

Gordon Elwood Foundation: 17 Years of Reflecting Together



First Snowfall
Danny Cooks, artist
The Studio at Living Opportunities

Following is a collection of reflections made by members of the board of trustees and its committees for the Gordon Elwood Foundation since its incorporation in 2001.

We are grateful to the following persons who have furthered the mission of the foundation's founder, Gordon Elwood:

BURKE RAYMOND

JOHN DUKE

MIKE HEVERLY

JAN MURPHY

STEPHANIE JOHNSON

DAN KOSMATKA

ANNETTE BATZER

STEVE BOYARSKY

JULIA BEATTIE

JOHN HARMON

BOB HUTCHINS

RICK HUTCHINS

LANCE REYES

LILIA CABALLERO

LARRY NICHOLSON

OUR MISSION:

Investing in Southern Oregon's youth, individuals, families and communities

OCTOBER 24 2017

ANNETTE BATZER

Annette shared excerpts from the Tao Te Ching by the Chinese mystic philosopher, Lao Tzu written sometime in the 4-5th century and American poet, Robert Frost who was born and wrote during the 19-20th century:

'The Road Not Taken'

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



Tao Te Ching

By Lao Tzu

Go in search of your people

Love them

Learn from them

Plan with them

Serve them

Begin with what they know

Build on what they have

But of all the best leaders

When their task is accomplished

Their work is done

The people will all remark

"We have done it ourselves"

A leader is best

When people barely know he exists

Of a good leader, who talks little,

When his work is done, his aim fulfilled,

They will say, "We did this ourselves."

Do you have the patience to wait until your mud settles
and the water is clear?

Trying to understand is like straining through muddy water.

Have the patience to wait!

Be still and allow the mud to settle.

Muddy water, let stand, becomes clear.

When people see some things as beautiful,
other things become ugly.

When people see some things as good,
other things become bad.

If a person seems wicked, do not cast him away.

Awaken him with your words,

elevate him with your deeds,

repay his injury with your kindness.

Do not cast him away; cast away his wickedness.

Be careful what you water your dreams with.

Water them with worry and fear and you will produce

weeds that choke the life from your dream.

Water them with optimism and solutions and you will
cultivate success.

Always be on the lookout for ways to turn a problem into
an opportunity for success.

Always be on the lookout for ways to nurture your dream.

October 24, 2017

Lilia Caballero

"I enjoy that I can express my thoughts,
and I am listened to by everyone.
It is a fun experience to see everyone
express themselves individually and
then all agree later.
I love to learn new ways to see things.
I get to learn with this group."





OCTOBER 24 2017

RICK HUTCHINS

I feel so fortunate to watch this board in action-by far the most unique board with strong individual identities-very successful individuals who leave their egos at the door. They come up with great solutions from the balance of everyone's ideas so it doesn't get lopsided. I've learned so much and appreciate how everyone has learned to consider a different perspective.

SEPTEMBER 12 2017

STEVE BOYARSKY

At Britt last year, Steve heard a young Scottish musician and bought his CD: He played the song “Save Yourself” from *Chase the Sun*, Greg Holden, artist. The lyrics reminded him of what we do at Gordon Elwood. It’s available on iTunes.

Save Yourself

*Here comes a moment, now it’s all changed
And now I realize what I’ve gotta say
But if I say it, will you hear me?
‘Cause nothing good is ever easy
I’ve been released but I can’t let go
So I keep searching for the high road
And it might look perfect but believe me
Nothing good is ever easy
Don’t keep looking back, losing track
Never seeing clearly, Lost in this or that, it’s a trap
Gotta get out
And try to save yourself
So you can find a way to save someone else
It won’t make any difference if we don’t all help
We all need help
You’ve got to save yourself
So you can find a way to save someone else
It won’t make any difference if we don’t all help
We all need help*

