

Bibliography on the New Cosmology

February, 2010

Compiled by Carol Kleba, SSND, Mary Helen Stokes, SSND, and Paulette Zimmerman, SSND. These books provide a wonderful way to educate children on the sacredness of all creation and our community with the universe.

Baby to Pre-School

Schimmel, Schim. *Children of the Earth...Remember*. Minnetonka, MN: North Word Press, 1997. ISBN 1-55971-640-1. Baby-Pre-School. 22 pages, Board Books, perfect for little hands (and teething babies). Beautiful pictures.

K through 3rd Grade

Cherry, Lynne. *The Great Kapok Tree*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1990. The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest try to convince a man with an ax the importance of not cutting down their home. ISBN 0-15-200520-X. Teaches children to respect the Earth. K-through 3rd Grade.

Baker, Jeannie. *Where the Forest Meets the Sea*. London: Walker Books, 1987. This fascinating and innovative PICTURE BOOK chronicles the reflections of a young boy exploring a prehistoric rain forest in North Queensland, Australia. ISBN 0-7445-1305-7. Reading level: Ages 4-8

Bang, Molly. *My Light*. New York: Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, 2004. ISBN 0-439-48961-X. Grades 1-3. Ages 4-8. Best overview to energy terminologies for elementary and middle school students.

Borningham, John. *Hey! Get Off Our Train*. New York: Dragonfly Books, Crown Publisher, Inc., 1989. Late one night, a young boy and his faithful companion climb aboard a toy train and set out on a trip around the world. Along the way they encounter, one by one, endangered animals who all want to climb aboard. ISBN 0-517-88204-3 Primary Level

Martignacco, Carole. *The Everything Seed: A Story of Beginnings*. Eina, MN: Beaver's Pond press, Inc., 2003. Beyond renewed wonder and awe at the unfathomable inventions of nature such as seeds, a central truth of this story is this: everything here is radically related. To know this at heart level, to live it with deep reverence, is the hope of this book. ISBN 1-59298-008-2. Ages 4-8, 48 pages.

O'Callahan, Jay. *Herman and Marguerite: an Earth Story*. Atlanta: L. Peachtree Publishers, 1996. This book tells a tale of two different creatures, an earthworm and a caterpillar, who join together to help the sad and lonely orchard where they live and in

the process discover the importance of believing in themselves and each other. ISBN1-56145-103-7 or ISBN 1-56145-283-1 Ages 4-8

Peet, Bill. *The Wump World*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1970. How destruction by the human world affects natural world. Pro-environment - teaches about pollution. ISBN 0-395-31129-1. Ages 4 - 8 48 pages.

Sasso Sandy Eisenborg. *A Prayer for the Earth: The Story of Naamah, Noah's Wife*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996. This is the story of Noah's ark from the viewpoint of his wife Naamah who saved seeds of trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables. This book can give girls a reason to be proud of their religious heritage. ISBN 1-87904-5-60-5 Ages 4 -7

Wood, Douglas. *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. Seekers of all ages have been inspired by the stirring message of Old Turtle, the beloved, award-winning wisdom tale of peace. This allegory has radiant watercolors and teaches the truth: you are loved. ISBN 0-439-32109-3. Ages 4 – 8, 64 pages.

Grades 3 - 7

Bang, Molly. *Common Ground*. New York: Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, Inc., 1997. May we make decisions for the seventh generation. ISBN 0-590-10056-4. Grades 3 -7. Concern over exploitation of resources. Exceptional art work.

Johnson, Rebecca A. *Global Warming*. (part of Science Issues Today series) Washington, D. C.: National Geographic Society, 2002. Gives Reading/Writing/ Science Focuses. Content involves the studies that scientists have done to track changes on Earth's surface. ISBN 0-7922-8873-4. Book for mid-grades (3-5)

Students of Pershing Accelerated School in University City, MO. *We Dream of a World*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2001. Illustrated questions gathered by middle school children. Themes of homelessness, hunger, health care, education, environmental issues, peace, handled in a childlike manner. Students who read the book are shown how to write their own book treating similar themes. Grade 4

Seuss, Dr. *The Lorax*. New York: Random House, 1971. This book shows how we save plants and animals by our choices. Hope is in the children and in the seed. This is a message about ecology, use of resources, and the environment. ISBN 0-394-82337-0 All Grades

A UNIVERSE TRILOGY: will turn kids onto science:

Morgan, Jennifer. *Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells our Cosmic Story* (book 1) Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publication, 2002. ISBN 1-58459-032-1. All Ages.

Morgan, Jennifer. *From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells our Earth Story* (book 2)

Begins with the formation of the earth and concludes with the age of the dinosaur. Nevada City, Ca: Dawn Publication, 2003. ISBN 1-58469--042-9. Ages 8-12

Morgan, Jennifer. *Mammals Who Morph* (book 3). Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2002. This book covers from dawn of the age of mammals to present day humans. ISBN 1-58469-085-2. Grades 2-4

Upper Grades, High School and Adult Study of the New Cosmology

Global Education Associates: Upper Midwest (eds.) *An Amazing Journey: The Universe and Me*. St. Paul Printing, 2004. Readings and discussion guide on the Universe Story, Six sessions. The story of the universe and evolution are seen through the lenses of both science and spirituality. This book is devised for group discussion with readings, rituals, and facilitator directions included. "The Board wishes to express its deep appreciation of Dorothy Olinger, SSND, director of Global Education Associates, Upper Midwest. She mentors and prods, chides and praises anyone engaged in the Great Work of living the Universe Story. She has been the soul and energy behind and around this project." Hynes, John. *An Amazing Journey for Children*. jandijhynes@tcq.net is also available at the same address.

