



*Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet:  
Eight Interwoven Strands*

*A 21st Century Vision of Reverence for the Web of Life, Creative Resilience,  
and Compassionate Resistance to the Destruction of the Earth*

...  
Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Joanna Macy, Albert Schweitzer and Arno Gruen  
A Creative Commons Curriculum from [www.EarthCitizens.net](http://www.EarthCitizens.net) and [Companions-in-Blessing.org](http://Companions-in-Blessing.org)

Drawn from everyone, belongs to everyone.

## A Vision of Deep Green Awakening

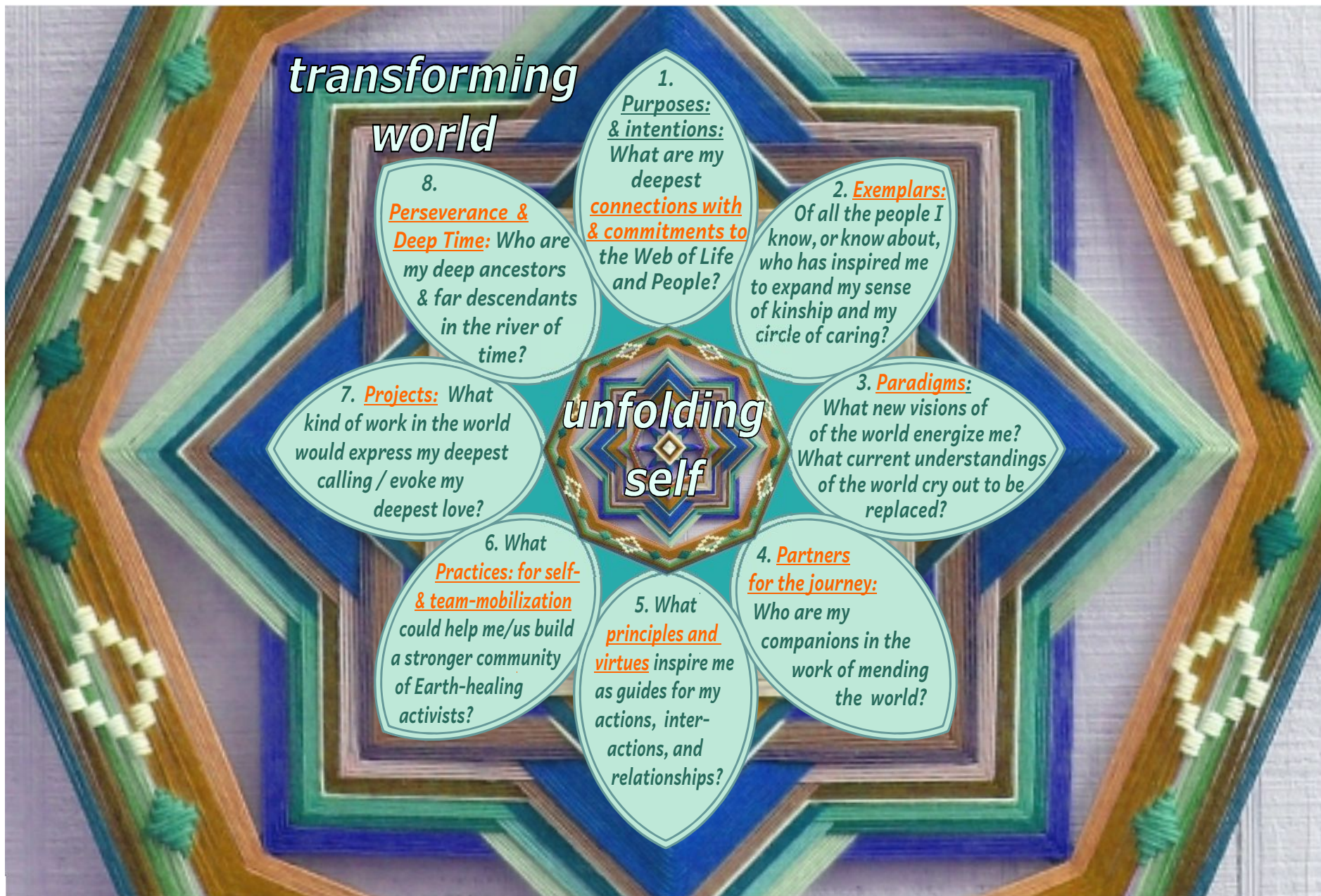
In every age, the crises of the world become the crises of the self, crises of both personal sanity and of community life. The unprecedented outward challenges of our time now include such processes as global warming, extreme racial and economic injustice, perpetual war, nuclear weapons/waste/accidents, and accelerating global species extinction. These outward challenges are also deep inward challenges to our sense of identity and integrity: Will I collude with the oppressive/destructive forces at work on Planet Earth? Will I withdraw from life as a way of coping? Or will I find creative and life-affirming ways to resist, rebuild, and become a kinder and wiser person along the way?



