

The New Age Society of Solitaire, Namibia

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1. Introduction

Throughout the ages, there has always been a segment of the human population that has been concerned with the philosophy of knowledge: with an understanding of the nature of existence or reality, and establishing what we can know (i.e., the “truth”). The branch of philosophy that studies the nature of knowledge is called *epistemology*. The branch of philosophy that is concerned with understanding the nature of reality is *metaphysics*. The term *metaphysics* is all-inclusive, and there are many other more specific names that have been associated with these endeavors to understand the universe, such as spiritual philosophy, spiritualism, spiritual science, mysticism, occultism, occult science, Initiatic science, the supernatural, the paranormal, and esoterica. The terms *spiritualism* and *mysticism* generally refer to experiences of *feeling*, as in communion with God. The term *occultism* generally refers to knowing (extrasensory perception) and doing (psychokinesis) beyond the established realm of human experience (i.e., the physical, observable world). Terms referring to academic study include metaphysics, psychic research, and parapsychology.

Throughout history, many organizations have focussed on various aspects of metaphysics, including all religions, their mystic “offshoots” such as (Hebrew) Cabalism, (Christian) Gnosticism, (Islamic) Sufism, (Hindu) Vedanta, Zen Buddhism, Chinese Taoism, American and African Shamanism, and a wide variety of other spiritual philosophies such as Theosophy and Anthroposophy.

In recent years, there has been an explosion of interest and activity in metaphysics, and the most common names applied to this new and widespread interest are New Age and New Spiritualism. New Age activities include a wide range of topics and descriptors, including meditation, yoga, faith healing, “alternative medicine,” channelling, Akashic reading, automatic writing, shamanism, new physics, deep metaphysics, quantum theory, extrasensory perception, psychic phenomena (psi), prophecy, dreams and visions, hypnosis, reincarnation/regression, out-of-body and near-death experiences, and astral projection, just to name a few.

In New Age activities, the emphasis is on *personal* (direct) spiritual development and experiences, on *personal* exploration and discovery, and on *personal* freedom. Because of the emphasis on freedom and exploration, New Age activities are not associated with established religions, which require acceptance of a particular dogma (authoritative doctrine relating to items of belief or faith), moral code, and practices.

The number of people interested in New Age concepts is so large that the topic area is often referred to now as the “New Age Movement.” The use of the term “movement” to describe people interested in New Age concepts is misleading, however, because the people interested in New Age concepts are definitely not an organized group of people with similar beliefs, interests, or goals – at the present time, the so-called New Age Movement is not a movement at all (i.e., it is not an organized effort by supporters of a common goal). There are, to be sure, many small groups of people tied together with

common New Age interests, but the New Age Movement as a whole is not formally organized into a single or even a number of large organizations. The New Age Movement is defined by a body of interests, not by membership in particular organizations.

The term "New Ager" is used to refer to a person interested in any of the New Age topics. Use of the term does not imply that the individual is interested in the whole spectrum of New Age topics. For example, a person may be interested in faith healing and little else of the New Age corpus; many people meditate as a form of relaxation, and have no interest in any other New Age activity.

The New Age Spirituality web site (<http://www.religioustolerance.org/newage.htm>) presents a description of the New Age Movement. "The New Age Movement is in a class by itself. Unlike most formal religions, it has no holy text, central organization, membership, formal clergy, geographic center, dogma, creed, etc.... The New Age is in fact a free-flowing spiritual movement; a network of believers and practitioners who share somewhat similar beliefs and practices, which they add on to whichever formal religion they follow. Their book publishers take the place of a central organization; seminars, conventions, books and informal groups take the place of sermons and religious services. Quoting John Naisbitt (*Megatrends 2000*), 'In turbulent times, in times of great change, people head for the two extremes: fundamentalism and personal, spiritual experience...With no membership lists or even a coherent philosophy or dogma, it is difficult to define or measure the unorganized New Age movement.' ...A longitudinal study from 1991 to 1995 shows that New Agers represent a steady 20% of the population, and are consistently the third largest religious group." On the other hand, most people do not regard New Age as a religion at all. "The Canadian Census (1991) recorded only 1,200 people (0.005 of the total Canadian population) who identify their religion as being New Age. Many people identify with Christianity and other religions, but incorporate many New Age concepts into their faith."

