

Women's Congress for Future Generations: Future First

Randa Solick

The second Women's Congress was held on November 7–9, 2014 in Minneapolis, MN. It mobilized a movement of women going forward, fueling actions to shift cultural and political conversations toward a worldview that recognizes the interdependence of all things.

See Futurefirst.org for the full schedule and lots of explanatory material.

(As you'll see, these are just what they are – Randa's notes from this conference. I hope you'll take the time to read them as it's almost like being there yourself. Nancy Price)

Key Concepts

GUARDIANSHIP OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Future generations have the right to an ecologically healthy environment, a habitable earth where they can thrive. We recognize our responsibility to tend and nurture that healthy environment. We can all become guardians and participate in decisions that impact future generations. We can designate legal guardians to review regulations for their impact on the future, and to audit the commons under our jurisdiction.

CENTRALITY OF THE COMMONS - The commons are the environment we all share: air, water, soil, climate, animals, insects, and human culture of music, art, language, dance, and more. We recognize that we owe—and future generations deserve—a healthy commons, passed down from each generation to the next. We must take care of the things we share, and we share a lot. A key role of government is to serve as the trustee or guardian of the common wealth and common health. See www.tapestryofthecommons.org

THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE - Our planet's future is uncertain. We recognize our responsibility to prevent harm, if possible—to heed early warnings; this is a statement of ethics. As we identify practices that are harmful to our planet, endangering our future, we must hold everyone accountable for their actions today: governments, businesses, communities, and individuals.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES - Our planet is a self-sustaining ecosystem and we are part of it. We recognize that we must not take more from the Earth than it can regenerate, or put more into it than it can restore.

FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT - Communities, like individuals, have the right to autonomy and self-determination, especially concerning decisions and actions affecting our commons: i.e., our air, water, soil, and other natural resources. We recognize that communities have the right and responsibility to refuse actions that may damage their environment. We recognize that we can, and must, insist that informed consent of everyone affected is obtained before any action is taken.

WITHDRAWING CONSENT - We can withdraw our consent from decisions and actions that threaten and damage the future of our planet. We recognize our responsibility to withdraw our consent from a way of life that endangers our planet's future. We recognize that when we—the affected, the governed - join together and withdraw our consent from corporate or government actions and practices, those who govern and conduct business have an obligation to respond.

Joanna Macy: Coming Back to Life: This is the aim of the Work That Reconnects: help us take part in the epochal shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization. This Great Turning is happening now on many fronts. Its three main dimensions—(1) holding actions, to save lives and species; (2) alternative structures for a livable future; and (3) shift in consciousness: perceptual, and spiritual—are all essential and mutually reinforcing.

A few words first: Ann Manning was the initiative director of the Congress, a quiet-spoken Minnesota activist, who brilliantly invited women from church groups and book-reading groups and civic organizations to attend

this Congress, and they came – more than 400 people attended. Exactly the kind of people we all want to reach – good-hearted, forward-looking, sensible women (and some men), who were not activists necessarily, but who want to get the planet back on track, and who are willing to become involved in on-going movements.

Lesson number one for us: Organize way beyond the choir – it's not that difficult to do, and so needed. 'Regular' people are concerned and want ways to help save the planet for the future.

Local movements – people in the town of Ely, MN, protesting what would be the largest underground mine in Minnesota history, digging the largest untapped copper deposit in the world – Bechtel contractor! – and severely damage the Boundary Waters canoe area: see Campaign to Protect the Boundary Waters; People also protesting the Keystone Pipeline that would come through their towns; Mothers angry at polluted waters, and at increasing income inequality.

Regular people learning about issues they might need to take action on, and sharing the ones they were determinedly working on.

Lesson two: Local issues are powerful incentives to action – and then lead people to connect the dots.

