

Jane Rasely

From: Beth Eisenhood <eisenhoodl@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 8:20 PM
To: responsible_citizenry@hushmail.com
Cc: Michael Berry; PCD; John Vandyke; Simon Agree; Robin Simons
Subject: Re: Michael Berry and Beth Eisenhood letters

I find it disconcerting to be written to and discussed anonymously.
Beth Eisenhood

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 11, 2019, at 1:33 PM, "responsible_citizenry@hushmail.com" <responsible_citizenry@hushmail.com> wrote:

Inspired by Beth Eisenhood's response to Michael Berry's recent missive, grateful for each ... I found myself at 2:23AM writing the following reply (alas needing a fair amount of editing):



Hooray, Beth! No offense to Michael etc. Indeed, we can "feel" the difference his comment along w/that of John and Simon vs that of Beth, can we not? Indeed, what Beth just presented following Michael et al, comes from "heart" - i.e., "I see affordable housing, neighborhoods with character, and pedestrian-friendly roads as far more important to the growth of family life on this island..." vs an array of commercialization, existing codes, etc.

In all candor and w/sincere respect, I believe we are seeing here the difference between where, in the main, women come from versus men as a rule. Too, we are seeing the difference between healthy "growth" being more a matter of "who we are and who we and our children are becoming" versus an array of regulations which in a real way serve ever-increasing commercialization and expansion of both Winslow and BI "forever."

I've contemplated of late an extremely timely and critical need to re-examine what "community" is all about. For me, "community" is defined by "balance, integrity, and heartfulness" - this versus an ever-growing, ultimately "unrestrained-until-it-is-too-late" amount of commerce, tourism, traffic, congestion of cars and people, overwhelming anonymity, feverish energy, ultimate increases in crime, etc. Indeed, one pursues growth of "who we are" as people living together "on an island" no less - versus how much more tourism, revenue from it, and business expansion we can create.

Having served for a time with a gentle-man principally involved with "Keep America Beautiful" in a manner not just about litter control, I find myself wanting to encourage us to "Keep Bainbridge Beautiful" - and indeed "in balance" and heart-fullness. So yes, I would like us to consider "who" we are and "what we and our children are becoming" in the light of how we are being influenced by ever-increasing efforts to grow dollars, tourism, property ownership, buildings, etc.

And THEN - with sincere respect - there is the interesting dichotomy here, is there not - between the collective "maleness" of who we are versus what comes at large from the "feminine" of who we are. And I say this not "blameful" yet via looking at the historic dynamic of what we've at large created in the world that is gender characteristic. For if we are truly to save this planet, it will require ever-increasing balance, integrity and heart.

Indeed, one can go a bit deeper to look at today's climate change movement and what it seeks going forward in terms of collectively bringing ourselves back into balance and caring. Yet that's not enough is it ... for while climate change is "in our face" as a "do or die" phenomena - it fails to recognize the need

for it is foundationally "symptomatic remediation." That is, it is about addressing the "symptoms" of what we've created through generations (millenia?) of collective greed for the sake of ever-increasing power, possessions and control from individual to national levels.

Alas, with sincere respect and gratitude for the movement, there is no ultimate solution there absent of examining and redirecting the underlying "context" of how we've been living. Again, one is about insufferable power and possession, the other about "being one" and "in balance" with one another and the Earth as humanity - i.e., "life within the context of Oneness" versus endless competition, accumulation and domination.

So THIS (are you ready?) then invites us to examine who we innately are individually and collectively w/re to "gender" and what that has produced in the world at all levels.

In 1998 I was in Oregon when a school shooting happened at Thurston High School in Springfield. I became curious then of the characteristics of campus violence. And boy, was that the opening of a HUGE door! (Now as we go forward here, I invite us NOT to react in defense, rather to consider with an open heart that there may be something here that Life is inviting us to recognize and adapt to grow accordingly.

