

Poetic responses from Judy McBride to the gathering of Living Theory researchers on the
13th April 2019

I. Making a Difference

What can we do?

Stay at the grassroots

Break the pattern of the old model

Move from cultural empathy to political activism

You do get banged around out there!

Hope, support, security, freedom

The heart of Living Theory

It's what I hope to do with the rest of my life

Looking from the bottom up

I didn't know where I was going

The most good that I did was building relationships

Safe spaces, hopeful spaces

Gently, we keep pushing through

II. Extending Our Educational Influences

It all flows from love, but what do you mean by love?

I had this sense of being loved while I was learning

How did you get her to do that?

I passed love

Love is not a word that is used by teachers

It's all about love and giving them hope

Finding people with heart

How surprised I was!

I felt that weight

How to put that weight down?

The antidote to weight is love

I decided I love all of them

Gently, we keep pushing through

III. Issues of Personal and Collective Responsibility, Accountability, and Engaging With Power, Equality and Inequality

How do we create democratic conversation?

Finding a non-oppositional space

Excellence affords the space to get away with something contrary to

Policies and practice, and not be called a Rebel

We engage with current conflicts

Recognize micro-moments of connectivity, systemic influence

Democracy is a verb, an action word

It's a struggle

Power is a nonsense word for me

Power is irrelevant when it's not about love

By the very nature of bringing people in, you leave people out

Yes! It's a really big topic

Gently, we keep pushing through

IV. Practitioner-Research Methodologies, Living Theory Research, Action Research, Auto-ethnography and Narrative Inquiry

What is good conversation?

The voice of the practitioner needs to be heard

I am listening with such relish!

Come into my confusion and we'll have some fun

Feeling empowered enough to act

My influence is very practical

Liberating voices. We need little voices

Little voices bring other voices into the conversation

What gives you hope?

Relational values of love, hope, creativity

Being with people in such a way that they see that they have the right to their own voice

A methodology evolves – I's view of culture

Gently, we keep pushing through

V. Creating Futures

Is it hopeless?

Something has shifted. The problems are now at the highest point

Why do I do what I do? Why wouldn't I do what I do?

I feel a sense of duty to do something about the world in which we live

Evaluate our past to make sense of our present and create a future

Would that be a dangerous situation?

Call it courage. One has to keep going with courage

Listen, engage, support, hope

A small group trying to influence the world in security, freedom, community

Once you have some critical mass, there is encouragement

A *métissage* of voices continuing the conversation, of actions

Contributing to the flourishing of humanity

Gently, we keep pushing through

VI. Continuing Conversation

What have I learned?

The clock chimes once more in Rachel's sitting room

Skype clicks to a blue screen, and I watch hours of video recordings from that day

Our lives are intertwined as we go into the future

I have learned that hands hold a Blue Bowl high

A Blue Bowl created with determination, hope and love

I have learned that I cannot stand back

I must lean in to touch, to hold the Blue Bowl

I have learned that the Blue Bowl is fragile, made of clay

Hands join, and the spaces between hands, between fingers, blur

Support is given ceaselessly, passionately, tirelessly

The Bowl contains but does not constrain the continuing conversation

Gently, we keep pushing through.