

## THE UNIVERSE STORY CALENDAR INITIATIVE

By Thomas Spiritbringer

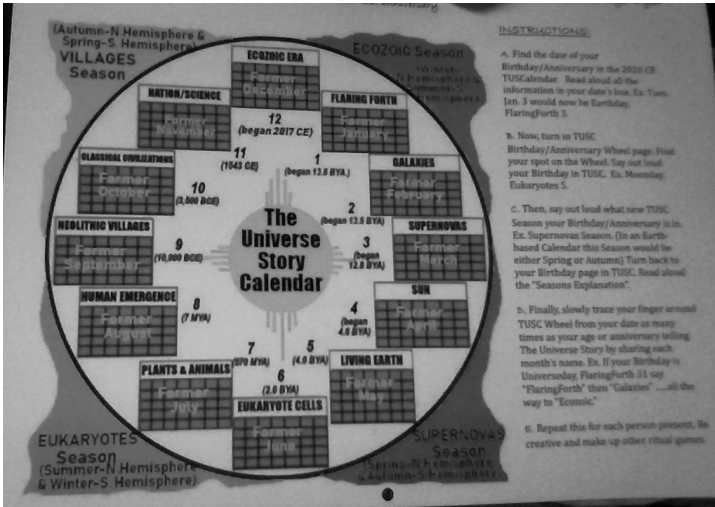
There I was, on my knees, on the sidewalk outside of the Valley Springs Dollar General with a fat, black permanent marker in my hand. I was drawing a big circle on this yellow, round \$1.99 tablecloth. The circle represented our yellow Sun that Earth revolves around every 365.242199 days. This yellow circular tablecloth was taking the shape of a “Circle Around the Sun” Birthdays/Anniversaries Celebration Wheel. I had to get the dream down on yellow before this new ritual idea was lost in space.

The Celebration Wheel story is an example of how Thomas Berry and the Universe Story can take over your life. Never knowing the time and place for an innovation to show up, you have to be ready. I had put the intention out there to the universe that a new ritual celebration was called for to answer Thomas Berry’s “now we must also celebrate the sequential transformation moments in an emergent universe.” The former seasonal renewals of winter, spring, summer, and autumn had their moments in the human story. Now was the time to directly include the Universe Story.

So, when the energy of the Universe beckons initiation, you act. What came forth was the transcending and including of the Earth’s Story within the traditional four seasons to The Universe Story Calendar (TUSC) containing a new four seasons of Ecozoic, Supernovas, Eukaryotes, and Villages. Unlike the former Winter, the Ecozoic Season begins with the telling of the Universe Story through the new first three months of the [Primordial] Flaring Forth, Galaxies, and Supernovas.

Now we can celebrate the new twelve sequential transformation moments in the emergent Universe! Taken directly from the chapter names of the epic book *The Universe Story* by Thomas Berry and Brian Thomas Swimme, within a calendar year our New Story can be told and celebrated by humanity! No more honoring mythological gods and goddesses, two Roman emperors and four wrong month numbers in the names of the days and months. (Go to [www.TheUniverseStoryCalendar.org](http://www.TheUniverseStoryCalendar.org) and click on the menu for TUSC book for explanation of the former Gregorian Calendar of 1582-2017 CE month names, meaning, and history.)

Here is a new educational tool to learn about and tell the Universe Story daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly! Let’s celebrate our twelve new se-



quential transformation moments and four New Story seasons at this time of Great Promise, Great Peril, and The Great Work!

### The Universe Story Eon

With The Universe Story as our new comprehensive, compassionate context within this generation, a whole new Eon is pressing to burst open. Before our lifetimes, the opportunity for clarity was not in synchronicity. Now they are. The Universe Story Eon (TUSE) came forth in 2017 CE: Year of The Universe Story.

Thomas R. Spiritbringer

*The Universe Story Calendar* book (p. 118)

When Thomas Berry named the Ecozoic era as the first new era since the extinction event of the dinosaurs around 66 million years ago (MYA), it was with deep thought and research. Brian Thomas Swimme tells the story of the phone call he received from the excited Berry who exclaimed something to the effect of “I’ve got it. It’s the Ecozoic!” What celebration of naming and culmination for Thomas!

In my research for TUSC, I clearly saw that a new naming with the Universe Story as our comprehensive, compassionate context was essential going forward. This was and is energy for the future of the entire Earth community! So after celebrating our new Ecozoic era that focused on our Earth community of beings along with the goal of a mutually en-

hancing Earth-human relationship, I asked the question of our present eon: the Phanerozoic.

