

*sharing*

In the Light

Society of Friends



**“No corporations, no lawyers, no profit.”**

**Solutions on Sharing from the Planetshifter.com Archives**

**eBook #41**

**LoveVision from William George Paul & willipaul.studio**

["Sharing Cities: Activating the Urban Commons"](#) showcases over a hundred sharing-related case studies and model policies from more than 80 cities in 35 countries. It witnesses a growing global movement and serves as a practical reference guide for community-based solutions to urgent challenges faced by cities everywhere. This book is a call to action meant to inspire readers, raise awareness, and strengthen the sharing movement worldwide. "Sharing Cities" shows that not only is another world possible — but that much of it is already here.

## **C O N T E N T S**

"The Sharing & Re-Skilling Show!" @ Transition Palo Alto's Sharing Expo

"The Sharing Center - A Transition Incubator for Small Towns and their Rural Neighbors" - Vision by Willi Paul, Planetshifter.com Design - 2015 (PDF)

"2015 Woman's High School Shareathon Finals" (Portland) - A "Community Sharing Vision" by Willi Paul

"Examining the Sharing Vision in the Transition Movement" - Values > Customs > Initiations > Traditions > New Mythology ("the Sequence"). By Willi Paul

"New Sharing & Return Rituals & Their Symbols in Transition" - by Willi Paul

"Alice Greening and the Parking Lot Sharing Expo."

"All Soils Day" - An Alternative Thanksgiving Sharing Experience for the Community. New Myth #90 by Willi Paul, Mythologist

"Our Own Bread" - Interview with rani Jayakumar, Transition Palo Alto



## "The Sharing & Re-Skilling Show!"

@ Transition Palo Alto's Sharing Expo

Common Ground, 559 College Ave, Palo Alto

Sunday, September 8, 11am – 12:30pm

Host: Willi Paul

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**Host: Willi Paul**

What is The Sharing & Re-Skilling Show? It's Family Edu-Fun ala Transition! Video for the Web! Bring your inventions, muffins, visions, backyard produce and share your story via short interview. Think "Antiques Roadshow without the appraiser." Let's create our own channel!

**Here are a few of the Transition sectors that we are looking for:**

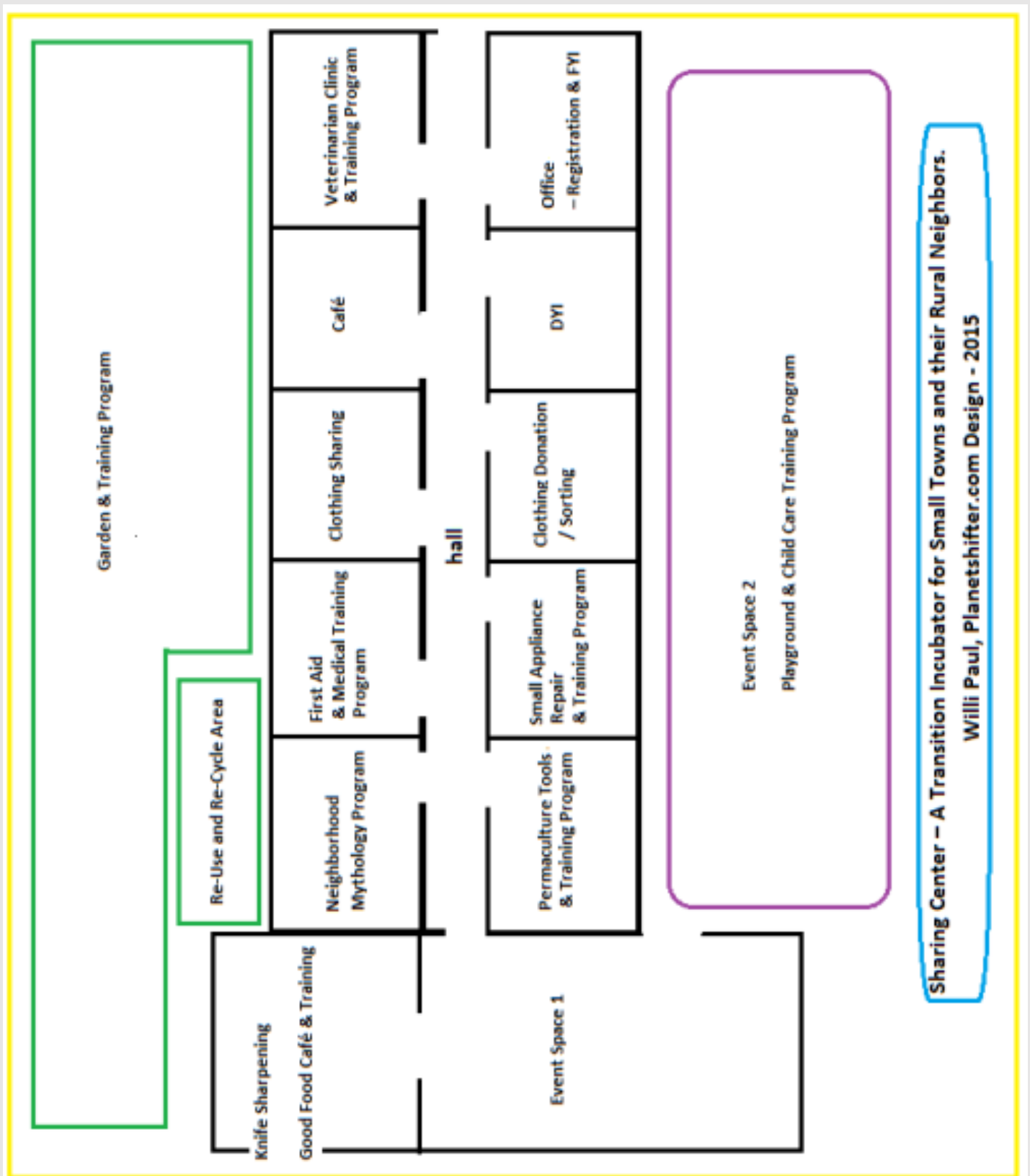
- \* DIY
- \* Repair / Re-Use
- \* Food and Garden
- \* Arts & Crafts
- \* Permaculture
- \* Home Green Tech

