

An aerial photograph of a forest with a winding path. The trees are in various stages of autumn, showing shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown. The path is a light blue-grey color, possibly gravel or dirt, and curves through the center of the forest. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

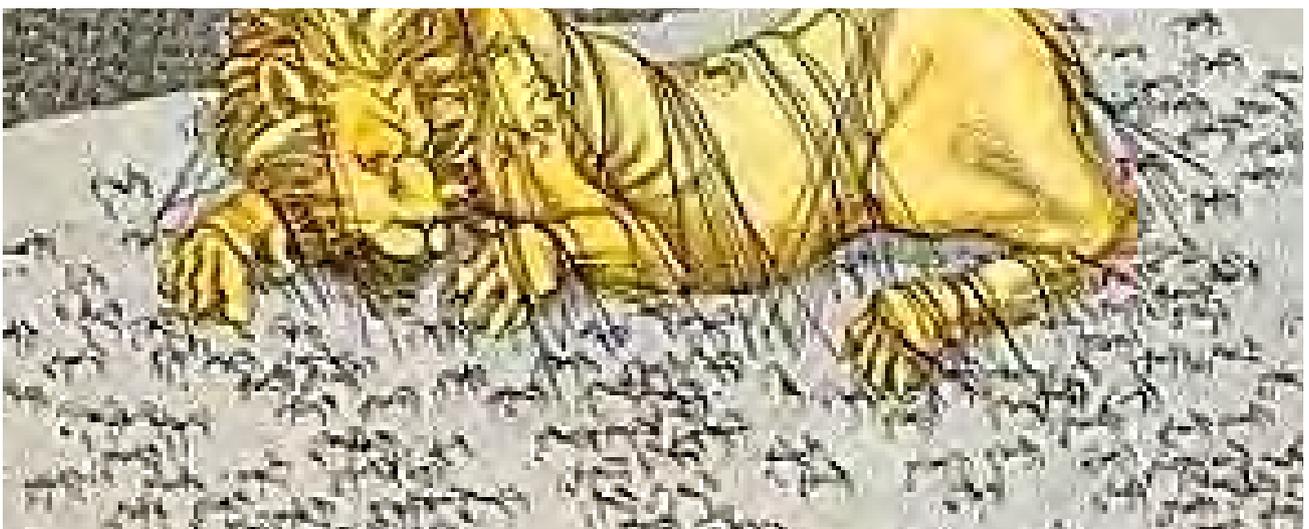
*Finding Our Path
with a
Just Transition*

**November 13th, 2021
Fall Assembly Guidebook**

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver



When spiders unite they can tie down a lion.

-Amharic Proverb



GREETINGS FROM WNPJ'S NETWORK COORDINATOR

Welcome to WNPJ's 2021 Fall Assembly everyone!

Since I began working with WNPJ six months ago, it has been my pleasure to learn more about the Network's 30 year legacy and to meet and work with so many wonderful people throughout the state! As we carry that legacy forward, I am extremely heartened to be envisioning WNPJ's next chapter with you all.

Part of this vision, is relishing the small. We have a lot to learn from the grasshopper and spiders on the previous page. Like the grasshopper, each of us is a full, complicated creature unto ourselves. We may be microscopic in comparison to the world, but we each exist and are alive at this moment. And that is a sacred thing. And then the spiders. The spiders are small too, but together they build their collective power and take on the biggest of forces.

The lesson: Each of us is sacred. And together we can transform the unimaginable.

In order to do this, we must ground in a principled vision and intentionally put it into daily practice. Leadership from the front lines and those most impacted by the extractive economy, racial and economic injustice, militarism, imperialism and climate chaos have been doing this resistance work for a long time and thankfully they have laid out a framework and values to guide us.

