

Mid-Atlantic Pathwork (MAP) School 2013 Vision

Mid-Atlantic Pathwork Council (PWC)

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1. Scope

The **Mid-Atlantic Pathwork** oversees two operations: The **MAP School** and the **Sevenoaks Retreat Center**. The MAP School is the responsibility of the Mid-Atlantic Pathwork Council (PWC) and the subject of this 2013 Vision statement.

2. Mission of the MAP School

The MAP School is a **School for the Soul**. A school for the **hungry**, even **starving Soul**. A School for the Planet Earth where Souls hunger for spiritual nourishment.

3. State of the Hungry Soul and His/Her Soul's Journey

In some aspects consciously and in other areas unconsciously **all of us Souls**, whether relatively young in our Soul's Journey or "advanced," experienced and relatively mature in our Journey, **are hungry**, even at times **starving**. Oftentimes Hungry Souls are, again to some degree consciously but usually deeply unconsciously, **wounded, scared, suffering, untrusting, confused, and defended** – sometimes very defended, **behind isolating walls of success, busyness, addictions of many sorts, perceived victimhood**, and the like.

The hungry Soul's Journey is a **Journey back to God**, back to his/her **Real Self**, ultimately back to a state of **Unitive Consciousness**, a state of unlimited Joy, Peace, Power, Creativity, Union, Wisdom, and Love.

4 The MAP School's Offerings for the Hungry Soul

The MAP School supports all Souls in many states of consciousness in our respective Journeys back to God. The **framework** of this support for the Soul is **Pathwork**, a body of wisdom coming to us through Eva Pierrakos between 1957 and her death in 1979. The aim of the Pathwork Lectures and of Pathwork as a Spiritual Path is to **awaken the Soul** and **support him/her in ever deepening levels of consciousness**. Our **mission as the MAP School** is to **share this wisdom** in as many forms and ways as possible, **ways that best support the hungry Soul's journey back to God, back to his/her Real Self**.

The **forms of sharing Pathwork** are **many**, because we Souls have many styles, needs, levels of awareness, troubles, avenues of openness and many dimensions of defenses, obstacles and obscurations. Yes, we Souls often **resist growth and development** that are necessary in our Journey back to God, back to our Real

Selves. So the wisdom contained in Pathwork has to be offered in **many different venues and styles to both attract the Soul and penetrate many obstacles and resistance.**

Some of the forms of this Pathwork support for the Soul's Journey are the following. **Writings**, both material directly drawn from the Pathwork Lectures, or, for some, the Lectures themselves, but also writings framed in various ways so that the key concepts can be more easily grasped and used. **Study Groups** where a Pathwork teacher can share and discuss some of the material. **Body-work via Emotional Processing Groups or other body-based psychotherapy:** Deepening one's sense of feelings and emotions in one's body is critical to the Soul's growth and development. In Emotional Processing Groups or other body-based work a Pathwork Helper (a Pathworker experienced with both Pathwork and ways of working with people in the applications of Pathwork) facilitates participants in **experiencing their until-then unconscious feelings.** **Workshops:** One-time events where Pathwork can be experienced and learned, often in a specific application to a life issue. **Helpers** are available for private counseling sessions that support the Soul's discovery of him/herself and encourages the Soul's growth and development. This Helper support is often an offering of **Sacred Presence**, a place where the Soul can safely and courageously come out and discover him/herself. The **Pathwork Transformation Program** is a multi-year Soul Development program where participants make an annual commitment to their Soul's development.

The Soul's Journey is **spiral in nature**, so **development is life-long.** Hence, the MAP School offers **life-long soul-development programs** for those who have graduated from the Pathwork Transformation Program. The ongoing track is a **graduate-level program** aimed at supporting the Soul in its ever-deepening journey to God. Also included in these post Pathwork Transformation Programs are **Advanced Pathwork Studies** for those feeling called to teach Pathwork and **Helper Training** for those who feel called to Pathwork Helpership. Regional **Pathwork Communities** are formed on various bases so that mutual support in the Soul's growth can be made available no matter where the Soul is in his/her Journey back to God.

