

Program

Myth Lab Monterey Bay

[Monterey Peace and Justice Center](#)

1364 Fremont Blvd, Seaside, CA

November 18, 2026

7:00 – 9:00 pm

\$5.00

“We go together. We return together. We are transformed together.”

A. Introductions: William and Participants

B. Workshop Summary:

Myth Lab Monterey Bay will focus on the Central Coast’s changing relationship with the ocean and coast. Through symbols, artifacts, resilience, sustainability, permaculture ethics, and conversation, the workshop will create a new myth and create practical community actions. Participants can bring a memory, a question, a concern, or curiosity about the ocean they love. We will build a new community myth together. The community writes the new myth and is the Hero. No writing or environmental experience is required.

C. Theme and symbol for the Creation of the New Myth: Off-shore Drilling Rig

D. Tool Kit - Building a New Myth:

1. Definition of New Myth -

New Mythology features Community stories in the Hero's Journey tradition (re: Joseph Campbell's monomyth). Here a New Myth involves a community that goes on an adventure together, is victorious in a local crisis, and is transformed. The community is the hero in the Myth Lab.

2. Symbol - a mark, sign, object, or word that represents an idea, quality, or another concept.

3. Artifact - an object modified by human processes rather than occurring naturally.

4. Resilience – the ability to bounce back after a disruption

5. Sustainability - meeting our own needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

6. Permaculture ethics - Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share (or the return of surplus).

E. Writing the Community New Myth - The Community as the Hero.

Format: Adventure - Crisis - Transformation - Action!

F. Workshop Outcomes:

1. Localized symbols and concepts

2. A New Myth created by the participants

3. Local actions that can be taken

G. Resources:

Texting Joseph Campbell - Five Methods to Design New Stories & Myths

<http://communityalchemy.com/TJC/TJC.pdf>

token - blogs, poems, haiku, stories and new myths

https://willipaulstudio.com/pdf/token_new_myths.pdf

Initiating the New Community Myth:

Format: Adventure - Crisis - Transformation - Action!

Two surfers in Monterey Bay discover oil in the Bay and investigate. It turns out that the sledge is coming from an oil drilling platform south of Monterey. They hear that the oil company wants to drill near Monterey Bay. The pair go to the Aquarium for answers and support. There is much at stake. Some New Myth symbols may include sea lions, beach sand, and others acting like guides in the story. Get the community together? What action(s) could the surfers take? What community actions are possible?

Questions:

- The transformation could be the advocacy of alternative energy sources? The change could be within the surfers. Or within the community at large? Is a transformation at the oil company possible?
- Name one image, symbol, or line from today's myth that you want to remember.
- Name one action—however small—that could carry this myth into the world.
- Would you be willing to join a protest against drilling?
- Who needs to hear this myth next?
- Would you be willing to put your safety on the line to prevent oil drilling in the Bay?
- Name one action—however small—that could carry this myth into the world.
- Complete this sentence: Our community becomes the hero when we...

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