



Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D.

Author • Jungian Analyst • Activist



"One day you finally knew what you had to do, and began!" ~Mary Oliver

"The life of significant soil." ~T.S. Eliot

September 9, 2020

"Assignment," Dandelion Effect, Mary Oliver

Dear Ones,

I am writing to you over the Labor Day weekend, feeling a sense of time warp. The coronavirus pandemic hit California in mid-March, around the first day of Spring. Now it feels like Fall is around the corner. Where did the Summer go? I've been sheltering in place this whole time, engaged virtually with people one-on-one in my office practice, now done from home. I've been doing virtual events that would be impossible to do in person unless I could clone myself. A batch of them is coming up in September. I have been saying, "Yes!" to the many invitations to speak at conferences, in depth webinars and podcasts, all of which are virtual and in this newsletter.

I do this happily because it feels like my "assignment." In this liminal time between "what was," and "what next?" ideas, possibilities, invitations come. I hope that you will take note of what comes your way, and say Yes! if it fits my three point definition of "assignment." Is this meaningful (to you?) "Will this be fun?" It may take time and effort. it may be a challenge, but doing this with people who share your values and vision, or by doing this by yourself—will it be fun (for you?)



Finally, "Is it motivated by love?" In this upcoming election, feelings run strong—anger even outrage may be part of what you feel, but if it is to restore, save, or help what it is that you love and value, then it is "motivated by love."

I'm thinking of those who volunteered for service for love of country and paid with their lives or health in the past. As well as what the first-responders to COVID 19 are

at-risk doing. I am remembering my own experience as a rotating intern at Los Angeles County Hospital and feeling the exhaustion and exhilaration of doing intense frontline hospital work. I was heartened by seeing how numerous women doctors were, and the diversity of the medical staff.

This photo of me is now on my website homepage (jeanbolen.com) because it expresses the energy and joy I have speaking when what I am saying and who I'm speaking to are mutually engaged and I can feel it. This is happening virtually, especially when I see the screen filled with faces in Zoom boxes, and I have linked us all with the vibration and sound of my Tibetan bowl. I saw this photo for the first time, when it was sent out with the invitation to the Myth Salon which coincided with the last day of the Democratic National Convention. Here is the link to participating with me in this past event. ([CLICK HERE](#))

“Dandelion Effect”

Remember the fun of being a kid and blowing on a puffy white dandelion and watching the little seeds each attached to its fluffy sail go take flight?



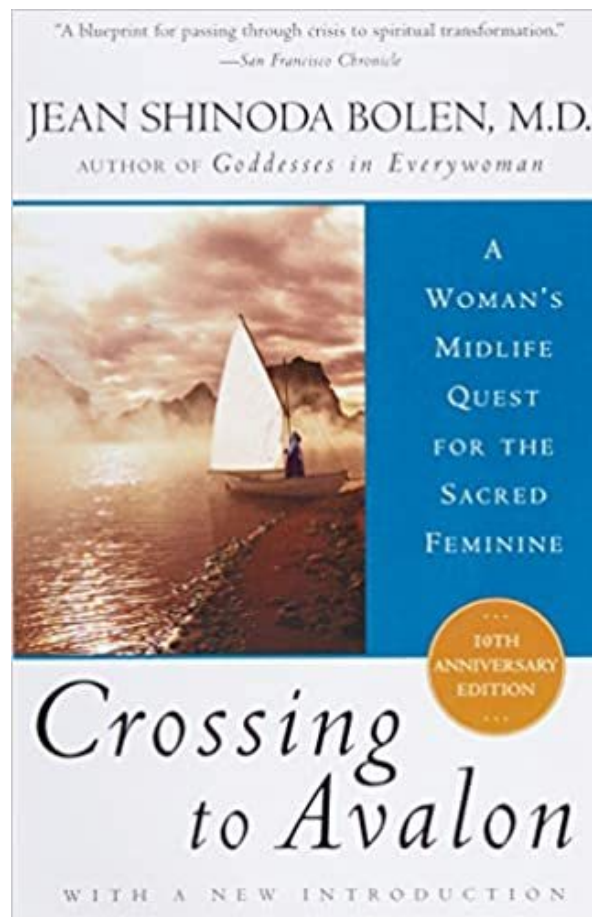
I enjoy doing these virtual events in the same spirit. I think of my voice and words going out into the world, carried far and wide by internet winds, like dandelion seeds. My hope is that some may land on fertile soil—in the mind, heart or soul of a receptive listener. Whenever this happens and a person hears something that feels meant for her or him, synchronicity has played a part in it. It may also be aided by my trust in spontaneity and sense of connection to a virtual audience as I am speaking, and what I may say in response to a question. This is what I was doing in the Myth Salon. ([CLICK HERE](#)) and probably will be doing in these upcoming events.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

