

# **CENTER FOR CREATIVE RESOURCES, INC. (CCR)**

## *A Brief History of Earthtribe's Parent*

### **1968**

Will (Bill at the time) Taegel gathers a circle of people on a spiritual journey in a Southern Pine Forest, north of Houston, for a series of retreats at a center, Blue Moon.

### **1969**

There is a sense of being called to something greater and a sense that current theology and psychology are not adequate. The result of these Nature-based retreats is a vision of a center that would renew institutions such as churches, corporations, and schools through new forms of spirituality and the emerging human potential movement. William (Bill) publishes a book that reflects these humble origins called *People Lovers*. In this original vision nature is implicit but not yet explicit.

### **1970**

Will leaves his work as a Methodist pastor and launches CCR while at the same time returning to graduate school. Fools rush in where "angels" fear to tread. The Bishop of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church agrees to appoint Will to found such an organization as long as it is completely self-sufficient and does not ask for funds from the church. There is a profound experience of the Creator calling the organization into being, an intuition that would eventually birth the name, The Center for Creative Resources, Inc.

### **1971**

CCR develops a low income counseling service in conjunction with a clinical residency program in Family Therapy at the Texas Medical Center and The Texas Institute for Family Psychiatry. A first contract is with Harris County, Texas, for parolees. CCR continues to be active in the civil rights movement through Federal Judge Woodrow Seals, an active CCR participant. Ben C. Johnson, longtime friend from Atlanta, Ga., assists with founding organization. The organization struggles to survive with financial stress and controversy over its involvement in the civil rights movement on the one hand and its deep explorations in mystical spirituality on the other. Forward looking contributors see the value in both emphases.

### **1972**

A fire burns down the office near the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston, and the CCR community rallies to overcome adversity. The Chi Omega Sorority at the University of Houston rents part of its house out to CCR until new office space can be found. Spirit sprouts unusual collaborations.

### **1975**

CCR becomes official through attaining non-profit status with the State of Texas and with the IRS as a 501(c)(3). Its dual mandate is spiritual education and psychological counseling.

### **1972-76**

CCR's vision unfolds so that renewal of religious institutions fades. Creation of new forms of spirituality and therapy interventions come forward. Foundations are laid for CCR to become a major player in the mental health world of Houston. CCR has a contract with Baylor College of Medicine to provide counseling for persons seeking sex reassignment surgery. CCR becomes an important pioneer in adult education through George and Barbara Brightwell. Judith Yost becomes a key part of the CCR family professionally. She and Will marry in a glorious ceremony in Northern California.

### 1977

Judith Yost completes her MSW licensure and takes over the low-income clinic. She establishes CCR as a placement for various graduate schools in Houston as well as post-degree licensure training. Will is appointed to the Texas State Licensure Board for Social Psychotherapists by Governor Dolph Briscoe and serves for seven years. CCR becomes a model of professional training for State Licensure. Federal Judge Woodrow Seals serves ably on the early board of advisors. C. J. Burleson, V.P. of Texas Gas Exploration, is founding President of the CCR Board. He continues to be an avid supporter of CCR through 2014, at age 92.

### 1978

Will and Judith form a spiritual community that meets on Sunday afternoons. It does not sustain itself and disbands with an awareness that the spirituality practiced needed Earth roots that were not present. Somewhat disheartened and confused, Will follows a vision that directs him to nature-based spirituality and begins studies with shamanic elders in an effort to move psychotherapy into both transpersonal and grounded domains. CCR births a deep connection with the Earth and immediate environments, later to be known and researched as a web of eco-fields.

### 1980-85

Nature-based spirituality bursts onto the scene with sweat lodges, vision quests, and training groups in meditation. The Sofkas provide a nature-based home for these spiritual growth experiences that include many clients and students from CCR. Bear Heart, noted Native elder, becomes an important feature of CCR's life, and the Earthtribe is formed. Monthly gatherings become the norm. Mike Mauldin joins CCR as chief psychologist and also offers leadership in the Earthtribe.

### 1985-1990

The Earthtribe spiritual community becomes the heart and soul of CCR's work. Will studies with Roger Callahan, Ph.D., creator of *Thought Field Therapy*, the original tapping intervention. A fellow student, Roger Craig, creates a variation of tapping called *Emotional Freedom Technique* (EFT). These studies send Will and, later, CCR into a rich research journey related to the science of fields and quantum physics and the role of energy healing.