Truly inspiring speakers, worthy of respect, who maintained their sense of humor in the face of very grave dangers – Mary Pipher ([Reviving Ophelia](#)), Sandra Steingraber (“Living Downstream”), Riane Eisler ([Chalice and the Blade, The Real Wealth of Nations](#)), and incomparable meditation master Joanna Macy by live video. So down to earth and determined and funny and lovely.

Lesson three: Role models are needed to inspire and instruct and give hope. (I would like to add here that WILPF women, as Guardians for Future Generations, can also be “role models,” in their communities and elsewhere as well. We all need to find and lift up our voice – as Guardians - speaking out on the issues and working on solutions. Nancy Price.)

This Congress had such a mix of rural and urban women, of all ethnicities, young and experienced, all involved in local and/or national organizations fighting hard. Top quality workshops; difficult to choose between “The Interconnectedness of All Things” featuring a Bolivian sociologist, a Latina director of research for CEED (Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy), moderated by Mary Pipher, and The State of Our Planet with a science policy director and an environmental justice organization leader, moderated by the executive director of the Energy Transition Lab of the University of MN. Who knew that MN was such a hotbed of such grounded and sometimes academic activism. The main brochure, featuring Carolyn Raffensperger's work with Science and Environmental Health Network, was called “Heartland and Headwaters, Illuminating Possibilities and Pathways for Growing a Civil Rights Movement for Future Generations.”

Lesson four, perhaps the most needed: Present the fight for the health of the planet and people as a Human Rights issue.

Friday November 7, 2014

Shalini Gupta - CEED (MN)

◆Bring a racial and economic justice lens to environmental work; racial equity lens into environmental policy-making. Example: frontline communities have long been at risk; highways and coal/oil plants located through and in communities-of-color - which had/have no political power to resist. Same development patterns being pushed throughout third-world in the past and at present.

◆Redefine climate change narrative, link to poverty and planning policy.

Frontline communities have been invisible – they have community knowledge on how to deal with climate change and transform the economy.

How to deal with climate change and not impact women of global south – for example, Bolivia has lithium needed for computers: should they have mines instead of us? Must be conscious of impact, unintended consequences. Urban/rural, race/class impact, women – be aware of how we do organizing.

Ellen Anderson, former MN state senator - State of our Planet.

◆ Every level of action matters, critical; we all have the power to make an impact. Stop spending \$18 billion/year on importing energy into MN and spend it locally for clean energy, jobs here, abundant renewable energy sources in state.

◆ Renewable energy portfolios – mandate % of energy green by certain date. More than 200 million people live in states that have those portfolios - even if no federal policy. Cities - pledges to lower greenhouse emissions. So local and community scale, starts to transform our energy systems. There's now an Energy Transition Lab, at U of M – helping local cities implement renewables, also helping Arctic communities resist oil and gas drilling.

Jay Drake Hamilton - Science Policy Director at Fresh Energy.

◆ Keep energy money local. Make laws and standards science-based regarding local wind, solar, biomass. Tell people when decisions are being made and how they can participate.

◆ Not only mitigation, but adaptation in preparing communities for “expensive” weather. Example: cooling centers for hot humid summers in MN for people without air conditioning. But more catastrophes coming - so adaptation not enough, need mitigation now.

◆ Most impacts will be on water - Tom Friedman, NY Times - 11/6/2014 - Sao Paulo will run out of drinking water by mid-November if no rains!! Glacier that supplies Lima, Peru melting, in 20 years, will have no water. Call it global warming, prepare communities - talk straight.

◆ A lot of her work is to talk to church women - missionaries and those who help in other places that have seen changes already in world climate. 356 straight months in a row with higher temperatures than each before. Not only temperatures increasing with CO2 increase, also ragweed and loblolly pine, so increase in allergies.

