

FMC New Story Newsletter September 2026

The **FMC New Story Group** will meet on Zoom from 7:00 to 9:00pm on September 28. Come at 6:30 for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

Topic for September: “Berry’s Three Principles of the Universe with a focus on Subjectivity: Experiences in Community” with Arthur Klipfel.

Art draws on the work of Thomas Berry and on his experience as co-founder and resident of Cambridge Cohousing and member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge. He approaches decision making and governance in a way that best fits community settings and aligns with Thomas Berry’s three principles of the universe: differentiation, subjectivity, and communion.

To participate in this event [Click this Link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

Dave’s thoughts about Thomas’ 3 Principles of the Universe as a context for the next program:

The three principles of the Universe's evolution can help us as we let its New Story come alive in and around us. Waking up to these three principles together gives us agency to apply them. Together, these principles are core to the urgent New Story message calling us to new views of our place in the Universe and action in the living world in which we are interdependent with and related to all. Coming fully to this insight - in a unified, non-dual reality of mind and body - changes everything, in us and how we live in the world. As a result, we can now see that on whichever of the three principles we focus, they manifest as a joint set, helping us take the steps needed to live the New Story of our place in the living, pulsing Universe

Cornelia Parkes and Dave Damm-Luhr
Co-conveners, FMC New Story Group
new-story@ffmcquaker.org

News from the New Story Group

In case you missed one of our 4 video showings and conversations about the intelligence of plants and fungi (or would like to watch any of them again), please click [HERE](#) to see the complete list with links.

Mary Coelho, one of the founders of the New Story Group, has gifted us with both deep reflections on her personal journey and artistic creations that uplift and inspire us. As a result, we're thrilled to pass along information helpful to find out about her gifts:

- Mary's newly redesigned website ([here](#));
- Mary's recently published biography *Invited to a Spiritual Journey, Discovering the Hidden Wound* is available from Amazon ([here](#)). The changes in worldview we learn from the New Story have been of central importance in her journey. In addition to her long search to know the personal implications of the New Story, she learned about the unconscious cost of early wounding as an infant; and

Mary Gilbert sends us the gift of music. She wrote on 9/9/2026:

This has become my favorite [Jacob Collier video](#). I am reaching a point where I can hear the more traditional harmonies that are expected, and also be aware of (some of) what he is giving us instead. I also like the fact that his mother, conductor and violinist Susie Collier is in this video. And especially love the Bach violin duet in which she plays her instrument and Jacob does the other violin part vocally.

If you don't know Jacob Collier I will just add that he has perfect pitch, and can even intone notes between other notes that are a half-step apart. He is a "multi-instrumentalist" and has recorded orchestral pieces where he played all the instruments.

Yes, he gets off on coming onstage, occasionally even barefoot, usually wearing floppy orange overalls or silky pajamas, but he is a musical genius and I forgive - - no relish - - his flamboyance.

I hope you can find time to listen to/watch the whole performance.

Cornelia Parkes shares news about an amazing speculation on decision making in the brain. (*New Scientist*, 1 August 2026, p. 10)

"Most neurons seem to be jacks-of-all-trades" by Nora Bradford

"For decades, scientists have been discovering neurons with seemingly unique jobs, such as place cells that fire in response to a particular location and mirror neurons that may help us interpret behaviors. This has encouraged a picture of the brain as a collection of highly specialized cells.

But a new discovery suggests that most neurons are actually jacks-of-all-trades. 'These [earlier] neurons are really the exception not the rule.

....

Having a collection of neurons that respond to the same stimulus in slightly different ways may maximize the amount of information the brain can process. This may mean that these generalized neurons contribute to a plethora of tasks, including memory, cognition, decision-making and perception."

The specialized cells are like the "leaders" of a community—a person with financial experience contributes their financial expertise. The jacks-of-all-trades contribute to the diversity of opinion that maximizes the decision making process. In a community as in the BRAIN, diversity of individuals is a source of creativity.

Books we are reading

Cornelia Parkes

There is an amazing collection of books published this year! How can I read them all at once? If you are interested in joining me in reading one of these, I will give it priority.

The Edge of Space-Time: Particles, Poetry, and the Cosmic Dream Boogie by Chandra Prescod-Weinstein. Penguin Random House, April 2026.

Quotes:

“We are called to go back and get the history of space-time. And who am I to argue with the ancestors?

Even so, I do. Science in this society is often done for the wrong reasons.”

...

“The book you are reading is about queer, poetic wonder that is our universe and what we gain when we look at it from the margins.”

Chandra writes on the cosmos for the *New Scientist* magazine. I always look forward to her column.

Natural Intelligence & the Logic of Consciousness by Antonio Damasio. Pantheon Books 2026.

Quotes:

“This book is about the adventures of natural intelligence, which began in earnest with the creation of life—nothing less than the inauguration of a startling new way of perishable existence—and carried on with the extraordinary development of minds, feelings, and consciousness.”

