

THE QUIXOTIC QUEST



THE STORY & IDENTITY OF L/L RESEARCH

by Gary L. Bean

The Quixotic Quest: The Story & Identity of L/L Research
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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Leading up to our annual Homecoming Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky, I needed to put together a presentation for the group that did not involve me singing karaoke (for their own benefit). I had a rough idea about doing something on the topic of meditation. It's such an essential, simple, and basic practice, but underestimated, overlooked, and neglected in the lives of many spiritual seekers.

A few weeks prior to the event, however, something transpired that would plant the seed of this short book. We received a question for our weekly *In the Now* podcast from a reader asking something along the lines of, "Now that Carla is gone, what of L/L Research?"

Austin, Jim, and I took our turns replying to that question in the podcast. I hadn't prepared an answer in advance, as is Austin's and my usual custom. Instead, I blurted out a short synthesis of the thoughts and feeling regarding the trajectory and identity of L/L Research that had been germinating and turning over in my mind for some years.

A week or so went by. When I returned my attention to the need for composing a Homecoming presentation, it occurred to me that other seekers may have similar questions about the future of L/L Research, and I realized that—owing to my role as director of the organization, and longtime companion of Carla and Jim—I was uniquely situated to speak to that question. Thus, ten days before Homecoming, this collection of sound vibration complexes was born.

What follows is a unique amalgamation of different components. It begins as a biography in narrative form that weaves in and through the years 1947 – 1984, touching upon some of the highlights of the incredible story of Don Elkins, Carla Rueckert, and Jim McCarty, minus the virgin birth. It then rapidly jumps forward into the recent-most decade or so in the second of three sections, explaining the ways that we've been retrofitting and upgrading the ship of L/L Research, and articulating something of the culture and tradition of this little organization. And in the final section, the book lands upon this moment in time and then fixes its gaze upon the horizon.

The objective of the book is to provide a sense of who and what L/L Research is, where it's been, how it came to be, and where it may be headed. It's the first time this has been attempted in a cohesive, streamlined, and integrated fashion. It's a task that really should have been undertaken by someone much smarter than me, but as that person was not forthcoming, the task befell me.

It by no means is complete or comprehensive. The biography portion especially could be expanded to include many more moments and events in time to tell a much fuller story. This composition was intended to perform the function in a much shorter space, which for me meant sixty, 8½ x 11 pages.

This book also is not necessarily an introduction to L/L Research or the Confederation philosophy. It could, to a certain extent, meet that need, but it was written for an audience assumed to have at least a minimum familiarity with both the material and the organization.

And finally, you will notice many excerpts of quoted material from Carla and Jim. These excerpts were taken from the transcripts of a 400+ question interview that Carla and Jim granted me in July of 2014. Dubbed, descriptively, "The Interview Project," it sought to achieve objectives similar to

this book's, though in a *much* more comprehensive way. The transcripts from those interviews will be published as a new L/L Research book titled, *Tilting at Windmills: An Interview with Carla L. Rueckert and James McCarty*.

This book and the interview project are my gift to Jim and Carla.

Gary L. Bean
October 7, 2015

QUIXOTIC:

(adjective)

exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical.

During my first year in college, in 1961-62, I saw in the University of Louisville Bookstore a print of Pablo Picasso's drawing of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza tilting at windmills, a sketch which he had rendered on August 10, 1955. It looks to have a stark simplicity at first glance. This impression yields to fascination as the spare strokes of Picasso's sketch are observed in more detail. It is a powerful drawing by a colossally talented man and I fell in love with it on the spot. Where Picasso's cubist art was, for me, only of passing interest, this little drawing spoke to me. I tilt at windmills as a life's work and always have, in one way or another! I bought the print on the spot, using up my lunch money for the month to do so, and put it up over my desk at home. Later, I had it framed, as it was beginning to wear.

Don Elkins moved in with me in November of 1968. The drawing was hanging over my desk and he asked about it. I told him the bare bones of the story of the man of La Mancha and how his skewed vision of the world made it a beautiful place and he, an heroic figure. He mused that it was a perfect image for the work we were then beginning to do, since we were dreaming impossible dreams together. We decided that Picasso's sketch would be our logo. The image was in the public domain, so we were free to use it.

Since the beginning of our publishing in 1976 we have used that little image as our publishing logo. And we're still tilting at windmills here at L/L Research with great joy and thanksgiving for the inspiration of that little sketch.

Carla L. Rueckert
July 9, 2008

PREFACE

I saw on the national news tonight that British physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking is teaming up with Russian billionaire Yuri Millner to put \$100 million into project "Breakthrough Listen" in an effort to examine far more reaches of our local universe than have ever been searched before for signs of intelligent life. This is a much more vigorous effort than was the 1960 effort of S.E.T.I., the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Both efforts, however, depend upon machinery and gadgets for making such contact.

From 1981 through 1984 L/L Research also used an "instrument" to make contact with an extraterrestrial civilization known in Earth's history as those of Ra, a planetary population of 32 million souls from within our own solar system who were able to blend their vibratory beingness with that of our little group of three.

Though our instrument was human, the tuning of this instrument needed to be more precise than any mechanical device could ever approach. Her heart had to be full and open to giving and receiving the vibrations of love. Her mental dedication to being of service to others had to be totally clear and focused as the foundation for any action. And her soul had to be fearless and full of joy. \$100 million could not buy these prerequisites. They were the fruits of a life of service from the age of 2 until she passed into larger life at the age of 71. And the information that she brought through her channel was as intelligent, timeless, and timely as any physicist could ever hope for.

Jim McCarty, *The Camelot Journal*, July 20, 2015

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PART I: THE PAST

The Mantell Crash

We begin the journey by rewinding the clock to look at some of the highlights of 1947:

- Still an age of segregation: Jackie Robinson is the first black player accepted into the Major Leagues. The first black reporter is first allowed into congress.
- Miracle on 34th Street is released in theaters. Anne Frank's diary is published.
- Cold war officially begins by an Act of Congress through the Truman Doctrine to give financial aid to Turkey and Greece to stem the spread of communism.
- Marshall Plan for rebuilding Europe is implemented.
- National Security Act creates CIA, DoD, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Natl Sec Council.
- The Doomsday Clock introduced.
- Foundation of the WTO is laid by a tariff agreement.
- McCarthyism is underway, beginning investigations into communism in Hollywood.
- India and Pakistan become independent nations, Gandhi instrumental.
- First recorded use of the word "computer" in its modern sense.
- Flight faster than the speed of sound: Chuck Yeager.
- **June:** Kenneth Arnold makes the first widely reported UFO sighting near Mt Rainer
- **July:** Roswell. Downed ET craft allegedly recovered.
- And most importantly to my wife, Elton John is born.

Just seven days into the following year on January 7, 1948, Captain Thomas Mantell of the Kentucky Air National Guard, a decorated WWII pilot who was awarded for his part in the Battle of Normandy, was in the air flying an F-51 Mustang with his squadron. He received an order from Godman Field at Ft Knox to investigate an unidentified flying object that was appearing on their radar and being reported in the region elsewhere.

The other three pilots in his squadron—only one of whom had oxygen, which was in low supply—called off their pursuit as the altitude increased. Mantell did not. At 25,000 feet he blacked out from a lack of oxygen, sending his plane spiraling to the ground where he crashed near the KY/TN state line.

The Air Force's "Project Blue Book" (their attempt to investigate the early UFO phenomenon) later said that Mantell had seen the top-secret "skyhook", a device created by the Navy and General Mills (yes, the same people who make Cinnamon Toast Crunch) to do atmospheric research. Whatever it was that Captain Mantell had chased, it caused a change in consciousness in the United States. Per the Wikipedia page:

...among the most publicized early UFO reports, the Mantell Crash was one of three "classic" UFO cases in 1948 that would help to define the UFO phenomenon in the public

mind, and would help convince some Air Force intelligence specialists that UFOs were a "real", physical phenomenon. [It] marked a sharp shift in both public and governmental perceptions of UFOs. Previously, the news media often treated UFO reports with a whimsical or glib attitude reserved for silly season news.

Don's Research

We have found that... space is unimaginably vast, so that even within the celestial backyard of our nearest star neighbor, it would take us 80,000 years to traverse the distance thereto. This is figuring a velocity of 7 miles per second, the reported escape velocity of our fastest launched space vehicle to date, Pioneer 10. So far as our understanding has brought us, space travel is a reality, but the thought of doing it, in person, is still absurd, especially if you begin to consider travel out of our planetary system. This is where our science is now: within the boundaries of our technology and daily routine we have a serviceable and solid philosophy of reality. But at the frontiers of physical space and time, we have a vast uncertainty. We are not equal to it yet. Its challenges lie there, waiting patiently for us to seek them out. – Don Elkins with Carla L. Rueckert, *Secrets of the UFO*

Someone else who reacted to the Mantell crash was a 17-year old (soon to turn eighteen) named Donald Tully Elkins. In his recorded talk to Jefferson Community College during the Ra Contact on April 1, 1981, Don said:

I've been at this business for a long time. I got interested in UFOs in 1948. Maybe some of you remember Tom Mantell, who was killed flying an F-51 because a UFO was sighted flying near Fort Knox. I was a student pilot in the Elkins-Mantell Flying School¹ at Bowman Field when he got killed. So I was greatly interested in UFOs starting in 1948. I didn't really get to devote much time to research in that area, and related areas, until 1955. In 1955 I really went to it and I've been researching the subject ever since. – Don Elkins, *Spiritual Significance of the UFOs*

We don't know Don's exact thoughts when learning of Captain Mantell's crash—as he seems not to have recorded his thoughts, and was famously reserved about his feelings. But suffice it to say, the seed of interest in UFOs was firmly planted, though it would not have the conditions to burst through the soil for another seven years.

During those seven years he would enlist in the Army, become, according to Carla, the youngest Master Sergeant in its history, be stationed in Germany during the Korean War, return home to earn two masters degrees in engineering, and go onto become an engineering—and later also a physics—professor. He was, by multiple accounts, a genius.

Finally 1955 arrived and he had the time to devote to his deep-rooted passion: solving the great puzzle of existence through research into the unknown. Don Elkins was on the case like a bloodhound with a scent, a very open-minded bloodhound.

¹ The event was especially close to home for Don. Louisville's Elkins-Mantell Flying School was formed by the same captain who had recently crashed, and a distant relative of Don's.

I've been at this pursuit of UFO understanding for over 25 years now. I've tried to maintain a totally open-minded approach to the study, considering no piece of evidence too small or too ridiculous to consider. The theory which has gradually emerged from this approach may seem a bit wild or absurd.... One thing to remember: almost everything which we now accept as normal in our present technology would have been considered a wild and absurd impossibility a scant 100 years ago. We do not know how many millennia ahead of our present understanding the UFOs might be. – *Secrets of the UFO*

Something else also happened around the time period in 1955 when his research took off. Before the character Spock was conceived for Star Trek, Don had gone Vulcan. Elkins had concluded that the best and sanest path through life on this planet was to eschew emotion and become an observer, bound only by logic and rational thought. His chief means of relating to the world and the people in it was indifference. Not a cold-hearted indifference that would ignore a cry for help, but rather an indifference that didn't have positive or negative reactions to experience, and sought not to be moved by the catalyst of the world; indeed, not to *use* the catalyst that the world offered.

