

Social Ventures that
Touch the Future

Joseph Chilton Pearce
A Living Treasure Endowment
October 2004

Dear Friends

Touch the Future has created a *Living Treasure Endowment* in appreciation and support of our senior teachers, individuals of service and inspiration, to nurture themselves as they have given to you and me so generously for so long. Peggy O'Mara, publisher of *Mothering Magazine*, refers to these extraordinary people as *Living Treasures*. Joseph Chilton Pearce is one of them.

For the past thirty-five years Joe has traveled much of the world, speaking to groups large and small about human development, birth, bonding, brain development, education, intelligence and play. You probably don't know that a full 50% of these presentations were gifts from Joe to the hosting organizations. Compared to many on the speaking circuit, Joe's fees are modest, another form of gifting. Translation: Joe's life has been one of inspiration and service.

Joe is 80, give or take a year or so. Most 50-year-olds would find it difficult to keep his pace. Speaking represents an important source of income, yet schlepping around the country is physically demanding. The old body just isn't what it used to be.

Joe has another book he is chewing on. This creative force needs time, energy and focus. He relies on the modest income his travels generate, but constant travel is taking a heavy toll physically and creatively. This Living Treasure is caught on the horns of a dilemma.

Touch the Future has created a *Living Treasure Endowment* for Joe and others like him. This fund will lessen the presser these people feel to get up at 4 AM, drive in the dark to the airport, wait, fly, speak, sleep in another motel, again and again. It will allow them to gather their energy and attention to do what they do best - to create, write, inspire and lead.

Our Endowment is not a hand-out. It is a socially responsible vehicle for an extended family to honor and support its treasured mentors. It is a way for you to say thank you, personally, for the many ways these rare individuals have touched your life and the lives of your children. Our endowment began with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Every dollar you contribute will be matched by this pledge.

Over, please

Living Treasure Endowment

Page 2

If you know Joseph Chilton Pearce, heard him speak, seen a video, or read one of his many books, you may want to take this opportunity and write him a personal note of appreciation. If he has touched your life, take this opportunity to reach out and touch his.

Make a contribution to our *Living Treasure Endowment* and include your personal note of appreciation. We will gather these letters together, bind them in a book and send them with all of our love and respect. Or if you prefer we will keep your gesture anonymous. Either way, we will outline the level of support we have to offer and determine with Joe and others how best to use these resources.

For those of you that just can't get enough of the Internet, we have created a Living Treasure Endowment link at endowment.tfuture.org. You can send your personal note and make a contribution online.

Please remember, Joe isn't the only person who will be honored and supported by this very special endowment. Our goal is to serve others in a similar way. What goes around comes around. The gifts of service and inspiration others have shared with us create an opportunity for you and me to serve and inspire others.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Michael Mendizza

P.S. Regarding Giving & Receiving

Dear Joe,

Isolate us from our larger social web (and its implicit support structure) and we flop around like a fish out of water, soon dying like the isolated heart cells you cite so often. It is truly better to give than to receive, and some of us give the most precious thing we have, our heart, soul, our passion and attention, our true life blood in service to others. In doing so we often neglect the more "practical" side of our personal self-sufficiency, equity and nest building. We are too busy serving others which, from our perspective, is worth all the gold in King Tut's tomb.

Not too long ago, a century perhaps, most lived in self-sufficient extended communities. The children played. The young men built houses. Young women cared for the family and the elders were respected, revered and supported or their wisdom and experience. I think of the Plains Indians. There was never any question of the rent being paid or how much money grand-dad tucked under his tepee. Each contributed in age appropriate ways to the common well being of the community. We are the same human beings but have abstracted this common connection.

You Dear Sir have nurtured and inspired a very large extended family indeed. Would Chief Seattle feel any since of shame eating the food gathered by the young men during a hunt? The fact that we have abstracted the bounty of our passion into paper symbols does nothing to lesson the reciprocal nature of our social human nature. For the Chief to not accept the "gift" offered out of care and respect by a young warrior would be a disgrace. That young man or woman would feel that their gift is not worthy. It is an honor to share. You have been doing that all your life and you will continue to do so in you unique way.

You must, as difficult as it feels, honor the men and women who honor you with their gesture of appreciation and wellbeing. Love is the only currency. All the rest is confusion.

Michael