I'm thrilled to be learning more about **Climate Justice Alliance's Just Transition Framework** with you all and grounding our work together in their vision and values. Some of the information shared in this assembly may be familiar to you. Some of it may be new and unfamiliar to you. Regardless of where we each find ourselves, I encourage us all to remain curious and compassionate, bring our whole selves and know that unknowing and discomfort is part of our journey. We all are needed to make this collective transformation happen. Glad you are here. Let's get to work.

In solidarity,

Sarah Hinkley

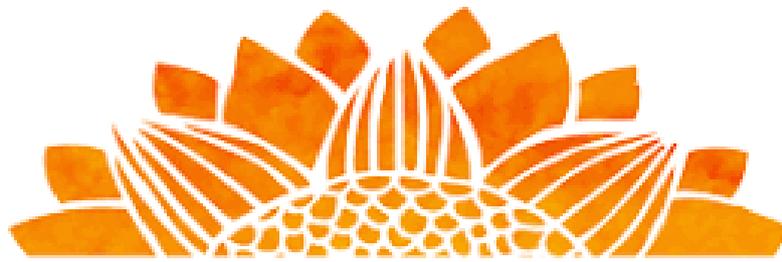
TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Roadmap for WNPJ's Next Chapter

The Just Transition (JT) Framework and Core Values	-2-
Learning about JT from Climate Justice Alliance leaders	-4-
Exploring Multiracial and Multicultural Coalition Building with Zoltán Grossman	-5-
WNPJ's Role: Connector, Catalyst, Incubator, Amplifier & Reflection Space	-7-
Ways to stay connected with WNPJ in this next chapter	-8-

The Here and Now: Transparency and Celebration

WNPJ Board Elections and Financial Standing	-9-
Award recipients: Bonnie Block, Debra Gillispie & the Building Unity Team	-10-
Fall Assembly Sponsors	-12-
The Low Road by Marge Piercy	-13-



CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION

WHO IS CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CJA)?

They are a growing member alliance of 74 urban and rural frontline communities, organizations and supporting networks in the climate justice movement. They are locally, tribally, and regionally-based racial and economic justice organizations of Indigenous Peoples, Black, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander, and poor white communities who share legacies of racial and economic oppression and social justice organizing.

**Climate Justice Alliance created the
Just Transition Framework and Core Values.**

WHAT DOES CJA MEAN BY JUST TRANSITION?