*Here comes a moment, did it all change?
And, now that you’ve tried it, does it feel strange?
And I’ve got a feeling you believe me
No one said it would be easy
Just keep moving on, staying strong
Let go of your mistakes because they’re dead and gone
Holding on is never gonna help
And try to save yourself
So you can find a way to save someone else
It won’t make any difference if we don’t all help
We all need help
You’ve got to save yourself
So you can find a way to save someone else
It won’t make any difference if we don’t all help
We all need help*



SEPTEMBER 12 2017

LARRY NICHOLSON

Larry shared the sentiment with which others concurred that there is a lot going on around us, and a sense of chaos or things being out of control. Locally we have a lot to reflect upon regarding our regional fire issues and impact; but then there are the hurricanes going on and the flooding, and the nuclear weapons issue in other parts of the world. To balance this out we come back what is personally important, family, faith and community. Taking time to acknowledge all these feelings helps us ask what can we do for our community and where can we make a difference. Being part of the foundation or school board are ways to be able to do positive things for our community.

JUNE 13 2017

JULIA BEATTIE

"It's a great time with all the many things happening. Sitting at my daughter's recent graduation ceremony I kept my eyes and ears open; the youth speaker gave a great speech at South Medford's graduation ceremony that was very relevant. He emphasized that *'It's all about attitude: Be positive, hopeful and neutralize the weapons of MASS Distraction; look at distractions as opportunities to grow.'* I thought about attitude a lot over the following days and heard many references to 'attitude.' I listened to students over the weekend about their attitudes; even parents and their differing attitudes about their kiddos leaving home and going off to college. Saw a movie trailer called *Wonder*; about a young severely disabled young boy and his wonderful 'attitude.' Embracing change is all about attitude; I am trying to embrace the changes in our family with another daughter going off to college."

JUNE 13 2017 LANCE REYES

Lance's reflection in relation to his participation in John Bowling's Advanced Leadership Program and the Grants Committee:

"These scholarship investments of the foundation for selected non-profit volunteer and staff leaders directly relates to the leadership needs we have seen through the Grants Committee process.

I like the idea of growing our own leaders for a community, which is what this foundation offers with this program. There is great potential to invest this way in order to develop community leadership that serves as board members now or in the future."



MAY 16 2017

LANCE REYES

Lance shared that he has always had an affinity with community based, non-profit organizations and the work that they do for all ages. He shared quotes from *George Washington Carver*, an American botanist and inventor. (The exact day and year of his birth are unknown; he was born into slavery in Missouri, either in 1861, or January 1864.) Carver's measure of success connects to Lance's personal sense of purpose and to the work he is able to do through being a part of this foundation committee, United Way and a number of non-profit groups.

"It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobiles one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank, that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success."

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these."

MARCH 15 2017

JAN MURPHY

'Obstacles'

From Man's Search for Meaning

By Viktor E Frankl

"We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: The last of his freedoms-to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Risking

By Patty Hansen

Two seeds lay side by side in the fertile spring soil.

The first seed said, "I want to grow! I want to send my roots deep into the soil beneath me, and thrust my sprouts through the earth's crust above me... I want to unfurl my tender buds like banners to announce the arrival of spring...I want to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the blessing of the morning dew on my petals!"

And so she grew.

The second seed said, "I am afraid. If I send my roots into the ground below, I don't know what I will encounter in the dark. If I push my way through the hard soil above me I may damage my delicate sprouts...what if I let my buds open and a snail tries to eat them? And if I were to open my blossoms, a small child may pull me from the ground. No, it is much better for me to wait until it is safe."

And so she waited.

A yard hen scratching around in the early spring ground for food found the waiting seed and promptly ate it.

Moral of the Story

Those of us who refuse to risk and grow, get swallowed up by life.



DECEMBER 13 2016

MIKE HEVERLY

The Unexpected

Some reflections on our personal relationships, and our relationships with the Gordon Elwood Foundation regarding the *unexpected*.

This is the Christmas Season, which leads me to the thoughts of "Giving" and the "Unexpected".