**- DETAILS -**

There is no charge to participate as a guest on the show. Please bring what you need to tell your story. Sign-up for a 5 -7 minute time slot by Friday, Sept 6 at: [williperm@yahoo.com](mailto:williperm@yahoo.com). Background Info: [Transition Tales](#) & [Transition Tales 2](#)

Please send the **attached flyer** to your organizations, friends and the press!

Co-Sponsors: [Transition Palo Alto](#) & [Planetshifter.com Magazine](#)



"The Sharing Center - A Transition Incubator for Small Towns and their Rural Neighbors" - Vision by Willi Paul

"This is a vision for chaotic times! A budget saving alternative to Costco and University of Phoenix's "profit-driven supply chains" that touts "sharers not consumers." - WOX

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## What is a Sharing Center (SC)?

The SC is envisioned to be as off-grid and family / neighbor run as possible. Gratitude-fueled! Training programs are coupled with material and services exchange where possible. The vision utilizes what skills and values are already there - and to teach each other new ones when possible.

SC is a hands-on resilience machine as rural America reels from the eminent toxic corporate collapse and springs back to stability.

## Sharing Center Elements -

**Please see large format Sharing Center Plan (PDF) for an integrated training and community ecosystem for resilience.**

- + Knife Sharpening
- + Good Food Café & Training
- + Event Space 1
- + Event Space 2
- + Café
- + [Neighborhood Mythology Program](#)
- + Veterinarian Clinic & Training Program
- + DYI
- + Clothing Donation / Sorting
- + Clothing Sharing
- + Permaculture Tools & Training Program
- + Office - Registration & FYI
- + Small Appliance Repair & Training Program
- + First Aid & Medical Training Program
- + Re-Use and Re-Cycle Area
- + Garden & Training Program
- + Playground & Child Care Training Program

## Where?

*Think: a re-purposed abandoned elementary school; a small retired manufacturing building? A refurbished barn? Perhaps a Lions or Elk's Club space?*

## Who?

## Five Service Partner Templates -

### [1.] [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#) -

NHN are non-paid volunteers striving to provide groceries & counseling plus services to those who are unable to qualify for other 'safety net' programs.

### [2.] [TPA Sharing Expo](#) -

Since 2010, we've been mounting creative and thoughtful responses to the challenges of resource depletion,

climate change, and economic instability. Help us unleash the power and creative genius of people and communities to create a vibrant future for generations to come.

**[3.] [Goodwill](#) -**

Donate stuff. Create Jobs!

**[4.] [Kindista.org](#)**

The SC "gratitude hard drive."

**[5.] [Repair Cafe Palo Alto](#) -**

A volunteer-run, community service dedicated to encouraging the repair and reuse of goods rather than relegating them to landfill.





