President’s Corner

By Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD

Annual Event 2022: “Teilhard, Einstein, and the Meaning of Time”

On May 21, 2022, members of the American Teilhard Association as well as many of our partners and friends spent time celebrating the life and work of Jesuit paleontologist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. A recording of the event can be found here.

In his keynote, John Haught engaged insights from his latest book, God after Einstein. Although Teilhard and Einstein were scientists who considered themselves religious persons, their ideas on religion differed in many ways. To highlight these differences, Haught imagined a conversation between them, one that would have been interesting had it actually taken place.

As these two giants exchanged ideas about topics such as faith, God, time, the meaning of life, and happiness, the dissonance between them became clear. Einstein’s rejection of the reality of time and his focus on infinity kept him from seeing the religious power of his theory of General Relativity. Teilhard on the other hand would ask us to notice instead that our cosmos is a world still awakening to the Divine, to freedom, to resurrection, to “realities that grasp us much more than we grasp them.”

The keynote was followed by a panel of recent Teilhard scholars, Celia Ashton, Joshua Canzona, Catherine Amy Kropp, and Libby Osgood, and Andrew Del Rossi who shared Teilhard’s influence on their lives and work. Remarks from this inspiring discussion are found on p.2.
Celia: In Teilhard I find a fellow traveler and a companion who delights in the wonder and beauty of Creation and who allowed himself to be absorbed by the God who courses through every blade of grass, glides on the back of every soaring bird, dances in each sparkling ray of light, bursts forth in every blossoming flower, and enlivens all matter, even the most inanimate object, with spirit. Like Teilhard, I want to harness for God the energies of love and to become love at the heart of the universe through grace and participation in the divine life.

Josh: In my work with conflict resolution, I often use the following definition of conflict as a grounded and practical instrument. “Conflict is a perceived divergence of interest, a belief that the parties’ current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously.” But there are words here that provide opportunity for movement, words that are optimistic, that give one hope in a conflict situation, whether it’s immense or small. And, in these situations, Teilhard has become the great prophet of movement toward unity. Conflict transformation is optimistic. It looks toward creative synthesis, and, for that reason, each time I begin a workshop or a mediation with parties, I think of Teilhard.

Libby: I approached Teilhard as a spiritual seeker with scientific training. I love that he unabashedly crosses disciplines and speaks from an internal deep place of knowing, imagining, and wondering. As an engineer, I approach this corpus with a critical eye, weighing the parts I love and the parts that make me cringe, the parts that inspire deep spiritual vibes and the parts that bring me instantly to an ecstatic state of prayer. Teilhard offers some deep truths that linger as well as a hope for the future. As a professor of engineering, I have learned from Teilhard to lean into the fear of being rejected by my fellow faculty, to research more than widgets, and to look beyond the walls of the engineering building for inspiration. As both scientist and religious, Teilhard gives me permission to realize my calling to religious life and to allow my love for science to influence my spirituality.

Andrew: Joseph Campbell writes that “The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure that you seek.” It is only by embracing the whole of human experience in that way, which inevitably extends you beyond your individual experience, that you find that treasure. When I engage with other Teilhardians, when I engage with other humans who can speak of the tapestry of human experience, something gives flesh to the concepts and sparks my mind. In that lived human experience, the active engagement, doing the work, entering into the dark spaces, I move beyond a sense of being to a sense of loving and eventually to a sense of adoration where we’re doing this together communally. Today has just been a wonderful testament to that.

Catherine Amy: My walk with Teilhard has become the basis for my ministry and my sense of becoming. It has led me to become, almost without knowing it, a practitioner of Teilhard’s work. Sometimes my spiritual experience runs deeper and broader than the church can in its present form express. In that deep sense of yearning and reaching, in that sacramental worldview, I find Teilhard guiding me into the future, showing me how we might gather and worship. Yet I also trust in the slow work of God.
The American Teilhard Association is excited to announce a new series, “The American Teilhard Association Podcast,” which features interviews and conversations that explore the life and work of Pierre Teilhard Chardin. The series is hosted by Andrew Del Rossi, ThD.

