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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**CSGA Meeting for Learning**

**October 3, 7 – 9 pm**

**Annapolis Friends Meetinghouse**

**351 Dubois Rd. Annapolis, MD**

**Speaker: Ruah Swennerfelt**

**Subject: “Rising to the challenge:**

**The Transition Movement and People of Faith”**

**Synopsis of The Meeting: After traveling all over the world to observe transition cities in action, Ruah explained how people are envisioning a new future together and transforming their local communities through vibrant problem solving and FUN, reconnecting activities. In these ways, they are recreating themselves as resilient communities, more ready to meet the times to come.**

**A More Complete Discussion of the Meeting:**

**The Transition Movement is enacting the three principles of permaculture:**

**People Care, Earth Care, Fair Share.**

**These communities are also engaging in what Joanna Macy (“Active Hope”) calls:**

**Holding Actions: Preventing further degradation of the environment through large and small lifestyle changes and demonstrations**

**New Gaia Structures: Creating new paradigms for community, city and all infrastructures that have a more benign presence and impact on the earth.**

**Shift in Consciousness: Changing our values for decisions, away from those presented by the industrial growth model (eg, individual competition for power, prestige, possessions), to a post oil, collaborative, indigenous, benign, earth-wise system.**

**This is what Ruah calls the “inner transition.”**

**Ruah shared many stories from her travels, available also in her book, Rising to the challenge: The Transition Movement and People of Faith, available from Quaker Institute for the Future <quakerinstitute.org>**

**Examples:**

**In Brazilandia, a huge slum outside San Paolo, people realize the importance of the Forest and have created ways to limit the growth of housing in the forested areas. They are approaching “zero waste” and changing the educational content in their schools accordingly.**

**“Transition Heathrow” is a community that refused to allow the airport to build another runway through the adjacent agricultural land.**

**“Transition Island” in the Mediterranean, off the coast of Spain.**

**In “Pasedena CA Transition, the people hold “Repair Cafes” where people who are skilled at repairs (sweaters, darning, buttons, wood working, etc) are available at tables set up with lots of power cords, where needed. Instead of throwing things out, you have “fixers.” People bring their mending and repairs and “pay” the fixers with a story about their life.**

**Also there is a café where the owners offer a menu made from surplus food only, to help combat food waste.**

**Ruah said that was is needed is**

1. **A core, initiating group which intentionally creates its own demise as the unleashing of the creativity of the larger community occurs.**
2. **To hold a “Great Unleashing Party” where all are invited to share their concerns for the area. You must have Family Friendly FUN!**

**Additional Recommended Reading and Study:**

**The Transition Handbook, Rob Hopkins**

**with a training program and film called “Transition 1.0”**

**and the revised, highly recommended The Transition Companion by the same author.**

**“Awakening the Dreamer” a workshop available face to face or on-line (Oct 30, 2016 at Stony Run). Contact <pachamama.org>**

**Viking Economics, George Lakey, where he describes that there is no stigma in a welfare state where everybody receives help.**

**<transitionnetwork.org>**

**<transitionUS.org>**