

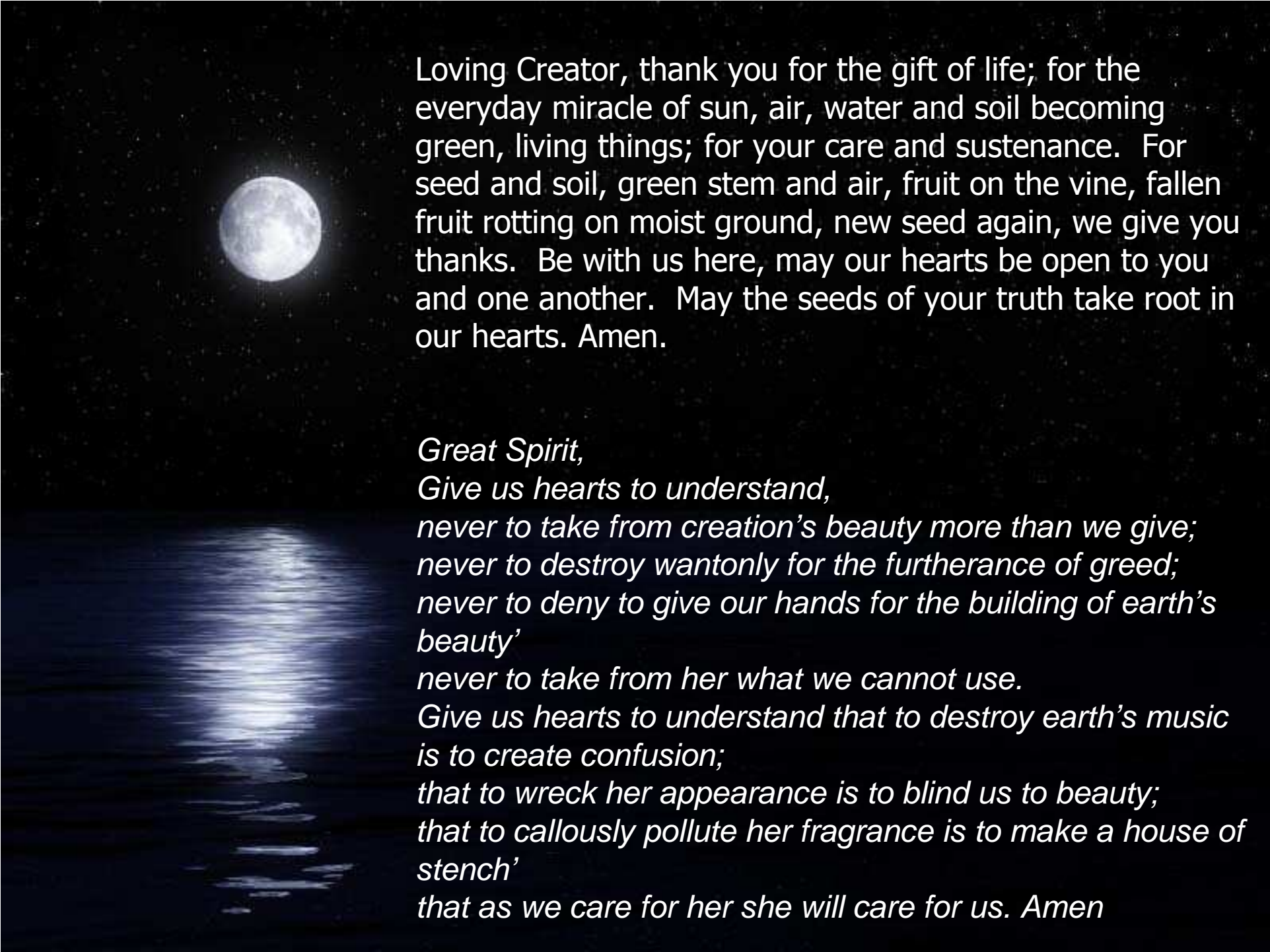


# Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday February 1, 2009

**Food and Sacred Earth  
Connections  
Local Food, Slow Food  
Terra Madre**

By Jim Embry  
Sustainable Communities Network  
Lexington KY [www.sustainlex.org](http://www.sustainlex.org)

A full moon is visible in the upper left portion of a dark, starry sky. Below the moon, a body of water reflects the moon's light, creating a shimmering path of light that extends towards the bottom of the frame. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

Loving Creator, thank you for the gift of life; for the everyday miracle of sun, air, water and soil becoming green, living things; for your care and sustenance. For seed and soil, green stem and air, fruit on the vine, fallen fruit rotting on moist ground, new seed again, we give you thanks. Be with us here, may our hearts be open to you and one another. May the seeds of your truth take root in our hearts. Amen.

*Great Spirit,  
Give us hearts to understand,  
never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;  
never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;  
never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's  
beauty'  
never to take from her what we cannot use.  
Give us hearts to understand that to destroy earth's music  
is to create confusion;  
that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;  
that to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of  
stench'  
that as we care for her she will care for us. Amen*

A full moon is visible in the upper left quadrant of the image, casting a bright, shimmering reflection down the center of a dark, calm body of water. The background is a deep, dark blue-black, suggesting a night sky or a very dark sea. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

### **Genesis 1:29-31**

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

### **Job 12:7-8**

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach  
you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.



the act of eating is a disconnected one: disconnected first from its source, the Giver of Sustainer of life; and disconnected from relationship with our fellow human beings and the earth itself.

Eating is an agricultural act..  
Wendell Berry

Eating is spiritual act....  
Farming is a spiritual act...

Environmental crisis is a spiritual crisis





# **Sustainable Communities Network**

- Interfaith Alliance
  - Environmental Commission
  - Central KY Council For Peace and justice
  - Good Foods Co-op founder, board member
- 
- Slow Food USA
  - Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community

# BLUEGRASS PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN COMMUNITY

formed 2005 LFUCG, FCPS, UK

- includes ten project teams: 1) Green Buildings, 2) Reduce Reuse Recycle, 3) Green Purchasing, 4) Environmental Education, 5) Transportation, 6) Outreach & Communication, 7) Water & Stormwater, 8) Foods & Sustainability, 9) Green Space & Sustainability, 10) Green Equestrian Games

# Foods & Sustainability Project Team

## Key Elements that Nurture Sustainable Regional Food System

- Diverse and small local farmers
- Kentucky Proud
- Farmers Markets, CSAs
- Food Policy Council
- Cultural/Oral history
- Farm to Fork/Seed to table projects,
- Farm to Table
  - Farm to school
  - **Farm to Faith**
  - Farm to Hospital
  - Farm to restaurant
- K-12, postsecondary education
- Community Research and surveys
- Food Justice
- Bee Keeping
- Seed Exchange, plant exchange
- **Urban Agriculture**
- Rain Barrel/Water conservation
- Natural habitats
- Media support
- Land Conservation easements
- Planning and zoning
- Local Food Processing
- Organizational collaboration

# **Community Food System Conference**

## **Crestwood Christian Church**

Friday and Saturday April 17-18

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- Local Food system
- Farm to Faith
- Farm to School

Saturday April 18

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- Community Garden Workshop



# Faith Speaking Engagements

- Hadassah, Jewish women.....Unitarian
- ...Islamic...Black Church Coalition....Ba'hai
- Presbyterian....Faith and Food

Huge Disconnect with faith and environment  
...faith and food...sustainability...climate change

No green programs...No gardens.....No CSAs  
No food/hunger work....