The world was waiting for a Messiah, yet they did not see Him; as he came unexpectedly, in the night and in the form of a baby, not a king.

Can you remember one of your early Christmas mornings, when after those long days of expectation, you were more excited about the *unexpected* present under the tree than what you had been dreaming of, while you waited?

The time of giving, rather than receiving came for Gordon too. People were more ready to avoid him than welcome him. Gordon was looked down upon, rather than lifted in high esteem. Yet, he gave to help and to heal others when he could no longer help or heal himself.

Today, I have experienced so much that I could not have even dreamed of, or *expected* in my relationship with the foundation, and with each of you personally. Because of Gordon, I am enriched in sooooo many ways that were all *unexpected*.

As we prepare for Christmas, may you all enjoy the *unexpected* that comes into your life this season.



OCTOBER 25 2016

ANNETTE BATZER

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Fox to the Prince: *'And now here is my secret; a very simple secret; it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.'*

'A Psalm about Children' by M.T. Winter 1991 Medical Mission Sisters

Children
are God's most sacred surprise,
a light in the eyes,
a lift to the heart,
a story lines' continuation.
Thank you, for children.

Children
mirror Mystery.
Children
are God's preferred way of being,
preferred way of seeing the world and all its people.
Teach us, through our children.

Our children
are not our children.
They are given to us
and pass through us
into worlds of their own making,
into risks of their own taking,
into futures we will not know.
Help us, to let go of our children.

Our children
are reminders
of what we like best about ourselves,
of when we knew love,
that gave birth to ourselves,
of how we can live beyond ourselves.
Help us, to learn to be ourselves with our children.

When children cry,
when children die,
the whole world is diminished,
for a child's pain, is the earth's pain,
and when an innocent child is abused,
none of us is ever the same again.
Help us, to protect our children.

DECEMBER 8 2015 DAN KOSMATKA

Dan shared excerpts from *God & Churchill*, a book that was recently gifted to him by John Duke.

SEPTEMBER 8 2015

JULIA BEATTIE

From University of Portland founder Father Basil Moreau, 1902, in the context of education. “

By Fr. Basil Moreau - approx. 1902

“To be true to our calling as complete Holy Cross educators we cannot excuse ourselves from matters of the heart. The heart does not know the Pythagorean theorem, the parts of speech, or plant phyla. The heart knows love and its loss, craves compassion, and responds to hospitality. The heart struggles with ambiguity, weighs choices, and considers consequences. The heart given space learns to risk once it finds courage and hope. In the stillness of listening it is the heart that hears the gentle breeze...To what end would it serve students to know how to read, write, calculate, and draw, or to possess some notions of history, geography, geometry physics and chemistry if they are ignorant of their duties to God, to themselves, and to society, or if, while knowing them, they did not conform their conduct to that knowledge?”



MAY 19 2015

ANNETTE BATZER

'On Children'

By Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them,
but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,
and He bends you with His might
that His arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

By Albert Camus

"Task of a generation is to make the next generation healthier than the past."
"Our task as [humans] is to find the few principles that will calm the infinite anguish of free souls. We must mend what has been torn apart, make justice imaginable again in a world so obviously unjust, give happiness and meaning once more...It is a superhuman task. But superhuman is the term for tasks [humans] take a long time to accomplish, that's all."

MAY 12 2015

MIKE HEVERLY

"Recently I drove northwestward from Edmond to the edge of the prairie. The evening was clear and I wanted to experience the vastness of the prairie sky. I planted a chair into the dry grass. As I observed the sky, time seemed to move slowly...

"In my view there were a series of windmills, which seemed stretch upward into the dark night sky. Once again I was alone... As I studied the vastness of the prairie sky filled with stars and planets, satellites and the star sheets of the Milky Way sparkled and they seemed to be moving. I focused on a windmill mast... the stars very slowly past across the mast... and they were moving! I had never experienced such a moment...