5. Helping Hungry Souls Find and Stay With Pathwork

How do hungry Souls find these rich Pathwork offerings of the MAP School? This is a tricky business, since the hungry Soul is often not aware of being hungry, may deny that it is hungry and may even resist opportunities for its own development and its inevitable Journey Back to God and his/her Real Self. But other Souls may be very conscious of their hunger and eagerly seek support and nourishment. Such Souls may seek God-language programs whereas those resisting growth, and who may at the same time be starving, could be turned off by any form of God-language, usually the result of some level of spiritual wounding in their Journey.

So what characterizes the hungry Soul? A hungry Soul will often come, consciously or unconsciously, with deep emotional wounds from childhood carried into

adulthood where they are covered over by defensive patterned living that heavily armors the young Soul within. The hungry Soul may be scared, largely unconscious of spiritual hunger characterized by pain and confusion. Or suffering, untrusting of anything outside him/herself, often defended behind walls of outer success, busyness, religious beliefs, and denied addictions. **What Light will attract attention of such a diverse set of Souls and draw them in to receive the spiritual nurturance available from the MAP School, nurturance for which they are starved?**

6. Meeting Hungry Souls Where They Are

A **multifaceted Light** is suggested – each facet fitted to reach a specific type of hungry Soul. The specific facet of Light offers a **unique Key** one might say that unlocks the **unique heart-lock** that is different for each and every one of our Souls. Actually there are a **series of locks** and hence a variety of keys that are needed to finally reach the core of each of our Souls. What characterizes some of these Souls and what Keys will fit which locks? Let's look at a few possibilities.

For the **spiritually-oriented Souls** who are very aware of their hunger for God a clear bright God-light, or a bright "Awakening Light" may be the great attractor. Such a Soul will consciously say, "I want more!" But Spirit works in surprising ways to do what needs to be done by the Soul in his/her Journey to God, to his/her Real Self. Here is what might happen. So-identified with the Truth of his or her God-self, such a Soul, drawn by the Light of God, might get confused in this next step needed in his/her Spiritual journey. Such a Soul, though drawn by the Truth of the Light, may be called to a **stage of self-responsibility** and be helped by **embracing the blocks of its blind spots**, spots associated with its **merely and utterly human nature**, the pieces of itself where **psychological work can be so necessary** for deeper growth through **purification**. Such a Soul may be unconscious of the need for psychological work and be turned off by psychologically-oriented programs, but the psychological work may be just what is needed in the next step of that Soul's continued Journey back to God.

For those Souls whose lives are full of **suffering – struggling in relationships, career, financial problems, lost sense of purpose, mid-life crisis, and the like** – a **promise of relief** might be the facet of Light that attracts. Perhaps this Soul's problem is a **"beautiful" Problem in disguise**, beautiful because it is the magnet that draws the hungry Soul to **seek "fix-it" help**. Of course again Spirit has to work its magic in mysterious ways. The pursuit of the kind of fixing such a Soul longs for **could keep that Soul in dualistic consciousness of either/or**, "I want this but do not want that." But this search for relief from his/her problem, his/her suffering in life, nonetheless is what draws him/her onto a spiritual path in the first place, a path that eventually leads to **non-dual consciousness that transcends the either/or life of duality**. Of course before transformation such a Soul will not be attracted to a path of true spiritual growth, but rather be hoping for and clinging to the "good" of "good or bad" duality instead of evolving to a higher level of non-dual consciousness (the good and bad of our human existence) and eventually transcending good and

bad of our human existence to reach a Unitive state of consciousness, where he/she experiences the “All Good” of our True Essence. So such a Soul is drawn by the dim but hopeful light of fixing the problems in his/her life and ending his/her suffering only to discover a much more profound Journey to God and the Real Self.