No inclusion of Songs, prayers, liturgy, scriptures,  
stewardship, outreach, interfaith of food,  
sustainability

Teach a human to fish....to garden

A full moon is visible in the upper left quadrant of the image, set against a dark, starry night sky. Below the moon, a body of water reflects the moon's light, creating a shimmering path that leads towards the bottom center of the frame. The overall scene is serene and nocturnal.

# *Faith Lutheran Church*

*involvements:*

*Interfaith Alliance*

*BUILD*

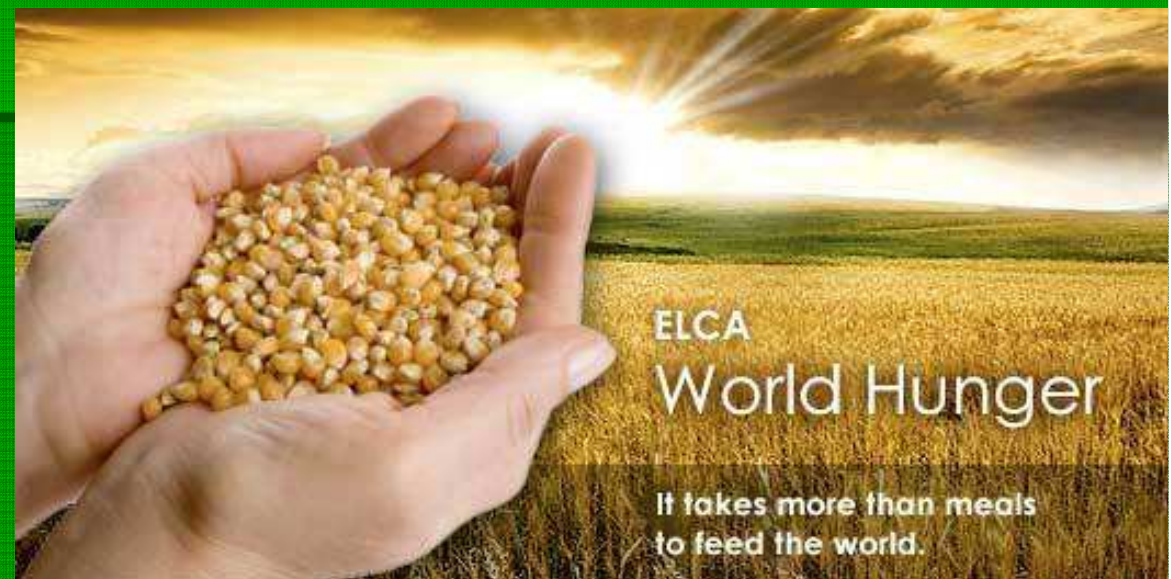
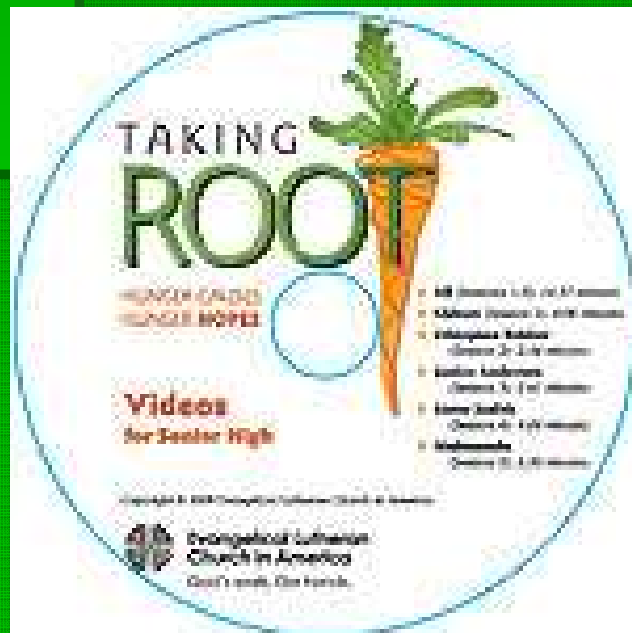
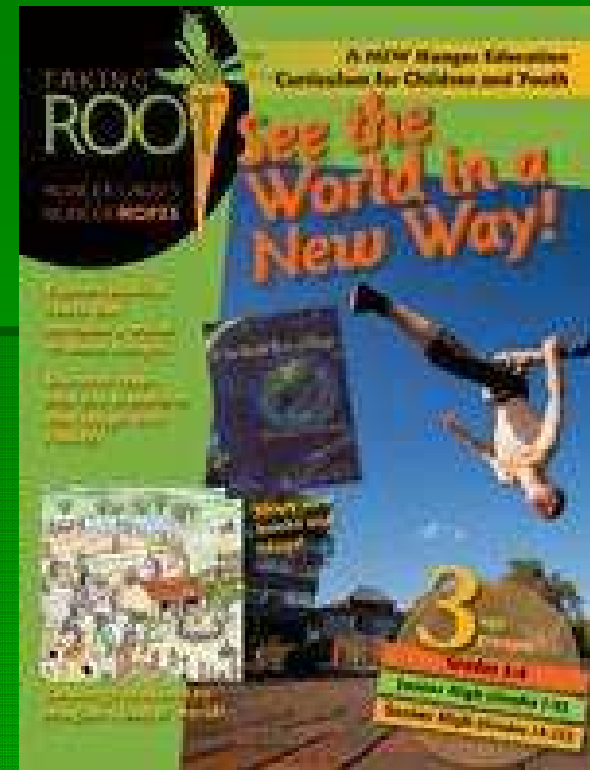
*Fair Trade*