Available in video and audio on YouTube and audio on Spotify, episodes present guests of Teilhardian influence from a variety of fields of expertise and experience. Through our conversations, we hope to gain a fuller understanding of Teilhard’s vision of a world aware of the Divine in its midst.

The first episode features Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD. Kathy is a Sister of St. Joseph and Professor Emerita at Chestnut Hill College. She is the Director of the Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College and is the president of the American Teilhard Association.

The ATA Podcast is grateful to Daylesford Abbey for its support in making this episode possible. Daylesford Abbey is a Norbertine Community and features a retreat center on 90 beautiful acres of wooded Pennsylvania countryside. For more information visit: daylesford.org

Listen on Spotify!

Past Lectures

On December 2, 2021, Dr. Joshua Canzona offered a rich presentation co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College and the American Teilhard Association. Dr. Canzona treated the hybrid audience, in-person and on Zoom, to his work on Teilhard, Muhammad Iqbal, and Artificial Intelligence. The presentation was followed by breakout group discussion and an engaging Q&A session.

Video available on YouTube.
The Deeptime Network: Inspired by Teilhard

By Jennifer Morgan, Founder and President, DTN, ATA Board Member

Teilhard Lineage

Over the last century, a new cosmology has emerged, one in which the universe is not static. Rather it had a beginning and has been transforming ever since. The human, in this model, emerged out of, and is part of, the universe, not radically separated from the rest of the universe. The implications of this new cosmology for human identity, the Human-Earth-Cosmos relationship, and the creation of a flourishing future are huge.

Inspired by the work of Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Maria Montessori, Lynn Margulis, and numerous others, I wrote a Universe Story Trilogy for children: Born With a Bang, From Lava to Life, and Mammals Who Morph.

Very quickly the books began to be used at the elementary level, particularly in Montessori schools that use Cosmic Education Curriculum. This led to training teachers and presenting at education conferences. Simultaneously I became immersed in a Big History lineage that was developing at the college level, and a Gaia Systems Theory lineage started by scholars such as Lynn Margulis, Fritjof Capra, Ilya Prigogine, and others.

I noticed that these lineages were operating in bubbles, often not knowing about each other. Many in the Teilhard/Berry lineage didn’t know that in the 1940s Maria Montessori had already developed a Cosmic Education curriculum that placed all education at the elementary level within the Great Story of the Cosmos. Montessorians didn’t know about the work of Berry and Big History. I felt there was a need to design a place where the various lineages could intersect; hence the Deeptime Network was founded.

Deeptime Network Community (dtnetwork.org)

The Deeptime Network (dtnetwork.org) was founded in 2013 to offer courses and share resources, but particularly to build a community in which everyone is source and where connecting and collaborating mirrors the way the universe itself evolves through new partnerships.

We’re teachers, academics, artists, preachers, composers, people from all walks of life, on all continents, who yearn to understand the universe as a primary context and to connect and collaborate with people of like minds. Perhaps you saw the movie “Journey of the Universe,” teach Big History or Montessori Cosmic Education; or you’re captivated with Gaia systems Theory, or you’re using the lens of the cosmic story to address urgent crises such as energy or agriculture; or you’re recontextualizing human identity and purpose inside an evolving universe; or you’re a musician, artist, or dancer focused on cosmology . . . whatever your path, an evolving universe is your context!

Deeptime Leadership & Personal Empowerment Program

Whether you’re a student, activist, educator, artist, therapist, politician, spiritual leader or more, you’re a leader giving birth to a new culture in which humans come into a mutually beneficial relationship with the Earth and each other. Seeing your place and role inside deeptime, thinking long term with the whole in mind, and working with the creative powers all around and within us are key for this pivotal evolutionary moment.

Deeptime Leadership starts with a perspective of the deep past, the deep future, and the deep present. It engages with others and Earth’s living systems. It evolves Earth toward a flourishing future. And, it embraces risk and develops Deeptime Leadership Capabilities—including perspective, self-awareness & growth, deeptime attitudes, and activating others in deeptime.