It was this thick armor that was abruptly and heart wrenchingly removed during his initiatory period beginning in 1983 that eventually contributed significantly to his decline and death.

Jim: Up until the Ra Contact, his idea of the balanced human being was one who was not swayed by any emotion up or down. He made that choice when he was 26 years old that basically this world was a crazy place and if you wanted to survive it, you needed not to be swayed by it; you needed to look at it with a level mind, a level keel, and keep your emotions at a distance.

It was a spiritual practice for him not to become swayed in any direction, so he didn't give compliments; he didn't give criticism. He was... in his own words he was indifferent. And later on, during the Ra Contact, we discovered that was not the best type of balancing to do, but up to that point, it was a pretty strict and successful spiritual discipline, because he was very wise. He never jumped into anything; you couldn't sway him one way or the other; he needed to gather more data and he would think about things for a long time, and then he would make a move. It was almost always the right one.

So we really appreciated his nature. But during the Ra Contact, we discovered the balancing process, which is a more correct way of using catalyst. He didn't use catalyst; he just let it slide away.

Carla: His heart was protected in reinforced concrete up until the Ra Contact. Somewhere near the middle of the Ra Contact he started losing that protection. – *Reactions to the Ra Contact, the Interview Project*²

But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

² Most of the following indented quotes from here on out will be from The Interview Project, identified by the section from which it was taken, or the book *Secrets of the UFO*, co-authored by Don Elkins and Carla Rueckert in 1977. The material from The Interview Project is being turned into an L/L Research publication under the title, *Tilting at Windmills: An Interview with Carla L. Rueckert and Jim McCarty*.

Carla reports that from an early age, even before the Mantell crash, Elkins had a distinct, keen sense of the limitations of science and philosophy, and recognized the conundrum that science could explain some of the mechanics to *how* things worked but not *why*, or for what greater purpose or by what original cause.

On a fundamental level, Don felt the world we live in was an illusion of one form or another. Some of this may stem from his Christian Scientist upbringing which upholds the belief that illness is a result of imbalanced thinking and can be cured through prayer and thought. But whatever his source, he intuitively understood that reality was fully available neither to the senses nor science.

If he couldn't find the answer in conventional understanding, he had no choice then but to seek outside the boundaries.

Perhaps we are on the brink of an unfolding of understanding even greater than that which rounded the flat Earth and gave depth to the sky. And the UFOs are acting this time as the insistent clue to the new reality. That they do not "compute" according to our present understanding is a welcome characteristic, for it is this quality of data which historically has heralded a new level of advancement of man's knowledge. – *Secrets of the UFO*

From excerpts like the one just listed, one gets a sense of the ambitious scope of Don's search, and his confidence that he could succeed.

Gary: What would you say were Don Elkins' driving questions? What puzzle was he attempting to solve or penetrate?

Carla: There was nothing for Don but the biggest, the widest, the deepest. His mind would not be satisfied with a segment of the answer. He wanted to know the answer to the puzzle of why everything worked. He thought that UFOs might have part of it so he investigated. He thought seeing ghosts and finding out things like... he learned how to do hypnotic regression and found out that he seemed to be able to regress people beyond this Earth experience to other experiences on and off this Earth, and so he discovered, he felt, that part of the puzzle pieces lay in reincarnation. – *The Beginning*

Carla felt it took a while for the big picture to cohere for Don, but it happened through investigating these different leads, from flying around the country to interview contactees and investigate UFO sightings, to observing and undergoing psychic surgery, to receiving channeled information, to examining telepathy, to participating in séances and personally conducting several hundred regressions. From this aggregated data emerged a working theory.

And so are we all burdened with reality, a reality which is sending us numerous and obvious clues of an even greater reality. True science, I submit, is not only the explainer of the familiar, but the explorer of all that there is to explore. The UFO phenomena seem so often like the functioning in physical reality of the wildest imagination of our race. Carl Jung ascribed these phenomena to just that source. Yet these UFO events are occurring, and it is a valid response to strive to understand them using all the available material. This is what I have done; the material treated here is in my opinion the best material available for the formulation of a workable solution to the UFO mystery. The test of any theory is its value as

a predictive and explicative tool. For several years now, the UFO events have been fitting comfortably into this theory. It is as though I have gotten enough pieces put into my puzzle so that the remaining ones are quite easily fitted into the developing picture of the whole.

The body of the theory has been distilled from 25 years of collection of alleged contacts with UFOs. No single piece of evidence was judged when received, but only added to the mass of other data. Out of this mass has precipitated a surprising amount of correlation of data with regard to a high percentage of UFO related phenomena. – *Secrets of the UFO*

And as much as he needed to put the puzzle pieces together for his own understanding or perhaps even his own salvation, he also was driven to help illuminate the darkness for others.

Don was ready at the drop of a dime to share what he had learned. Carla reports that he talked to a lot of people, and would talk for a long time if there was an opportunity. He didn't talk about himself, it seems, he was very tight-lipped about his own feelings, but he loved to talk about his research, and had no compunctions about representing his own truth no matter how at variance it was to the group mind.

Gary: It seems like he was someone who wasn't afraid to stand apart from the crowd.

Carla: Don was completely fearless. He had no interest whatsoever in following any crowd, none. – *The Beginning*

Don's Experiment

Six years into his intensive research, in 1961, a mutual acquaintance introduces Don to a fellow who has moved from Detroit, Michigan to work at the Ford plant in Louisville. The fellow's name is Hal Price.

Hal is an interesting person. Hal was living in Detroit in the 50s, and while there participated in a contactee group which received communications from alleged extraterrestrial sources. You may recognize some of these sources being channeled in Detroit. One called itself Hatonn; another source called itself Latwii.

Hal brings to Louisville a brown notebook, (later and creatively dubbed, *The Brown Notebook*) with transcripts of the Detroit Group's channelings. Hal shares these with Don who makes quick work of them, assimilating the material in a matter of days.

We had a chance meeting with Hal Price in 2013. When we asked him what Don's reaction was to the *Brown Notebook*, Hal reported Don as saying that the channeled material collected by the Detroit group was the "glue that brought it all together."

This was it. Don had found the linchpin to give a unified perspective to the mass of his aggregated data, the principal way which would lead him through of the maze of confusion, misunderstanding, dead-ends, and illusions into the clear light of understanding. Don also *probably* had the characteristic reaction of the wanderer to what we now call the Confederation philosophy. Here was a message that spoke of the illusory nature of physical reality, the unity of all things, the centrality of

love and light, and the possibilities of healing, transformation, and realization. For many wanderers, these messages are a postcard from home—something that helps make sense of the world on a profoundly deeper-than-bone level. Elkins had been seeking sources outside the illusion, and here was presented him a humble brown notebook containing precisely that.

Carla describes what especially grabbed hold of Don's attention in this material:

Carla: [In the transcripts] they explained that if you got the group together regularly, weekly at least, and you sat and meditated and you waited, sooner or later the invitation would bring some channeled material. – *The Beginning*

If you're Don Elkins and you're handed this moment of eureka, and you learn that you, too, can receive this information and query these sources, what do you do? You get up to Detroit to find out how! That's what you do.

Don subsequently (and quickly, I presume) visits the Detroit group. I haven't turned up information describing his experience in Detroit, but what is clear is that he learns the rudimentary protocols for contact and transplants them to Louisville. He gathers some of his physics and/or engineering students and:

Carla: He did not at first tell anybody that the idea was not simply to meditate but to channel. So nothing happened right at first. The significant thing that turned the group around was that Walt Rogers from the Detroit Group came down and channeled for this group, for the Louisville Group, and said "Why in the world—we've been trying to get ahold of you and we've been unable to penetrate your reluctance to speak. If you would simply open up and allow us to speak through you, we would offer you information."

After that, the twelve guys all started opening up and trying to get information and for a few months, you heard a lot of <clucks and clicks, Carla makes unusual noises>, and it was so funny. It sounded like there was a whole room full of flapping window shades. But eventually they began to produce some material and Don began to get some meager but satisfying results. – *The Beginning*

Don's pursuit of collecting information through channeling would continue up until his passing. He proceeded scientifically in gathering data without judging it, and letting a new theory of reality emerge that fit the universal, recurring aspects of the data, but he at some point had to relinquish the scientific method when attempting to investigate material of a paranormal nature:

I have chosen not to abide within the approved scientific method of verification of accepted data within the boundaries of currently accepted scientific opinion because this method has proven a tool ineffectual in dealing with this phenomenon. I make the assumption that the reason for this lack is that **the system is set up to investigate the present level of reality within our technological and scientific nexus of thought.** [Emphasis added.] I make the further assumption that the nexus of thinking or technology which underlies the UFO manifestations may not have any close connection to our present Earthman's philosophy of reality. History is replete with examples of the events in which reality itself proved unconformable with the current scientific or philosophical thinking. I think it is happening

again. We thought that the Earth was flat at one time. Less than 400 years ago, Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake for suggesting that the Earth revolved around the sun. Now, again, there really does seem to be a growing amount of evidence pointing to the existence of a totally different type of reality than is generally appreciated by our philosophy. – *Secrets of the UFO*

By any measure, his was a genuine and long-term investigative effort. It seems, though, that his principle aim was research focused on information *gathering*, and the more information he could get, the better:

The obvious weakness of this contactee information is that evidential proof of its validity is not obtainable. Its strength lies in its sheer bulk and in the similarity of messages produced by sources widely scattered around the world. – *Secrets of the UFO*

Carla: His basic feeling was that if you have a non-provable area of investigation, your best bet is thickness of information, so gather a great deal of information. – *The Beginning*

Carla: So you just have to collect it. Don always believed that the important thing was to collect the material, as much material as possible, because he said it would be the *denseness* of the material, and from the things which were repeated, that you would get the gist, the heart of the material. – *Don Meets Carla*

Don Meets Carla

In Don's engineering class at the University of Louisville was a student named Jim DeWitt. DeWitt was also a participant in Don's early experiments in meditation and channeling, and DeWitt was also a romantic partner to Carla L. Rueckert.

During lunch one day, DeWitt introduced Carla to Don. The meeting registered especially acutely in the mind of Don Elkins. Years later, Don told Carla that, right there and then, at that lunch meeting, he knew he would be with Carla. There was no doubt, no question.

Carla, however, had a seven-year detour before she would rejoin Don in the romantic sense, some of those years including a challenging marriage to DeWitt.

Very shortly after Carla's first meeting with Don in 1961, Carla, having discovered the value of intentional silence not long prior, asked if she could join the meditation group, becoming both a regular member and the only attending female to Don's group of meditating physics and engineering students.

As mentioned, she was not long thereafter whisked away by an unhappy marriage to DeWitt where she was neither loved nor honored, but in which she nevertheless resolved to stay because, Carla being Carla, she had made a *promise* in her wedding vow, and nothing could get her to break that promise. Eventually that marriage took her up to Vancouver, Canada for a time, where she worked to pay the bills for a husband who refused to work. It wasn't until DeWitt divorced Carla—thank

God for her and for the rest of us—in 1968 that she was free to rejoin Don. Or, better, Don was free to finally be with Carla. And he wasted no time. The day after the divorce was made official, Don moved in with Carla, and their journey of service and learning together began.