"As I sat in my chair anchored into the Oklahoma prairie, I suddenly realized that I was wrong... the stars were not moving...I was moving even though I was firmly fixed to the earth. I was seeing and feeling the earth turn on and float through space. These moments made me realize that this blue and green planet we call Earth was taking me a trip to view vastness that was beyond my imagination... I was a lone sojourner being carried through space by my home."

By **John Harmon**

"To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power; but to decide to whom to give it and when and for what purpose and how is neither in every man's power, nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare and praiseworthy and noble."

By **Aristotle** 384 BC – 322 BC

MAY 16 2014



BURKE RAYMOND

Burke shared stanzas from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, noting that the jobs mentioned in the poem no longer exist and there are terms that are no longer used. But regardless there remains the "song of myself," individual threads of living and working and loving that together are woven into the fabric of a life and a community.

*"...Patriarchs sit at supper with sons and grandsons and great-grandsons around them,
In walls of adobe, in canvas tents, rest hunters and trappers after their day's sport,
The city sleeps and the country sleeps,
The living sleep for their time, the dead sleep for their time,
The old husband sleeps by his wife and the young husband sleeps by his wife;
And these tend inward to me, and I tend outward to them,
And such as it is to be of these more or less I am,
And of these one and all I weave the song of myself..."*

DECEMBER 3 2013

BILL THORNDIKE

"Philanthropy can help address the missing pieces to help the changes to get to the next level. The value of the Elwood Foundation engagement in collaborative community processes is in providing grants, but it also about "teaching people to fish" and how to see the system obstacles and turn situations into something that can be addressed through specific plans and focused outcomes."

OCTOBER 15 2013

'Take the Whole Kit' from Little Sermons of the Big Joy: Poems

By James Broughton

Take the whole kit
with the caboodle
Experience life
don't deplore it
Shake hands with time
don't kill it
Open a lookout
Dance on a brink
Run with your wildfire
You are closer to glory
leaping an abyss
than upholstering a rut

SEPTEMBER 17 2013

BOB HUTCHINS

Bob shared background about Gordon and his history with him. Gordon's son Karl is living in Barnett Woods, doing the best he has ever done. Karl still looks for bottles and cans like his father, but the time with a life skills trainer was really helpful for him. Daughter Christy's husband is still working at Harry & David, and Living Opportunities is now involved in teaching her to cook; she is doing a lot better. Gordon is buried at the National Cemetery.

MAY 28 2013

'Quit Your Addictions'

From Little Sermons from the Big Joy: Poetry by James Broughton

Quit your addiction to sneer and complaint

Try a little flaunt

Call for comrades who bolster your vim and offer you risk

Corral the crones

Goose the nice nellies

Hunt the bear that hugs and the raven that quoths

Stay up all night to devise a new dawn

OCTOBER 2013

DAN KOSMATKA

Story of the 4 Candles by

Author unknown

The Four Candles burned slowly. Their ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak.

The first candle said, "I am Peace but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit." Then the flame of Peace slowly diminished and went out completely.

The second candle said, "I am Faith but these days, I am no longer indispensable." Then the flame of Faith slowly diminished and went out completely.



Sadly the third candle spoke, "I am love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those nearest to them." And waiting no longer, love went out completely.

Suddenly, a child entered the room and saw the three candles no longer burning. The child began to cry. "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end.

Then the fourth candle spoke gently to the child. "Don't be afraid, for I am Hope and while I still burn, we can relight the other candles." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other three candles. Never let the flame of Hope go out. With Hope in your life, no matter how bad things may be, Peace, Faith, and Love may shine brightly once again.

MAY 28 2013

BURKE RAYMOND

Burke shared his reflection on passing on a culture of innovation and tradition:

American Spartans, which tells the story and culture of the Marine Corps and how the Marine Corps continues its culture through time, while encouraging innovation. He suggested that what the Marine Corps does to continue its unique role in the armed forces could be applied to the foundation's interest in continuing through time the Elwood Foundation's organizational values and legacy among its leadership, without being oppressive.