Three Modules

The nine-month program, with the next one starting on Sept. 21, 2022, is comprised of three modules:

1) Introduction to the New Cosmology, 2) Applying the New Cosmology, and 3) Deeptime Leadership Practicum.

Teachers in the upcoming Program include Stephan Martin, Brian Swimme, Margie Abbott, Cliff Berrien, Matthew Fox, Duane and Colleen Elgin, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Jennifer Morgan, Orla Hazra, and many others.

Power of Following Allurements in Community

In the program currently underway, we’ve seen the power of community as incubator where participants explore their passions, deepen understanding, and synergize with others in applying the New Cosmology in life and putting it into action in the world.

Around the world, students are working on projects such as developing curriculum around the deeptime story of Lake Mun-go Australia, Ecozoic Real Food for Kids, DEI for the Ecozoic, Scaling humor and Clowning as Transformative Superpowers, Organic Agriculture in the Philippines, Ecozoic Wisdom Circles, Our Common Story course, sharing about Laudato Si, Emergent Dialogue, Giving Voice to water on Long Island, expanding the Franciscan spiritual tradition inside of deeptime, and many more.

Click here for more information about the Deeptime Leadership and Personal Empowerment program.
By Darden Dickson

The moon glistened from behind the alder trees
As they moved in the wind. And when the moonlight
Passed through the window into my eyes
It was as though my soul was filled with your love.

The alder trees and their branches
Seemed to break the moon into parts.
If I had not seen the moon in its fullness
I might have believed that it came in pieces
Like the physicist in looking at the atom
Sees only parts.
The physicist who has a knowledge of the parts
Must see the broken curves of the object he is looking at
And infer that there is something more,
Something that the trees and branches of his knowledge
May be keeping from him.

It is good to be by myself at this moment.
You are more than just in my thoughts;
You are part of my very being.
I am closer to nature now.
I feel one with the flowers,
One with everything green.
It is as though I were a part of everything.

What trees and branches are there that break up the sky;
That make me think that the moon, the planets and the stars
Are just bright spherical fragments
Whirling through space?
What hollow, spherical moon is this?
Filled with planets and stars and galaxies
With nothing in between,
Or is it just that it cannot be seen
Except by my mind
Or felt
Except by my heart.

You knew me inside before you met me.
I didn’t tell you.
How did you know?
Unless we are in the womb of the hollow, spherical moon.

Why I Left My Job at NASA to Become a Nun

“Though I was never discouraged from talking about religion at work or school, no one else ever did, so neither did I. When we worked around the clock in the final months before the launch of the satellite in 2008, none of the other engineers asked for time off on Sundays to attend church, so I never did either. My self-imposed censorship meant I sacrificed sleep in order to find a service during my few hours off. During my final semester as a Ph.D. student, I had to justify why I was not presenting at the student research conference—a prerequisite to graduation. I was too embarrassed to say that I was going on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, so I mumbled, “It’s a religious thing.” Religion was such a taboo topic in the department that the issue was dropped without another word.”

Click here for the article
originally featured in America

In The Womb of the Hollow, Spherical Moon

About the Author

Darden Dickson has had a varied career as an electronics/ engineering technician. At Biotronex Laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland, he worked on the manufacture and design of blood-flow transducers. In Washington State, he worked on high-end ultrasound systems for the detection of blood-flow, and test systems for devices used in stroke therapy and in the detection of epilepsy seizures.
Book Reviews

God after Einstein: What’s Really Going On In The Universe

In his latest book, God after Einstein: What’s Really Going on in the Universe, John Haught theologizes on the significance of Einstein’s theory of General Relativity to our understanding of cosmic becoming. For Haught, the universe is clearly a temporal drama of awakening where engagement in the not-yet of the cosmic story is central to its meaning. Yet even though his discovery has clearly heightened awareness of this ongoing story, some scientists including Einstein himself consider time as an allusion. Their addiction to materialism and to the idea of eternity prevents them from seeing the power of this cosmic drama. For Haught, on the other hand, perceiving our journey through time as an unfinished story provides a constructive and hopeful way to view the future.