Next let’s look at the Soul who is a **religionist**, who draws his/her meaning of life from religious dogma and practices, the one who faithfully adheres to the external authority in his/her religion. The facet of Light that might attract such a Soul is that inner notion that **there must be more to spiritual life** than a life overly dependent upon fixed doctrine and rote ritual and liturgy. Such a Soul may enjoy the pseudo-comfort of a spiritual community in his/her religion and find his/her identity playing leadership roles in said community, but this deeper sense of “there’s more,” that there is a need to go from the letter of the dogma to the Spirit of the dogma tickles his/her curiosity. Such **curiosity may cause such a religious Soul to respond to the Light of Truth that Pathwork offers**. But defenses may be high! To a religionist Soul it may seem very risky to let go of the long-held dogma of a religion that has promised eternal life in return for faithful holding on to its dogma. In the end, of course, the truths of such a Soul’s religion will contain aspects of the Truth, and the Soul who follows the Light of Pathwork (or similar paths) will be rewarded with a **deeper understanding and experience of its own religion**, or may choose to venture forth in a different direction to a different religion or a personal religion, but with a profound sense of why that might be necessary. Even if this Soul decides to leave his or her religion, the spirit will be one of gratitude and understanding of his/her religious roots rather than bitterness and rebellion.

Next let’s look at the **Soul whose state of consciousness is that of a psychologically developed atheist**, a Soul who thinks him/herself “above” the “neurosis” of the religionist. Pathwork frames atheism as one of the steps in the Soul’s Journey, a step often necessary for the Soul to evolve from reliance on authority-based dogma of a religion to self-responsibility. But after a while the Truth of Spirit appears and the Soul gets curious about what that state of consciousness beyond the mind might be about. For such a Soul, the Light may appear quite dim, but nevertheless is ever-present to remind him/her of a deep unconscious Knowing that **true living lies beyond his or her well-adjusted and seemingly mature psychological mantle**. Such a Soul may be graced with a dose of curiosity that opens him or her to the possibility of enlightenment regarding things spiritual. Of course such a Soul is challenged by even the possibility of something beyond his/her materialistic worldview, and so faces seemingly great risks in looking beyond what has served him/her so well in life thus far.

What about the **Soul who is wrapped up in addiction** and has **addressed such addiction through long work in a 12-Step program such as Alcoholic’s Anonymous?** Perhaps through Pathwork such a Soul, deeply aware of its addiction, may, out of curiosity, find identity with a God-self that is deeper than his/her addiction. “I am an addict,” true, but that addiction does not define me and is not my Essence. **My Essence is my God-self, my Real Self**, not my addiction, and I am now ready, while not at all denying those parts of me caught in addiction, to move toward and identify with my Divine Nature. Who knows what facet of the Light will

draw such a Soul, but many Pathworkers come out of such backgrounds and find that their 12-Step work has served them well and will continue to serve them well, but when complemented with Pathwork come to have more awareness of their Divine Nature that often manifests in deeper levels of Love and Creativity.

Finally, let's consider the **Soul who has found Pathwork**, completed some if not all of Pathwork's many programs, and may or may not be active in a Pathwork community or in a role of Helpership or other leadership. Such a Soul may or may not have forgotten that the spiritual Journey home to God, to the Real Self is **spiral in nature**. **The Soul never outgrows its needs for deeper work** – ever finding new ways of manifesting facets of its own Light, the Christ within, AND ever looking for and wrestling with those intractable obstacles that reside even at the deepest parts of our merely and utterly humanness in this life. **A Pathworker is not immune to being sidetracked from his or her path back to God**. In many ways the path becomes **even more challenging** when some of our channels to God are opened because in going deeper the Soul may **reach his/her most obstinate areas of resistance the closer he/she comes to God and not see that obstinacy and resistance because of the channels that are open**. So such a Soul may resist these deeper areas of work, blinding him/herself perhaps even with busyness in Pathwork roles that play to areas where his/her channels are open, **yet the Light is there and tugs at such a Soul, encouraging that Soul to continue his/her journey no matter the challenges**.