◆ Final UN climate talks COP 21, Paris 2015 - Obama has to have something to bring to world meeting, so he has Clean Power Plan that needs to be finalized to limit burning coal for CO2. US already accomplished one major change: by 2025 US cars have to get 50 mpg - passed four years ago. We need 30% reduction in emissions - no excuses. Under this Clean Power Plan each state develops their own plan. MN started shutting down coal plants, but the one closed near Minneapolis was replaced by natural gas - think increased fracking! Not only CO2 - Black Dog coal plant closed because of mercury emissions - will stop burning coal February 2015. More slated to close in the state. But of course - huge fracking discussion.

◆ Externalities - health and climate costs of coal - updated info, \$2.1 billion/year - health and climate damage. Must replace coal with clean energy without “natural gas bridge.” Consider externalities when Public Utilities Commission gets request for upgrades. Every utility in MN required to lower consumer energy costs by 1.5%/year - and going up to 2%. So conservation is bedrock of policy.

Kim Wasserman Nieto – organizer from Chicago, recipient of 2013 Goldman Environmental Prize.

◆ Coalitions - faith, health, labor, environmental groups – low income communities of color, mostly undocumented Latinos, southwest side of Chicago - closed down two of the dirtiest coal power plants - the Fisk and Crawford plants. It took them 12 years.

◆ Innovative tactics: They gave toxic tours of industrial sites. They held the Coal Olympics - joined with No Game Chicago pushing not to spend money on Olympics instead of communities facilities. Jump hurdles that looked like coal towers. Dig in coal pile to find inhaler. Bus bunching - so you had to catch the bus. Prizes - gold, silver, bronze inhalers!! Use humor.

◆ But when the plants finally shut down, they had no plan! So they learned - plan for the next stage of the struggle. And have fun and celebrate. Now - new community development plan - whatever owner of old coal plant land wants to put in, has to get approval of community.

[Olga, from 10th Ward, from People's Climate March, working on PetCoke - working with them. Her election will be in March.]

◆Frontline communities building community leadership and giving the community voice in solutions. Coalitions: Not only PetCoke and No Games Chicago, but also Jobs with Justice - which was working for \$15 minimum wage. Also working with other cities like Detroit and others - Illinois Environmental Justice Commission - next, how to take on Exelon nuclear power plan in Illinois.

◆No environmental justice without economic justice.

◆FIND ON LINE: Summary for Policy Makers for IPCC (Intergovernmental panel for climate change 2014)

Sandra Steingraber: “Climate, Carbon and Chemicals: Finding a Way Forward”

◆Environmental crisis is also a human rights crisis. 50% mammals, 35% invertebrates already lost. Harms to mammals; health effects on people - cancers, pediatric cancers, testicular disorders, early puberty, etc.

◆Two parallel crises: Destabilizing of our climate, and toxic trespass of chemical pollutants into living ecosystems, including our own bodies. Both rooted in a ruinous dependency on fossil fuels. The road to meaningful chemical reform runs straight through our energy policy. Women can lead the necessary transformation.

◆Her way of doing things is to be “all in.” She took out a lot of money from her bank account and gave it to organizations trying to save Finger Lakes – see later.

Mary Pipher – cultural anthropologist and clinical psychologist. Newest book: The Green Boats – Reviving Our Selves in our Capsized Culture.

◆**Best is to tell your own story** and let people take what’s for them.

How to transform fear, sorrow, grief over what’s happening to the planet, anger into action, community and empowerment. Isak Dinesen: All sorrows can be borne if put into a story.

[WILPF: the more we connect the dots, the more frightened and scared and sad we get.]

◆We have: Paleolithic emotional systems; Neolithic brains; Medieval institutions; 21st century technology.

There are no simple problems, everything’s entangled. Primal pain of losing our mother – planet. We don’t know how to respond to climate change – it’s beyond the human ability system

◆Knowing/not knowing which information to totally ignore or accept → willfull ignorance, can’t be processed. Originally said of the Holocaust, now global warming.

Environmental conversation – has to move from **either/or** to **and/but**

Study of ignorance artificially manufactured and promulgated – called agnotology. (Stanford professor’s term)

Read Eaarth – McKibben

◆Trauma → despair → acceptance → transcendence

◆“Action has always been my personal antidote to despair.”

