

# SYNERGY REPORT

**We are - all in this together!**

*Doing together what can't be done as well alone*

## A worthy, practical action anyone can do Core Solutions To Deep Social Problems

How often are social actions aimed at solving symptomatic problems, while the deeper root problem continues to get worse? One root often overlooked is the deeply ingrained sense of separateness between all parties involved. Anchored in the norm of separation, people will “duke it out,” or as peacemakers, do what they can to relieve suffering. But nothing gets solved.

If you missed the Feb 6th retreat, I invite you to view the eleven-minute video I put together that points to the love-based power of connection as a way of approaching many (not all) of today’s social, economic and environmental problems. In some way, we can all do this. Results may take awhile, but focusing on a core solution to a root problem is eminently practical.

So, request this DVD and transcript from me at [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com), and show it to the members of your organization. Discuss the points it makes, and query yourself and your organization on how you can better act to move divisive encounters from separation to connection. It makes for a meaningful program, and fits nicely into such topics as personal and cultural identity, movement building, systemic change, change-agent activism, love-based connections and visions of a hopeful future. This is “*the largest social movement in human history*,” said Lynn Twist, co-founder of the Pachamama Alliance.

As for the retreat itself, we modeled connection work by interacting with one another in several ways; sharing who we are and what we do, sharing stories of connection, and engaging in conversations that held heart and meaning.

A typical response? “[*The retreat*] recharged my batteries,” said **Joe Schwartzberg**, one of the founders of MAP.

Sook Holdridge  
Retiring Editor: Synergy Report and  
Internal Communications

### Leadership Team News

We took care of many details. **Bob Nechal** is assuming membership registrations; **Gail Hughes** will be the new editor of the Synergy Report; and **Larry Johnson** is MAP’s “External Communications Director.”

### Committee Reports

On April 12th, **Martha Roberts** will be soliciting volunteers for the various committees important to MAP operations: the Nominating, Celebration, and Annual Meeting committees are three of them. There may also be a proposal to revive the Long Range Strategic Planning (LRSP) committee. And, two new organization applicants will be considered for MAP membership: **Jewish Voices for Peace**, and **MN350**.

### An Alliance Action

The Council gave its approval for a committee to approach St. Louis Park city officials to encourage them to adopt being a “Compassionate City.” Think what might happen if all 25 metro cities did that? Contact Louisa Hext to learn about this campaign.

[louisa@consultantshext.com](mailto:louisa@consultantshext.com)

A final thought

## Boldly Stating Who We Are

Cable’s **Channel 28** has a meme slogan it airs repeatedly: “**We ARE - Fox Sports North!**” It is boldly stated to convince viewers that **Channel 28 delivers the best in sports!** What would a MAP “**We Are**” identity slogan look like that would get people excited about supporting one another in **collectively** serving to make this world a better place?

“**We Are - Human Beings Caring!**”

“**We Are - Peacemakers!**”

[Perhaps you can think of a better meme]

This is not saying MAP’s 72 member organizations have a corner on peacemaking. **Anyone** exercising genuine empa-

thetic, compassionate action for the common good is engaged in peacemaking. A meme can create and strengthen that identity.

The meme should affirm our sense of oneness with the other, the inherent wholeness of all life, and inspire a desire to join others in making a positive difference.

The larger vision is seeing all life’s **connectedness** is real; that “**we are - all in this together!**” I believe it is this consciousness that will foster peace, and ensure the well-being of all life.

Sook Holdridge

“A world of peace is a high enough goal that it requires everyone & everyone’s gifts.”  
-Stephen Dinan

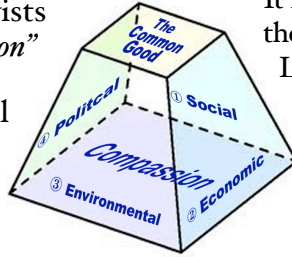


## Stopping the plutocratic corruption of elections

What if America had an election and governing system in which every voice is heard and every vote counts equally—a democracy that works for all of us? We can, if we build it.

A vast and diverse network of community activists are forming **“Democracy Spring”**—an *“invasion”* of Capitol Hill from April 2 - 16 to march and conduct mass actions and sit-ins. And there will be many local solidarity actions for those who can't make the DC trip. MAP members can connect with and be leaders of these actions. One example: the **Move To Amend** initiative.

In support of Democracy Spring, you can take the pledge at [equalvoiceforallpledge.org/pledge](http://equalvoiceforallpledge.org/pledge), where the yeas and nays are being posted for all to see.



## The Synergy Report's New Editor

I want to thank all of you for the privilege of serving as editor of the Synergy Report since its inception 2 1/2 years ago.

It is my pleasure now to introduce you to the next editor, **Gail Hughes**, MAP Leadership Team member and President of Citizens for Global Solutions-MN. As a sought after speaker, writer, peacemaker and professor at the U. of MN, the Synergy Report is in good hands.  
Congratulations Gail.

From this point on, submit your synergy thoughts to Gail at [hugheo38@umn.edu](mailto:hugheo38@umn.edu)

## An Empowering Alliance

Every member of the Alliance has a voice in determining the Alliance's direction and actions. To participate...

- Create and engage in open space conversations.
- Do committee work.
- Speak out at meetings.
- Critique our process.
- Email suggestions to [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com).



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Meade*



**Hearts  
sharing compassion**

## Wayne Wittman—a champion for peace and justice Union, Peace, Community Activist Passes On

Our community has been fortunate to have among us a man with unequivocal passion and commitment for the causes of justice and peace. Not only has MAP been graced by Wayne's presence and dedication; wherever injustice reared its ugly head, Wayne was there to oppose it.



In 2014, at the Vets for Peace National Convention, Wayne won the Howard Zinn VFP Lifetime Achievement Award.

And, 23 annual bus trips to Georgia to protest the SOA!—now that's dedication!

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman paid tribute to Wayne, as did Shar Knutson, past president of the state AFL-CIO. She said,

*“He was one of my favorite people. He had a beautiful soul. He cared about everybody.”* Amen Shar.

Rest in peace, Wayne. We will miss you.

Note... You can print this newsletter at [MAPM.org](http://MAPM.org) (home page)

### Your Leadership Team

**Adele Hansen:** [hanse002@unmade](mailto:hanse002@unmade) 952-927-6035 — Secretary for Council and Leadership Team meetings

**Mary Faulkner:** [rfofmplsmn@aol.com](mailto:rfofmplsmn@aol.com) 612-823-5524 — Treasurer and members' dues and current status

**Sook Holdridge:** [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com) 952-922-7311 — Internal communications, Editor: Synergy Report, MAP's Data Base

**Larry Johnson:** [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com) 612-747-3904 — External Communications Director, Liaison to Plymouth Church

**Bob Nechal:** [fnvwbob@gmail.com](mailto:fnvwbob@gmail.com) 651-917-0383 — New Member Applications

**Gail Hughes:** [hugheo38@umn.edu](mailto:hugheo38@umn.edu) 612-379-7414 — New Editor: Synergy Report (starting with June-July issue)

**Martha Roberts:** [martrobe44@aol.com](mailto:martrobe44@aol.com) 612-554-7009 — Membership Relations and Updates

**Burt Berlowe:** [bberlowe@gmail.com](mailto:bberlowe@gmail.com) 612-722-1504 — Alternate member

**Shared Duties:** Spokesperson for MAP, Convener of Delegate Council meetings, and Convener of open space time

### Additional leadership volunteer:

**Madeline Simon:** [madeline-mpls@msn.com](mailto:madeline-mpls@msn.com) 952-854-2976 — MAPM Websites, Event Postings and Member Lists