Damasio also wrote *Self Comes to Mind*, which was formative in my understanding of consciousness and conscious self-awareness. I’m eager to test my understanding and learn more.

On the Equality of All Things: Lessons on Physics and Philosophy by Carlo Rovelli. Simon & Schuster, 2026.

Quotes:

“This is the world I see emerging from the scientific revolution of the last century, which I outline in the pages that follow. It is a world not made of objects, not occupying space, not unfolding in a single time, not governed by causes and effects. It is woven by relations; made up of intertwining perspectives—which can only be described from within.”

The Rovelli Reading Group has finished reading *Helgoland* by Rovelli. This, his most recent book, covers the same territory at a slower pace with more emphasis on philosophy. It’s an informative read for those who would like to catch up on his exposition on relational quantum mechanics.

The Glorians: Visitations from the Holy Ordinary by Terry Tempest Williams. Grove Press, New York, 2026.

Quotes:

“By paying attention to what emerges and evolves from unexpected encounters with an ant or a hand stone or the community creation of a Coyote Chaplaincy, Glorians reveal themselves in an open-mouthed moment. They are capable of changing the weather system inside and out, when we least expect transformation to occur. I am learning that a Glorian cannot be defined, only met with surprise and awe and, sometimes, terror.”

I read a few pages of this book in the evening to unwind from the day.

Trish Garland

I am now reading Matthew Fox's book, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ: The Healing of Mother Earth and the Birth of a Global Renaissance* (1988). It is absolutely fascinating. Maybe you read it before I joined the group. In the Prologue Matthew Fox talks about a dream and a vision he had:

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"the devastation our planet is currently undergoing [is] because we lack a living cosmology." He goes on to say that a cosmology needs three elements to come alive: "a scientific story about the origins of our universe, mysticism which is a psychic response to our being in a universe, and art, which translates science and mysticism into images that awaken body, soul, and society."

The art part made me think of Mary's art and how important it is to the New Story.

What are you reading that you would like to share?

New Story News from Other Sources

[Emergence Magazine](#): an online publication with an annual print edition connecting the threads between ecology, culture, and spirituality.

[Emergence Podcast \(June, 2026\): *Communication is Alive: A Conversation on Spiritual Ecology*](#)



[Hope or Terror?](#)

Twenty five years on from September 11, 2001, we, with countless others, continue to ask ourselves what might be different today if we had taken a path of trauma healing and reconciliation instead of retribution and violence. We should be able to see clearly now that our trauma was manipulated to sell war, weapons, nationalism, surveillance technology, and "homeland security." And what about the spree of hate crimes against Muslims and Sikhs (among many others) that followed? We were handed bitterness and hatred instead of a path toward growth, transformation, and healing. Our grief, sacred and fragile, was harnessed into a violent rage as a nation, and it still hurts. Memorials tell us "never forget," where's the memorial encouraging and teaching us how to heal and forgive and grow?

Stephanie Van Hook, Executive Director



[Exploring the Powers of the Universe as Spiritual Guides](#)

Penny Andrews's six-week live course beginning Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM EDT

Bridge science and spirituality through the unfolding story of the cosmos. In this welcoming course, Penny will guide participants in exploring the creative powers of the Universe and how those same powers move within our lives, relationships, imagination, and spiritual practice.



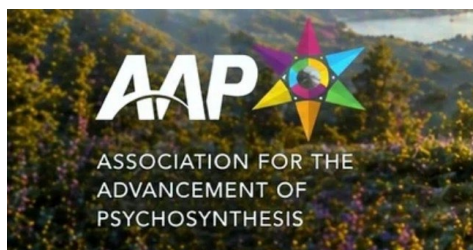
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Read the article: [How Native American Children Benefit From Trauma-Informed Schools](#)



As **artificial intelligence** becomes increasingly woven into everyday life, what is it revealing about who we are and what might it challenge us to reconsider about our spiritual lives? As we prepare for the upcoming Artificial Intelligence and Our Spiritual Imagination conference, held virtually October 17-18, we invited our speakers to sit with the same two questions to showcase the variety of perspectives, inquiries, and ways of knowing that will shape our conversations at the conference this fall.

[AI, Spirituality, and What It Means to Be Human: Part I](#) by Lily Rockefeller we introduce the first in a two-part blog series leading up to Garrison Institute's upcoming AI summit in October. In [AI, Spirituality, and What It Means to Be Human: Part II](#) we ask the participants the same question: "What do you think AI is revealing about what it means to be human—and what, if anything, does it challenge us to reconsider about our spiritual lives?"



[Becoming Earthling: Roberto Assagioli meets Thomas Berry. - AAP Psychosynthesis.](#) 10 Monthly Sessions: 2nd Monday of each Month. Free intro September 14; Course starts October 12.

From **Trish Garland**: I've attended many AAP offerings. I studied a bit about Psychosynthesis years ago but need to review it again as I do not recall the details about it. Here is a bit more info about it if you are curious: [psychosynthesis - Google Search](#)