As global mentors such as Einstein, Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and (more recently) Joanna Macy have each expressed in different ways, **our extreme circumstances challenge us** in five powerful ways:

- they challenge us to think much more carefully and creatively,
- they challenge us to develop much deeper personal strengths,
- they challenge us to connect with much deeper spiritual resources,
- they challenge us to build much stronger and more supportive friendships and strengthened by all of the above,
- they challenge us to participate more deeply in the mending of our world.

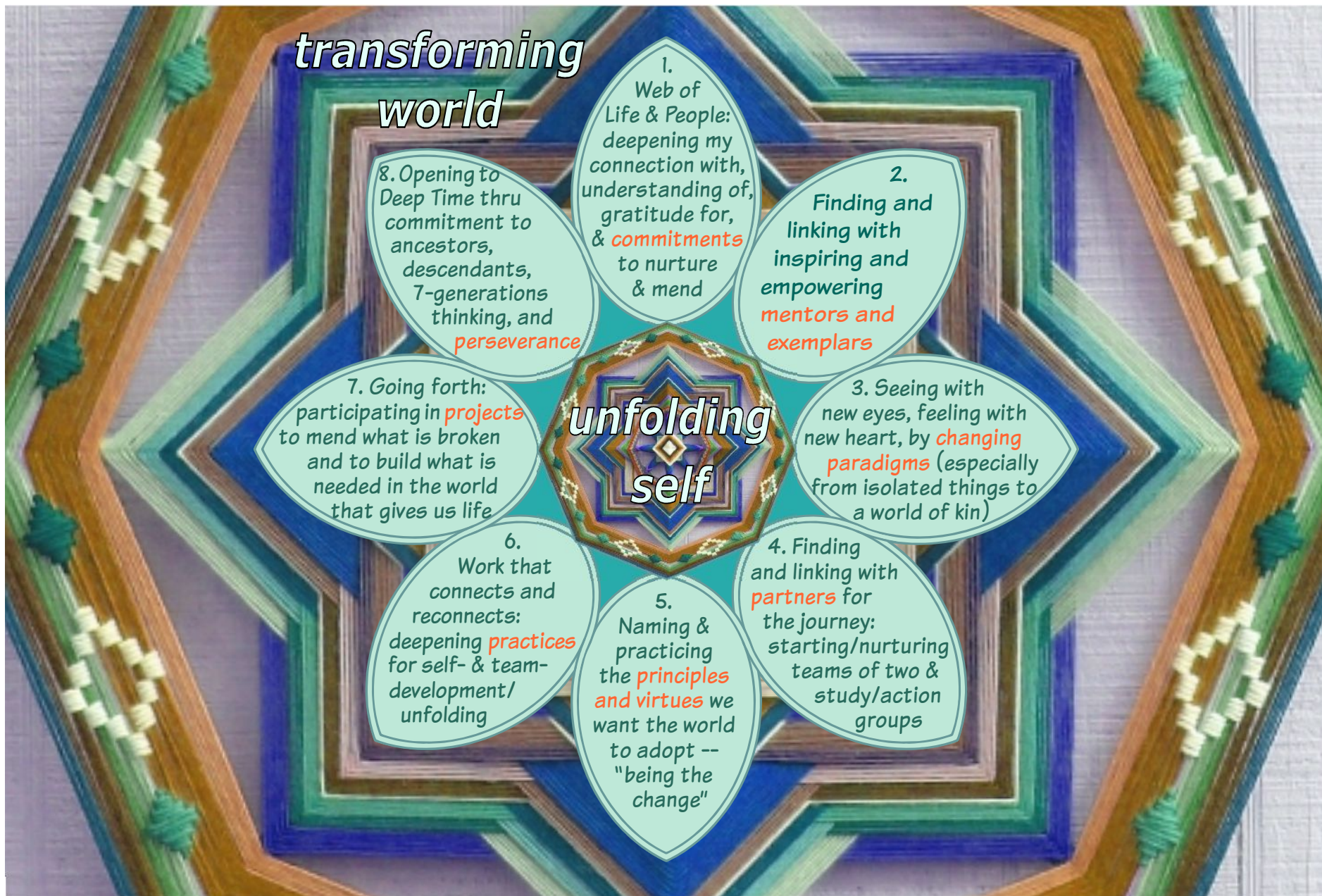
The development of these transformational strengths and friendships is the universal work that the Earth Citizens and Companions-in-Blessing mutual support networks encourage each person to embrace. This is a work we gladly share with many similar movements, from whom we learn and with whom we share through the Creative Commons all that we have learned.



## Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet – Eight Creative Self-Inquiries

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## Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet – Defining the Eight Interwoven Strands

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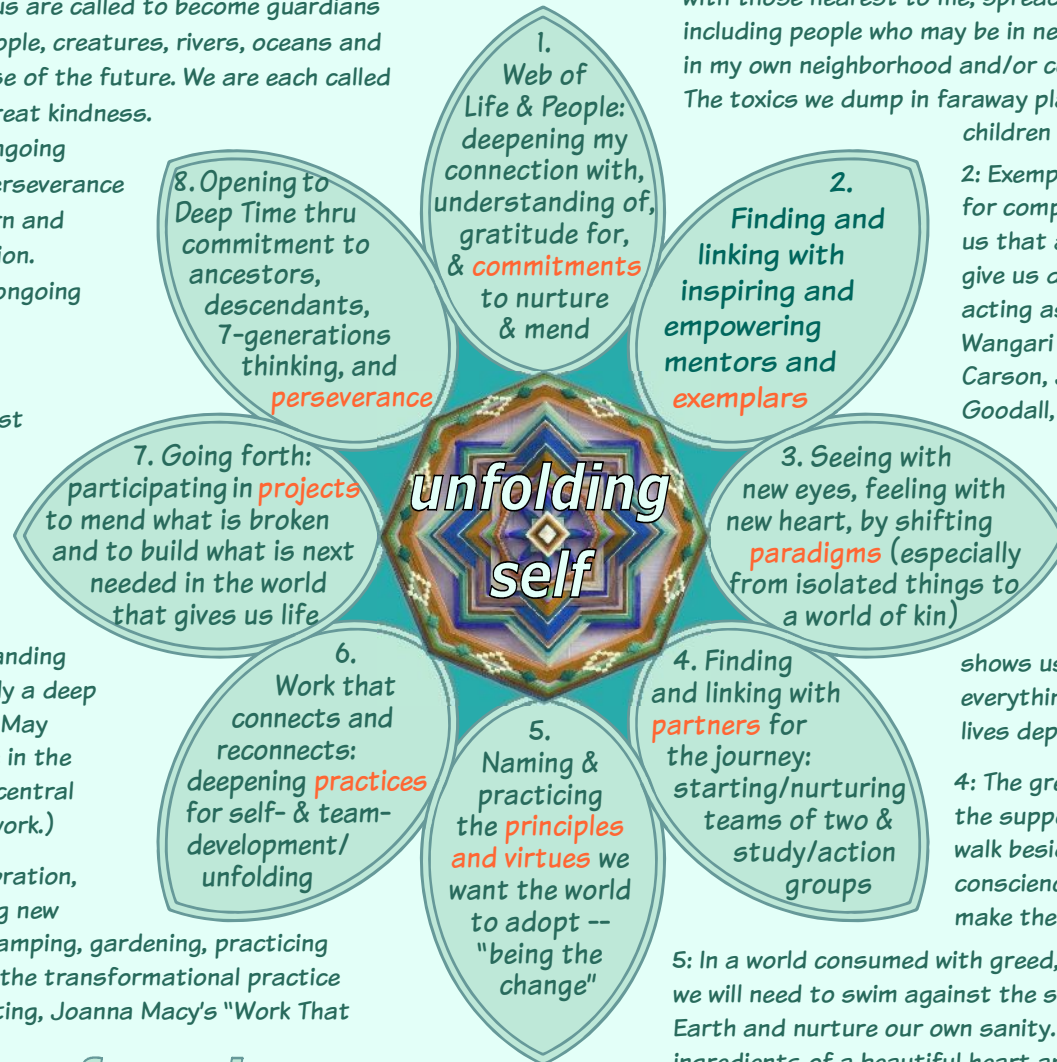
8: *Seven Generations and Deep Time*: In the face of a storm of runaway greed and toxic technologies, all of us are called to become guardians of the integrity of life, for all the people, creatures, rivers, oceans and mountains of today, and for all those of the future. We are each called to greatness through the path of great kindness.

