

Episode 061 – Finding Purpose Through Connection

An Interview with Andrea Dennis, Jon Darrall-Rew & Laurie Marshall

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[Intro Music]

[00:34] Haley: Today on the Human Current, we are excited to share more about our experience from the Science of What Connects Us, which is a conference hosted by the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Last week we aired our interview with Dr. Cassandra Vieten who is the President of IONS and today we're going to share some clips from guests and also presenters from the conference.

We had the privilege of interviewing Andrea and Jon from Greenheart International, which is one of the organizations that sponsored the IONS event. Andrea and Jon share more about their work at Greenheart and explain how IONS is changing the world. And, keep in mind these interviews were recorded while at the conference, so there may be some background noise. Let's take a listen!

[Transition Music]

[01:30] Angie: Haley and I are here at the IONS conference and we're just wrapping up and I ran into Andrea and Jon, I'm thrilled to talk with them about their experience here at this amazing conference, and then also some of the work that they're working on. So, can you introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about what you do?

[01:48] Andrea: Hi, my name is Andrea Dennis and I live in Chicago and I work for Greenheart International, which is a nonprofit that connects people and planet through global leadership programs. So, we work with about sixty different countries and twelve thousand participants annually coming to the US, going abroad, working through cultural exchange, fair trade, and higher consciousness.

[02:12] Angie: Great work, and Jon?

[02:14] John: Hey there, I am Jon Darrall-Rew. I'm from the U.K. but I live in Berlin in Germany and I work with the Global Purpose Movement with Andrea. So, the Global Purpose Movement is the kind of flagship project of Greenheart's social projects dedication kind of area, and so we do events in the States and also in Europe where we bring together individuals and projects and organizations to connect them to a higher purpose in their work, which we feel is like the sweet spot between where an individual or projects greatest inspiration, joy, and fulfillment is and the most powerful contribution to the whole.

[02:44] Angie: Beautiful work, I was excited to learn about Greenheart here, I can't believe I hadn't heard of it before now, I was like, "where was this when I went to do some exchange programs or when I could send my now twenty-two-year-old, when he was a teen, to go do some cool work and exploration around the world". And so, I'm thrilled that our listeners get to learn more about Greenheart and the work that you all are doing.

I learned that there is an upcoming summit called the Purpose Summit, can you tell me a little bit about that and who should be attending?

[03:12] Andrea: So first of all, I can't believe you have a twenty-two-year-old, amazing. Secondly, I can definitely tell you about the Purpose Summit, we really believe that every person has a big yes in their heart to living their purpose and we want to set up guides and opportunities for everyone to be on purpose, as we like to say, and also collectively for our species, what is our purpose as a species and how can we thrive?

So, we have put together a beautiful lineup of thinkers and philosophers and activists and entrepreneurs who are really dedicated to living on purpose, and we're going to be hosting that in San Francisco on November 11th and November 12th, so just remember 11/11, and that will be the Purpose Summit. And I think anyone who attends, and I really believe it's for people of all ages, can really dive deep into their own purpose and then connect with the community of people who will be attending with our own sense of collective purpose. And maybe Jon can give us some more details about the Purpose Summit and things to look forward to.

[04:23] Jon: Sure thing. There are amazing people and organizations who've been learning and developing ways to support individuals and organizations to connect to purpose as lifeforce, that's moving through them, as clarity and passion and inspiration. And, they're going to be our summit, some of the best, basically, people who are really experts in purpose theory and practice in organizations and personal development, in transformation, individually and collectively. There's going to be people like Ken Wilber and Daniel Pinchbeck and a whole other range of super, cool, interesting, amazing people who are going to be coming and speaking about individual purpose, collective purpose, organizational purpose, and how this is an empowering and organizing principle for all of us to live lives that are more thriving and fulfilling and transformation.

[05:07] Andrea: And we're excited because we will also be hosting Cassandra Vieten the President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences and she'll be a featured speaker at the Purpose Summit. So, if you were here at the conference you know Cassandra is an incredible speaker, very articulate, and really can inspire that spark within us all.

[05:29] Angie: Great line if you have, I'm hopeful that Haley and I can make it, fingers crossed. Total side story but kind of related to purpose, for a long, long, long time I have taken on the words of Dolly Parton when she said, which spoke to my heart she said, "choose who you want

to be a life and be that personal purpose," I just hold those words dearly and who would've thought Dolly Parton? There we go.

[05:52] Andrea: I would have thought Dolly Parton.

[05:54] Angie: Yeah, you would have?

[05:55] Andrea: I love Dolly Parton, we need to remember that quote and we need to invite Dolly Parton to the Purpose Summit.

[Laughter]

[06:02] Angie: We need you Dolly.

[06:04] Andrea: The world needs you Dolly.

[06:06] Angie: You can change the world. Speaking of changing the world, we're curious this IONS conference put on by the Institute of Noetic Science has amazing history of research and then also projected research. How do you think the work of this institute and specifically in regard to noetic science can help change the world?

[06:28] Andrea: I think that as individuals we move from our inner knowingness, from these noetic, direct experiences and sometimes we move through life without ever having received any training, any deeper understanding, or guidance of how these inner knowing experiences can shape our life.

So, I feel that if we, as a species were to tap into that, there is no limit to how we could thrive and how we could work together. So IONS is really catalyzing that work in a way that is accessible for people who may not come through a spiritual tradition, which the great wisdom traditions have sort of been sharing this wisdom for thousands of years and now there's another angle that supporting all of this inner knowing. So, I believe the work of IONS is a cornerstone to a thriving human species.

