

# SYNERGY REPORT

*Toward a World That Works for Everyone*

*Doing together what can't be done as well alone*

## MAP's Dec. 8th Annual Meeting Program

### Changing the Story

We live and die by the stories we tell...stories passed down from one generation to the next... about what's true, what's right, the way things are and ought to be, and what's worth fighting and dying for.

Some stories are the glue holding societies together. However, there is one centuries old story, from which others follow, that leads to the dehumanization of people, violence, oppression, and the planet's vanishing life support systems. It's a story that must change. Our future depends on it.

This isn't a story we can easily blame on others. Nearly the whole of humanity is intricately enmeshed in it.

**And, what is that story?** Can we change it, or at least extricate ourselves from it? And, what alternative story could frame humanity's move in a new direction?

**Come to our annual meeting Dec. 8th** to view two excellent videos that address those questions directly. (Our plan is to give you time to discuss both.)

The first video is **"The Story of the People."** Narrator, **Charles Eisenstein**, describes the old story and how it shapes our lives. He then introduces an alternative story that frames and affirms how **all** our contributions are interconnected and combine to progressively realize the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

The second video is the trailer of **"The Shift"** movie now being filmed. World renowned leaders highlight the movement away from complicity with the old story, and toward an era built on the foundation of a life-giving story.

Most important is how we individually and collectively think and feel about the ideas shared in these two videos. Are you more hopeful or skeptical; more confused or clear? And one more question. Could MAP make a life-giving story one of its contextual frames for strategizing, planning and collective actions?

Come and share your thoughts and feelings about this crucial transition issue.

Sook Holdridge  
Editor: Synergy Report and  
Member Communications

### The Law of Deep Purpose

This Law says, the more conscious we are of our deep purpose, the more relevant, meaningful, satisfying and spiritually fulfilling our lives tend to become.

And, the more aligned our personal purpose is with the purpose of an organization we belong to, the more enthusiastic we are in collectively working on common goals.

So, reflect on how you resonate with this purpose: *to collectively work for the common good: peace, justice, healthy ecosystems and the well-being of all life.*

By itself the "common good." is vague. But when you begin to reflect on what that means for you in this moment, you are at once transported into serving some Good larger than yourself.

By itself the word "justice" is an abstraction. But when you reflect on some specific social, economic, or environmental aspect of it, it becomes real and worth pursuing.

The "well-being of all life" is too big to wrap our minds around—until we see our interconnectedness with everything else. Then our empathy for the suffering kicks in, and that strengthens our desire to do something about relieving that suffering.

When we honor the Law of Deep Purpose, it can make a life-changing difference—especially when we give to it our full attention.

Sook Holdridge

### The joy of working together in making a difference

## Looking Ahead to 2016 and Beyond

In the interest of building community and more focused membership alliances in 2016, your Leadership Team has moved the February Council meeting from Tuesday to **Saturday, February 6th from 1:00 to 5:00pm.**

Beyond the regular business meeting there's time to get to know one another better, share what we're doing, and time for organizations to align around shared visions, goals and projects they want to pursue during 2016.

We're giving you this advance notice so you can think about and plan for what you'd like to present that day.

Come expecting a lively, serendipitous, fun and productive time together.

The details will evolve as we hear from you. Meanwhile, keep hope alive — and don't hesitate to communicate with us.

The Alliance Leadership Team

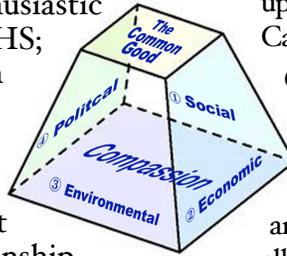
## MAP Celebrated Intergenerational Activism

### In a new MAP initiative to involve more youth in the peace movement, the first Leslie Reindl Peace Essay Contest was born.

On November 10th, the three high school winners read their essays before an enthusiastic audience. Third place: Sophia Morrisstte, SW HS; second place: Sophie Salmon Peterson, Perpich Center for the Arts HS; and first place: Lauren Weber, Northfield HS.