Almost immediately, something extraordinarily peculiar happened. Thirteen years later after the event, Ra spoke of the moment:

When the commitment was made between two of this group to work for the betterment of the planetary sphere, this commitment activated a possibility/probability vortex of some strength. The experience of generating this volume [*The Crucifixion of Esmerelda Sweetwater*] was unusual in that it was visualized as if watching the moving picture.

Time had become available in its present-moment form. The scenario of the volume went smoothly until the ending of the volume. You could not end the volume, and the **ending was not visualized** as the entire body of the material **but was written or authored**. This is **due to** the action of **free will** in all of the creation.

However, the volume contains a view of significant events, both symbolically and specifically, which you saw under the influence of the magnetic attraction which was released when the commitment was made [between Carla and Don] and full memory of the dedication of this, what you may call, mission restored. – Ra, 68.14

So Don and Carla come together and almost immediately *both* receive a shared vision of a story, what became L/L Research's very first publication, *The Crucifixion of Esmerelda Sweetwater*. They draw from this shared vision in different, complementing ways. With Carla's head resting in Don's lap, Don dictates the plot of the story into a cassette recorder. Carla, seeing the same story unfold within her own mind, then fills in the plot with character and dialogue when Don, who has become an airline pilot by this point³, leaves for his flights.

As Ra indicated, the book accurately predicts subsequent events in their lives, including people whom they would later meet. And perhaps most significantly, the two main characters of the book, Josh and Esmerelda, were idealized versions of Don and Carla.

The two of them see the whole book in their shared vision *except* for one thing. For some reason unknown to them at the time, the ending does not reveal itself. They both know that one of the two main characters must die, but they don't quite know who.

Carla: Well, it didn't make any sense; it wasn't logical, and we were both very logical people. Don was preternaturally healthy. His vision was 20/10. When he was in the Army he could run rings around his unit all day while he was running them on a ten-mile hike and never run out of breath. He was just so healthy, he was incredibly healthy, never been sick. He'd never been sick. He'd never had a cold.

³ Don gave up his professorship, circa 1965, in order to be a pilot for a commercial airline. It gave him more time and money to devote to his research, along with greater ability to fly to his research locations.

I was very, very frail. There was no question about it. I accepted that much myself although I didn't accept anything more. I was normal. It just took a little bit of skill to stay normal. There was this way and that way I could screw up, and then I would be having a problem because of earlier sickness—kidney problems, rheumatoid problems, that kind of thing. But just seeing that I wasn't long for this world, I was just frail. So it made sense that this person most like me in the book would die, whereas Don's character would not. And we worked with that and worked with that and worked with that, and that's the way we wrote it: the space girl, or Esmeralda, dies at the end. – *Don Meets Carla*

Though they had no idea at the time that they were writing about their own future, Carla said elsewhere during the course of the interview project that Don and she knew that one of the characters had to die, that much was clear. It was a “matter of choosing the person.”

And for reasons just stated, they allot to Esmerelda the role of dying at the story's conclusion. Esmerelda dies through the choice of martyrdom in the book, which Carla came close to doing in the events of the Ra Contact. But that was not to be Carla's fate in our world. “This is due to the action of free will in all of creation.”

Their journey of service was underway.

Carla Learns to Channel

When Carla returned to Louisville after her fortuitous and fateful divorce from DeWitt in 1968, she resumed attending Don's meditations—they were having two per week at Hal and Joe Price's home, but around this time attendance was beginning to dwindle as students graduated and moved on. As Don had moved on from teaching, there were no remaining students to fill in the ranks.

The trend continued until, by 1974, no one remained to channel. Don's experiment, as he framed it, was at risk of dying. He turned to Carla. Carla wasn't the least interested in channeling, but she made the attempt for one reason: Don asked her to. Without her, Don said, the experiment would end, and Carla wanted nothing more than to make Don happy. His needs were her needs.

In the role of channel, Carla, as we all now know, was a natural. More than a natural, one might say that she was *born* for it. One might say she pre-incarnationally designed her life to be a clear window pane to that voice of inspiration from the other side of the dream. Whether that voice came from higher-density sources or that unending spring of inner light that Carla's disciplined mind was so effortlessly and reliably able to tap, the wellspring of her ability, once broached, flowed forward freely.

When Carla began channeling in 1974, the quality of the content increased so significantly that Don for the first time began to keep the cassette recordings of the channelings. If you access the Transcript Library on the archive website right now you'll see that they more or less begin in 1974, at the time Carla began serving as an instrument.

Carla wasn't the only channel, however. There were others, including Don. Carla, though, was the real strength. She learned from Don the very basic protocols, which included “making the mind a total blank” and allowing material to come through. From that foundation she discovered and

literally built the protocols that would become the recognizable hallmarks of L/L Research channeling, most especially the twin, paramount practices of challenging and tuning.

That was *all Carla*.

Carla: It was all me. I was pretty much on my own. Don was able to teach me the basic heart of channeling which was to let go and say what was coming through, but he had not been able to get any refinement of that, and I refined and refined trying to find out how to be a better channel and how to create a better session. So I observed what worked to make me a better channel, and incorporated those things little by little over the years, and ended up around the turn of the century some time for about three or four years practicing the channeling, the tuning and the challenging process over and over again, every day after morning offering. – *Art of Channeling*

From the 70s all the way through Carla's final channeling in April, 2011, she continued to fine tune those protocols to gain the safest, most stable, most secure, and highest quality transmission she could carry.

At the Shore of the Unknown

Don and Carla, two who had been “one for a timeless period” according to Ra, each reliant upon the other, together greater than the sum of their parts, manifested their shared commitment to service and metaphysical bond in the form of a legal partnership which they dubbed “The L/L Company” in 1970, and would later change to “L/L Research” in 1976.

Together, each empowered by the other, they began the construction of something new: a vessel that could leave the familiar shores and shadows of consensus reality to recover the cosmic picture and illuminate our present darkness. Don was the pilot and Carla was the sail which caught the winds of inspiration and moved the ship toward its unknown destination.

Seeing the structure of their research and its focus on gaining information through channeling as a ship is an apt metaphor.

Carla: ...shortly after that I had a very, very real dream, very clear. And it starts out with me going down the river on a great big four-story houseboat with a paddle wheel—and since I lived by the Ohio River, what could be more natural than seeing that form of transportation. I'm on the top floor and the houseboat starts burning.

Don sees me from the shore, jumps in, comes over to the boat and he grabs me and saves me from the fire.

Then we're sailing down the river on his boat, which is not burning, and he looks at me and he says: “Do you want to get off? Because if you stay on this boat with me, you'll never see dry land again.”

And I was sure at that time in the dream that I wanted to stay with him. And that was when I woke up from the dream. – *Don Meets Carla*

Carla joined Don on that ship and never quite saw dry land again, though out there on the open waters, they did not wander haphazardly, drifting by chance from one latitude to the next. They had purpose and mission, and the rod and staff of will and faith to create a stable home outside the boundaries of consensus reality.

Carla: I knew that we were working for spiritual reasons rather than for earthly reasons. I didn't really think about how big that was, I just realized that we weren't working towards any earthly goal—no house, no children, nothing to own or have, but each other, and the work. The work was everything. - *Don Meets Carla*

They would have no idea how deeply into the unknown that ship could take them, or the joys and dangers that would await, but they were fixed to a course tied to the stars that had no exit plans, or contingencies, or alternatives.

This is not to suggest that they were passive participants—passengers upon a destiny tasked to them over which they had no control. They, and they alone, were behind the wheel on a transport of their own making, the course designed by their free will and inscribed like ancient hieroglyphics upon the hidden walls of their inner heart: symbols of mysterious meaning from a forgotten realm. Though they awaited the third member of their team before they would truly leave dry land and dare the great unknown, vulnerable and free.

A Hug

The same year that Carla and Don form The L/L Company in 1970, our third protagonist in this story, James Allen McCarty, is busy earning his undergraduate degree, at the moment oblivious to his deeper nature.

At that point Jim was on a conventional path. An all-star athlete in high school, he went onto college—as his parents expected and as he believed was his own interest—and continued his trajectory of sports, school, and worldly goals.

Jim earned his bachelors in business and economics from the University of Nebraska and at the same time, around age 21, started asking his own questions for the first time. (He describes himself as a “late bloomer.”) Jim decided he didn't want to pursue a career in the field for which he had just earned degrees, so he dove into a year of sociology, took a course on world religions, joined the campus radicals in vocally protesting social injustices and the Vietnam War, and became friends with an activist Catholic priest who introduced Jim to *The Wisdom of Insecurity*, a book by Alan Watts that describes how to begin your own spiritual journey, which Jim immediately set about doing.

Jim hadn't given up on more worldly means of service, yet. He next heads to the University of Florida where he earns his graduate degree in early childhood education, in the process working with inner city kids in Jacksonville, Florida as part of Teacher Corp—an approach to education that applied somewhat alternative methods to help the low-income kids to keep pace with the rest of the students.

As Jim had done upon earning his undergrad degrees, he assesses the situation and realizes he doesn't want to teach, and doesn't have a knack for working with kids. He's not without a compelling lead to his next step, though.

One of his reference books for his classroom work was called *The Raspberry Exercises: How to Start a School and Write Your Own Book*. In the bibliography was a reference to a fellow in Colorado named T.D. Lingo who ran the Adventure Trail Survival School. Lingo taught an intensive, retreat-like course designed to help release the dormant brain's potential, specifically unlocking the full abilities of the frontal lobes.

Leaving behind his college education, Jim makes a massive change to his life trajectory, taking his first bold steps away from the conventional path and heading to the mountains of Colorado, much to his parents' perplexity.

High in the Rockies above 10,000 feet, Jim spends two years at Lingo's school, the first as a student, the second as a teacher. While there, Jim undertakes intensive self-work, doing dream analysis and working with the preconscious state. He successfully opens the circuitry for, or removes the blocks to, activation of the front lobes of the brain, receiving information, inspiration, and initiating the first in a lifetime series of what he calls an "orgasm between the eyes,"⁴ or frontal lobes experience. He also built his own lean-to and learned the skills he would later apply on the land in building his own cabin.

T.D. Lingo's philosophy included the dictum, "each one, teach one," meaning that upon completing the course, students should start their own school to help teach others the method and philosophy. (Lingo was deeply concerned about what he perceived as a suicidal human culture that, if left unchecked, would do just that.)

Upon graduating from Lingo's course, Jim continues leaving the main road behind him as he plunges more deeply into the wilderness of his soul and the land, scouting Kentucky and Tennessee for a wilderness tract of property to purchase in order to start his own school and live according to his nature as he then understood it: in solitude.

This was not a hermit-like solitude that scorned or shunned society. Jim kept up friendships, worked for money, participated in a regional co-op, related to his neighbors, and otherwise interacted where necessary. He simply preferred, nay, *loved* being alone. The 136-acre piece of land in Marion County afforded him that opportunity.

There he literally built his own log cabin using the trees he cut down on his land—Abraham Lincoln style. I mean, I don't know what kind of cabin that Lincoln built, or whether he built it himself, but if one thing is certain in this world, Abe Lincoln lived in a log cabin. And so did Jim.

