



March 18, 2011

Dear Community:

Contemplation for the week:

“Sorrow makes us all children again - destroys all differences of intellect. The wisest know nothing.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Perhaps you have been captivated by the news and videos in the last week regarding the tremendous devastation faced by the people of Japan. As I have watched news clips of the tsunami and the earthquake, I am reminded of how even when we think we have solid footing, the ground can shake and shatter our illusions.

On Monday, I received this note from Michelle Naka Pierce:

Dear Naropa Community,
First thing Friday morning, I woke to the devastating news of the disaster in Japan. I soon learned from my mother that my family in Tokyo was safe, but as the days have passed, it's become apparent that this situation is still unfolding and that the families affected require our immediate and urgent assistance.

Following is a list of resources for those interested in contributing to international relief efforts in Japan. Given the magnitude of this catastrophic event, every contribution, no matter how small, is vital.

Thank you for thoughts during this very difficult time.

Sincerely yours,
Michelle

AMERICAN RED CROSS: U.S. mobile phone users can text REDCROSS to 90999 to add \$10 automatically to your phone bill. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit:
http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main&s_src=RSG000000000&s_subsrc=RCO_FrontPagePanel

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION: Central Emergency Relief Fund. Visit:
<http://www.unfoundation.org/donate/cerf.html>

SAVE THE CHILDREN: The relief effort providing food, medical care, and education to children is accepting donations through mobile phones by texting JAPAN to 20222 to donate \$10. People can also call 1-800-728-3843 during business hours or visit www.savethechildren.org/japanquake to donate online.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS: Sending relief teams and supplies to the area. Call 1-800-481-4462, or visit <http://internationalmedicalcorps.org>.

GLOBAL GIVING: The non-profit that works through grassroots efforts says Americans can text JAPAN to 50555 to give \$10 through their phone bill. Or visit <http://www.globalgiving.org/>

I would encourage each member of the community to find some way to reach out and help in the humanitarian efforts, knowing that any one of us could be in such a place where our world is turned upside down, and we could be dependent on the kind acts of others.

Inspiration from Thich Nhat Hanh

The words below were passed on to me from Brian Kimmel, a student of Thich Nhat Hanh as well as Naropa, who you may remember performed a beautiful musical offering during our Shambhala Day celebration. Thank you, Brian, for sharing Thich Nhat Hanh's inspiring words with us.

Dear friends in Japan,

As we contemplate the great number of people who have died in this tragedy, we may feel very strongly that we ourselves, in some part or manner, also have died.

The pain of one part of humankind is the pain of the whole of humankind. And the human species and the planet Earth are one body. What happens to one part of the body happens to the whole body.

An event such as this reminds us of the impermanent nature of our lives. It helps us remember that what's most important is to love each other, to be there for each other, and to treasure each moment we have that we are alive. This is the best that we can do for those who have died: we can live in such a way that they continue, beautifully, in us.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Appreciations

A student wrote to me recently to share the following appreciation: "I would like to suggest an appreciation for Adjunct Faculty Margot Iseman. Her powerful class, Body Mind Centering, is truly revolutionary. Her direct and instinctive pedagogical style truly creates a space for students to grow in to the leaders of tomorrow. I believe that her

presence on campus, as limited as it may be, supports Naropa's vision of promoting transformation in the world starting with self transformation. "Transform yourself, Transform the world" is something I see in many materials Naropa sends out, and Margot Iseman helps create physical foundations for this to happen.

Thank you Margot, for helping me find a solid foundation in my body. I now know that I am perfectly resourced to meet any challenges gracefully and with great power."

Remember, if you want to nominate someone for an appreciation, just respond to this e mail.

Archives Task Force

Writing and Poetics Archives - At the February Board meeting, the trustees passed a resolution authorizing the president and provost to attend to the immediate needs of the Kerouac audio archives, and with that as an immediate goal to continue the development of a long-term strategy for collecting and preserving archival materials. The Kerouac Audio Archives Working Group is in the process of being constituted by the provost: Mark Kille has agreed to co-chair the group and an invitation to a faculty member of the Kerouac School is now out for the other co-chair; Judy Lief, a member of the Board of Trustees and co-chair of the Academic Enrichment Committee, has volunteered to serve, as has Jane Dalrymple Hollo, a longstanding member of the Naropa community. The provost seeks nominations and self-nominations from one, possibly two, additional faculty members, at least one of whom would be drawn from a program other than Writing and Poetics. This would set the scene for continuity as discussions about institutional archives begin in the fall.

In the next month or so, the Working Group will put together a budget and plan to ensure the stabilization of the most fragile audio archives materials. Over the course of the next year, a plan for the processing and stabilization of the entire audio archives will be completed.

Paralleling this process, and likely to be constituted some time in the fall, will be an ad hoc task force charged with examining institutional record-keeping policies and procedures, and preservation of all of our archival materials.

Commencement 2011



Naropa University's commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 3 p.m. in Macky Auditorium at the University of Colorado Boulder will feature Howard Dean, former governor of Vermont, chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2005-2009, current CNBC contributor and founder of "Democracy for America" as keynote speaker.

Howard Dean's groundbreaking campaign for the U.S. Presidency in 2004 and subsequent four

years as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee have positioned him as a leading progressive reformer on issues related to the U.S. economy, foreign trade policy and international relations. Dean founded “Democracy for America” in 2004 to build on the groundswell of support and the wave of new energy sweeping the Democratic Party. Since that time, “Democracy for America” has been dedicated to working on the grassroots level to elect fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates to all levels of government.

Dean’s 12 years as Governor of Vermont, as well as his Chairmanship of the National Governor's Association have given him a vast knowledge of domestic issues. His skillful stewardship of the party as Democratic National Committee chair began in 2005 and continued through the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009. As Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Governor Dean transformed the Democratic Party into being competitive in every race, district, state and territory, while at the same time integrating national and state party operations and clearly articulating the Democratic Party’s core values.

Before entering politics, Dean graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in political science in 1971, and received his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City in 1978. Upon completing his residency at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, he went on to practice internal medicine in Shelburne, Vermont.

Having once worked as a teacher in New Haven, Connecticut, Governor Dean has long been a tireless proponent of accessibility to affordable and quality higher education. During his 2004 presidential candidacy, Dean proposed an incentive-based philanthropic program for middle school students on a college track, as well as fiscally-minded approaches to managing student loan debt and increasing support for AmeriCorps. Dean is honored to be speaking at Naropa University’s commencement as he views the school’s unique contemplative and progressive approach to a liberal arts education as “leading the way in helping to build a forward-thinking generation of community and globally-minded leaders that will shape the future of this country.”

This spring, Naropa University will graduate students from more than a dozen undergraduate and a dozen graduate degree programs including B.A. Religious Studies, M.F.A. Writing and Poetics and M.A. Transpersonal Counseling Psychology. The commencement will also feature a faculty, undergraduate and graduate address, which will be announced later in the spring.

For a link to the press release, please visit: <http://www.naropa.edu/news/dean.cfm>

Thank you all for being companions to one another even in times of challenge.

Go Naropa!

In the spirit of service,

Stuart C. Lord, President

Share your thoughts: Presidentlord@naropa.edu