Burke's suggestions of the Intersecting "Ways of Being" shared by the Marines & the Foundation culture in action:

- The Mission doesn't change, but how we carry out the mission changes over time.
- Innovation at different levels matches our recognition of different ways to support our mission through grants for Saving & Healing; Basic Needs; Empowerment & Life Skills and Incentives/Challenges.
- Revere the past; do not live in the past.
- Sharing history is the best teacher of culture.
- Be the best individuals you can be, but focus on the team.
- Team achievements vs. Individual achievement is key
- Debriefings are an opportunity to learn and grow.
- Rank is not the issue in reviewing what went well or wrong. Talk openly; care for each other, don't leave anyone alone in the field.
- Be self-critical of activities in positive and creative ways to learn & improve.
- Stay true to the mission, but be flexible in tactics. Our foundation examples would be: Giving more than asked or giving without being asked. Supporting the Affinity Group of Funders through executive director's time and initiating work to move forward for Hispanic student success through the funding of Academia Latina at Southern Oregon University.
- Recognize that small groups can have a big impact.
- Celebrate ourselves.
- Remember our traditions; tell the stories to new board members

DECEMBER 6 2012

STEVE BOYARSKY

Steve provided questions for the trustees to answer in dyads on tenants of what creates happiness.

OCTOBER 18 2012

ANNETTE BATZER

Our work for today's retreat is about *Refounding*: a messy, chaotic process of going back to what the founder wanted and make it relevant to today; in contrast to *refounding*, *nostalgia is connected to restoring*. The selection of the poem entitled 'Tao 51', there is a strong focus on *Virtue*, and the importance again of asking "where is our path, where do we want to go now" from a perspective of aligning with moral excellence. Raymond Blake Fostick, author, suggests that "Democracy" works because of the sense of 'conviction of extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.'

MAY 17 2012

JULIA BEATTIE AND STEVE BOYARSKY

Grant Committee members Julia Beattie and Steve Boyarsky shared some of their experience over the last two years on the Grants Committee:

- Appreciate the ripple effect of what I learned and my awareness grew in the significance of that.
- It is challenging to be a newcomer among 10-year veterans, who are asking us to "dig deep."
- The experience offered an overwhelming awareness of need; both enlightening and sobering about our community making me wonder, where can I make a difference.
- This opened my eyes to making a bigger impact now and in the future.
- I have more of an awareness about "getting upstream" of a problem to prevention.
- Greater awareness of the niches in our communities and where we can make a difference and change. The people who are out in front and supporting others is potent.
- Being at or in this position allows one to stand up higher and see how things flow together.



NOVEMBER 17 2011

MIKE HEVERLY

Looking Forward/Looking Backward

1999-2011 Learning

We learned about the Gordon Elwood Foundation.

We learned how to guide not manage the foundation.

We learned about each other.

We learned about the geographic area we serve.

We learned about agencies and programs.

We learned about foundation fiduciary responsibilities.

We learned about the difficulty of giving away money. Done well it's a hard job.

We learned about the difficulty finding clarity in Gordon's charge, "Do good."

We learned about the joy of accomplishment.

2011-2021 Wisdom

'We hope for wisdom in seeking our vision and in fulfilling our mission.

We enjoy the wisdom of our deepening personal relationships.

We understand the wisdom of the medieval foundation builders of cathedrals. Like them we will never see the final towers but we have the vision and the walls that will rise and the towers that will soar must be built on a sound foundation, and that has been our task.'

From the book *Christian Mystics* by Ursula King

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Hildegard was an Abbess and an author. I really like what she had to say about wisdom in her book SCIVIAS as quoted by Ursula King. 'For her, wisdom is less about thinking than tasting.' In Latin, wisdom (sapientia) and taste (sapere) are words stemming from the same root: 'To build the house of wisdom in ourselves and in our community means to learn the art of savoring and the joy of living.'