*Habitat For Humanity*

*CROP Hunger Walk*

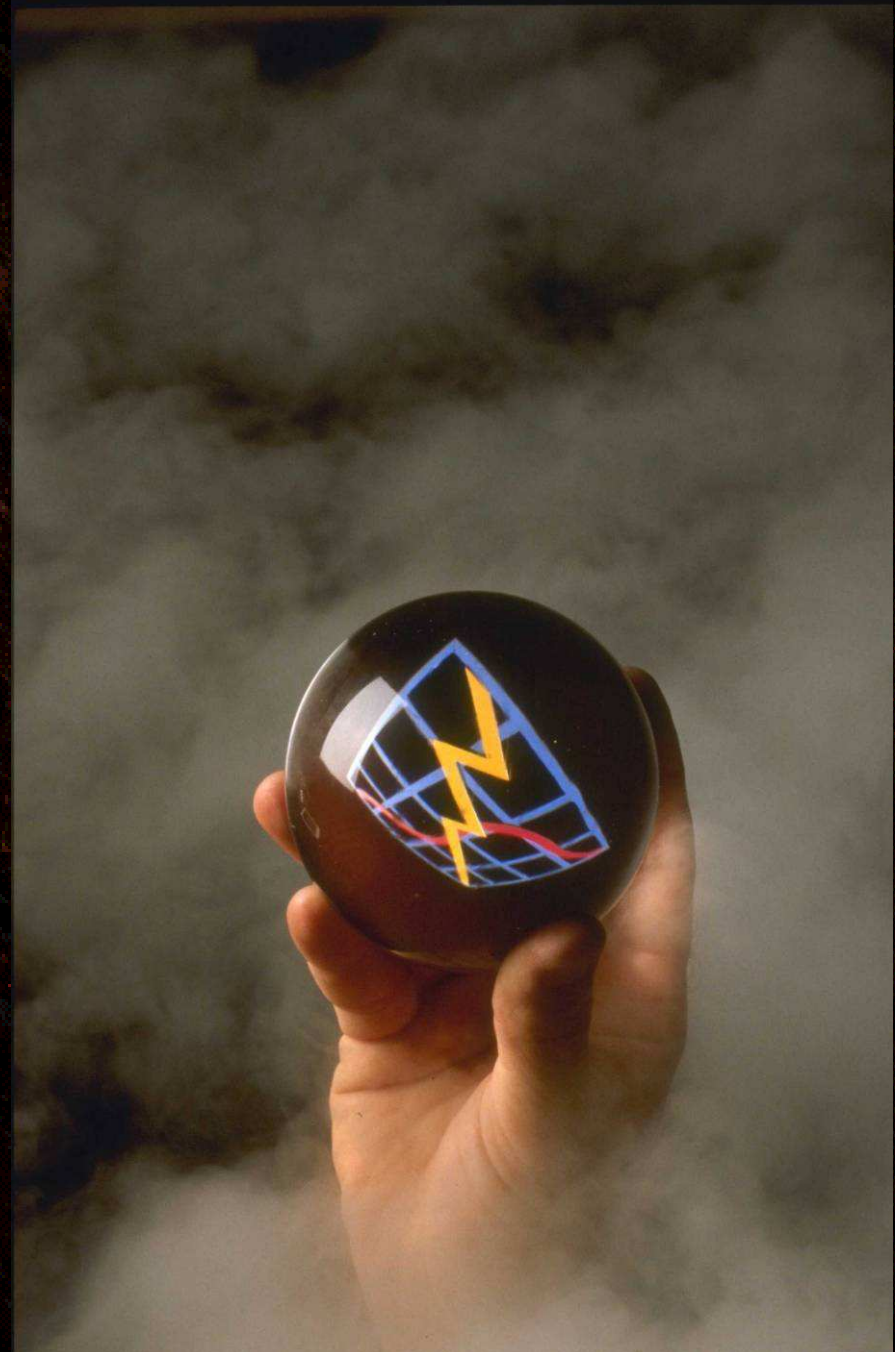
*Dental Clinic*

*Green Team*



We live  
in very  
interesting  
times

We are living at  
a time of  
enormous  
change.





A time in which  
corporations,



Especially  
education!!