The first thing which showed up came from the Bureau of Justice reporting 85-95% of all violence being created by "men" and of the 5-15% caused by women ... "most had been abused directly or indirectly by men." The second - "our entire global malaise represents violence against humanity and Nature." All of it! Third, that all our systems have fundamentally been created and driven by commerce and how it evolves our behavior in commerce, politics, national governing, etc. This includes public education, btw, which is said somewhere to have been brought to the US from Prussian 198 years ago (1821) to "feed the steel, coal and oil" industries. As a public school teacher w/two years atop a master's and many years experience, this explains to me why public education has never said over the centuries ... "Who are YOU?" What are YOU about? Let's create a curriculum that supports your dreams and ambitions!" Instead, we have largely been presented with a "curriculum" designed to feed commerce and everything that goes with it ... and to such a degree that should we not respond to that curriculum, we are considered "alternative" kids - or in Hawai'i, "off track". Finally, all of our systems have fundamentally been patriarchal.

Now that's NOT about "male-bashing", rather having enough heart and courage to look at a deeper truth than we ever have before. YES, it has been a fundamentally a "male-based" world. Thus, we get to look at the characteristics and opportunities for personal and collective growth here.

My first question was, "Why men and not women?" Alas, I hear the word "power" echoing in response - yet it seems to go beyond that when I ponder that "women know why they are organically here" - i.e., fundamentally to birth and nurture life in addition to all they might do professionally. Alas, this echoes to me a measure of "being at one with Life" and closer to it as we read in Beth's comment. By contrast - and this is NOT to "bash" men, rather to look honestly at a quite obvious dynamic - men in their roles of "provider" have oriented toward "power" and "accumulation."

Yet alas, it's gotten way out of balance, hasn't it? Indeed, men and patriarchal systems have become so entrenched in their individual and collective entities grounded in power, that should someone or something appear to "threaten" them ... they will "Kill" to defend their image ... individually, in commerce, politically and collectively. And isn't this what we've witnessed for centuries to this very day w/an unequivocally power-hungry President?

Indeed, I could have gotten my 7th grade students to realize there is no health down this tunnel - not to mention real heart, balance or promise for a viable future! Too, that this path is essentially grounded in "insecurity" that will inevitably manifest extremes of accumulation and conflict to the point that we end the "heartfulness and balance" of our communities and life on this planet.

So I asked ... "How do we turn it around? It seems men-at-large can't readily turn it around since patriarchy is so deeply entrenched in accumulation, control and domination. Too it seems women can't readily turn it around noting the extent of male domination and power in society. This suggests for me ... children amid some potent women rising to extraordinary leadership positions these days. Seems this may offer our threshold of opportunity for a contextual, systemic change that may actually "save us." Indeed, is this not what we're seeing w/AOC, Elizabeth Warren and so many others? Too,

w/regards to children making a global difference, we see an array of late of youth from Sweden, Hong Kong, and even Yazidis setting in motion actions that have activated millions of people throughout the world - indeed some of which have been nominated for Nobel Peace prizes for steps they've taken to foster a contextual shift in how we live. (<https://earthasone.org/blog/>)

Back to Bainbridge Island - I would like to see BI become a "model" of a community that dedicated itself to "balance, integrity and heart." Indeed, this echoes a word from Hawai'i called "pono" means exactly that. I would like to see BI commit to NOT over-indulging itself in commerce, construction and tourism - rather in truly "relishing" and modeling to others a far different possibility.

This said, I do NOT agree w/a present city manager strategy to set aside \$275K for "tourist advertising." Nor do I agree with the ever expanding plethora of "development" (which I see as "devolvment") that began for me in 2012 w/the Grow Ave. project and exists today w/the array we witness in Winslow, in good part down Madison and reaching now to Winslow Way with the proposed hotel that will wipe out the Bainbridge Boutique that contributes to the Seattle Children's Hospital not to mention the rest of the impact it will have on that neighborhood.

Alas, we DO NOT NEED Mr. Burns super-upscale hotel. Nor do we need the contagious stream of upscale, multiple unit construction throughout our community passing for "development". For indeed, this is NOT "developing" rather "devolving" ourselves and our community into yet another version of Bellevue or Seattle on our smaller scale.

Lastly, I could have gotten my 7th grade students to realize in maybe two minutes that what we are doing is NOT "sustainable." I'd simply ask them to stand in a given corner of the room shoulder-to-shoulder. Odds are, they'd be breaking apart in a minute or two.

We have a greater opportunity on Bainbridge despite having eroded ourselves in the other direction over the last decade or so. I pray that we look deeper w/re to our possibilities and who we are collectively. And yes ... who we are as "men" in leadership positions ... from which we may create a community that serves as an astounding model of balance, integrity and heart.,

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