NOVEMBER 17 2011

'Don't establish the boundaries first, the squares, triangles, boxes of preconceived possibilities and then put life into them, trimming off left-over edges ending potentials.'

By AR Ammons, poet

MAY 26 2011

ANNETTE BATZER

One Selection from Khalil Gibran and another from Parker Palmer, 'being pinned under a rock can teach us a lot giving us time to think.' And how these writings and reflections align with much of what we support for individuals and communities.

MAY 12 2011

STEPHANIE JOHNSON

Legends say that hummingbirds float free of time carrying our hopes for love, joy, and celebration. The hummingbirds' delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.



MARCH 2011**BOB HUTCHINS**

Gordon was a paradox; incongruent person; he could tell you where the best Thanksgiving Christmas dinner would be for free, but wouldn't want to give a hand out to anyone.

A self-proclaimed miser; invested to make money, but hated paying any taxes; liked bank stocks and oil; good sense of humor; spoke appropriately; at his end of life, wanted to do good with his fortune since it didn't do any good for he or his family. Gordon's grandfather had the first car in southern Oregon. Gordon loved cars. "Elwood's push mobile." Bob first met Gordon in relation to a Porsche speedster Gordon wanted to sell because it had a small dent. Worked with him beginning 1974 or 1976 on financial things. Gordon took full social security after retiring at 65; collected cans and bottles for living and then saved his social security in certificates which he kept in his house; life full of ironies. Very bright; enjoyable to talk with; worked as a radio and TV repairman. In 1999 he approached Bob, didn't want to pay taxes on his money; wanted to help his kids to a point; thought about helping kids with tax free money; liked the idea of the perpetual giving like the Noble Peace prize originator. He understood change, excited about helping people UP. Thought it wasn't a good idea to be a regular part of an organization's budget, which is one way that the foundation has tried to recognize Gordon's personal values.

**OUR VISION:**

Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Curry counties are home to successful youth and individuals, thriving families and communities.

We leverage and invest talent and resources in southern Oregonians.



MARCH 11 2010

JOHN HARMON

John offers a picture of the calm waters of the Missouri River in the foreground and a sky filled with the active weather...

"It is only through meditation/contemplation that we move into action...and it is through action that we contemplate what our actions accomplished."

Subtle Exercises

Virtues and Facts:

Prerequisite Essentials
For
Decision Making

Be radically free.
Collect the facts.
Move in any direction the Spirit directs.

Be radically generous.
Connect the facts.
Share what Yahweh has given.

Be radically patient.
Reason through the facts.
Suffer if the Spirit asks.

Be radically spiritual.
Examine mind and heart as related to the facts.
Strive for union with Yahweh through action and contemplation.

OCTOBER 1 2009

JOHN HARMON

We have embarked on our second decade.

One hundred and twenty-one months ago we held our organizational meeting.

The date was September 2, 1999.

The board was comprised of five mutual acquaintances: John Duke, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kosmatka, Jan Murphy and John Harmon. We passed some organizational motions, elected officers and received a report from Bob Hutchins that the initial gift from Gordon was approximately \$2,800,000.

We had met a year earlier with Gordon. He spoke two words to describe his vision...his words challenged us do one simple thing with his money..."Do Good."

For ten years I have thought about his words at every meeting that I have attended. What did he mean? A simple challenge of two words...but for me they were always a test for me whenever I listened to you, read the grant applications and talked together at our meetings. Today I would like to try to summarize the meaning of these two words for me and how I view our actions of the past one hundred and twenty-one months.

We are young...and young people view the world differently than mature folk. Youth is often asked questions by perplexed adults regarding decisions and subsequent actions.

In the front piece of Robert Fulghum's book, *What on Earth Have I Done?* There are eight questions:

Questions asked of children by parents.

"What on earth have you done?"

