



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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## ALL ABOUT CONNECTION

I have been searching for inspiration, a new soul stirring music or mantra such as Rzewski's 'People United', to affirm what we already know; "The people united will never be defeated."

**"El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido!"**

I had abandoned hope that I might find that inspiration to write a message for this week's Town Newsletter when I opened the Lifestyles section of the IJ yesterday to find this article by Vicki Larson.

It is entitled 'All About connection' and features the artist Marie Louise Klotz.

The gist of it is that we humans share far more in common than not. Klotz is quoted saying that "Just as trees fall or their root systems are exposed, they climb on other trees or intertwine with other root systems." This is the basis for multiple species' survival.

This phenomenon is mimicked by the human community, in that trees and humans both live and die in biodiverse forests and they survive by natural connectedness.

How will we survive in a time of unprecedented disconnection and polarization?

Klotz states that "Focusing on what separates us may not just be a false premise, but may actually prevent us from coming together as a species for survival as we face some of the biggest challenges of our lives, from the Pandemic to Climate change."-Marie Louise Klotz

Cliches abound about the power of working together, celebrating our differences, and discovering our commonalities. It is in the transition from cliché expressions and empty words to decisive action, that we stretch and challenge our assumptions about ourselves, and our assumptions and judgements of each other.

There has never been a time with more opportunity for Fairfax to take stock and call out our points of intersection and commonality, our points of difference, and collaborate in taking action.

In crisis, creativity explodes, artists paint and photographers shoot images which reflect a different tint, texture and truth. The artist sharpens and deepens both forgotten and new perspectives. If we are bold and willing to look, we can remember to heed the wisdom of our elders while humbly listening to the next generation. We are leaving our children a world facing myriad crises and existential threats, but they are already rising and will lead with new paradigms, values and spirit. They may be the cultural connectors who will guide us in the direction of collaboration. I am relieved and honored to hold space

for them.

Fairfax thrives when we connect and collaborate. Our Town Commissions, Boards and Committees all represent a multigenerational power mix of volunteers, and Fairfaxians are joiners. We fill our committee vacancies, lead and join Firewise Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Response Groups (NRGs), celebrate our older adults and prioritize our stellar Age Friendly Fairfax. We receive wise counsel, expertise and hard work from our Climate Action Committee and are launching our Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee to ensure that we are moving toward an antiracist Fairfax. We support our businesses, and step up to volunteer when there are folks in need. We are better together. We are biologically, socially and spiritually linked in our human and natural environment.

No matter the outcome of this Tuesday's election, the duration of the Covid crisis, or the length of the 2020 Fire Season, Fairfax will continue to step up, and when we pause and dig down carefully to our roots, we will realize that we are dependent on one another for our survival, and programmed to intertwine. We naturally rely on each other and serve as a soft landing as we rise and fall in this forest we call home.

Please vote, please smile on your neighbor, and please have faith that we share far more in common than that which tends to cause us to divide.

With great hope and respect,

Renee

