

# THE GROWING EDGE

Retreats, Song & Spoken Word Event, Podcasts

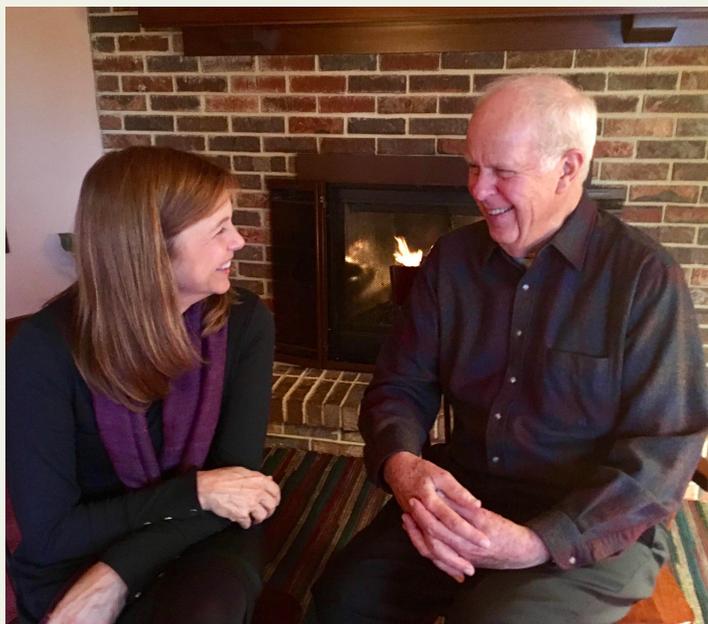


Collaborations

Carrie Newcomer & Parker J. Palmer

# ABOUT THE GROWING EDGE PARTNERSHIP

In Spirituality & Health Magazine, The Growing Edge with Carrie Newcomer & Parker J. Palmer listed "Top 10 SPIRITUAL LEADERS FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS who are “responsive to today’s yearnings, forging new pathways, and elevating the conversation.”



“The collaboration began in 2004, when Carrie asked Parker to write liner notes for her album, *Betty’s Diner*. Palmer’s books, especially *Let Your Life Speak*, had become important companions on Newcomer’s spiritual journey, and Parker had found great inspiration in Carrie’s music and journey as an artist. As the two began sharing their creative struggles, they found

a deep spiritual and artistic resonance, forging the kind of friendship that comes from a shared vocation. They wrote a song-and-spoken-word stage show called *Healing the Heart of Democracy: A Gathering of Spirits for the Common Good*, combining the titles of one of Parker’s books and one of Carrie’s signature songs. Next came *What We Need Is Here: Hope, Hard Times & the Human Possibility*—words suggesting a core belief that animates both: “It’s possible to live ‘in the light’ as long as we do not try to blink the darkness.” Their new project is *The Growing Edge*, which offers an online and in-person gift of sanctuary for listening to and following one’s true self.” —Meggen Watt Petersen, *Spirituality & Health*

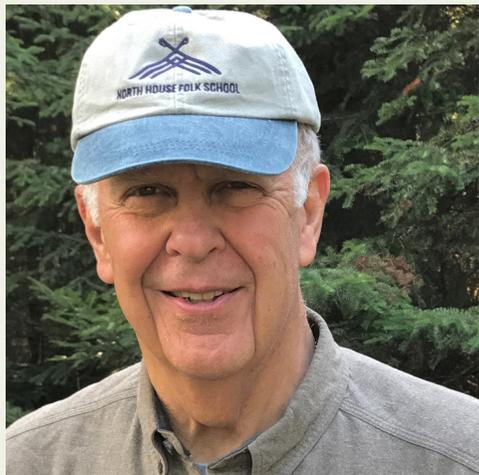
# About Carrie



Carrie Newcomer is a performer, recording artist, and educator, described as a “prairie mystic” by the Boston Globe and one who “asks all the right questions” Carrie has 17 nationally released albums on Available Light and Concord/Rounder including *The Point of Arrival*, *The Beautiful Not Yet*, *A Permeable Life*, and *The Geography of Light*. Newcomer has also released two companion books of poetry and essays, *A*

