

Film: "WISDOM TO SURVIVE" - Discussion Comments – 4/25/14

Discussion Question #1:

Joanna Macy says: "If you want an adventure ...what a time to choose to be alive!"

- a. What do you think she meant by this?**
- b. What does this mean to you?**

We're connected to one another; the internet has helped us to connect.
What she said is countercultural. What she suggests is the opposite of individualism.
We have tools to make change. We can work towards a better future.
Nature will function; it will take its course; the earth will survive. We can be creators.
We have massive crises we have to deal with; we can face this creatively.
We need courage to face the challenge.
We need to really feel it and take an action.
The Transition Movement addresses this. <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

Discussion Question #2:

The film suggests that growth in our society is destroying itself, and there are lots of ways we can react: attack it, ignore it, deny it, rant. Or we can work to allow a new and sustainable way of doing things emerge. What might these be?

We addressed similar questions/issues in the 1960's.
We need a sense of empowerment.
Communication and direct actions are ways we can work to change things.
"Sustained growth" is an oxymoron. Growth can't go on forever.
Overpopulation is a major problem.
Stop making cars.
Use much more solar and wind turbines.
The energy business should be nationalized - controlled by the government.
We need to change our attitude towards everyone... a non-violence approach.

Discussion Question #3:

If you wanted to bring into being a more fair & just world, and your work on this was limited to a 10-block radius from where you live, what would you do?

Oil has taken over. We need to be energy independent.
Put solar on your rooftop.
Don't drive within ten blocks of your home.
Use a local tool library. Work with a group to establish one if it doesn't exist already.
Transport food without using oil. Use a sail boat.
Stop and chat with your neighbors; builds community and resilience.