

Dear Friends,

A word to the accompanying offering: *From the Peace Maker to Ben Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friend Rudolf Steiner to YOU / We the People.*

First and foremost, the "offering" is just that – not a "talk", "lecture", or even "presentation", by a scholar or expert in any field, but an offering – an aspiring labor of love.

The offering has arisen out of my life, itself. I grew up with Emerson (and company) as my neighbors in Concord. When my children were young, I bound homemade copies of Franklin's "Art of Virtue" and, through my own aspiring practice, "journeyed" with old Ben over the decades.

I was led by Iroquois friends and a returning eagle to the birthplace of the Peace Maker and the spot on the shores of the great lake from whence this Native Parzival figure set off in his stone canoe to bring his message of peace to the warring nations on our continent – establishing, thereby, what was to become the Iroquois Confederation, which Franklin took due note of.

And, I can well imagine that these foregoing "passages" led me, in turn, to trace Rudolf Steiner's steps from his birthplace and early village homes in the former Austrian-Hungarian empire, through the stations of his life – Vienna, Weimar, Oberwiederstedt, Berlin, Essen, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Eckwalden, Munich, Nuremberg, Prague, Rome, Boden See, Paris, London, Tintagel, Stockholm, Zurich, Basle, Arlesheim . . . , Dornach – to his "parting" in a modest, wooden atelier in the illumined shadow of the Goetheanum, where this friend, Friend of Humanity lay back and closed his own eyes.

*The following is offered by a friend to friends, those whom such "passages" may concern. The opening words (@ 45 minutes) are just that. They are meant to but set the tone and stage for your offerings, in return – toward, I trust, our experience, together, of what Ben meant by inscribing the words "E Pluribus Unum"/"Out of Many – One" * . . . , toward our experience of the reason why We the People do meet.*

*Con-corde,
Stuart-Sinclair Weeks*

*P.S. The format can be an evening and the following day or an entire weekend. The number of participants, please note, is not essential. I would ask that the offering be free of any admission "charge", people being invited to contribute after our time together and on the basis of their experience. From my side, it would be helpful, but not essential, if my expenses were at least covered – that is, if there were individuals who felt moved to guarantee the travel costs, to be paid down by whatever contributions may subsequently come in. Finally, and most importantly, the offering is explicitly offered **not** simply to fellow members of the Anthroposophical Society, but to the larger community, our encompassing circle of friends and fellow Americans. Bridges there are to be built.*

**From the *Peace Maker* through *Ben Franklin*,
Ralph Waldo Emerson, and *Rudolf Steiner* –**

to

**Y O U
WE THE PEOPLE**

An Offering for Members & Friends & Fellow Americans

*** *Followed by Conversation* ***

Stuart-Sinclair Weeks
Founder of the Center for American Studies, Concord, MA

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The Three Twin Principles of the Peace Maker, Father of the Iroquois Confederation:

*Health-Peace
Righteousness-Justice
Spiritual Power-Authority*

"Only a virtuous person is capable of freedom." – Ben Franklin

"When reason is stimulated to more earnest vision, outlines and surfaces become transparent and are no longer seen. Causes and spirits are seen through them."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

*I want with cosmic spirit
To enthuse each human being
That a flame they may become
And fiery will unfold
The essence of their being.*

*The other ones, they strive
To take from cosmic waters
What will extinguish flames
And pour paralysis
Into all inner being.*

*O joy, when human being's flame
Is blazing, even when at rest.
O bitter pain, when the human thing
Is put in bonds, when it wants to stir.*
– Rudolf Steiner

*If 'We the People' should indeed prove an entity, a corporate being,
what power that incorporation might one day represent.*

– Catherine Drinker Bowen

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Stuart-Sinclair Weeks: Brief Bio Sketch

President John Adams stated that the great grandfathers study war, so the grandfathers can study politics, so the fathers can study business, so the sons (and daughters) can study . . . ?

Stuart's great-grandfather was the Secretary of War in the cabinets of Harding and Coolidge; his grandfather was a US Senator and Secretary of Commerce under Eisenhower; his father has been a business leader. Stuart has directed his creative energies into the *cultural* sector as a writer, columnist, and founder of The Center for American Studies in Concord, MA.

In this capacity, Stuart has directed programs for wide range of audiences, including over 500 international leaders from 68 nations, introducing them to American culture through the window of Concord. He is the author of the column, *Uncommon Sense* and the book, *The Lord of Cat Bow*. In 2002, Stuart initiated the publication of Ralph Waldo Emerson's complete masterwork *The Natural History of the Intellect*, and is drawing to conclusion the following books (a triple-trilogy plus), which, together, would contribute to the larger "story" of our time. The titles are spelled out in the trust that others share an interest in, and have contributed to, the themes noted. *The thoughts of one and all are most welcome*. The "chapters", too, are Offerings.

- ^ My Angel in Baggy Overalls: The *Self* Auto-Biography of a Young Man
- ^ Anthroposophy: A Wisdom of Man
- ^ Common Cents: Toward the Redemption of Our Financial System & Restoration of Our Common-Wealth
- ^ A Science of Life; Thoreau's Qualitative Science
- ^ The Inner Art of Computing: A Loving Call to Arms-Hearts & Minds – A Manual for Users, Non-Users, and Abusers
- ^ The Compassion Play
- ^ Rules for Radicals: Revisited (And for All Human Beings)
- ^ It's Hard Raising Parents: Heart-to-Heart
- ^ Testaments to a God-Son
- ^ The Gospels of America: A Journey of Peace
- ^ A Friend
- ^ The Art of Virtue: The Revelation of Ben Franklin's Masterwork
- ^ Death unto Life: Testaments to Reincarnation – An Offering
- ^ North American / South African Passages
- ^ Concord: Treasure Hunt — To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected