

LIPPMAN ELDER WISDOM ACADEMY

ancient practice - new understanding



Braiding Sweetgrass by Paul Jeffrey

We live in a world where a billion people are starving to death, and a billion people are obese. Humans have pushed the earth's life support systems to the brink. Indigenous Elders warn we are at the final crossroads; the choices we make now will either spare our children or grandchildren or condemn them to what the world's scientists have called "an unlivable climate." They hope we, "the younger brother" (non-Native peoples) will wake up before it is too late.

We cannot continue treating nature as a self-replenishing, hyper-abundant and free resource, separate from ourselves, that can be exploited in service to our personal and national aspirations.

Indigenous peoples deal with intergenerational problems by implementing intergenerational solutions, guiding principles, that include:

- Honoring and loving Mother Earth, and all her children, human and non-human
- Being mindful of what you take from her and reciprocating

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Braiding Sweetgrass

Hello

Coffee Circle

A hymn of love to the world.
—ELIZABETH GILBERT

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

"Are we becoming good ancestors?"

Braided Sweetgrass cont.

- Expressing gratitude for what you take after asking for permission to do so
- Speaking less and acting from the heart, rather than the mind alone
- Acting from a place of humility and an awareness that the world is too complex for humans to grasp it all
- Focused on the principles of interconnectedness in which everything, human and non-human, is "my relative"

We must build an indigenous model of Elder Culture. It can exist only if we learn a new way of being in relationship with all our relations and the perilously warming planet we share. Our mentoring relationships with the Northern Cheyenne and the Haudenosaunee can guide us, but we must become the Elders we need.

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Kimmerer can become a foundational template for developing Elders and creating curriculum for our children and grandchildren to learn another way of knowing.

Amazon | B&N | Abe

Hello Matt Russ - Curriculum Director at TLS

I am excited to be a part of the Lippman Elder Wisdom Academy. As Curriculum Director at The Lippman School, I am one of the curricular program directors of our cultural exchange with the Northern Cheyenne tribe. Our students and community have spent years learning from the wisdom of Northern Cheyenne elders; the development of this new program has been a natural extension and expansion of that learning. My own experiences of learning from our Northern Cheyenne partners, particularly through experiences on their reservation, have helped me deepen understanding about what it means to participate in and pass along cultural traditions through meaningful rites of passage. I look forward to connecting with other elders in our community and helping to build a foundation for purposeful learning from our elders.

Coffee Circle Mustard Seed Market 867 W Market St. Akron, OH 44303

December 16 @ 4:00

Come join us for a time to circle up for conversation and coffee or more.

