



Great Plains Earth Institute
829 North Market, Wichita, KS 67214

GRASS ROOTS

Newsletter, March, 2007

GPEI Members and Friends Invited to Sacred Activism Conference in Tulsa

Have you heard? An extraordinary conference is planned for Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 9—12. The “Sacred Activism and the Power of Inclusion” conference will feature nationally-known speakers such as Andrew Harvey, among the most prominent mystics in the world; Caroline Myss, medical intuitive and author, Lauren Artress, founder of the Labyrinth Movement; Michael Lerner, president, Network of Spiritual Progressives; Paul Ray, author of the *Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People Are Changing the World*; and Robert Kennedy, Jr., senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

It is not all that often that the heartland states organize and host such a gathering with so many strong and progressive leading voices, and especially leaders who are so attuned to the values held deeply by Great Plains Earth Institute members and friends.

This conference is part of a series of Sacred Activism conferences planned around the nation by Wisdom University, Oakland, CA. Wisdom University is the successor to the Institute of Creation Spirituality founded by Matthew Fox. To learn more about the values and purposes of the sacred activism movement, see the Wisdom University web site at: www.wisdomuniversity.org/sacred-activism-index.html.

On Saturday, January 27, GPEI joined with other significant groups to host a preliminary meeting about the conference at Inter-Faith Ministries. Speakers were United Methodist minister Rev. Bill Crowell (formerly associate pastor at College Hill United Methodist here in Wichita and now pastoring and part of the planning committee in Tulsa) and Carmen White-Janak, a lay leader of the New Dimensions Spiritual Center in Tulsa. Bill, a faithful GPEI member while he lived in Wichita, offered a presentation prepared by Paul Ray of Wisdom University, titled, “Creating a Wisdom Culture.”

If any presentation could whet our appetites for this conference, it was this! Here is a sample of the slide titles and information: “No longer an era of change, but a change of eras...The world is getting better and better, and worse and worse, faster and faster...There are 3 subcultures today (traditional —24.5%; moderns —49.4%; cultural creatives —26.1%)... Today is like when ancient tribes needed to move to a new territory: it takes a major vision of possibility to get people to move, make your costly move to grasp new opportunities when you have a big surplus; don't wait until you are nearly starving and you have to go to new territory in survival mode.”

Carmen White-Janak spoke for the conference planning coalition in expressing their determination that this conference be inclusive, rather than exclusive. A quick review of the conference agenda indicates speakers and worship leaders from the African-American church, the Episcopal church, the Islamic Society, an Hispanic Pentecostal pastor, a Jewish rabbi and cantor, a Sufi mystic, an Imam of the Nation of Islam, Oklahoma Baptist churches, the Unitarian Universalist church, and an elder of the Wichita tribe of native people.

At the conclusion of the January 27 meeting, the idea was raised to charter a bus from Wichita to the conference in Tulsa. See information elsewhere in this newsletter on these plans. Friends, this conference looks like a great opportunity to get those great progressive creation spirituality energies flowing strongly again!

Bob Hull
GPEI Member

Sacred Activism Upcoming Events

Film: March 11, 2007 3:00 –5:15 p.m.
Inter-Faith Ministries Gallery, 829 N. Market

IF ... you know that the human spirit has dimensions that surpass barriers of religion, party politics, cultural practices and other artificial constraints THEN...you must hear Andrew Harvey's DVD sharing his impassioned call to remember our divine core. He urges us to join this exciting initiative and

design a saner, more fair, and inclusive future paradigm to advance humankind's relationships with each other and our planet. Harvey is a staff member of Wisdom University, San Francisco. He brings a clear and compelling challenge to progressive thinkers and doers. Following the movie we will make plans to attend the May 9-12, 2007 comprehensive conference in Tulsa, OK.

