

YES

editorial

The first draft of my letter to you was almost written when the stunning news hit my desk. We, at *Kosmos*, are committed to introducing the ideas and principles of the commons, the first to publish the groundbreaking ideas of James B. Quilligan and to expand the field to the global scale. Now the Nobel Prize for new economics has made the ‘commons’ a household word overnight. With the foresight of a true visionary, Elinor Ostrom, the co-recipient of the economic sciences 2009 award, has spent decades researching the commons. She realized long before most of us the dire consequences to our freedom and creativity when private interests buy properties and rights that belong to all of us in common. We salute Elinor Ostrom for founding the commons field of inquiry and James B. Quilligan for expanding the theory and principles to the global scale. Read his latest article on the multilateralism of the commons in this issue.

Richard D. Hames, respected international consultant to high level business and international politicians, joins us for the first time in this issue. He offers a brilliant and comprehensive perspective on the state of the world, which sets the context for the rest of the journal. The organizing principles that have held our world together are collapsing in every institution. Richard calls us to the task of dealing with the challenges of the collapse as well as the creation of the new.

No one is better qualified to write about the emerging new story than Jean Houston. Her vast experience and brilliance shine through every word. Mark Gerzon, a model global citizen, tells us through his own life experience what it means to be a global citizen. There are some surprises here. Have you ever considered that there might be five stages of global citizenship?

We have just returned from a conference on educating world citizens for the 21st century with the most inspiring and dedicated educators you could imagine. The Dalai Lama, who has made interior education a priority, inspired many to their calling. I am relieved to find that at last we are looking at education from the perspective of interior education as well as exterior. I am concerned, however, about the extent of the overwhelming problems many of our children face as some schools are turning into prisons of fear, hopelessness and punishment.

We are experiencing an ever-widening educational and digital divide and, consequently, a societal divide with dim prospects for the future. I am wondering now how much value there is in building the new if we do not also tend to those that are marginalized by the current complexity and rapid changes? In a Cradle-to-Prison society, what is our responsibility?

In *Kosmos*, we celebrate those people who have dedicated their lives to world benefit, as artists of words, images, creative ideas or actions. In this issue we present images that stun the imagination. Reza is receiving the 2009 Lucie Foundation Award for his achievement in documentary film. His subtle visuals suggest the enormous impact of war at subtle levels. I did not know of Reza's fame when I found his compelling photographs. Now I can never forget those images. I don't think you will either.

Chris Jordan has imaged our waste and consumption patterns in such a shocking manner that we are compelled to face the reality of our indulgences. You will be filled with joy at viewing Evan Leeson's exquisite rendition of nature's beauty in all its sensuality. For more reflective times Gerrit Greves's artful work uplifts the soul to the divine.

My heart is full of hope when I think of Nicanor Perlas putting his life on the line to run for president of the Philippines. An old friend of *Kosmos*, Nicanor carved out a weekend from campaigning to reflect on the questions we posed to him about the new politics and style of governance that he embodies.

Nipun Mehta, founder of CharityFocus, lives within the context of a gift economy. He once told me about spending a year in India without a dime in his pocket. Based on love and giving, he is a happy man and shares how you too can become part of the joy and aliveness that comes from giving as a way of life.

In this issue Ervin Laszlo offers his Memoriam to Thomas Berry and describes the evolutionary philosophy that made Berry one of the leaders of the emerging culture. Drew Dellinger's poetic tribute is also to this remarkable man, who urged us to look within for guidance.

Helen Titchen Beeth harvests the surprising learning from the launch of the 2020 Climate Leadership Campaign in Brazil that many of us attended. For those of us who look for answers, her astute perspective leaves us in somewhat of a confused state—but then we learn about the stages of emergence and find we are right on target. The indefatigable Jim Garrison, the initiator of this ten-year campaign, tells us actual results of the launch.

I loved the conversation with John Räätz, founder of the Global Alliance for Transformative Entertainment that turned into an article for our readers. I am convinced that elevating entertainment can make a profound difference in changing our cultural trajectory. We also cover the Images and Voices of Hope conference dedicated to media for world benefit where *Kosmos* was honored.

Peter Senge rounds out our journal with in-depth observations about why intention, our true calling, and strategies to fulfill our goals are often confused and why discerning the difference is so important.

What a group of world servers we have attracted—with their warmth, authenticity, dedication and excellence! With such beauty of being, creative intelligence and intentional conviction, we simply cannot help but be filled with hope, even as we are profoundly pained by the suffering of so many. It is the greatest of paradoxes that as life becomes more threatened and fearful, life also arises with magnificent and noble imagination to move us toward the good, true, and beautiful.

Nancy Roof



