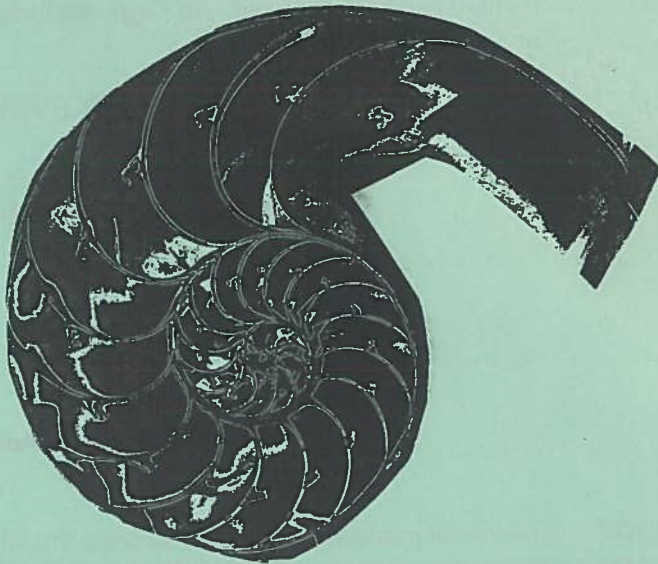


THE NODE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Vance and Beth Engleman **The Qualities of Profound Humanness**
John Epps **History's Harbingers: We Who Build the Future**
John Stringham **Eulogy of Gabrielle Mary Wellington Stringham**

REPORTS

ICA Brazil **The Wonder of It All**
Margaret and Barry Oakley **The Violins Play On**
Joan Knutsen **Eventfulness in Japan**
Mary Hoff **The Community at Woodside in Hong Kong**
Richard and Maria Maguire **An Organizational Experiment in Sydney**

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Family Aliveness
Our Common Future: Taiwan
Events

POETRY

Robert Shankland **Christmas Poetry Dec. 1989**

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The Qualities of Profound Humanness

a dialogue created by Vance and Beth Engleman

Identifying the qualities of profound humanness was a major preoccupation of Joseph Wesley Mathews, the late founder of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The following art form takes his major categories and reconfigures them into a dialogue format. Joseph would feel honored to see all of us brood deeply over how to embody a life that radiates profoundness.

Q: Just what are the qualities of profound humanness?

A: "It begins when one can embrace the unexpected intrusions in one's life. These events, which are usually beyond our control, can shatter the illusions which shelter us from reality. When this happens an appropriate decision is required."

Q: How do humans know what is right or appropriate?

A: "We never fully know. That is the nature of our struggle. We choose to stand before the Mystery, Depth, and Greatness with dread-filled fascination. Mundane disclosures of a Master Plan of order occur daily—even in the veins of a fallen leaf, or in an unexpected smile."

Q: Is it as simple as you make it sound?

A: "That's a yes and a no. Consciousness is a lifelong journey. Becoming lucid to one's relationship with all that is has a developmental dimension. Even the unknown is open for interpretation and discovery. While complexity abounds it would be a mistake to rob these qualities of their utter simplicity."

Q: All this sounds so abstract. What are some external manifestations?

A: "When one awakens to the possible, appropriate deeds or actions follow. We find ourselves driven to make a difference—to contribute in some small but concrete way to protecting the gift of life. On so many burning issues we humans have erred in our custodial responsibility for this planet. Human capacity for destruction goes the full cycle from innocent misdeeds to the bizarre."

Q: How can a single life make any difference against the absurd notion of saving the planet?

A: "Whatever we do in and of itself may not change the course of history. But whenever one can affirm, restore, or build quality into life experiences it makes a difference. Tossing a stranded starfish back into the sea may make a lot of difference to that starfish!"

Q: Doesn't this example seem trite in light of the tens of thousands of stranded starfish on the beach?

A: "Perhaps, if you view our individual actions as isolated occurrences. Responsibility to build a safer and more human world requires genuine corporateness empowered by consensus building leadership. When a force of awakened people decides to participate in covenantal collegiality with a missional focus the potential power is incredible. Reflect on some of the great movements that have transpired, like those initiated by Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr., or current efforts like Mother Teresa's work with the poorest of the poor; women's rights; global peace; environmental safeguards; Save the Whales. The list is long. These individual and corporate deeds have had and will have a profound impact on the future course of history."

Q: How does one begin such an awesome journey?

A: "The individual must declare his/her intentions and become a visible sign of one who genuinely gives a damn about people and about life in all its myriad forms. When we declare that history is going to go a certain way—that past sins will be rectified, and quality and dignity restored where it was lost—we hold ourselves publicly accountable."

Q: Can only the most gifted contribute to this endless struggle?

A: "Sociological creativity has a built-in universal relativity. It is the mix of many everyday decisions designed to build up versus tear down that one begins to see the creativity of one's actions. We all have the capacity to decide to make a positive impact in situations we encounter. This is not a have versus have-nots issue."

Q: Just looking around, how does one know if someone has decided to live a great life?

A: "These people have a certain presence about them. They have an escapable selfhood. They have internalized the affirmation that they are significant, and this becomes transparent in the way they relate to others. I once saw this quality in the face of an elderly beggar woman on a street in Calcutta."

Q: Is this what is meant by having integrity?

A: "Exactly! Profound humanness is at once a humbling possibility because it requires nothing more than a decision to accept one's acceptance. At the same time these people have an incarnate freedom and destinal resolve to leave every situation better than it was. I assure you, that women in Calcutta forever changed the course of my values and life cares."

Q: Can you be more specific about what these people care about?

A: "The cares are endless and overwhelming. One stands as a protest whenever one spots an ounce of needless suffering. There are victims of all kinds of abusive and ignorant actions. They cry out for release from past bondage, a promise for a more hope-filled future. Societal systems are in disarray worldwide. Economic, cultural,

and political transformations leave nothing unchanged as we collectively enter a new age. Even forms which nurture our spirituality are in need of retooling and recovery of meaning."

Q: Is this sort of greatness really an option for all?

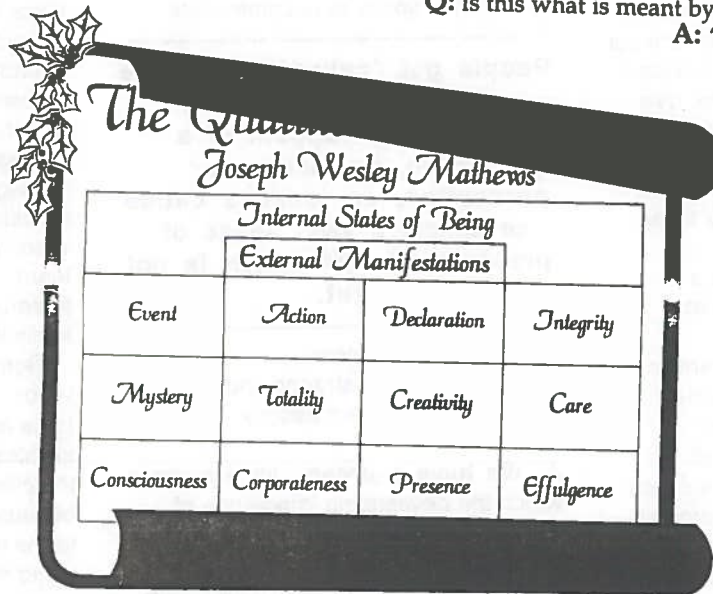
A: "If one thinks of one's self as superior to others then profound humanness will elude that person. Every life shows up with a paradoxical twist. None of us can escape life or death; emptiness or fullness; decision or indecision. The ongoing struggle to realize one's full potential is every person's dream."

Q: How does one know when it happens?

