

September, 2021 Growing Edge Podcast

Conversation Starter & Questions of the Month

Episode 36: Until Now: Creativity at The Growing Edge

For each Growing Edge Podcast episode, we offer a conversation starter that you can download from our website. You can use this with a small group or for your own meditation or journaling.

In this episode of our podcast, we explore the themes of Carrie's new book and CD—both titled “Until Now”—as well as the creative process that all of us have access to in our own way. Think “creative parenting,” “creative teaching,” “creative gardening,” “creative leading,” etc.



1. What is your personal form of creativity? When did you last use it, and how? What might help you to call on it again, and more often?
2. What other form of creativity do you feel called to experiment with? What would help you reach in that direction with more intentionality than you have?
3. What has been your experience with uncertainty and “being in process” in the past eighteen months? In working your way through this period of time, have you learned lessons about self-compassion?
4. Parker spoke about taking a walk each day and taking close-up photos of flowers as a practice in noticing and savoring small things that induce wonder. Try going for a walk and snapping photos of small things that delight your eye. Share your photos with someone and talk about the experience. What might that do to your daily awareness of life?
5. The title “Until Now” relates, in part, to things that had not come to Carrie before the pandemic set in and so much about our taken-for-granted way of life changed, perhaps forever. Is there something creative you hadn't considered, understood, or done “until now?” Is there something more that's calling to you because of all that has changed in the last year and a half?
6. Carrie read her poem, "What They Won't Tell You On Cable News." Read the stanza below, then reflect on a moment when you observed or experienced that axis of goodness in a place you did not expect to find it:

I want to tell you the world still turns
Every single day
On an axis of goodness

And unexpected grace
That shows up without fanfare
And often where we least expect to find it.

Some Approaches to This Month's Questions

You may want to explore the podcast and Questions of the Month privately, via journaling and silent reflection. But please consider gathering online for an exploration with one or more family members or friends. If that idea appeals to you, look into using Zoom, Facetime, Skype or some other video platform or talk with each other while practicing safe social distancing. We are also grateful that with the availability of Covid-19 vaccines it is sometimes possible to gather safely to have these conversations in person.