

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

In This Issue:

First, we have an article about how this all came about.

Next is an invitation,

Followed by a statement from your editor.

And this issue concludes with a message submitted for the UUJEC newsletter directly after GA this past July. It works better in a communication which has the Great Turning as its focus.

Bo Chagnon, Editor

THE BIRTH OF THE YET-TO-BE-NAMED MONTHLY COMMUNICATION FROM UUJEC ABOUT THE GREAT TURNING

Marcia Meyers and Michael Greenman, both UUJEC Board members, knew about David Korten's book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, before it was published in 2006. They arranged for Korten to speak at a UUJEC-sponsored program at the UUA General Assembly in June of 2006, and they were instrumental in the first-of-its-kind national conference on navigating the Great Turning in March of 2007.

UUJEC adopted *The Great Turning* as its primary focus immediately following GA in 2006 (and brought Korten back for a presentation in 2007). To assist with implementation, UUJEC constructed a package of resources to help people create *The Great Turning*.

The way Korten puts it, the Great Turning can be achieved by changing the stories about how our culture works. The final chapter in his book is, "Change the Story, Change the Future." He also affirms a truth: All Positive Social Change Occurs At The Grassroots. That means you. The UUJEC Board can't do it from a central office. What we can do is develop our relationship with our members and provide tools which can help.

We hope a monthly communication will be helpful, and that you will participate in its development and its existence, and that you will utilize it.

AN INVITATION

Perhaps you have noticed that this issue is poorly formatted, and that the whole thing was written by one person. You are invited to help fix those glaring problems.

YOU, who are the grassroots, where all positive social change occurs. The Great Turning is a turning to Earth Community. One of the features of community is that many people participate, and decision-making is dispersed. (Please see the next page) This monthly communication will be of, by, and for you. It should come from you. For starters, what do you think we should call it?

Please contact me at mailforbo@yahoo.com or, better still, at 919-327-2421. Bo Chagnon

A STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

I have a vision of a monthly communication with visuals and a very friendly front page which people can use to promote interest in *The Great Turning*. Should we include a children's activity?

I envision something which would be informative, and *Great Turning* stories from people at the grassroots. Maybe some things people are doing to create a future of Earth Community.

I would like for each issue to have a focus. This issue's focus is the birth of the monthly communication. Next month's focus will be the term "The Great Turning" and we will feature an article by Michael Greenman which will examine the difference between the Great Turning movement and the Great Turning book by David Korten. I'm looking forward to it.

CLEANING CARDBOARD

I have just taken the recycling to the curb. While cleaning the corrugated cardboard, in preparation, I thought about one aspect of the Great Turning which I would like to share with you:

Viewed in the lens of The Great Turning, cleaning cardboard is a spiritual activity. It can't be justified as an economic activity. In our Empire model, activities are valued on the basis of a measure of money. Although the recycling instructions ask for tape to be removed and material to be clean and folded, I know that the recycling process can deal with uncleaned cardboard, it just will cost a little more. If I value my time in money terms I would calculate the cost of the time it takes me to pull tape and so forth, and compare it with the cost of passing along that task to the recycling process. I'm pretty sure the process is more cost effective than I am.

However, in a Great Turning culture costs are not externalized. If I am responsible for cardboard being used, then I am responsible for getting it recycled. Now, in our culture cardboard will actually BE recycled if recycling is cost-effective, and cleaning the cardboard increases its cost-effectiveness. So, cleaning the cardboard avoids externalizing costs, and bends the arc of our culture towards sustainability.

In the framework of consciousness in Korten's The Great Turning, the magical mode doesn't connect recycling with consequences, the imperial mode externalizes costs, the socialized mode cleans the cardboard if social pressure demands it, the cultural mode knows that recycling is done for the benefit of all, and the spiritual mode cleans the cardboard, because "the satisfaction of living in creative service to the whole is its own reward." (p. 48)

And it is satisfying. I clean a lot of cardboard - including the cardboard recycled at my local congregation - and it's a joy because I know that when I do it I am in the right place at the right time doing the right thing.

It's a time when I can practice the lessons of Thich Nhat Hanh (The Miracle of Mindfulness!, A Manual on Meditation). After all, it is a spiritual activity.

Bo Chagnon