A: "The experience is one of restless tranquility. One senses an endless affirmation to all of life as good; to one's self as significant and received; to one's past as approved; and to the future as open. The Word of life and no lesser word provides unlimited power in civilization's continued quest for profound humanness. The experience is one of unmistakable effulgence!"

Q: Is there anything else?

A: "Yes. It is important that one have passion about these matters; that one feels deeply about the quality of this fragile life. Life is too short and too precious a gift to opt for anything less. What is at stake is not only one's self and others, but the entire universe."



HISTORY'S HARBINGERS We Who Build the Future By John Epps

We live in a long line of historical anomalies. In every great time of change, people emerge who seem vaguely out of place, whose style and values and activities seem more in tune with what is yet to be than with what is. Sometimes they're mistaken for romantic purists longing for a past that never was; and sometimes for rebels protesting against present ills. In fact, they're harbingers of the future.

The ancient prophet who always seemed to be calling Israel to a new phase of its socio-cultural life, the Greek Philosophers attempting to lead civilisation into a new way of thinking, the monastics bringing a hierarchical order into the Medieval chaos, the Renaissance people daring to revel in human potential — all were out of place in their era, but each assisted in the development of the future. We recognize them because we benefit from their work. Misfits whose future did not emerge are "false prophets," and are quickly forgotten. It's risky being out of step: you may stumble.

No one volunteers to be a misfit. But heredity, environment, circumstances and other manifestations of Divine intervention seem to prevail. People get "called" into a life of discontinuity by the irresistible appeal of a vision, an insight, a perception, an ideal, a cause or simply a vivid sense of presence of that which is not yet. They don't wish for or seek out conflict, but often find themselves at odds with those whose security is tied to present conditions.

Curiously, the particular cause or vision that guides the pioneers may have very little to do with the specifics of the future that emerge; but the basic values they embody become the foundation of the new age. Isaiah's vision of post-exilic Judaism had as little to do with reality as Cromwell's projections of a post-monarchical England. But the values of both were building blocks for the future. Isaiah's monotheism and Cromwell's democracy were firmly imbedded in the future that came.

The efficacy of 'real' prophets isn't measured by precise quantification so much as by direction. In any case, success can't be measured until long

after the pioneer's time is past. By the time they are recognized, they are long dead; so for them reward and accomplishment play no part of their operating motivation. Or, more accurately, they celebrate the future that is intruding, not the past that is receding.

This adds to their peculiarly asynchronous demeanor. "Why aren't they miserable?" may be the observer's question. But the source of their joy and misery is not present; the present factors which occasion happiness or despair in the majority are strangely powerless over these aliens. Not that they lack passion. Far from it. In fact their power and influence stems largely from the immense passion and intensity with which they undertake their task. They tend to scare the beejesus out of normal people who've tamed their spirits to accommodate

People get "called" into a life of discontinuity by the irresistible appeal of a vision, an insight, a perception, an ideal, a cause or simply a vivid sense of presence of that which is not yet.

current circumstances.

Our ancestry is strange, indeed. But more important is our destiny.

A. We have a dream. It's a dream in which the devastating impotence of personal poverty no longer denies participation in society's benefits and decisions and obligation. There will be poor but not wretched. Basic subsistence will be available, and with it, responsibility as a contributing community member. There will be opportunity for mutually enriching interchange among poor and rich. Each will make valuable contributions to the whole of society. The alienation of race and class will be bridged in an era of participation, responsibility and interchange in which appropriate roles will be played by men, women, youth and elders.

Some of us live the reality of that dream. We live in villages and walk with kings. We demonstrate to one the possibility of creativity under adverse conditions and to the other, the opportunity to engage resources in significant endeavours. We are

constantly working to develop and use methods of participation and engagement wherein the distinction between "donor" and "beneficiary" is blurred. In profound reality, we are all of us donors of our passion and energy; and we are all of us beneficiaries of the ultimate gift of life itself. Divisions of race, nation, class and circumstance are ultimately insignificant in light of the profound commonness we share. To live, to explore and to dramatize that commonness is our role in the **Development** arena.

B. We have a vision. It's a vision in which the entrepreneurial spirit that has fashioned a technological wonderworld is focused onto services of genuine human need. We believe an "Ethic of Service" is emerging which has a proper place for profit and power — a place subordinate to providing valued benefits to another. There will be pollution and industrial tensions, but no longer as threats to civilization. These will be arenas in which the technological and managerial prowess of our time will be focused to ensure a human future in which we all can continue to grow and learn. The innovative capacity will be fostered and celebrated as it continues to disclose the wonders of our world.

Some of us live in that vision. We consult with organizations large and small, often without the slightest expertise in the enterprise of the client. And great things happen because our "consultations" are visits to the vision. We invite clients into the world of service with its teamwork, participation, consensus, respect and productivity, and we allow them to operate in it for the duration of the programme. They (and we) are never the same again, for once tasting the authenticity of service and experiencing the integrity it brings, one cannot return to business as usual. The "New Ethics of Service" is powerful precisely because its basis is reality: **Organizations are mechanisms for delivering benefit.** In profound reality, life — be it individual or social — exists to be expended. Any attempts to hoard its wealth or power is ultimately self-destructive. Groups, like individuals, cannot hang onto their resources. They can only use them to deliver benefit to a greater reality. In the arena of **Economics**, we are hosts and hostesses for a new world of

service.

C. We foresee a transformation of learning. No longer will education be the purvue of 6-21 year olds with economic advantage. The learning process will begin before birth and continue to death for all people. No longer will there be stigmas attached to non-rational modes; the full range of human intelligence will be tapped by self-regulated programmes that foster individual uniqueness and pursuit of interests whose social pay-off is long range. No longer will study of the diversity of cultural expression produce a paralysing relativism; appreciation of the planet's wondrous variety will promote an integrity capable of gazing on the infinite from a distinctive and finite perspective. There will be remnants of illiteracy and bigotry; but a noosphere of expanding awareness and appreciation will render them harmless curiosities.

Some of us foster that transformation. We live lives of learning. We reflect, we read, we teach, we write and we act. And since "the only way to know the world is to change it," our learning is always practical. We live in the world dominated by images, mental paradigms and constructs that disclose meaning and presage action. But these paradigms are in constant flux so that to remain fixed in perspective is to become increasingly anachronistic. What we find in learning is the profound Wonder attached to all that is. Whether one explores computer technology, mathematics, physics, anthropology, medicine, economics, music or the mysteries of the mind itself, each field of specialization is becoming transparent to ultimate Mystery. Learning profoundly is not about attaining mastery over reality. It is profoundly to appreciate the infinite basis of finite reality. It is to reinforce our integrity as finite souls amidst Infinite Being. It is constantly to forge images that awaken awe and effective responsibility as temporary sojourners on an infinite voyage. We are models and advocates of the new **Education**.

D. We have a premonition. We foresee a wealth of human potential released into history. What if the 90% of untapped mental power in each of us were released? What if the wisdom of

sages, mystics and intuitives of every sort were the birthright of every person! What if the energy of mind in all its dimensions were accessible to everyone – the discipline of the yogis, the insight of the mystics, the perception of the prophets, the reason of the philosophers, and the depths of the religious – accessible and infusing education, development and business with a spirit of wonder, adventure and significance!

Some of us live in the developing potential of human beings – the capacity to access uncommon physical, mental and psychic resources. We exercise our minds and bodies and explore levels of consciousness with a passionate commitment many reserve for the pursuit of pleasure. Why? Is it only to maximise our own prowess, to fertilize the garden of our lives? No more than education is to get smart, economics is to get rich or development to get power. Human potential is, as the old Calvinist said, "to render praise to God and enjoy Him forever." And we might re-mythologise it, Human Potential is to participate in life's Ultimate Mystery with grace-filled freedom. Any untapped potential can limit our capacity to appreciate, to discern, and to serve. And so we continually probe resources for releasing the flow of **Human Potential** that will shape the world to come.