"What in the name of God are you doing?"

"What will you think of next?"

"Who do you think you are?"

Questions I still ask myself.

"What on earth have I done?"

"What in the name of God am I doing?"

"What will I think of next?"

"Who do I think I am?"

Over the last ten years there have been times that others probably asked the parental questions about some of Elwood's decisions. The board members have certainly asked the last four questions of themselves. The Board and the Grants Committee possess the rare attribute of fearlessly thinking out of the box.

While the Foundation is young, most of us are the past midpoint of the linear pathway measured by the calendar...but age is not only a physical state...it is also a mature state of the mind. The time we have traveled over our lives has enriched our spirits... we have been enriched with an unnoticed spiritual value...if I were to reduce that value to one word, the word would be *wisdom*. Time has also provided to each of us with a virtue that has a remarkably positive impact...that virtue is *generosity*.

Youthfulness of spirit, wisdom and generosity are core elements that we have each provided to one another and the communities we serve. The Fulghum Questions test our *youthfulness*. Being youthful, we search for the vibrancy around us. In turn, the Fulghum Questions challenges the spirit of accumulated *wisdom* within each board member. Suddenly, the virtue of *generosity* recognizes the challenges of the Fulghum Questions and engages the foundation in action. *Generosity* not only helps us as givers, but it eases the burdens and brightens the world of the grantee. Elwood's *generosity* might not seem likely to result in long-term opportunity, but our grantees attest to us that it does. Our *generosity* creates the grantee's long-term opportunity... *hope*. The grantee's *hope* is inherent in Gordon's words, "Do Good."

Youthfulness, wisdom and generosity are necessary for those on the long side of history.

DECEMBER 11 2008

JOHN HARMON

John shared how these lines connected with what the board members do with the work of the foundation and what is going on in the community:

Life

Viewed in the sixty-fifth year

by John Harmon

Life cannot...

be devoured.

Life can...

only be savored.

Life is to be...

sipped.

And life is lived...

by drinking the dregs.



OUR MISSION

Investing in

Southern Oregon's youth, individuals,

families and communities



NOVEMBER 20 2008

JAN MURPHY

Jan shared an inspirational poem by Marge Piercy entitled '*To Be of Use.*' Members then shared a few thoughts about what's been going on in their personal lives since we last met.

'To Be of Use'

By Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

MAY 22 2008

Man's Search for Meaning
by Viktor Frankl

"Meaning is found through service to another or to a cause"

DECEMBER 11 2007

JOHN HARMON

John shared his poetry:

'Wonderment'

I am I awe...

At the ocean's wave

At the mountains grandeur

At the long, meandering river

At the stars populating the night sky.

Yet,

I pass by Another...

Without wonderment

On the Horizon

The first thin line of yellow light...

appearing before the gray dawn,

momentarily prior to the light of day flooding the Earth...

illuminates the eastern edge of the horizon.

A slender orange line of light...

following the brilliance of the sunset

just before the blackness of night envelops the Earth...

lingers from North to South forming a border on the western sky.

Light wedges its way into moments-framing boundaries between two worlds.

Truth is discovered...

between the edges of thin lines at the border's edge on the Horizon

the Infinite meets the Humble,

The Essence of Being revealed.



DECEMBER 12 2006

BOB HUTCHINS

"Remember the Boy Scout motto: *Be prepared*. A season of preparation: The opportunity of this is that instead of panic you have performance. Elwood is about: Life changing performance. Helping people make choices to lead to a life of performance."

MAY 25 2006

'It is those with the boldest dreams who awaken the best in all of us.'

By Johnnetta B. Cole

MAY 25 2006

JOHN HARMON

To be Free
The strength to leave behind *Everything*
Without looking back
To say, "Yes..."



MAY 11 2016

STEPHANIE JOHNSON

Stephanie shared something that she received via the Internet recently.

"Recently I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport. They had announced the departure.

Standing near the security gate, they hugged and the mother said, "I love you and I wish you enough".

