

*Lynne Iser*  
*Creator/Founder, Elder-Activists.Org*  
*Activist, Teacher, Facilitator*



I am a full time elder activist – which I attribute to my youngest daughter, who at 21 expresses great concern for the big problems of our world, and wishes that it was still the 1950’s.

I have also been deeply affected by the teachings of Joanna Macy, PhD, an eco-philosopher and creator of the ground-breaking theoretical framework for personal and social change -- The Work That Reconnects. These teachings encourage us to connect with our love for all life, to also feel the pain of our world, and, to use all those feelings to inspire our activism.

I work primarily on local issues concerning climate change and social justice. I am discovering the power that comes from intentional conversations and so I coordinate a monthly Pachamama Gathering, have initiated a Study-Action Circle with a group of friends, a Positive Aging Lunch series, and a New Jim Crow Study-Action Group. I am currently taking two on-line classes: one on environmental education, and the other is a Game Changing Intensive – both of which are fueling my continued quest to discern how we can best go forth to create a healthy world.

#### **Facilitator, Teacher ~**

Most of my adult life I have taught workshops: Conscious Aging, and, Creating Community to support our lives and further our values. My concern for the state of our world led me to become a Pachamama Alliance facilitator and to study with Joanna Macy.

I was the founding Executive Director for the Spiritual Eldering Institute, an organization that affirms the importance of the elder years and provides resources for individuals to review their lives, harvest their wisdom and create legacies for future generations through workshops, trainings and resource materials.

I have a Masters in Public Health from the University of Texas, and studied Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University -- in my younger years.

I live in Philadelphia with my husband, Mordechai Liebling. Together we have five children, a partially empty nest, and a beloved old cat.

Feel free to connect with me professionally on LinkedIn

(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/inspiringelderactivists>)

or join our online community on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ElderActivists>).

## **SAMPLE WORKSHOPS**

We invite you and your organization, association or group to collaborate with us to inspire, educate and support each other in becoming activists through workshops and retreats.

### **Activist Retreat**

Renew your energy for being an activist for a sustainable and just world with this retreat grounded in “The Work that Reconnects” created by Joanna Macy. This highly interactive workshop offers teachings and exercises that encourage us to connect with our love for all life as well as the feelings that arise within us when we encounter the destruction and chaos of our world. Through this work we are empowered to see with new eyes, gain new understandings and be able to go forth with a strong and full heart; along with a renewed commitment to our individual work. This workshop can be provided in a 3-hour format or extended to one or two days – providing a more in-depth experience.

### **Becoming Elders in Our Emerging World**

The question of “What gives our life meaning?” grows increasingly important as we move into the second half of our lives. As we consider the legacies we are leaving to future generations many of us struggle with despair and sadness because of the enormous environmental and social justice issues that confront our lives. Some eco-philosophers believe that this is a most exciting time to be alive – they call it the time of the Great Turning -- as the old systems and institutions are breaking down and new possibilities are emerging as we build life-sustaining structures, challenge what is not working, and understand that we are all truly inter-related. We are fortunate that our “baby-boomer age wave” contains a pool of potential activists and leaders with the experience, wisdom, and time to bring about a more socially just, environmentally sustainable, and spiritually fulfilling world.

### **Exploring Community and Interdependence**

Join us to engage in an inspiring exploration of the role of community and interdependence as we look at pertinent questions that underlie our relationship to others, and to our own selves. What does community mean for us? How does community manifest in our lives? And, how might we support each other in creating new forms of meaningful community?

We will examine the balance between our own individual and “communal” needs, reflect upon our personal aspirations and consider the concerns that we have as we move into the next chapter of our lives. Using our years of life experience we will develop a clear focus on what provides meaning in our lives as we continue to grow and thrive. Are our communities merely our friends, family and neighbors? How do we link with the wider global village that includes not only other people but also the other beings with whom we share our planet?

Finally, we shall create our own plan for extending the reach of our community, or perhaps strengthening that which already exists; that, if desired, will be supported by continued engagement with workshop participants and facilitators.