Perseverance of the mind through ongoing study, reflection and exploration. Perseverance of the heart through ongoing concern and cycles of remembrance and celebration. Perseverance of the hands through ongoing building, creating, working.

7: *Choosing a project*: Find or start a project that expresses your deepest calling, connects with your deepest talent, and evokes your deepest love. When working on painful issues (such as nuclear contamination of the Earth, climate change, & the epidemic of police violence), we invite you to explore the understanding that our pain for the world is actually a deep expression of our love for the world. May we all find new strength and courage in the love that is underneath our pain. (a central theme of Joanna Macy's ecological work.)

6: Singing, dancing, meditation, celebration, prayer, affirmation, listening, learning new communication skills, yoga, hiking, camping, gardening, practicing appreciative inquiry, participating in the transformational practice of "Council of All Beings," journal writing, Joanna Macy's "Work That Reconnects," & more.

*transforming  
world*



1: Reverence and respect for the web of life and people, starting with those nearest to me, spreading out in widening circles of kin, including people who may be in need of care or oppressed/mistreated in my own neighborhood and/or country. Ecological cause and effect. The toxics we dump in faraway places will come back to plague our children and grandchildren.

2: Exemplars and mentors who have lived for compassion, justice and ecology show us that a different life is possible. They give us deep permission to live these values, acting as empowering spiritual ancestors: Wangari Maathai, Gandhi, M. L. King, Rachel Carson, Jesus, Buddha, St. Francis, Jane Goodall, Archbishop Romero, and many more.

3: Paradigms are all-encompassing storylines we use to make sense out of life. Industrial civilization thinks of the world as a giant machine with separate & replaceable parts. Careful observation, however, shows us that the world is living system in which everything is interdependently connected. Our lives depend on recognizing & respecting this.

4: The greater the tasks we face, the deeper the support we need to share with those who walk beside us. Find at least one partner-in-conscience, a companion-in-blessing, then make the circle of support larger.

5: In a world consumed with greed, hatred and short-term thinking, we will need to swim against the stream in order to preserve life on Earth and nurture our own sanity. What virtues do you see as the ingredients of a beautiful heart and a sustainable world? Here is my beginning list of 9, drawn largely from Gandhi, King and the Dalai Lama: compassion, courage, creativity, forgiveness, truthfulness, gratitude, nonviolence (the means are the ends), embodiment ("be the change"), emotional aliveness (accepting both joy & sorrow as part of life), responsibility for the consequences of one's actions.

## Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet – Notes and comments on the eight interwoven strands

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