The Phanerozoic eon (570 MYA-2017 CE) is the fourth eon after the Hadean (4.55-4 BYA), the Archean (4-2 BYA), and the Proterozoic (2 BYA-570 MYA). It tells the story of how plants and animals, including humans, came forth after conditions were right with the arrival of the first multicellular animals and the Cambrian Explosion. With Thomas Berry saying that the destruction of the Earth community taking place today is the worst since the beginning of the Cenozoic era 66 MYA, I knew humanity needed all the energy, history, and innovation going forward into this new Ecozoic era. With the Universe Story including all of our universe, Earth and human stories, and community of beings that had to be the name of our eon for these critical times: The Universe Story Eon (TUSE).

With the entire universe covered within the new TUSE and focus on the Earth community in the Ecozoic Era, what about the human family? Many scientists are naming this time the Anthropocene epoch, the epoch of the human. The choices the humans make today affect whether our species and many others survive or not. I agree. Thomas Berry would agree. Therefore, to address the human community of beings, the Anthropocene period came forth in TUSC. Universe, Earth, Human. UniversEarthHuman. These three communities of beings and stories are integral, interdependent and one.

The new days of the week and months of the year within TUSC tell our new stories of universe, Earth and humanity every day! Let's celebrate with a conscious choice to tell the New Story instead of honoring mythological goddesses and gods, Roman emperors, and inaccurate numbers, dates, and facts. Going forward we need an Earthday Weekly on the former Tuesday!

### Universe Spirituality

This chance at 'making history' for our descendants of all species and other members of the vast Universe Community is a thrill beyond compare. With a positive knowledge that our future is very long and very bright, our Human Family can come together in a Unity Consciousness with meaning and purpose.

—Thomas Spiritbringer

*The Universe Story Calendar* book (p. 112)

We have learned there is not only one black hole named Sagittarius A in the center of our Milky Way Galaxy but eighteen other black holes within our massive Barred Spiral Universe Community Being. This new finding is reported in PBS's NOVA "Black Hole Apocalypse" film aired January 10, 2018. In only a short period of time, we have gone from asking the question "Does each galaxy have a black hole?" to "How many black holes does each galaxy have?"

When we ask what our comprehensive, coherent, overall context is as of today, it is our one universe that is known through empirical evidence. Within this one universe we know that there is the Universe Story of the last 13.8 billion years that is filled with an infinite number of universe community beings from the smallest particle to the largest supercluster of galaxies. This is our context to work from in celebrating a universe spirituality. This context will change over time which is why a new spirituality is needed to reflect these changes for our human family.

OK, so what is universe spirituality? Basically it is a set of reality principles set up through an in-depth look at the Universe Story and the universe community of beings. In brief, they are as follows.

### **Reality Principles of Universe Spirituality**

- Universe is the Great Known Mystery
- Spirituality is the Great Unknown Mystery
- All is One
- All is Changing; Now!
- All is Blessed and Always has been
- From "Everything" to "All"
- Meant to be
- Uniqueness
- Unity Consciousness
- New Vocabulary
- Universe Grown and Human Made
- To see each Neighbor Being in the Universe as Companion
- Deep Honoring and Respecting of Divinity, Spiritualities, and Religions
- Universe Activists: Living Universe Spirituality
- Thomas Berry's Key Human Relationships
- Universe Spirituality Music
- The Universe Story Calendar

For example, you can take the first two reality principles listed. They tie in directly with Thomas Berry's from the time of the primordial flaring forth the universe was a psychic-spiritual as well as a physical-energy reality. The physical-energy universe is represented as the great known mystery that can be identified or known through empirical scientific evidence. The psychic-spiritual universe is represented as the great unknown mystery that is not identified or known through empirical scientific evidence. Both are essential, welcomed, and honored in the Universe Story and the universe community of beings.

### **With Deep Gratitude for Thomas Berry**

Having just finished reading the book *Thomas Berry: A Biography*, I have insights into why I have been so spellbound and enlivened by this human life. In some powerful ways Thomas's life and mine have parallel tracks: an early love of Earth and nature; Catholic Christian education, seminary, and ministry; international travel experiences; and identifying Earth then universe as my overall, comprehensive, compassionate, coherent context. Through the universe, Earth, and human stories and community of beings my life has been opened up in *celebration* with the promulgation of The Universe Story Calendar Initiative, which occurred on Thomas's birthday anniversary in 2017 CE with Brian Thomas Swimme.

Thank you Thomas Berry!