

9/15/2001

Watershed Moments

Watershed Moments are when the story changes. New forces collide and send us in new directions. These moments can be planned as in the forming of a new business, a new enterprise, a new community or they can be thrust upon us, as were the terrorists' acts of September 11th, the Oklahoma City bombing, or a natural disaster. These moments—whether wanted or not—are opportunities to step up to better choices; to create a healthier, happier, wealthier individual expression, enterprise, community and world. And it might be said that stepping up to better choices works at all these levels simultaneously.

Human nature is imaginative; it hungers for ownership in creating new realities. It drives us each toward our own expression of possibilities. Watershed Moments break habits. They provide opportunities to change the game, to create opportunities where none existed before. They offer the gift of sudden change where procrastination and comfort have no space, no room to survive. A CEO merges her company with another or challenges a team to create a new product and get it out in the market place in record time; a community decides to renew their downtown; a country changes its rule of governance; a corporation establishes its business in a new country; a hurricane wipes out an entire community; a terrorist attack... In each of these watershed moments, there is opportunity to step up to better answers and improve life in many, many ways. When we fail to recognize these Watershed Moments as full, emergent opportunities, then society degrades, options narrow too soon, and we revert back to our comfortable habits, even though they are no longer working for us.

Tomorrow Makers, Inc. is designed to help people take advantage of Watershed Moments in the public arena. Tomorrow Makers core competency rests in helping make the most of these moments. We are experts in helping groups reframe quickly and learn to work together in fundamentally different ways.

To take advantage Watershed Moments, the demands required of each individual and group are aggressive. They cause us to re-examine our habits and our assumptions. They move us into new territory—territory never explored—to be claimed and stewarded into reality. Tomorrow Makers has the expertise and process to bring forth both systematic and systemic results for communities using these Watershed Moments to change the game. This is our work. We have been preparing and developing processes to help individuals and groups use these moments to their fullest advantage.

9/05/2005

I rooted around and found the above musing written just after 9.11.01. Interesting. It seems our global leaders' responses - especially in the country where I live - did little to improve the state of the world after 911. It was a watershed moment squandered. They simply rearranged the chairs on the Titanic. Today with Katrina's wrath, we have learned how little leaders really understand about true leadership. I am not big on big government, but I do know that it should be responsible for: protecting human life and dignity; stewarding our infrastructure so that it is strong enough to withstand the things we demand of it;

Watershed moments Gail Taylor

insuring basic education, health, and access to well-being for all citizens; and realizing that we are in partnership with nature. Nature's wrath pointed out our dismal failures across the board. Now, we have another watershed moment. Will it be any different? I am sure it will not be for our present administration. They know no better than to be foolish with their arrogance. They have forgotten what it means to be human and to feel and know the native characteristics of love and collaboration. However, under the surface – below the radar - I have hope for the hundreds, perhaps, thousands of well-founded initiatives, networks, and solutions being put in place by ordinary people doing extraordinary things. So many minds and hearts have gone to work since 911 to create a new and different world. Little parts of the whole – each with a vision far greater than itself – weaving, spinning, investing and growing a new world. I have hopes that regardless of the idleness of those in power, that we as ordinary citizens – through our multiple tries – are escaping to a higher order.

- Gail Taylor