I had completed the text of this newsletter when I got an email about an interview with Mary Oliver and followed the link to The On Being Project, ([CLICK HERE](#)) I have given talks emphasizing your “One Wild and Precious Life,” which is a line from Blackwater Woods, defining “wild” as what you came into the world with—your innate talents, archetypes, instincts, like a virgin forest before it is logged. Often it is only in the second half or last third or quarter, that it becomes possible (to use a phrase I often use) “to become who you were meant to be,” It is another way of describing the Jungian concept of Individuation. Linda Merryman a convener of the Millionth Circle sent this link to us while I was working on this newsletter. it includes this wonderful photo of Mary Oliver.



When I wrote *Crossing to Avalon* which is personal and metaphorical, I got permission to use Mary Oliver’s *The Journey* in its entirety, which is reprinted on two pages facing each other in the chapter, “In the Forest: Midlife Landscape”, which opens with a quote from Dante, “In the mid-path of my life, I awoke to find myself in a dark wood.” I echoed these words later in this chapter when I wrote: “In the mid path of my life, I left my marriage and entered a period of being in a dark wood. It took me a while to understand that in this forest I couldn’t climb a tree, get an overview, or see where I was headed and go there. i couldn’t influence the warmth or coldness of the emotional weather, or change the circumstances and people I encountered in the forest. I learned to accept whatever happened, however unexpected or disappointing, and would say to myself, “Whatever is, is.” I gradually accepted that I really was alone here. I learned about living in the immediate present.”



T.S. Eliot “The life of significant soil.”

This is the last line of “The Dry Salvages,” the third of the four quartets. I have several worn and underlined paperback copies of T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets, which I often have taken with me on travels. I was introduced to the Four Quartets at Pomona College along with a page of explanations and definitions of what on earth Eliot was referring to. What engages me to this day are phases and insights that provide words for spiritual moments and intuitive insights. “The life of significant soil.” “/the light is still/At the still point of the turning world.” “The point of intersection of the timeless/ With time,/” There are in the Four Quartets, sections that I go back to that are complex and full of meaning.

UpComing Events

This coming weekend, I’m speaking at two simultaneous virtual conferences in North and South America, both packed with multiple speakers and musicians, over a long, intense weekend. The Shift Summit and Music Festival, from Friday through Monday, (September 18-19-20-21) in North America, and The Guardians of New Time (September 18, 19, 20) organized by Condor Bianco International, a Chilean organization located in an ecological reservation (the website can be read in either

English or Spanish). Then on Monday September 21, I'll be speaking at The Inaugural Launch Event of The General Congress of Women. See the three graphic announcements that follow and click through to their websites for information and registration. All events will be live and virtual.

My participation at these three events—time is in Pacific Time. Shift Summit and Music Festival: Using the TED talk format, short 15 minute talk followed by a panel with several others. (9/19:10:33 am) Condor Bianco Guardians of the New Time, My title for a 40 minute talk, “Coronavirus Pandemic is a Liminal Time of Danger & Opportunity” (9/19: 1:15 pm) The General Congress of Women: (9/21: 9 am -10:30 am) an hour and a half circle discussion, a model of women gathering, sharing, and solving problems.

THE TMShift Summit & MUSIC FESTIVAL

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KRISTIN HOFFMANN • STEVEN HALPERN • ALICE DIMICELE • STELLAMARA
ELIJAH RAY • SHAMANS DREAM • FRANKO HEKKE • YUVAL RON

special appearances by

MICHAEL FRANTI • RISING APPALACHIA
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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE PROGRAM