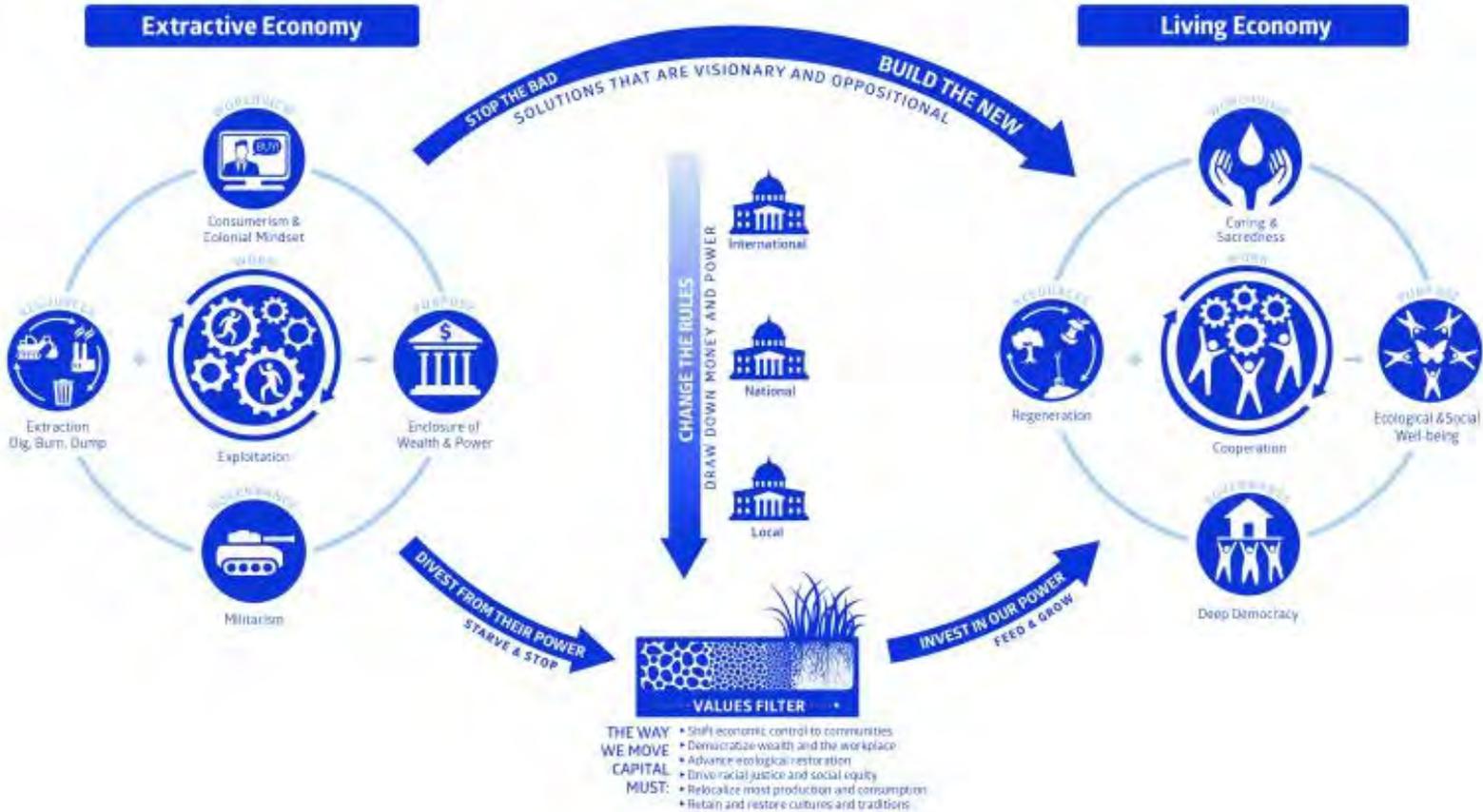
'Just Transition is a principle, a process and a practice.'

Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. This means approaching production and consumption cycles holistically and in a waste-free way. The transition itself must be just and equitable, redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations. If the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be. Just Transition describes both where we are going and how we get there.

A Just Transition will look different in different places

A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION

RESIST — RETHINK — RESTRUCTURE



JUST TRANSITION VALUES

- A Just Transition moves us to Buen Vivir
- A Just Transition creates Meaningful Work
- A Just Transition upholds Self Determination
- A Just Transition equitably redistributes Resources and Power
- A Just Transition requires Regenerative Economics
- A Just Transition retains Culture and Tradition
- A Just Transition embodies Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity
- A Just Transition builds What We Need Now

Learn more at: climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES



Jo Ann Hardesty



Angela Mahecha Adrar



Jacqui Patterson



E.D. Mondaine



Darryl Molina-Sarmiento



Huy Ong

During the Assembly we will watch a 2020 Report Back from Climate Justice Alliance leaders talking about a Just Transition.

Afterwards we will break out into small groups to discuss.

Here are some reflection questions.

What resonated with you?

What questions did it bring up?

How is it connected with your peace and justice work?

How can WNPJ support member groups as we move forward with this framework?

Feel free to watch it beforehand!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSqfSpn4aMU>.



