

Dear Pathwork friends,

Here, as promised at the end of July, is the report of the Pathwork Foundation Interim Trustees meeting of July 15 - 17.

It is our hope that you on the Leadership Circle will send it on to all members of your Pathwork communities, many of whom may not be particularly familiar with the work of the Foundation. I am therefore starting with some background information to set the meeting in context. I ask the patience of those who already know all or most of that background.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PATHWORK FOUNDATION INTERIM TRUSTEES**

July 15 - 17, 2005

CO-CRIANDO O NOVO - CREATING

ANEW

Present:

Foundation President: Amanda Van Boven (Switzerland)

Treasurer & Secretary: Catherine Karas (U.S.A.)

Interim Trustees*

Beatriz Arechavaleta (Uruguay), Paul Czempin (Germany)

Barbara Azzara (U.S.A.), Jan de Ruyter (Holland)

Claudia Boatti (Argentina), Donna Gray (U.S.A.)

Graça Casarsa (Brazil) Gustavo Monteiro (Brazil)

Gloria Costa (Brazil), Louise Stevenson (Canada)

Lilian Trebilcock (Brazil)

Unable to be present:

Interim Trustees: Peg Humphrey (U.S.A.), Lorraine Marino (U.S.A.)

*Interim Trustees are Pathworkers who have agreed to work together for the period of time it will take, in consultation with the whole Pathwork Community, to bring a new form of the International Pathwork Foundation into being.

Background

The Pathwork Foundation has already been through one major metamorphosis. It is the "child" of the Centre for the Living Force, which was incorporated in 1972 to purchase the Phoenicia Centre property in New York State. At the time of Eva's death in 1979, the CLF owned three properties in the U.S.: Phoenicia, the Centre in New York City, and Sevenoaks in Virginia, which had been generously donated by Susan and Donovan Thesenga. The New York Centre was then sold, and the proceeds used in part to pay off the mortgages on Phoenicia and Sevenoaks centres, (which then incorporated independently), and in part to set up the Pathwork Foundation.

The purposes of this educational foundation were (and I quote the By-laws)

- A. *To protect the copyright of the Pathwork Guide material held by the Foundation*
- B. *To protect the trademark Pathwork*
- C. *To disseminate the Pathwork Guide lecture teachings*
- D. *To support teachers and students of this material, in creating methods and approaches to teach and practice the concepts in these lectures.*
- E. *To authorise and support Pathwork activities worldwide*
- F. *To authorise and support affiliate organisations, which may operate centres, institutes and schools where the Pathwork is taught and practiced*
- G. *To promote consciousness within Pathworkers everywhere of our bond and common purpose, creating channels of communication and experiences to nurture this connection.*

For many years the main focus of the Foundation was on Pathwork activities in the U.S.A. (The Dutch Path created their separate foundation), with a gradual turning to a more international focus in the mid and late nineties. But also in the late nineties the human and financial resources of the Foundation began to dwindle. Eventually, by 2003, there were only three trustees, then only two..... Obviously a major contraction was in progress! Interestingly, at the same time, the Pathwork Press flourished (and continues to do so) and the lectures were being translated into more and more languages.

In late January 2004, the two remaining trustees, Amanda van Boven and Catherine Karas asked some Pathworkers to meet in New York to discuss and meditate on the situation of the Pathwork Foundation. To quote Catherine's account of the meeting: *"It became clear during that meeting that the form of the Foundation as it had been had died. Participants witnessed its death and began the mourning process. They also considered the question: 'Does the Foundation need to exist at all?'; and their meditation on this yielded a definite 'Yes'. And before the meeting ended, Amanda experienced physical labour pains which were interpreted as the new Foundation attempting to be born."*

Amanda and Catherine then saw it as their task to bring together an international group to be the midwives and birth attendants for the new form of the International Pathwork Foundation. Through meditation and prayer, names slowly emerged and we were invited to join in this task. Some did not feel called. Others needed considerable time to decide. Amanda and Catherine held the process with enormous patience. In May of this year, we were at last 15 souls prepared to help bring forth and nurture this new baby!