Governments, institutions



Faith and civil society

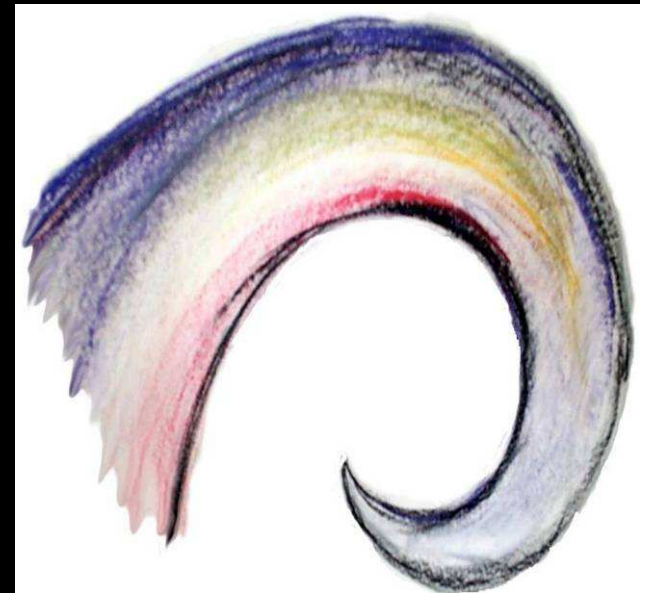


must all reinvent themselves

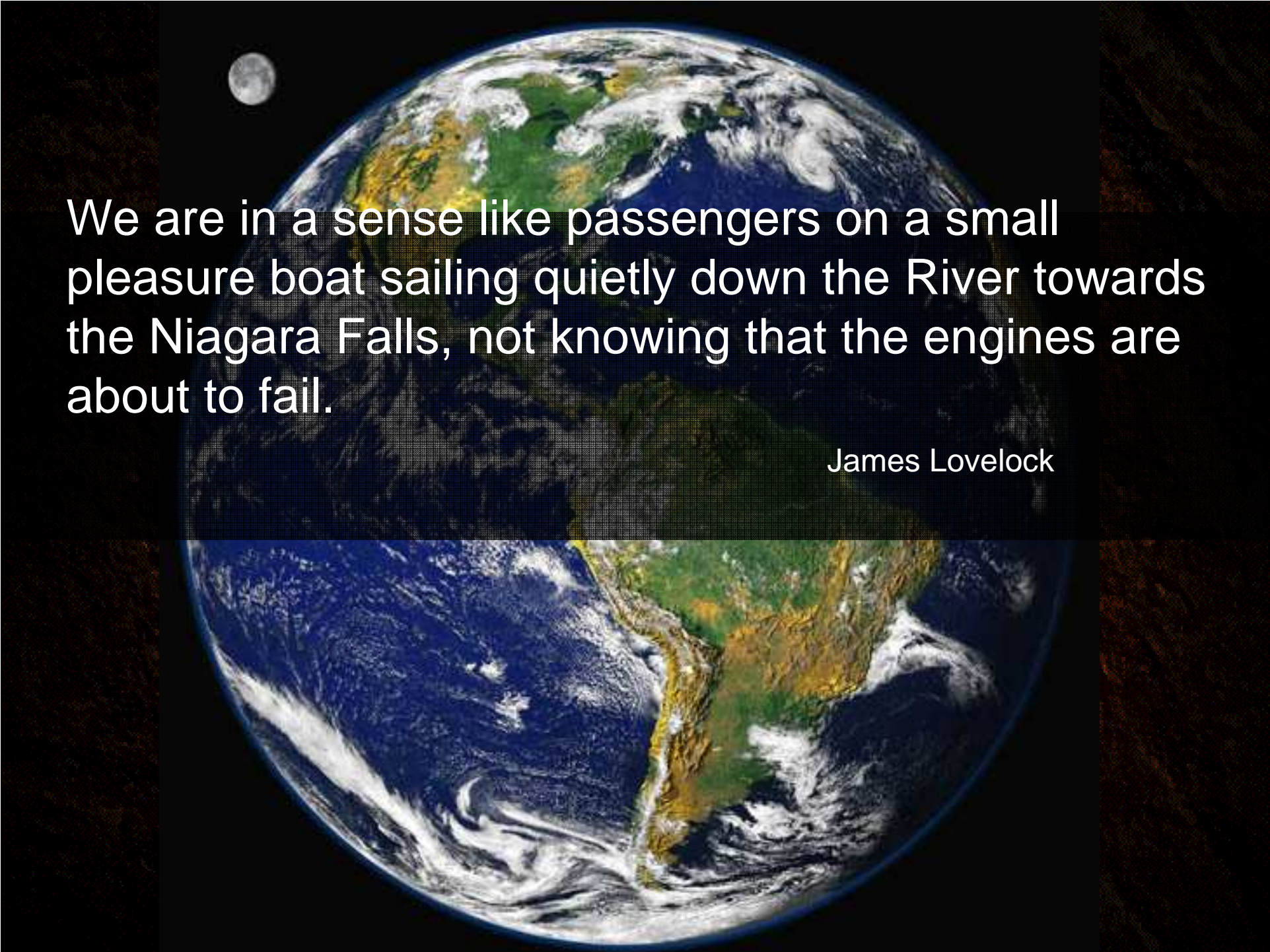
# *The Great Unraveling*

- Financial Meltdown
- Global warming\Climate change
- Environmental degradation
- Peak Oil
- Water depletion
- Increased poverty\inequity
- Increased population
- Unsustainable food systems

Leading to Global TSUNAMI








We are in a sense like passengers on a small pleasure boat sailing quietly down the River towards the Niagara Falls, not knowing that the engines are about to fail.

James Lovelock



Need a  
different world  
view

Need a different story



Our Mother, our home.. Gaia



# Earth Community

*Sacred connections-we are all  
interconnected*

- Human people
- Air people
- Water people
- Rock people
- Plant people
- Animal people

**All our relations**

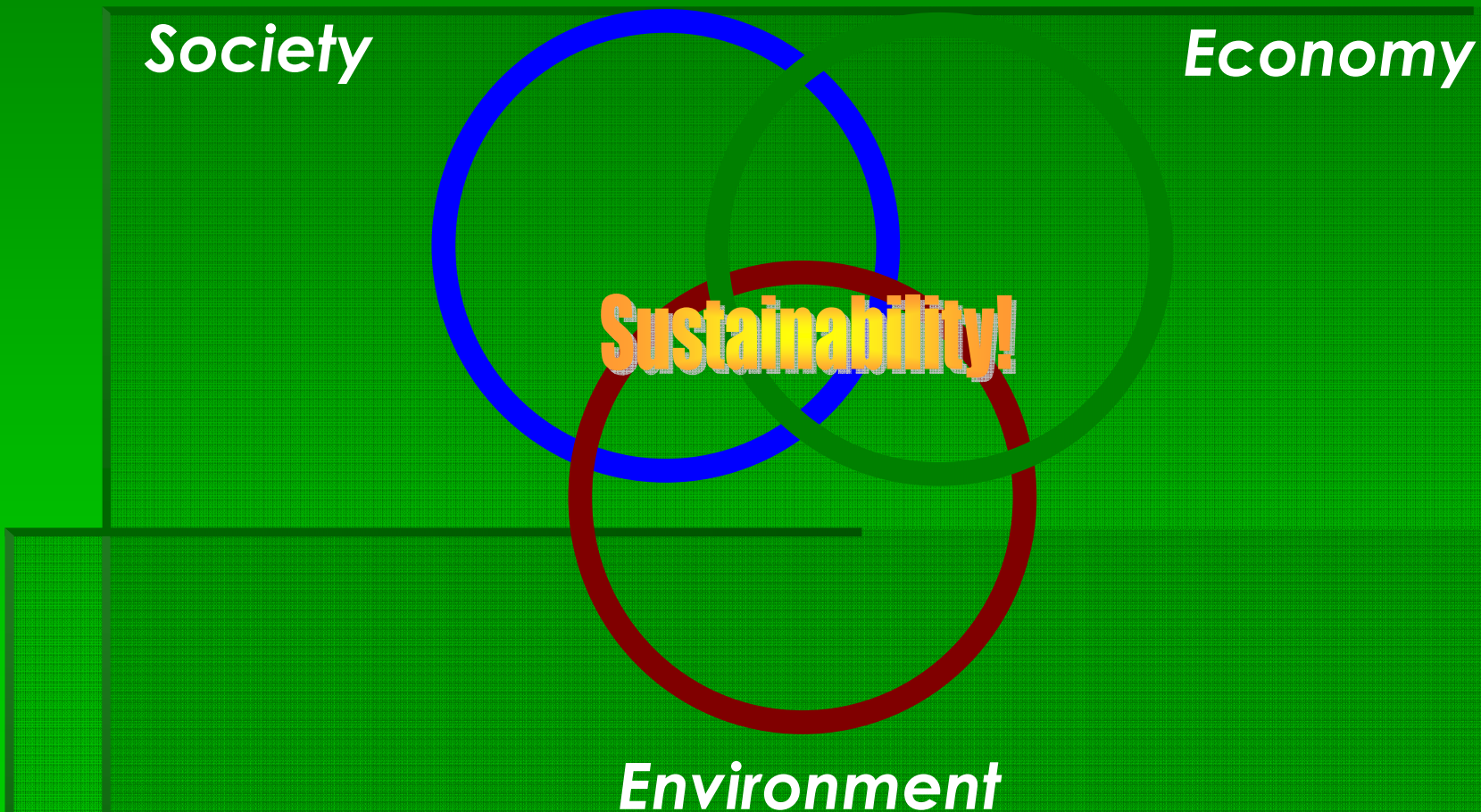


**Our Mother, our home.. Gaia**

We are all stardust exploded out 14 billion years ago  
and now condensed in human form...thus we are all  
divine lights searching for creative expressions

“Food reveals our connection to the earth. Each bite  
contains the life of the sun and the earth. We can  
see and taste the whole universe in a piece of  
bread!..Mindful eating can cultivate seeds of  
compassion and understanding.”

