

# enneagram monthly

June–July 2013

Issue 198

## Integral Living

Chapter 12 excerpt from  
*The Integral Enneagram*

In the late 1970s, two visionary thinkers, Marshall Landman and Brian Livingston, founded Cascadian Regional Library (CAREL) to draw together community-minded networkers from all over the Pacific Northwest. Their first major undertaking was to organize the Equinox Gathering, a spring conference of about 400 community organizers in Sandy, Oregon:

Discussion centered on how living in the Northwest helped shape the lifestyles of ecologically minded people, and it went on to considerations of how local problems and projects could be approached on a regional basis. The conference ended with a resolution to make the Equinox Gathering an annual event. CAREL was set up to coordinate future meetings, open local offices to serve as information centers, and begin publication of a regional magazine.<sup>1</sup>

While this is an accurate summary of what happened at the Gathering, it doesn't quite capture the atmosphere of the event. I was at that first Gathering, attending with my housemate, Sue Pritchard. We were living in nearby Gladstone, Oregon, and we had been looking for something interesting to do during Spring break. When Sue saw a poster for the Equinox Gathering at the local food co-op, she showed it to me. Although we didn't know what it was or anybody who was attending, something about the flyer looked appealing. So we decided to go.

### Susan Rhodes

The four-day event took place in a rustic conference center in the woods, with a circular main hall and lots of little cabins for sleeping and meeting in groups. In order to keep costs down (and also facilitate a spirit of community), every participant was asked to do a two-hour stint as a volunteer sometime during the conference, either making food, doing cleanup, or performing other necessary tasks to keep the conference afloat. The food was all vegetarian and prepared from scratch; most of it was also locally grown. (Marshall was a big fan of local self-reliance.)

Costing only \$25, the conference attracted over 400 individuals, most of them grassroots organizers of some sort, interested in alternative energy, energy-efficient technologies, innovative educational approaches, organic food and farming, alternative communities, and then-emerging spiritual approaches. Although there was an incredible diversity of views represented, most participants were united by a common desire to live in a world based on bottom-up, community involvement—one in which individuals felt free to share ideas, support one another, and come together in the spirit of community.

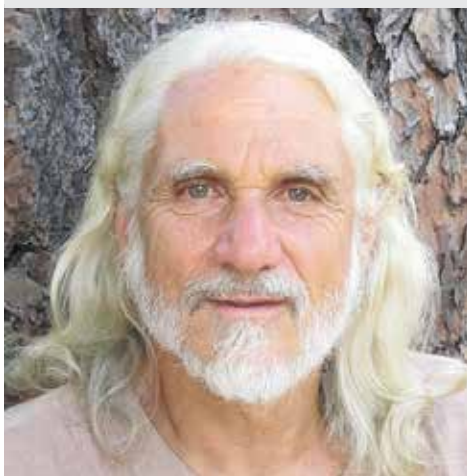
The conference was very open-ended. Although there was one large gathering a day, much of the time was spent in small groups focusing on topics of interest to participants; although some were set up by the ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## Universality of the Enneagram

When I was first introduced to the Enneagram of Personality in 1999, I was impressed immediately with how clearly the enneagram system explained behavior and the patterned ways of thinking and acting based on our type. These new viewpoints of myself and of others resulted in many insights over the next weeks and months. My relationships got clearer, motives lost some of their mystery and I could experience a deeper level of connection.

During this first seminar I had an innate feeling that there was a connection between enneagram and astrology. I noticed similarity in language and typing of behavior patterning used in enneagram with what I knew from my studies in astrology in the early 1970's. Thus began a quest

### Indra Rinzler



for understanding the connection between enneagram and astrology.

Some of the astrology that I had studied in the early 1970's included a work of the famous American astrologer Mark Edmund Jones that was first published in 1941. What impressed me the most about Jones's work was the holistic point of view that he took in recognizing planetary patterns that he called "Whole View." Astrologers' methods involve analysis of many criteria; transits and aspects, benefics and malefics, signs, houses, planets, masculine, feminine, and much, much more — there's a lot to consider in reading a chart. Jones said let's step back and take a look at the chart as a whole and see what we can learn from the planetary patterning.

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**W**e are less than two weeks away from the start of the **IEA GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2013** in Denver, Colorado. If you have not yet signed up or are thinking about it, I hope you will decide to attend and hurry to make a reservation. There may be rooms still available at the group rate and if not, Denver is a friendly town with plenty of accommodations nearby.