## "2015 Woman's High School Shareathon Finals" (Portland) - A "Community Sharing Vision" by Willi Paul

"The [sharing transformation](#) shows that it's possible to govern ourselves, build a green economy that serves everyone, and create meaningful lives together. It also shows that we can solve the world's biggest challenges - like poverty and global warming - by unleashing the power of collaboration. At the core of the sharing transformation is timeless wisdom updated for today - that it's only through sharing, cooperation, and contribution to the common good that it's possible to create lives and a world worth having."

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### SHAREATHON GOALS:

- + Redistribute household articles to those to need them
- + Clean-up homes
- + Teach sharing values
- + Promote neighbor to neighbor support
- + Reduce chance of fire
- + Improve property value
- + Honor and respect other folks live style and needs
- + Generational understanding - Senior and HS women relationships

### SPECIFICATION:

- + Each HS in Portland, OR qualifies a four woman "share team"
- + 30 Day Contest Period - every September
- + Door Knocker as Invite to Participate (no email blasts)



+ Potential new custom - "Community Clean-up Month"

### **Residential Areas (need one or more to qualify) -**

- + Kitchen
- + Living room / Bedroom
- + Basement
- + Garage
- + Yard(s)
- + Storage Unit (if apartment)

After the team works sorts and packs, owners clean and re-set belongings that are kept.

### **Re-use Options:**

- + Owner keeps some items
- + Sell on-site
- + Dump run by local hauler
- + Sell online
- + Auction
- + Donate to Re-use shop

### **HOW TO WIN THE SHAREATHON:**

- + Combined score of total spaces cleared
- + Number of neighbors contacted
- + Funds donated by local sale, internet and auction
- + # pounds sent to re-use / re-cycle station
- + Feedback from Owners

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This is a Transition Movement idea that started as a creative story idea but then morphed into a potential "real world" specification. **We need to invent the future now if we are to live in it.**

Let's dream, and act, locally.

We need to **design systems** that fit out values and changing resources in the Chaos Age.

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### **Additional reading on sharing from Planetshifter.com Media -**

["Spiritual Resilience"](#) - Interview with Rev. Julia Bystrova, Heart & Soul Group, "Transition Sebastopol"

["The Sharing Center - A Transition Incubator for Small Towns and their Rural Neighbors"](#) - - Vision

[Interview with Transition North Brooklyn \(TNBK\) Organizer Charlotte E Binns](#)

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"Examining the Sharing Vision in the Transition Movement" - Values > Customs > Initiations > Traditions > New Mythology ("the Sequence"). By Willi Paul

' [Rituals and taboos](#) play an important role in human lives and help reinforce norms, behaviors, relationships and also in - rites of passage, holidays, political rituals, and even daily actions that can be redirected from moments that stimulate consumption to those that reconnect people with the planet and remind them of their dependence on Earth for continued well-being.'

**Prelude -**

How does Transition create [new holidays and celebrations](#)? Enjoy the transition tales 3 [video interviews](#).

**Intro -**

First, we learn to create and share customs and traditions from family and key institutions. The supportive idea is that we **practice** to raise the flag or pick apples with the Scout troop in the Fall. We can develop and practice new values with in the Chaos Era. **New traditions can lead to new mythology.**

**Resilience** is now LinkedIn jargon but is a critical community building glue and plays a role in each transition between the fives sequences (Values > Customs > Initiations > Traditions > New Mythology).

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## Defining the Sequence Terms -

A personal [value](#) is an individual's absolute or relative and ethical value, the assumption of which can be the basis for ethical action. A value system is a set of consistent values and measures. A principle value is a foundation upon which other values and measures of integrity are based.

A [Custom](#) is an action or way of behaving that is usual and traditional among the people in a particular group or place.

[Initiation](#) is a rite of passage marking entrance or acceptance into a group or society. It could also be a formal admission to adulthood in a community or one of its formal components. In an extended sense it can also signify a transformation in which the initiate is 'reborn' into a new role.

A [tradition](#) is a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. A number of factors can exacerbate the loss of tradition, including industrialization, globalization, and the assimilation or marginalization of specific cultural groups.

[New Mythology](#) - as proposed by Willi Paul.