The Foundation Now

It needs to be clear that the new Foundation is not to be a totally new creation. Here is an excerpt from the information note that Catherine and Amanda wrote for the North American Pathwork Association meeting taking place this month.

"It is not easy to describe the International Pathwork Foundation at this time as we are in the middle of a major transition.

What remains clear is that the Foundation is the entity that owns, protects and safeguards the lectures in their qualities, content, and integrity. Its task is also to disseminate Pathwork material, through publishing books (through Pathwork Press), creating conditions for translations, supporting international conferences, supporting emerging and existing groups and communities to teach and live Pathwork around the world. We also carry the Vision and Mission Statement of the worldwide Pathwork. We are the keepers of the flame of the worldwide Pathwork.

.... at the present time we have a group of interim trustees from different continents whose task is to create a safe container so that we can get clarity about the needs and longings of Pathworkers worldwide.

The Meeting:

The general theme of our meeting was named by Gloria Costa, and printed on the notebooks that were waiting on our arrival:

Co-criando o novo - Creating Anew.

Throughout the meeting we worked with the feminine principle of the creative process; being in receptive mode, letting go and letting God, surrendering, staying in creative emptiness. Periodically one or two of us (myself included) would get a little twitchy about "making plans...getting things done..." But we managed to return again to allowing what was needed to show itself.. To return to the birthing analogy, we were and are clear that this baby will not be brought into the world with forceps!

Our first task was to create a safe container for our work together, particularly as some of us knew each other little or not at all. As we shared and began to reveal our thoughts and feelings it became clear that there was pain in our group, and therefore healing was needed. While some of the pain consisted of past and present hurts for those present, yet more was within and between Pathwork individuals, groups and communities. What we held in our group clearly reflected the Pathwork as a whole.

Healing and clearing thus became a major focus of the meeting and, as we proceeded with this work, we held the consciousness of working for the worldwide Path

This consciousness was aligned with the vision that Amanda and Catherine kept before them as they held the Foundation during its long contraction. - that of accepting and healing the many splits and dualities in which the Pathwork has become entangled.

Claudia led us in some powerful Constellation exercises, that involved consenting to painful issues or situations. This needs explaining. To "consent" to a situation is not to say that it is good, or bad, or not painful, but simply to accept that this is the way it was, or is, and to let go of any insistence to change it. In essence, It is much the same as the Guide's teaching that we need to say "Yes" to life as it is.

We were asked to think of and consent to some painful situations in the Pathwork that had directly affected us. After consenting, we stated that we accepted responsibility for our part in the interaction, and left the other their part. Personally, I found this challenging, but when I succeeded it there was a liberating energy change.

We worked also with the "lineage" of the Foundation, with the past presidents (role-played by the trustees) lined in order behind Amanda. We again did "consenting" work where this was needed. After which we could then thank them, recognising their place in the history of the Foundation, and deeply honouring them all for their dedication and service.

The space taken to summarise this work is small, as much that was said remains confidential, but it occupied a good deal of our time, and I want to underline that we feel it is and will continue to be, of great importance. It is a large part of the preparation for the new Foundation. We will undoubtedly be continuing with it, in one form or another, and we will be asking Pathwork communities to do the same.

In particular, we were strongly and painfully conscious of the hurts and splits that exist in the US Pathwork communities, and felt these needed a container to help them heal. We were certain that our work in Rio had begun to form that container, and hoped that the healing would continue at the North American Pathwork Association meeting at Sevenoaks in August. (And we now know that indeed it did!)

Recognising, honouring, "Giving people their place"

This is also a part of preparing the ground for the new. As with the former trustees, we wanted also to give recognition to ourselves and those who are supporting us now. We did a "lineage" of who among us was oldest and youngest in the Pathwork (it ranged from 30 to 7 years!), and another of the order in which we agreed to become trustees. It was surprising how this slightly shifted our perspective on ourselves and on our brothers and sisters!

