

January 7, 2008

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Richard Johanson

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Fifteenth Anniversary year of the Fresno Business Council. This is the year that our stars are coming into alignment. Because of the maturation of transformational initiatives conceived over the past years, 2008 is destined to be a memorable year in the annals of the FBC and our community. What were only dreams in 1993 are becoming realities. Our dedication to becoming a major partner in creating a better community for all is being validated. As we move forward, each of us bears a responsibility for contributing to this rewarding effort. We must each find our unique role.

Making A Difference—Finding Our Highest and Best Use

At the Fresno West Coalition's Risk Takers/Dream Makers luncheon, Keith Kelly ended by talking about the willingness of our founders to risk everything for the opportunity to create a free country with liberty and justice for all. Every generation has a responsibility to move the dream as far as they can to honor those that did their part in the great experiment of self governance.

(The following is an adaptation of a New Year's message from the John O'Dea, President of the Institute For Noetic Sciences. His message is very compatible with the Community Values and the work that lies ahead.)

- When we understand that the core impulse of every caring individual is good and noble, we find our way to unity and peace. Within all is the human quest for truth. Be a voice that honors that quest; be a voice for respectful dialogue aimed at sustainable outcomes, excellence and accountability.
- When we understand that human rights are universal and indivisible, then we can respect the historical and cultural diversity of all people and still challenge when a cultural norm is oppressive or destructive. Be a voice for the fullest expression and implementation of human rights and individual responsibilities everywhere.
- When we understand the interdependence of all life on Earth, we thrive in the context of creative collaboration with each other and with Nature. Resourceful collective action can restore balance. Be a voice for sustainable development and prosperity.
- When we understand how paradigms change, we can explore a future that is radically different, a future that supports our highest values. Human civilization requires that scientific exploration serve our highest evolutionary potential. Be a voice for scientific explorations that help us shift to higher creativity and more evolved consciousness.
- When we understand the nature of choice and the power of intention, we will choose our leaders wisely. We cannot have healthy, prosperous & safe societies without visionary, compassionate and intelligent leaders. Be a voice for choosing leaders who have character and competence.
- When we understand the potential within each human being, we will wake up to the importance of developing the inner life. In every age, mystics, sages, and teachers have shown us how to go deep within to find our purpose and the courage to take action.