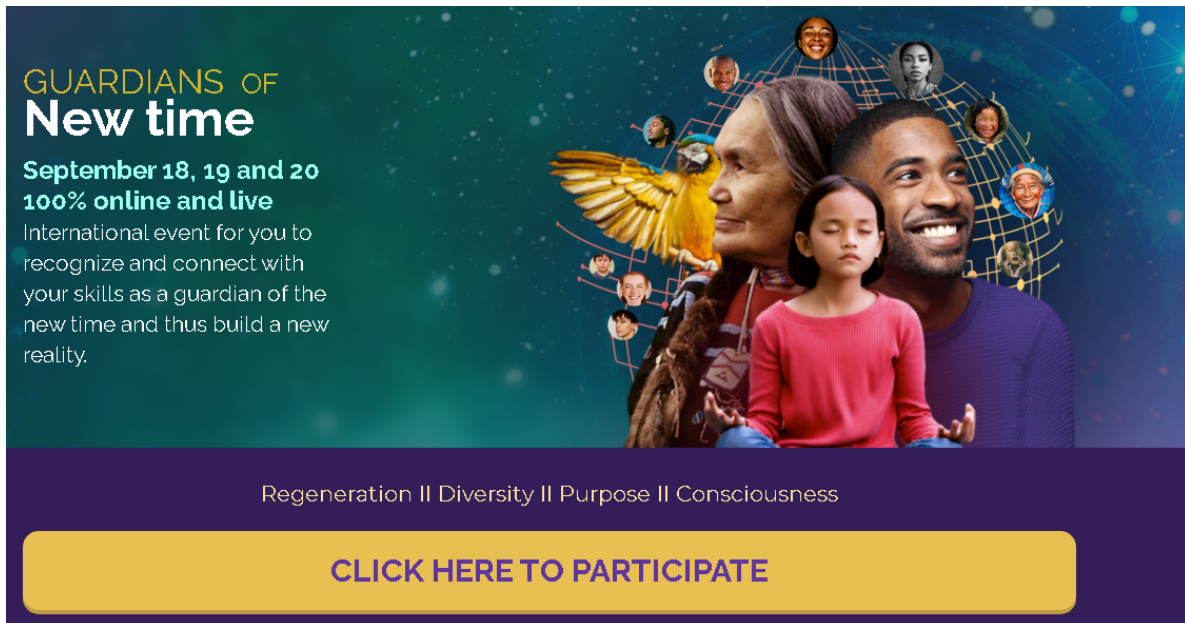
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The banner features a central image of a family (a man, a woman, and a young girl) in a meditative pose. A yellow parrot is perched on the man's shoulder. Surrounding them is a network of lines connecting various faces of diverse people. The background is a dark, starry space. Text on the left reads: "GUARDIANS of New time", "September 18, 19 and 20", "100% online and live", and "International event for you to recognize and connect with your skills as a guardian of the new time and thus build a new reality." At the bottom, a purple bar contains the text "Regeneration II Diversity II Purpose II Consciousness" and a yellow button with the text "CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE".

GUARDIANS of New time

September 18, 19 and 20
100% online and live

International event for you to recognize and connect with your skills as a guardian of the new time and thus build a new reality.

Regeneration II Diversity II Purpose II Consciousness

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE](#)

Condor Bianco Guardians of the New Time

One of the biggest fears people have today is about the future. Will things change? Are people going to change? Will we have resources? Could it be that indifference is going to end? Will things continue in the same way or worse? Could things get worse as they are today? How will the future be?

We do not know if you think like that, but some people at this very moment feel insecure with fear and are not really believing in a future, for the current moment in the world and in practice this interferes with our daily life leaving us incredulous and preventing us from let's create a new reality.

Our invitation is for you to be part of the guardians of the new time movement!

The Inaugural Launch Event

International Day of Peace

September 21st 9:00 - 10:30 AM PST

An interactive exploration into how we organize for resilient
and mutually supportive solutions

with a 30 minute open conversation to follow



Dr. Riane Eisler



Dr. Pam Rajput



Clare DuBois



**Jean
Shinoda Bolen, MD.**



**Grandmother Flordemayo
via prerecording**



Dr. Karambu Ringera

Registration is required www.SARAH4Hope.org

[CLICK HERE](#)

Please forward this email to your circle and friends. To sign up for Jean's Newsletter and view past newsletters: ([CLICK HERE](#))

With love, hope, perseverance, trust and gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean Shinoda Bolen" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

<http://www.jeanshinodabolen.com/>

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Newsletter designed by Rick Gildroy
list managed by Computer Services Helena MT (406.443.7630)

This email was sent by: Jean Shinoda Bolen MD
PO Box 1085, HELENA MT 59624
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