The Salem New Age Center (<http://www.salemctr.com/newage.html>) presents a list of beliefs that some New Age individuals may have in common:

1. You create your own reality and destiny. This is a planet of free choice, and you have your own free will.
2. You have certain challenges to face and overcome in this lifetime. If you don't learn your lessons this time, you'll get them again.
3. There is no such thing as coincidence.
4. There is more to life than meets the eye, much more.
5. Nothing really matters in this life unless it is done for the benefit of others.
6. We are not alone.
7. We are multidimensional beings currently having a human experience.
8. We are all receiving more help than we know, from angels, spirit guides, ascended masters and others.
9. We can heal ourselves, our society, our world.
10. The ultimate transformation for mankind is ascension.

Many New Agers believe that as the world enters the Age of Aquarius, a New World Order will be established. This New Age will be a utopia in which there is a single world government with an end to war, poverty, disease, pollution and environmental destruction. Racial, religious and gender discrimination will also end, and every

individual will have expanded opportunity for personal and spiritual development. Some see an end also to tribalism and nationalism, with a shift to a world community, while others see a return to tribal culture.

Prior to the nineteenth century, metaphysical (spiritual, mystical, occult) knowledge was not widely available (the term "occult" may refer to the supernatural, but its basic definition is "hidden"), and possessors of it were generally referred to as "initiates" (which means "one who has attained knowledge in a particular field") or "adepts." This knowledge was passed on from one individual to another (e.g., from a tribal shaman to a younger adept member of the tribe) or preserved / maintained by secret societies or "orders." In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there were relatively few books on these topics. Well-known authors on the subject include Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Annie Besant, Alice Bailey, and Rudolf Steiner. In the latter part of the twentieth century, the number of authors writing on these topics has mushroomed, with thousands of books now available in local bookstores. It is the recent (last two decades) publications on these topics that are generally referred to as "New Age" or "New Spiritualism" (i.e., the descriptor "new" refers generally to publication in the last 20-30 years).

The areas of concern of the New Age writers may be classified into two main categories: (1) those dealing with intrapersonal development or exploration, such as yoga, health / healing, meditation, hypnotism, past-life regression, astral projection, and psychic phenomena; and (2) those dealing with extrapersonal social activities and issues, such as sexual freedom, morality / casuistry, healing, prophecy, government / society / politics, and the relationship of man to nature. Books dealing with personal development (inner peace, discipline, health and healing) include Deepak Chopra's books (e.g., *How to Know God*, *Perfect Health*), The Foundation for Inner Peace's (Helen Schucman's) *A Course in Miracles*, Louise Hay's *You Can Heal Your Life*, and Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, *Death Is of Vital Importance*. New Age books dealing with "philosophies of freedom" (moral relativism, humanism) include Neale Donald Walsch's *Conversations with God* series and David Icke's *I Am Me, I Am Free*.

In the past several decades, it has become increasingly obvious that mankind's large numbers and industrial activity are destroying the biosphere and causing the extinction of tens of thousands of species every year. As more and more people are becoming sensitised to this planetary crisis, the number and variety of New Age books on political and environmental topics has increased substantially. New Age books that deal with environmental and political issues include Thom Hartmann's *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*, Barbara Marx Hubbard's *Conscious Evolution*, and Walsch's *The New Revelations*.