Nebraska – polite state. “Apple pie” debate – bring pies to legislators who vote for alternative fuels – offer to bake apple pies for climate deniers, if they would study climate information. They take babies to legislators and governor, and invite teenagers to testify. Have food, fun together, get people together to act. Nebraska activists, called themselves - “The Royalty of Lost Causes” ☺ Young people have the technology; old people have the money, food, big houses, bake pies! Others in mid-years are too busy! Named themselves **the Cowboy and Indian Alliance**. Started with Idle No More, in British Columbia

Every emotion about global climate change is right. And then, plan an action. More like milking cows than planting corn – do over and over and doesn't end until we give up – and we're not gonna!

→ **Transcendent response – the only way to deal with problem too big for you is to grow larger.**
Capacity built into us, more common than we suppose.

1) Action – acting as if we can change it is the healthiest response in the face of trouble.

2) Hope is about process, not outcome:

Part of one generation – from youngest to oldest person now, we all have responsibility to save the earth – all of us = this generation.

3) **Amazement is a beautiful antidote to despair. Saving the world intertwined with savoring it.**

→ **For every sorrow I take into my body, I find an equal joy.**

4) Grow and enhance our moral imaginations. An expanded view of the universe. **Moral imagination: the ability to understand how the world looks and feels to another person.**

Good – increases moral imagination.

Evil – that which decreases moral imagination.

Purpose of life – to grow and enhance your moral imagination so that by the time you die your circle includes all living beings.

Help increase kids' moral imagination.

Global warming – we've got to expand our moral imagination – interconnections – Jeremy Rifkin said we are the various cells in one living body – earth.

The next great rights battle will be to rescue our planet. We could be at the beginning of returning, and wholeness. We can never know, but we can act as if our actions are significant, our efforts to bring about the great turning.

Question: Do you talk about this to your grandkids? Yes, calibrated to their understanding. Give them useful activities. Never give information to people without action component.

Plato: Teach our children to find pleasure in the right things.

Horrible forced choice for kids today – making a living or helping the planet. An ideal culture offers its young people decent choices.

Saturday 11/8

Riane Eisler (The Chalice and the Blade; The Real Wealth of Nations)

What's good for women is good for the world. University of Minnesota: (Wednesday 11/12/14)

launching new interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies, out of her Center for Partnership Studies - research, education, organizing and policy changes. See CaringEconomy.org or RianeEisler.com

1995 study of 85 nations – quality of life ratings – status of women is a better predictor of general quality of life than GDP. Supported by World Economic forums' gender gap reports. Nations with lowest gender gap are in highest ranks of World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Reports – Eco Success.

2014: 1/3 of American women live in poverty or on the brink.

Spiritual courage – courage to stand up to injustice out of love.

Grounded optimism – to know we can bring about change.

2 configurations to society: Domination model, Partnership model. Primary human relations – gender and family relations – fundamental to what we consider meaningful. How a society constructs those relations between genders affects how it does family and all institutions all the way to economics.

If women valued as inferior, so will caring, caregiving and nonviolence - all associated with women - be devalued.

Not about women and men, but gender stereotypes, values and institutions.

Old language not sufficient: left/right, capitalist/socialist - in all categories there have been despotic and environmentally insensitive examples

Punitive dominating authoritarian families lead to state or tribe with built-in abuse and violence to maintain rigid rankings

Not even matriarchy/patriarchy – both domination models. We need partnership model.

But just deconstructing social relations is not enough – most important to reconstruct.

Partnership – domination is on a continuum.

Compelling historic evidence that the first cradle of civilization was oriented to partnership and societies that were more egalitarian (Chalice and the Blade), and more peaceful (not perfect). Reverence for nature and life, symbolizing nature identity as female deities. Indigenous societies, mythic earliest western societies. Catal huyuk excavations – surprisingly showed no different status between women and men.

