

Dream Network

Evolving a Dream Cherishing Culture

Since 1982

Dear Friends and Sister/Fellow Dreamers,

Warm greetings... thank you! for your current communication and willingness to be there in your area as a Regional Contact person/networker for dreams and dreamers.

A number of questions have been asked by you and a number of thoughts have occurred on this end, which I wish to address in this letter to you as a collective. These are random points of mutual interest and concern. What is here, I offer as one networker, listed along with yourself, not an authority or coordinator/ director.

Please provide your feedback, responses to questions asked and highlight any areas of importance that I may have missed, as soon as possible. Also, please note your listing in the upcoming issue and on the internet for accuracy.

First . . . A Suggested Credo for our Network . . .

Message to Poets (and Dream Networkers)

The following is excerpted from a paper read at a meeting of the new Latin-American poets -- and a few young North Americans -- in Mexico City. In the reading, recognize that dreamers could be analogous with poets. Author unknown.

"We who are poets know that the reason for a poem is not discovered until the poem itself exists. The reason for a living act is realized only in the act itself. This meeting is a spontaneous explosion of hopes. That is why it is a venture in prophetic poverty, supported and financed by no foundation, organized and publicized by no official group, but a living expression of the belief that there are now in our world new people, new poets, who are not in tutelage to established political systems or cultural structures... but who dare to hope in their own vision of reality and of the future.

This meeting is united in a flame of hope whose temperature has not yet been taken and whose effects have not yet been estimated, because it is a new fire. The reason for the fire cannot be apparent to one who is not warmed by it. The

reason for being here will not be found until all have walked together, without afterthought, into contradictions and possibilities.

We believe that our future will be made by love and hope, not by violence or calculation. The Spirit that has brought us together, whether in space or only in agreement, will make our encounter an epiphany of certainties we could not know in isolation.

The solidarity of poets is not planned and welded together with tactical convictions or matters of policy, since these are affairs of prejudice, cunning and design. Whatever our failures, the poet is not a cunning person. His or her art depends on an ingrained innocence which he would lose in business, in politics, or in too organized a form of academic life. The hope that rests on calculation has lost its innocence. Let us band together to defend our innocence!"

About the Motivation for Activating a Network

My goal before becoming steward/guardian for the Dream Network, as stated in the study plan for my graduate degree program, 1989, was and remains to: "Help stimulate awareness about the value of dreams, to demystify the work itself so as to empower individuals to read and use their own personal dream symbology, to come to perceive their personal mythology... and to encourage the actualization and/or enactment of the dream. In essence, to encourage individual and cultural appreciation for the value of dreams."

In talks that I've given to both large and small groups since stating that goal, as well as in conversation with individuals, I frequently ask: "Were you ever encouraged, at home, in school or church, to value your dreams?" The answer is invariably NO. That is also my answer to the question. In inviting you to become listed as a Point of Light in the Dream Network, it is my hope that we can help one another fulfill our goals. What are yours? I want to assist you in any way that I can; I need all the help I can get, as well. Let's work together, so that soon, when the aforementioned question is asked by any one of us, we will hear a majority of YESes!

The increasing public interest in dreams factors strongly into motivations. What is your motivation and intent in making yourself available?

Defining the Network & Being a Contact Person

The Paradox is that we are at one and the same time, Interdependent and Autonomous. Ours is an 'esoteric' organization.

Please be clear that this movement's intention is to empower you to share quality dream-related information/services in your area; it is not our intention to build an

empire or hierarchal structure. For each of us act in accordance with the suggested credo is to keep energy moving

From my perspective, being listed as a Contact/Resource Person in the Dream Network assumes that each of us is convinced of and committed to the mystery, value and purposefulness of dreams and is equipped to engage in stimulating, fruitful and informative dialogue with any individuals who might call upon us for help along the way. It presumes that we will avail ourselves of other individuals, resources and of those doing dream work and dream groups in our geographical area, for referral purposes.

It assumes we are willing to share our areas of expertise, our limitations, what we know -- based on an instinctive response to current needs and level of comprehension -- and that we have permission to say "I don't know" when, in fact, we don't know. Learning and finally arriving seems a lifelong process.

Let's make this as interactive and accessible a Network as possible . . . among ourselves, as well as for new explorers! Let's feel free to ask one another questions and to give one another feedback in the forms of praise, constructive critique and occasional Letters to the Editor/articles, as ways of sharing activities that would be of interest to Dream Network readers.

It does not presume that we do one-on-one dreamwork or facilitate/belong to a dream group. Responding can be as simple as recommending techniques for dream recall, dream journaling, a good book or two, etc. The idea is to encourage people to value and to learn to make good use of their dreams.

If we do offer dreamwork and/or facilitate dream groups, it is up to each of us/our discretion whether to make ourselves available/offer our services to querants in that capacity and if so, whether to charge money/do exchanges.

Please be aware that Dream Network nor the Council of Advisors are not responsible for how you choose to radiate out into your center and offer resources/services. If you wish to advertise yourself, if you choose to charge a fee for services offered, that is exclusively your decision and option. You will be guided by the feedback/response you get.

Dream Network is not a hierarchy but rather an Esoteric Organization. What we wish to encourage is a Spirit of Sharing, Peer relationships; a mutual sharing of resources/ideas. A Circle. A Network of Light. Not structured . . . other than each of us being a "Center of Concentrated Light" which illuminates the land/dreamscape. With all of its honors, privileges and obligations.

Expanding the Network

Volunteer to be the regional dream networker for your state or region. This would entail ferreting out all of the dreamworkers in your area and having them funnel

—workshop information, dream-related events, new books, movies, CDs, TV shows that have inspirational dream content, etc.,—through you. You can then send the information to us for publication in the Dream Network.

Also, if you become aware of others who are committed and willing to serve in this capacity, please advise them to make contact with us or provide their names, addresses, etc., as we desire to make dream related information as readily available to as many interested individuals as possible.

Encourage Submissions!

If any spectacular material arises from your personal work and/or in your dream group, or if you discover any interesting new approaches, etc., write up an article for the Dream Network so you can share your findings with others who can benefit.

Resources Available

What resources do you need? What resources do you have available to share with other Contact persons/with readers?

Your Help is Needed

Lacking a traditional marketing budget, we rely on work-of-mouth and YOUR help. It would be of inestimable value if you would help to create an awareness about the Dream Network with interested colleagues, friends, etc., in your area.

If you would be willing to post flyers in your area, drop off back issues at local businesses/offices that you frequent or wish to have basic information about marketing to bookstores and libraries, please advise. We will also provide attractive informational subscription and membership single-page flyers if you are willing to drop them off as you go about your town.

Provide Feedback

We would appreciate occasional feedback: Is anything happening as a result of your being listed? Are you taking measures to expose yourself independently, or is DN your only source of exposure?

I realize that a lot of information is covered here and thank you for listening and responding at your earliest possible convenience. Again, if I have missed any critical points, please advise; if you do not agree with anything that is outlined here, please feel free to say so and to present new information, alternatives or solutions.

May Your Favorite Dreams Come True,

H. Roberta Ossana, Publisher/Editor

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