Zoltán Grossman

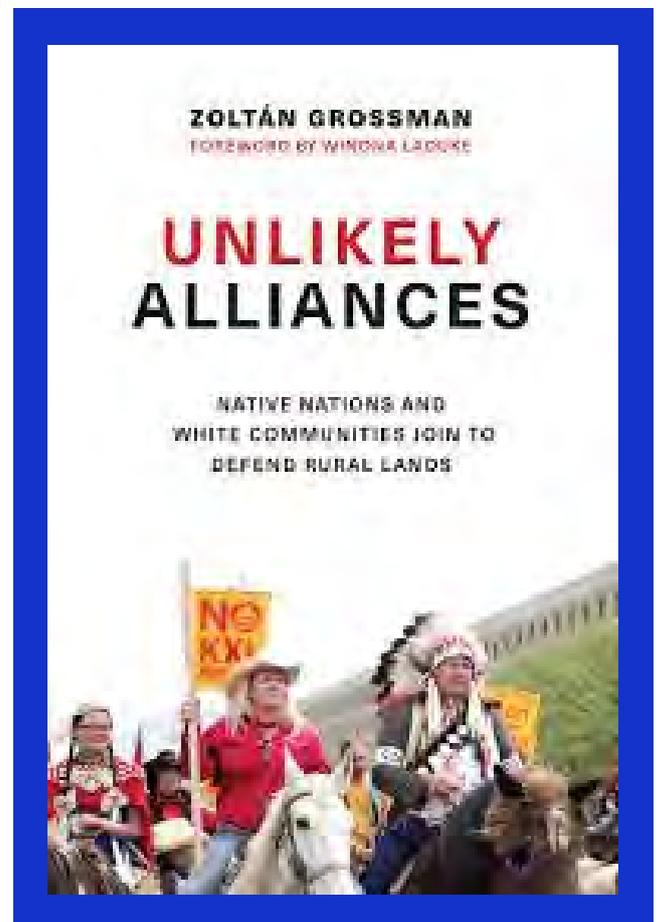
Zoltán Grossman is a Professor of Geography and Native Studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. He earned his Ph.D. at U.W.-Madison in 2002, and taught at U.W.-Eau Claire until moving to Washington with his wife Debi in 2005. His Evergreen faculty website is: <https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan>

Zoltán has been a longtime antiracist, antiwar, and environmental organizer, and was a co-founder of the Midwest Treaty Network in Wisconsin. He was a co-coordinator of the Witness for Nonviolence standing with Ojibwe families during the treaty spearfishing conflict in 1989-92, and was a co-founder of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project that fought successfully to stop the Crandon mine near Mole Lake in 1994-2003.

Zoltán's most recent book

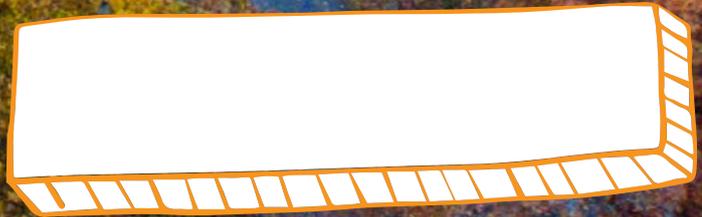
Unlikely Alliances: Native Nations and White Communities Join to Defend Rural Lands

Unlikely Alliances explores this evolution from conflict to cooperation through place-based case studies in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Plains, Great Basin, and Great Lakes, from the 1970s to the 2010s. They suggest how a deep love of place can begin to overcome the most bitter divides between Native and non-Native neighbors. They offer lessons about the complex interplay of particularist differences and universalist similarities in building populist movements across lines of racial and cultural identity. They also show how “outsiders” can be transformed into “insiders” by redefining a contested local place as common ground. In our times of polarized politics and globalized economies, many of these stories offer inspiration and hope.

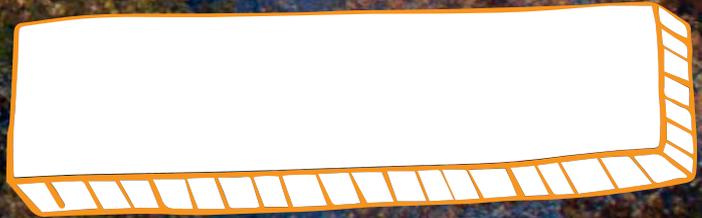


During the Assembly, Zoltán Grossman will share with us some lessons learned from participating in and studying multiracial and multicultural alliances between Native and non-Native people.

