

FMC New Story Newsletter February 2025

The next meeting of the New Story Group at Friends Meeting at Cambridge is Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00pm on Zoom. Come at 6:30 for fellowship. First timers are always welcome! For Zoom access [use this link](#)

The topic for our February meeting is the Earth Charter presented by **Betty Kissilove**. [Click here](#) to read or download the Earth Charter pdf. For this first presentation we will discuss just the Preamble, pages 5, 6, and 7 with emphasis on our responsibility.

Betty also recommends looking at “Universal Rights and Responsibilities: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter” By Steven Rockefeller ([HERE](#)). In this critique Rockefeller observes, “When considering the Earth Charter and human rights, it is important to note that the Earth Charter does not use rights language to articulate the ethical responsibilities of human beings in relation to non-human species and the larger community of life. “

Be prepared for the “[Earth Charter+25 Event](#): “Planetary Consciousness, Ethics of Care and Intergenerational Justice” July 1-3, 2025, in the Netherlands.

The presentation by the Arts Pod (**Mary Coelho, Dave Damm-Luhr, Marion Foster, David Legg, and Skip Schiel**) at the January New Story meeting is available in pdf format [HERE](#).

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.

Outrage

by Cornelia Parkes, February 20, 2025

No time for mourning. No time for grief. This is the time for visioning a new story. We know the old story doesn't work, and we don't want the new story of our current administration, a “new” story based on atavistic fears and instincts. They have been in office only four weeks, but each day brings new outrage. I have found inspiration in many sources this past month. I was inspired by the talk Chris Clamp, a member of FMC (Friends Meeting at Cambridge), gave on “Why Cooperatives Give Me Hope.” I want to follow up with her in a small group. If you are interested, see the invitation below. Feeling rusty on my socio/politico ideologies, I started reading *Organic Marxism: An Alternative to Capitalism and Ecological Catastrophe* by Philip Clayton, who you may remember was an early supporter of the FMC New Story Group. I'm on the chapter entitled “Rethinking Freedom and Human Rights after Liberalism.” Good stuff. On tap on my book list is *Outrage: Why We Fight about Morality and Politics and How to Find a Common Ground* by Kurt Gray. In the introduction, he writes, “Although some people are happy to be angry, most of us want less outrage and more understanding. This book is for everyone who wants to better understand the “other side” and the hidden psychology behind moral conflicts.” Maybe, but Christiana Figueres does outrage really well. I follow her weekly [podcasts](#) “Outrage + Optimism” because she also reminds us of

the approaching drum beat of renewable energy which is becoming more and more economical. Christiana wrote *The Future We Choose: The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis* and served as Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Speaking of conflicts and fighting, how does a Quaker remain non-violent? Brian Drayton, a recorded minister, science educator, ecologist, and member of New England Yerly Meeting, looks to our Quaker roots for guidance. His most recent blog [Amor Vincat](#), February 15, 2025, on “Live blogging Nayler’s “Lamb’s War 1” takes a close look at “spiritual warfare.” More essays will come. I had to read *James Nayler and the Lamb’s War* by Douglas Gwyn to get my story straight (pdf [HERE](#)).

The Arts Pod was inspired by sharing and practicing their creativity. Betty Kissilove is inspired by the *Earth Charter* and wants to share it with you. You don’t have to do this alone. Find a pod; share your visions. What has inspired you?

Are you interested in cooperatives— agricultural, business, social?

“Why Cooperatives Give Me Hope” was the Feb. 9 forum topic, presented by Dr. Christina Clamp, a leading co-op scholar, Cooperative Hall of Fame 2024 inductee, and FMC member.

Some of the thought-provoking ideas that arose from this informative presentation include relationship of cooperatives and capitalism, cooperatives and cooperative living experiments such as Tamera in Portugal, and can cooperatives “go rogue?”

Whether or not you attended the forum, if you are interested in joining or continuing the conversation with Chris, please let Alberta Guise know by replying to her at smallgroups@fmcquaker.org

Other New Story News



Learn and connect with a global community

The Game Changer Intensive is a free, 8-week online course that invites you to join a small group as a part of a larger global community and gets you started on your path to making a difference.

“...a transformation at the species level from human supremacy to human responsibility and sacred reciprocity with the community of life.”

Registration Deadline: April 13th at 11:59 pm PT. [Click here](#) to register.



Journey of the Universe

Seven Tuesdays, March 25 – May 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm ET
With Sam King

Journey of the Universe weaves together the discoveries of the evolutionary sciences with the cultural wisdom of our planet to tell an integral story of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going. This course draws on the Emmy-award winning film and book, Journey of the Universe, the book from Yale University Press, and the Conversations series with influential scientists, artists, spiritual leaders, and environmentalists. The book and film, Journey of the Universe, were written by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker; John Grim was executive producer of the film.

Watch the trailer ([HERE](#))

JVP W*RLD (Watch, Read, Listen, Discuss)

Sunday February 23 from 5:30 - 6:30 on Zoom

[Register here](#)

Be sure to watch the [video interview](#) in preparation

Gabor Mate', Naomi Klein and Cecile Surasky have all been committed voices for the liberation of Palestine.

In this video discussion moderated by Cecile Surasky, we hear an exploration and deep discussion of the exploitation of the trauma of the Nazi holocaust and the events of October 7th. This video discussion explores the ongoing narrative and weaponization of trauma to justify the ongoing ethnic cleansing and genocide against Palestinians.



An online self-study journey straight from the heart of Findhorn.

“When a system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of Chaos have the capacity to lift the entire system to a higher order.”
Ilya Prigogine

Together, as Lightworkers, we are those islands of coherence. Whilst chaos reigns supreme and failing systems wreak havoc in what Joanna Macy calls the Great Unravelling, we can gather and, through our energy and intention, cultivate a coherent, regenerative, life-affirming future that lifts us to a higher order in what Joanna calls the Great Turning. [Click here](#) to register.

Show up,
Be creative,
And repeat.

R.E. Hogan