# **Sustainable Development** **...Earth Charter**







# One Planet Living

If everyone in the world lived like an average **North American** we would need **five** planets to live on...



One Planet Living is a global initiative based on 10 principles of sustainability developed by BioRegional and WWF.



[www.oneplanetliving.org](http://www.oneplanetliving.org)



## Ten Principles of One Planet Living

- 1 Zero Carbon
- 2 Zero Waste
- 3 Sustainable Transport
- 4 Local and Sustainable Materials
- 5 Local and Sustainable Food
- 6 Sustainable Water
- 7 Natural Habitats and Wildlife
- 8 Culture and Heritage
- 9 Equity and Fair Trade
- 10 Health and Happiness



# Terra madre®



© Isotta Dardini / Colois



Slow Food®





Slow Food®

Terra Madre

Torino, Italia

October 23 to 27 2008,

8000 people met for the third edition of Terra Madre,

the largest world meeting of food communities: 4803 peasants, breeders, fisher folk and artisan producers

from 1583 food communities in 153 countries,

953 cooks and chefs,

411 lecturers and academics from 225 universities, 2320 observers and escorts and 776 volunteers.

























# **Sam Levin, 15 yrs, USA Delegate**



- *Sam Levin is one of three co-founders, along with Sarah Steadman and Natalie Akers, of Project Sprout, an organic, student-run garden on the grounds of Monument High School in Great Barrington, Mass.*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> yr. Project Sprout:*
- *supplies the school's cafeteria with fresh fruits and vegetables,*
- *helps feed the hungry in the community and*
- *serves as a living laboratory for students of the Monument school system.*

## *Sam Levin*

*“What all of you have started is an unbelievable beginning to a powerful revolution. But I know that all of you are wondering if my generation will be able to continue that revolution, and carry it to the extent of its mission.... I’m here today because I want you to know that we get it. We will be the generation that reunites humankind with the earth.”*

**Monday, October 27, 2008**

# **Food is Sacred**

***Good, Clean, Fair and... Sacred***

- *themes of spirituality and sacredness in food. Moderated by Carlo Petrini, the meeting brought together Enzo Bianchi, prior of the Bose community, and Satish Kumar, a friend and disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. A Hindu monk since the age of 9, he once spent three years walking 15,000 km around Asia to discover “the chemistry of hospitality.”*



# Slow Food... Our philosophy

- We believe that everyone has a fundamental right to pleasure and consequently the responsibility to protect the heritage of food, tradition and culture that make this pleasure possible. Our movement is founded upon this concept of eco-gastronomy – a recognition of the **strong connections between plate and planet.**

Slow Food is **good, clean and fair food**. We believe that the food we eat should taste good; that it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or our health; and that food producers should receive fair compensation for their work.

We consider ourselves **co-producers**, not consumers, because by being informed about how our food is produced and actively supporting those who produce it, we become a part of and a partner in the production process. In accordance with the philosophy of **good, clean and fair,**

- **Wendell Berry..eating is an agricultural act!!**

# Slow Food Domestic Programs

- US Ark of Taste
  - The Slow Food USA Ark of Taste is a catalog of over 200 delicious foods in danger of extinction. By promoting and eating Ark products we help ensure that they remain in production and on our plates.
- Renewing America's Food Traditions
  - Managed by Slow Food USA, RAFT is an alliance of food, farming, environmental and culinary advocates who work to identify, restore and celebrate America's biologically and culturally diverse food traditions through conservation, education, promotion and regional networking.
- Slow Food In Schools
  - Slow Food in Schools teaches youth about the values of eating locally, seasonally and sustainably through hands-on projects. Programs range from collaborating on curricula and after school activities to improving school lunches and school garden programs.
- Slow Food On Campus
  - Slow Food on Campus is a network of Slow Food campus chapters that engages college students around food system and food justice issues. Programs are run by college and university students across the country.
- US Terra Madre Network
  - Terra Madre is a network of over 7,000 food producers, cooks and university educators from 150 countries, including over 1,000 delegates from the U.S. united by a common goal of global sustainability in food.
- US Youth Food Movement
  - Around the world, youth are mobilizing to bring good, clean, and fair food to their communities. The Youth Food Movement is a network of these local projects connected through international communication and exchange.
- US Presidia
  - If unique, traditional and endangered food products can have an economic impact, they can be saved from extinction. This is the simple reasoning behind the Presidia—small, targeted projects to assist groups of artisan producers. [Learn More](#).
- Slow Food Nation

# Changing Footprint by Changing Food Systems

- Half planet's population rural
- 1 billion small-scale farming - little energy or off-farm inputs.
- Pushed off the road by industrial food system into ditch of poverty.

# Industrial agriculture is not sustainable into the future.

Tremendous amounts of fossil fuels (petroleum, diesel, gas) are used in modern farming.

16-20% of all energy used in the U.S. goes for agriculture to produce fertilizers, run combines and tractors, process and transport food.

**In the U.S., food travels 1,500 miles on average from farm to fork.**





## **Monopoly ownership**

**Four corporations control 62%  
of U.S. flour milling.**

**Four pork packers control a  
62% share.**

**Four have 53% control of U.S.  
poultry.**

**Four corporations control 81%  
of the beef market.**

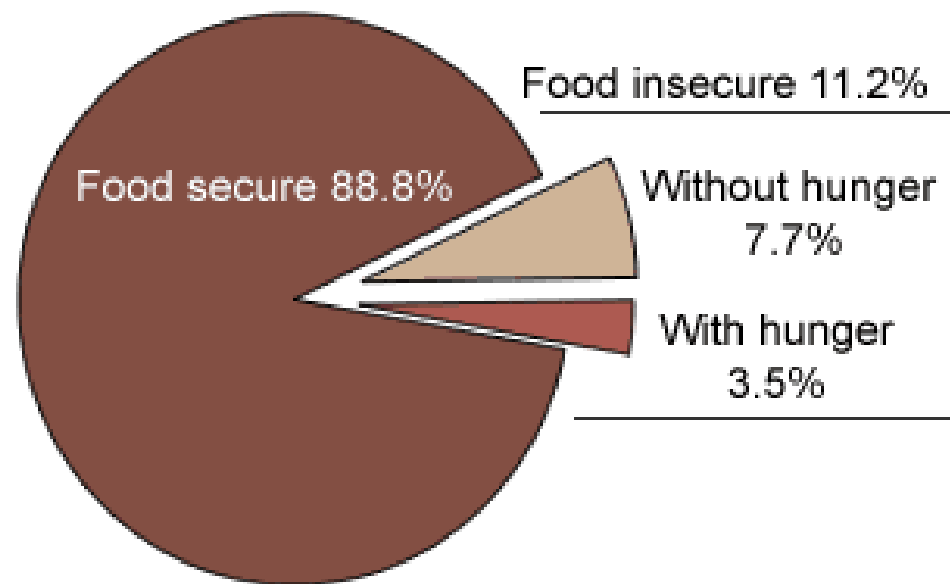
**IN SUMMARY: A “cheap price” in the supermarket is deceptive. The cost fails to reflect:**

- **environmental damage**
- **concentration of power in a small number of agribusinesses**
- **increased food insecurity**
- **damage to rural communities**
- **struggling or bankrupt family farmers and resulting social degeneration**

# A Hungry Nation

38 million Americans are food insecure.

