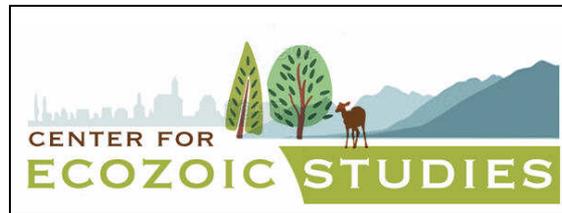


# *CE'S Monthly Musings*

Issue 11, March 2008  
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*Seeking integral community  
in an ecological age . . . .*

**“Ecozoic” means “house of life.”**  
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**The “Ecozoic Society” means a society of life.**  
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**The “Ecozoic Era” is a time of mutually enhancing relationships  
among humans and the larger community of life.**  
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**The “Great Work” is living the promise of the ecozoic.**

**In this issue:** [“Report on Thomas Berry’s Healing”](#) by John Cock and Herman Greene and [“Celebration of the Wisdom of Women,”](#) by Wendy Burkland.

## **Report on Thomas Berry’s Healing**

Thomas Berry suffered a severely fractured right hip occasioned by a fall around noon on Sunday, March 2, 2008. Four weeks later he is doing remarkably well. He can walk by himself to the bathroom and around his room and has meals in the dining hall. His new address is 4100 Well-Spring Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Here’s a report from John Cock on his visit with Thomas on Wednesday, March 26:

Lynda, granddaughter Kaitlyn, and I went to see Thomas today. We met Margaret on the way in and had a good chat. She’s as full of life as always, sitting there in her motorized chair -- 88, I think.

Thomas looked much better than we thought he might after his fall, broken hip, and the big surgery. BIG smile when he saw us. As aware and verbal as before the fall. He has to take medication for constant pain. Therapists get him up in a chair each day, at least once.

Lynda had copied about a dozen daily reflections from 2007 we’d done on the blog, with pictures, in a folder -- all quotes by Thomas. We read them to him and he was delighted, saying, “Good,” “Right.” His big smiles, made us proud he’d said such.

John Cock  
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## Celebrating the Wisdom of Women

On Wednesday, March 19, around 30 people gathered at The Barn at Valhalla, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to meet with the authors artists and poets of the Wisdom of Women edition of *The Ecozoic Reader*. (Available at [http://www.ecozoicstudies.org/latest\\_issue.html](http://www.ecozoicstudies.org/latest_issue.html) .)

Wendy Burkland gave this opening remarks:

Thomas Berry has given us a framework for advancing our environmental consciousness. He calls this framework, The Fourfold Wisdom.



Thomas says

“In these opening years of the twenty-first century, as the human community experiences a rather difficult situation in its relation with the natural world, we might reflect that a fourfold wisdom is available to guide us into the future: the wisdom of indigenous peoples, the wisdom of women, the wisdom of the classical traditions, and the wisdom of science.”<sup>1</sup>

**Wendy Burkland,  
WOW Coordinator**

Obviously there are many other frameworks we can use to describe what is happening in these times, but what caught my attention was Thomas’ ideas around the wisdom of women. Thomas speaks about women’s role in the environmental movement specifically, and that women need to claim their rightful status in society, and that women and men need to dismantle the patriarchy. But in our work with this issue of the Wisdom of Women, we chose to expand the thinking to include the “wisdom of the feminine consciousness”. In our studies of this work, we understand that it is both the masculine and feminine ways of being that live in all of us, men and women, and it is in the striving toward wholeness that we will heal the Earth.

In my own life, the wisdom of the feminine consciousness has been a guidance and teacher. The qualities of deep listening, trusting intuition, living in community, receptivity, beholding, and silence are the gifts that I have been working with inwardly. These qualities help me understand the earth as sacred presence and that we are a communion of subjects --to use some of Thomas Berry’s own words. I believe exploring and learning about the feminine consciousness is the most important work each of us can be doing right now.



**Nancy Rickard Co-Editor**

We are seeing in our American and European cultures an interest in the re-emergence of the feminine consciousness. Especially over the last 20 years as more and more people,



**Joanna Haymore, Co-Editor**

especially women, have been “waking” up to the ancient stories of women and began noticing our loss of the qualities of the feminine. We are beginning to reclaim these capacities in our own lives. Many of you in this room have been on your journeys to explore the feminine whether through psychospiritual therapy, body work, shamanic work, meditation, contemplation, and working with silence. The diversity of our inner work is rich and there is much yearning and longing for wholeness. What I also know is that for each of us, our inner work needs to be grounded in a realistic, practical, and logical personal framework (and these are known as the equally important masculine qualities)...which help us do the outer work in society that will take us forward in saving our environment and addressing climate change or any of the important work in the world right now.

We are evolving very rapidly now, because there is an urgency for this new consciousness to balance out the old ways of science and logic and mechanistic thinking. We are one organism moving forward and there is no better time than now to wake up to our inner experiences and use these experiences to fulfill the dream of the earth.

So the idea for this Ecozoic Reader was to invite both men and women who have been thinking and reflecting deeply on Thomas Berry’s work to write about their own experience of the wisdom of women and/or the wisdom of the feminine consciousness.



**Ann Loomis, Co-Editor**

So I invite you now to move into dialogue...we have some time to share some personal reflections about this work of the wisdom of women. This is process of deep listening, receptivity and reflection, so please speak as the spirit moves you.



Wendy Burkland

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*The mission of CES is to offer a vision of an ecozoic society and contribute to its realization through research, education and the arts.*

If you like to become a member of CES, you may do so by sending a letter to CES at 2516 Wainingham Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 with your contact information and dues. Annual dues are US\$30 (individual or family); reduced price, US\$20; outside U.S.A., Canada and Mexico, add US\$10. Sustaining Member US\$130. Contributions are welcome.