1. Para-normal
2. Universal struggle / message
3. Journey, Initiation, Hero / Community
4. Symbols
5. Alchemy
6. Nature is Sacred
7. Threat of apocalypse
8. Digital - Non-Digital Collision
9. Future-based
10. Permaculture and Transition

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*Examining the Sharing Vision from the Tradition Movement -*

**Values > Customs > Initiations > Traditions > New Mythology + Symbols**

### **New Personal & Family Sharing Values**

Love Nature; Build community; resilience; Permaculture: Earth Care, People Care, Share the Excess

**Symbols:** Blueberry patch; Planet Earth; Saving ground water

### **New Local Sharing Customs (Routines)**

Reuse / recycle; community exchanges; backyard gardens; bake sales, second hand clothes

**Symbols:** Good Will Store logo; Tables of free stuff

### **New Sharing Initiations (Passages)**

Learning Quaker ways; Boycotts and protests; Permaculture: Building a Community Food Forest; Annual garage cleaning, Community water saving campaigns; Neighborhood Resilience Courses

**Symbols:** Occupy logo; Permaculture logo; Soil

### **New Global Traditions Sharing (Celebrations)**

Sharing Expos; Opening / closing summer cabin; Christmas Tree cutting and decorating; Earth Day; Gay Pride Parade; Transition: [Localization](#); World Music Day

**Symbols:** Tumble Weeds & Soil blowing away; Empty water reservoirs

### **New Sharing Myths (Universal Stories / Lessons)**

"[The Permaculture Potluck Café](#)"; "[Our Revolution Starts Here](#)" - Little Free Library Network

**Symbols:** Community meal; Harvest gathering; Donation box

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### **Issues -**

[ 1. ] We need new symbols now, called artifacts in the Myth Lab). New symbols as catalysts of change- esp. for children. Sharing by humans is connected to a deep care for Nature. Nature shares with us and we practice with each other.

[ 2. ] The 5 levels in the Sequence are a social scaffold, supporting other integrations and empowerment.

[ 3. ] Questions: Can new traditions cross national and religious boundaries in this bloody and fractious time?



Convergence



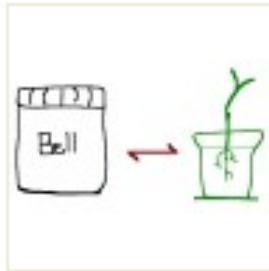
Fences



Harvest Dance



Ivory



Sharing Expo



Soil Building

## Symbols for New Rituals in Transition

"New Sharing & Return Rituals & Their Symbols in Transition" - by Willi Paul

One critical mandate for the Transition Movement in the present [Chaos Era](#) is to create [new myths](#) and associated rituals that guide us. What rituals do you participate in now; as a child? Do your stories speak to a world in turmoil? Who controls the narrative? This is a call for new rituals: a universal sharing and return to family, city core, gardens, fields, water, soul and Nature.

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### Definitions

#### Ritual (2)

(a) A [ritual](#) "is a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, and objects, performed in a sequestered place, and designed to influence preternatural entities or forces on behalf of the actors' goals and interests." Rituals may be prescribed by the traditions of a community, including a religious community.

**(b)** Semi-regular gathering of family or community members that share a Nature-based experience, value or dream often associated with formal roles and traditions. (W. Paul)

## **Universal**

**(c)** A globally understood sign (i.e. - meaning) that mandates care for all cultures. (W. Paul)

## **Return**

**(d)** To come back home; re-integrate; initiate; honor and acknowledge the sacred in all things. (W. Paul)

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## **New Sharing & Return Rituals**

### **The Return of Ivory to Native Lands**

In Chiang Mai, [Thailand](#), elephants are healed and cared for on farms for visitors and locals alike. The big mammals are protected from poachers and considered sacred. Are they our equals? Can we see that Asian elephants and all earthly beings are part of a global family? That the return of stolen tusks from world-wide black markets is an act of healing, honor and learning with Nature. Tusk revenue returned to the farms support preservation and education. This program of "international return" to local care is a ritual of love, sharing and support.

## **Soil Building**

With neighbors we clear grass heavy lands with controlled fires and shovels as a safety precaution and for soil building, turning-over the burnt wood and ash, adding compost from the neighborhood bins and then re-planting. With permaculture, we share knowledge and resources to keep fire on our side and to obtain healthy soils and sustainable yields.

## **Harvest Dance**

Together we celebrate both Nature and Permaculture calendars, our union of science and spirit at last. Picking each crop as it matures, teaching the youth to dance, to sort, peel, prepare and cook for their sharing dance, a seasonal celebration.

