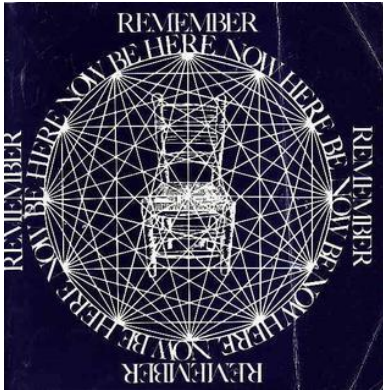


4th Annual Transformative Social Change Symposium
Saturday March 24th 2018
Humber College Lake Shore Campus, Building G
9:00am to 4:00pm

BE HERE NOW



I want to first of all thank you for being the kind of person that is willing to explore, engage, ignite transformative social change. And, as the saying goes a vital step in the realm of transformative social change is the capacity to: **"Be Here Now"**.

The world is indeed a magical, mystical place, indeed a sacred space of wonder and joy and yet in this very same place we find people on this planet treating children, youth, adults as something other than sacred? What is it that has people commodifying the lives of children, abusing them in ways that sparks not only outrage but also and perhaps even more insidiously-silence?

Given the world wide-epidemic of child abuse it cannot be a surprise to any of us that, like our children, our planet, the very place-our planet- which provides life, sustenance, and purpose to each and everyone one of us is the victim of exploitation and abuse.

For here we are today in a world awash in acts of violence, abuse and neglect; indigenous peoples being systematically "disappeared"; walls of segregation being boasted about; denial of climate degradation promulgated by corporations and political leaders; organizations whose mantra it is-'to protect and serve' now being described as toxic and abusive with their powers. What do we do with all of this?

I would like to offer that a start in exploring this questions is to: Be Here Now. So, to that end, in preparation for this day of transformative social change, you are invited to bring to the following:

- 1) If possible, bring one form of non-perishable food (this will be provided to our local food bank);
- 2) A written response to this question posed by the illuminating poet-Mary Oliver:
"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

I look forward to being with you at the symposium

Warmly,
Arthur Lockhart