Jim also, and just as importantly, had an adult see-saw there; a giant felled tree balanced on a central pivot for both seeing and sawing, making his land the Six Flags of the back-to-the-land movement.

While on the land:

⁴ Or as I call it, Netflix.

Jim: I was listening to WKQQ Radio one night (it was put out from Lexington, Kentucky) and they had a couple of folks from Louisville—a Don Elkins and Carla Rueckert were talking about their channeling and their book *The Secrets of the UFO*, and I thought that was interesting. – *Meeting Jim*

It turns out that Jim participated in a local meditation group that also overlapped with the regional co-op. The meditation group was headed by individuals from Louisville who were also part of Don and Carla's group called Eftspan.

Jim spoke with members of his meditation group about hearing Don and Carla on the radio. Michael Koepper, a friend of Jim's, asked if Jim would like to meet Don and Carla.

Here's Jim on his first meeting with Don.

Jim: So through them, I came up to Louisville and met Don and Carla. I remember walking into their apartment for the first time. Don was at the door and I looked up, <cranes neck up, laughs> he was a full foot taller than I was. I remember looking into his blue eyes and thinking, wow. I could see eternity in there somehow. He had this really friendly old rumpled way about him.

After that, I started coming every week by myself. And then Eric started joining me—Eric Swan, you remember, who still lives down in Lebanon, Kentucky. So we came up every week after that. It was August, 1978, I think I first met you <to Carla> and later on, when Carla and Don decided to move to Watterson Trail where we would later have the Ra contact. I helped them move and really got to know them a lot more. – *Meeting Jim*

While in the process of helping Don and Carla move to the location that would later become the site of 105 sessions of the Ra Contact, a hug happens; a hug that sets Jim upon a journey with his soulmate that he still walks today:

Gary: ...as Don described with Carla that he had a “knowing”, was there a conscious recognition or an inkling with you that this was to be a special relationship?

Jim: Oh yeah, there was no doubt and it was odd in that respect. As I was helping them move into the place on Watterson Trail, which was where we had the Ra contact, Carla and I were doing a lot of work together getting things lined up and put in place after we got them moved over and Don was flying so we had some time alone. I remember the hug in the kitchen with Carla. We hugged each other, and we knew that neither of us wanted to let go, because it just felt so perfect; it felt like coming home, really.

And from that point on, it was just the same thing. We never had to work at being harmonious, it was just there, and any movement away from being harmonious was weird. I was responsible for one or two of those and had to correct it right away because it wasn't right. So, yeah, there was an immediate recognition and a feeling of, “Yeah, I want to hang out with these folks.” And it worked out.

Gary: Carla, do you have your and Don's side of that meeting?

Carla: Well, I can't really speak for Don because as usual, he was silent on the subject, except for expressing his desire to have Jim join us, but I know Jim came to the door—I had been resisting liking him because he had a very large beard, and I liked his curly long hair, but I was never fond of facial hair, and especially on a young man who could look good. I thought it was a waste of flesh (*Jim laughs*), so I didn't want to like him and he came to the door one time right after he'd worked real hard and he was sweating freely and I thought to myself "I love the way he smells." (*laughs*) That was it for me. The chemistry just overwhelmed me.

Jim: When you find somebody that likes your scent you've got a thing. – *Meeting Jim*

As Don and Carla get to know Jim, Don realizes what a true and honorable person Jim so naturally is. (Leaders tend to have a knack for character assessment.) Don, presumably seeing the benefit that Jim could contribute to their research efforts, presumably also compelled by the tuggings of preincarnational planning, opens the door that remained closed to nearly everyone else, and invites Jim to join the two of them.

Jim: It was at that time that Don invited me to join them, but I'd been taking mailings from Cosmic Awareness Communications out in Olympia, Washington, for a long time. –
Meeting Jim

As Jim was staring to say, he doesn't accept Don's invitation at that moment. For five years or so, Jim had been receiving mailings from a channeling center operating in both Washington and Oregon named Cosmic Awareness. Jim felt his first loyalty was to them, and he was already on course to be with them, and once Jim sets his mind to do something, it's difficult to shake him. So, not selling his land quite yet, he relocates to Oregon to live in a rusty trailer named Tootsie Roll and lend his services to their efforts.

Prior to this point Jim was sure that he would die happy on his land. (Of old age, of course.⁵) But a strong need manifested to be of service through *group* work, specifically a channeling group. So he tentatively gives up his dream land.

During the two months Jim is in Oregon working with Cosmic Awareness in 1980, the same year this presenter is born, he receives an offer to make \$100,000 per year serving as the US general manager for a company selling diatomaceous earth.

This lucrative offer creates some internal confusion and prompts Jim to really consider what he is doing. He sets aside a whole weekend to meditate on the question.

Jim: I didn't have anything against money but that wasn't why I went to Oregon, so I took the weekend out to meditate and to think about what I needed to do because I was kind of confused. So 30 minutes—*30 seconds* into the meditation, (it didn't take long), there was the answer kind of like a comet across my barren sky: "Go back to Louisville. Join Don and Carla."

⁵ Though an epic battle of hand-to-hand combat with a Bigfoot would've been a great way to go, too.

So that's what I did, taking their little kitty cat that they gave me. The kids at the Windsong School made money by selling the offspring of these two cats—big old Siamese bruiser of a male and a pretty female—the cats came out with long hair, they were Himalayan. So Chocolate Bar came back with me and I litterbox trained Chocolate Bar in the truck as I was driving along. I had a litter box over on the passenger side on the floor and whenever she had to go I picked her up and stuck her over there. So I brought Chocolate Bar back to Louisville and introduced her to Don and Carla. Don looked at the cat—they already had two cats, Gandolph and Fairchild at the time – and Don looked at Chocolate Bar and took the little kitty cat in his hand and he said: “beautiful.”

Carla: That was one of his famous swearwords.

Jim: Yeah, that meant “another cat.” (*laughs*) – *Meeting Jim*

Jim sold his land, forever relinquishing that chapter in his life and his dream of living and dying alone.

He moved in with Carla and Don 48 hours before Christmas Day in 1980. With another cat.

Twenty-three days later, on January 15, 1981, a voice spoke through Carla and said, “I am Ra.”

The Ra Contact

Carla: So Don asked a few questions and when I came to after the session he was pacing, which he always did when he was excited, and making the sound that he made when he was looking at something particularly good to eat. <Makes the sound> He was so excited and he says: “We’re gonna have to write a book, Alrac. This is it!” I said “Great.” (*laughs*) But he wouldn’t let me see it right away. – *The Start*

Carla: When the Ra Contact happened, everything else stopped cold, and that’s all he wanted to do. - *Don Meets Carla*

Gary: How about yourself, Jim, what was your reaction to Ra?

Jim: I felt like I was on the mountain top, that all my life previous to that I’d been climbing this mountain and now I was there. It was just so obvious. The information was more than I could ever hope for. – *Reactions to the Ra Contact*

Gary: So we know Don was quite excited and Carla, you just said that you were happy to make Don happy. So was your reaction to the beginning of the Ra Contact similar to his in that this Ra provided a means to fulfill your desire to *know*, or was your reaction more, “Ra provides me a means to make Don happy”?

Carla: It was the second. Don was the one with the burning desire to get all the questions answered and make all the puzzle pieces fit. I was a lot easier going by nature than Don. I was interested in all the new information that we got—

Jim: But you couldn't read the sessions until like the 21st or 23rd session, because Don wanted to keep it as a scientific experiment, so she didn't know the quality of information coming through. All she knew was that it made Don happy.

Carla: Yeah, but even after I read it, I was impressed by it. I was grateful to have it. I saw nothing to bother my Christianity in it. So there wasn't any reason that I would have any trouble with it. It was all so logical to a person that loves philosophy. It was the only *seamless* philosophy that I'd ever read. There wasn't any reason to say, "Well, there are problems with it in the area of...", there weren't any problems; it was logical, all logical; Ra never contradicted himself. Incredible to have a system that doesn't contradict itself somewhere. – *Reactions to the Ra Contact*

In 1955 Don Elkins devoted his life to asking questions, seeking the truth, and solving the puzzle of existence. Twenty-six years later, the universe responded. Jim was 33, Carla 37, and Don 49 years old.⁶

The psychic greetings, the attempted move to Georgia, the precise preconditions and magical nature of the contact, the deleterious energy exchange, the *non-deleterious* sexual energy exchanges, the culmination of Don's life work, his descent and eventual death, the bizarre, stranger-than-fiction narrative of their lives, the synergistic combining of the trio's archetypal energies, and the singularly wondrous and, in the original sense of the word, awesome information that Ra shared with Don, Carla, and Jim—the Ra Contact is a presentation unto itself, and its study the work of a lifetime.

I will keep it short for this book and start by noting what an amazing and bizarre thing the Ra Contact was *for the three people who undertook the odyssey*. To achieve it wasn't simply a result of three people cooperating toward a common goal—say to follow a blueprint and build a house, or to start a new business—it required the full living and breathing of their highest spiritual vision. Not as a single qualification that, once achieved, guaranteed further contact with Ra. It needed achieved anew each and every day. Successful and untainted contact with Ra was inextricably linked to the group's capacity to be in harmony with one another, to love, to orient their vision to service, to guard against not only acts of separation, but *thoughts* of separation from one another.

It became an intensive, white-hot testing that ensured that each of their footsteps be mindfully placed upon the strait and narrow corridor of upward moving spiritual evolution, lest a misplaced step lead them, as a jerk of the wheel in a high-speed moving car, tumbling rapidly into potential destruction and catastrophe.

The “Brunt” of the Greeting

That destruction loomed ever in the corner. If you study the *Law of One* material, it becomes apparent how much of the conversation with Ra is dedicated to the maintenance of the contact, and the support and protection of the instrument. The sheer abundance of information on psychic

⁶ And I was eleven months and eleven days old.

greeting in *The Law of One* is indicative of just how constantly the group was under pressure and threat from the "loyal opposition."

The vast majority of that assault, or greeting, was directed at Carla. Among the tactics, the negative beings attempted to: drain her energy, interfere with the movement of her body, exacerbate her kidney issues, increase her bodily pain, weaken her body, create dizziness, loss of balance, and visual impairment, trigger a "massive allergic reaction", send suggestions to walk into traffic, steal her soul to negative time/space through deception, enslave her, suffocate her, and otherwise, to be blunt, kill her.

Gary: How did you hold up under all of that assault, Carla?

Carla: Well, as it occurred; I tried to stay in the present moment and I knew that my strong point was faith and fearlessness, and that those were renewable resources as opposed to my physical which wasn't as easy to beef up. Faith is absolutely renewable—you just go to spirit and ask. You get a big "woof" and you're fine again. There's no end to vital energy if you have faith, and I did; and if you have will, and I did; and if you don't tend to worry about the future, and I don't, ever.

So I just stayed in the present moment and dealt with things as they came up. Or went down. (*laughs*) And I had help, you know—I had physical help. Jim and Don were both right there. – *Brunt of the Greeting*

The list I provided above sounds dramatic. It is dramatic! But during the Ra Contact, and in their many reflections since, including in the course of the interview project, the group never sensationalized these events. They took the punches as they came and kept it lighthearted and merry—through disciplined use of will and faith.

