

Human Values in Aging Newsletter
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H.R. Moody, Editor



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FOR A NEW BEGINNING

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
our eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you....

~ John O'Donohue ~



NOT WHAT YOU DO, BUT WHAT YOU ARE

"People should not worry as much about what they do but rather about what they are. If they and their ways are good, then their deeds are radiant. If you are righteous, then what you do will also be righteous. We should not think that holiness is based on what we do but rather on what we are, for it is not our works which sanctify us but we who sanctify our works."

-Meister Eckhart

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WHEN MIDDLE AGE ABANDONS US

"...old folks now seek out for succor the disease management arm of that very social order that prescribed diminishment and a fading of the light for their days. They look up as from a daze, awash in the suddenness of it all, dumbfounded that their middle age has abandoned them without notice, that their lives are the nightmare stuff of continuing care institutions."

Stephen Jenkinson, COME OF AGE: The Case for Elderhood in a Time of Trouble

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CRITICAL GERONTOLOGY

"Critical gerontology is an approach to aging research, policy, and practice which questions the assumptions underpinning the biomedical model of aging and the notion that older people are a burden on society."
(Rob Ranzijn)

For current perspectives, visit: The International Network for Critical Gerontology at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13221&F=T>

See also:

"Critical Gerontology" at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13222&F=T>

"What is the Next Stage in Critical Gerontology?" at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13223&F=T>

"Five Eye-openers in my Life of Critical Gerontology," by Stephen Katz at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13224&F=T>

Critical Gerontology: Perspectives from Political and Moral Economy, by Carol Estes and Meredith Minkler (Baywood, 1999).

Aging, Globalization and Inequality: The New Critical Gerontology, by Jan Baars et al (eds.) (Routledge, 2006).

Critical Perspectives on Ageing Societies, by Miriam Bernard and Thomas Scharf (Policy Press, 2007).

Critical Gerontology Comes of Age: Advances in Research and Theory for a New Century, edited by Chris Wellin (Routledge, 2018).

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LIFE REVIEW

"I have liked remembering almost as much as I have liked living. But now it is different. I have to be careful. I can ruin a night's sleep by suddenly, in the dark, thinking about some particular time in my life. Before I can stop myself it is as if I had driven a mine shaft down through layers and layers of the past and must explore, relive, remember, reconsider, until daylight delivers me."

William Maxwell, "Nearing 90" New York Times Magazine (1997) Narboe, p. 255.

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WEB SITES TO SEE

ELDERS ACTION. For those working on climate change and related issues of social and economic justice, visit Elders Action Network at:
www.eldersaction.net

CHINA. Napoleon once said, "China sleeps. But when she wakes the world will tremble." With the largest aging population in the world, China deserves our attention it. See "China to boost geroscience research" at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13225&F=T>

THE GOOD LIFE IN OLD AGE. Read "What Makes a Good Life in Late Life?"

Citizenship and Justice in Aging Societies,” a report from the Hastings Center, at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13226&F=T>

See also Aging Policy and Politics in the Trump Era: Implications for Older Americans, ed. Edward Alan Miller et al (Routledge, 2018)

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COMING EVENTS

CONSCIOUS AGING: "Conscious Aging: A New Paradigm for Aging" (January 14, 2019, Minneapolis, MN). 6:30-8:30 PM, at the First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Avenue South. One of the founding chapter members of The Transition Network, Karen West, facilitates a workshop on how to choose to become more conscious, more whole, and much happier in this exciting, new life stage. Details at:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13227&F=T>

EDEN ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY. (Jan. 15 – Feb. 12, 2019). A new offering is available: “Finding Eden in Behavioral Health.” For details, visit:
<https://mailer.luxsci.com/link.php?M=19981157&N=9119&L=13228&F=T>

RETIREMENT: “The 10 Secrets of a Happy Retirement” (Jan. 22, 2019 at 12:00 noon EST). The 4th Tuesday Revolutionize your Retirement Interview with Expert's Series features Richard Eisenberg, Managing Editor and Senior Web Editor, Next Avenue. Sign-up begins Jan. 15, at www.revolutionizeretirement.com. The series is open to professionals and the public. Accessible via phone and Internet, but questions can only be asked via Internet. Once you've signed up, you'll receive a recording from the call. Direct questions to Dori Mintzer at: dorian@dorianmintzer.com

THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS: Retreat Workshop (Mar. 29-31, 2019, Philadelphia, PA). This workshop offers ways to draw strength and courage from the web of life, as we engage with our world and create our legacy for future generations with THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS. At the Pendle Hill Retreat Center, facilitated by Lynne Iser and Mordechai Liebling, based on the work of Joanna Macy. For details visit: www.PendleHill.org or call (610) 566-4507, ext 137

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No wise person ever wanted to be younger.

-Jonathan Swift

