



# THE NEW SCHOOL COMMONWEAL

Nature • Culture • Inner Life

Imagine you could listen to—and talk with—U.S. Poet Laureate W.S. Merwin. Or with visionary writers like Terry Tempest Williams, Paul Hawken, and Fritjof Capra; integrative physicians like Rachel Naomi Remen, David Servan-Schreiber, and James Gordon; environment and justice leaders like Joanna Macy, Carl Anthony, and green architect Sym Van der Ryn; or Academy Award-winning film makers like Walter Murch.

Imagine you could attend these gatherings free of charge, contributing only what you feel moved to contribute. Imagine you were a member of a community that formed around these gatherings—and that the place where you gather is a place of beauty and quiet power.

Imagine that—and you have discovered The New School at Commonwealth. All you have to do to join The New School is decide you are part of it.

## Who Are We?

We're a learning community of more than 2,000 people in the Bay Area and (via the Internet) around the world, dedicated to learning what matters in our time. We're part of Commonwealth, a health, environment, and education center in Bolinas, California, a coastal town north of San Francisco on the edge of Point Reyes National Seashore.

Commonwealth's initiatives include the Commonwealth Cancer Help Program (week-long retreats for people with cancer), the Institute for the Study of Health and Illness (bringing health professionals back to the heart of healing), the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (serving an international community of people concerned with health and the environment), the Regenerative Design Institute (permaculture and nature awareness education), and much more.

## What Do We Do?

The New School offers conversations, book readings, performances, and other events with thought and action leaders who are changing our world. The events, more than 100 over the past five years, are recorded and then offered as podcasts on iTunes and our website. Most of our events are offered free—giving forward into a circle of generosity. The New School also offers art exhibits in the Commonwealth Gallery.

New School events focus on the emergent, on exploring what draws us now with the culture creators, the healers, the activists, and the contemplatives who nourish our hopes.

Most gatherings use an interview format. We engage in conversations of exceptional quality. We never talk down to our audience. We include the audience in the conversation whenever possible.

## Why Do We Do It?

We believe that truth emerges from dialogue. We are designed to learn better from conversations and stories than from lectures. When we engage with each other, we form or strengthen communities. When we are active participants in communities, we become more resilient to the constant changes of an increasingly fragmented and uncertain world.

This approach to learning works best when we engage in dialogue with people from whom we truly have something to learn. The New School draws on a global network of eminent Commonwealth friends who donate their time to help us reflect individually and as a community on the great questions of our time. We hope you will join our community—and bring your friends with you.

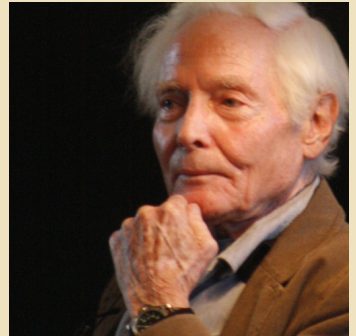
*Welcome to The New School at  
Commonwealth.*



"Rev" Lennox Yearwood, Jr.



Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD



U.S. Poet Laureate W.S. Merwin

## Interviews in Our Archives

- U.S. Poet Laureate W.S. Merwin and poet Gregory Orr
- Authors Paul Hawken and Terry Tempest Williams
- Philosopher-scientist Fritjof Capra
- Educator Joanna Macy
- Spiritual teachers TKD Desikachar, Shodo Harada Roshi, and Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man
- Physicians Rachel Naomi Remen, James Gordon, Keith Block, and David Servan-Schreiber

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