Carla: How it affected me? Phooey. I was irritated. Rather than making me scared, it made me want to say "Up yours, Jack!" But who would be so crude? But that was my feeling from deep in the gut. "You're in my way (*laughs*), please don't do this." It didn't make me scared, it just set me down solid; it grounded me. – *Dealing with Psychic Greeting*

Jim has called Carla a *spiritual warrior*. The entirety of Carla's incarnation could be successfully invoked as evidence to support and prove that thesis. The Ra Contact made this especially apparent.

Have you met an adult human being who was 84 pounds? That is the size that Carla was reduced to as a result of the depletion of the Ra Contact, no matter how many calories she took in. Each session was, as Ra said, the equivalent of a full day's hard labor to Carla. When she awoke after each session, she was utterly exhausted.

If that and all the psychic greeting were not enough, the group learned of the possibility that Carla's very soul could essentially be stolen into negative time/space. While that sounds like a distant, abstract concept with little connection to actual life, or an interesting plot twist in a sci-fi novel, in reality this scenario makes an ordinary, third-density death absolutely pale in comparison. Carla risked what to the positively oriented soul is unimaginably, agonizingly unthinkable: her own heart.

Heroism on that level isn't even possible for most on this planet, and few are those who would risk this sacrifice for the pure cause of love.

Jim: As I was recording Session #68 from the Ra contact this evening [for the audiobook project] I became very emotional at the end. This was the session where Don questioned Ra about Carla's nearly going into trance during a Sunday night meditation and nearly being led away by our negative polarity friend. The tears flowed powerfully because this session reminded me once again how much of a spiritual warrior Carla was in being willing to do whatever was necessary to be of service to others. She was that way all her life and this session underlined her unbreakable resolve to give of herself until all was given. – entry from “The Camelot Journal”

But would she do it again?

Gary: And for the final question about the Ra contact, before we close up today. If you two had the opportunity to do it all over again, would you?

Carla: In a heartbeat.

Jim: In a minute. – *Olio*

Jim answers that another way in another entry to the “The Camelot Journal”:

Jim: At the end of Session #105 tonight I was once again overcome by tears, but they were an odd combination of sadness and gratitude. If I could choose in my incarnation to do anything that I wanted or which had ever been done on this planet I would choose to do as I did do: to be with Don and Carla and to have the contact with those of Ra as our means of service to others. There is great satisfaction in that choice, and someday I shall die a happy man. – entry from “The Camelot Journal”

After the Ra Contact

As we all know, with Don's death ended the cosmic phone call across inconceivable distances of time and dimension. His suicide sent Carla into a downward spiritual spiral. Heavy with the weight of self-condemnation, she had to cross a desert that stretched six to seven long years. It was a trial her mind and soul not only endured, but her body as well. Carla was in a hospital bed for many of those years, Jim serving then as he did her final four years: a round-the-clock caretaker supporting all of Carla's needs.

And as to the work of L/L Research:

Carla: We had our marching orders from the very beginning. We knew that Don wanted to have a spiritual community, and that he wanted to make this material globally available, and we assumed he wanted the experiment to continue and to continue gathering data. – *Post Ra Contact to LLResearch.org*

And they did. Don had set the parameters of the mission and aimed its trajectory. Years prior, Jim and Carla had joined the trajectory and given love and power to the mission. After Don's passing they consciously, and without a single moment's hesitation, continued in the same direction, keeping the flame alive, never setting the torch down for a moment.

Carla and Jim continued "gathering information" in the denseness that Don desired. Channeling after channeling, public meditation after public meditation, they faithfully kept one foot in front of the other and, with uninterrupted, unwavering dedication, amassed an enormous library of information that stretches across decades. It's especially incredible to think that not only did they continue the effort unbroken through the desert of Carla's life when she had many moments of wanting to die, but, as remarkably, they continued with no means of financial remuneration (it wasn't until the advent of the online store that L/L in 2008 that L/L earned enough to pay its own bills), and without having a website through which to share their channelings until 1996, twelve years after Don passed. They felt called to the work; they felt they needed to help others; and, like Jim said, "What else were we going to do, sell cars?"

Though the trio formed an indivisible whole, functioning, as Ra said, as "a unit" with a strength of light far greater than would have been if any one of them was subtracted, Don functioned on the team as the natural leader out in the front, spearheading the effort and pushing forward into the unknown:

Carla: He was a wonderful leader. Jim and I are both leaders in terms of our genes, we have no problem leading a group so it's not that we were leaning on him. We were two people who were delighted to give over our will—you know, "What do we do next, George?" and questions of that sort to a boss that was going to tell us a really good thing to do next. We trusted his capacity to lead.

Jim: He was definitely the leader but I never felt that he was the boss—he didn't give orders. You just wanted to be around Don. You wanted to do what he wanted to do 'cause he was fun.

Carla: I pattern my boss-ness over his which was that I never said anything unless there was something wrong. I haven't talked to you [Gary] much over the last ten years as to what you're doing because you're always, as far as I'm concerned, doing everything right. But I don't go around giving you huge compliments all the time. I just enjoy the things that are going on. I might thank you for something, but I don't make you crazy with it. – *Spiritual Principles*

With the third of the three legs removed from their tripod, Jim and Carla had to find a way to strike a new balance on the two remaining legs, as it were, in the journey of L/L Research. The first part of that new incarnation of L/L Research was Carla stepping into Don's role, the first time someone other than Don had taken the wheel in thirty years:

Gary: When Don was alive he served as the natural leader of your small band. With his passing, you had to take up that mantle and assume those responsibilities. How did you transition into that role?

Carla: Without any difficulty at all. I've never had any trouble leading. Jim has always been a partner that pretty much trusted my intuition and was glad to follow my lead. Jim does not have a desire to lead whatsoever. He just wants to be able to serve, as we've served together for so long. You know: take care of the yard, take care of me, and work for L/L Research. Simple as that. Jim's a simple guy. – *Carla Bio*

Though Carla would have relinquished the role in a heartbeat to be able to follow Don wherever he may lead, Don wasn't around. Life required a new dimension from her. And in that light, I always had the impression that she loved being L/L's leader. She did it so well, finding her own style and her own strength, already firmly established and refined by the time I made my entrance onto the stage.

Carla could be a little demanding, and could place the expectations, but she was never overbearing. She was always willing to listen. She always sought to encourage and support others. Carla had a remarkable ability to yield her own ideas and preferences in favor of another's. She loved teamwork, and she loved finding the best way to do something, whether it was hers or another's. Her overriding goal was to love others, and to do her best for seekers. I learned a great deal from her example.

And for over thirty years beyond Don's passing, she steadfastly carried the torch of L/L Research with Don's "marching orders" inscribed in the forefront of her mind. Carla L. Rueckert (Carla always wanted the "L" included) has always been the real star of L/L Research. Jim would agree.

To single her out, though, is to single one strand of rope among others, giving it all the credit for the rope's function and strength. Multiple strands contributed to the strength of L/L Research through those times, including some friends that are still with us. At the core, Carla was the beating heart of L/L Research, but she was one half of a spiraling double-helix bond.

Mick and Ruck

L/L has been a story not just of an organization, or a channeling service, or a philosophy, but of the very personal and very human spiritual journey of its members, most especially Don, Carla, and Jim. Theirs has been a life intersecting with this body of philosophy in unique and sometimes extraordinary ways. Sitting at the crossroads of the processes of gathering and disseminating this information of such universal nature, their humble and particular lives have been lived on a somewhat public stage, however small that stage appears.

Not in any way whatsoever as perfect representations of this philosophy, but, as Carla would say, as bozos on the bus—frail and fallible humans stumbling their way through the darkness and bumping into things and each other along the way, attempting to give it their best.

And in that effort it wasn't Carla alone, or Jim alone, that carried the torch—it was the staying power of their partnership; what three years after Don's passing became their marriage.

Their service didn't stop with Don's death, neither did their growth. Jim and Carla *learned* to operate together and share life in ever more finely tuned harmony, their commitment to each other deepening as the years added lines to their faces, their love increasing with the passing of the seasons. Through their journey, they became the primary couple.

Jim: ...yeah we've had some great growth together. Look at this room. Imagine this is my heart. I open my room, and my heart, to Carla.

When I first joined Don and Carla, everybody had his or her own room. And we continued that until Carla had surgery. Her bedroom is upstairs on the other side of the house. My room was always right here. So when it became obvious that she was going to need some help, it just made sense to get a hospital bed and move it in here.

So the whole process, since 2010, which would make it four years now, has been making room for Carla and her things. I move my things aside and make room for her in the closet, hanging her stuff up on the doors, whatever she needs for medical supplies are all around. I do everything symbolically. (*chuckles*) I think everybody does the same thing.

Opening one's heart, for me, is symbolized by opening this room to Carla. And as I've been able to open the room, I've also been able to open my heart. And what has happened is that I feel a great deal more love and absolute, total dedication to taking care of her. And each morning before I get out of bed I pray that I can take care of her to the very best of my ability. Do whatever she needs.

And so I know that we're both in exactly the same place, learning things that we need, to be exactly right here where we need to be. There is no accident, there's no mistake. The fact that she's having to undergo a wound and a slow healing of a wound in order to bring this all about, is just the means by which it all occurs. – *Jim Bio*

Their journey is characterized not just by wholehearted and resolute will, but, as Jim's beautiful thoughts above convey, a profound faculty of faith.

Gary: When you guys look back and reflect upon your life, what do you see? What do you feel?

Carla: Absolute perfection. I'm so grateful for all of it. I feel so blessed. This has been a wild walk. (*laughter*) And not predictable, but oh, so rewarding. I couldn't possibly have had a better walk through life or known better people or had more wonderful experiences, in all kinds of environments. How 'bout you?

Jim: I feel like, that I've been blessed. A real blessing along the way. The path has always been pretty obvious for me; I haven't had to wonder a lot about what step to take next. I think that's a real blessing. I'm aware of so many people that have written in to us over the years saying that they really didn't know what to do next. You know, I think that's part of figuring out what to do next, but for me it was a process of just taking another step and keep going. Like Carla says, it does look like, in retrospect, it was perfectly planned and carried out. And a wonderful adventure. An amazing adventure. (*chuckles*)

Carla: Yeah, yeah. What he said! (*laughter*) – *Both, Carla and Jim*

Thank you for everything, Carla.

We miss you every day.

PART II: THE PRESENT (SORT OF)

Many are the highlights we could explore between 1984. The book is already too large to explore them all in detail. They include the publications that followed the Ra Contact, such as *A Channeling Handbook*, *A Wanderer's Handbook*, *A Book of Days*, *Living the Law of One 101*, *The Aaron/Q'uo Dialogues*, and *The Poetry of Carla Lisbeth Rueckert*. They include the monumental effort of Ian Jaffray to digitize the entire L/L Research transcript library in 1996, and then both build and maintain the archive site, www.llresearch.org, L/L's first website. And they also include the 2003 attempt at spiritual community into which I was invited. But we need to quickly bring the story up to the present, at least the past decade or so.

The nature, purpose, role, and future of L/L Research have been on my mind rather intensively for the past couple years, especially as Carla gradually receded from the foreground and it became apparent that L/L Research would, at some unknown point down the road, continue beyond the life of its spiritual warrior.