Food security status of U.S. households, 2003



Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the December 2003 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

That is 12  
times the  
population  
of  
Kentucky

# Bad Food and Poor Health

- U.S. is the unhealthiest of industrialized rich nations
  - Life expectancy of 77, lower than Canada's 80
- U.S. medical costs per capita twice European countries
  - Cheap food means expensive medical care
- Two thirds of Americans are overweight or obese
- Food system the main culprit
  - Two major flaws – CAFO meat and Manufactured Foods
  - Two major destructive foods – Corn and Soybeans
- Foolishness vs. Wisdom
  - US spends ~\$2,500 for food and \$5,000 for medical care
  - EU spends ~\$3,500 for food and \$2,500 for medical care



*"The values that dominate ... are designed to promote a level of consumption and greed that will produce the greatest amount of profit and market share. Rather than design a system that will provide food for everyone (which is manifestly possible) and will delight all, the system is designed to produce food that is upscale, convenient, processed, and cheap for the consumers who can afford it."*

*. "We live and eat in a context in which consumption rather than relationship is the key to participation and validation: "The food industry spends billions of dollars each year on advertising and promotion to create an environment that constantly pressures us to consume.*

*" Food becomes an activity of solitude. "Often it is easier to eat alone than face the threat of relating." More fundamentally, "we have abrogated responsibility for each other and, at the most tangible level, responsibility of caring for each other physically and materially. "we are caught ... caught in our **complicity** with unjust global food systems, and in our **perversity**, loving those very things that are not good for us. What's more, we are driven by an underlying cultural belief in scarcity, "thus we think we have to grab the goodies before they are gone." Addressing this complicity and perversity in the*

# Unique aspects of local food systems

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| ■ Food security  | → | ■ Accessibility and affordability  |
| ■ Food proximity | → | ■ Short distances & strengthened relationships between producers and consumers |
| ■ Self-reliance  | → | ■ Community meeting its own food needs & Community economic development        |
| ■ Sustainability | → | ■ Diversified agriculture; Environmental, economical and social sustainability |

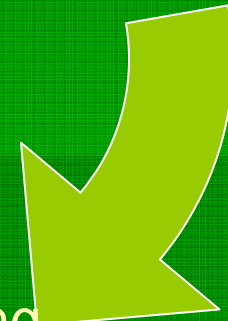
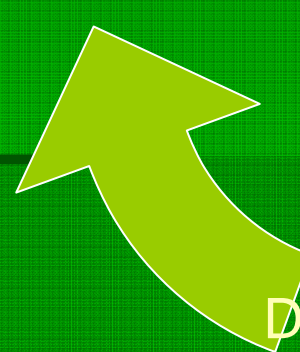
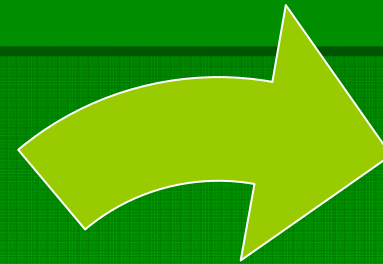
# What is a local or community-based food system?

- Production, processing and consumption tied to a geographic region
- Food policies that promote local food production, processing and consumption
- Widespread access to adequate, affordable and nutritious foods
- Stable base of local, family-owned farms that use sustainable farming practices
- Food and agriculture related businesses that create jobs within community

