tissue of a primate (the particle itself is invisible).

In living lung tissue, if one of the cells adjacent to the particle is damaged in a certain way, it can become a cancer cell later on, spreading rapidly through the lung.

Another type of harm is called tetragenic and refers to interference with normal embryonic development. Similarly to the cancer-causing affect this involves the collision of subatomic particles with chromosomal tissue in a sex cell or a zygote of a human being or other organism. The individual's normal development through gestation is interrupted, reconfigured or stopped with attendant minor or severe abnormalities at birth.

The mean and bitter truth about radiation from depleted uranium is that it continues to do its dirty work in air, water and soil long after the soldiers and civilians, and whatever cause brought them death and destruction, have been forgotten.



Very profitable today, depleted uranium from vaporized bullets and armor is the killing that lasts and lasts far into the future.

It is understandable that scientists, peace activists and humanitarian groups call for a ban on the dispersion of depleted uranium from battlefields worldwide.

Dave Cursons is a 62-year-old grandfather who resides with Gabriele on a small organic farm in Cawston.

Dave is long-time member of the Green Party.

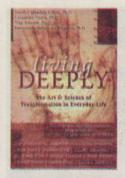
For a vigorous scientific criticism of DU by military, try http://iicph.org/du_update_1_3

For a neutral version of the problem of depleted uranium, try www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs257/en

For the voice of outrage at DU,

try http://therearenosunglasses.wordpress.com/2008/08/

Or join CADU - a group of volunteers that is part of a worldwide movement to ban depleted uranium weapons. In 2003 they founded the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW). With over 100 member organizations and a presence in 29 countries their mission statement calls for a halt to the production, testing, sale, stockpiling, transport and export of uranium weapons and a decommissioning of all existing stockpiles.





Book Reviews

Christina Ince



Living Deeply

The Art & Science of Transformation in Everyday Life

Marilyn Mandala Schlitz, Ph.D., Cassandra Vieten, Ph.D. & Tina Amorok, Psy.D Noetic Books • ISBN 978-1-57224-533-4

This book is based on a decade-long research programme at the Institute of Noetic Sciences, and has been praised by Deepak Chopra ("A brilliant synthesis of science and wisdom..."), Jeremy Taylor ("Open it at your risk, because these gems change hearts and minds.") and Larry Dossey ("...the accumulated wisdom of many of our greatest living teachers..."). Jeremy Taylor is also one of the contributors, along with Ram Dass, Angeles Arrien, Adyashanti and Starhawk, and many others whose names may not be as familiar but whose writings stem from their roles as, to name a few, psychologist, Catholic priest, Lakota elder, Johrei teacher, Rabbi, Mongolian chief shaman, Kaballist, Tibetan Buddhist monk, and Yurok tribe shaman-doctor. You can see how the above quotes came about. As with several books I have recommended over the years, this is not a book to be read like a novel - for many it will be heavy going, but infinitely worth it. It is also not to be dipped into, but rather treated as a course of study. At the end of the chapters are exercises so that you may put into practice the teachings, and so deepen your experience of the subject, and of course of yourself.

It would take a lot of space to review this book thoroughly, so I shall take one chapter as an example: Chapter Five - Why Practice? This follows four chapters in which the four essential elements of transformative practices were explored: intention, attention, repetition, and guidance. Many questions will arise from those chapters, which Chapter Five seeks to answer, and so we are taken through Insight, Riding Your Ego, Purification, Living in the Moment, Surrendering into Mystery, and Getting out of the Way. There is a writing exercise at the end, during which you explore your practice, or practices (and these may be yoga, gardening, painting, tai chi, running, singing, sitting - the list is definitely endless), and you may be surprised by what you discover about what you are achieving, what you want and expect, and what possibilities are in front of you. Highly recommended!



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U-Turn

What if you woke up one morning and realized you were living the wrong life?

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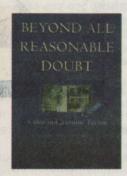
I'm sure we've all woken up on at least one morning and wished we were living another life - usually those wishes are momentary, or only last as long as the situation in which we endure. Now consider the question in the book's sub-title - what if? What would you do? For some of the people written about in Bruce Grierson's illuminating book the choice did not appear to be conscious, rather they found themselves led or shepherded into another life, believing they felt the tug or push to be physical and coming from outside themselves, something beyond their comprehension, choice or desire. An ambitious businesswoman takes a trip and finds herself sitting in a condemned tree for 738 days; a goofing-off atheistic undergrad goes to a missionary movement gathering so that he can make fun of the experience later, and becomes a pioneering medical missionary; a prostitute involved with drugs and organized crime becomes a pastor.

There are others, people who made choices based on outside influences (the man who earned his living killing chickens realized the horror of his job when he met an animal lover and subsequently became a vegan), and those who without explanation walked out of jobs, homes and families, not necessarily for a so-called better life, but certainly a truer one. To paraphrase Aldous Huxley: they saw a door where once there was a wall, and on passing through it will never be quite the same again, perhaps happier, but certainly less self-satisfied.

I read through the index and found names of people who have interested, sometimes fascinated, me most of my life: G.K. Chesterton, Fyodor Dostoyèvsky, Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman, and James Joyce among others sad, inspiring and surprising stories. You will surely find people within these pages who have inspired, bored or repelled you, and you may find your attitude and opinion doing a u-turn as you discover their stories. You may agree with David Ebershoff, quoted as saying, 'Everybody, I believe, has at least once looked in the mirror and said, "That is not who I am." Who are you? If you saw that door in the wall, would you take the opportunity to find out, regardless of what is at stake?

Two Kootenay authors

reviewed by Angele

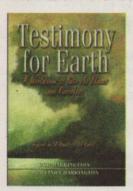


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Rooted in ecology the book offers eleven principles that if followed, would move humankind toward a respectful, compatible relationship with Planet Earth. Bob points out that we are at an axial point in history. We can continue along our merry way and condemn our children and grandchildren to perish or "We could stand on guard for thee" and treat Canada in an ecocentric way. The book is a well thought out plan to save the earth so we can continue having a home for our homes.

Sprinkled with insights from his life as a geologist, he taught secondary schools sciences and university ecology courses. He spent five years as the Western representative for the Canadian Wildlife Federation and reforested eighty acres of a logged-off property. Bob has lots of experience and advice so that we may change our way of thinking, replacing our economic madness with ecological sanity.





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