Andrews, Ted. *Animal Speak: The Spiritual & Magical Powers of Creatures Great and Small*. Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 1993. This book provides direction for recognizing and interpreting what animals are trying to "speak" to those with eyes to see and hearts open to receive. ISBN 0-87542-128-1. Children or adults who have a special love for animals will find this book especially appealing. Excellent for youth ministers and retreat directors.

Senior High School Students and Adults

Added by Judith Best, SSND, August, 2009.

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work*, Bell Tower: New York, 1999. Thomas is a Passionist priest with a background in world religions, science, culture and theology, Thomas Berry speaks as a "geologian" in narrating the urgency of the great work of shifting consciousness to save our planet from destructive human behavior. This book speaks especially to the role of women religious in the 21st century.

Berry, Thomas and Brian Swimme, *The Universe Story*. Harper Collins: New York, 1992. Brian Swimme is a protégé of Thomas Berry and his work is available on numerous DVDs available in the SSND Ecology Center. Both men write and speak as mystics, introducing us to the awe and sacredness of our universe through science.

Thomas Berry died on June 1, 2009. A memorial service was celebrated September 26, 2009, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, where he served as a Rector, even though he was a Passionist priest. His archives will be housed at Harvard.

Cannato, Judy. *Radical Amazement*, Sorin Books: Notre Dame, Indiana. 2006. Judy Cannato is wife, mother, CSJ Associate and spiritual director. She begins her book by saying: "Thomas Aquinas said that a mistake in our understanding of creation will necessarily cause a mistake in our understanding of God." Her work examines Catholic theology with contemplative lessons from supernovas, black holes, and other wonders.

King, Ursula. *Spirit of Fire, the Life and Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*. Orbis: New York, 1996. For those who love Teilhard this book will provide a biographical retreat with personal accounts of Teilhard's love for the universe and his spirituality.

Lear, Linda. *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*, Holt: New York, 1997. This biography of Rachel Carson will give you insight into her scientific education as well as her courage in writing *Silent Spring*. I read her biography as "spiritual reading" and was especially moved by her love for children and writing works that inspired their awe and wonder at the natural world. This would be a good choice for a book club discussion.

McFague, Sallie., *The Body of God, An Ecological Theology*, Augsburg Press: Minneapolis, 1993. This book focuses on the ecological crisis as seen through a critique of Judeo Christian theology and suggestions for seeing life through a new lens.

Sallie has been Dean of the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University where she has taught for thirty years. She is married and has children and grandchildren. She is currently Distinguished Theologian in Residence at the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia. Her focus is incarnational spirituality as seen through the reality of climate change.

McFague, Sallie, *A New Climate for Theology, God, the World, and Global Warming*, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2008. This work builds on the text: "I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth..." (Isaiah 65:17) and our role in this co-creation.

Prevallet, Elaine SL, *A Wisdom for Life*, is a series of presentation on Earth Spirituality, 1995.

Prevallet, Elaine SL, *In the Service of Life, Widening and Deepening Religious Commitment*, 2002. In this booklet, Elaine explores the role of religious vows through the lens of a shift in consciousness, seeing our communion with all creation as a central focus.

Prevallet, Elaine SL, *Making the Shift, Seeing Faith through a New Lens*, 2006. This is helpful in looking at questions of faith raised by the shift in consciousness. Elaine has been a Sister of Loretto for more than 50 years, and received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Marquette. She has experiences as an educator in college as well as being on the teaching staff at Pendle Hill, a Quaker adult learning center near Philadelphia. Her small paperback booklets are available for \$6 each at Knobs Haven Retreat Center, 515 Nerinx Road, Nerinx, KY 40049. knobshaven@yahoo.com

Taylor, Sarah McFarland. *Green Sisters, A Spiritual Ecology*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA. 2007. Sarah Taylor is an anthropologist who looks at the work (*Great Work*) being done by Roman Catholic Sisters in the United States and Canada as a new subculture developing ways of living different from the American mainstream. Reading her book will provide a context for the variety of ways this new cosmology is creating new ministries and connectedness among sisters in North America.

Educational opportunities to learn more about the New Cosmology and the shift in consciousness can be found at the following websites:

Genesis Farm at www.genesisfarm.org

S. Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, originated Genesis Farm in New Jersey as an Ecological Learning Center which offers graduate and post-graduate classes as well as having Community Supported Agriculture and an elementary school. Their educational philosophy states: "It starts with self: each individual begins the journey of self-education. It begins with first changing and educating ourselves into the Great Story of deep time, immersing ourselves within our bioregion, falling in love with all the sentient beings around us. We, as educators would take a new role as learners together, turning to the Earth as our primary teacher."

LaVista at www.lavistaelc.org

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Godfrey, IL, near Alton have an Ecological Initiative (Learning Center) based on the philosophy of Genesis Farm where they offer courses, and Community Supported Agriculture. S. Maxine Pohlman, SSND is a Program Assistant offering educational opportunities to learn more about the New Cosmology to students and adults. She can be reached at (618) 961-8107.
