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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 13, 2020

JEAN'S NEWSLETTER "Assignment," Dandelion Effect, Mary Oliver was not sent to all subscribers due to a technical error from the email server. We will be re-sending to the list this evening. If you received the newsletter twice we apologize for the extra email in your inbox. *Rick Gildroy* list manager for the Jean Shinoda Bolen M.D. mail list.

p.s. from Jean

Living as I do in the San Francisco Bay Area, we here so far been spared seeing the out-of-control wildfires that are happening elsewhere in California, major ones north and south of us. The air quality is considered unhealthy, the sky is opaque, thick with fine ash. A few days ago it was an intense dulled-reddish orange all day, which could be a movie backdrop for the Apocalypse or Mars. Meanwhile the pandemic continues, with 200,000 deaths within a matter of days.

I sign off on my newsletters, **"With love, hope, perseverance, trust and gratitude"** These words ring true for me—optimism and **perseverance** go together especially for people in the helping professions, first responders, researchers seeking cures, healers who know it is not just about healing the body but also about healing soul and spirit, and at this time — firefighters. **Love** and **hope** contribute to long-run optimism, that we are not done yet . . . And that the path of life is like a labyrinth, such as those I have walked--in San Francisco at Grace Cathedral and Pacific Medical Center, and at Chartres Cathedral in France. The journey to the center of meaning, means encounters with u-turns which are not dead-ends unless we give up, this calls upon **Trust** that it matters what we do with this life we have. **Gratitude** will be a stretch for many in the midst of loss and deprivation, but to acknowledge small kindnesses, to realize that there are others who are suffering more, and to be glad for what we did have--and when the air

clears to see the moon and stars and feel awe at the beauty of the universe, and believe that there will be new green life growing among the ruins.

With love, hope, perseverance, trust and gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Shinoda Bolen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

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