The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God

For those pondering the future of religious life, The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God: An Emerging Chapter for Religious Life: Science, Theology, and Mission by Laurie Brink, OP provides a creative and hope-filled framework for reflection. Encouraged by the growing acceptance of the new cosmology based on Teilhard’s synthesis of science and religion, Laurie has engaged in a major survey of religious women from many congregations and from all age groups regarding their understanding and acceptance of the new paradigm. After sharing her findings, she provides a useful framework for those considering how the new cosmology might impact our understanding of formation, the vows, and mission. This book, which is accompanied by several pages of reflection and discussion questions, is a must-read for those seeking new forms of religious life consistent with contemporary understandings of cosmology and evolution.
Articles and Publications

Seeing God in the Grains of Sand: Teilhard’s Theology for Today
by Rasoul Sorkhabi, PhD

Rasoul Sorkhabi’s article, “Seeing God in the Grains of Sand: Teilhard de Chardin’s Theology for Today” is featured in the current issue of Light of Consciousness: Journal of Spiritual Awakening. In Teilhard’s faith, the material world is not a profane place to be detested but it is immersed in the Spirit of God or Christ and it has been evolving toward higher planes of being.

Note for clarity: Teilhard’s military enlistment was with the Moroccan Rifle Division in the European, not African, theater.

Beatrice Bruteau on Marshall McLuhan and Walter Ong’s Thought
by Thomas J. Farrell, featured in New Explorations: Studies in Culture & Communication

In my 10,100-word commentary “Beatrice Bruteau (1979) on Marshall McLuhan (1964), and Walter J. Ong’s Thought,” I highlight the life and work of (1) the American mystic philosopher and Catholic convert Beatrice Bruteau (1930-2014; Ph.D. in philosophy, Fordham University, 1954) up to 1979; (2) the Canadian Renaissance specialist and media theorist and Catholic convert Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980; Ph.D. in English, Cambridge University, 1943) up to 1964; and (3) the American Jesuit Renaissance specialist and media theorist and orthodox Catholic priest Walter J. Ong (1912-2003; Ph.D. in English, Harvard University, 1955). Specifically, I focus most notably on Dr. Bruteau’s perceptive and lucid discussion of Marshall McLuhan’s 1964 book Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man (McGraw-Hill) in her 1979 philosophical book The Psychic Grid: How We Create the World We Know (Quest Books/Theosophical Publishing House). My style in the present essay tends to be associative, which, at times, may even seem digressive. Yes, though the substance of what I say here is scholarly, not personal, my associative style here bears a family resemblance to Molly Bloom’s associative style in her soliloquy at the end of James Joyce’s famous experimental novel Ulysses (1922). Yes, my associative style here tends to be “Additive [and paratactic] rather than subordinate” to use one of Ong’s (1982, p. 37) characterizations of orally based thought and expression. - Thomas J. Farrell
Articles and Publications

Teilhard’s Catholicity:
An Evolution of Consciousness
by Andrew Del Rossi, ThD

Andrew Del Rossi, ATA Board member, recently published an article in a special edition of the journal *Religions*, edited by Ilia Delio. The article uses the four marks of the Catholic Church—one, holy, universal, and apostolic—to highlight the catholicity, or universality, of Teilhard’s life and vision and its relevance for seekers who probe for God’s presence in all things.

[Article available here.](#)

Los Ejercicios Espirituales con Teilhard de Chardin,
by Fr Agustín Udías Vallina, PhD, SJ

Los Ejercicios Espirituales con Teilhard de Chardin was published recently by *Sal Terrae*, Manresa collection. This book is a collection of texts selected from the writings of Father Teilhard de Chardin that give us a new vision of the traditional meditations of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a vision based on the presence of Christ in the universe in its cosmic dimension.