[07:23] Jon: Yeah, absolutely research shown that overwhelmingly large number of people have had mystical experiences of some kind, it's actually hugely common for human experience to have access to deeper states of consciousness, which bring all kinds of inspiration and revelation and opening. And in our collective culture, science plays a role which is hugely important for establishing the validity of those experiences. So, IONS is really at the cutting edge of being able to translate the insights and depth that people are able to access in consciousness through into a form that can change culture and influence the way that society works and policy, and so on, so that these greater and deeper depths of our being can become the basis of culture more and more in a way that is acceptable and well organized.

[08:04] Angie: It's kind of like the question then becomes, how could it not change the world and make the world a better place? In wrapping up, is there anything else you'd like to add maybe some future projects and how can our listeners find you?

[08:17] Andrea: Well, I would just like to thank you very much for listening and being open minded to your own experiences and tapping in to what really is driving you and your purpose and if you're interested in going deeper, we invite you into that. There are two ways you can get ahold of us, greenheart.org is for Greenheart International, and if you'd like to learn more about The Global Purpose and The Purpose Summit, you can check out thepurposesummit.org for more information and to sign up. Jon, anything from you?

[08:51] Jon: So, we're going to be releasing a book with the Purpose Summit, and it's called Purpose Rising, it's an anthology of some awesome writers and purpose leaders who have each written chapters about purpose, so look out for that. And also I'm going to be running an online course, which is going to be taking people through what I and the team of people I work with have developed the most streamline and accessible and powerful purpose discovery process that we can deliver online over September, October and November. So, check out our website for information about that, it will be up in the next week or two and that's www.GlobalPurposeMovement.com.

[09:24] Angie: Great, excellent. We look forward to learning more about that, and thanks for being on the HumanCurrent.

[09:29] Jon: Thank you very much!

[Transition Music]

[09:42] Haley: It was such a privilege to meet Andrea and Jon and to learn about their meaningful work at Greenheart international and I know Angie and I are looking into attending their conference, The Purpose Summit, this fall.

Our next clip is from Laurie Marshall, who is a past guest on the Human Current. She's also an author, public speaker, an education transformer. She recently released a book called, *The Flood of Kindness*, which we were lucky enough to snag a copy of while we were there. Laurie is an amazing human being and we're so pleased that we ran into her again and we're able to chat with her about the Institute of Noetic Sciences and her new book. Let's take a listen to what she had to say.

[Transition Music]

[10:38] Angie: Laurie Marshall, a past guest on the Human Current, it's great to see you here at the IONS conference.

[10:43] Laurie: It's great to be here and it was great to have you and Haley here.

[10:47] Angie: This is been a fascinating conference here that the Institute of Noetic Science has put on and I know for Haley and I it has been very transformational. Curious, how do you think noetic science and the research that has been going on with noetic science can change the world?

[11:06] Laurie: I think noetic science research can change the world by validating people's inner experience and by helping us all understand that we have deep unconscious as well as deep collective unconscious that we can bring to the incredible challenges the human race is facing. So, not only can we use the consciousness that we're aware of, but we can use these other consciousness that we're not aware of. And the noetic sciences, because it's measuring it and looking at it and saying it's important, can help us have more tools in dealing with the fact that our planet is getting warmer and our population is getting bigger and that there is so much needless suffering both for humanity and for the Earth.

[11:52] Angie: That's beautiful thank you for that. Laurie, I was thrilled when we ran into you here at this conference to learn that your book is done. Can you tell us a little bit about your book, where people can find it, and maybe something you have on the horizon?

[12:07] Laurie: Thank you, so my book comes from a fifty-year friendship with Jacqueline Webster, who I met at a Quaker work camp in Richmond Indiana in 1963 and the science that connects us is the theme of the noetic science conference and Jackie and I have stayed connected from this experience. And I met her grandson, who was assigned a historical fiction story in third grade his teacher said, write a historical fiction story and his mom had been to college in Louisiana and she had told him about Hurricane Katrina and he wrote a story about Hurricane Katrina that moved me so much that I was compelled to illustrate it and bring it to the world. We've worked for six years, he was eight when he wrote it, he's thirteen now and we finally got it in print it's called, *The Flood of Kindness*, inspired by Hurricane Katrina and it shows how we can be connected when we experience massive weather events and that our compassion and our love and our grief can help us rebuild and it's available on Amazon and it fits right in to the concept of trusting your intuition and it also fits in with my passion of partnering the genius of young people to heal the world.

[13:30] Angie: Beautiful, Haley and I both bought a copy we're excited to go back to Austin, Texas and promote and by some more and encourage everyone else to buy one. Thank you so much for that beautiful, beautiful work. Thrilled to run into you, I hope we run into each other a million more times in life.

[13:44] Laurie: I hope so too! Yes, thank you so much for this opportunity.

[13:49] Angie: Thank you, we'll be in touch.

[Transition Music]

[14:05] Haley: We hope our listeners will pick up a copy of Laurie's new book, as we have, it's a great read especially for young people.

Angie and I are very excited to share our interview with Dr. Rupert Sheldrake next week, he is an author and scientist and is known most for his morphic resonance concept. We were just captivated by him at the conference and we were so pleased to capture him for a interview. Stay tuned for next week and in the meantime, let's work happy!

[Outro Music]

[15:33] End

**DISCLAIMER: Humans transcribed this content. Please keep in mind, there could be some human error.*