

THE CIRCLES ARE UNITING: Creating Conscious Community

“Everything the power of the world does is done in a Circle. The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball. And so are all the stars. The wind and it's greatest power whirls. Birds make their nests in Circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a Circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great Circle in their changing and always come back to where they were. The life of a man is a Circle from childhood to childhood. And so it is in everything where power moves.”
- Black Elk



In our increasingly mobile and technologically-driven society, we all feel the pressure of too many things to do, not enough time and a disturbing sense of alienation. While, on the deepest level, we hunger to feel connected, it seems the very things that support that end are the ones which consistently fall to the bottom of our list. The result is we and the Earth are suffering.

THE CIRCLES ARE UNITING: Creating Conscious Community is a reminder of how vital it is to take the time to be on the land and connect with ourselves, one another and the Earth. For, in stepping into the Circle where all are valued, we are affirmed and renewed to walk in balance in the world.

It is the story of individuals coming together in community and communities coming together into one larger community in the Great Sun Circles where hundreds of people make a priority of *coming together in the spirit of unity* - stretching beyond the familiar, deepening our connection and growing ourselves in the process.

Recognizing the world is greatly in need of more positive models, this one-hour TV special opens the way for people everywhere to co-create gatherings of this kind - demonstrating how we come together to honor the Earth; attune to the seasons; dance and drum; chant and engage in ritual; while discovering what it means to be *Artists* of our own lives.

To truly be effective in healing the individual or the environment, we must begin by healing the chasm that exists between the human psyche and the rest of the natural world. For too long we were united by things that divided us. Now we can be united by that which we all have in common. Joining together in “*conscious community*” allows us to reconnect with one another and with nature...to renew our sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves...to restore greater meaning and purpose in our lives...and to flourish.

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Interspersed with footage of The Great Sun Circle group experiences are intimate and insightful close-to-camera moments with a medley of individuals who participated in this co-creative process, including...



Frankie Lee Slater, THE ART OF LIVING COALITION, on moving into community: *"The tendency, because we're so used to taking care of ourselves first and foremost, is to set things up in juxtaposition. In actuality, what we've discovered is we take care of ourselves best when we are aware of our relationship with the earth, with one another, with the whole...when we step into the question, 'How do I continue to take care of myself and grow my awareness so I am, at the same time, aware of what the needs and wants are of the people all around me?' The opportunity in creating this kind of unitive event is for people to have a visceral experience, something that they can take home, something that they then have in their system to draw on day-to-day."*



Andrew Beath, EARTHWAYS FOUNDATION, on reconnecting with the land and the cycles of nature: *"Equinox is the day when the sun rises directly in the East and sets directly in the West -- the day with an equal night. Our ancestors knew this, but we have forgotten...If we remember it will help us. It will help our children stay alive. It will help the species, the human species and all the other species that we are affecting. It will help us stay on the planet...Native people have a lot to teach us. We were all native people. We were all tribal people. We weren't tribal people from here, most of us, but we were all tribal people...And it wasn't very long ago in our history, in our past...So if we go back to the respect that all of our families had, our forefathers and our foremothers, as native people, it will be easy to reconnect, remember what it was like to be with the Earth and cycles of nature. It will help us solve our problems, reconnect, form a community of life and respect the community of life on the planet."*



Jas. Morgan, THE ART OF LIVING COALITION, on Creating Conscious Community and understanding ourselves as Artists of Life: *"I see conscious community to be a series of challenges - personal, cultural and evolutionary challenges. I think it's important each day to try to sing your highest vision and use the tools that you develop - our rhetoric, personal style, our tools for communication, our technology, our knowledge - apply them to ourselves and make a point of communicating them...to encourage, by example...and to be artists. So much of the way our destructive society is structured, it broadcasts a continuing message of limitation, it broadcasts, 'can't,' it broadcasts ideas of scarcity and alienation and limitation. Everyone is an artist, everyone has a unique personal style."*



Jo Cobbett, FUMBLING INTO ECSTASY, on dancing together on the land: *"People dancing with intent will help heal the wounds of the Earth...Today building conscious community is about resourcing all the people in one motion, in one actual physical action of running, dancing, moving together in one prayerful intention. So, actually, we're trying to bond the spirits of all the people here at once...Entering nature to find the sacred. That's the beautiful part about doing an equinox circle in a field - to see that by putting falling branches together we can create an altar, by joining hands we form a community"*