Turning of the Wheel
Meeting the Challenges and Charting/Creating the World with Spokes and a Hub

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GATHERING the HUCKLEBERRIES

Photo: John Hartman 2011

Elysia Moran and Victoria Spino, with Grandpa, Rob Moran.
Photo: Frey 2003
HEALING JOURNEYS

pay attention to both the “external and inner healing,” both “head knowledge and heart knowledge”

Cliff SiJohn, Coeur d’Alene Casino. Photo: Frey 2002
HEAD KNOWLEDGE and HEART KNOWLEDGE

Material Reductionism
Cartesian Dualism
Scientific Method

Spiritual Animation
Unified Holism

a tangible world of discrete quantifiable objects viewed as if behind a glass pane

binary oppositions

devoid of spirit

a transitory world co-created at the convergence of those participating, an event in the making

kinship

imbued with spirit

contrasting world views, contrasting epistemologies
HEAD KNOWLEDGE and HEART KNOWLEDGE

geological processes  Coyote and Snake

the physical action/reaction of scalpel and chemo drugs  the pulsating through an Eagle-feather

“mutually exclusive”?  huckleberry to guide?

Along the Clearwater River NEPE-HI-0959
LIVES of TOM and SUSIE YELLOWTAIL

Apsáalooke (Crow) of 1970s
as Sundance chief and Akbaalía, as Baptist, as nurse, as healer, on Presidential-appointed councils

Tom and Susie Yellowtail, Wyola. Photo: Frey 1974
TOM YELLOWTAIL OFFERING A PRAYER

Tom offering prayer at the Sundance, Pryor, 1974
THE WHEEL

Tom Yellowtail’s “Wagon Wheel”
Burnt Face

Rocks of the Big Horn Medicine Wheel, Wyoming, Photo: Frey 1993
SUNDANCE LODGE

Crow Sundance Lodge, Wolf Mountains.
Photo: Frey 1993

Ashkísshe
the various paths, the spokes, distinct and equal,
yet all linked by the same rim and hub,
if the wheel is to turn
can travel the many but distinct spokes, when maintaining integrity of each, while each part of a greater whole

without threat of the “mutually exclusive”
wagon wheels and rock medicine wheels

Sundancer participants, Baptist parishioners, IHS practitioners

spokes and a hub

interplay of the unique and universal, our collective diversity and what we share in common

huckleberries offered, lessons to be learned?

attend to heart and head ways of knowing
BIOMEDICAL and SUNDANCE WAYS

traveling the distinct healing spokes:

reclining with an IV of stem cells, dancing with Buffalo Spirit

Receiving the stem cells, Seattle.
Photo: Kris Roby 2009

The Buffalo and Eagle being blessed before the start of the Sundance, Gordon Plain Bull and Tom Yellowtail. Pryor 1974
Burnt Face

stumble and fall - health taken

confusion and solitude, replaced by loving support

desire and solitude, replaced by loving support

journey of perseverance and sacrifice

transformation possible:
a child’s face restored
reborn as a child
“betwixt and between”

timeless and spaceless, between the spokes, devoid of distractions and mundane sensibilities

listen deeply – most essential
OUT OF THE CHAOS, OUT OF THE LIMINALITY

- placing one’s self in the shoes of another
- unselfish support for another

a healing language of the hub/rim

“that pat on the back from doctor’s hand or Eagle-feather held in hand”
that certain look in Tom’s face - that Eagle-feather fan held in hand

another huckleberry?
TOM ATTENDING TO HIS CHORES

“as if we’d known each other for years,” yet so fundamentally different, so little in common

how can two people so different, relate so effortlessly?

Tom Yellowtail, Wyola. Photo: Joseph Epes Brown, circa 1970s
“re-telling one’s own”

act of telling of Coyote or of one’s own life-defining events

a gift received, now re-told, gifted to you

Tom Yellowtail, retelling a favorite story, with his
great grandkids, at his cabin, east of Wyola.
Photo: Frey 1993

bridging what can divide the spokes,
the “mutually exclusive”

power of story
a language of our shared
humanity, our hub/rim
for our unfolding stories, as students, teachers, researchers, for your unfolding story
as ethnographer, researcher and teacher
what huckleberries await?
let’s take a journey, a humanities expedition together

Schitsu’umsh elders Lawrence Nicodemus and Felix Aripa, along with Frey, Plummer.
Photo: Rosemary Peone 2000
as “distinguished humanities professor” – aka as “ethnographer”

a “research design” – the humanities

human condition

interpretive

wisdom

reflect and respond
A COMMUNITY of “VANDALS”

questions to ask you and others:

“what is the interplay between the unique and universal,
between the particular and ubiquitous,
between our collective diversity and shared humanity?”

a community ethnography
VANDAL COMMUNITY

David Adler - Public Policy
Katherine Aiken - History
Barry Bilderback - Music

Dan Bukvich, Navin Chettri and their Students - Music and the Jazz Choir

Don Burnett - Jurisprudence

Rob Caisley, Lojo Simon and their Students - Theatre and the play, Adoration of Dora
Nancy Chaney - Mayor and Alumni
Marco Deyasi - Art Historian

Stephen Drown - Landscape Architecture
Dan Edwards - Chemistry
Sanford Eigenbrode - Chemical Ecology and Entomology
James Foster - Biology and Computer Science
Heather Gasser - Women's Center

Janis Johnson and Nez Perce elders - Literature and an evening of Nez Perce Jazz
David Lee-Painter and his Students - Theatre

Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim-Campbell - Art and Design
John Mihelich - Anthropology and Sociology
Garth Reese - Religious Studies
Michael O'Rourke - Philosophy

Marty Peterson - Legislative Representative for the President
Brandon Schrand and his Students - Creative Writing
Bill Smith - International Relations
Carmen Suarez - Human Rights, Access and Inclusion Office
Bill Voxman - Photographer and Mathematics
how we conceptualize the interplay between diversity and universality has far reaching implications on our capacities:

for communication and collaboration,
for creativity in the arts and discovery in the sciences,
for tolerance, civility, and respect
for building local and global community

you’re invited to an Humanities Exploration. let’s see what huckleberries await.