**Contact: Mary McDonough Harren, Pax Christi 942-6630
Pam Wright, Inter-Faith Ministries 680-0308
Rev. Connie Pace-Adair, ICMC -
Partners of Sacred Activism 409-2495**

May 9—12, 2007:

Sacred Activism and the Power of Inclusion

Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
6808 S. 107th Ave., Tulsa, OK

Working toward:

**** Protection of Earth**

****A New Relationship between America and
the community of nations**

**** Inclusive Spirituality**

**** Renewed civic responsibility**

For registration and more information:

www.wisdomuniversity.org

or contact

sacredactivismtulsa@yahoo.com

918-955-9393

Call GPEI (316-262-4120) if transportation is needed.

***** GPEI's Upcoming Events *****

All are invited to attend.

Wednesday, March 21st. Equinox Celebration & showing of the film, "The Secret."

7:00 p.m. at the Murdock Theater, 536 North Broadway.

The Equinox is the beginning of spring, the season of birth, change and new life. A very fitting time to see the film "The Secret" which brings out the best in each of us and shows us the way of true Transformation. This film is new and has been talked about twice on Oprah, on B 98 radio station and in numerous other places. It is a *you "won't want to miss it"* film, and seeing it on the big screen is a plus for everyone. It is the secret to everything — joy, health, money, relationships, love, happiness... everything you have ever wanted. It is the first time in history that leading scientists, authors and philosophers will reveal the secret that utterly transformed the lives of those who lived it... Plato, Newton, Carnegie, Beethoven, Shakespeare, Einstein. Following the film will be delightful foods and the

opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with friends.

Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Monday, April 2 — A Modern Day Passover Meal

6:30 p.m.

Gallery of the Inter-Faith Ministries Building
829 N. Market

All ritual food will be prepared by GPEI. Please bring a covered dish for the main meal. Suggested donation will be \$5.00. Limited seating, with *Reservations necessary*. RSVP by March 30. Phone: 316-262-4120.

Since this year is GPEI's 10th anniversary, we will spend some time during the course of the evening reminiscing the past, recalling our accomplishments and expressing gratitude for all that has taken place.

Wednesdays, March 7th, April 4th & 18th,

May 2nd & 16th

7:00—10:00 p.m.

GRANDMA'S GROUP

Held at Grandma's Farm, 6901 N. Tyler

Each week there will be different insightful topics for input and discussion.

Phone: 316-721-9964.

Saturday, April 14th — Step It Up 2007

Many environmental groups in Wichita will be working together to urge our Congressional Leaders to **Step It Up 2007** concerning the Global Warming issue.

Environmental groups have tentatively planned a rally at Mid-America All-Indian Center on April 14th.

More information at:

Stepitup2007-Wichita@yahoogroups.com

Stepitup2007-Wichita-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

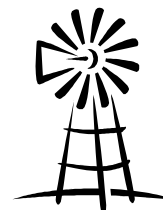
Saturdays, March 10, April 14 & May 12

Acoustic Music Night

Grandma's Farm, 6901 N. Tyler

7:00 pm—

Clubhouse and stage provided by Grandma's Farm, professional sound system provided by D-N-A Sound. Fun & music provided by YOU. Bring munchies and your instruments to share in the open mic. Call: 316-721-9964.



Saturday, April 21 — Earth Day Celebration

All activities will be at Grandma's Farm
6901 N. Tyler.

3:00 p.m. film, "Ecological Footprint"

4:30 p.m. film, "The Next Industrial Revolution"

5:30 p.m. Potluck Meal

6:30 p.m. An Evening of Drumming

Questions? Call 316-721-9964/262-4120.

Bring your drums or musical instruments and enjoy the evening.

New discussion Course to begin in April

Global Warming: Changing Course is a four week course exploring the history and science of global warming, personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, and personal actions to curb global warming.

Dates: Mondays—April 9, 16, 23 & 30

Time: 7:00—8:30pm

Place: Grandma's Farm - 6901 N Tyler Rd

Cost: Materials— \$15.00

THE ENERGY FIX: 10 Steps to End America's Fossil-Fuel Addiction

Following is a summary of an article of the same title by Tom Clynes found in the July, 2006, edition of *Popular Science*..
By Mary Schoenecker, ASC

The author claims that by the year 2025 we can cut our oil consumption in half, and slash our reliance on electricity-producing fossil fuels, like coal and natural gas, almost entirely, using a suite of new technologies assembled with the help of dozens of scientists and energy experts.