These are synopses of the future we see, to which we respond, in which we are engaged and for which we have committed our lives. We are emissaries from the future to the present, ambassadors of good will, assigned to make welcome the new when it arrives.

And what if it doesn't turn out like that: Then the values undergirding those visions will still provide solid foundations for the unrevealed marvels of the world to come. That for which we really stand is: Participation in community, Responsibility in service, Awe in the mundane, and Freedom in Gratitude. Our four "Networks" are each efforts to promote the whole value-rich foundation for the world that is coming and is already intruding on the present.

Our role is not to impose our ideas on history like a feudal tyrant. Our role is to live what we see, to explore our vision and to make available our insights. We are a living experiment for the future that is becoming, a joint

venture with the civilizing process, whose efforts constitute intentional participation in the great drama of cosmic evolution.

EULOGY OF GABRIELLE MARY WELLINGTON STRINGAM

By John Stringham
(Given at her funeral, August
29th, 1989, St. Luke's
Church, Victoria, B.C.)

We are here to celebrate the completed life our mother, wife and friend.

Gabrielle Mary Wellington Stringam assumed many roles in her lifetime:

- darling youngest child in a Yorkshire parson's family
- teenager in uniform in wartime England
- war bride and immigrant to a strange land
- mother and best friend of six children
- teacher
- mother-in-law
- grandmother.

Mum brought off all these roles with kindness, wit, realism and a dramatic flair.

Mum had unlimited creativity. There was the wall mural she painted one December that illustrated every verse of the 12 days of Christmas. There was the hallow'e'en costume she designed that made Richard into a totem pole, the birthday cake for Michael that had a complete farm on top, and two years ago Christmas gifts of individualized photo albums with witty explanations detailing the lives of each of us.

Mum was interested in history and language, and passionately interested in making events and literature live. Her raw material could be a nation's history, a Shakespeare play, the birth of Jesus. Through the plays and pageants she wrote and directed, the children and youth in the cast could make the story theirs. Her work on her family's genealogy was for the sake of giving us a sense of personal participation in history. She delighted in the humanity of these ancestors, giving them nicknames, inventing character profiles from what they did or didn't say in their wills. I have the feeling they were never real to her until she could tell a good story about them.

THE WONDER OF IT ALL from ICA:Brazil Newsletter

Suely de Paula and the Lavras Miracle

In two years Suely de Paula has transformed a run-down two room country school of kindergarten to 4th grade into a pulsing educational centre for the whole community.

What was the school like before? Three years ago about 70 children attended. Both teacher and student attendance was sporadic. If a teacher didn't come, the class was sent home – for many children an hour's walk. In any given year only 60-70% of the children passed, creating 1st and 2nd grade classes with children from 7 to 14 years of age. The desks and windows were broken, the walls stained and devoid of teaching aids. The children were dusty, ragged and restless. Many, after a few years effort, quit altogether, continuing the illiteracy cycle. The transformation from this drab and depressing sketch is nothing short of miraculous.

So how is it different? The current school has four classrooms and is adding a fifth plus a library. A large school garden is being planted by the students and teachers together. Next year 8th grade will be added, completing the elementary level of education. There are over 150 children attending, every day, and 14 teachers and staff. All children wear the school uniform. No child is turned away. If a teacher doesn't show, the staff absorbs that class. Energy and excitement bubble from the classrooms. A special theater class is helping conquer the painful shyness and self-depreciation. The children are becoming more active participants in their learning community, putting forth their own ideas and not just repeating facts. Teachers, also excited by the stimulating teaching environment, are requesting to stay on or be assigned to the Lavras School.

How has all this happened? It's happened because the school director, Suely, held onto the vision that "her" children deserved the best. In 1986 she asked Tininha of the ICA team to help her concretize her dream. In March, 1987 a first Imaginal Education course was held with both the teachers and the Lavras Community Association to develop a plan for upgrading the

**My candle burns at
both ends
It will not last the night
But oh my foes and
oh my friends
It gives a lovely light.**

I've surely burned my candle at both ends without a lot of prudence. Leaving the country to go off into the unseen with a man I scarcely knew was somewhat of a gamble. Six children was downright rash. Venturing to university, and into teaching took more guts than I really had, but it worked out somehow. Recently our lifestyle of going all over the place just to see what's there had been a bit daft, but we've enjoyed it. Now a battered old body is ready for a change. It hasn't been a comfortable body for many years, and I dread the idea of becoming senile and incontinent. So it's not a bad time for all this to happen. What I'd like to emphasize to you is that death is not frightening, only the anticipation. It's part of life and to the Christian merely a transition. And here's another joyful discovery —(though) we are sure deep down that our faith is too shallow to hold us up in time of urgency, my experience of reassurance was instant and stayed with me. (When I was told my illness was terminal}, I gave a quick prayer for help to "see me through" and I have been granted what I can only call the grace of God - I am serene, except that my wretched body gets awfully wobbly, and then I sound afraid which I am not."

In the 24 hours before Mum died, Eve and Peter dreamed of her healthy and well and presiding at huge family gatherings, and her six year-old grandchild Hannah announced to a grieving daughter-in-law: "You shouldn't feel sad about grandma. She 's only putting off her bodily dress".

These messages are true. Gabrielle Mary, Gay, Mum, Granny is gone — and she is among us. She is present at any celebration where those who love her gather, including this one.

Mum transformed sad experiences into magical moments. She instituted a Christmas play/pantomime with casting open only to the 7th and 8th graders who were overwhelmed at being in a 1000-person high school. She had special games for us as small children cooped up in a tent at a rain-soaked camp site. She took family foibles and mishaps: James drinking insect repellent, Dad as a young husband buying a high-powered car they couldn't afford, and wove them into a family myth that got better with each dramatized retelling.

Mum performed similar transmutations in her extensive free, come-at-all-hours counselling service. If as a mixed-up adolescent you went to her for advice, she would serve you a fried egg sandwich and re-orient you, making you aware of where you came from, affirming your worth, and rehearsing the contribution she was convinced you were capable of making.

In school Mum got the best and worst students to teach, because her encouragement enabled the gifted to soar and her counselling helped the troubled to deal with their anger and their limitations. Mum was charming and diplomatic, and, though she preferred to deal with issues head on, she could be devious when a situation was serious enough to merit extraordinary measures.

Mum spoke and wrote clearly, concisely, and with great style. She was an exacting editor and public-speaking coach.

Mum was gay. She loved laughter, and couldn't feel comfortable in a situation until she had seen the absurd side of it.

Mum was deeply committed to certain fundamentals: her marriage, her family, kindness, courtesy, England, the Christian faith.

In a letter she wrote to her brother Anthony shortly before she died, she said: "What I wish so much is that the loving people who have (prayed for) me would be comforted quickly... I know that you love life fiercely, and the thought of having it come to an end is frightening and unthinkable to you. My experience is different. I wasn't crippled in my youth by all the things I couldn't do. In my 20's I was struck by these lines of poetry:

school and integrating it with the community.

Listing the accomplishments could take a whole newsletter, but activities include Mothers Day parties, special plays, professional courses for adults, participation in community fiestas and meetings, excursions for the children, teas for senior citizens to share the history of Lavras, involvement by teachers in planning and implementing events, ongoing teacher training, and celebrations.

How does this woman work? She is a continual ball of energy, assessing and creating solutions in one smooth action.

She's positive, plain-talking—and direct when necessary. A natural energizer, she has worked hard to create more personal balance by developing her listening skills and training to play the more objective role of facilitator. When you meet Suely, she always has some new project or plan germinating in her mind. Everybody and everything is a potential resource, whether it's an old door, 20 small donations to buy 1st grade reading books, or an historical sketch on Professor Santos Loureiro, the school's name-sake.