Local production

Local processing

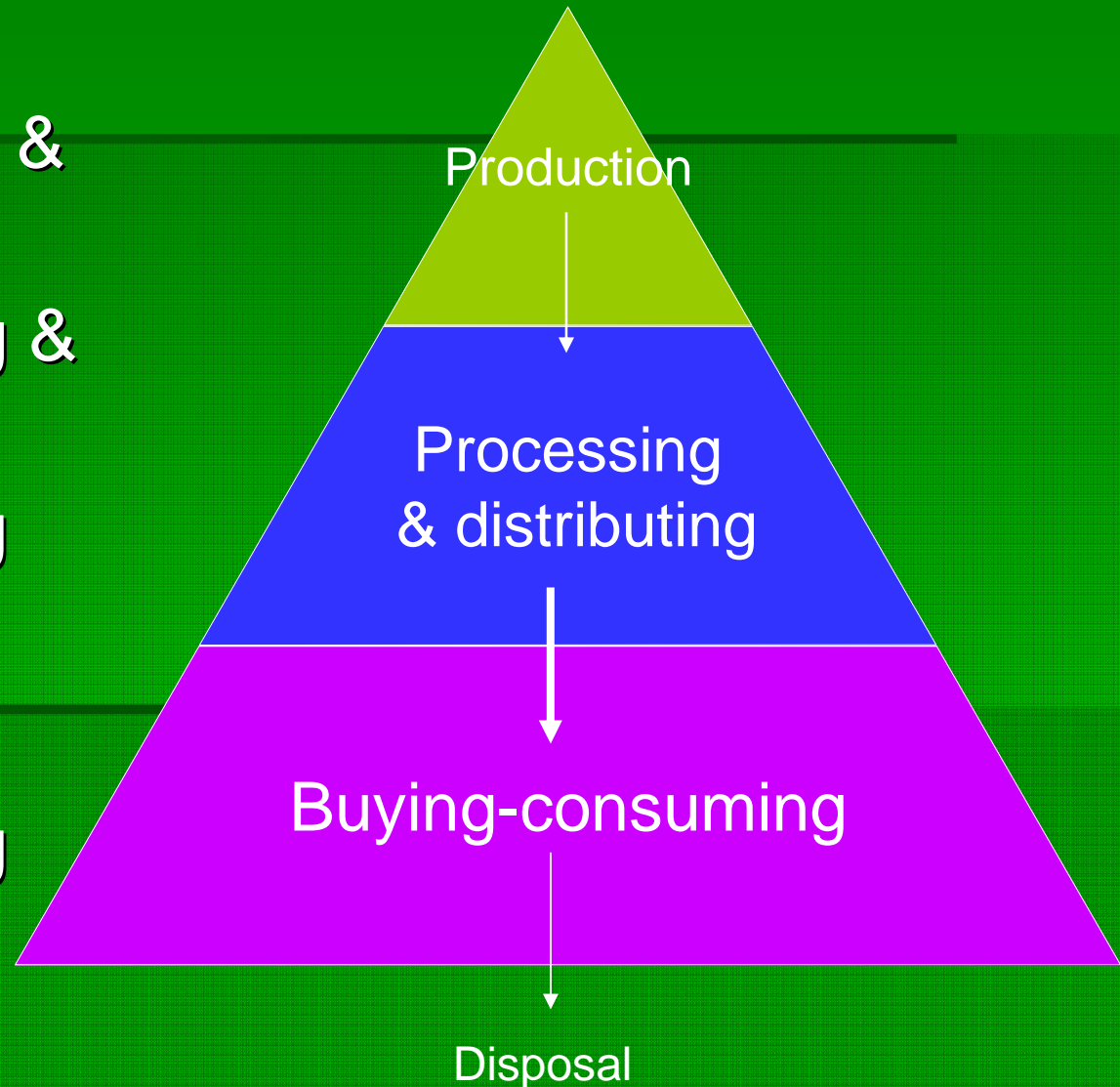
Direct marketing  
& Local Consumption





# What is a “food system”

- Food production & harvesting
- Food processing & packaging
- Food distributing
- Food marketing
- Food buying
- Food consuming
- Food disposal



Individually and collectively...

## Buy locally-grown food from:

- \* Your neighbors
- \* Farmers Markets
- \* Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers
- \* Local produce stands



*And grow your own food*

# Edible Schoolyard-Alice Waters

The Edible Schoolyard, in collaboration with Martin Luther King Junior Middle School, provides urban public school students with a one-acre organic garden and a kitchen classroom. Using food systems as a unifying concept, students learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare nutritious seasonal produce. Experiences in the kitchen and garden foster a better understanding of how the natural world sustains us, and promote the environmental and social well being of our school community.

Began the spring of 1995





# **Growing Power...urban agriculture in Milwaukee and Chicago**

**founder Will Allen awarded  
2008 MacArthur  
Fellowship**

**in Lexington  
April 13-14**



# **Community Food System Conference**

## **Crestwood Christian Church**

- Friday and Saturday April 17-18
  - Local Food system
  - Farm to faith
  - Farm to School
- 
- Saturday April 18
  - Community Garden Workshop

# Children learn Scared Earth Connection

















21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out  
on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment

# LOVE GOD HEAL EARTH



The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham

Evangelical Christian • Episcopal • Baptist • Reform Judaism  
United Methodist • Jewish Renewal • Buddhist • Catholic

## The Ecological Crisis Is a Moral Crisis

Pope John Paul II on  
Environmental Responsibility

compiled and edited  
by Frederick W. Krueger

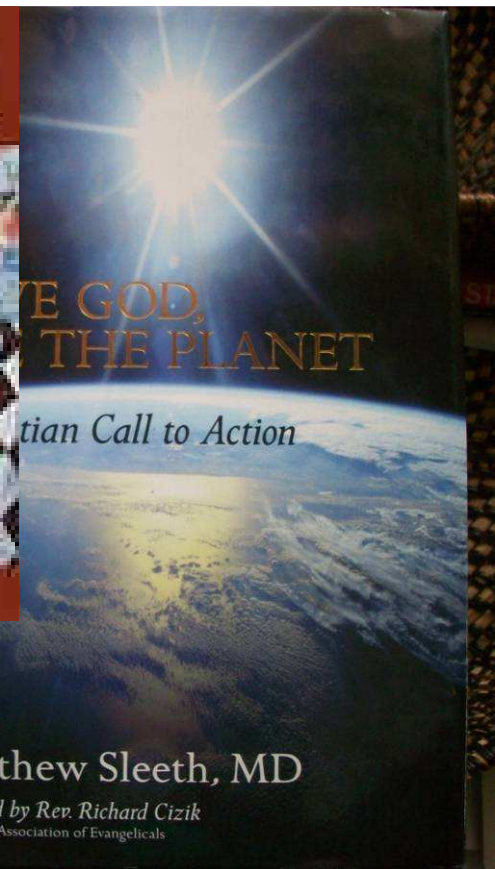


## Food & Life



## LOVE GOD, THE PLANET

tian Call to Action



J. Matthew Sleeth, MD

Foreword by Rev. Richard Cizik  
National Association of Evangelicals

## FINDING GOD IN THE GARDEN

Backyard Reflections on  
Life, Love, and Compost

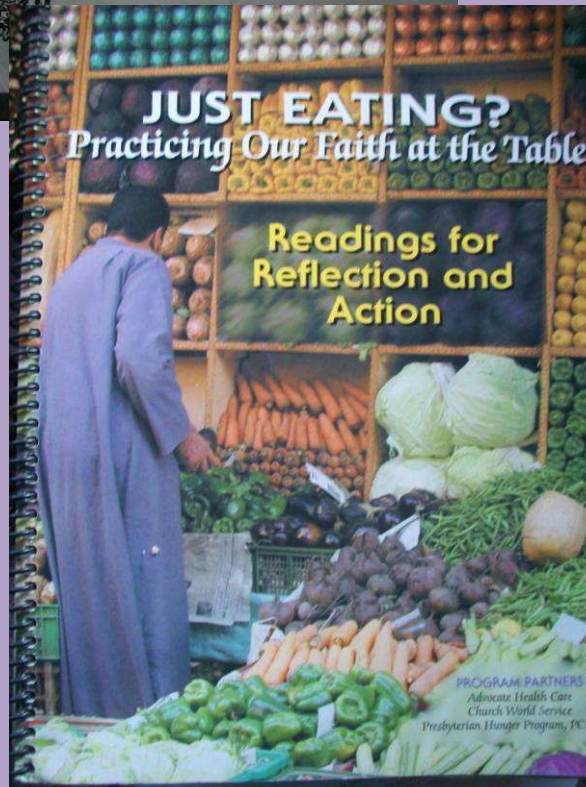


BALFOUR BRICKNER

"It is a great gift to teach people to find God in their daily activities. Rabbi Brickner does that with sensitivity, imagination, and grace." — HAROLD S. KUSHNER, AUTHOR OF

## JUST EATING? Practicing Our Faith at the Table

Readings for  
Reflection and  
Action



PROGRAM PARTNERS  
Advocate Health Care  
Church World Service  
Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA)

***Food for Life: The Spirituality  
and Ethics of Eating*, by  
Shannon Jung. Eating is  
seen as a spiritual practice  
that transforms us and our  
world. living. (Fortress Press  
2004. Cost \$15.00)  
Food and Faith**



# Food And your Faith

Food is sacred..eating spiritual practice

Plant Gardens of Eating

every member

Buy locally

Buy organically

Eat less meat..more fresh fruit veggies

Say no! to GMOs

Become a site for CSA

Plant edible orchard

Build bee hives

Create natural habitats

Support hunger programs

BUILD local food system

Include in Music, Sunday school, liturgy,  
prayers, scripture lessons  
gardening is spiritual work



## Islam

Have you not considered how Allah sets forth a parable of a good word being like a good tree, whose root is firm and whose branches are in heaven?  
Qur'an 14:24



## Christianity

What is the kingdom of God like?... It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.