In summary, each of us Souls is unique. Each of us Souls needs a **different Key** it seems to **open each of the next doors of our Spiritual Journey back to God**. The MAP Pathwork School's mission is to support each of us Souls in whatever way it can along the Soul's Journey home to God.

7. So how are all of us, all of these (often unconsciously) Hungry Souls, Drawn to the Light of Pathwork?

Hungry Souls are often like sea anemones – fragile and beautiful when open, but close immediately if predators are perceived. And to the hungry Soul at first Truth may seem a threat. So what attracts the hungry Soul to the Light where he or she can open and stay open in his/her curiosity for exploring and experiencing the Mystery that might be revealed in the Light? First, the Soul must be **aware that he/she still has problems**, that life is not all that it could be, even for the veteran Pathworker. Often the Soul, even when we have matured in our Soul's Journey, has defended his/her entire life against feeling deeper pain, suffering, fear, sadness and other negative emotions. So first the **Light must gently help the Soul wake up to see his/her current plight**. Of course the Soul, even the relatively mature Soul, may resist feeling such pain and, like the sea anemone, close down. And closing down or not closing down is his/her choice. But perhaps the Light can **awaken a curiosity** within the Soul that enables him/her to embrace the next step of his/her Journey and feel more deeply his/her pain and suffering.

Secondly, the **Light is Truth** and when the Light of Truth shines with clarity and brilliance the Soul's heart will respond, will **feel a resonance, and awaken from within**. So **effort must be put into making the Light the clear and blazing Truth it is**.

Thirdly, **safety** must be addressed. Remember that the Soul is very sensitive, like the Sea Anemone. So as the Soul is exposed to and begins resonating and awakening to a new area of Truth a **new and more intense counteracting fear may arise**. To overcome this fear, this trembling fright of the "young one" inside, young in regards to this new area of development, a **container of safety** must be carefully built until the Soul comes to trust what is happening in the Light of Truth. And, through enCOURAGEMENT the Soul will find the inner courage to risk more as it travels into the unknown Mystery of its own true nature.

Fourthly, the Soul is **drawn by Love** and this atmosphere of love, of welcoming all Souls, all parts of the Soul, and inviting Presence must be palpable, calling forth the Soul in all its Realness into **Presence**. Over time (life-times) the Soul will **experience its connection with All that is, its own Divine Nature, its Real Self, and will evolve from its illusion of fragmentation and separation into the truth of Wholeness and Oneness with the Divine**.

This is the Soul's Journey toward God, toward its own Real Self. The Journey is ongoing and lifelong, even over many lifetimes perhaps. While the challenges and pains get harder with growth, these challenges are rewarded and offset by the experiences of Love, Beauty, Joy, Pleasure, and Peace that expand into new realms heretofore not known possible to the hungry Soul. This applies to the mature Soul as well as to the relatively young Soul. There is always more.

Again, the MAP School is a **School for the Soul**. A school for the **hungry, even starving Soul**. A school for all us Souls.

8. Caveat

Jesus gave us the parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:13-23). The seed is the message of Truth about the Kingdom of God, the Soul's Journey back home to God. The seed falls on four types of soil. It falls on **hard ground** (the mind does not understand and rejects), **rocky ground** (excitedly embraces at first, but when the going gets at all tough, lets it go), **thorny ground** (tries it, but is drawn away by other priorities, worries, busyness, and values of a materialistic culture) and **good ground** (those whose Souls understand and embrace the Truth – producing 100-fold what was sown). And thus it is with the Light of Pathwork offered through the MAP School. The offerings fall on all different kinds of Soul substance, even within one Soul.