Question began turning themselves over in the container of my mind. Will L/L Research produce and receive new material? Or will it serve as an archive? Should we pursue new avenues of research? Should we focus on teaching and sharing the existing philosophy? And the fundamental question: in what ways can we continue to serve spiritual seekers?

Thusly did a greater and deeper sense of responsibility begin to descend upon the one whose hands have been increasingly steering the wheel of L/L Research over the years.

As a result I have attempted to tackle these questions, in the process attempting to understand and articulate the story of this organization, one of the fruits being this book.

And toward that end, I've conceived and developed this particular transitional period, or chapter, in the biography of L/L Research—which got underway years before Carla left her incarnation—as one of “retrofitting and upgrading.”

Retrofitting and Upgrading

What do I mean by *retrofit and upgrade*?

Retrofit: (verb) to modify equipment (in airplanes, automobiles, a factory, etc.) that is already in service using parts developed or made available *after* the time of original manufacture.

Example: *retrofitting* a house with electrical wiring that was originally built without; *retrofitting* a home with solar panels, or a ship with GPS, etc.

Upgrade: (noun) a new version, improved model; an increase or improvement in one's service, accommodations, privileges, or the like. (verb) to improve or enhance the quality or value of.

Example: *upgrading* a website by making it mobile-friendly; *upgrading* to the latest version of Windows (note: may not be an upgrade); *upgrading* a house by adding a giant water slide in the back, etc.

How have we been retrofitting and upgrading the ship that Don, Carla, and Jim built?

To begin, we recognize that building the L/L Research ship—something entirely and, probably historically, unprecedented, with no previous model or blueprint to draw from—was the hardest part of this collective effort. It was the hardest because they literally created a new path of seeking. It is not an exclusive path. It is not the only path. But whatever it is, it didn't quite exist on this planet prior to their work.

There was no vocabulary of service to others and service to self the way Ra⁷ articulated it. There were no primal three distortions, or mind/body/spirit complexes, or densities of octaves, or upward spiraling light, or intelligent infinity, or catalyst. This is more than a matter of jargon. It is a matter undistorting the distorted; of opening an entirely new, universal perspective on life, and with that expanded vision, opening up entirely new vistas and powerful possibilities of transformation and service.

Nothing, ultimately, is “new” under the sun. The non-dual heart of Ra's message has been communicated by exponents of the perennial philosophy time and again. What *is* new is the spectacular complexity and sophistication of an *entire system* of thought built on the basis of simplicity and infinity. What *is* new is the stunning clarity with which it was communicated, the breathtaking scope of the vision, the philosophy's ability to bring under its tent any possible act of free will or conceptualization of the mind, and its supreme ability to cope with paradox.

And perhaps most uniquely, Ra and fellow discarnate cohorts gave an understanding to the most agonizingly irresolvable question plaguing the human mind: evil. Why does it exist? Why do people act evil? *Are* people evil at core? What are the consequences of evil? What implications does the existence of evil have for God and faith? (Note: “evil” is my own shorthand here. The word is not a direct translation from *The Law of One* material. Ra only used the word in four instances.)

These questions, and the very real challenges they present to both the reflective and the non-reflective individual alike, have the power to turn people both *to* the concept of God, and away; to create and utterly destroy faith.

And here is Ra, dispassionately sharing what surely must be the most elegant solution to the problem of polarity. What other source in humanity's recorded history could have given a perspective that

⁷ If Plato and Aristotle are the greatest philosophers, and Buddha the greatest enlightened being, and Einstein the greatest intellect, and Jesus humanity's greatest servant, then Ra is what would happen if they had a baby. And that is an understatement . . . from an unbiased perspective.

explains the *actual*⁸ genesis of polarity, its function, its purpose, and its conclusion? What source could have the full breadth of vision available to a sixth-density social memory complex?

Something very new was indeed conceived when Don began his research in 1955, and, after considerable gestation, was birthed into reality twenty-six years later on January 15, 1981.

And from this newness, an entirely novel way of seeing the world arose, one that continues to be explored into the present as a unique culture of tradition, lexicon, perspective, and relationships both within the organization and the readership began to develop. But more on that later.

I had been saying four score and some paragraphs ago that the original trio, beginning with Don Elkins, did the hard work of building a new ship. And with what strength and sturdiness they built that ship! Their shared labor of love constructed an extraordinarily strong and seaworthy ocean-going vessel, each plank made of focus and sacrifice; each sail secured every time the vision turned to love and the intention made to serve; each repetition of the original choice strengthening and preserving the structure year after year.

It is upon that ship that I boarded twelve years ago, Austin coming aboard two years ago. I did not build it, I did not conceive it, and I did not set it upon its course. I was, by some dumb luck, given an invitation to join the crew; eventually and gradually given piloting duties. And as my intimacy with the ship (and its founding members and its community) deepened, I looked around and saw so much work to do. I said to the team, “We can make some improvements.” Followed by, “Starting with a slushy machine in the corner. We’re definitely going to need a slushy machine.”

So, you ask again, how have we been retrofitting and upgrading?

Probably one of the most important R/U⁹ projects was the invitation extended to Austin Bridges to join us aboard ship, and our subsequent good luck in receiving his acceptance.

As the *Law of One* material makes clear, it is the dynamic metaphysics of the interpersonal relationships that really make this thing sail. It is the same reason Carla always put relationships first, stopping the work to focus on disharmony if it crept into the mix, and resuming when things had become sweet again.

It is the same reason why strong harmonious relationships are the foundation of L/L Research. They are the door through which both our personal and outer work is accomplished. They are our metaphysical protection, and they are the basis for the generation of whatever light we may shine into the world. L/L Research is, as I will discuss in greater detail later, a collaborative effort.

⁸ Though Ra’s philosophy feels about as objective as it gets to me—while still leaving the field wide open for infinitely subjective experiences of spiritual evolution—the word “actual” is used knowing full well that many of Ra’s assertions cannot be verified through present means of consensus verification, and thus cannot be stamped as objective truth for any but this author.

⁹ Retrofit/Upgrade, Upgrade/Retrofit, depending which is emphasized. Also known as The Second Primal Distortion of this essay.

Having seen people spin themselves out of the small community here at L/L, I knew someone of considerable grounding, balance, honesty, open-heartedness, responsibility, capability of “looking in the mirror”, ability to compassionately communicate, and long curly hair would be needed for the shared and unique work of this tiny organization. Not only would this person need to be a goddamn rock to withstand the howling winds of catalyst, and possess their own dedicated lifelong spiritual seeking; they would also need a deep and intimate understanding of the Confederation philosophy.

I put these qualifications on Craigslist classifieds, but the results were... less than spectacular. Though I *did* get a good lead for a job as secret mystery shopper.

Austin had been volunteering for L/L Research in moderating the forums, one of the toughest and most catalytically intensive, time-and-energy-draining jobs L/L Research has, though not without its rewards.¹⁰ As he did the moderator work, I saw in Austin all the above-listed qualities. And as Carla was fading, and Jim was consumed with her care, I was left out in the front to manage L/L Research on my own. The work was growing and I needed help. I needed a co-pilot who, through teamwork, would help me to navigate current and future waters.

Fortunately for us, Austin accepted the invitation and, over two years later, has made with us a relationship of peas 'n carrots. Carla loved Austin, he integrated effortlessly with the team, and he and I have operated seamlessly ever since. Among his responsibilities, he has been managing the *In the Now* program, most of L/L's social media, the online store, and responding to most seeker email, filling in needed webmaster duties, modifying the manuscripts for audiobooks, as well as coordinating the prison ministry. His diplomatic skills are supreme—I will often turn to him to help me polish up a piece of communication; his emails to seekers are brimming with love and humble wisdom; and he makes a mean green bean casserole, about the only dish he knows how to make, actually.

From the beginning he and I have shared our hearts on the matter of the profound honor of serving through L/L Research, along with our dreams of potential future voyages, whatever and wherever they may be. As we are in many matters—sometimes I find my thoughts in his brain, and vice versa—we are of one mind on this matter. And the retrofitting and upgrading that was begun before Austin came on board, really took off once we had his help and expertise.

Here's some of the things we've been up to in the project to retrofit the L/L Research ship:

Online Community

Don Elkins had an enduring desire for community, specifically a community that would be built around the principles of Confederation sources. The incarnational curtains drew to a close for Don in 1984, however, long before the internet opened the door to achieving a unique form of community that wasn't limited by geography.

Don's aspiration for community survived in the heart of his companion and research associate, Carla L. Rueckert, who, along with her husband, Jim McCarty, carried forward Don's work through their organization, L/L Research.

¹⁰ As Garry Fung, one of L/L's most outstanding volunteers who lovingly and competently serves the sometimes thankless role of forum moderator, can attest.

Many years after Don's passing, Carla sensed the profound possibilities of the internet, and developed an interest in a community-centered "spiritual activist" website which she dubbed Bring4th, a double entendre suggesting bring forth your love and bring 4th Density. (Carla was a supreme wordsmith.) A second L/L Research website was needed because Ian, the creator of and webmaster for L/L's primary website, LLResearch.org, wanted an archive-only site.

Longer story short, Carla supplied the seed vision, and then turned it over to Steve Engratt and me to build this community website (after a couple valiant but failed attempts made by others between 2003–2007). Steve was a web programmer who envisioned a spiritually oriented community site very congruent with our own, and volunteered himself completely to fulfilling Carla's seed vision.

Steve did the much harder back-end work of programming the site and making all of its various components "talk" to one another, while I became the primary architect of the forums and the face of the website, creating much of its content, and designing most of the structure and parameters of the online community. Steve became L/L's top volunteer and our BFF, along with, years later, being the best man in my wedding.

When creating the site, there was no playbook, no guidelines, no set of instructions for answering the question, "How does one build an online community based upon the principles of the Law of One."¹¹

As mentioned above, the Confederation philosophy represents a new path of seeking. We were tasked with determining how to best manifest its principles in an online community through a relatively new form of technology.

The most challenging aspect of it was how to design a set of parameters (*every* system, no exception, needs boundaries, parameters, and focus, with some—hopefully fair—level of exclusion) that would draw lines, and tell people what they could *not* do, against a backdrop of a philosophy that, in its positive interpretation and application, seeks to honor the free will of all.

Our preface to the Bring4th Forum Guidelines:

The purpose of our forum is to provide you and many seekers like you a safe meeting place conducive to conversation regarding the fascinating and inexhaustible field of spiritual evolution. And not just spiritual evolution in general, but spiritual evolution as understood through the eyes of the *Law of One* material, the Confederation philosophy, and the work of L/L Research. In the digital world of the internet, these forums represent a sacred meeting place, a holy temple where people from a wide range of backgrounds, temperaments, and orientations converge to share themselves on the common ground of service to others, of love, light, unity, and joy. In order to better facilitate and safeguard this incredible and rare environment, we have established some guidelines whose spirit and letter we respectfully request you honor during your interactions in these forums.

That core issue, and many derivative issues, has proven to be a challenge for us ever since. The vast majority of people who interact on the forums need neither guidelines nor moderators because they

¹¹ Besides the ever available smart-ass answer to "how" questions: *carefully*.

have the maturity and self-awareness to know how to treat others respectfully, but some others do have difficulty playing in the sandbox, or just honoring the rules of the building.

