

## **Archives presentation - Lyn Mathews, Edwards**

**Jack Gillis: welcome to midpoint**

**Introduction of new people**

**Context: fortuitous that this work on the archives is being presented at this point in our time together. Rob's talk gave us a context in relationship to our future. That there is today an opening an indeed a demand that the world is requiring of those of us who have insights of how local people participate, how the spirit become release and how humanness becomes the hall mark of all things. Those of us who have built our lives around these things are needed. These are the times. We are the people**

**We have a chance now to raise the question of how do we raise the collective wisdom of this body. The question really before us, how to do mobilize, focus and transmit the collective wisdom that resides in and through this body and its ever expanding associations.**

**The question the word is asking. how does this world bring its wisdom into a mechanism that it might be shared.**

**Wheatley said, organizations today need to understand that information is an energy system. It is an energy system that as it encounters a human being becomes enriched. As it passes through more minds it becomes more potent. So we need to enable many minds to be enriched by this wisdom. We knew this intuitively many decades ago. The capacity to build common wisdom and common memory is one of the touchstones of whatever power and achievement that he have accomplished. In the process we had a way for people to become enriched. It was part of the process. That is no longer the case. We have shifted modalities of operation. So the question is how do enable this process to take place? Part of it is our rich memory and what we have collected.**

**The archives has become that process. This organization has accumulated lots of paper. We had people whose only job was to find free paper. Many of us in this organization have spent a good deal of our time in the print shop. We all went home from summer programs with tons of material. ( I think most of it is my closet.) But the issue here is not memory but how to access this incredible wisdom, only part of which is represented in the documents. The other part is how was this produced. How do you run a meeting of 1000 people.**

**It is very rare that one has the opportunity to stand before a body to introduce a subject that has shaped one's whole life. This work that Lyn is going to present has made me what I am.**

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**Lyn Mathews Edwards is a symbol of the continuity of that memory. And she is a dear person in the hearts of everyone who has ever been associated with this organization in any of its part. She and her husband were part of the original inspiration. The craziness that launched into the unknown. She has been a symbol of those who stand forever. When Joseph died she continued to stand. She remarried a wonderful man. They had a complete life together. The planned to be here but she Bill decided not to come. Bill Died.**

**Let me introduce the Number One Lady.**

**LYN:**

I was in Toronto to teach RS-1. This was to celebrate Stan Gibson's 50th birthday and the 25th anniversary of the Toronto region. Pat Scott said, this is home. Where home is is with this group of people. I experience that. I am just delighted to be here.

I was awake all night. Another night I stayed awake all night was when I was supposed to give the Christ lecture. I woke Joe at 3:00 and said you have to give this lecture. Joe never cooperated. I gave the lecture.

I was awake deciding what to say. We not only inked paper. At one time we had a green bean room.

I wrote that Bill and I were planning to come here and I said What if we took a look at the archives. Hereman at least didn't say not to come. We are trying to Document our discoveries that have taken place over a period of years.

I want to start by reading poem that we discovered early on in the archives. I can't read that without my glasses. We have enjoyed traveling as the golden girls. Mollie is the newest one and she has had to do all the

There is nothing I can give you that you have not.....

Archives: what are archives. Documenting the past. And indeed that is what we are doing. We are taking 30 years of thousands of hours of creative energy and trying to harvest that wisdom so that it can become a part of the future. It is not just to take hold of the past, it is on behalf of the future. Jack was pointing out to me that word It is Re-sources. RE-gain - take back the sources. That which has given life to us through all these years and given us the corporate power to dare to care in depth for the world in which we live. I think that the comments on Rob's talk. What I hear is the acknowledge that we live in exciting times. I can't imagine a greater time to live. It is so painfilled. It is so joy filled. The interrelatedness. the kind of evolving consciousness. I belief the consciousness has reached a critical mass. Everyone knows we live in a global world. It is so painful. One of the ways to deny that is to retreat and make your world smaller. That is not a possible move for us. Our only relationship to what is happening in the world is to give it a big Yes. I like to say that only those people who can say the Big Yes, can say the radical No to the injustice that is going on.

When I think of the institute, like the whole world, we have gone local I think back, we were so corporate, we all knew our role. It is just a different kind of universe. I think it is a great time. A time when we are demanded to be detached from the past and allow whatever the universe is bringing out to take form.

The archives is allowing us to do that.

The convergence that is taking place. I read a book called Balancing the Universe. It is a dialogue between two people: ... another great happening in the midst of the times in which we live. It puts us into a position of being able to address that convergence because we have already lived there.