Now that the garden, library, additional classroom and folklore project are under way, it is on to a cemented sports area, theatre space, and writer's workshops for the children, so they can begin to create their own books to help stock the library. She's also working on plans to secure transport for her 8th grade graduates in order that they can attend high school in Rio Bonito! Viva Suely!

Consulting with Esso on the Spirit Journey

We were divided into teams working on the implementaries for the next three months of the core group at ESSO. In the quiet as our team was busily writing, we were struck by the hair-splitting going on in the next group. My partner put his pencil down and sighed. "It's been like this for the past week," he said. "Coming late for meetings, dragging along. They seem to be questioning the whole process, feeling the transformation is too slow, too hard."

"Ah," I replied, "a case of Long March disease."

"What's that?" he queried.

"Well now," I explained. "when you

are trying to do something very difficult, something that has not been done before, for which you have to create the model as you go along, it is very common to have periods of weariness, feelings of ineffectivity, of being adrift without a map and no way to return to the 'good old days'."

The Long March

"Yes," he said, a little surprised, "that's it exactly, but what do you do about it?"

"You use it," I replied, "Also, there are some exercises that might be helpful. If you want to schedule half a day or so, we could share some of them with you."

"Done," he cried, "How soon?"

This was how it came about that we entered a new level in consulting services. Three weeks later we gathered for lunch in a fine hotel and spent the next seven hours talking, sharing, writing, doing montages, and reflecting.

Basically we had three sessions; the first, *The Immense Journey*, asked the question, "What is this journey I am on?" It rehearsed the story of life on this planet during the past ten million years, charted the journey of their company in the past hundred years and their individual roles as staff in it, and reflected on the

interrelatedness of such efforts with the human journey. Each wrote a brief statement of "anticipated benefits" for themselves, the company and Brazil which could come from the transformational work they were doing.

The second session, *The Journey Inward*, dealt with the question, "How can I continue on the march?" We rehearsed the journey from awakening to the center and created spirit tool kits, rather like first aid kits with handbooks of symptoms, diagnoses and treatments for the four defined ailments of the long march.

The final session, *The Crimson Line*, reflected on the question of "Who's in this with me?" and concluded with the creation of a meditative council. One of the surprising things was that all four participants named their wives as part of their meditative council.

In the final reflection, we discovered that spirit calisthenics are most effective when right and left brain activities are put in the context of the

long centuries of individual and social development.

The results after a month, ephemeral as they may seem, suggest to us that this is perhaps the realm in which our greatest contribution can be made in the next few years. As my partner said, "Lots of groups deal with planning and systems improvement. Only IAC (Instituto do Assuntos Culturais) deals with the spirit!"

Into Every Life

The work in one of our client companies had gone well, and the total company – from directors to night watchmen – were pleased with the direction of human development in their plant after one year and more of implementation. And then the blow fell!

Irregularities were discovered that spread the spirit of distrust, suspicion and anxiety throughout the plant. Morale plummeted and all the cooperative teamwork that had resulted from the LENS a year and a half ago seemed in danger of being destroyed.

The ICA consultants put their heads together and concurred that the religious terminology for what was happening was "a Dark Night attack". We decided to mainline an injection of spirit with the hope of countering the illness.

The Dark Night

We asked the top management to let us do a two hour program with volunteers from across the plant. In spite of the intensive production schedule, forty people of the 200 daytime staff, from directors to skilled laborers, showed up for the session which had been billed as *Handling Your Spirit in a Time of Chaos*.

After giving the over-all context of the Dark Night and its manifestations, we took the category of Humiliation and spelled out four phenomenological levels: embarrassment, shame, deception and mortification, illustrating each and calling for illustrations from the group. Each person filled out a worksheet with their example and how they responded to such experiences. At the same time they listed where they had cause for satisfaction or even pride. They matched the Glory categories which accompany humiliation for the spirit person: accepted, honoured, freed and vibrant.

One young woman said, " the first three categories, I can accept, but when one is mortified there is no glory and no way of going on." Kindly but firmly some of the group took her on, giving their own experiences of something more than survival happening to them in such times.

They wrote poems abstracting their experience. An example was:

**Humiliation
inferior impulse
that affects the heart,
yet for those who can accept
and feel the deeper good
these moments bring
new glory.**

THE VIOLINS PLAY ON By Margaret and Barry Oakley

Our year back in Australia has unfolded as interesting and challenging. It has extended our creativity and care. I am reminded of the Bilbo, the Hobbit. The call to travel doesn't go away. The only thing that changes are the new adventures that greet us on the way. In fact, "*The Old Walking Song*" that Bilbo recites on his travels seems appropriate.

*The road goes ever on and on
Down from the Road where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And wither then? I cannot say.*

*The Road goes ever on and on
Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
Let others follow it who can!
Let them a journey new begin,
But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted Inn,
My evening-rest and sleep to meet.*

Then he adds a third verse:

*Still round the corner there may wait
A new Road or a secret gate;
And though I oft have passed them by,
A day will come at last when I
Shall take the hidden paths that run
West of the Moon, East of the Sun.*

I, Barry, have continued some management training in Hong Kong this year which has been a helpful bridge for us, and provided an extension of transformational insights into the business world. My time spent at Woodside, Hong Kong, has been a delight—Woodside has indeed become a community of care. I continue my writing and get a little anxious that I can't spend as much time at it as I would like to. But there is time yet and the learning process goes on. The three key books I have read this year that have been exciting and stimulating are *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, by Mathew Fox; *Global Mind Change*, by Willis Harman, and *Quantum Healing*, by Dēpak Chopra. I have also gone back to Fritjof Capra's new vision of reality. All these are challenging and insightful in pioneering new forms of human society. A series of interviews during a consulting job with 10 or more Green organizations was also exciting. Many of them operate out of lofts and hessian (burlap) walls. Seems we have been there, done that. But a coalition of these forms and forces of consciousness is what is freighting a hope for our future.

We see this going on in many different ways by many of our colleagues in Australia. People's passions are engaged. Using the imagery of Herman Hesse in *Journey to the East*, it seems that we have not sold our fiddles. Everyone we know is working with their passion and their gifts. The league is still in place. Maybe it is only the structures that have changed. And that is exactly what is required for evolutionary history. Somehow that rings a bell also from RS-1 days.

*The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the Road where it began
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow if I can.*

I, Margaret, have been involved in family care for our two daughters and their beautiful seven month old boys, Dylan and Aiden, and care also for Dad who is 83 now and needing much more care though he is still battling to maintain independence and meaning for life. We have spent some good times with son Geoff and Christine. I have spent a lot of time at 3 Bayley Street doing

several things: care for Liza Tod, who will be moving to Melbourne in the New Year to live with her daughter Jill, and doing some ICA secretarial and financial work. Healthwise, the last six months have been good. Two doctors at a Holistic Health Centre have helped immensely. Now I feel that if I can maintain a discipline of diet, exercise, meditation and relaxation, then I can look forward to being almost normally active. I do believe that the body, mind, spirit healer is joyfully at work within me.

From Feb. 14, 1990 our address will be 15 Rednall St., Tea Tree Gully, South Australia, 5091. We have decided that a house is our best security and with some trepidation have begun to purchase at that address. This will put us closer to Kathy and Gran', and to Dad, and many of our family and friends. Rhonda and Brian Robins have recently bought a house not far from us. We are so much looking forward to having visitors; please come if you can.

God has indeed been caring for us in this year of transition, by letters from colleagues, the interchange and nurture of EDGES, *The Node*, and *Pacific Waves*. We thank you all for your efforts. Our prayer for us all for this new decade, would be that we learn more about the care of our earth and all her peoples. We would leave you with these words by an Aboriginal elder:

**We belong to the ground
It is our power
And we must stay close to it
or maybe we will get lost.**

EVENTFULNESS IN JAPAN

By Joan Knutsen
Excerpts from a letter

This past quarter has been a tremendous challenge for me and as always, I seem to be much more grateful for challenges after I've gone through them than while I am in them.