Jesus, Luke 13:18



## Shintoism

Return the thing given to the human as a gift of nature to its original place.

Ancient Japanese Saying



## Confucianism

Does Heaven say anything? The four seasons pursue their courses, and all things are continually being produced. Does Heaven say anything?

Confucius, Analects 17:19



## Buddhism

Cut down the forest of desire, not the forest of trees.

The Buddha, Dhammapadam 283



## Bahá'í Faith

Know thou that every created thing is a sign of the revelation of God.

Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings 177

## Hinduism

I am the fragrance of the Earth, the heat in fire. I am the life of all that lives.

Lord Krishna, Bhagavad Gita 7:9



## Judaism

When God created the first human beings, God led them around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said: "See my works how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! Think of this, and do not corrupt or destroy My world".

Torah/Jewish Rabbinic 7



## Sikhism

Air is the Guru, Water is the Father and Earth is the Great Mother of All.

Guru Granth Sahib, p. 8



## Native Spirituality

Great Spirit, help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Native American Prayer



## Jainism

Nonviolence is the supreme religion. One who looks on the creatures of the Earth, big and small, as one's own self, comprehends this immense world.

Lord Mahavira



## Zoroastrianism

Who created the waters and the plants? Who yoked the swiftness of the winds and the motion to the clouds? For I beheld Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord) as the primeval source of creation.

Gathas Ushavallii 44:4



## Taoism

In harmony with the Tao, The sky is clear and spacious, The Earth is solid and full, All creatures flourish together...

Lao Tzu, Tao te Ching 36



## Unitarianism

We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Seventh Unitarian Principle

# THE GREEN RULE

Do unto the Earth as you would have it do unto you

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Faith &  
Community  
Project

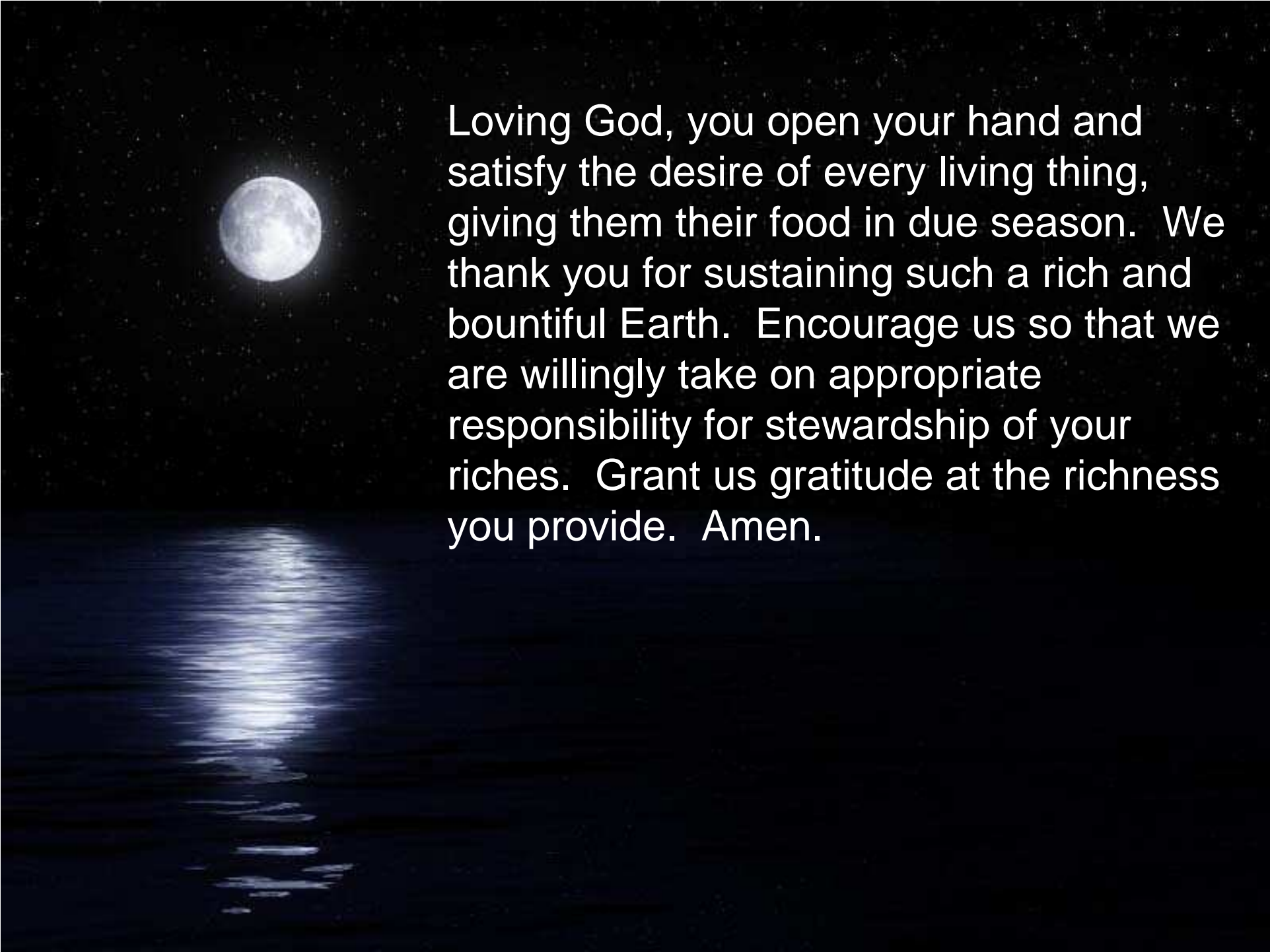
To order poster contact:  
greentreefaith@comcast.net  
www.fair-composting.net



A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, likely belonging to a child, gently cupping a small green seedling. The seedling has several broad, vibrant green leaves and a dark, moist soil ball at its base. The hands are positioned to support the plant from underneath, with fingers visible on the sides. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. The overall tone is hopeful and nurturing.

“The future belongs to those who give the  
next generation reason to hope.”

*-Teilhard de Chardin*

A full moon is visible in the upper left portion of the image, its light reflecting on the surface of a dark body of water below. The background is a deep black night sky with faint stars. The text is positioned on the right side of the image, overlaid on the dark background.

Loving God, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing, giving them their food in due season. We thank you for sustaining such a rich and bountiful Earth. Encourage us so that we are willingly take on appropriate responsibility for stewardship of your riches. Grant us gratitude at the richness you provide. Amen.