[Available via Amazon.](#)

La Misa Sobre El Mundo (video)
by Dr. Juan V. Fernández de la Gala

Dr. Juan V. Fernández de la Gala, from Asociación Española de Amigos de Teilhard de Chardín, recently created this video of a reading of Teilhard’s Mass on the World in Spanish with English subtitles.

[Video available on YouTube.](#)
Upcoming Events

Emerging Hope in a Chaotic World
with Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD
September 30, 2022 US/Canada at 7.00pm (ET)
October 1, 2022 at 9.00am (AEST)
Click on the HERE to Register— Once registered, the Zoom link will be emailed to you.

The universe we live in is dynamic, creative, beautiful and chaotic. During this session, we will consider what the universe can reveal about God and how we can become continually more conscious of its potential for hope in the midst of the chaos. We will consider what part chaos plays in the transformation of our personal, social lives and in the transformation of the world.

Teilhard de Chardin: Cosmology, Consciousness, and Contemplation
with Andrew Del Rossi, ThD
Tuesdays, Sept. 13, 20, 27, 2022
6:30pm-8:00pm
Call (610) 601-8702 or email adr@daylesford.org to register
Suggested offering: $30

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ was a mystic priest and scientist whose dynamic vision and spirituality presents a pathway for understanding the relationship between faith and evolution. Teilhard sees evolution as the universe growing closer to God by becoming more “spiritualized” and “Christified.” As the universe increases in its material complexity, there is a corresponding increase in consciousness, leading us to become ever-more aware of the Divine fire burning at the heart of matter and bringing all into union. In this three-part series, we will explore the life and vision of Teilhard, we will take time to unpack his mysticism, and consider the role of contemplation within the unfolding of cosmic evolution.

NY2023: A Celebration of Teilhard’s “Mass on the World”
Fall 2023

Members of the French Teilhard Association (Amis des Teilhard de Chardin) are looking ahead to 2023, the 100th anniversary of Teilhard’s “The Mass on the World.” They plan to meet in New York in the Fall, for a conference and a celebration, perhaps at Teilhard’s grave site. The American Teilhard Association is eager to collaborate with this plan. We will share information with you as details become clear.

Click here for the list of events on the ATA website.
Upcoming Events

Quantum Wisdom: Essential Insights from a Revolutionary Science
with physicist Sarbmeet Kanwal, PhD
4-wk Course; 2 Sections for Different Time Zones
I. Aug. 10 – 31, Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM ET
II. Aug. 12 – Sept. 2, Fridays, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET
Click here to register
Underlying all matter is the Quantum Vacuum. Alive with restless en-
ergy, it is the source from which matter arose 13.8 billion years ago and which still underpins its existence every single moment of time. These quantum fluctuations of primordial energy spit out and suck back in matter and antimatter particles every instant in time. The foundation of our universe is kind of a “space-
time foam” that seethes with creative potential.

“If one can be captivated by music without studying scales and be uplifted by poetry without study-
ing meters, then surely one can be enlightened by quantum physics without studying equations.”
— Sarbmeet Kanwal

“Catching Fire”
with Anita Wood, DMin
Eight Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, from Sept. 22 through Nov. 10.
Register directly with Anita Wood at msanitawood@verizon.net by Sept. 12.

A small (8 person, maximum) contemplative dialogue experience applying the basic principles of Teilhard’s writings to personal experience. In dialogue with others, new insights are gained about the meaning of Teilhard’s evolutionary principles for everyday faith and action. There is a sliding scale for the series ($75-$125).

Walking with Teilhard Through Advent: “Contemplating The Divine Milieu”
with Anita Wood, DMin
Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm Nov. 29 through Dec. 20
Register directly with Anita Wood at msanitawood@verizon.net by Nov. 10.

A guided journey through Teilhard’s The Divine Milieu. Anita Wood will lead a contemplative dialogue on the material with a group of up to 8 participants. Participants will read sections of this book prior to each meeting and ponder questions which are provided by the facilitator ahead of time. Sliding scale of $40 - $60 and purchase of the book on your own.