What resonated with you?



What questions did it bring up?



How is it connected with your peace and justice work?



How can WNPJ support member groups as we move forward with this framework?



WNPJ'S ROLE

AS WE MOVE TOWARD A JUST TRANSITION



Connector

Create opportunities for Network members' to get to know each other and each other's work. Extend the invitation to people and organizations throughout the state to join WNPJ.



Catalyst

Share educational resources, tools and opportunities that can help strengthen Network members' work and their understanding of a Just Transition.



Incubator

Support member groups' new and emerging work that helps strengthen the Network's commitment to a Just Transition.



Amplifier

Support the peace and justice work of those most impacted by the extractive economy. Highlight and invest resources in their vision and leadership.



Reflection Space

Offer opportunities and tools for Network members to reflect on their work with the aim of deepening their analysis and accountability to a Just Transition.

Two new ways to stay connected with WNPJ as we enter into our next chapter.



Weaving the Web

WNPJ VIRTUAL DROP IN HOUR

No agenda. Just people who care about peace and justice showing up to connect.

**First Thursday of every month.
Noon-1pm.**

'An invitation to come together in community, build authentic relationships, and see what emerges from the conversations, connections, visions and needs.'

-adapted from adrienne maree brown speaking on Emergent Strategy

wnpj.org



COMING SOON: WNPJ's online member circle!

Where members can connect, share resources and support each others' peace and justice efforts

COMMUNITY

WNPJ 2021 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICER NOMINATIONS

WNPJ Board Members entering 2nd Year Term

- Mary Kay Baum (Co-Chair)
- Debra Gillispie
- Tynnetta Jackson (Co-Chair)
- John Peck

WNPJ 2021 Board Nominees

- Erika Bach
- Vicki Berenson (Secretary)
- Dena Eakles
- Amy Washbush (Treasurer)

Thank you to the following board members who have served their term faithfully and chose not to run for another term: Tim Cordon, Jerry Folk, and Charles Uphoff

WNPJ 2021 Financial Standing

In the past, WNPJ handled the financial administrative duties for Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin and Building Unity. As of October 2021, Safe Skies Clean Water WI and Building Unity are operating completely financially independent of WNPJ. All earmarked funds have been dispersed to each organization.

As of the 2021 Fall Assembly, WNPJ has approximately \$27,900 available in our accounts. This is the time of year when a majority of membership renewals and donations are expected.

WNPJ 2022 Working Budget

Our working budget reflects known expenses and revenue that we believe we can bring in over the year.

Projected Annual Operating Expenses:

\$32,000

This includes payroll for one half-time employee, professional fees, software and web services, and basic operating expenses such as printing, postage and fees.

Projected Annual Income:

\$32,000-\$45,000

Based on past expenses and looking into the future, we are intending to raise \$15,000 in membership dues and individual donations, \$7,000 from various fundraising efforts and \$10,000 - \$25,000 in grants.

Revenue over basic operating expenses might be used for expanding our staff, reopening an office, or initiating other programs that support the work of the Network. We will incorporate feedback from tonight's Assembly as we prioritize the coming year's activities.

WNPJ 2021 Fall Assembly Awards



Bonnie Block **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Bonnie Block is known both in Wisconsin and throughout the country for her work for peace and justice. She is a member of and has served as Chair of the national board of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest and largest interfaith peace fellowship in the world, and as Director of the Lutheran Peace Fellowship, a national peace and justice organization related to Lutheran church bodies in the U.S.