Thusly we created the guidelines, the first of which is the most important in governing the fair and appropriate use of the forums:

1) The Cornerstone

The key governing principle of the entire Bring4th community, and any L/L Research social media venue, is the request that all members treat others with respect, especially when disagreeing. Though not every viewpoint has a place here, ours is a culture of tolerance that works to accept others as they are, and, in the event of disharmony, works firstly to find where the imbalance is within the self before seeking it out in the other. The participant may disagree to the bone with an idea without personally attacking the author.

Participants are asked to keep the thought in the forefront of their minds at all times that each on this forum is the Creator. We are all here to expand our knowledge, deepen our understanding, and support one another. We can do this by embodying values of respect, compassion, empathy, goodwill, loving-kindness, and all energies of the open heart that reflect our divinity and true nature to each other. We are one being, and our work here should be oriented not toward separation, but unity.

The amount of energy and time the forums have required for the social issues that invariably arise has been enormous. Carla and Jim have not had to fulfill this portion of L/L Research's journey, and I am glad they were spared this catalyst. (Especially in light of the infinitely more severe testing they endured.)

Though the work can be intensive for the moderator, the forums have been a place of generally strong harmony and beautiful, beautiful connection and sharing between people who would otherwise be isolated from one another. Time and again we have marveled at the depth of the thought, the strength of love, and the common hope that emerges on the forums on a daily basis. Indeed, it is not the guidelines or the founding philosophy that make Bring4th shine—though they do play critical roles—but rather the daily contributions of its members.

The online community has taught us so much, both through positive *and* negative catalyst. It has been an evolving work-in-progress, and almost eight years into the project, we would say that it has been a relative success. Our principal goal was to facilitate the connecting of seekers, offering the possibility for each to make enduring friendships and express themselves in ways they may not be able to at home, and by and large the website seems to be meeting that mission.

New Unified Website

Another way that we are really working on retrofitting and upgrading is through the development of a new website that will unify the archive (LLResearch.org) with the community (Bring4th.org).

Up until this point, the fruit of the Carla/Jim/Don complex's labor—the channeling transcripts and published books—have been sitting static on the archive website, available for the user to read and download, but not for more dynamic interaction.

The new website will allow the reader to create a **user account** that will open to them all sorts of dynamic interaction, from participating in the forums, chat rooms, and blogs, to interacting with the transcripts in new ways. They will be able to mark transcripts as “read” and “unread”, add them to “favorites” lists and “to read.” They will be able to tag the transcripts with key words so that eventually we can build a database that organizes the transcripts topically. And they will be able to sort the transcripts by different means, including which source is being channeled. (Currently they are ordered only chronologically.)

The entire **navigation** of both sites will be dramatically overhauled to be more organized, accessible, and efficient.

We will create means of **introduction** for seekers new to the material, along with articulating who and what L/L Research is with renewed clarity.

We will create means for selected editors to publish, edit, and **work directly with the content** on the website, rather than relying on a single webmaster; and we in Louisville will have greater, daily control over publishing, modifying, and updating content on the website.

Also, if you haven't noticed, say if you have been hiding in a bunker for the past five years, the world is going increasingly **mobile**. Our websites are being accessed more and more by mobile devices, so the new site is using templates and features that will render perfectly on mobile and tablet devices.

We will be able to promote and share other **Law of One study groups** around the world, translators, and others working with this material in some way.¹²

We'll have greater means of facilitating Bring4th's primary mission to **connect seekers**, including organizing online group meditations and events.

And with everything consolidated, we'll integrate **our social media** more efficiently, updating the site with events and news from L/L Research.

This whole project is only possible thanks the ungodly quantity of volunteer (read: midnight oil) hours of L/L's webmaster wizard, Steve Engratt.

Social Media

The people of planet Earth are increasingly connecting with one another through the portals of technology, whether that technology is at home on a desk, on the table at the coffee shop, or in their pockets.

L/L Research has been making use of Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and YouTube to share this work, with the focus being principally on the spiritual material and not on L/L Research itself. And the social media community is always growing.

¹² Except for the “Council of Saturn Meetup Group”—they never answer our emails. (So unthinking.)

Online Store

When we first launched the online store in 2008—many, many thanks to Steve Engratt—L/L Research was able to receive *just enough* funding from readers that, for the first time in its history, the organization didn't have to be funded out of its owners' pockets! *That* is surely a worthy retrofit and upgrade. It is amazing that by giving people a little extra convenience, a greater quantity of seekers donated a greater quantity of money. L/L Research is not, of course, bottom-line oriented, but we do enjoy paying the bills.

And we just launched the second incarnation of the online store, this one much more user-friendly and efficient, including accepting payment methods other than PayPal, tying directly into the USPS' computers to automatically calculate and update shipping cost, and allowing us to, for the first time, offer different shipping means! Among other bells and whistles, it makes us a more efficient organization that is better poised to serve spiritual seekers.

In the Now

In late 2010, we asked a friend of ours, Monica Leal, to serve as the host of a weekly internet program that would field questions sent in from spiritual seekers to Carla. Monica ran with the project and it continued as another wonderful means to serve spiritual seekers. In 2013, Monica had to retire to put her focus elsewhere. By that time, Jim had already joined the show, and a couple of months later, Carla and Jim invited Austin and me to join them on the weekly program. We worked together and had a great time from November, 2013 – March, 2015.

Six weeks after Carla passed, Jim, Austin, and I rebooted the service as a 30-minute podcast. We three convene each Tuesday to respond to whatever questions have been sent to us, though we never reveal the answer about when third-density will actually blink out of existence¹³. We record the podcast in house, and then publish it to the archive website a week later (keeping the weekly periodicity) where it can be streamed or directly downloaded from the website. People are generous in their feedback, they say we are “okay,” and “not *that* bad,” and “I've heard better but keep up the good work!”

Wanderers Retreat

During the Archetypes Workshop of 2014 led by Sephira Vox, we formed a friendship with two wonderfully coupled entities, Doug K. and Kim T., who are living together on a beautiful piece of property in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. They have a dream for this property: to develop it into a spiritual retreat center and specifically to partner with L/L Research to host gatherings workshops on their land, catered to those who resonate with the Law of One. Towards this end they've named their property “Wanderers' Retreat”.

In May of 2015, Austin, Trish, and I spent five beautiful days at Wanderers' Retreat with Doug, Kim, and a handful of friends exploring exactly this possibility.

Our tentative conclusion: yes! From the practical to the metaphysical to the interpersonal, so many aspects seem aligned to make this a successful collaboration. Wanderers' Retreat has the outdoor space needed to host both small and medium-sized gatherings, along with shelter in the event of

¹³ Because we do not know. Or do we . . .

inclement weather. It has plenty of space for camping alongside a nearby creek that has a small waterfall. It is somewhat secluded, affording gatherings a level of privacy not available in the suburban home of L/L Research—opening the possibility to large fires and drum circles!—and its owners have the time, the heart, and the resolve to dedicate themselves to serving seekers in a way that honors the spirit of high integrity that Don, Carla, and Jim spent their lifetimes building, not to mention their love for that which unites all who attend L/L Research workshops: the Confederation philosophy.

Things are off to a splendid start. There is much work ahead of all of us, including building more structures on the land, but the outlook is promising.

E-Books, Not F-Bombs

Austin has nearly singlehandedly gotten all of L/L's material (material that exists thanks to Carla's lifetime habit of being prolific) converted into e-books. Meaning our publications are now being sold on Kindle, and available for download from our online store for other e-readers.

This, along with other strategies like using CreateSpace (an Amazon company) and Amazon.com have made the material more available to wider readership, and provided some small but noticeable increases to revenue.

Audiobook, We Are Actually Creating Them!

Two or so years ago, a good friend of ours, Sam W. who lives just a 1.5 hour drive from us, volunteered to help create an audiobook of the *Law of One* material. Being a broadcasting and media guy, Sam had some equipment he could loan, and selflessly offered to perform all the post-production editing work necessary to convert the recorded audio into an official audiobook.

The project was proposed to Carla and Jim, asking one to read the part of Questioner, the other of Ra. Both were enthusiastic, but due to her troublesome medical situation, Carla was unable to participate at the time, and Jim's time/energy were already claimed by her care, so we put it off until such time that Carla returned to health. Unfortunately, it was not to be. With her passing, we again presented the idea to Jim, as both his energy and time had opened up. Jim responded positively that he would love to do this, especially as it provided him a means to continue being of service to seekers, and to carry forward the work that he and Carla gave their lives to so completely.

We can't think of a better reader. Jim's enunciation is perfect and clear, his cadence steady, and his intimacy with the material second to none. He speaks with gravity and power as well, and may even carry subtle vibrations of Don and Carla into the recording.

We created a "studio" (studio herein defined as a basement bedroom dedicated to the purpose of recording which has blankets thumbtacked to the walls to help reduce sound reverberation) to record Jim reading the Ra Contact material. Sam brought his equipment and gave us a tutorial, and with no further encouragement Jim absolutely sprinted out of the gates, recording the first seven sessions within 48 hours.

He never slowed his pace and as of this writing, he has officially recorded himself reading the *Law of One*... twice! Along with *Living the Law of One 101*, and *A Channeling Handbook*. The *Ra Contact*

material is currently being edited by Sam, whilst Jim commences on reading and creating a new audiobook for *A Wanderer's Handbook*.

Given Jim's level of enthusiasm, it's likely that we will have an audiobook of each of L/L's publications. And given the increasing ease of use and rising popularity of audiobooks, it will be another way to expand and share this material with the readership. (And given L/L Research's rapid rise into the public sphere, it should be no time at all before Morgan Freeman narrates one of our books.)

The Ra Contact: Teaching the Law of One

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Tobey Wheelock—who built lawofone.info, the greatest study tool for the *Law of One* books bar none—we will publish a completely new edition of the *Law of One* built from the “Lightly Edited” edition at lawofone.info. It will include all the session/question numbers (e.g., 1.12, 3.7, 63.8, etc.), and have an actual exact transcript + some light editing, along with other features we're really very excited about. It will be a great boon for all who appreciate this information and wish to make serious study of it.

“Basic Principles of The Law of One”

Four or five years ago, we worked with the International Metaphysical University (IMU) to help Carla create L/L's first online course “Basic Principles of the Law of One.” After Carla's passing, Jim McCarty stepped in to fill her big shoes as the class' instructor.

Class Description: The L/L Research group received the *Law of One* material in the early 1980s, and it has since become a hidden classic in the field of consciousness research. However, it is not easy to read. In 2010 Carla wrote an entry-level book, *Living the Law of One—101: The Choice* to give seekers an easier run at the material. This will be the text for this class.

In “Basic Principles of the Law of One,” students learn about unity, free will, love and light as well as exploring the ways of polarity and the functions and use of the energy body. A student entering this course can expect to learn how to graduate from third density, the Density of Choice, and go on to fourth density, the Density of Love. Carla found the principles of this philosophy to be very helpful in her own life, and Jim looks forward to sharing this information and inspiration with you.

The Camelot Journal

In 2005, Carla began “The Camelot Journal” to record the proceedings of her speaking tour in England. She kept the Journal going upon her return to the United States until she had back surgery on April 15, 2011 when Jim took it over.