This conference promises an *Integral Look at the Enneagram*. In recent issues we have placed more focus on *Integral*, what we can learn from it and what the *Enneagram* can offer to *Integral*. This would be a welcome development and a positive step towards opening horizons for all.

A call to all presenters and attendees at the conference, please share your material and/or impressions and comments with our readership. Most enneagram aficionados worldwide were not able to attend and those who were present often had to skip one event in order to attend another. The *Enneagram Monthly* is an open forum for the discussion and presentation of ideas and opinions, and you are welcome to use it.

Speaking of ideas whose time has come, it is that of time itself that must become a factor when considering behavior, character, motivation, attitude and temperament.

Even if we are firmly ensconced in a view of ourselves as this or that type, even if we have examined our life in great detail and have an accurate picture of our nature, gifts, strengths, quirks, ideals, dark sides and passions, we never know what tomorrow will bring and can't predict how we will respond.

In other words, who we are can only predict so much. Unknown are the circumstances we will be facing tomorrow. Will they be favorable and supportive or will we run into resistance and problems?

No amount of insight into who we are (short of enlightened equanimity, at which point we don't worry about this) gives us a clue of what situations time will put in our way. So, where then can we find some indications what period or "season" we happened to be at; is it Spring, Summer of Winter, is it our morning, noon or evening? Should we retract and consolidate if times are dangerous and uncertain or be enterprising and confident if times are good?

Let's say the enneagram is a system (we heard or read about) that for mysterious reasons asserts that we humans can be sorted into nine categories that share many commonalities. Does that make any sense? Not really, but we gave it the benefit of a doubt and found out for ourselves that there is something to it. What? It simply seems to work as promised. We look around and now that we know what to look for, we find lots of verifications and affirmations.

Well, we are not the only ones that gave the benefit of a doubt to a claim that did not seem immediately obvious. On a different wavelength and instead of placing all the focus on what category or temperament the individual has, Vedic astrology

## From the Editor

(and Mesopotamian, Greek, Mayan etc.) also paid attention to the environment we are likely to encounter. I believe they called it (Skt. Kala, Stana, Patra); *Time, Place* and *Culture* that will be of influence throughout our life regardless what DNA structure of karmic baggage we bring along at birth...

Sages at the dawn of history were probably more in touch with nature and not as distracted by modern living as we are. The story goes that they were looking at the lights in the night sky and over time recognized that certain patterns coincided with certain types of events. They took notes of that, passed it on to younger generations and eventually gathered enough confirmation that there are nine distinct "influences" corresponding to the positions of the planets in the great clock called the sky. After that, a few thousand years worth of fellow observers and historians continued refining and fine-tuning and affirming the accuracy of the ancients...

So, do you think that learning who we are in temperament and personality could benefit by having a good guess at what terrain, seasons and conditions we can expect to encounter? Oh, and if you have doubts, there is a simple way to ease them by putting the ability of the astrologer to a test. If a reading is fairly accurate in recognizing your major personality traits and timing of past events, you can expect the future to be equally accurate. If the astrologer gets everything wrong, then either he or she is not competent or the charts were wrong. The competency is of course a big problem, the charts can be rectified to determine the exact time. Any thoughts or contribution in this area are particularly welcome.

### In This Issue:

In "Integral Living," the 12th and penultimate chapter of *The Integral Enneagram*, **Susan Rhodes** takes her discussion of the enneagram and Ken Wilber's integral theory into the real world, citing examples of what integral living looks like in terms of both the horizontal relationship between individuals and groups and the vertical relationship of the individual with all levels of their own being. She talks about how responsible and integrated individuals tend to form groups in which there is an unusual degree of communion, such that there is no trade-off between individuality and communion. She also talks about ways to use the structures that seem to limit us (like the type structure) as crucibles for creativity. And she explores ways that receptivity to life can promote both spiritual growth and joyful living. So the focus is on imagining a world in which we see problem-solving in terms of "win-win" (rather than "win-lose") solutions.

I'm holding in my hand a copy of *The Integral Enneagram* that arrived just yesterday. A truly hand-

some volume of 350 pages laid out pleasing to the eye, with Susan's characteristic clarity and good taste—and so is the contents of her writing—well organized with deep thoughts expressed with such clarity and simplicity that it makes complex ideas look easy. Hmm, I could use some of that...

**Indra Rinzler** admires the "Universality of the Enneagram" and how well it supplements and fits in with what he learned over 40 years of being a seeker and practitioner in pursuit of wisdom and answers to life's questions. Periods of contemplative inward journeys of service and practice were alternating with periods of intensive travel that exposed him to the world's cultures visiting 50+ countries and spending much time in some.

