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

www.garrisonmetamorphosis.org
The Heart of Our Approach

DIALOGUES:

“Contemplation & Transformation”
Moderated by David Germano, Professor of Buddhist Studies, Center for Contemplative Science and Studies, University of Virginia

“The New Human Story for the Future”
Moderated by Doug Abrams, author, publisher and founder of Idea Architects

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

“Holistic Resilience: Personal, Societal & Systemic”
Moderated by Christa Tinari, Program Director, Contemplative-Based Resilience Project, Garrison Institute

“Compassionate Leadership in Business, Finance & Society”
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 and Executive Producer of “First Voices Radio.” Member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation

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

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

Howard Fischer
Founder and CEO of Gratitude Railroad and Founder of Basso Capital

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

Sander Tideman
Program Director Compassionate Leadership in Finance (CLiF), Garrison Institute

GARRISON INSTITUTE
“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 wellbeing, 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

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

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

Relational Sensemaking
Angel Acosta, Program Director Garrison Institute Fellowship

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

The Inner Development Goals
Jamie Bristow, Leader Public Policy at the Inner Development Goals, with Dan Siegel, Author, Founding Co-Director of the Mindful Awareness Research Center and Mindsight Institute

Compassionate Systems Awareness
Mette Boell, Co-founder and Director Center for Systems Awareness

The Responsibility of the Media
Doug Abrams, Author, Editor, Literary Agent, and truth hunter

Science & the Wisdom of the Elders
Monica Gagliano, Author and Research Professor of Evolutionary Ecology

The Role of Contemplative Practice
Cynthia Bourgeault, modern day mystic, Episcopal Priest and Author; and Gyalwa Dokhampa, Contemporary Spiritual Master of the Drukpa Order of Buddhism in Bhutan

Throughout the day we’ll offer inspiring moments with composer Philip Glass, a performance by artist Laurie Anderson, poetry by Plum Village monks, and words of wisdom from renowned author Joanna Macy.
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 inner development and societal and systems change.
- Share 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.”

— Václav Havel

www.garrisonmetamorphosis.org
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