There was a shift in our prehistory to domination side, “man’s conquest of nature” – see Chalice and Blade in Chinese History - domination system, as in Taliban and ISIS, is the problem, not because Muslim.

Movements since then have tended toward partnership – abolition, civil rights, non-violence movements for economic justice.

Riane now head of Commission to End Violence against Women and Girls - of the World Futures Council.

One of cornerstones of new foundational change we need is new economic system. Change in fundamental human relations: gender, parent/child. Economic systems are about what we value – here we have devalued caring.

Real Wealth of Nations is not about finances – rather it values the contributions of people and of nature. We need economic measurements and practices that give value to work of caring for people, starting in early childhood and up to caring for mother earth. It’s not part of and can’t be done in the old ‘capitalism vs socialism’ pattern.

Women and enlightened men can change this.

Center for Partnership Studies Caring Economy Campaign. Yes, use social justice and environmental survival arguments – but that’s not enough to overcome people in power’s denial. We need a roadmap to changing this:

We measure the wrong things. GDP includes harmful activities – cigarettes, lawsuits, oil spill cleanups. Different measures – we can use them to make the economic benefits arguments.

◆Change short-range arguments to economic benefits argument. Make the economic argument - high quality human capital - flexible, creative, team - all created at a young age. Invest in that! US is only advanced nation without government-supported paid parental leave, or early childhood education. And caring for nature

Quantify value of care work in homes. If that work were included in GDP, would be 30 -50% of reported GDP. Example: Australia study takes into account opportunity lost, what you could have earned if not doing caring work - 51%, so matters what you measure.

This spring: on-line webinars to become caring economy conversation leader - supporting policy changes. Paid parental leave. Good companies to work for leads to higher investor returns. Economic argument

We do have case histories of countries that have shifted to caring economies: Norway, Sweden, Finland - less

poverty, high standard of living, education, better quality of life. First peace laws – it is against law to use violence in families, partnership women and men. Women are now 40% of national legislatures. Not socialist - they have market economies, but caring economy. There is more democracy in both family and state.

Old systems are not working.

- 1) We have an economic argument to reframe conversation beyond old categories
- 2) Social wealth economic indicators - talk to local and state legislators, California passed parental leave law. Use social wealth indicators to guide social and economic policy goals.
- 3) Empower women worldwide.

Responses to Eisler and Caring Economy:

- 1) Teddie Potter, Prof of Nursing, U of MN: There is poverty – but there is no scarcity, it's a myth that leads to consumption, hoarding, mentality "why contribute to common good?" Fight to protect what we have hoarded and more plundering

Poverty comes from policies that distribute wealth unequally. Leads to multi-systems failure. In traditional medicine, when there's a multi-systems failure, medications don't work – what does work is support and care. We need a new story based on abundance, basic needs met, sustainable resources, simplicity. Clear about needs vs wants. Support eco development for other countries. Not defend but keep peace.

- 2) Sonia Davila-Poblete, sociologist, consultant Bolivia. Living well is different than living better. More social equity. Education for everyone. Health care. Env sustainability.

- 3) Becky Rom - sulfide mining in Ely, northeast MN. Take into account not only jobs created, but jobs lost. Copper and nickel in sulfide ore lead to env degradation. Fisheries, water, recreation - need clean env, renewable and won't foul the env. 75% of mining proposals north of Divide. Major Chilean mining company now controls area - mines that pollute water and wilderness.

Ely is not accepting the jobs vs environment story. Hitting that with new economic story – showing the sales receipts, stable income, stable population - compared to other iron range communities. They diversified after mining left the area. It's the Boundary Waters area – becoming full of retiring and aging people, but they're not at all desperate and in need of mining jobs as the mining corps are putting out. Ely is stable, preserving their environment and their future – found that rural areas do better with combination of creative class workers, entrepreneurial workers, outside recreational areas and natural amenities. (Like Santa Cruz!!!)