The daughter replied, "Mom, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Mom".

They kissed and the daughter left. The mother walked over to the window where I was seated. Standing there I could see she wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on her privacy but she welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?".

"Yes, I have," I replied. "Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?"

"I am old and she lives so far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is - the next trip back will be for my funeral," she said.

"When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough'. May I ask what that means?"

She began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone". She paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail and she smiled even more. "When we said, 'I wish you enough', we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them."

Then turning toward me, she shared the following as if she were reciting it from memory.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.

She then began to cry and walked away.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them but then an entire life to forget them.

TAKE TIME TO LIVE....

To all my friends and loved ones,
I WISH YOU ENOUGH...

APRIL 22 2005

BURKE RAYMOND

Burke shared a piece from Peter Drucker on the complexity of leadership today.

Drucker suggests that social issues, the evolving definition of a “just society,” the environment, an expansion of individual interests, and the self-interest of each sector requires a new kind of leadership: Leadership capable of building bridges between differences and which brings people together.



MAY 2004

MIKE HEVERLY

Mike offered reflections on Gordon, through his gift to the community he was born into he has made an indelible imprint on the community.

JUNE 5 2003

BURKE RAYMOND

Burke read an excerpt from a book by Daniel Pennac called *Better Than Life* that talked about reading and the power of reading and its impact on the listener as well as the reader. Since one of the agreements among board members is the importance of reading to lives of individuals and the success of our communities, the selection was particularly apropos for today's grant award session.



DECEMBER 12 2002

JOHN DUKE

John Duke offered readings from *Chicken Soup for the Soul* #2 and *The Glory of Christmas*. "Contentment is possible when we stop striving for more."

"Never underestimate the power of a seed."



JUNE 7 2002

JAN MURPHY

Jan Murphy read two selections: a *Lifesaving Station* parable and 'The Little Wave' from *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

Parable of the Life Saving Station by Author Unknown

'On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was a once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Less of the members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work.

The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people.

They were dirty and sick, and some of them had black skin, and some spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal life pattern of the club.

But some members insisted that life saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded.

If you visit the seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, only now most of the people drown.'

'The Little Wave'

from *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

"Okay. The story is about a little wave, bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air-until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore. "My God, this is terrible," the wave says. "Look what's going to happen to me!"

Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him, "Why do you look so sad?"

The first wave says, "You don't understand! We're all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't it terrible?"

The second wave says, "No, you don't understand. You're not a wave, you're part of the ocean."

*'The highest level of giving is doing so in order to strengthen
another human being
until he needs to ask help of no one.'*

Maimonides, Jewish philosopher, jurist, and scientist



FEBRUARY 28 2002

MIKE HEVERLY

"May we be thankful for the diversity of this board of directors and what we each bring to this position. May we be thankful that Gordon left this financial legacy, which allows us to bring our time and thoughtfulness to this Foundation. May we be thankful for time to reflect on our work together."

DECEMBER 6 2001

BURKE RAYMOND

Excerpts shared by Burke from *Leader of the Future* by William Pollard published by The Drucker Foundation

"The effective leaders I have met, worked with and observed also behaved much the same way: They did not start out with the question, "What do I want?" They started out asking, "What needs to be done?" They were extremely tolerant of diversity in people and did not look for carbon copies of themselves. It rarely occurred to them to ask, "Do I like or dislike this person?" But they were totally-fiendishly-intolerant when it came to a person's *performance, standards, and values....*they made sure that the person they saw in the mirror in the morning was the kind of person they wanted to be, respect, and believe in. This way they fortified themselves against the leadership greatest temptations-to do things that are popular rather than right and to do petty, mean, sleazy things..."

OUR VISION

Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Curry counties are home to successful youth and individuals, thriving families and communities.

We leverage and invest talent and resources in southern Oregonians.



g o r d o n e l w o o d
F O U N D A T I O N