It is very evident that traditional social, political and religious organizations have no interest in addressing or ability to solve the planet's current environmental catastrophe. The cause of the problem is mankind's large numbers and industrial activity. The only solution to the problem is to dramatically reduce the amount of industrial activity on the planet, but no world leaders are calling for a reduction in industrial production. Quite the contrary, all world leaders are calling for more industrial production, both in gross amount and per capita. Similarly, no social and religious organization is willing to take a stand to immediately reduce industrial activity worldwide. Human life is viewed as sacred, and valued above all other forms of life. No tradeoffs are allowed between human lives and the lives of other species. So far as major organized religions are concerned, the more people, the better, no matter how much human misery or other-

species destruction results. The human species has a God-given mandate to fill the Earth, subdue all other creatures, and use them (control, kill, destroy, consume, exploit, exterminate) for its own benefit. Human “rights” take precedence over the “rights” of all other species. Many religions accept that apocalyptic “End Times” will occur, that this is destined to happen, and that “good” people will be “saved” from the destroyed planet. Social organizations almost invariably act in ways that increase the number of human beings on the planet, no matter what destruction is caused to the environment or to other species.

The only significant group of people who are genuinely concerned with bringing about world peace and harmony with nature, and have available the means for accomplishing these goals, are New Agers. This general statement does not, of course, include or apply to all New Agers. Some are interested solely in personal development, and have little interest in nature, or in other people, or in global concerns. Others are into magic or witchcraft, and are focussed on control of others or material gain. But a large and growing number of New Agers is becoming increasingly concerned with the human misery and destruction of nature that is being caused by mankind’s large numbers and industrial activity. This interest – manifested in respect for fellow human beings and for all life – is not new to humankind. It can be traced back to the earliest communities of mankind, including virtually all “primitive” tribal peoples (Older Cultures, in the terminology of Thom Hartmann). It has been a significant aspect of spiritualism throughout the ages, as reflected in animism and shamanism, and includes more recent philosophical views such as those of Saint-Yves d’Alveydre, Rudolf Steiner, and Mikhael Aivanhov (Synarchy, Anthroposophy, Brotherhood).

This article has been written to encourage and assist the development and activities of New Age groups which are concerned with becoming actively involved in solving the world’s environmental and spiritual crisis. It presents a prototype for a local-level New Age Society. This prototype (exemplar, archetype) may be used as a guide for setting up and operating a small organization of people who are interested in exploring New Age concepts. Although the motivation for presenting this prototype is to assist and promote solution of the world’s environmental and spiritual crisis, it is assumed that the group will have interest in both intrapersonal and interpersonal aspects of New Age concepts, and both aspects are included.

It is assumed that the local-level group will adopt a name that reflects its geographic location, such as The New Age Society of New Haven, or The New Age Society of Jackson College. Or, if you wish, you may simply use the “default” name of The New Age Society of Solitaire, Namibia. Questions may be addressed to The New Age Society of Solitaire, Namibia, in care of mail@foundation.bw. The New Age Society of Solitaire does not maintain lists of members of any other local group. The interest and intent of The New Age Society of Solitaire is to bring into being as many local New Age Societies as possible, with the primary objective of promoting the solution of the world’s environmental and spiritual crisis. That is its sole objective. It does not seek any form of financial contribution from any other local Society or members of other Societies.

As noted, the body of New Age material is very large and diverse, and it is expected that each local Society will have primary interests in a restricted set of New Age activities, which will no doubt involve topics additional to the world’s environmental crisis. While the exemplar Charter presented below may mention a large variety of subjects, this does not imply that a local Society would engage in all or even many of them. It is expected

that a new Society would select a sampling of recent material as a starting point for the organization's activities. As time goes by, the group will no doubt identify particular areas of interest that it will pursue more intensely.

2. Prototype Charter

Charter for the New Age Society of Solitaire, Namibia

Statement of Purpose. This document is the Charter for the organization calling itself The New Age Society of Solitaire, Namibia ("The Society"). This Charter specifies the purposes, principles, functions, and organization of The Society.

Scope and Limitations: General. The purpose of The Society is to promote the spiritual and cultural development of its members, and to promote solution of the world's environmental crisis. To this end, The Society will sponsor and promote activities associated with the broad range of New Age or New Spiritualism activities.

The Society will accept as members individuals (adults) who subscribe to the stated purpose, will actively participate in the activities of The Society, and agree to abide by the terms of this Charter and any By-Laws that may be adopted by The Society.

The Society and all members engaging in its activities or on its behalf will obey all laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is located. The Society will not engage in commercial or professional activities for pay or profit. It may collect fees to cover costs of operation and activities. It is a fraternal organization that exists solely for the entertainment, gratification, and personal fulfillment of its members.