Anita Wood, DMin is a spiritual director, educator, and member of the American Teilhard Association. For her doctoral work she developed a small-group contemplative dialogue process to engage Teilhard’s insights. She has worked as a teacher, spiritual director, Director of Religious Education programs, and retreat leader, most recently as a staff member of The Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, PA. She currently co-facilitates the spiritual direction program at Fairfield University.

Click here for the list of events on the ATA website.
Each spring at our Annual Event, the American Teilhard Association offers an opportunity for our guests to purchase back issues of *Teilhard Studies*. Because we are now holding our Annual Event online, we would like to offer our members a chance to purchase back issues of *Teilhard Studies* and *Teilhard Perspective* at a reduced rate of $3.50/copy plus shipping and handling. A list of available issues of *Teilhard Studies* and *Teilhard Perspective*, as well as more information about shipping and handling, can be found on our website. *Teilhard Studies* and *Teilhard Perspective* contain essays by some of our most distinguished Teilhardians. Teachers and group leaders might find a packet of several related issues a helpful resource for discussion. Examples of how issues might be grouped into themes (such as Teilhard and Science, Thomas Berry and the Environment, Teilhard and Spirituality, Teilhard and Evolution, Teilhard and Feminism, and others) are available on our website.

For those in the United States, you can order and pay via PayPal and send an email to kduffy@chc.edu mentioning the issue(s) you are hoping to receive) or you can send your request plus a check or money order written to American Teilhard Association to:

Kathleen Duffy, SSJ  
American Teilhard Association  
Chestnut Hill College  
9601 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

For international orders and for orders of more than 10 issues, request an invoice from Kathy Duffy kduffy@chc.edu. Once shipping and handling are estimated, you will receive an invoice and instructions about how to pay.

Spring 2022 Issue of *Teilhard Studies*

*“Teilhard and Islam”*  
Joshua Canzona, PhD, ATA Board Member

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881 – 1955) did not pursue a sustained study of non-Christian religions. Even when living in Egypt and China, his interests focused more on the natural world than cultural or theological studies. In a 2016 blog post published by the Center for Christogenesis, Cynthia Bourgeault describes Teilhard’s knowledge of Islam as “painfully limited.” Joshua Canzona’s paper explores what Teilhard did know and say about Islam with an emphasis on his Jesuit regency in Cairo. Dr. Canzona then considers some secondary resources on Teilhard and Islam before offering a brief comparison with Muhammad Iqbal, the intellectual father of Pakistan who reflected on many of the same concerns as Teilhard from a Muslim perspective.

Joshua Canzona earned a PhD in Theological and Religious Studies from Georgetown University in 2018 with a dissertation comparing the thought of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Muhammad Iqbal, the intellectual father of Pakistan. Dr. Canzona is currently serving as the Associate Ombudsman at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, where he acts as a confidential and alternative dispute resolution resource for over 40,000 students, faculty, and staff.
The editors of *Teilhard Perspective* welcome suggestions for relevant ideas, books, news, events, and articles. Send materials to Andrew Del Rossi, andrew.delrossi@gmail.com.

Memberships to the American Teilhard Association includes the biannual issues of *Teilhard Studies*, online access to the *Teilhard Perspective* newsletter, along with notices about the Annual Meeting and other programs. See our [website](http://www.americanteilhard.org) for further information on membership or contact us at: American Teilhard Association, c/o Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, Chestnut Hill College, 9601 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118. kduffy@chc.edu.

We ask members to be sure to keep your contact information updated—both email and snail mail.

Send changes to [AmericanTeilhard@gmail.com](mailto:AmericanTeilhard@gmail.com).

**Annual Contribution (Tax Deductible)**

Regular ........................................$35
Household .................................$40
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Contributing, beginning at ..........$100
Sponsoring, beginning at .............$250
Student (full time, under 30 years) ...$10
Life Membership ............................$400

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