In September, Shirley St. John and I flew to Kumamoto to do a two day program for the Columban Missionary Society, a group of Irish Catholic priests here in Japan whom we have been working with for about two years now.

After the program one of the men drove us up to Mount Aso, an active volcano. It had been recently acting up so we couldn't go all the way to the top but it was indeed quite a sight. When we returned to Tokyo, the Columbans called and asked us if we would be willing to design and facilitate their week long all Japan convention in November held near Osaka. We knew this would not be easy. (Little did we know what we'd be in for!) Well, of course, Shirley and I said yes and began the preparation. It became clear a few weeks before the convention that there was opposition to our doing the convention as well as strong support. The first day of the convention began with a discussion on whether or not the two of us -- **women and Protestant, at that!** -- should even be allowed to present our convention plan to the group for approval.

The first day of the convention began with a discussion on whether or not the two of us -- women and Protestant, at that! -- should even be allowed to present our convention plan to the group for approval.

After hours of discussion, we were brought into the room and asked to present the plan that we had created. We were then sent from the room and the discussion continued. Around dinner time we were called back into the room and told that we could facilitate the convention. It went extremely well and a great deal of healing took place. On the last day, many of the men came up to us individually and expressed their gratitude for our style and flexibility. It was overwhelming affirmation for us and our methods. The Regional Superior said it was *the* event of his four years in office and he now knew how it was possible to work together out of a common vision. I'll never forget this convention because it reminded me again of what is possible in the midst of seeming impossible situations and that potential for healing is great if we don't lose our courage.

After returning to Tokyo from the convention, I had one day before I packed my bags again and went off to Hachihoji for two and a half days to work with our chairman of the board, George Kawai, on a Rotary Youth Exchange

Program. We worked with 18 students: six Japanese students who will be going to foreign countries, six Japanese students who have completed a year abroad, and six foreign students who are now here in Japan. We had a really terrific bunch of young people. By the end of the program they thanked us for a great time and admitted they had been a little skeptical about what they would be doing for so long a time but that they had found it a valuable experience. I felt very privileged to be with these students. George was elated over the program and faxed the results to many Rotary clubs in Japan, Australia, and the USA. He wants to improve the youth exchange program and sees that this is a way to do just that.

December 1, we moved into our new ICA house. It's a lovely home. It has parquet floors, shoji (rice paper) sliding screens on the living room windows, floor to ceiling glass doors in both the living room and the dining room that go out into a lovely little garden. I live upstairs with another woman named Jean Howe. We each have a lovely sunny room, carpeted and built-in cupboards and closets. We have two apartments across the street where the rest of the community live. There are two available guest rooms so come by for a visit. You'll love this place. We will have an Open House after the first of the year.

I still think our most important work these days is with community building and spiritual practices. We have a women's circle that meets here weekly and we are planning a winter solstice ritual for next week to be held here. If anyone is interested in having these rituals, let us know. We made a tape for the Seattle women's group and it was so good to feel connected with them. Working on communication between those who decide to be community is not easy but so important.

THE WOODSIDE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG

By Mary Hoff

Excerpts from a letter

Our community at Woodside is a rich one. We are having a workday this afternoon to prepare for our third Annual Open House at Woodside. We are painting, cleaning, mowing, and repairing.

In our community, we have so many wonderful, interesting people from nine countries—Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Australia, U.K., USA, and France. We have thirty in the house with a few guests almost always in and out and a waiting list of people we know who would like to move in. We all like to celebrate together. Barbecues on the verandah or out in the yard are favourite events. This year we have celebrated Bastille Day, Sri Lankan Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, a marriage, departures, and birthdays. Sometimes we share a meal and conversation together just for the enjoyment of it. Dharma has been trying to organize a weekly study and several have suggested that we reinstitute the family-hosted biweekly celebrative meals. There are lots of informal conversations in the kitchen, TV room, verandahs, around the computers and elsewhere.

Mike Hoff and Barry Oakley just finished four straight weeks of management training seminars. Two weeks were with people from TVB, one of the local TV stations. Each week about 25 people attended the seminars. The third week was an advanced course for graduates of the Leadership Skills for Young Managers (LSYM) and the fourth week was the basic LSYM management course. The last two seminars were held here at Woodside. Mike is now preparing to speak to 200 people from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth on the topic of Leadership. In addition he is managing Woodside.

David Hoff is having a fine year. He is working on his Bear badge in Cub Scouts. He is in the third grade in the 2/3 combination and loves it. He recently did a project entitled, "How to Conduct a Survey". He chose the area of Biology because he currently plans to be a marine biologist.

I am in my fourth year at the Hong Kong International School as assistant elementary principal. My job description includes supervision of instruction. This is an exciting challenge. I supervise the second, third, 2nd/3rd combination, physical education, music, computer and library teachers this year. I recently returned from a conference for administrators of international schools in East Asia. About 60 schools were represented. The conference was held in Seoul, Korea. The conference was an excellent opportunity for networking and

sharing. I took the opportunity to stay an extra night with Dianne and Larry Greenwald. They are great. Dianne is still teaching at Seoul Foreign School, sixth grade. She continues to have two study groups at her house weekly. One is Korean men and women, and one is all women. Jang in Sook attends the woman's one. She and Park now have two children. Larry is with a large law firm and is now clearly an expert in Korean law. He is on the board of governors of the American Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club. He has lunch occasionally with Park Si Won who wants to start a house again in

Seoul. Josh Greenwald is a junior in high school and Darcy is spending a year studying at a university in China.

At Woodside there is Susanna Lo who is Chinese. She works for the American Field Service and has spent a number of years studying in Canada. Robert Chaen is Chinese Malaysian and works for Leo Burnett, a large advertising agency.

Hur Myung Hee and Joe Nagy and Nathan are doing well. Nathan is almost two and beginning to talk quite a bit. Joe continues as an editor at Far Eastern Economic Review magazine and Myung Hee has just gone into business for herself as an insurance broker. She brought her clients with her from her previous job and is doing well. Now she has more flexible hours and time to spend with Nathan. They are going to the U.S. at Christmas to visit Joe's relatives and let Nathan see snow. Myung Hee has made a video of all of us at our Thanksgiving dinner to show to the Stansburys, Elizabeth Caperton and Lyn and Bill Edwards. Lena Acoba, the lady who takes care of Nathan, will go to visit her relatives in the Philippines. Asami is our newest resident. She is Japanese and works for Myung Hee's former insurance company.

Anna Kalutunga, Jennifer Henricus, Duminda Ariyasinghe and Priyanthie are from Sri Lanka. Aruna and Jennifer are married. Aruna writes news shows for ATV and Jennifer is a writer and editor for a jewellery magazine. Aruna has applied to Oxford to get an advanced degree in journalism. Duminda writes and edits for the Hong Kong Standard newspaper. He recently brought his fiance Priyanthie, here from Sri Lanka. They felt life was safer here. Now they are married. We had a big reception for

them at Woodside.

The Hamptons continue to do well. Chris is in primary 5 at Quarry Bay English Foundation School and plays football each week at the Hong Kong Football Club. Lis is thirteen, almost six feet tall, is an avid scholar at South Island secondary school and exhibits fine cooking and handicraft skills. (See the Hampton letter for more)

Peter Fry is working at Woodside. His current project is marketing 1990 Hong Kong calendars. He also works on a China travel guide service and various other projects as they come along. Kathy Jones comes from Taiwan and works with him regularly. Henri Vivarés is about 24, French, good looking and has a small import-export business between China, Hong Kong and France. He seems to be doing quite well. We had a wonderful Bastille Day celebration this year. Henri designed the menu and served as the chief chef, directing us all in the preparation of a fine French meal.