From her book, *Story Circle Stories*, featured speaker, Rose McGee shared its design to assist people in understanding how to grow in relationship to each other's "stories."

Along with additional treats by the Perpich Center Dancers, and informative tabling displays, it was an evening to remember. Congratulations to all who made it happen.



## What You Can Find On MAPM.org

The Synergy Report doesn't duplicate what you can find on MAPM.org

There you can get MAP organizations' upcoming events by clicking on the Calendar and "Online Action Tool."

Click "Our Members" to get the list and details on each member organization or the scoop on becoming a member.

There's a list of "Resource People," and printable "Military Spending Cards," all back issues of the Synergy Report, printable in full color, can be found on the Home Page (lower right).

## MAP IS WHAT ITS MEMBERSHIP DOES

Remember, **YOU ARE** the Alliance. Every member has a voice in determining the Alliance's direction and actions.

**Initiate** an open space conversation.

**Do** committee work.

**Speak** out at meetings.

**Critique** our process.

**Email** suggestions to [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com).

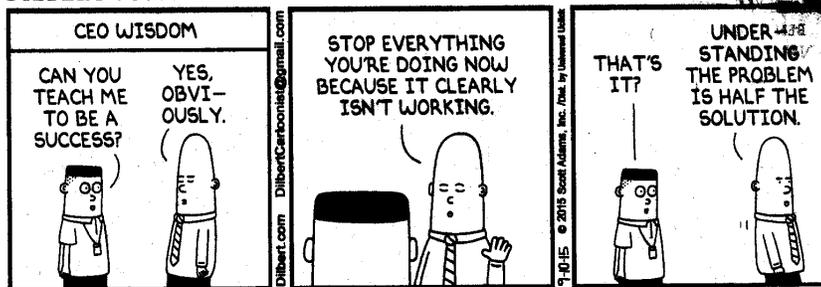


*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Meade*



**Hearts  
sharing compassion**

DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



## We laugh — probably at ourselves

How often do we **not** understand the problem and therefore fail in our attempts to solve it. And how often do we deceive ourselves into thinking when we achieve some end goal, only **then** will we be a success.

So, the advice given in "CEO WISDOM" is on the mark. In our peacemaking ventures, let us always do our best to understand the problem before we act. As for success, let us find it in the doing, rather than expecting it will come at the end of some achievement.

Note... You can print this newsletter at [MAPM.org](http://MAPM.org) (home page)

**Burt Berlowe:** [bberlowe@comcast.net](mailto:bberlowe@comcast.net) 612-722-1504 — Media: publications, announcements and MAP publicity

**Mary Faulkner:** [rfofmplsmn@aol.com](mailto:rfofmplsmn@aol.com) 612-823-5524 — Treasurer and members' dues and current status

**Sook Holdridge:** [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com) 952-922-7311 — Internal communications, Editor: Synergy and Feedback Reports

**Larry Johnson:** [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com) 612-747-3904 — Readings for council meetings; Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church

**April Knutson:** [knutsoo1@umn.edu](mailto:knutsoo1@umn.edu) 612-823-5989 — Secretary and letter writing

**Martha Roberts:** [martrobe44@aol.com](mailto:martrobe44@aol.com) 612-554-7009 — Membership records

**Shared Duties:** Spokesperson for MAP; Convener of Delegate Council meetings; and Convener of open space time

### Other leadership volunteers include:

**Wayne Wittman:** [waynecwittman@gmail.com](mailto:waynecwittman@gmail.com) 651-695-5297 — Member application processing

**Madeline Simon:** [madeline-mpls@msn.com](mailto:madeline-mpls@msn.com) 952-854-2976 — MAPM Website Postings and Editing Services

**Dennis Dillon:** [dennis.dillon@msn.com](mailto:dennis.dillon@msn.com) 612-333-0723 — Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church