

New Story Newsletter May 2025

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is Monday, May 26, 7-9pm Eastern. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

For Zoom access [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

Don't miss our special Memorial Day program featuring Mary Evelyn Tucker, Professor at the Yale School of Religion and Ecology and associate of the late Thomas Berry! Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim are Co-Founders and Co-Directors of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. Visit their [website here](#) to see the many activities of this organization and read their [May 2025 Newsletter](#). Mary Evelyn has recently returned from touring China where she introduced the film *Journey of the Universe* in Chinese. She says it was very well received among Confucian scholars. [Click here](#) to read about her journey: "Antiquity meets Modernity."

Think of questions you would like to ask Mary Evelyn!

For more information about the FMC New Story Group, a list of resources, and news from previous meetings, please visit the New Story [web page here](#). To be placed on the email list for New Story News and program announcements contact Cornelia Parkes at new-story@fmcquaker.org.

More on the Earth Charter

Dave Damm-Luhr reports:

Here's a good article I found on Earth Jurisprudence: "Thomas Berry and the Rights of Nature," by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim [available here](#).

And here's the textbook on Earth Jurisprudence that I mentioned:

Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners, First Edition by Anthony R. Zelle, Grant Wilson, Rachelle Adam, Herman F. Greene. [On sale here](#).

June New Story Meeting

Monday, June 23, 2025, **Alicia McBride** (she/her) Senior Director for Quaker Leadership at FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation), a Quaker lobby group in Washington, D.C., will be our presenter. Visit the FCNL [website here](#) to learn about the legislative issues they are working on. More details to follow.

— THE INSTITUTE FOR — GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

From **Virginia Swain**

As I thought about my sharing during the New Story group, I realized anew that my purpose as a trained facilitator for the Earth Charter was to help people bring it to life and to connect with one another. I would like to share the following links to my work. [Click here](#) to view my website:

Celebration: An Intergenerational Model for Building Local and Global Community

A model for building local and global community draws on the efforts of Virginia Swain, as she persevered in her dedication to address the problematic process behind the UN Security Council Resolution sanctioning the Persian Gulf War by harnessing the power of children and child-like attributes in adults—innocence, generosity, sense of awe and wonder, curiosity, creativity and cooperation — to build global community in the United Nations with the Celebration of the Children of the World: A Model for Building Global Community (Master's Thesis, Lesley University, 1993). The songs below were written and sung by Tom Hansen, Ph.D., for the Celebration

[Flags of One Family: 1992 Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)

One-minute video by Virginia Swain.

[Peace Building Process at the Earth Summit](#)

17-minute video with Virginia Swain. This video required a special player on my PC. [Cornelia Parkes]

[Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service Leading to Peaceful Coexistence](#)

At the Hague Appeal in 1999, Quaker Virginia Swain was invited to give a [presentation](#) that introduced the concept and practice of Reconciliation Leaders who facilitate a [Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation](#) to develop the will of the people. For more about the mission, click [here](#) and history of this project, click [here](#).



The Cosmic Signal: Celebrating the Moment We First Heard the Echo of the Big Bang

Two radio astronomers, Penzias and Wilson, accidentally stumbled on the Cosmic Microwave

Background Radiation (CMBR) in 1964, proving that the universe began in an exploding fireball. On April 20, 2024, the Town of Holmdell and the Deeptime Network celebrated the 60th anniversary of this landmark discovery. This video was produced by the Deeptime Network.

[Click here](#) for the newly released 9 minute video.

Fireball (Song at the end of the video) [click here](#)

The Big Bang Blows its Horn, Poem by Kendra Kehde about the Horn Antenna, [click here](#)

The Worldview of Thomas Berry

Six week course with Sam King that starts May 20th.

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET

Thomas Berry was a seminal thinker who interpreted the significance of a New Cosmology. His work is foundational for anyone interested in the implications of Deeptime.

[Click here for info and to register!](#)

The Cosmic Signal: The Science and its Implications

Two week course with Sarbmeet Kanwal and Steve Martin

June 12 and 19; 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET

More info about this is coming soon, but you're free to register now.

[Register for free by clicking here.](#)



Gathering to Transform: The Way of Justice

May 30 – June 1, 2025

All Online | [Register now](#)

This year's Gathering brings together a powerful lineup of voices to guide and inspire us. From the prophetic wisdom of Matthew Fox, speaking boldly about confronting the spirit of the Anti-Christ in our world today, to the cosmic insights of Stephan Martin, opening our eyes to the wonders of the evolving universe — we invite you to journey with us through spirit, justice, and mystery.

And Now for Something Lighter

From **Skip Schiel**

You are our Sunshine, Our Only Sunshine [CLIMATE CHANGE MUSIC VIDEO](#)

From **Gwen Noyes**

These insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

1. "He had delusions of adequacy " Walter Kerr
2. "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."- Winston Churchill
3. "I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure. - Clarence Darrow
4. "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."-William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)
5. "Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?"- Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)
6. "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas
7. "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain
8. "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde
9. "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." -George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
10. "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response
11. "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here" - Stephen Bishop
12. "He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright
13. "I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb
14. "He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson
15. "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up. - Paul Keating
16. "He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker
17. "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain
18. "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West
19. "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde
20. "He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)
21. "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder
22. "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx
23. The exchange between Winston Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison." He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."
24. "He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." - Abraham Lincoln
25. "There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." -- Jack E. Leonard
26. "They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge." -- Thomas Brackett Reed
27. "He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them." -- James Reston (about Richard Nixon)