The major roadblocks to this new energy era are no longer technological; they are political and bureaucratic. If we can overcome them we can reduce trade deficits, enhance national security, and create millions of non-exportable jobs. The 10 steps follow:

* **Harness the wind.** Already in 1991 a government wind-resources inventory concluded that Kansas, North Dakota and Texas had enough wind available to meet the electricity needs of the entire country. In the meantime stronger and more lightweight turbine blades allow for stronger and bigger machines.

* **End Gridlock.** Making power where we use it does away with the cost of having it come from a central source.

* **Rev Up Our Hybrid Rides.** Building plug-in Hybrid cars will slash fuel usage and emissions. They recharge overnight and so take advantage of low off-peak electrical rates. When the plug-in technology becomes widely used it will make today's hybrids seem gas-guzzling, by comparison to the 300 mpg cars that can be in the future.

* **Brew Better Ethanol.** There will need to be a wide-scale switch from corn to cellulosic ethanol, a fuel made from switchgrass, wood chips and agricultural waste. One study even used enzymes produced in termite guts.

* **Switch On the Sun Lamp.** Turning sunlight into volts through the use of stirling solar dishes produces a much higher rate of returns than the traditional flat panels.

* **Go H₂.** Hydrogen powered fuel cells are already more than twice as efficient as internal combustion engines. Some day it may be produced with surplus wind power.

* **Ride the Waves for Watts.** In Portugal workers are already installing offshore wave-energy converters. Water power's advantages over wind include the usual predictability of tidal currents. "The wind may or may not blow, but you can predict the moon and tide 1,000 years from now." They call it lunar power.

* **Dig Deeper.** Our ability to use the heat from the Earth is expanding far faster than our use of this technology. That energy can be used to produce electricity or to heat buildings. Many experiments in the use of geothermal power are being run effectively.

* **Make Gas from Trash.** We are perfecting new ways to produce electricity from agricultural waste, grassy plants, and even sewage. Gasification systems use extreme heat in a low-oxygen environment to convert these biomasses into a mixture that can be burned in a boiler or turbine, and can increase efficiency by 10 %.

* **Use "Negawatts."** Back in the 1970's you saved energy simply by turning off the lights. Today we save it by using technology to do the same things better. There is no cheaper or cleaner power than that power which you don't produce, thus "**NEGAWATTS.**"



**Kathy Kelly from Voices for Creative NonViolence
to visit Wichita from March 15 to the 19th.**

Many opportunities are available to participate in Kathy's activities.

*Speaking Thursday, March 15th at Bethel College, Newton—7:00 p.m.

*Sat. March 17th, Peace March at 11:00a.m. from Minisa to the Peace Center

*Sun. Mar. 18th, Speaking at Inter-Faith Ministries, 829 N Market—4:00 p.m.

Something New Is Coming!

A new GPEI website is in process of being created. You will be able to view it and enjoy it by Monday, March 5th. We'll be eager to receive your feedback and suggestions for other ideas. The creator? She is Cindy White, who has been volunteering and doing a variety of quality work for us at GPEI. Our sincere thanks go to Sister Patricia Stanley, CSJ, for having done a wonderful job keeping our website up to date for the past several years



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*"We are no longer passive victims of the
climate system's slow oscillations;
we are now, as a collective,
atmospheric engineers."*

—Alan Atkisson

Great Plains Earth Institute was founded to be a resource for Kansas citizens who wish to **"Work Together to Care for Earth"**.

I'd like to become a member of Great Plains Earth Institute

Membership includes a one-year subscription to Grassroots

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Day () _____ Evening () _____ Cell () _____

- Membership: \$25 Grassroots Supporter \$ 500 Composter
- \$50 Sower \$ 1,000 Sustainer
- \$100 Gardener \$ 5,000 Earth Angel
- \$250 Mulcher Other

I'm already a member — Here's an additional gift of: \$ _____

I would like information on how to offer a course on::

Reconnecting with Nature Voluntary Simplicity Discovering a Sense of Place

Choices for Sustainable Living or Globalization and Its Critics or Global Warming: Changing Co2urse