Scope and Limitations: Endorsement of Health, Medical or Other Lifestyle Practices. The Society does not practice or prescribe medicine, or endorse or suggest health regimens. It may discuss and examine various health or lifestyle topics, such as meditation, healing, yoga, autosuggestion, sexual practices, and diet, but all decisions concerning the use or non-use of any of these or other practices, procedures, or regimens by a member are solely and strictly made by the member himself, under no pressure or endorsement or even suggestion that it be employed or adopted, on the part of The Society.

Scope and Limitations: Political Status. The purpose of The Society is education, enlightenment, and enjoyment for its members, not social and political action. Any social or political actions taken by its members are outside of its scope, interest and involvement. The Society does not have a political or social agenda, and does not support or oppose political parties or candidates. Whatever political or social goals it has are concerned with a hypothetical post-industrial world, not with any existing national or international organization or structure. The Society is a fraternal organization interested in exploring philosophical, spiritual and cultural issues and concepts, not a political or social advocacy group. It does not engage in political action, e.g., such as an attempt to found a particular system of planetary management.

Scope and Limitations: Out-of-Scope Practices. Although The Society may discuss any topic, there are a number of practices in which it does not engage. The Society does not engage or sanction the involvement in practices that may be generally described as "black magic" or "Satanism," such as casting of spells or hexes intended to control or

harm any living thing. It does not engage in witchcraft or wizardry. It does not practice, endorse, or oppose any established religion. It does not engage in hypnotism, Ouija, or other practices that do not involve the active, conscious mind. It engages only in positive and peaceful activities that are intended to promote the health, well-being and happiness of its members and the biosphere. Any participation by members in any activities outside of The Society's scope (e.g., practice of an established religion) is pursued independently of The Society.

Scope and Limitations: Religious Status. The Society is not a formal religion, since it espouses no dogma, moral code, particular spiritual philosophy, or religious practice (e.g., liturgy, rituals). Its purpose is to promote education and understanding concerning New Age concepts in general and the world's environmental crisis in particular, not to promote acceptance or belief in any particular religious dogma or creed. Whatever religious beliefs or practices a member may accept or engage in are entirely up to him. The Society is a vehicle for awareness and understanding of metaphysical matters, not for action. While The Society is interested in discussing spiritual concepts in general, this is not in the context of any particular organized religion or spiritual philosophy. The Society takes no position on the validity or worth of any organized religion, and does not encourage or discourage any member in any way in practicing any religion of his choice. Members are free to accept and practice whatever organized religion they choose (or none at all).

Organization; Appointment and Removal of Moderator. The Society begins its existence with an organizational meeting of individuals who wish to found a local branch or chapter. All present individuals who agree to adopt this Charter become founding members of The Society. These members shall then elect, by consensus, a Moderator (or Facilitator, or Coordinator), who, upon acceptance of this position, will lead the activities of The Society and represent it. It is the responsibility of the Moderator to coordinate The Society's activities and to maintain a current copy of The Society's Charter for viewing or copying by members. The Moderator may request other members to participate in the operation of The Society. Members requested to participate may choose not to do so. The Moderator may resign at any time, and he may be removed by a majority vote of the present members of The Society, at any regular meeting, following adoption of a resolution at a previous regular meeting to vote on removing the Moderator at the following meeting. Upon termination of office, which may occur by resignation or removal or loss of membership, a new Moderator may be selected by majority vote at any regular meeting of The Society, following adoption of a resolution at a previous regular meeting to vote on election of a new Moderator at the following meeting.

Other Positions. The Moderator may appoint members, with their consent, to any other positions / posts, such as Committee Chairman or Committee Member or Program Chairman, or Librarian. These posts continue until the appointee resigns from the post or the Moderator terminates the appointment.