This is Brian Stanfield's chart. We will put this up and you may look at this. We tell our beginning dates at different times. 1952-1992. He has put four years pieces together and named them poetically. Faith and Life Community - when Jack Lewis - ... Then we began to develop and research the daily office. We did all kinds of things to develop that. We also developed the beginning curriculum. The next years is curriculum develop development. Then the Joe had done much public speaking ... Faith and Life community ... Joe was invited to be Dean of the Ecumenical Institute. We asked if 7 families would come. Of course, if you will come on one salary. A very

practical solution to a very practical problem. The next four years, ... It was at this point in 1964 when the ICA became a program part of the Ecumenical Institute. the next four years was going global. and in 68 we sent out the first 4 houses from Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, South Chicago, Los Angeles and Kuala Lumpur. Then the turn to the world - with community development. Summer 72. Then we began to work on the new social vehicle. In the next 4 years from 76 to 80 - Joe died in 77. Joe proposed to me in a buggy cart. We were married at high noon and Joe died at high noon. Intentionality. it was a time of the Guardians meeting. That was very right that it happened that way.

In 1979 had done 4790 town meetings. We were very fussy on what we called a town meeting. The next four year box. This is time of all the regional consults. In UK ... It was a regional consult that brought Bill Edwards into my life. He got a sniff. Here you had just a very effective structure going up. ... He walked in the front door and I said, Ah, ha. In 84 we had the IERD. by this time we had done all the projects. We started to do a demonstration project in each of the time zones. We had planned to do 8 a year. We had 8 done. Kong Bung Hung got up and said why not do 16 in one year. Then the role of the facilitator. We were beginning to look at ourselves as facilitators. We changed from being pedagogue to being facilitators. At Toronto that was so exciting. We said, what would it mean to facilitate. Remember our hour and a half lecture. We did them in 30 minutes except for Philbrook.

Now about archives. There are 144 files in the basement. Feb of 1993. Some of my colleagues began to call and say, what is going to happen to all those files. To get an answer to that question, I called up Monsignor Eagan and said can I come to see you. He was the priest at the Lady of Sorrows when we went to the West Side. He said, you have a treasure house in those files. That was all the permission that we needed so we got started. We were in that old print shop on the 2nd floor. So first we had to move. First was the books. So I went through the books. At that point Audrey Ayres and I. We found 3 copies of the Joy of Sex. I thought of 3 families that might benefit from them. We brought forth a historical memory library. Those was underlined and marked up. All that we had used as our resources. So we made the move to the basement. I hope all of you can come to the basement sometime. Ken Otto decided that we were going to have nice space. We have a carpet. Here are pictures so you can see it. You get down there by stairs. There is a freight elevator but it is never on the floor where you are. Then you go through a tunnel and then you go through blue doors with a brass plate saying Global Archives. We are well aware that this is just one party of the archives. That is one of the questions we need to raise. how do we get access? I think the unique thing about the files in Chicago. First, all of Joe's records. 18 file cabinets. Although he never claimed to do anything except synthesize the work of all of us. All of the work of the assemblies and priors councils. We have 1965 assemblies though 1980. of 144 file cabinets not all are of archival value. ...

I'm not an archivist. It is a science. Father Eagan sent me to see Brother Grace at Loyola. DePaul University archivist. Jim Mathews made it possible for us to have an archivist to help us decide the record groups. It is a very flexible list but it would be great if around the world you would like to coordinate your files that would be great.

L. E. Philbrook helped us find the archive program. The Minaret program is compatible with libraries and universities. Audrey Ayres - Dee Horn dry wit and practicality. L.E. our computer expert. Marge - exponential leap - 9000 files in the data base. Betty Pesek in Jan 1994. Betty worked for years with Joe and was executive director for one year with the ICAI. This decor is Betty. In 1996 we ought to have a ceremony of saint hood. Betty is the one were would nominate.

Golding the files. We go through and we say what file, if someone wanted to know the residue, So we sorting out and removing multiple copies.

What is our frame of reference. We have put this chart - all the threes, knowing, doing, being. ....

What would be the product of phase I, taking all those files and bringing them into the data base. Someone sent a copy of the John Hopkins Archives. We have mocked up this catalogue, using this as a model. I hope you will come up and look at it. The great part of this. It will give us a chance to give a contextual statement. Review of catalogue ... We put in the record groups that people are requesting. We are getting requests. We aren't in the mode of being of service yet, but we are filling the requests. .... We expect to have this catalog in December of 1995.

Baret Griffith has done a chronological history of the ICA - the very beginning of our history. It is scant in some years. If you want to take responsibility for some years ...

Now the treasures. Every day we have some awe-filling event.  
Send back stories.

Daily meditations I miss that about our corporate life. We had a way of getting focus. Kay Lush sent this to me. The disease has assaulted her body but not her spirit. Today: Let's celebrate life.

Poetry: Not I but the wind that blows thru me. ...

I would like to end.