Trebbe Johnson

**Author, Founder of Radical Joy for Hard Times**

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Born in Indianapolis, Indiana 1948

Education: Stephens College 1966-70, BA cum laude English Literature and Creative Writing; German classes at Harvard Summer School 1972-73

Languages spoken: English, German (fluent), French (good), Indonesian (fair)

**Current Profession**

Author, Founder and Director of Radical Joy for Hard Times

**Awards and Prizes**

Notable Essay, *Best American Essays*, 2013

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forest Grant, 2006

Honorable Mention, Pushcart Prizes, 1994

Telly Award, 1991

Gold Award, International Film and TV Festival, 1988

Corporation for Public Broadcasting Grant, 1986

Second Prize, *Prism* Magazine Essay Contest, 1985

AMI/NY Best Soundtrack Award, 1983

Silver Award, International Film and TV Festival, 1980

John Masefield Award, Poetry Society of America, 1975

**Radical Joy for Hard Times**

Radical Joy for Hard Times is a 501(c)3 organization and global network of people who practice simple, acts of beauty for the wounded places where they live and that they love.

**Publications**

**Books**

*You’ve Made the World More Beautiful: 10 Years of the Global Earth Exchange* (KDP, 2021)

*Radical Joy for Hard Times: Finding Meaning and Making Beauty in Earth's Broken Places* (North Atlantic Books, 2018)

*101 Ways to Make Guerrilla Beauty* (self-published through Create Space, 2017)

*The World Is a Waiting Lover: Desire and the Quest for the Beloved* (New World Library, 2005)

**Anthologies**

“The Coal Remembers,” in *Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations*, Center for Humans and Nature, 2021

“The Monster of Grim Prospects” and “Wedding Night with the God,” in *The Inner Journey: Myth, Psyche, and Spirit*, ed. Martha Heyneman, Parabola Anthology Series, Morning Light Press, 2008

“Fierce Consciousness,” in *Kinship with the Animals,* Ed. Michael Tobias and Kate Solisti-Mattelon, Council Oak Books, 2006

“Journeyer Back to Here and Now,” in *Lively Oracle: A Centennial Celebration of P.L. Travers,* Ed. Ellen Dooling Draper and Jenny Koralek, Larson Publications, 1999

**Essays and Commentary**

“Guerrilla Beauty,” *Minding Nature*, Winter 2021

“The Kiss of Fire,” *Parabola*, Fall 2021

“On the Moors of Omaha,” *Fine Lines*, Spring 2019.

“Spiritual Activists Confront the Woes of the Planet: The 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions”, *Parabola*, Spring 2019.

“Equipment List for the Journey Home,” *Parabola*, Fall 2018

“You Are Now Entering the Environment,” *Minding Nature*, January 2018

“Devoting,” *Parabola*, Fall 2014

“Uncommon Gratitude”, *Orion Magazine,*July-August, 2015

“Gifts for Broken Places: Attending the Earth, Healing the Psyche”, *Ecopsychology, March 2014*

“Gaze Even Here”, *Orion Magazine*, November-December, 2012

“Beauty Redeemed,” *Parabola*, Winter 2011

“Where’s the Temple?” *Parabola*, Fall 2011

“Beauty for the Earth on Six Continents,” Blog of the Parliament of the World’s Religions, July 2, 2011

“Creating Beauty in Wounded Places”, *Spirituality and Health Magazine*, Nov-Dec 2010

“Never Tell,” *Parabola,* Spring 2008

“Down Came the Door of *Dharma*,” *Parabola*, Summer 2007

“Bringing the Mystery into Love,” *Body & Soul,* Nov.-Dec. 2006

“Taking Kama to Heart,” *LA Yogi Times,* May 2006

“The Craft of Audiobook Abridging,” *Audiofile*, Spring 2006

“Wedding Night with the God,” *Parabola,* Spring 2004

“All That’s Holy,” *Network Ireland,* April-July 2004

“The World’s Best Lover,” *Body & Soul,* July-August 2003

“The Monster of Grim Prospects,” *Parabola,* Fall 1998

“A Vision Quest,” *New Age Journal,* July-August 1996

“Drought,” *Blue Mesa Review,* Vol. 7, 1995

“Yards,” *Boulevard,”* Fall 1994

“The Ways of a Navajo Warrior,” *Parabola,* Summer 1994

“Caring for the Waste,” *New Age Journal,* January-February 1994

“What Whites Want,” *Winds of Change,* Autumn 1992

“The Joy of the Maze,” *Parabola,* Summer 1992

“Wilderness and Hearth: The Cycle of the Hunt,” *Parabola,* Summer 1991

“The Four Sacred Mountains of the Navajos,” *Parabola,* Winter 1988

“Totems,” *North American Review,* Summer 1987

“Witness to a Landscape,” *Prism,* Winter 1985

**Journalism**

“How Do We Reclaim the Heart of Humanity?” *Parabola*, Spring 2016

“Creating Beauty in Wounded Places,” *Spirituality and Health*, December 2016

“Reuniting with Wounded Places”, *The Ecologist*, January 21, 2013

“Making Beauty for Wounded Places” Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine (FAIM) Newsletter, Summer 2012

