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# Tending Your Visions, Changes Our World

Everyone can do Something... But, What?

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Sharon Riegie Maynard  
September 8, 2023

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## Introduction

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Early in 2023, I had proposed to present a sermon at the Shoreline UU church in Shoreline, WA. I have been an active member of the church for several years before I moved to Whidbey Island, WA.

This is a congregation of individuals who care about each other, and the world we live in. Traditionally, they have been involved in many different activist activities which is another reason I loved being with them.

There was an opening on September 8th which fit my calendar.

During the time between my proposal and the sermon itself, there was a lot of activity, conversations, circles, and projects in close alignment to what I had decided to share, Changing the World has a place for All Visions and Passions.

This e-book is the text of that sermon. It is timely. Perhaps will always be timely.

May you TendYour Vision!

Sharon Riegie Maynard

September 8, 2023

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It is so good to be back with all of you again.

Last memorial day, I was in Nauvoo, IL in a gathering of Ind elders from around the world. Greenland, Australia, Netherlands, Mayans from the Sierra Nevadas, Mamos, the hidden people of the Santa Marta mountains, and those from multiple tribes across the us, Canada, and south America Oddly enough, it was that gathering that lead me to being with you today.

First, let me go back, 2009 in Sebastopol, CA, I was in a gathering of women leaders composted of Indigenous elders, and women leading projects and org from all over the world. One woman, Gloria, from a tribe in Canada explained that when she received her invitation, she took it to her Tribal Council. They discussed the possibility and chose to send her with a message for us, And, she explained, it was her responsibility to bring information she received at the event, back to benefit her community. I realized, I didn't have a community to bring the wisdom back to. It was because of Sebastapol, CA. I decided to create such a group at Shoreline UU. That was the beginning of your Saturday women's circle, a place to share.

The power of an idea.



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So back to my time last Memorial Day.

In this gathering were not only women. Men Women, Children also. Some in ceremonial dress, feather regalia, ribbon skirts, and lots of drums, flutes, and teepees. Fires, smudging, and respect. And what did I see? Groups sitting on the grass. Groups dotted the rolling landscape. In each was an elder. The group gathered because the elder had been asked by someone to share. Tell me your story. What is your vision? Respect for what is history, and hopes. And of course the prophecies. The prophecy of the eagle and condor again flying together, north and south an indication of peace restored. They want that for their children 7 generations.

I am clear that what is going on in the world today is not what I want for my children and grandchildren great-grandchildren. The cultures that have created separation, blame, those which justify killing is not what I want for them. We are 'handling' homelessness, addictions, active shooters, domestic violence. And, handling it is not the vision I want to hold.

What is the vision you have? What is the hope and desire you have for your children, your grandchildren, and your great grandchildren?

In the face of 'what is', it is critical to know your, "What is to be."

There's a story of a village in Africa. The inhabitants of the village had been living on the bank of an amazing river generation after generation. It is their source of life. Water for crops, bathing, drinking, washing their clothes, and abundant food. An unending flow of fresh water. They are totally content living in their little village right there by the river.



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One day, as the women were out washing clothes, around the bend and down the river comes a basket. Now they had never explored around the bend and up the river. No need to. The water was constant, theirs, and life unfolded.

So a basket was surprising. The women looked at each other and then one waded out to retrieve the basket. To her surprise, it contained a baby! A baby wrapped warmly in a handmade basket floating down their river. She hailed the other women. Several waded out to help bring the baby to shore.

All eyes were on the young one, the basket. Indeed, it was a healthy baby. Warmly wrapped.

What to do? Well, of course they knew a young one needed a home. They took the baby back to their village. After being fed and cuddled, a home was found. All is well and the villagers went on with their lives. The next month, another basket appeared from around the bend. And this time the women were more aware.

Yes, the basket may carry another baby. That would be rather strange, but it could be. The women stopped their washing, sent one into the stream to investigate. Indeed, she signaled. It was the same. A warmly wrapped baby in the basket. They brought the basket in. And now another family was more than happy to include this new one in their home. Month after month. And then more often, babies came down the river in baskets.

Now, this village was small. They were able to support themselves and maintain stability. But all these extra babies were putting a strain on what they could do and how they interacted with each other. Now, babies in baskets became a problem rather than a joyful inclusion.

No one thought to go upstream to find out why babies were coming down the river. Their story of life was all about circumstances within the village by the river. They handled those. They didn't think of exploring beyond.