His introduction to the enneagram in 1999 sparked a large "aha" moment and he could see commonalities with Vedic Astrology and how both systems speak of the same energies and forces making humans to be as they are. While each system has its own approach examining aspects of life, each excels in their area of specialty.

Lately we have explored commonalities between systems that, like the enneagram, are also engaged in making sense of how the world works, how much of it can be learned and how we can use this knowledge to improve our lives. Compared to some traditions the enneagram as we know it and especially in its more recent incarnation as the Enneagram of Personality is a fledgeling system barely half a century old. One generation or two had the opportunity to work with and comment on it, whereas Vedic Astrology can look back at a 5+ thousand year history, entire libraries of commentary and much of it by enlightened souls. One of the strengths of the enneagram is the range of the wisdom that is immediately available to beginning level students as well as advanced practitioners.

Speaking of practical wisdom accessible to any level of seeker... we all begin by recognizing our own foibles and those near and dear to us. **Jennifer Schneider** and **Ron Corn's** "The Leader-Mediator (Eight-Nine) Couple" from their soon to be forthcoming book *Understand Yourself, Understand Your Partner: The Essential Enneagram Guide to a Better Relationship*, offers insights and comments by "insiders" that are actually in long term intimate relationships. It is one thing to hear or observe a couple and quite another to report how it feels when you are the one doing the feeling. The beauty of the enneagram is that it puts a context and offers rhyme and reason to our own experiences with others. These qualities are essential steps for recognizing who we are, why we perceive others the way we do and why these different others relate to us the way they do.

Armed with deeper knowledge of this kind, it's easier for us to forgive, learn better ways to relate or simply develop a deeper understanding of human dynamics so that we can recognize hopeless situations and take protective steps sooner. •

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The Enneagram Monthly, Inc. was founded by Jack Labanauskas and Andrea Isaacs as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to gather and disseminate information in the field of the Enneagram, that is most commonly known as a personality typing system.

For subscription and advertising rates see back cover.

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# Only Days...Hours left to register!

**IEA GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2013**

**Fall under the spell of the magical Mile High City. Join us in Denver for an Integral Look at the Enneagram.**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Jeff Salzman of the Integral Center in Boulder will open the Denver Conference: "Mile High and Integral." As co-creator with Ken Wilber and others of Boulder Integral, Jeff brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the field of Integral studies. We are pleased that he will kick off our 2013 Conference — don't miss it!

**FANTASTIC WELCOME RECEPTION:** Remember to buy your ticket.

**PREDAY: OUR EVOLVING CONSCIOUSNESS Type and Spiritual States** with Helen Palmer

**THE CITY!** – don't miss it! Sophisticated – with touches of the Olde West. An active artist community, restaurants, shopping, micro-breweries – Coors, and breath-taking mountain vistas!

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** The conference will be held at **The Westin Denver Downtown, Denver, Colorado, USA.** Remember to Make Your Hotel Reservations and identify yourself as part of the "IEA - International Enneagram Association" to receive the group rate of \$139.00 per night.

**Deadline to make your hotel reservation is July 5, 2013.**

**Reservations:** Call: 1-888-627-8435 or 720-214-9012

**Hotel Location:** The Westin Denver Downtown  
1672 Lawrence St., Denver, CO, US 80202

**BOOK YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ONLINE!**  
Visit our user-friendly  
IEA Travel Site: [www.iea-travel.com](http://www.iea-travel.com)

**PRE-CONFERENCE:** Thursday, August 1, 2013  
IEA Member \$110 • Non-Member \$140

**WELCOME RECEPTION:** Thursday, August 1, 2013  
IEA Member • Non-Member - \$25.00

**CONFERENCE:** Friday – Sunday, August 2-4, 2013

|                           |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>U.S. Residents</b>     | IEA Member | Non-Member |
|                           | \$475.00   | \$575.00   |
| <b>Non U.S. Residents</b> | \$425.00   | \$525.00   |

**Cancellation Policy:** Refunds will be given until June 1, 2013, (minus \$50 administration fee). No refunds will be given after June 2, 2013.

**TO REGISTER:**  
Online: [www.internationalenneagram.org](http://www.internationalenneagram.org)  
or call the IEA office: 513-232-5054

**Where will you be in August, 2013?**  
**Denver, Colorado, USA.**

**PRE-CONFERENCE: AUGUST 1, 2013**  
**CONFERENCE: AUGUST 2-4, 2013**

International **ENNEAGRAM** Association