“Getting to Aha,” *Spirituality & Health*, July-August 2008

“The Second Creation Story,” *Sierra,* November-December 1998

“Genesis of a Movement,” *Amicus Journal,* Spring 1997

“Curriculum Vitae (Portrait of John Elder),” *Amicus Journal,* Fall 1996

“Signs of the Covenant,” *Amicus Journal,* Fall 1995

“Native Intelligence,” *Amicus Journal,* Winter 1993

“Finding Your Animal Guides,” *Yoga Journal,* March-April 1993

“Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute Still Festers,” Pacific News Service, Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 1992

“Caring for the Earth,” *Amicus Journal,* Winter 1991

“Dancing in Place,” *Orion,*  Autumn 1990

“Betty Parent: Woman with a Mission,” *Winds of Change,* Summer 1990

“Between Sacred Mountains: The Hopi and Navajo Concept of Place,” *Amicus Journal,* Summer 1987

“Navajo Relocation,” *The Nation,* July 4-11, 1987

“Indian Wars in the Nuclear Age,” *Amicus Journal,* Summer 1986

**Blogs**

Vast Forward—personal blog

Radical Joy Revealed—Radical Joy for Hard Times blog

**Poems published in numerous journals and little magazines, include:**

*Carleton Miscellany, Massachusetts Review, Road Apple Review, Oxford Poetry Magazine, Voices International, Miscellany, Quoin, Portfolio, Roanoke Review, Now Save the Dead, Imprints Quarterly, Sou’wester*

**Radio Documentary, Videos, and Oral History**

“The Ground Beneath Our Hearts,” written and produced for an event of the same name occurring in 10 communities around the world that have been severely impacted by mineral extraction

“Only One Earth,” produced for the United Nations celebration of Earth Day, 1991

“Blue Heron Coal Mine” oral history and coal mine community recreation project, West Virginia, 1988

“Old Traditions, New Ways,” produced for the Oneida Tribe, Wisconsin, 1987

“A Mountain Split in Two,” radio documentary syndicated through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, summer 1986

**Guest Teaching**

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, Presentations at environmental studies three classes, October 2018

Keystone College, La Plume, PA, Annual presentation at the Art and Society class, 2013-2020

Stephens College, October 2008

Naropa University, Boulder, CO: Presentations at Annual Wilderness Therapy Symposium, 2008, 2007, and 2005

Naropa School of Extended Studies, Boulder, CO, December 3-7, 2006, “The World Is a Waiting Lover: Eros and Empowerment”

**Public Talks, Lectures, and Sermons**

“Empathy and Entanglement,” a panel at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s annual symposium, with Trebbe Johnson, Gavin Van Horn, and Lisa Rainsong, moderated by Matt Stansberry, September 16, 2019

Bioneers, San Rafael, CA, October 2017, 2018, and 2019

“Creative Expressions of Faith,” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Toronto, November 4, 2018

Many sermons at the UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY, 2007-

“Radical Joy for Hard Times: A Talk with Trebbe Johnson,” California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), October 18, 2018

“Beauty for Wounded Places,” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Salt Lake City, October 2015

Bioneers Satellite Conference, Whidbey Island, WA, 2014

“Diving Off Your World,” Annual Gathering conference, Keystone College, La Plume, PA (Keynote speech by Diane Ackerman), July 2014

“Making Beauty for Hurt Places,” Keynote speech, Wilderness Guides Council Gathering, 2014

“Grounding in the Present While Working for the Future,” Sierra Club, 2014

“Wild, Sad, Deep, and Joyful: Finding Heart in Wounded Places,” Keynote speech, Naropa Wilderness Symposium, 2010

“The Fierce Lover, the Royal Child, and the Rest of Your Life,” Commencement address, Stephens College, Columbia, MO, May 5, 2007

“The World Is a Waiting Lover,” New Renaissance Books, Portland, OR, March 2006

“The Contemporary Vision Quest,” Brockley Town Festival, London, England, June 2005

“The Search for the Beloved,” Sermon, UU Emerald Coast Church, Valparaiso, FL, February 2004

“Holy Longing,” Sermon, UU Congregation of Binghamton, December 2003

“The Lover Who Longs to be Found,” Weaving Soulful Community, Madison, VA, November 2002

Earth Day Sermon, Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers, NC, April 1999

**Interviews with me, Podcasts, and Other Media**

“Post-Doom Conversations,” hosted by Michael Dowd, April 8, 2020

“Ode to Grief”, The C-Word Podcast, October 9, 2018

“Earth Day Conversation with Trebbe Johnson,” with Julia Sadowski, North Atlantic Books, March 30, 2018

Violet Snow, “Showing Gratitude: Raising awareness in the city about where their water comes from,” Woodstock Times, November 9, 2017

“Radical Joy for Hard Times: How to Live on a Challenged Planet,” *In These Times*, March 13, 2017

“Trebbe Johnson on Bearing Witness to Wounded Places,” Interview with Ayana Young, *For the Wild*, September 13, 2015

