Create the Transformation We Need Now

A daylong public forum, gathering leaders and practitioners in the emergent field of contemplative-based social change.

Thursday, November 9, 2023
Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue | New York City
“We will have to redefine how we see ourselves and our relationship to each other and to the rest of the community of life on Earth. Only by changing our cultural narrative can we transform our vision of the future and heal our relationship with life as a whole.”

— Daniel Christian Wahl

Why we do this

This forum is in honor of the Garrison Institute’s 20th anniversary. We are excited to invite you to celebrate the remarkable growth of the fields of contemplative-based change and systems thinking. As we launch our third decade with this daylong public forum in New York City, you will have the opportunity to co-create with an extended community of leaders and practitioners the conditions enabling a more rapid advancement of the social and environmental solutions the world needs today.
The Great Turning

It’s apparent that society and the natural world are in crisis on multiple fronts, and that we need a course correction from self-destructive to life-sustaining. Our colleague Joanna Macy calls this “the Great Turning,” which is a name for the essential adventure of our time: the shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization. We now need metamorphosis, where an emergent process of deep transformational change unfolds and reveals itself in fundamentally new ways.

Accelerating Networks and Community

Our intention for the Metamorphosis Forum is to create a community of leaders, thinkers, and doers who can collectively reflect, reorganize, and emerge stronger. We will be able to pollinate and cultivate a rich new world of deep social and environmental change which is already underway.

Acting Now

That’s our invitation to you. Your work is crucial, and it’s crucial you don’t do it alone. Please join us on November 9th for a chance to connect, reflect, and prepare for the next level of contemplative-based changemaking.

“The Great Turning cannot take root and survive without deeply ingrained values to sustain it. They must mirror what we want and how we relate to Earth and each other. They require, in other words, a profound shift in our perception of reality—and that shift is happening now, both as cognitive revolution and spiritual awakening.”

— Joanna Macy
The Heart of Our Approach

DIALOGUES:

“A Contemplative Worldview for Transformational Change”
Moderated by David Germano, Professor of Buddhist Studies, Center for Contemplative Science and Studies, University of Virginia

“The New Cultural Narrative for the Change We Seek”
Moderated by Doug Abrams, author, publisher and founder of Ideas Architect

“Regenerative Society & Economics for the Common Good”
Moderated by Stephen Posner, Program Director, Pathways to Planetary Health, Garrison Institute

“Well-Being & Resilience on Individual, Social, & Systems Levels”
Moderated by Christa Tinari, Program Director, Contemplative-Based Resilience Project, Garrison Institute

“Compassionate Leadership in Business & Finance”
Moderated by Sander Tideman, Program Director, Compassionate Leadership in Finance (CLiF), Garrison Institute

Through our dialogues and immersion sessions, we will work together to create the conditions to move from possibility to actuality.

Some of our key panelists and speakers:

Tiokasin Ghosthorse
Activist, Advocate, Musician, Executive Producer of “First Voices Radio.” A member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation.

Monica Gagliano, PhD
Author and Research Professor of Evolutionary Ecology. She pioneered the research field of plant bioacoustics and extended the concept of cognition to plants.

Daniel Siegel, PhD
Author, Founding Co-Director of the Mindful Awareness Research Center and Mindsight Institute.

Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, JD
Environmental Activist and CEO of the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

Joanna Macy, PhD
Author, well-known eco-philosopher, spiritual activist and scholar of Buddhism and general systems theory.
“Amid all the doom-laden exhortations to change our ways, let us remember that we are striving to create a more beautiful world, and not sustain, with growing sacrifice, the current one. We are not just seeking to survive. We are not just facing doom; we are facing a glorious possibility.”
— Charles Eisenstein
Immersion Sessions

We invite you to engage in a number of immersion sessions of your choice in which you can more deeply explore various themes on transformation.

"We need a new ‘ethics of belonging,' encouraging awareness, intention, and relational well-being, so that our actions will contribute toward planetary flourishing. This ethos orients us toward an ever-expansive unfolding of a path of meaning and participation rooted in honoring Life.”
— Yuria Celidwen

Indigenous Worldviews on Transformational Change
Yuria Celidwen, Senior Fellow at the Othering and Belonging Institute, UC Berkeley

Planetary Health Alliance
Sam Myers, Director of the Planetary Health Alliance, Harvard University

Reinventing the Common Good
David Bollier, Director of the Reinventing the Commons Program at the Schumacher Center for New Economics

The Journey of Our Universe
Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Co-Founders of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University

The Role of Media in Shaping the New Narrative
Jo Confino, Senior Editor of the Guardian and the Huffington Post

Relational Sensemaking
Angel Acosta, Director, Garrison Institute Fellowship Program

The Inner Development Goals
Jamie Bristow, Policy and Advocacy Lead, Inner Development Goals

Throughout the day we’ll offer inspiring moments with Yuria Celidwen on Indigenous wisdom, music and stories by Laurie Anderson, poetry by Plum Village monks, and words of wisdom by renowned author Joanna Macy and others.
What will you learn?

Today, the world needs this work more than ever. It is work that none of us can do alone. Our goal for the forum is to catalyze a shift in consciousness, focused on new strategies for deep economic, social, and environmental change. We hope to contribute to a true Metamorphosis, transforming despair into hope, and crisis into a positive future.

- Make connections with people and organizations doing critical work in the space of inner development and societal and systems change.

- Sharing best practices with researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and change leaders.

- Develop a new, integrative framework for a fresh worldview that will unleash courage and inspiration to think big and act boldly.

METAMORPHOSIS

“If it is to be more than just a new variation on the old degeneration, it must be above all an expression of life in the process of transforming itself.”

— Vaclav Havel

www.garrisoninstitute.org/metamorphosis
“Today, in the 21st century, science and spirituality have the potential to be closer than ever and to embark upon a collaborative endeavor that has far-reaching potential to help humanity meet the challenges before us.”
—The Dalai Lama

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**Registration**

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**Hosts**

**Garrison Institute**

The Garrison Institute’s mission is to apply the skills and wisdom cultivated through contemplative practice, together with the insights emerging from science, to address today’s urgent social and environmental challenges, helping build a more compassionate, resilient future.

**The Rockefeller University**

The world’s leading biomedical research university, Rockefeller draws top scientists and graduate students from around the world in pursuit of one mission: to conduct science for the benefit of humanity.

**Some of our partners who are represented:**

The Planetary Health Alliance, Harvard University
Institute of New Economic Thinking, Oxford University
Reinventing the Commons
Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley
Mindsight Institute
Inner Development Goals
The Capital Institute
Center for Systems Awareness
Wellbeing Economy Alliance