

Dr. Edward Frodel, PhD: Educator, Humanist, Holistic Healer, Artist

My adult life has been a testament to the belief that all life-force is derivative of a syntropic energy that is often referred to as creative spiritual energy. I believe that humans are endowed with the potential to understand and employ the mysteries embedded in all aspects of an evolving Universe. I have been guided by the understanding established by Carl Jung that psychic knowing of the inner self is prelude to understanding forces larger than ourselves. I believe that to do is to know, thus **experiential learning** has opened doors to the creative, intuitive self.

I spent much of my youthful years traversing with my dog through the dense forest land owned by my family. This connection with Nature predominated in a world vision into my university years and beyond. As a young graduate from the University of Washington with a degree in Political Science and Education, I traveled around the world for three years, being conditioned in the beautiful endeavors of humanity as well as its less sanguine aspects. I witnessed firsthand the waning years of colonialism in Asia and the Middle East. Those were seminal years for me, discovering how much humanity is alike and yet, questioning the inability for our species to accept our cultural differences. It was at this time that I began the practice of Zen and integral Yoga and finding a motive to study history, spirituality, and quantum physics. It was then that I recognized that I had a unique sensitivity to fields of energy which was to lead to studies of brain research, consciousness, and ultimately being certified as a Reiki practitioner. Along the way, I taught school in Germany, Iran, Guam, and Renton and North Kitsap in Washington.

Ann Marie Sommereth of Poulsbo and I were married in 1965 and spent the next three years teaching in an international school in Iran. In 1968 Ann Marie and I settled into student housing at the University of Colorado for the next five years where our two daughters, Meg and Kara, were born. While completing my Masters degree and PhD, I was selected to

teach for four years Russian, Middle East and World history courses at the Denver UC campus. My Doctoral thesis focused on revolutionary elites as modernizing agents of change in East Central Europe and the Middle East. An opportunity to teach at Pacific Lutheran University for a year brought the family back to Poulsbo to live on family land in 1973.

I then taught at North Kitsap High School where I became involved with restructuring public education. For eight years intermittently I traveled to various conferences across the country collecting learning models and studying educational theory. This research convinced me to launch a learning model in which the arts and academics received equal value. In collaboration with Reverend Dr. Gordon Parke, we founded **West Sound Academy** in Poulsbo, an International Baccalaureate college preparatory secondary school. The school **promotes experiential learning** in which the student accepts ownership for his/her learning outcome. **To do is to know.**

My experience in education tells me that most all learning takes place as a closed loop and that cultural norm expects regurgitation of information that results in cultural stasis, self-generated thought reproducing itself, stifling creativity and intuitive awareness. What one believes is who one is. Further experiences in education convince me that artistic expression opens pathways to the intuitive and to the creative self. To that end, I have discovered in myself an artistic talent late in life that has blossomed into more than a casual practice.

Ann Marie's passing in 2013 after 14 years of struggling with level 4 cancer, left me finding it difficult to adjust to her loss; however, the presence of my daughters Meg and Kara sustained family support. Then in **2016** an extraordinary happening occurred in Hawaii that in effect caused a psychic re-emergence of my youthful outings in Nature. I spent an entire day with a Hawaiian Kahuna who through her mystical and

metaphysical knowing reestablished in me the long-buried sense of oneness with Nature, a knowing early experienced in my youth.

Having only recently learned of my latent artistic gifts, deep within a creative spiritual connection with Nature has welled out. Intriguing are the mysterious emergences of beauty and diversity of life forms in Nature, especially found in the balance found in Nature's life and death cycles often seen in the Japanese art form of Wabi Sabi and the Japanese expression of a **Forest Walk, Jibun, which means 'shared life space.'**

My creative mode of expression is two-fold. I am motivated to draw landscape with graphite, pen and ink and occasionally with a color medium, mostly stimulated by an emotional and/or spiritual reaction to the existing energy found in an environment or setting. Occasionally this energy motivates a poetic outflow.

Finally, after this long introduction, I believe that **humanity is experiencing an epochal shift in consciousness.** There is a reawakening of the Gaia hypothesis as well as a knowing that our current world system is not viable. I believe that at heart of this reconnection is a reconciliation with feminine culture: a hieros gamos (a sacred marriage). Hopefully, along with this reunion would emerge a 'participation mystique' in which humanity would develop a new view of interconnectedness with all aspects of Nature and the Universe. A good name for this historic change would be "Symbiocene" in which an ecological civilization would develop, a **mutually symbiotic network of relationships between all life and Mother Earth.**