Jim and Sue Oberg are doing well. Sue is unit leader of the 4/5 combination at Hong Kong International school. Jim ended his job as a foreign securities investment counsellor and is currently deciding what he wants to do next.

The Pongasis have increased their family size. In September, the family went to the Philippines and Grace gave birth to twin girls, Jennifer and Jill. Terry and Grace left all four of the children in the Philippines to be cared for by Terry's mother, Grace's sister, and other relatives. Jean and Justin are in good schools and the twins are growing. This was a difficult decision for Terry and Grace to make. They have good jobs in Hong Kong. Terry continues his job with subscriptions at the *Far Eastern Economic Review* magazine and Grace is a secretary at Hong Kong International School. In the Philippines they could not get jobs that paid as much and in Hong Kong they could not afford to pay for the care and schooling their children would need if they were all living here. One or the other parent will do occasional visits to the Philippines.

V. Dharmalingham is returning to his home country of Malaysia on December 17. This will be a great loss to our house. Dharma will continue to work for *Asia Week* magazine but will transfer to Kuala Lumpur where the office is being expanded.

Alan Hawke is from Australia and is

working for a nursery, delivering plants. He recently had his 40th birthday party with members of the house and other friends. We went to a Chinese restaurant and took up three big round tables. Alan went around the room saying what each person meant to him. He was amazing!

Rachel Flowers and Joanna Kitco are British. They are both members of the Raja Yoga group. Rachel works with them full time and Joanna is a lecturer at Hong Kong City Polytechnic. She has a doctorate in psychology. Both of them work with Global Cooperation, an organization whose members assist in striving for world peace. Rosemary Kelly came to Woodside because she is a good friend of Joanna's. She recently arrived in Hong Kong and almost immediately got a job in public relations for the largest bank here, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

Roy Stansbury continues to be a resident on an occasional basis. He is still working part time for Dupont in Asia as a training consultant. Roy is looking for a full time U.S. based job with them. He would like to spend more time at home with Marsha and Erin. They now have an apartment on the north side of Chicago. Marsha is taking courses at Loyola University and has discovered a love of literature and writing. Erin is doing well in a Montessori preschool.

These are fascinating times to be in Hong Kong.



AN ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIMENT IN SYDNEY

**By Richard and Maria
Maguire**

We operate as one unit of the ICA, and live in an apartment of the "old ICA House". We enjoy our present set-up of renting one of the rooms in another flat for office space, along with other colleagues and cooperatively using computers, photocopying machine, telephones, the ICA car and other space for functions as needed. In addition to paying for all direct expenses related to our unit's activities, we pay 10% of all our income to the ICA. We decide how much we reinvest into our own business expenses, for training, organizational memberships, subscriptions or donations and how much we pay ourselves as salaries. We are responsible to the Board and deliver monthly reports.

Richard and I very much enjoy our present freedom to decide what we sense is needed and go ahead and do it. We feel like we are acting on behalf of and by a larger group consensus just the same, but without the burden of having to wait for everyone to give their approval to go ahead. This presupposes financial independence and accountability; so far we have been lucky in managing that aspect well, with ongoing contracts and new consultancy work coming in regularly. We are already in a position where we can begin to support others' efforts and can pay colleagues for work as needed. We gain a lot from working with old and new colleagues these days. We hope to extend new modes of cooperation as we work together in the future and secure some large contracts.

We appreciate our present strong connection to the "old" ICA place and to the global network. We constantly marvel at the change, both the pain and the wonder of it all, and eagerly await a time to forge out the next form of the ICA. We meet occasionally with other colleagues who live in or come to the house. We meet as a larger group for monthly ICA board meetings and thematic social events or roundtables.

We sense that a lot of creativity can develop these days among us and that we need to support each other in allowing it to flow, encouraging

experimentation rather than keeping within narrow boundaries. Whereas there are fortunately others among us caring for and working with old colleagues, it seems to be our particular bent to engage in dialogue with many new people and movements we hardly believed would ever be our colleagues. All of us seem to be needed to shape the new form of the local and global order.

FAMILY ALIVENESS Excerpts from letters of Colleagues

Congratulations to **Dominic Canavarro** and **Helley Stewart** who were united in marriage at the First Methodist Church in Santa Monica on December 16, 1989. Dominic and Helley were a part of the staff of the 6th grade trip for the past two years. Don and Claudia Cramer were pastor for the ceremony and hostess for the rehearsal dinner.

Margie Tomlinson

My work as a consultant to religious communities and their institutions continues to be very life giving. "Helping People Think Together" in multiple ways using many techniques to tap into the wellsprings of the mind, body, and spirit continually keep my juices flowing. The power of the corporate ICA table working in many sectors is a great asset.

June 10 the family celebrated the covenanting in marriage of my daughter, Kathy, to Matt Bastien in the Boulder, Colorado amphitheater. Kathy is in her fourth year of graduate studies in math at Rice University in Houston. She's keeping her birth name and is focused on career goals in academia. Matt is a year her senior in age, an amiable who flexes to the women he loves. He's been in her life for seven years prior to June 10. My sister, Linda, came from Brussels to act as my visible support. Being the mother of the bride was a marvelous enjoyable experience, although I was in the presence of Kathy's father and seven others of his family for the first time in a dozen years. My son, Kent, was an angel in this situation. He lives in DuPage County, Illinois and is a supervisor of receiving in an office

furniture warehouse.

At the end of August I had the privilege of co-facilitation with Brother Tom Giardino of the Cinninnati Province, Society of Mary at the school they sponsor in Dublin, Ireland. Ireland is an unbelievable wonder; I got to New Grange, to the oldest Cistercian Abbey in the country, to view the Book of Kells and being with the Irish school teachers was an education in profound humanness! This trip took me through Brussels to visit with my sister, Linda. We visited Bruges and traveled to south of Paris to the Chartres Cathedral, where the Dromenon is in the floor. Those who have worked with this pattern can experience the healing energy of dancing with the mystery.

On October 7, my father, after twelve years of illness, died in his sleep at age 78. Everyone needs to play the role that most helps them in the grieving process. The clergy contexting proved to be worth the effort for me.

(Until the end of December, Margie did her consulting work out of her mother's home and gave her mother the support she needed to make the transition to being on her own. Now Margie is back in Chicago at the ICA.)

Mary and Larry Ward

Mary and Larry Ward send their greetings from Coconut Grove, Florida, USA. Their address is 2993 Ruth Street, Rear Apt. Coconut Grove, Fl. 33133. Larry is involved in a consultancy business and Mary works with Hospice, Inc. of Miami, working in the Volunteer Services and Community Relations Department doing recruiting, training, placement and sustenance of volunteers.

Alice, Joel, and Stuart Wright

Here we are - in a new place! Even though we lived in Kansas City 25 years ago, times, places and people change. Gathering up our belongings that have been in storage with family and friends for the past several years was a very reflective exercise.

Kencorp, a Change Management Consulting business, had its formal incorporation in January. Our move to the Kansas City area from Sun City, Arizona, was required in order that the business might take its next growth cycle. While planning is a critical component with clients the whole aspect of corporate culture is foundational to the relationship.

I, Alice, am continuing with my NuSkin business. In addition to this I am the office manager for our brother-in-law's dental practice in Kansas City. Joel and I are also doing staff planning meetings for his two locations to strengthen and expand the dental practice.

Stuart is now a Junior at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Business management and management information systems are coming together as a "combo". He is looking forward to an internship next summer. One highlight has been his membership in Delta Tau Delta fraternity. His work study program is in the Pharmacology Department doing data entry and computer programming. Joel, Stuart and I all took an anthropology course over the summer - reading, writing, conversing, writing and editing- and came out on top!