Polly Howells, “Connecting with the Earth’s Experience,” *Country Wisdom News*, August 25, 2015

“Interview with Trebbe Johnson, Radical Joy for Hard Times,” Juliana Schneider, Schumacher College, February 12, 2013

“Reuniting with Wounded Places,” *The Ecologist*, January 21, 2013

“Trebbe Johnson Shares Her Compassion for Wounded Places,” *EcoWatch*, November 12, 2012

Radical Joy for Hard Times Interview, Originally published in *Parabola*, Summer 2012; republished in *The Daily Good*

Grove Harris, “Winter Solstice 2012: Time for New Alignment”, *Huffington Post*, December 12, 2012

“The Psychology of Planetary Damage,” Webinar with Trebbe Johnson, Lily Yeh & Glenn Albrecht, presented by Erik Hoffner, *Orion* Magazine, November 13, 2012

“The World Is a Waiting Lover: Interview with Trebbe Johnson,” Anthony Wright, *Attunement*, 2007 and 2008.

**Memberships and Other Positions**

Board member, Coalition for Global Citizenship (UN NGO), 2018-

Contributing Editor, *Parabola* Magazine, 2012-

Wilderness Guides Council, 1997-

Stewardship Committee, Florence Shelly Wetlands Preserve, 1990-

**Wilderness Rites of Passage Programs, Journeys, and Workshops**

**Wilderness Rites of Passage Journeys**

1997-2017 Founder and Director of Vision Arrow, Thompson, PA. Offered wilderness rites of passage journeys in the Endless Mountains, PA; the Missouri Ozarks; Utah Canyonlands; Scotland and Ireland; the Sahara Desert; Chiricahua Mountains, AZ; and other wilderness areas.

2011-2017: Co-Guide of Youth Quest, School of Lost Borders, Big Pine, CA

1996-2000: Guide, Animas Valley Institute, Durango, CO.

Training: Animas Valley Institute, Durango, CO 1993-95; School of Lost Borders, Big Pine, CA 1994 and 1996; SOLO Wilderness Medicine, Conway, NH (certified Wilderness First Responder), 1994 (recertified every two years); SOLO Search and Rescue 2001

**Workshops/Retreats**

**Lead Like a River**

2011- : Annual week-long program in the High Atlas Mountains, Morocco, co-led with Eugene Hughes (ArtGym, London) for business leaders to explore how they can use their skills and experience to make a real contribution to the world.

**Bali from Within**

2008- : Annual journey to Bali for only four participants to study the spirituality, art, and culture with native Balinese guides.

**Earth Exchanges**

2000- The organization I founded, Radical Joy for Hard Times, offers simple ceremonies for bringing attention, stories, and beauty to the wounded places of the Earth. People around the world are encouraged to do these events in their own ways that correspond to their culture, their places, and what has happened to it. These events have taken place in 40 U.S. states and in 26 countries, including Antarctica.

**Vigil for a Clear-cut**

2003, 2016: A five-day vigil held in a clear-cut forest on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 2016

**“Desire and the Quest for the Beloved”**

2002-2008: Workshops (also presented under other names) have been held at: Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY; The Crossings, Austin, TX; Kripalu, Lenox, MA; Summit, NJ; Temenos Conference and Retreat Center, West Chester, PA; Woodstock, NY; Cape Cod, MA; Rowe Conference Center, Rowe, MA; Hollyhock, BC, Canada; Pensacola, FL; Rune Hill, Spencer, NY; Weaving Soulful Community, Madison, VA; Chicago, IL; Valparaiso, FL; Baltimore, MD; Houston, TX; Freestone, CA; Tucson, AZ; Boulder, CO; Hope Springs Institute, Peebles, OH; Kent, England; Donegal, Ireland; The Burren, Ireland; Gengenbach, Germany

**Attending the City—**November 2001: Ceremony held at Ground Zero, New York City, following the September 11 attacks

**Other Work**

1985-2017: Audiobook abridger (freelance) for Random House, Simon & Schuster, Penguin-Putnam, and TimeWarner. I have abridged scores of books for audio including titles by Toni Morrison, Salman Rusdie, Fannie Flagg, Magic Johnson, Jon Krakauer, the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, Marianne Williamson, Ken Burns, Gail Godwin, Charles Schwab, Shirley MacLaine, David Halberstam, the Star Wars writers, as well as Gothic romances, macho thrillers, mysteries, self-help, celebrity biographies, and popular fiction.

1974-1992: Freelance writer and soundtrack producer at numerous multimedia production companies in New York City. Clients included: Intrepid Sea/Air/Space Museum, Knoxville World’s Fair, Small Business Association, IBM, Conde Nast Publications, ITT, AT&T, National Association of Recording Merchandisers, Blue Heron Coal Mine, Aziza Cosmetics, Victoria Magazine, Tennessee Valley Authority, World Institute of Black Communications, Sea World, and BMW

1970-74: Freelance researcher for authors, professors, and editors, including Erich Segal, Roger Kahn, Lois Wallace, Muriel Resnik, and Peter Gimbel

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