Locally, she served as president of the Madison chapter of the United Nations Association and Director of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Bonnie was one of the Founders of the Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, a group that organizes protests against drone warfare at Volk Airfield. A believer in the power of nonviolent direct action, Bonnie participated in acts of civil disobedience at Volk Field for which she was arrested, brought before judges, and fined. Once, refusing to pay the fine, she spent several days in jail. She is also active with Raging Grannies of Madison. This is only a small sampling of Bonnie's engagements in peace and justice work.

For those who know Bonnie well, it's not hard to see that her courageous actions on behalf of peace and justice are rooted in who she is as a person. She cares about people and the earth, empathizes with those who suffer violence and injustice and is determined to do whatever she can to alleviate that suffering not only through acts of personal kindness and support but by working to change the systems that cause much of this suffering.



Debra Gillispie Peacemaker of the Year

It is an honor to present Debra Gillispie with the WNPJ Peacemaker of the Year award. She is the founder of Mothers Against Gun Violence and a determined advocate working to end gun violence in her community and throughout the state of Wisconsin. Debra knows firsthand the power of storytelling. She lost her own son to gun violence in 2003. By telling her story of heartbreak, loss and lasting love for her son she found a vehicle for her healing journey. And she didn't stop there, she reached out to numerous other victims of gun violence to use their voices and tell their stories. In partnership with UW Milwaukee she worked to collect hundreds of stories, knowing that statistics are not enough. People must understand the human impact behind those statistics. Debra founded Equity Media and hosts her own radio program. She speaks out against the media stereotyping and stigmatizing members of the African American community, and advocates for change in representation. If you have ever met Debra, you sense instantly she is a shining spirit of compassion and resilience.



Building Unity Team Grassroots Solidarity Award

We acknowledge the hard work of the Building Unity Team these past two years and in recognition offer them the Grassroots Solidarity award. Building Unity started as an incubator project within WNPJ with an aim of pulling together a variety of people and organizations to address pressing issues throughout the state of Wisconsin. And they have pursued these efforts on a number of fronts. For instance, Building Unity leaders journeyed for over 3,000 miles in a 34 foot motorhome adorned with signs and banners, variously dubbed the 'Votemobile' or the 'Unitymobile', to draw attention in numerous locations all over the state. They engaged residents around issues that mattered to them and registered people to vote. Along these tours, and in partnership with organizations, they spoke out for the need for Wisconsinites to truly have a Just State Budget. Building Unity has logged countless hours fighting for Fair Maps in our state. They created educational videos that guided residents through the process of giving input as to where their communities of interest truly reside, in an effort to not have that defined by outsiders. Throughout these efforts, Building Unity built connections with multiple people and organizations along the way which will continue to strengthen coalition work far into the future.

WNPJ 2021 Fall Assembly Sponsorship

Organizational sponsors:



Safe Skies Clean Water WI



Interfaith Peace Working Group



Echo Valley Hope

Individual sponsors:

Mary Kay Baum and George Swamp

Bonnie Margulis

Judy Miner

Vicki Berenson and Shel Gross

The Low Road

By Marge Piercy

What can they do
to you? Whatever they want.
They can set you up, they can
bust you, they can break
your fingers, they can
burn your brain with electricity,
blur you with drugs till you
can't walk, can't remember, they can
take your child, wall up
your lover. They can do anything
you can't stop them
from doing. How can you stop
them? Alone, you can fight,
you can refuse, you can
take what revenge you can
but they roll over you.

But two people fighting
back to back can cut through
a mob, a snake-dancing file
can break a cordon, an army
can meet an army.

Two people can keep each other
sane, can give support, conviction,
love, massage, hope, sex.

Three people are a delegation,
a committee, a wedge. With four
you can play bridge and start
an organization. With six
you can rent a whole house,
eat pie for dinner with no
seconds, and hold a fund raising party.

A dozen make a demonstration.

A hundred fill a hall.

A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;
ten thousand, power and your own paper;
a hundred thousand, your own media;
ten million, your own country.

It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care
to act, it starts when you do
it again and they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know you who you mean, and each
day you mean one more.