Nancy and Fred Lanphear

It has been about six months since we arrived in the Seattle area. We experience ourselves as settled, but still acclimating to the newness and uniqueness of our new home. Being on the Pacific Rim is exciting; we find ourselves in a blend of cultures, one that is greatly influenced by the East and the other that comes from the Native American and those who have acquired sensitivity to the environment and taken the role as conservers of the planet.

Our new "jobs" have taken us into another world, a world of the ancient in the form of Oriental medicine and its tremendous potential in contemporary society. Three months after arriving in Seattle, Fred assumed the position of President of the Northwest Institute of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Just days later, Nancy became a part-time receptionist, two weeks later to be made Office and Clinic Coordinator, along with the ongoing task of receptionist. We are both delighted to be in the midst of Chinese medicine and culture and at the same time to be in a position of integrating these gifts into our own traditions and life understandings.

Our involvement with the Residential Learning Center continues to be exciting and challenging. We have seven students in residence and five in Venezuela and Belgium who will be returning in February. The theme this year at the RLC is Planetary

Partnerships with the first quarter focussing on developing a partnership with the earth. Therefore we have been doing all kinds of food processing. At first, we estimated that we might harvest as much as a ton of produce, but as we began to calculate and actually weigh everything we harvested, we found it was more like two tons. The organic farming approach has been an exciting challenge and much more successful than we had anticipated. This in itself has been quite a shift for us.

It has been great working with our son, Bob on the RLC staff, sharing the *deja vu* experiences with him as he journeys from youth through adolescence. Fred has enjoyed integrating their different styles and approaches to design into projects like the Japanese Garden at the RLC. Sandra has found a place to live near her work at the Veterinary Clinic in Seattle and is pleased to be fixing up her own space for the first time. We have appreciated being able to

As a family, we find ourselves grateful that we share common concerns and connections.

participate with her in that task. She now has a place where her cat Guinness is able to live. Bruce and Nancy have purchased a house in Cincinnati where they continue to enjoy their work as health care providers. We have had some great conversations about the integration of Eastern and Western medicine. As a family, we find ourselves grateful that we share common concerns and connections in acting out our care for each other and the world.

Doris Jane Conway-Rettig

The City of Minneapolis bought our old home, and we bought a new one not too far away. It has a beautiful huge maple tree in the front yard which helps keep the house cool in the summer. It is a three minute walk from Lake Nokomis. We like it.

At my job in the department of Administration at the State of Minnesota, I became the coordinator of the STEP program in March. STEP means Strive Towards Excellence in Performance. It has to do with allowing

front-line or managerial state employees to innovate within their jobs in order to increase quality, quantity, and cost effectiveness of state government. It is out to create an atmosphere to allow long-term change to happen. I supervise a team and am in charge of the operations of the program. I am very excited about the work I am doing. The challenges are great. Our division is also doing an experiment in participatory management as a demonstration in state government.

My personal journey continues with strong support from a few people. I am continually learning about myself and who I am anew. One thing I have learned which helps is to take my watch off on weekends and operate out of a more interior sense of time and activity.

Jessica is a junior at Earlham College. She is co-captain of the soccer team for the second year and residence hall counselor. She has declared her major as biology. This summer she learned how to scuba dive and then spent a month in the Virgin Islands taking a marine parks management course and doing research on coral reefs. This spring she will journey to the Caribbean to collect data for research on Iguanas.

Dirk is a sophomore at Michigan Tech University and a mechanical engineering major. He is on the swim team with special attention to the backstroke. His passion however has become bicycle racing. He won several races, including one in Milwaukee which his grandfather was watching. He is now investigating which cycling team he wants to be on this coming summer. One of his images is working toward the 1996 summer olympics in biking.

Mary, Stuart, Christopher and Elisabeth Hampton

Our 17th wedding anniversary on June 4th coincided with the Tiananmen Square massacre of Chinese students. We joined hundreds of thousands of citizens on the streets of Hong Kong venting grief and anger in a day of well-order civic protest. That evening we dined at one of Hong Kong's best hotels to celebrate our anniversary and looking down from the revolving restaurant to crowded streets below witnessed a tide of humanity flowing around the downtown area as far as the eyes could see. Even though emotions have settled down now, and despite

accusations from Elisabeth that Mary and Stuart kept lapsing back into the sixties, for her parents, this was Hong Kong's finest hour. The dismissive stereotype that all Hong Kong people care about is making money was given the lie. Something deep and unifying happened that day and in the weeks before and after, and we were proud to be part of it. As to the future? Watch and hope. While the Hamptons can move on, the majority here can only hope for a kinder Chinese leadership in 1997 than the one in power in 1989.

On October 1, 1989 we celebrated another landmark: three years in one location. This represents the longest the Hamptons have been in one location

On October 1, 1989 we celebrated another landmark: three years in one location. This represents the longest the Hamptons have been in one location and residence in our marriage. With challenging and rewarding jobs, excellent schooling, and a unique community-style residence on the edge of a country park, we intend to be in Hong Kong for several years to come.

Mary celebrated the beginning of her third year as an occupational therapist at ReHabAid and began her final work towards her M.A. in human resource development. Her article on work in ReHabAid appeared in O.T. Week, a publication of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She also spent six days in Taipei representing her work at an international exposition and got to see an incredible amount of Taipei thanks to gracious local hosts. This year she has begun attending the Hong Kong Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The Hong Kong Meeting-for Worship is in the silent Meeting tradition.

Stuart continues to have a great job as manager and editor at Asian Sources publishing company. Two books edited by him, *Importing from Thailand and Importing from the Philippines*, are now in print: *Importing from India*, written and edited by him, will be available in January, 1990.

Marilyn, Joe, Jon, and Ben Crocker

In July we relocated from Florida to Winthrop, Massachusetts, where Joe is now serving First Church of Winthrop, United Methodist, and Marilyn is continuing the consulting work of Marilyn Crocker Associates, Inc. After 22 years of "appointment beyond the local church" outside New England, it is good to have come home. And, as is the case with many homecomings, we are finding everything is familiar, yet nothing is the same.

Winthrop is a picturesque seaside community of 20,000 located on a 2 1/2 square mile peninsula just north of Boston's Logan Airport. It enjoys a rich historical tradition and recent status as the most densely populated town in North America. Its small town profile is set against the backdrop of the Boston skyline, dramatically visible across the harbor on clear days - a strong symbol of continued accountability for urban and global issues. It has been refreshing to shift from the "macro" manifestation of the Church in metropolitan Orlando, with its specialized ministry and corporation atmosphere, to the intensified local ministry in a smaller community and congregation, simultaneously broadening and deepening. We have experienced our family, welcomed, honoured and nurtured here as rarely before.

Jon and Ben, sophomores at Amherst College and Tufts University, respectively, are pursuing studies in neuroscience (Jon) and chemical engineering (Ben). They continue their involvement in music and varsity crew, sometimes rowing in the same position in an 8-man shell against each other.

The season of Advent was uniquely marked this year with the death of Marilyn's father, Sydney R. Miller, and the celebration of his completed life at a beautiful Memorial Service in which the whole family participated. This event echoed the theme of transition which seems to capture 1989 for us. Other family highlights include Jon's trip to Spain in June with the Amherst College Concert Choir where he sang in ancient cathedrals, and regained fluency in Spanish - this time with Castillian accent, Ben's research work this summer with a Tufts University engineering professor and this fall with a doctor at Tufts Medical Centre, Marilyn's involvement in a new direction

for education as Trustee for Beaver County Day School and as facilitator for the North American Regional Conference on Education for All, and Joe's renewed involvement in ecumenical projects to ensure a sustainable environment for the future.

Our vision and decisions this year have been informed by the following: *An Open Life* by Joseph Campbell/ Michael Toms, *Western Spirituality* edited by Matthew Fox, *Waking up in the Age of Creativity* by Lois B. Robbins, and most recently a rereading of *On Death and Dying* by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. We have also greatly appreciated two excellent periodicals: *Edges: New Planetary Patterns*, and *Garbage: The Practical Journal for the Environment*.