Membership. A member (founding or otherwise) remains a member until he resigns, or is absent without apology from Society meetings for a period of three months. Any adult person (including former members) of The Society may apply for membership. Acceptance into The Society is decided by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting. Any member may be expelled, for any reason, by a majority vote of the present members of The Society, at any regular meeting. If the membership becomes

large, The Society may authorize a Membership Committee to make decisions concerning acceptance and termination of members.

Regular Meetings. Meetings may be held at a frequency and timing as decided by a majority vote of members present at any Society meeting, subject to the provision that at least one meeting be held in each of at least ten months of each year. If the Moderator is not present at a particular meeting, the members present will elect an Acting Moderator for that meeting, by majority vote. Regular meetings may conduct any business of The Society except for Charter modification. At each regular meeting, the date for the next meeting shall be set (or confirmed, if previously set).

Special Meetings. Special meetings may be convened as desired for the conduct of any business other than election or removal of members or officers. A special meeting is convened at a place and time specified in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting convened at least a week earlier. A special meeting may be held as part of a regular meeting.

Modification of Charter. This Charter may be modified at any special meeting of The Society having the express purpose of Charter modification. Modifications are decided by majority vote of members present. It is the responsibility of the Moderator to prepare a copy of the modified Charter and to provide, within a month, a copy to members requesting a copy (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

Records and Recordkeeping. The Society is not required to maintain records of any kind (e.g., meeting minutes, membership lists). In fact, it is preferred that no records be maintained, other than a copy of the current Charter. (If desired, this exemplar Charter may be adopted, in which case the Charter copy of record is maintained at the Foundation website; in this case, the Moderator is under no obligation to maintain a separate copy of the Charter.)

Dissolution; Acquisition and Disposition of Assets; Legal Status and Liability. If The Society fails to convene a regular meeting for three consecutive months, it is dissolved. It is intended that The Society not acquire any physical or financial assets, so that upon dissolution, there is no issue of disposing of assets. To this end, all activities and operations of The Society will be conducted using current contributions of money or goods from members, or the unencumbered loan or contribution of facilities, equipment, supplies, food, or services (e.g., a community meeting room, books, snacks, contributions of activity fees from members). The Society is not authorized to set up a bank account or to borrow or loan any item of value. Any loans made a member are personal loans; no one is authorized to obligate or encumber The Society in any way. The Society is not a legal entity (e.g., a registered corporation, partnership, or other legally recognized association), and has no recognition, rights, privileges, existence or status under the law. Individual members are individually liable for all of their own actions.

3. Suggested Program Organization and Content

The Society shall conduct regular meetings on a weekly basis, at a time and place to be decided by the members. The following is a suggested program for a regular meeting.

1. Business

2. Discussion of current events
3. Discussion of scheduled topic (e.g., a New Age concept, or part of a book) or other event (e.g., speaker, debate)
4. Cultural event (e.g., music, singing, dance, poetry)
5. Meditation
6. Discussion and setting of personal goals for next week
7. Setting of scheduled topic for next week

For item (6), goal setting, larger groups may consider use of the SYNCON (SYNergic CONvening) paradigm described on pp. 226-228 of Barbara Marx Hubbard's *Conscious Evolution* (see description at end).

4. Suggested Topics for Discussion

The topics included in New Age cover a wide range, and The Society may discuss any that are of interest and consistent with its Charter.

The following is a suggested reading list for new members. It is not intended to be comprehensive or "balanced." It is simply a starting point. It includes mainly books that are popular and in print, so that they are easy to obtain and generally available in paperback editions. Inclusion of a book in the following list does not imply that The Society endorses the content of the book.