### 1990-1991

Jim Hurly-Bruno returns from a visit to start a Nature-based Lodge in Boston. Wayne and Linda McCleskey start a lodge in Seattle. Ed Tick births a lodge in New York and launches his work with combat veterans. The Earthtribe (CCR's spiritual community) moves most of its work to Deer Dancer Ranch in Columbus through the generosity and collaboration of Allison and Jack Jensen. William chronicles this unfolding spiritual and psychological experiment in a book, *The Many Colored Buffalo*. In this work the term, eco-therapy or ecological therapy, is introduced to the mental health world. Psychotherapists from across the continent visit as a result of interest in CCR's work through the American Academy of Psychotherapists. The Earthtribe community graciously opens itself to visitors who are curious and hungry for developing insights.

### 1992

Will and Judith introduce Hal and Sidra Stone's work to CCR in the form of the psychology of selves. CCR moves to the suburbs to work with Jack and Allison Jensen in their medical practice. Elizabeth Phillips joins CCR and continues a large practice. She also becomes Director of the Low Income Clinic.

### 1993

Training and supervision expands to include students and interns from The University of Texas Medical School, Houston, the University of Houston, and other graduate schools. CCR is certified to train therapists toward licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. Judith and Will move to Wimberley and establish the CCR home office in the Hill Country. The Houston office continues with shared leadership featuring Jyl Scott-Reagan and Elizabeth Phillips. Judith, Jyl, and Will create and introduce a form of therapy called ecodrama to the mental health field.

### 1994

Through a bee sting and ensuing vision the first annual Earthdance begins. It becomes a cornucopia of creativity, celebration, and heyoka or clown expressions in the following decades.

### 1995

Jyl Scott-Reagan becomes the Director of CCR-Houston and ably expands the training of both therapists and the low-income clinic. Judith and Will publish a book on relational meditation, *Nature and Intimacy*. A distribution of major leadership in CCR signals a new phase of our life together, and Jyl's ability shines through in a brilliant way.

### 1996

Evolutionary models burst on CCR's scene through Clare W. Graves and *Spiral Dynamics* and other models of evolution.

### 1997

Carla J. Bradley, Ph.D., completes her doctoral dissertation on CCR's nature-based psychotherapy in which she notes CCR's seminal contribution of the terms "eco-therapy," and "ecological psychology."

### 1998

Judith launches into a doctoral program with Matthew Fox and, through her leadership, CCR and the Earthtribe break out of provincial spirituality into a global presence. Judith's leadership in music, song, and curiosity propel the Earthtribe/CCR into new domains. CCR engages the world's wisdom traditions as maps of reality while at the same time continuing Native traditions. Will introduces Ken Wilber's integral model to CCR. Judith and Will join Gary Craig and others in a training experiment that results in astounding advances in a tapping method called *Emotional Freedom Technique* (EFT).

### 1999

CCR explores the newer sciences, including important brain studies and quantum physics as these evolving domains become Will's passion. Rigorous meditation training beyond visions quests and sweat lodges is launched. The CCR therapy team continues to create and expand ecodrama.

### 2000

By this time CCR Houston moves back to Montrose in Houston, and Elizabeth Phillips and Jyl Scott-Reagan offer superb leadership for the office there including the low-income clinic and training facility for therapists. CCR receives a \$100,000 endowment primarily for the use of training and the low income clinic and managed by board member, Elizabeth Phillips.

### **2001**

Monthly gatherings of CCR/Earthtribe begin in Wimberley. Soon, this lodge is attracting people from across the Hill Country. Meanwhile, the mother lodge meeting near Columbus on Deer Dancer Ranch begins to find its way as leadership shifts from Will and Judith to others. Pipe Carriers blossom and shoulder much of CCR/Earthtribe load for monthly lodges at Deer Dancer Ranch.

### **2002**

Judith completes her dissertation: *Encounters With Nature: Mystical and Transformational Stories*. This research includes many Earthtribe stories of nature-based encounters and lays the foundation for other Earthtribe researchers.