Einstein said, "You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness, or set of stories, that created it." Solutions require us to step outside the boxes of old patterns in order to find solution. We have to go upstream. In fact, in my experience, the solutions exist.

As a young man, Tesla had determined that he wanted to

benefit humanity. That's what he was about. This was at a time when Nazi Germany was actively recruiting individuals with innovative ideas, into their vision of taking over the world. Instead, Tesla left for America. He is known as one of the great geniuses and inventors.

Tesla explained that for him, an idea would come into his mind. He discerned, would it bring benefit to the masses? If so, he would go into his workshop, an imaginary place, and work with the idea. He'd lay it out, put it together, notice the glitches, back to the drawing board, and twick the plans. Over and over until he saw it work. All in his imagination. And he said, "As soon as I could knew in my unseen room that the plan around the idea would work, I would bring it out." Then he would put it into a blueprint, gather materials, and take action." And," he said, "I always knew it would work because I had seen it so in my imagination."

In our world today, there are lots of problems. Babies, babies, babies. More than we can handle, guns in schools, environment deteriorating, thinking going down the tube, increased homelessness, addictions, mental instability, financial disparity, murder in relationships.

And yet we have been reluctant, especially in developed countries, to encourage our geniuses to refine their abilities to go into imagination, to go

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upstream, to find out where the problem began. Or even to try on solutions not seen, felt, tasted, smelled, or touched with our physical sensory systems. Indeed, we often discourage or diminish the value of such non-physical actions as inconsequential in the great need.

But, I work in that world. Where the question can be asked, "What is the Cause?" The world others would call imagination, maybe even pollyanna. I was assured by one family councilor who read my first book, they are trained to call the insight of my main character, hallucination.

I remember a time when a former religious leader told the members of the larger congregation, "only those higher up the ladder, meaning men, can have dreams or visions. That gift is too powerful", they said, "for the lowly common folks" including all women.

I know there is a way to work in that world and be safe and sane. It is the only way to go around the bend of the river, travel upstream to find the problem and thereby the solution.

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How can we more powerfully impact the world for change?

First recognize there are problems. we have that

Realize there are many answers needed to solve the problem.

Some are whistleblowers. Others write, carry signs, organize marches, create group projects. Something to see and get behind.

Very physical. This is when babies are taken from the river and taken into new families...

When you are willing to go around the bend and up the river, there is when change is more possible.

Some educate to help the masses change their view of the world by changing old stories through podcasts, TikTok, lectures, YouTube, books.

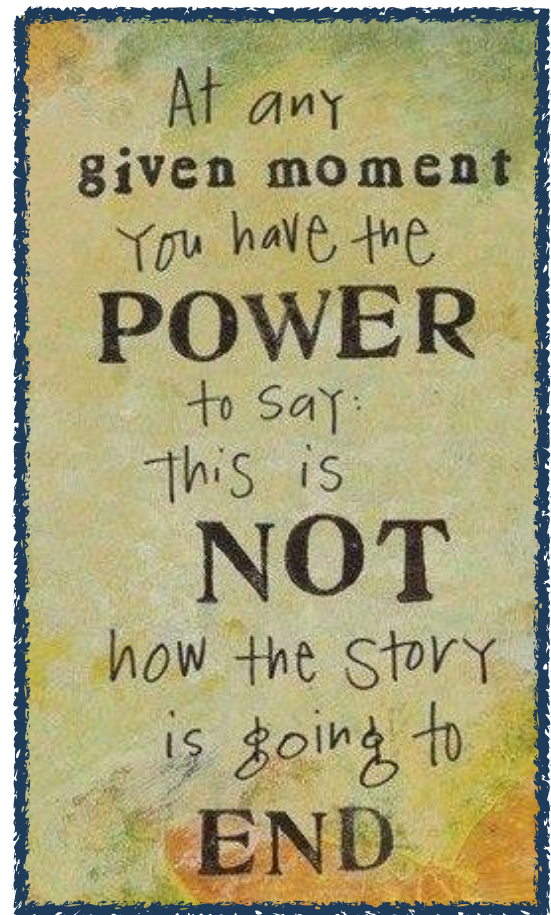
Mental change.

Others focus on eliminating generational trauma, heal historic violence, freeing emotional pain to prevent responses and actions which repeat the harm.

Emotional and Spiritual change

You want a New World? You see there are multiple pieces

Everyone can do something - What is Yours and where to start?