Jesus, in his physical aspects, died. The disciples, being merely and utterly human beings, picked up the task of spreading the Light but often did so unskillfully and imperfectly, often even arguing amongst themselves. Nevertheless seeds were planted in many different ways and fell on all kinds of soil. Spirit has been at work in

the hearts of Souls ever since. Eva Pierrakos and her unique access to the Wisdom of Pathwork died over 30 years ago. We followers of the Pathwork, being merely and utterly human beings, picked up the task of spreading the Light of Pathwork but often do so unskillfully and imperfectly, often even arguing amongst ourselves. Nevertheless, seeds of Truth available through Pathwork are being planted in many different ways and are falling on all kinds of soil. Ever since, Spirit has worked and continues to work in the hearts of Souls who are open, who resonate with this particular set of Keys, Truth, and Love, and who are, therefore the good soil producing 100-fold what is being planted.

Our prayer is that we may be faithful stewards of the wisdom that Pathwork is and effectively share this wisdom with the fellow hungry Souls that so hunger for such Truth can be met with the nourishment of Truth and Love.

9. MAP School Programming for 2013

MAP School Programming for 2013 consists of two aspects: **Programs offered to meet our Mission** and secondly **Helper Retreats** where we as members of the MAP Helper Community renew ourselves and prepare for the launch of our 2013/14 school year in September.

10. Programs to Meet Our Mission of Nurturing Hungry Souls on their Journey to God, to their Real Selves.

We offer programs on several tracks to meet the needs of Souls at varying levels of development. We outline eight of these tracks here.

Track 1 – Social Media

In this era of social media Souls seek spiritual nourishment on line. To this end we intend to develop ways of reaching out to people via various writings, blogs, streaming's, webinars, on-line courses and the like. Of course we also use the web to share the other tracks of our program that Souls can consider. (Organized by – TBD)

Track 2 – Regional Programs

To touch the Soul with Wisdom, Love, and Experience of Feelings and Connection means gathering as Souls and sharing Journey experiences, teaching, and emotional processing. MAP draws people from several regions, and programs are offered in these regions. These programs include Spiritual Exploration Groups, Teaching Groups, Emotional Processing Groups, and the like. (Organized by Julia and Zim)

Track 3 – Helper Presence

Having a Pathwork Helper provides the Soul with support he/she needs for the Journey. The Helper Community tends to this need of providing Helper Support. (Overseen by MAP Guild)

Track 4 – Personal Development Program

This offering is a series of gatherings where Souls embrace special needs related to aspects of their lives: Relationships and Intimacy, Loss and Grief, Mid-Life and Identity, Family Support, and the like. (Offered at Sevenoaks, concurrently with the Pathwork Transformation Program) (Organized by Wendy and Jill)

Track 5 – Pathwork Transformation Program

This offering is for the Soul who has settled in to Pathwork being his/her Path to God, to his/her Real Self. It is offered both at Sevenoaks and in one or two other regional locations. (Organized by Julia and Zim)

Track 6 – Pathwork Graduate Program

This is a **continuing awakening program** offered to graduates of the Pathwork Transformation Program and offered at Sevenoaks concurrently with the Pathwork Transformation Program. (Organized by Erena and Gary)

Track 7 – Advanced Pathwork Studies (APS)

For graduates of the Pathwork Transformation Program for those wanting to go on to teach Pathwork. (Organized by Tom and Erena)

Track 8 – Helper Training Program

For graduates of APS, for those wanting to go on to become Pathwork Helpers. (Organized by Erena) (Scheduled to begin again in September of 2015)

11. Helper Retreats

We are planning two Helper Retreats for 2013

Retreat 1 My Soul's Journey

We can best help those whose journey is similar to our own. The goal of this Retreat is to **explore our own Soul's Journey** – its ups and downs, what supported it, what detracted from it, when did we feel close to something greater than ourselves and when quite separate and distant, etc. The purpose is to **make our own Journey more conscious**. It will also be an opportunity to **share Soul Journeys** and get to know and love each other at a Soul level.

Date: April 20-21 (with social gathering on Friday evening April 19)

Location: Sevenoaks

Facilitator: Erena

Retreat 2: Faculty Retreat

This will be our opportunity to organize our faculty for the 2013/14 school-year that begins with the first Pathwork Transformation Program Session on September 25-29.

Date: August 2-4, 2013

Location: Sevenoaks

Facilitator: Julia et al