1. Walsch, Neale Donald, *Conversations with God*, Books 1-3; *The New Revelations*
2. Hartmann, Thom, *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunshine*
3. Hubbard, Barbara Marx, *Conscious Evolution*
4. The following list of recommended reading from Thom Hartmann's *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*:
 - a. *An Unnatural Order*, by Jim Mason
 - b. *And the Waters Turned to Blood*, by Rodney Barker
 - c. *Asian Journal, The*, by Thomas Merton
 - d. *Bare Bones Meditation*, by Joan Tollifson
 - e. *Be Here Now*, by Ram Dass
 - f. *Beyond Growth*, by Herman E. Daly
 - g. *Black Elk*, by Wallace Black Elk and William Lyon
 - h. *Breakout*, by Marc Lappé
 - i. *Case Against the Global Economy, The*, by Mander and Goldsmith
 - j. *Chalice and the Blade, The*, by Riane Eisler
 - k. *Columbus and Other Cannibals*, by Jack Forbes
 - l. *Coming Plague, The*, by Laurie Garrett
 - m. *Communities* (magazine) published by *Communities Magazine*, Alpha Farm, Deadwood, OR 97430
 - n. *Communities Directory*, published by the Fellowship for International Community, PO Box 814, Langley, WA 98260
 - o. *Conscious Evolution*, by Barbara Marx Hubbard
 - p. *Conversations with God*, by Neale Donald Walsch
 - q. *Creating Communities Anywhere*, by Carolyn Shaffer and Kristin Anundsen
 - r. *Dark Night of the Soul*, by St. John of the Cross
 - s. *Dawn Land*, by Joseph Bruchac

- t. Deadly Feasts, by Richard Rhodes
 - u. Deep Breath of Life, by Alan Cohen
 - v. Diet for a New America, by John Robbins
 - w. Dying of the Trees, The, by Charles Little
 - x. End of Nature, The, by Bill McKibben
 - y. End of Work, The, by Jeremy Rifkin
 - z. Evolution's End, by Joseph Chilton Pearce
 - aa. Food of the Gods, by Terence McKenna
 - bb. Forest People, The, by Colin M. Turnbull
 - cc. Gesundheit! by Patch Adams
 - dd. Guns, Germs and Steel, by Jared Diamond
 - ee. Harmless People, The, by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
 - ff. Healing Ceremonies, by Carl A. Hammerschlag and Howard D. Silverman
 - gg. Healing of America, The, by Marianne Williamson
 - hh. Heart of the Hunter, The, by Laurens Van Der Post
 - ii. Heat Is On, The, by Ross Gelbspan
 - jj. Holographic Universe, The, by Michael Talbot
 - kk. Honest to Jesus, by Robert W. Funk
 - ll. Hopi Survival Kit, by Thomas Malls
 - mm. Humanity's Descent, by Rich Potts
 - nn. In the Absence of the Sacred, by Jerry Mander
 - oo. Kalahari Hunter-Gatherers, by Richard Lee and Irven DeVore
 - pp. Lies My Teacher Told Me, by James W. Loewen
 - qq. Limited Wants, Unlimited Means, edited by John Gowdy
 - rr. Man's Rise to Civilization, by Peter Farb
 - ss. Markings, by Dag Hammarskjold
 - tt. Media Monopoly, by Ben Bagdikian
 - uu. My Ishmael, by Daniel Quinn
 - vv. Mythic Life, A, by Jean Houston
 - ww. Population Explosion, The, by Paul and Anne Ehrlich
 - xx. Powers that Be, The, by Walter Wink
 - yy. Revolt Against the Modern World, by Julius Evola
 - zz. Reworking Success, by Robert Theobald
 - aaa. Ruben Snake, Your Humble Serpent, by Jay Fikes
 - bbb. Saving the Planet, by Lester R. Brown, Christopher Flavin, and Sandra Postel
 - ccc. Self-Aware Universe, The, by Amit Goswami
 - ddd. Shaman's Doorway, The, by Stephen Larsen
 - eee. Sixth Extinction, The, by Richard Leaky
 - fff. Stone Age Economics, by Marshall Sahlins
 - ggg. Technopoly, by Neil Postman
 - hhh. Time Before History, The, by Colin Tudge
 - iii. Tribes, by Art Wolfe
 - jjj. True Hallucinations, by Terence McKenna
 - kkk. Voice of the Earth, The, by Theodore Roszak
 - lll. Voices of the First Day, by Robert Lawlor
 - mmm. When Corporations Rule the World, by David C. Korten
 - nnn. Who Will Feed China? by Lester R. Brown
 - ooo. World War III, by Michael Tobias
5. Schumacher, Ernst Fritz, Small Is Beautiful
 6. Foundation for Inner Peace, A Course in Miracles