*Permeable Life: Poems & Essays* and *The Beautiful Not Yet: Poems, Essays & Lyrics*. Her song “I Should’ve Known Better” appeared on Nickel Creek’s Grammy award-winning gold-certified album “*This Side*”, and she earned a regional Emmy for the PBS special “*An Evening with Carrie Newcomer*.” Recent media appearances include PBS’s *Religion and Ethics* and Krista Tippett’s *On Being*. Newcomer’s first theatrical production, *Betty’s Diner: The Musical*, recently produced by Purdue University, is now available to interested theaters, universities, and spiritual communities. Newcomer was a cultural ambassador to India and has traveled to Kenya and the Middle East, performing in concert halls, hospitals, schools, and spiritual communities. She has lent her support to organizations focused on social justice, health and hunger services, progressive spirituality, and environmental preservation. She lives in the woods with her husband and two shaggy dogs. For information about Carrie’s touring schedule, CDs, and books, visit her site.

# About Parker



Parker J. Palmer is a writer, teacher, and activist. Founder and Senior Partner Emeritus of the Center for Courage & Renewal, he has written ten books, including the bestselling *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, *A Hidden Wholeness*, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, and *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old*. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and thirteen honorary

doctorates. In 1998, The Leadership Project, a national survey of ten thousand educators, named Palmer as one of the thirty “most influential senior leaders” in higher education and one of the ten key “agenda-setters” of the past decade. Since 2002, the Accrediting Commission for Graduate Medical Education has given annual Parker J. Palmer “Courage to Teach” and “Courage to Lead” Awards to directors of exemplary medical residency programs around the U.S.. In 2005, *Living the Questions: Essays Inspired by the Work and Life of Parker J. Palmer* was published, with essays from practitioners in a wide range of professions. In 2010, Palmer received the William Rainey Harper Award, whose previous recipients include Margaret Mead, Elie Wiesel, and Paolo Freire. In 2011, the *Utne Reader* named him one of 25 Visionaries on its annual list of “People Who are Changing the World.” In 2017, the Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C., gave him its annual Contemplative Voices Award. Palmer lives with his wife in Madison, Wisconsin, where he also enjoys hanging out with his 28-year-old granddaughter. He regards Madison as “the Berkeley of the Midwest,” and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota as one of the earth’s “thin places,” a place of “great peace and beauty where you can almost see the connection between the visible and the invisible worlds.”

# The Growing Edge Podcast



You're invited to join us for our monthly podcast! Our episodes will feature conversations between Parker and Carrie, focused on our Question of the Month and other Growing Edge topics. Occasionally, we'll invite some wise and wonderful friends of ours to share their insights on the topic we're exploring.

You can listen our website or subscribe to our show via Apple Podcasts or Stitcher and get the latest episode every week.

## The Growing Edge: A Journey Into Hope Retreats

We offer two or three GROWING EDGE RETREATS every year, each limited to 25 participants and co-facilitated by Carrie and Parker.

The Circle of Trust model behind these retreats was developed by Parker, and has been used around the world for the past twenty years by the Center for Courage & Renewal, a nonprofit he helped found. These circles offer a safe space for people to reflect on the deeper questions of their lives in both solitude and community.

*More details about Circles of Trust can be found in Parker's book, A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life.*

# EVENTS: Spoken Word & Music Stage Show

Our collaboration in words and music has produced two 90-minute song and spoken word events, written and performed with our good friend and colleague, virtuoso pianist Gary Walters.

In 2012, we created *Healing the Heart of Democracy: A Gathering of Spirits for the Common Good*.

In 2017, we created *What We Need Is Here: Hope, Hard Times & the Human Possibility*.

Both shows have been presented multiple times to audiences ranging from 300 to 2000.

Weaving music with the spoken word, these shows engage both the heart and the mind around growing edge questions in areas ranging from personal to vocational to political life.