Evelyn, Larry, Lloyd, and Lela Philbrook

We would like to highlight some of the trips we have made in the last year. Evelyn went to India for one month to join the Jean Houston programme and came back with new exercises and new challenges. She has now developed a new group of colleagues who are interested in mind, body, and spirit exercises. This new core has been very supportive and share their healing techniques when it is accepted by the receiver. They originally came out of DeSilva Mind Control programmes and have blossomed into something very different on their own. They are intrigued with the ICA and LENS methodologies and our ability to work through depth spirit issues and dynamics in planning.

Larry has taught more people how to celebrate action plans during a plenary with the Kenyan kilo-clap than anyone else on the Malaysian Peninsula!

LENS contracts have taken Larry to Singapore, Genting Highlands Resort, Desaru, Penang and to numerous hotels in Kuala Lumpur. He has taught more people how to celebrate action plans during a plenary with the Kenyan kilo-clap than anyone else on the Malaysian Peninsula! Larry also represented the house and our family in Brussels and Bombay this year. This was the year that we bought a laptop computer for Larry. The Toshiba 1200

dominates the apartment in our bedroom for obvious reasons. Larry still works in ICA with village development and networking seminars. It looks like a seminar in Thailand may be a real possibility this next year.

Lloyd received straight A's on his report card and is reading up a storm. He is reading some of his old favorites to his little sister by himself during this holiday. He is learning to play badminton and ride a bike. He is forever the optimist that asks the question why not? when a model needs to be build. He always has his programmes, his plans, and his ideas ready.

Lela is almost 5 and has now started kindergarten after 2 1/2 years in nursery school. She know nursery rhymes and songs in Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin as well as English and has a good working knowledge of the ABC's and numbers up to 20.

We are thinking about whether we will stay here a few more years or return to the states. We are not sure yet, but we certainly are not moving until after the Taiwan Council next year. The weather here is beautiful; the food is good; schools are good; contracts keep coming up and we have been able to renew our visas yearly. This year is the year of the horse. That makes this Larry's year, which is good luck.

We experience the great gift of being connected to this vast network of globally caring people for whom we are ever grateful as we are sustained by the mystery of life itself.

OUR COMMON FUTURE in an Environment of Change.

The Economic Network of Sphere East accepts its commissioning by the ICAI General Assembly and invites your participation in **OUR COMMON FUTURE in an Environment of Change**. ICA's 1990 biennial Conference continues the theme of our 1988 gathering in Oaxtepec, Mexico, with a special focus on the new paradigm emerging for the 21st century. Variations of this visioning of **Our Common Future** will continue for our 1992 meeting in Europe, our 1994 meeting in India and our 1996 meeting in Africa. **OUR COMMON FUTURE in an Environment of Change** will emphasize the expanding, deepening

and relating of the four networks present at Mexico last year.

Some of the assumptions we are operating out of are:

- Our four networks are individually and collectively looking for the edge of consciousness toward which we want to direct our efforts. This requires us to continually discern the contradictions and spirit breaklooses in our particular arenas and in society as a whole.

- We need common metaphors which unite the four networks in service.

- Useful insights will emerge from a creative tension between the networks and the whole transformation process of which we are a part.

- Our meeting needs to consist of substantial representation from each of the networks.

Reflecting the new importance of the Pacific Rim in the coming century, the 1990 Conference will occur in Taipei, Taiwan, 1-11 November 1990. Now the world's third largest producer of personal computers and peripherals, Taiwan is an ideal location for our anticipated pilot demonstrations of new forms of electronic conferencing and global networking. The two-year-old conference centre is in the heart of one of Asia's most dynamic capital cities. It is in walking distance to the Grand Hotel, with its awesome classical Chinese architecture, and the Museum of Modern Art. Located on Taipei's main street, twenty minutes by taxi from the airport and the National Palace Museum, the conference centre offers an enclosed campus setting for our meetings, as well as easy access to other points of interest in the city.

NEW QUESTIONS FOR TAIWAN

Dr. Arne Naess, a leading figure in the international "Deep Ecology" movement, raised new questions for Taiwan during his ten-day symposium here. What is Taiwan's responsibility for preserving the life systems of our planet? How can Taiwan now develop the quality of its life rather than simply accumulate greater wealth? Can Taiwan become an Asian role model in ecologically sustainable development?

Over 500 people had an opportunity to hear and talk directly to Dr. Naess while he was in Taiwan. Thousands saw and heard him on TV and radio. The Symposium was sponsored by ICA and

the Taiwan 2000 Steering Committee. Groups hosting Dr. Naess included the European Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Protection Administration, YWCA, the Society for Wildlife and Nature and Taiwan Greenpeace.

As *The China News* puts it, Dr. Naess helped "make people in Taiwan aware that the consequences of their actions affect not just themselves...but the entire world. (He has) left a fair proportion of his listeners visibly agape as they grapple with 'environmental consciousness' on a new and bewildering scale.

EVENTS SCHEDULED IN 1990

Feb 12- 16 **Native American Study Tour**, Sponsored by ICA West in Phoenix, Airizona USA. Contact Kim Epley.

March 16-17 Thomas Berry, **Universe Story Seminar** Toronto, Sponsored by ICA Canada.

March 23-25 Spring Retreat, Theme **Global Mythologies**, Sponsored by ICA New York. April/May 1990

April Jean Houston Seminars in Australia under the theme of **Rhythms of Awakening in an Ancient land**. Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Gerroa. Organized by ICA Australia. Contact Richard and Marie Maguire.

July 6-8 **The Ten Year Event** A celebration of 10 years of the voluntary service programme in the U.K. Sponsored by ICA:UK.

July 29-August 19 **Earthwise Curriculum Think Tank** Chicago. Call James Wiegel in Phoenix or Karen Troxel in Chicago for more information.

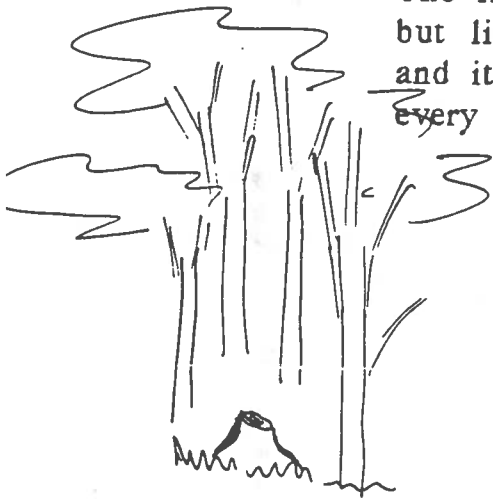
November 1-11 **OUR COMMON FUTURE in an Environment of Change**. Taipei, Taiwan. A global gathering of the four networks related to ICA. Organized by ICA: Taiwan, the Sphere East Economic Network and global coordinators of the four networks.

November 30-Dec. 2 **ICA Associates Meeting** New Orleans.

poems by Robert Shankland

THE TREE OF LIFE

The Tree of Life is red, yellow,
brown, green and
all the colors of the world
because it IS the world!
It has ornaments which represent
all the lives in this world.
The fragrance of the tree is sweet
but light
and it keeps growing larger
every day.



THE STUMP

The rain was like silver
coins falling in the woods
The fishpond was full
of excitement.
It was a time to be replenished,
reborn
All the trees in the forest were happy
and strong
...all except for the little stump,
all alone.

THE STORM

I was in my room on a cold, bleak night.
The room was thick with fear.
It was the storm with his hands
of lightning and body of destruction.
He roars out all
his anger
and hatred,
but after he passed ...
the sun peeks
from behind the clouds
and shines brightly.