7. Spezzano, Chuck, 50 Ways to Change Your Mind and Change the World; Block Busting: 30 Ways to Heal Absolutely Any Problem
8. Williamson, Marianne, The Healing of America
9. Zukav, Gary, The Seat of the Soul, The Dancing Wu Li Masters
10. Chopra, Deepak, How to Know God
11. Maiello, Frank, Freedom; Pathways to Metaphysics
12. Capra, Fritjof, The Tao of Physics
13. Postle, Denis, Fabric of the Universe
14. Pagels, Heinz, Cosmic Code
15. Herbert, Nick, Quantum Reality
16. Jammer, Max, The Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics
17. Davies, Paul, Other Words
18. Aivanhov, Mikhael (Aivanhov, Mikhaël), Complete Works
19. Books on public speaking, such as Dale Carnegie, How to Develop Self-Confidence and Influence People by Public Speaking, or the Dominic Hughes and Benedict Phillips, Oxford Union Guide to Successful Public Speaking and Pros and Cons: A Debater's Handbook
20. Books on personal development, such as Norman Vincent Peale's The Power of Positive Thinking; Dale Carnegie's How to Win Friends and Influence People; Napoleon Hill's Think and Grow Rich; Lillian Glass' Confident Conversation
21. Lilley, Roy, Dealing with Difficult People
22. Gibran, Kahlil, The Prophet
23. Mandino. Og, The Greatest Miracle in the World
24. Hesse, Hermann, Siddhartha
25. Hay, Louise, You Can Heal Your Life, Heal Your Body
26. Rosemary Altea, You Own the Power
27. Millman, Dan, Way of the Peaceful Warrior
28. Weiss, Brian, Many Lives Many Masters
29. Bach, Richard, Jonathan Livingston Seagull
30. Ponder, Catherine, Open Your Mind to Prosperity
31. Eadie, Betty J., Embraced by the Light
32. Gawain, Shakti, Creative Visualization
33. Stone, Joshua David, The Complete Ascension Manual
34. Plato, The Republic
35. Saint-Yves d'Alveydre, Mission actuelle des souverains, par l'un deux; Mission actuelle des ouvriers; Mission des juifs, La France vraie; Mission de l'Inde en Europe, mission de l'Europe en Asie; La question des Mahatmas et sa solution (all works dealing with Synarchy)

For those with Internet access, check out the following web sites or Internet contacts.

Referenced by Barbara Marx Hubbard in Conscious Evolution:

- a. The Center for Visionary Leadership, <http://www.visionarylead.org>
- b. The State of the World Forum, <http://www.worldforum.org>
- c. Re-Creation: The Foundation for Personal Growth and Spiritual Understanding, <http://www.conversationswithgod.org>
- d. The Foundation for Global Community, <http://www.globalcommunity.org>
- e. Society for the Universal Human, <http://www.lecworld.org>
- f. Barbara Gaughen Muller, <http://www.worldpeace2000.org/ideas>
- g. New Horizons for Learning, <http://www.newhorizons.org>
- h. Andrew Weil, MD, <http://www.drweil.com>

- i. The Heart Math Institute, <http://www.planetarypub.com>
- j. The Hendricks Institute, <http://www.hendricks.com>
- k. The Institute for Noetic Sciences, <http://www.noetic.org>
- l. First Millennium Foundation, <http://www.millennial.org>
- m. Foundation for the Future, <http://www.futurefoundation.org>
- n. United Religions Initiative, <http://www.united-religions.org>
- o. Living Essence Foundation, <http://www.infoasis.com/people/lef>
- p. The Natural Step, <http://www.emis.com/tns>
- q. Best Practices Database, <http://www.bestpractices.org>
- r. EnviroLink Network, <http://www.envirolink.org>
- s. Health World On-line, <http://www.healthy.net>
- t. Institute for Global Communications and Peace Net, <http://www.igc.org/igc/index.html>
- u. Right to Know Network, <http://www.rtk.net>
- v. New Civilization Network, <http://www.worldtrans.org>
- w. Global Visions, <http://globalvisions.org/cl/elkin>
- x. World Peace 2000, <http://www.worldpeace2000.org>
- y. Tribute 2000, <http://www.tribute2000.org>
- z. Earth Concert 2000, <http://www.cybernaute.com/earthconcert2000>
- aa. Light 2000, <http://www.light2000.com>
- bb. The Futurist, <http://www.wfs.org/wps>
- cc. YES! A Journal of Positive Futures, <http://www.futurenet.org>
- dd. Utne Reader, <http://www.utne.com/links>
- ee. New Dimensions Radio, <http://www.newdimensions.org>
- ff. Radio for Peace International, <http://www.clark.net/pub/cwilkins/rfpi/rfpi.html>
- gg. The Wisdom Channel, <http://www.wisdomchannel.com>
- hh. WETV, <http://www.wetv.com>