## **Taking Down the Fences**

Localization in the back yard! From a pragmatic point of view, taking down your fences can mean better friendships with your neighborhoods, a heightened sharing opportunity! Property lines are gone, yielding larger gardens and shared yields! Here is a return to our extended family of humans and animals, increasing views and openings to a local horizon; building resilience, trust and sharing between often fearful and isolated strangers.

## **The Convergence**

The New College is born! The Convergence is a spirit recharger, a fun zone, full of agriculture lessons, dancing



allowed! The Convergence brain thrust propels our union, sharing tech and spirit alike; accelerating our paradigm shift to a new land.

## **Sharing Expo**

Bring what you have, take what you need. Ask a question, make a friend! Extend the Good Will model? The Sharing Expo is a true "Win-Win", building and sharing the new network all at once; dissolving capitalism with new rituals.

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Our swing dance in the mud  
Measuring, carrying, dumping, folding  
Packing, balling, throwing, spreading, smoothing  
Community shaping

Sacred is choosing the long view, re-loving Nature's spirit, the shared view  
We are growing local heroes here

**Excerpt:** [The Cinnamon Cob Dance](#). Lyrics & Poster by W. Paul



### "Alice Greening and the Parking Lot Sharing Expo."

"At this special [holiday event](#), we'll have a re-gifting exchange, share holiday decor, and have a few holiday-themed demos. Bring your bikes, bike supplies, homegrown fruit, vegetables, eggs, herbs, honey, flowers, paints, markers, books, shirts, skirts, pants, fabric, yarn, paper, sheet music, patterns, books, garden tools, craft tools, toys, kits, seeds, unwanted gifts, and more. Be sure to bring a bag to take home the bounty, so you'll have enough for gifts!"

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A local seventh grade girl from East Palo Alto is curious to experience what her teacher calls the "new local economy." Alice Greening rides her bike over HW 101 to Palo Alto to check-out a new kind of "neighborhood sharing event" that looks at first glance like her thrift shop turned inside out! Curiously she finds an old silver dollar in the shrubbery as she parks her bike and wonders what she can buy with it. Each time she gets the

same response: "Nothing! What do have to share?"

Her first stop is the bike man who is giving his time and expertise for free to tune-up everyone's two wheelers. Alice sees a ton of bikes at the gig. But where is the car repair booth, she wonders? What she doesn't get yet is that sharing is part of a larger heart-felt movement to create [local relationships and resilient communities](#).

"Cars are losing favor in this circle," she smirks. With her old Schwinn now tried and true, she looks for another table to explore.

"Come over here dear, calls the cookie lady!" "Do you want to put some frosting on a cup cake and eat it at the Expo?"

"Are you teaching us something, Ma'am?"

"Oh Yes, indeed. I am sharing my experience as a start-up home bakery business. Frost-up a red velvet while I explain the bizz: batter to sprinkles!"

Alice walks on, rubbing her silver dollar and whipping off frosting from her cheeks, chagrined, wondering if anyone at this strange Expo will ask her to spend it. Ahead on her right, a large blue sheet is on the ground, covered with little piles of clothes. A woman drops clothes onto the sheet and walks on while another is sizing up a blouse.

"What are you looking for today? "Alice asks the woman.

"Nothing special. Just good to hang out here. In Brazil we have a family tradition of sharing; we need no parking lot expo to take care of our generations!" Alice is admiring a red scarf.

"It's yours honey! Give back what you can!"

There are many exciting things just ahead in the parking lot, and many colorful people to check-out. Piles of books, house plants, fabrics and seeds. People playing weird instruments.

Alice guesses and says hello to one of the organizers of the Expo.

"Ma-am?"

"Hi!"

"None of my friends are here today. Can we hook-up our neighborhoods somehow?"

"Can I ask you to take back some flyers to your churches and schools?"

"Cool beans."

"Ma'am?"

"Yes, Alice!?"

"Here is a dollar for the sharing fund."



**"[All Soils Day](#)" - An Alternative Thanksgiving Sharing Experience for the Community. [New Myth #90](#) by Willi Paul, Mythologist**

**" Love thy neighborhood" (W. Paul 2009)**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**All Soils Day (ASD) changes the traditional fall harvest celebration from a family eating focus to a neighborhood food sharing event. This holiday stresses replenishment and unity.**

**ASD builds resilience by combining and reinforcing existing neighborhood communication, betterment and security programs like Nextdoor.com, Neighborhood Watch, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, the Permaculture Guild and the sea level rise campaigns.**

**The first stage of All Soils Day is an outside, afternoon event facilitated by [The Arbor Day Foundation](#):**

**In mid-October, at a City or County Park, citizens are asked to bring a cup of soil from their boulevards for a tree planting ceremony where they will plant 4 - 12 sapling fruit trees in a Peace Circle. A lesson on composting is included.**

The second part of the celebration combines the values of the local shelter program with the food bank network. Neighborhood folks canvas their piece of the local world, meeting and greeting and asking for donations - a new twist on the old trick and treating.

