

March 26, April 24, May 22, 2002 and July 27-Aug 1, 2002
REDEFINING REALITY (a three-part series)

For the second year in a row, **Trish Corbett** and **Michael Mannion** were invited by the Sacramento Member Group of the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) to participate in their regional conference. The five-day conference was held in Mendocino, CA at the Mendocino Redwoods, a beautiful state park. They presented a version of their recent three-part series of conversational evenings, "**Redefining Reality.**" The three topics of the talks are "Redefining Reality," "Sexuality and Social Change" and "What Is Life?" For a full description of the series, see the write-up below.

Part One: Redefining Reality

The overall theme of the evening is, in the words of Richmond Mayo-Smith, a board member of The Marion Foundation, "reality is up for grabs." Our present understanding of "reality" is being challenged-and even changed-by advances in the sciences, medicine, planetary and space exploration, consciousness studies and other vital areas of inquiry.

Despite the fact that the human concept of reality has evolved over millennia, and continues to evolve, each generation mistakenly believes that its limited conception of reality is reality. Moreover, throughout our history, each era punishes, in one way or another, those who question or reject the dominant conception of reality. Ours is no exception. By holding uncritically and rigidly to erroneous conceptions of reality, human beings cause a great deal of harm to themselves. This broad theme will be deepened during the evening as we examine specific, crucial aspects of our society such as:

The Social Contract: A comparison of the European Union and the United States reveals many illusions Americans have about daily life in these different democracies.

The Radioactive-Chemical-Biotech Assault on Life: An assessment of the impact on our lives of life-negative science, which is broadening and deepening at an ever more rapid pace.

The Militarization of Space by a New Space-Faring Species: A review of our space activities and their implications for life on earth and life beyond earth, in particular the introduction of nuclear reactors and weaponry to space. Why are we letting "Space" be turned into a new "theater of war?"

These and other aspects of our lives will be looked at in an attempt to understand:

- what we think is happening vs. what is actually happening in our world;
- who we humans beings really are vs. our idealized picture of ourselves;
- the new knowledge emerging about the nature of the Universe, including the existence of other intelligences in the universe, and our place in it, as we begin to explore beyond earth.

Part Two: Sexuality and Social Change

Few perceive the intimate connections between sexual repression and our present authoritarian social order. Many seek to “change things” but can there be fundamental social change without radical change in our understanding of human sexuality and in our sexual lives?

The dominant human view of sexuality can be characterized as a mix of moralism, sentimentality and pornography. Although one or another of these three factors plays a major role in the individual, all three elements are present in each person to some degree. This leads to deep inner conflicts in individuals and society concerning the sexual lives of infants, children and adults. This conflict is evident in movies and on TV, in advertising, in the arts, in religious pronouncements and in political programs.

Among the questions we will examine are:

- What is the origin of our present-day sexual structure and social order? Is it of genetic or biological origin? If so, is fundamental change therefore impossible?
- Does the present authoritarian, anti-life social order arise from social conditions that can be altered? If so, what needs to be changed and in what manner?
- Is there a natural sexuality that is basically different from the prevailing conceptions of sexuality? If so, how would this manner of sexual functioning help bring about life-positive social change?

Join us for a vigorous discussion of some explosive issues.

Part Three: What Is Life?

Our two major ways of knowing, mechanistic science and mystical metaphysics, singly and in combination, have brought us to a dead end in which we are destroying ourselves and Life on our planet. It is obvious to increasing numbers of people that our understanding of Life is incomplete and that our actions based on faulty beliefs are endangering our very existence. But what is Life? Many answers to that question have been offered over the millennia and we will look at the exciting contributions to this inquiry from ancient times to the present.

However, despite intense study, the question “What is Life?” remains, unanswered. Why have the efforts of serious searching souls for millennia not led to an answer to this basic question? Because the nature of Life is functional, and not mystical or mechanistic. Therefore, Life Itself has eluded those using the tools of mechanistic-mystical thinking.

What does this mean? To find out more, join us for a discussion of “the next step” in our evolution on Earth: the practical comprehension of the Cosmic Life Energy and its potential to transform all aspects of our lives.