Following indicators of rural assets are key to resilience and success - says the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas:

- 1) Wealth - a) home values, b) ag land value, c) investment income per capita
- 2) Capacity to provide diverse employment opportunities: a) entrepreneurial breadth - self-employed people; b) Entrepreneurial depth - how much income comes back to owners; c) Creative workers - provide new products and services.

Human amenities and environmental amenities

Service providing industries - health, finance

People follow amenities, jobs follow people

Eco system amenities - and benefits: eco benefits provided free by earth: clean air, water, cleaning capacity, recreational opportunities - services we get from natural world

Terms: "Climate change" often indicates discussion mostly by men, McKibben etc, generation inequality "Toxic pollution" - mostly women, Rachel Carson, Lois Gibbs (Love Canal; Center for Health, Environment and Justice) [Lois Gibbs has been a leader in the grassroots environmental health movement for the last 35 year, nominated for Nobel Peace Prize, won many others. In *A Fierce Green Fire*, Paul Hawken underscored a top takeaway about the importance of the grassroots. He said, "Two million organizations are working on social justice and the environment. It's not going to be top down." Gibbs concurred, reiterating, "All politics and solutions are local."]

Bodily integrity and free prior informed consent

Sandra Steingraber:

Fracking 101: Jellyfish, sea lilies, squid - decomposed, formed bubbles in shale, covered by silt, led to shale with hydrocarbon bubbles about 400m years ago. Now horizontal drilling, fracturing, water and silica sand - from MN,WI, IL

Silica sand is a lung carcinogen - silica dust in fracking, previously only found in cement industry where workers wear sand masks. But now whole communities exposed to silica sand dust.

Mostly mothers being arrested trying to stop it. Need to make this story known and common.

So water, sand, chemicals – also needs jelling thickening agents to get sand around corners. One is guar - a legume, vast amounts of land now growing guar - ex, India

Other chemicals to reduce friction and decrease corrosion.

Most of all, need biocides. Inside of planet living - archaea, ancient deep organisms - called 'biofouling' when put guar down pipes - so biocides.

Forget canned food - BPA too dangerous an endocrine disrupter.

Fracking also disappears water from the water cycle! New thing on earth! Millions of gallons of groundwater used to blow up bedrock - half of that water will stay trapped there forever. We've never done that before. And there's already freshwater crisis. So half the water/fluids/biocides comes back up with oil and gas - having picked up radioactivity and heavy metals from bedrock. Toxic flowback, poisoned forever, no place to store it.

Ethane and propane and butane also coming out of ground, sold to chemical companies to make chemicals and pesticides and plastics.

So, no green energy without stopping our energy system. Toxic energy - have to fight the energy system.

Steingraber is from the Lake Seneca area in the Finger Lakes region of NY. Wine area, so beautiful. Texas-based energy company Presswood Energy wants to store gases in salt chambers.

Steingraber is part of "We Are Seneca Lake," resistance. Fear collapse of salt caves and contamination of drinking water. No more legal measures to stop it – already approved by regulatory agencies. A lot of elders arrested, and young mothers. Oct 24 arrests started.

Steingraber was founder of New Yorkers Against Fracking - gave her environmental prize money as seed money. Sent winemakers to meet with governor, cease and desist order for propane and butane - Gas-Free Seneca.

She says she's all in - that's her strategy of social change.

And create a story - We are Seneca Lake. Same way as Civil Rights movement - it's the story that had to capture the nation's attention. WeAreSenecaLake.com. Donate for jail fines and to spread the word.

Brave little parrot parable - forest fire, tears of gods. I didn't ask for your advice, I need your help.

How do we leverage our precious short lives? So in 30 years, we can tell our kids, we did everything we could - and it worked! Build power together - MN Power and Light - -practical, spiritual connections, power

Jobs vs environment - Ask community, What do you want your future to look like?

