

SYNERGY REPORT

Toward a World That Works for Everyone

Doing together what can't be done as well alone

Connectedness matters

MAP's First Retreat In 13 Years

In order to strengthen our spirit of community, and to really feel our personal and collective activism as an integral part in a larger movement, your Leadership Team is hosting a **Saturday** afternoon retreat that **replaces** the **Tuesday**, February 9th Council meeting.

It is scheduled for **Saturday, February 6, 1:00 to 5:00** at our usual location, Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. S., Mpls. We encourage **all** MAP members to attend, and the guests **you** invite are welcome as well.

The theme for this retreat is: **"From Separation to Connection."** And the premise is: connection is not only a deep social need we have personally, it is a condition necessary for the healing and root solutions for every social and planetary ill plaguing humanity today. Though there's no official name for it, some are seeing this as the largest social movement in human history.

How that translates for you and the organization(s) you belong to, is what this retreat is all about. We'll begin by everyone taking up to a minute to share something about themselves and/or the organization they belong to, and later some will share their stories of connection. During open-space time where you can initiate specific topics of interest, we are hoping you will devote some of that time talking about how this theme applies to your topic. This is also the time to propose actions and resolutions if you choose to do so.

By the end of the day, we are confident most of us will feel a heightened commonality of spirit, and have a clearer idea of what we each want our personal and organizational activism to look like.

Again, we are counting on **you** to invite everyone in your organization, and other guests, to what we think will be a very meaningful and satisfying retreat. It will include snacks, music and video short-takes by well known peace activists.

Sook Holdridge
Editor: Synergy Report and
Internal Communications

Counter-narratives to the stories we're told Breaking The Cycle of Endless Wars

We're in a pattern of getting "sucked into" supporting one military action after another, only later to learn that those actions were based on lies or false information.

How does this happen? When a war is in the offing, the mainstream media characteristically will publish and broadcast only negative reports about a given country or leader, portraying them as a threat, a dictator, perhaps a "new Hitler." Voices are excluded that would offer counter-evidence to the dark side consistently portrayed.

We need to realize that we cannot rely uncritically on the mainstream media when it comes to matters of war, but must actively seek out alternative and international media. We may in the end decide that the claims our media make are valid; but without hearing other voices we will not be able to make informed decisions.

Knowledge of counter-narratives will make it harder for our government to persuade us to support yet another war that isn't worthy of support.

By Gail Hughes
President, Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

A Time To Dream Again

Van Jones, in one of his recent talks said, *"The age of issues is over. Issue is another name for problem, so what we end up with is a whole bunch of problems...Don't tell me what you're working on. What are you working for... This is the age of solutions, and it's time to dream again."*

In MLK's famous speech, he did not say, "I have an **issue**." He said, "I have a **dream**." And the people caught fire behind a movement.

The dream of a better world is being embraced in a thousand different ways by billions around the globe.

The dream of a democratized democracy is capturing the hearts of Americans. Over 400,000 are now behind the **Move to Amend** campaign.

The dream of citizen power in the city has inspired a **"Compassionate Cities"** framework in over 300 communities around the world.

What all these dreams have in common is a driving passion to move from separation to connection; from *"it's all about me,"* to *it's all about "we."* What's best for **all** of us?

The February 6th retreat is an opportune time to dream of ways leading to connection, whether it's a closer relationship with loved ones, or the underlying connectedness of bitter enemies.

The more life gets connected as *One*, the fewer societal problems we'll have.

Sook Holdridge

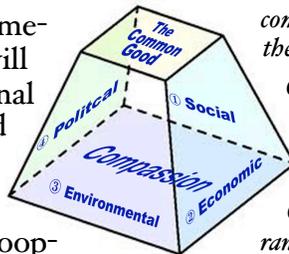
A new tool for gathering Member Feedback

With transparency among Alliance members as a high priority, we are experimenting with "Google Forms" as a tool to survey the membership on a variety of matters.

There are a few kinks to be worked out, but sometime in early February your Leadership Team will email you a form designed for your organizational leaders to complete. It will be easy to fill out and take very little time.

For example, in the first survey, we will ask you to submit any media contacts you think might cooperate with us. And for any caucus resolution you may want to see all MAP members bring to their respective caucuses.

This tool facilitates more synergy among all 72 organizations.



The Updated MAP Brochure is Ready

It contains the names of all 72 organizational members of the Alliance as of January, 2016.

And it has these Alliance statements:

Our purpose is to collectively work for the common good: peace, justice, healthy eco-systems and the well-being of all life.

Our mission is to build a spirit of community, and to share our dreams, resources, insights and ideas for devising cooperative strategies to accomplish common goals.

Our guiding principles provide a wide range of member goals that **invite** new creative approaches for realizing them.

On the inside is the wording of all eleven guiding principles.

MAP IS WHAT ITS MEMBERSHIP DOES

YOU ARE the Alliance; so every member has a voice in determining the Alliance's direction and actions. To participate...

Initiate an open-space conversation.

Do committee work.

Speak out at meetings.

Critique our process.

Email suggestions to 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

MAP Proposals Carried Into 2016

1. **A Council proposal made Feb 2014:** that MAP draw up a well thought-out, single-action resolution to present to all caucuses next year, so that all MAP members can present it to their respective caucuses on March 1, 2016, and to also contact political leaders with letters supporting MAP's single action resolution. Think of the power that would have.
2. **A Council proposal made Oct. 2015:** that all MAP members join the Charter for Compassion, not just to benefit themselves, but to build support for metropolitan cities to adopt a "Compassionate Cities" framework for their actions.
3. **A Council proposal made Aug. 2015:** encouraging MAP member families to apply for hosting a student from another country (15-18 years of age) facilitated by the Youth Exchange Studies (YES). If interested they will contact you.

Note: You can print this newsletter at MAPM.org (home page)

Your Leadership Team

Adele Hansen: hans002@umn.edu 952-927-6035 — Secretarial duties at Council and Leadership Team meetings

Mary Faulkner: rfofmplsmn@aol.com 612-823-5524 — Treasurer, member dues and current status

Sook Holdridge: sook51@gmail.com 952-922-7311 — Internal communications, Editor: Synergy and Feedback Reports

Larry Johnson: larryjvfp@gmail.com 612-747-3904 — External communications, Liaison to Plymouth Church

Bob Nechal: fnvwbob@gmail.com 651-917-0383 — to be determined

Gail Hughes: hugheo38@umn.edu 612-379-7419 — to be determined

Martha Roberts: martrobe44@aol.com 612-554-7009 — Membership updates, Researching new member applications

Burt Berlowe: bberlowe@gmail.com 612-722-1504 — Alternate member, Writer, Assist in editing press releases

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 651-695-5297 — Member application processing

Madeline Simon: madeline-mpls@msn.com 952-854-2976 — MAPM Website Postings and Editing Services



**Hearts
sharing compassion**
