

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

I felt impelled to "come out" as a Gaia Troubadour on the occasion of my turning 50. In the process, I dedicated myself to a decade of giving voice to my vision of our earth as a living organism. This newsletter is one attempt to carry forward the energy of that event into the rest of our lives. I need to share, to serve the vision by expressing it. I need the attention and support of whoever is interested. I need to hear from some of you about places where my thinking overlaps with yours, or stimulates yours. This is a shared endeavor, in its very essence.

No rush though. What I am trying to envision is big; it often takes years to identify movement in what I am looking at, and it will certainly take years to talk about it. The next issue of this newsletter will focus on a possible prayer & discussion group, "The compound I." That could be one format for approaching these ideas.

This newsletter is another, with format as part of its message. Short articles, for people who are paying attention to lots of things at once, and easy to get back to, with lots of headlines and a ring binder format. I want to include short book reviews and a wide range of seed ideas, from hypertext to the I Ching.

Distribution? Mainly it will be available at the Quaker Meetinghouse and in the backroom of the Hungry Mind, and I'll always have copies of the current issue with me. I'll mail it to out-of-towners who got my birthday invite, and to in-towners, who want it, whom I don't see often.

Another way to think of this newsletter is as a big, self-published "personals" ad; I really am looking for kindred souls. Approach me face to face. Call me at 228-1550 or leave a message at 222-4956. Write me at 1081 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104 or send a message to "rfuller" on econet.

The following is one of the songs I sang at my birthday celebration. It's not specifically a Gaia song -- I haven't found one of those I would even attempt to sing. For me, it inspires a sense of a vast system -- a miracle from our perspective-- of which we are an integral part.

## EXPANDING UNIVERSE SONG

Remember that you're standing on a planet that's rotating,  
Rotating at nine hundred miles an hour.  
It's orbiting at nineteen miles per second, so it's reckoned,  
The sun that is the source of all our power.  
The sun and you and me and all the stars that you can see  
Are moving at a million miles a day  
In an outer spiral arm at forty thousand miles an hour  
In a galaxy they call the Milky Way.  
Our galaxy contains a hundred million stars  
It's a hundred thousand light years side to side.  
It bulges in the middle sixteen thousand light years thick  
But out by us it's just three thousand light years wide.  
We're thirty thousand light years from galactic central point  
We go round every two hundred million years  
And this galaxy is only one of billions and billions  
In this amazing expanding universe.  
The universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding  
In all of the directions it can whiz,  
As fast as it can go, at the speed of light you know,  
Twelve million miles a minute, that's the fastest speed there is.  
So remember when you're feeling very small and insecure,  
How amazingly unlikely is your birth.  
And sink your roots deep into the galaxy's  
Dance of life on plant earth.  
And sink your roots deep into reality;  
Dance your life for planet earth.

I got the words to this song from a John Seed tape, Deep Ecology; I'm not sure who wrote it. There's a version of it in a rather disturbing setting in the movie Monty Python's Meaning of Life.

## A REPORT ON MY BIRTHDAY PERFORMANCE

Dear friends, dear Friends,

*You have given me such treasures,  
I love you so.*

—song

"So, Richard, how was your 50th birthday party, 'Richard at Half-Century?'"

I have wanted to give you a report.

Some of you weren't able to make it and I have been looking forward to sharing about it with you.

And those who did (110?!) and who have asked me how I felt about it afterward, with most of you I have turned the conversation around after a short answer and asked how *you* reacted to it.

I really did want to know; one of my first learnings was how hungry I was for feedback. I got lots of nice feedback, including an invitation to perform at a Quaker regional gathering which I refused because I felt totally unprepared.

Now, months after the event, I feel writing about it will help me understand things rather than getting in the way.

## IT WAS A "GIVE-AWAY"

As I began to understand in the last days before the event, it was a "give-away," vaguely like a Native American tradition. I don't know what this means, in any specific sense, but my impulse was to share out my wealth, at some cost to myself. Partly it was an act of gratitude—I do feel like you have given me many treasures. Partly it felt like an investment:

*"I affirm that you are my life, that it is within our knowing that my fate will unfold and that my fulfillment will be found. I affirm community with this event. I set my life in this context."*

(flip up to Birthday Report)