**** Maybe we should have WILPF meeting about that?****

Sierra Club, NRDC, Union of Concerned Scientists and mid-level orgs get most of the money - only 1.5% go to Environmental Justice groups. Instead, put money on frontline communities.

Working in the community can lead to productive outcomes, local, which can help dealing with state and national and global level.

Sandra - so just keep going, even if you're tired. Harriet Tubman - just kept going.

We all have a part to play in the Save the World Symphony.

Carbon is the heart of problem. Carbon dioxide dissolves in ocean water to become carbonic acid - shells of zooplankton and mollusks dissolving. 93% of warming in atmosphere is absorbed by ocean water, so

phytoplankton dying because less upwelling of nutrients.

We have to get down to 3.3 tons carbon/day for whole world – to have equitable use, not the 17 tons we use now.

No jobs for women in gas industry - except as prostitutes and hotel maids, in fracking.

For men, work in gas industry is so dangerous: 7X other industries for crushing injuries, head injuries, vehicle injuries, benzene poisoning.

May kill more people than you employ.

Faith groups are allies.

New Yorkers vs Fracking - abolition, not banning. Faith leaders vs fracking. Chefs vs fracking. Wineries.

Health Professionals of NY.

'Well informed futility syndrome' – occurs when you have no agency over a huge problem. Leads to unbearable grief, rage, shame. So you turn away.

Makes it worse if you just do something little. So ramp up activities and be super heros!

Take inspiration from other human rights movements involving women – example, abolition. We have to do that with fossil fuels. Renewable distributable sustainable just energy is just around the corner.

Learning from our History: Creating a Path for Climate Justice: Shalini Gupta, Cecilia Martinez, Sonia Davila-Poblete (Bolivia)

Global South teaching North about inequality and social justice work. Example: Bolivia, where Morales called a Pluri-national Conference out of dismay for weak Kyoto Protocols.

Sonia: Living well/living better

Cecilia - Europeans brought concept of private property to colonial places including land. Senator Henry Dawes initiated land allotment [General Allotment Act of 1887 ([Dawes Act](#)), authorized the [President of the United States](#) to survey Indian tribal land and divide the area into allotments for the individual Indian. Later expanded to take control of tribal lands away from tribes.

1) Passed acts to break up communal native lands and make them 'civilized'

2) Demographic takeover - In the areas that Europeans could transform the ecosystem to mimic their ways of farming and animal husbandry

3) Energy - of course was all renewable, but limited in storage. But for industry and machinery you need storage - so coal. Needed capital to construct that, so formation of corporations to pool the capital of many individuals. "Carboniferous capitalism": no capitalism without energy source.

So we have to keep our energy system going to produce growth and wealth → power plants.

Minneapolis community organizing proposing "one stop energy" - help lower income people get house ready, figure tax incentives, community-based organizing that employs people from community to do work. It knows the laws and helps people pay for energy from savings." Steps toward revolving bond fund for investors.

See Global Women's Water Initiative.

Joanna Macy: Deep Ecology Women and Water

Future generations call forth strength in us.

Aging leads to wider, freer relationship with time. More reflective, more open. Experience of time in our culture is speedier than any other moment in history, driven by an industrial growth society and economy and market forces and technology - we're frustrated and rushed and hurried, all which make it harder to be present to our world. Breaking a connection with both past and future. Hijacked attention.

Distraction, fear and hurry. Economy too - survival pressures make it hard to get the big picture. Our political economy commits crimes against the future for this growth economy.

◆New in human experience - the consequences of our action last forever. This karma cannot be undone:

Nuclear power and weapons-making. GMO-s - can't undo them. Fracking - can't take chemicals out of water - even though 1/100th of 1% of water on earth is fresh water, we're ruining it.

In our life we're asked not to turn away from, sustain the gaze.

The future ones speak to her, hold her in an embrace of deep time, help her see her life is one little short life in the span of time, not to measure success in her life by what she can see before she dies but includes ancestors and future beings and she can feel their warmth and humor flowing through her. They tell her to keep on, you're the one alive now.

