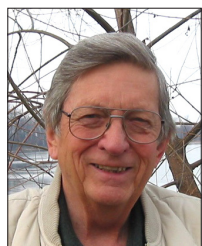


Up for Discussion: What Makes a Sustainable Community?



REPORT TO SITKANS by GARY HOLTHAUS

based on CONVERSATIONS, READINGS, DISCUSSIONS

held while HUMANIST-IN-RESIDENCE / JANUARY–FEBRUARY, 2010

The Island Institute was pleased to host writer Gary Holthaus as our humanist-in-residence for two months to explore with Sitkans questions of what would make our town a sustainable community. In thinking about Sitka's long term future, we wanted to ask ourselves

- What aspects of our worldview need to change in order for us to shape a culture based on our long-term human needs and the well-being of our surrounding environment?
- What practical manageable-scale actions might we imagine and carry out in collaboration with others to help us transform ourselves and our culture?
- What are the durable traditions and sources of wisdom that can guide us?

Gary has long been engaged in questions of sustainability in his many years of work as a writer and director of humanities programs in Alaska and the American West. His most recent books are *Learning Native Wisdom: What Traditional Cultures Teach Us About Subsistence, Sustainability, and Spirituality* and *From the Farm to the Table: What All Americans Need to Know About Agriculture*.

COMMUNITY EVENTS THAT WERE HELD

☞ ESSAYS & POEMS BY GARY HOLTHAUS: A PUBLIC READING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 / KETTLESON LIBRARY

☞ THURSDAY READING / DISCUSSION SERIES / SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAREER CENTER

JANUARY 14 "Ta Hsio" also called "The Great Learning" by Confucius

JANUARY 21 "A Banquet of Consequences" from *The Party's Over* by Richard Heinberg

JANUARY 28 "Sustainability and Community" from *Sustaining the Common Good* by John Cobb

FEBRUARY 4 "The WTO, NAFTA, CAFTA, & the FTAA" from *From the Farm to the Table* by Gary Holthaus

FEBRUARY 11 "Introduction" and "Humiliation" from *The Decent Society* by Avishai Margalit

FEBRUARY 18 "Philosophy of Material Force" by Chang Tsai

OTHER ACTIVITIES

☞ CONVERSATIONS WITH 83 INDIVIDUALS

☞ MEETINGS WITH CIVIC AND GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

Sitka Global Warming/Sustainable Sitka; Sitka Local Foods Network; Sitka Conservation Society

☞ TALKS at ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON & UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

☞ ATTENDED Sitka Assembly and Alaska Native Sisterhood meetings, Sitka Monthly Grind

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 747-3794 OR EMAIL ISLAND@AK.NET

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