### **2003**

Will publishes *Natural Mystics* as a probing of the Earthtribe's development and CCR's exploration of dialogue with science and other wisdom traditions. CCR starts the *Eco-Spiritual Mentoring School* in the Hill Country with Lillie Rowden's enthusiastic support

### **2004**

Jyl Scott-Reagan continues as Director of CCR Houston. The internship, training program/Low Cost Clinic grows to include 10 part-time therapists, both men and women, who offer services in English, Spanish, or Arabic. CCR Houston is the principal private low cost therapy center in Houston and offers the lowest fee scale in the city. Jyl leads CCR/Houston into a key role in Houston's mental health community.

### **2004**

Allison Jensen, Ph.D., completes a doctoral dissertation, *Earth Medicine: Transformations In Nature*. Her research includes the creation of groups of Earthtribers who explore the ramifications and connections of their vision quests. This organic inquiry points to the importance of Earthtribe visions as part of a larger mosaic of visions Mother Earth is sending for our crucial era. CCR sponsors rainwater collection seminars through experiments at 1459 Skyline Ridge Lookout Rd, Wimberley, Texas.

### **2005**

Betty Page enters *Dream Tending Training* through Pacifica University and eventually brings a fresh perspective in CCR/Earthtribe dream circles as she integrates dream skills greatly valued by the tribe. Judith and Will offer the first course ever at Wisdom University on the subject of natural mystics. A beautiful redwood sweat lodge built of suckers from the redwood tree is the focal point of the seminar.

### **2007**

Judith and Will form a new department for Wisdom University called *Nature, Trauma, and the Soul*. Judith is appointed Director of the Doctor of Ministry and Dean of Students at Wisdom University. Numerous CCR/Earthtribe people become graduate students at Wisdom U. A distributed leadership model begins to take shape in CCR/Earthtribe whereby 15 key persons are in a training process as pipe carriers that addresses tension reduction in the organization and other key components. CCR is one of the first modern organizations to propose shared intimacy as a valid form of leadership.

### **2008**

CCR becomes an Academic Partner with Wisdom U. CCR's Eco-Spiritual Mentoring School offers academic credit for Masters, Doctor of Ministry, and PhD degrees. Several Earthtribers enter the graduate program, and Wisdom U. students begin attending Earthtribe events. A rich discussion ensues within CCR/Earthtribe about how to open ourselves to new people while, at the same time, continuing tribal intimacy.

### **2009**

CCR/Earthtribe continues to collaborate with the Jensen's in the restoration of Deer Dancer Ranch, which becomes a model of sustainability. The collaboration successfully fends off efforts by an oil company to drill on the sacred land. Jack and Will collaborate in an integration of shamanic healing within a scientific context with special leadership provided by Jack in providing a healing tipi.

### **2010**

CCR forms a task group of Dan Gauthier, Jim VanOvershelde, and Jeff Caldwell to explore solar power in homes. This work eventuates in an extensive solar system at 1459 Skyline Ridge Lookout, Wimberley, Texas, home office of CCR. Free sustainability seminars ensue on a small scale. Will's book, *Wild Heart: Nature's Hope in Earth's Crisis*, extends the psychology of selves into the planetary arena. The book proposes bringing the "wild heart sub-self" into the inner council to create a dynamic conversation with mainstream personality patterns. In that tension possible planetary solutions can be birthed, he proposes.

### **2011**

Lillie Rowden, D.Min., completes a doctoral dissertation at Wisdom University in which she integrates Christianity, the medicine wheel, and CCR/Earthtribe work. CCR collaborates with The Toltec Center for Creative Intent in pilgrimages to the pyramids of Teotihuacán, which becomes an annual event. Jyl Scott-Reagan becomes part of the faculty of the *Pyramid Academy*, a joint venture of CCR/Earthtribe, Wisdom U., and The Toltec Center for Creative Intent in Austin.

### **2012**

Will's pivotal book, *The Mother Tongue: Intimacy in the Eco-fields*, places CCR/Earthtribe at the forefront of an evolutionary edge where ancient wisdom meets the newer sciences. The book is featured in a virtual great book series. Like all Will's books, sales are limited to a few cultural creatives.

### **2013**

CCR/Earthtribe collaborates with wisdom communities around the globe to have a first Saturday virtual gathering. 1,500 people register for the call. Shiila Safer leads CCR/Earthtribe into the domain of social media.