



## A message from Edna Murdoch, Director of CSA

### Zooming on to 2021

Such a year's end, this one. Like no other that I can remember. The new reality of our lives shows up in so many different ways. Coaches and supervisees meet the swirl of uncertainty, possibility and trauma every day. Recently, I was working with a group of senior supervisors who were noting how in the supervision groups they run, conversations throughout 2020, have been significantly coloured by global, societal, ecological issues.

In the supervision group, I found myself quoting from T. S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral' where the Chorus, who represent the common people, comments on the days that led to Thomas Becket's death. They wail: "We are forced to bear witness". Collectively, we too are forced to bear witness to an extraordinary global moment. But we are not only passive witnesses; coaches and supervisors contribute daily to transformation and change. Yet witness, we must. And who witnesses...who watches? And from where in ourselves do we witness? What in you is being touched, stretched or transformed? In 2020, CSA's mantra: 'Who you are is how you coach', just got a whole lot bigger; Geneen Marie Haugen of the Animas Valley Institute puts it this way:

"How do we identify "self"? Does self extend to our family or kin groups? To ancestors? To our spiritual community or village? To descendants? To people in remote forests or dry steppes with whom we will never share an in-person greeting? People with skin shades unlike our own, beliefs unlike ours, gender expression unlike ours? Are we large enough to "contain multitudes" as Whitman suggests in his epic poem, "Song of Myself"? Does self stop at the boundary of our skin, or does it include the plants and creatures that our bodily existence depends on; the clouds that bring the plant-nourishing rain; the animate air that we breathe with all the Others? Is psyche privately contained in us or does it merge with what James Hillman calls "a psyche the size of Earth"? Are we permeable and expansive enough to identify with — as Joanna Macy does — "World as Lover, World as Self"? .....

Expanding the customary circle of identity to include marginalized human beings as well as salmon, grizzlies, forests and rivers — and the intelligent planet — utterly destabilizes the old-world order, and truthfully could be frightening for some (or many). But such a widening is already happening."

It is so heartening to see that coaches are rising magnificently to the unique challenges that are here. We are indeed 'born for this time'; the Coaches Climate Alliance (<https://www.climatecoachingalliance.org>) is one example of our response. Superb online programmes proliferate - even our social media posts offer an array of new thinking, deep reflection, creativity, determination, along with loving and skilful responses to the current

situation. And of course, supervisors provide a safe container in which to hear, hold and resource the coaches, mentors and leaders who work in this turning world.

Here at CSA, we are delighted that our supervision programmes are full, that several of our graduates are running their own programmes and powerfully influencing the conversation. We will be announcing several new programmes for 2021 – watch this space! Another CSA faculty member completes a doctorate in coaching supervision early next year – more in our next newsletter. So much has been seeded here at CSA and we are thrilled that our work continues to grow. A deep bow to all who work and train with us.

At this year's end, may you find ways to restore your batteries, to step into 'bigger', into 'more', into possibility.

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<https://coachingsupervisionacademy.com>