Finally, before a neighborhood supper, people meditate on the synergies and lessons learned from the program and how ASD might be permanently expanded into their neighborhood ecosystem and their personal priorities.

Pray: Replenish the collective soil and spirit. Enrich the earth and our souls.

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Also enjoy: "[The Harvest Spirits Celebration: Story Making in the Food Forest](#)" - An Alternative Halloween Event by Willi Paul, Mythologist, Planetshifter.com





**"Our Own Bread" - Interview with rani Jayakumar, [Transition Palo Alto](#), by Willi Paul**

**[Reskilling & Sharing Expo](#)** - Free! Common Ground Organic Garden Supply & Education Center. Sunday, August 12, 11am - 12:30 pm @ 559 College Avenue, Palo Alto

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**5 questions for rani by Willi**

**Do you think that the Expo crowd could evolve into something new, a new community perhaps, independent of the City and other groups?**

The shares have certainly brought together people of diverse interests, including those who are not affiliated with Transition, and even those who have not yet embraced the idea of community-building or reuse as a means to combat climate change. I think that diverse group could certainly evolve into its own community, but I hope that it serves more as a link, connecting people across interests, and serving as an inspirational ground for people to find creative ways to connect with others. We are building up to a larger reskilling event next year, so I do hope to see the community becoming more integrated and more prominent in Palo Alto.

**How does permaculture fit into the "alt-economy" mission of the Transition Movement?**

I'm not well-versed in permaculture, but from what I understand, the idea of a long-term, holistic solution is common to both. I really have taken to the idea of doing something outside the box of what is considered the mainstream, but doing it in simple, harmless ways that everyone can appreciate and come to love. For example, when we share produce or items we no longer need with others in our community, we are in some way subverting the culture that says we must buy and spend our money to get what we need and want, which is more of everything.



At the same time, we enjoy the process, because we get to meet our neighbors, we find something that's often unique and has a history, and we take what we really can use, leaving the rest to the community. I think permaculture also offers that dream - that one can take and still leave the rest for the use of the community, and that everything has its place and its own history in the larger scheme of things.

**What are your favorite reskilling opportunities? Are these the same activists that you enjoyed as a child?**

I adore anything craft-related, especially when it uses found materials and things that would otherwise end up in the landfill. I started with that very young - making little notebooks out of scraps of junk mail and stickers that had lost their glue and giving them as gifts to teachers. I think as I have grown, my interests have also diversified - I love cooking, preserving, knitting, appreciating nature. Last year we had a bread-making skill share, and I've been making my own bread ever since.

**Do we need new songs, symbols and/or myths for the Transition? Who are a few of your heroes?**

It's truly important to have songs and symbols and stories for Transition. Some of my favorite things about my culture (my family is from India) go back to my grandparents and great-grandparents. My great-grandfather was one of the early (honest!) Indian politicians, so he and Mahatma Gandhi are definitely among my heroes, as well as Subramania Bharathi, whose songs rang with truth and freedom in those times. In modern days, I can cite my parents and my husband and so many friends for their strength to do what it takes for their convictions especially when it's certainly not the easy thing to do.

**How does the Common Ground Store integrate with the event?**

The Common Ground store generously and regularly offers us space and supplies and free advertising for our event, and everyone there is thoroughly supportive of our efforts! It's beautiful to be back there behind the plants and know that people can go into the store and learn from their workshops the same values that we espouse. I'm hopeful that we can continue to collaborate and find more ways to connect with Common Ground and the community with these events.

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**rani's Bio -**

rani Jayakumar is a member of Transition Palo Alto, where she began organizing craft swaps, and a co-founder of the Midtown Palo Alto Green Team. She is mother to a four-year old boy and also teaches Indian classical music. She believes in the power of creative reuse and sharing in the local community to help bring about sustainability, and brings these principles to her various interests. Other interests include cooking, writing, website building, and biology.

**Connections -**

rani Jayakumar  
promiserani at gmail.com

[Transition Palo Alto](#)  
[karnATik Music](#)