Those three un-undoable stupidities change our relation to past and future. Now her experience is that these technologies and market forces have given us karma forever - like taken the future and bent it. No longer irretrievable, make a circle of time that encloses us and the present we're in - and the tragic situation we're in - that makes the past and the future one like a cloud of witnesses. They're witnessing us and ready to help, but can only work through our spirits and hearts, through our hands. (She hears them whispering on her left shoulder :)

◆ A great privilege to be alive in a time when the future ones need so much from us, and the ancestors too. Hope is something you do, not something you have - that it's all going to be ducky. So almost lucky that we live in a time of uncertainty - calls forth from us the greatest creativity and courage.

Sunday November 9

Workshop: Partnering to Build a Restorative Agriculture and New Relationships with the Land
Julie Ristau, Nina Utne, Paula Westmoreland from Lily's Place

Lily Springs as demonstration urban/rural connection. How to repopulate rural areas - not large industrial farms with government subsidies - so how to put more people out on land and rebuild community?

Julie – Finland has a Small Villages Project – policy put in place to increase security on Russian border by repopulating rural areas. Supported by government and universities, support for small farms and communities, villages project. We don't have that infrastructure here, but local food interests and small farming. Resources: lots of people who want to connect to rural land, or farm, or eat good food. No gov money or land-grant money - but good research comes out of our land-grant universities. Building animating teams, people who want to reconnect to live - they need new paradigm.

Experiential. Roots crops - perennial economy, focus on root system, new financial model for long span return – 7 years perhaps, not immediate, not annual crops. Perennial crops are key to soil restoration. New cashflow. Innovation funds - some rich people who may not get fast return - how to connect to average person? Ex, bring close to home through Wall St., maybe food-based CDs, local banks, contributions from foundations.

Maybe get people to take some money from 401Cs and invest in local farmers.

◆ Deal with carbon by taking care of our soil

Lily Springs in Osceola, WI - intergenerational, land owned by older hippies but how to get it to younger people - who already have debts! Some kind of reciprocity. Perennial land - grass, soil, hope - carbon farming, ***restoration agriculture*** LilySpringsFarm.com.

Energy, agrarian trust - how to deal with the ownership issues of young farmers..

How to reach industrial-trapped farmers? Their land needs restoration. There's interest too. But economic reality makes it difficult for them - maybe starting restoration at the edges of industrial farmed land. Small scale restoration as a start.

Restoration agriculture. "Braiding Sweetgrass" - Potawatomie upstate NY – Three Sisters garden (corn, beans, squash) – We are the fourth sister! Repair the damage, restoring health to land, water, rural communities, wildlife, and reconnecting. Reweaving connections.

Growing food and medicine - nuts, perennial veggies, domesticated animals. Not bringing in a lot of imports from outside – permaculture. Multispecies grazing rapidly builds soil and sequesters carbon.

Sunday end

nibiwalk.org - native women walking the waters;
We are called to become beloved ancestors.

Ojibwe prophecies, given before white contact - 7 fires, 7 grandmothers

They were told to move west, from Canada to the Carolinas, abandon land and told to go west to a place where food grows on the water (wild rice in MN), to avoid contact with people coming from across the ocean carrying long swords.

We may be living in the Prophecy of the 7th Fire - new people with energy who will lift us up and create peace and harmony, only if harmony between people of land and others who have come on the land. Nyi mamaki - our mother earth. Where the world is befouled and the waters bitter, human beings will have to choose - materialism or spirituality. The earth will cleanse herself.

Lighting of 8th fire will occur only if we move to peace and harmony.

Making offerings of love, gratitude and kindness can change the world. Everyone, make an offering of gratitude to the water every morning. Be clear on the difference between honoring and appropriating. Reconciliation is ongoing, involves making changes.

For Third Women's Congress, bring a young woman, hopefully of color.