



Marlow and Leslie

2014 / Through the BB Looking Glass...

Echoing my cohorts' reflections: the continuum between life and *living council*, *living BB*, and *living the Village* is blurred beyond reason. (A cause for celebration!)

This last year I divided my working time/energy among council trainings (including Nature of Council & European courses), continued the creative writing toward ***Steps to an Ecology of Elderhood***, (the resource book intended to support the **Reinventing the Village** project), and the project itself.

BEARING WITNESS / grant: \$500 – international travel stipend within Europe

Leslie and I networked with a number of *New Story / New Village* advocates at the European Council Network gathering in Italy, then later in Greece and Germany. In Greece, we tag-teamed with Gigi & Win and company at the **School of All Relations** project in Aegina, Greece, spending two weeks there on site, offering “acupuncture” witness reflections, as well as organizational consulting and support, to this fledgling residential training initiative for young adults interested in living the “New Story.”

NEW STORY SUMMIT / Rowan Hotchkiss / RT airfare to Europe (made possible by Gigi & Findhorn).

Leslie's and my 17 year-old daughter, Rowan, accompanied Gigi and the BB contingent to the New Story Summit in Findhorn (where she had first visited in 2011), this time as a “youth representative.” She brought a short video she'd made interviewing local “new story” movers-&-shakers from our own home village in Port Townsend, WA. She contributed a needed presence at a gathering heavy on elders, and deepened her awareness and engagement in the important role of ceremony in the change-agency of the Great Turning.

REINVENTING THE VILLAGE / Preliminary brainstorming sessions for three proposed

2015-16 programs at: TOF, CA / Port Townsend, WA / Eschwege Institute, Germany

The goal at this stage of the project is to generate a program and protocols for training teams of combined youngsters & elders to lead “New Village *charrettes*” — inclusive, facilitated visioning-gatherings of “local stakeholders” interested in reinventing how and where they live as a “village” (vs. as solitary individuals in big towns and mega-cities). The first Reinventing the Village program is scheduled this September as a week-long design symposium at the Eschwege Institute (a residential retreat & training center in Northern Germany, run by a couple who are Gigi's and my first confirmed council trainers in Europe (2010).

COUNCIL HUT INITIATIVE

We continue to explore Council Hut Initiatives here and there around the world. First seeded by the Heron Hut at Three Creeks — a lively combo of earthen-building techniques,

council in all its forms, and village-style community building — BB members have launched Hut projects in Kenya, at the International Peace Initiative and OTEPIC; Leslie and I are now engaged in a local Hut project at the Ojai Foundation; as well as potential projects in various stages of discussion among the Cheyenne in Montana, Eschwege Institute in Germany, and a potential New Village project on the island of Corsica, France. A core aspect of these Council Hut initiatives is to train and leave behind the skills of council, earth-based and earth-friendly building techniques, and the ever-expanding worldview of living *beyond boundaries*. Since we were in Kenya, the team we trained there has built two more huts, on their own, with our continuing support, especially from Siri Gunnarson.