We then drew into our circle those who are supporting the Foundation. Amanda brought Michael Roblee to stand behind her, and gave thanks for his wise and continued support as her coach in the last year. We then drew in Gene Humphrey and Peter Schaeffer, who are the guardian angels and advisors for the Foundation investments; Tom Hubbard and the Pathwork.Press Committee; Lisa Willow who quietly, devotedly and ably runs the Foundation office. We thanked and honoured them all, and do so again here.

Finally, we gave honour to Amanda and Catherine for their difficult and often lonely work of the last two years. They have resolutely stayed with the contraction, in the emptiness, and allowed an organic process to unfold, although there has often been pressure to "do something". Their faithfulness has been great.

Although it is only a light ribbon, the Presidential mantle is understandably feeling a bit heavy on Amanda's shoulders at this point! She and Catherine both wished to lay down some (if not all!) of the burden. Without knowing how this would eventually work out, it seemed obvious that it would involve a greater sharing of responsibilities. We therefore took the mantle from Amanda's shoulders and passed it slowly around our circle, each holding it for a moment - and then laid it in the middle of our circle - and waited, taking in the shift of energy. It emerged that we wished Amanda to be the President of the Interim Trustees, and Catherine to continue as our Treasurer, and we confirmed them in these positions, in which they will be held with our loving, sharing support.

Visioning:

Through meditation and discussion, a vision of possibilities for the new Foundation began to emerge. I will give readers the words that were spoken, with the invitation to take them into your own meditation and see what comes to you.

- *This is first and foremost a spiritual body, not an organisation (By this we meant that the "organisational" activities of the Foundation will flow from its spiritual nature - bringing spirit into matter).*

- *Grass growing up - the Foundation will come from grass roots*

- *a large, vast container for many possibilities.*

- *Many different languages, integrated in the language of the Pathwork.*

- *A dance of atoms, of souls*

- *Acceptance of difference and limitations*

- *Creating a way for people to be heard*

- *An umbrella*

- *A net with threads of different colours and textures; cultures, languages, individualities interlinked and interwoven.*

- *A continuing search for commonalities*

- *Sparks of light, strength of different kinds and colours, dancing in a circle, and in the middle an entity that sustained the Path, and held the sparks from flying away.*

And finally, a vision inspired by Spellcheck, which always turns Pathwork into Patchwork!

- *The Foundation holds the container for the rich patchwork of all the various cultures interpreting the teachings in their own way.*

Meditation on "What Next?"

The container we have envisioned is to be filled with the help of all pathworkers. All together we will "Co-create Anew". Thus our next step is to move to the active principle, to ask for responses, and then receive what comes back to us.

As our meeting drew to an end, some of us felt fear and vulnerability about what might come back to us as we bring out the tender and exquisite creation of our days together in Rio. And then we remembered that the healing work we had done, our "consenting" to some painful happenings in the Pathwork, has opened the way for something new to come forth now. We reminded ourselves also of the Guide's words in Lecture #257: *"When two entities...are involved in a negative interaction and even if this interaction has a most undesirable result at the moment, a deeper purpose is being served. The higher self of both entities is always at work. It is not that the higher*

self has created the negative interaction per se. It is that what already exists is being used for the purpose of dissolving it."

In closing, we agreed to meditate for the new Foundation container, and for those who so devotedly support us: Lisa Willow, Tom Hubbard and the Pathwork Press Committee, Gene Humphrey, Peter Schaeffer, and Michael Roblee.

Request to all Pathwork Communities

Once again, we ask you who are receiving this message on the Leadership Circle, to see that it is passed on to all members of your community.

The Interim Trustees will be starting a dialogue with all Pathwork Communities, asking for your visions for the new Foundation "container", and for your ideas about how it might be organised. It will take a little time (as we continue in the spirit of Creative Emptiness) to find the right format for this consultation, which needs to be both creative and efficient. We therefore beg your patience and will be in touch again as soon as possible

In the meantime, we ask you to pray for the Interim Trustees and for those who support us. We ask you also to begin meditating on your vision for the new International Pathwork Foundation. How can we all participate in the creation of this new spiritual entity? How can we serve and be served by it? How can the spiritual form be brought into matter?

With Blessings,

Louise Stevenson, for the Interim Trustees

September 13, 2005