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Simple steps.

First, Claim your values. What values must your vision of the world contain? Tesla chose 'benefit the masses'

Yours could be in a statement such as:

- I am a presence of cooperation, of integrity, of wisdom, of truth, of sanity, of love, of expansion. Individuals used to set them, in days past, not too often anymore.

UU's know how to do this.

Second, what problem would you like to see solved?

- The environmental destruction
- Guns and killings eliminated from schools.
- Violence in relationships

Write it down.

Now, you have your Values and the Change you'd like to see.

Third, Take quiet time to sense how the end result would look and feel. This opens the door to your workshop.

Fourth, move to your workshop of imagination. In the quiet, sit with your values, vision, and choice. "Up until now, guns in schools have been a problem, but I am calling for the solution of stability, respect, and safety. based on my values." You sense the end result.

Do you know how to make this happen?

No, of course not.

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In the workshop of imagination, you listen.

You are the one to stand as a presence of the change.

In the quiet of imagination, you BE the Change.

And then you listen

- Listen to ideas, new doors of possibilities
- Notice what piece sparks your excitement.

In the Jewish tradition, there is a phrase, it means, Repair the Earth. You are called a work, a work you may not complete, a work you cannot put it down.

- Will you be one who organizes marches or one who writes articles?
- Will you be sparked to create songs to inspire or run for political office?
- Will a healing career beckon you or sitting in regular meditative prayer?

I am here coming back from having been many places others would call 'upstream'. I have seen new ideas and truths show up then I stepped outside the box of 'women can't' and 'follow what is known' and 'asking into the unseen for visions is not safe.' I am bringing wisdom from my experiences of facilitating change to say,

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You Have a Role to Play.

What I realized at Nauvoo was that if we want the condor and eagle to fly, north and south, in peace, we have to begin by finding our answers 'upstream'.

You hear your call. I hear mine.

I can cheer your prayers as I paint signs.



I can share your podcast even as I am marching in front of the White House.

Together, we acknowledge that planting trees and speaking before the UN has equal value.

We cheer each other because adopting a community garden, and standing between a bulldozer and sacred tree grove changes the world.

Praying in the silence of our closets, or creating YouTube videos to educate are both valuable and needed.

The variety of actions directly impact the multi-dimensional world we live within, Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual.

I can love what you are doing because I don't have to. You have it!

What about our village with all those babies?

By sending a group willing to travel around the bend and upstream they would discover a tiny community totally enslaved. The only hope those parents had for the safety for their children was to secret them away into a basket, down the river. Knowing this, our free village makes plans, gathers resources, and

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helps the tiny community remove the invaders. The villages can now live peacefully in support of one another. Had that not been done, our quiet village by the river would have been the next target to be enslaved. That is what happens when problems go unsolved at the deepest cause, upstream.

I know that lives change when concepts change. Your ideas, visions, hopes and dreams are needed in our world.

You are called.

You are needed,

You are not alone.

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## Sharon Riegie's Bio

Sharon Riegie Maynard, was raised in a patriarchal religion which was enough for her, until it wasn't. In 1971 she discovered her church's encouragement to 'get your own revelation' was meant for men. Curiosity took over after her husband's friend shared a 'proven' way to hear 'god'. They called it, A Safe Way to Hear 'God's' Voice to You. That sounded interesting.

During a time when her husband was off to work, children off to school or down for a nap, she followed the process. In that quiet hour of inner peace, one question in hand, she experienced an inner voice of wisdom that changed her life. Answers came faster than she could write them down. Ideas, suggestions, encouragement, beyond anything she had known in her religion that had every class scripted.

From that time, she discovered the expansive world in which she lived, including the constructs that limited and crippled women. Convinced that women are those with stewardship to designate values, design systems, and oversee Cultures of Good, Sharon has worked to empower women in move their visions forward as leaders.

She is the founder of the TAG Galactic System of Healing and Education within the Galactic to Gaia Odyssey course. She sponsored the first Women's Grassroots Congress in March 2012 and is now watching the movement of women and men awakening of the Divine Missions of both Female and Male

Sharon is a published author. Her first two books are, Remembering Earth Mission, from The Ancient Ones, Keepers of Galactic Secrets, and her second book, Heeding the Cries of Your Children, The Ancient Ones Give Warning. Her next book, The Ancient Ones, Our Galactic Elders Speak of Truth, Ending Domination's Trauma is scheduled for publication this fall.

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