Various Internet resources on metaphysics, including:

- a. Rudolf Steiner's works, at <http://www.elib.com/Steiner/Books/>
- b. Metaphysics: Multiple Meanings, <http://webstyle.com/alan/metamul.htm>
- c. Metaphysics by Default, <http://mbdefault.org/default.asp>
- d. The Salem New Age Center, <http://www.salemctr.com/newage.html> (contains several New Age book lists)
- e. New Age Spirituality, <http://www.religioustolerance.org/newage.htm>

Appendix. SYNCON (SYNergistic CONvening)

(From pp. 226-228 of *Conscious Evolution*, by Barbara Marx Hubbard, New World Library, Novato, California, 1998.)

SYNCON is the next stage of the democratic process – a way of bringing all members of a group, organization, or community together to discover how each person's passion to create can be supported, connected, and fulfilled through participation in the whole community. SYNCON works with groups from twenty-five to several hundred people. The process is very simple.

1. People meet in each sector of the wheel according to their functional interests and vocational calling. (The wheel categories discussed in this book may be used or others devised as needed.) Participants form one or more circles in each sector of the wheel. A scribe, facilitator, and a spokesperson volunteer.

2. Each member of the circle responds to three questions:
 - a. What is my passion to create now?
 - b. To fulfil this desire, what do I need that I do not now have – what is lacking?
 - c. What resources do I have to give to this group or to people in other sectors of the social body?
3. After listening carefully to one another, participants form smaller groups based on shared purpose and affinity. They support one another and often devise joint plans.
4. The smaller groups reassemble in their sector of the wheel and share their joint strategies.
5. Each sector prepares a composite statement of goals, needs, and resources.
6. The whole group meets in an Assembly of the Whole. The assembly can be visibly exciting, in theatre-in-the-round style, with ribbon dividers, placards, or artistic renditions to suggest the different functions of the social body.
7. Each task force spokesperson presents the shared statement of goals, needs, and resources of its group to the assembly. Everyone listens actively to each presentation, noting where one group's needs and another's resources match. "Vocational ambassadors" are assigned by the group to visit other sectors.
8. A facilitated mingle occurs, either of functional sectors or of individuals and groups, seeking the synergies, linkages, and connections that are natural to any system, but are often unnoticed because the process does not facilitate their discovery. ...The four Ss – synergy, syntony, synchronicity, and suprasex – are cultivated....
9. The Assembly of the Whole reassembles. Each group represents its goals, needs, and resources, taking into account expanded connections and synergies. According to the time available, the assembly can discover more synergies and experience the fact that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Nature forms whole systems out of separate parts, as we have seen. When these parts connect in a nonlinear, exponential interaction, a quantum jump may occur. We discover in SYNCON that the energy of the whole is greater than the sum of its separate members. Participants find that they are better able to achieve their goals through cocreation than through adversarial or even competitive tactics. Music and dance can be used. In the end, a celebration occurs and people walk the evolutionary spiral together.
10. Each task force is invited to place its goals, needs and resources on the Cocreation website. Eventually, when the system is developed, the website will help find common goals and match needs with resources throughout the system. People can check golden innovations in their fields to serve as inspirations and guidelines for newly emerging projects.