The Camelot Journal is listed here as an R/U project because several years ago, I began submitting daily reports of L/L Research's activities, subsequently joined by Austin, adding yet another way we are open and sharing the work we do at L/L Research with the world.

Newsletter, The Gatherings

Way back in 1982, Carla, Jim, and Don started *The Light/Lines Newsletter* to share the best of their channeling on a quarterly basis.

To that we've added *The Gatherings Newsletter* to share with interested readers the goings-on of L/L Research, along with a subscription list to receive news of updates made to the archive website. It's pretty rad, you should read it.

Tilting at Windmills: An Interview with Carla L. Rueckert and Jim McCarty

As you who have presumably started at the beginning of this dissertation are already familiar, during the course of seven consecutive days, Carla and Jim granted me the opportunity to conduct a 400+ question interview with them. Our friend Ken Wendt volunteered his time, equipment, and expertise to film the occasion. My goal was to capture information about their work, the organization, the material, and their lives in one place; to create a more streamlined biography of L/L Research that brings together the pieces that exist in various writings, interviews, and radio programs; and to eventually, perhaps, make this raw material available for a documentary or similar type of video to be shared with the L/L readership.

The experience of the process of interviewing was an exercise in enjoying the positive polarity for all of us. Soon into the process the recording equipment became invisible as we developed an intensive concentration on the conversation at hand. And what a conversation! Over 30 hours of Q&A, we discussed the evolution of L/L Research from the moment Don Elkins' interest was first sparked in the UFO phenomena, to the social dynamics of those who have participated in this organization, to an examination of its mission, the art of channeling, the interpretation and application of spiritual principles, some personal biographical information, and, naturally, a few days of questions devoted exclusively to the Ra Contact.

Thanks to the spot-on volunteer editing of Michelle H., we're in the process of converting this material into a book that will be published under the title *Tilting at Windmills: An Interview with Carla L. Rueckert and Jim McCarty*.

This is a big R/U project because one of its principal goals was to capture two of the remaining founders' thoughts and, to some extent, their *presence* for future generations to learn from. Why is this important? For the same reason the next one is important.

L/L Research Satellite Stations

During the course of the past year, L/L Research took a step forward into completely uncharted territory. We partnered with our friend and German translator, Jochen Blumenthal, to create the first of what might be called a satellite center for L/L Research. Located in Germany, Jochen is building a small spiritual center and publishing firm which has received full rights to translate, publish, and sell all L/L Research material in German under the L/L Research banner.

It is a big and wonderful step for our little organization which will serve to amplify our core mission to make this material available to all spiritual seekers around the world who may benefit from its somewhat unique perspective. And in keeping with that mission, all translations of L/L Research-

original work will still be kept freely available on the archive website. Many, many thanks to Jochen for his initiative and the hard work in making this possible.

We are grateful that, shortly before Carla departed this Earth plane, she was able to see this arrangement expand to include Micheline Deschreider's French translations as well, as Jochen forged a connection with Micheline to work in concert to help share her translations. We felt fortunate that Carla was able to participate in the unfolding of this process, lending her input to the design of both contracts we signed with Jochen, and becoming aglow in the knowledge that this is a new and effective way of making this material available to those who seek it.

Articulating Identity

For the benefit of future L/L Research generations: this book, our self-definitions, and the videotaping extensive of interviews with Carla and Jim help to further define, clarify, and sharpen the principles that orient this ship's bearing.

Not in a way that codifies principles, and begins the accretion of doctrine that happens in organized religion on the heels of the authentic spiritual realization of its principal figure. These projects are not necessarily intended to be binding on future carriers of this name, or to form a system of empty, rote procedure. Instead they help to create a sense of identity and purpose in order to guide those who will take the helm after we have all passed on. They help to establish what loosely defines this particular wavelength of love/light, and to crystallize this particular culture of service and seeking.

People can look back and see: *This is what they intended; this is who they felt they were; this is what they were trying to do.* And subsequently choose either to honor, amend, or deviate from these principles. (And hopefully not drop the ball by abusing the purity of this work and depolarizing its message.)

In any eventuality, they will have this basic yardstick to determine their direction and chart their own course.

Translations General

And finally to round out (but not complete) this list, there is the ongoing assistance we provide to the translators who are working their tails off to bring the Confederation's philosophy into their native language. As of this moment, translators have completed or are in the process of translating the *Law of One* into the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Hungarian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and, potentially, Wingdings.

The translations we are able to publish to the archive website (in the spirit of keeping all of L/L's material available for free) is another demonstration of the collaborative nature of this undertaking, and it also helps secure and widen the *beachhead*. The what?

The Beachhead

1. The area that is the first objective of a military force landing on an enemy shore.
2. A secure initial position that has been gained and can be used for further advancement; foothold.

During our very first “Staff Meeting”¹⁴ (also an R/U project), one of our dearest friends, Steve T., introduced me to a concept that immediately struck a chord. He likened the Confederation’s efforts through channels around the globe, and especially, of course, through L/L Research channels, to a “beachhead.” That single concept packs in a lot. And while, like all metaphors, it has its limitations, it also has important utility.

Thanks to human channels on the ground and within this particular illusion willing to serve as instruments for their messages, Confederation sources¹⁵ have been able to secure a “foothold” in the collective consciousness of planet Earth in a way far more effective and penetrating than the beaming of passive radiation of love/light.

There’s no urgency in the Confederation’s message; no encouragement to bound out the front door in order to *convert* others or spread the “good word”; theirs’ has always been a dispassionate approach. As both their philosophy and their entire program of activity are built upon the principle of free will, they recognize that service can only be truly offered to the extent that it is requested, and they act accordingly. There is thusly no attempt to manipulate, convince, or persuade.¹⁶

But there *is*, it seems, an interest in allowing their voice and their very unique perspective to be represented on Earth for those who *are* seeking and *are* interested, and who may benefit from the particular viewpoint they have to share.

And thanks to human channels, they’ve made a beachhead in somewhat, you might say, *foreign* territory, and from that beachhead—so long as they are not driven back by the narrow-minded and fearful, and people who hate words that begin with the letter “C”—they can plant roots and establish a welcoming beacon that seeks to shine light *into* this world, and be of service to whomever may need this information, reminding each of who they really are, and the power they really possess.

¹⁴ We couldn’t think of a better name. Essentially we invited some (but unfortunately not all—just not enough room and resources) of the people closest to L/L Research to spend a weekend reflecting on questions of who and what L/L Research is, and asking ourselves in what ways L/L can serve spiritual seekers.

¹⁵ I often feel like a noob when I talk about things like “Confederation sources.” There is a cheese factor to it, but whaddayagonna do?

¹⁶ 17.2: Ra: We, ourselves, do not feel an urgency for this information to be widely disseminated. It is enough that we have made it available to three, four, or five. This is extremely ample reward, for if one of these obtains fourth-density understanding due to this catalyst then we shall have fulfilled the Law of One in the distortion of service.

We encourage a dispassionate attempt to share information without concern for numbers or quick growth among others. That you attempt to make this information available is, in your term, your service. The attempt, if it reaches one, reaches all.

We cannot offer shortcuts to enlightenment. Enlightenment is of the moment, is an opening to intelligent infinity. It can only be accomplished by the self, for the self. Another self cannot teach/learn enlightenment, but only teach/learn information, inspiration, or a sharing of love, of mystery, of the unknown that makes the other-self reach out and begin the seeking process that ends in a moment, but who can know when an entity will open the gate to the present?

Jim: I think Ra felt it was a treasure to have the contact, they mentioned that, simply because if one person was illuminated it was reason enough for the contact, because we're all one. I think the principle there is that once it's been introduced into the consciousness of the planet maybe it won't be utilized right now but it will be there for other experiences, other times.

Carla: Yes, and it has turned out to be that way. It's in the general vocabulary and consciousness of people who search out UFO stuff for sure, and spirituality, just because you see the phrases coming up that people have copped and are using. Including densities.

Gary: Polarity and the idea of service to others and service to self being those that you see repeated across the channeled world nowadays. They were probably really introduced through the Law of One.

Carla: Agreed.

Gary: Regarding introducing the ideas into the consciousness, if you see the collective mind as a system that is somewhat closed and self-contained, then Ra was able to inject information into that system from the outside. And once inside, even if it's not used or widely known by the whole, it's available, at least in potential.

And fast forward to now, tens of thousands of people have read this, so each time they read it, each time they internalize it and contemplate it, they are bringing it more and more into the collective mind and experience. – *Reactions to the Ra Contact*

Each time we at L/L Research serve a spiritual seeker, or assist a translator, or make the material available in another way, or remove the barriers to accessing this material, or help clarify its meaning when asked (with necessary disclaiming of authority), we help to secure that metaphorical beachhead, helping to establish and strengthen a very unique beacon and safe harbor of love and light on this planet. More fundamentally, all spiritual seekers, whether or not they read the *Law of One*, help to secure that beachhead each time they open their hearts and represent love in the darkness.

There are no good indicators to measure the impact and success of this information, but a couple interesting things to consider come from our Bring4th website. Following are two maps. The first *automatically* places a yellow dot on the map each time someone accesses the Bring4th website. The second is a map where pins are *intentionally* created and placed by readers of L/L's material.



Two things become clear upon studying these maps: one, we need to do more outreach in Antarctica. Two, with no real marketing and no big publisher behind it, the Confederation's message has nevertheless managed to travel around the globe to reach many seeking hearts. It is an exceedingly small demographic¹⁷, but one whose love for this philosophy, like our own, generally remains deep and abiding.

¹⁷ Number of "likes" on L/L Research's Facebook page: 2.5 thousand. Number of "likes" on Miley Cyrus': 47 million.

Culture & Tradition

What makes the ship so strong and able, beautiful and noble, is its vibratory wavelength, that energetic niche built, established, and fed by the decisions, the actions, the thoughts, the energy, and the vibrations of all who have contributed to this particular wavelength, at core, and most especially, Don, Carla, and Jim.

In building the ship, and fine-tuning its trajectory through countless choice points, and feeding its momentum through contributions of love and light, they also built a culture and set the precedents for tradition.

Sixty years after the start of Don's research, this effort has become greater than any one person and has developed its own identity. Remove the people from the equation, in fact, and the vibration will, at least for a time, have a residual, free-standing psychic reality and form.

One of the best ways to view the way the particular vibratory beingness of L/L Research manifests is through its *culture*.

That culture includes the principles that form the foundation of its operation, whether those principles are conscious and articulated, or silently shaping its policies and procedures from behind the veil. The culture includes L/L Research's objectives, its attitude, presentation, relationship with others, spiritual seeking, polarity, and its overall orientation. Also the sum of the multitude of seekers who contribute their energies, along with that always important *je ne sais quoi* quality of any individual's or group's beingness.

What specifically identifiable aspects constitute the distinctive quality of this energy?

Service—Being

At the absolute core of the L/L Research culture is the same desire that motivated the wanderer to "risk the forgetting" and incarnate on planet Earth from his or her higher-density home: to actively respond to the great calling of suffering and sorrow; to reach out the figurative and literal hand to awaken seekers, empower seekers, and alleviate the suffering by restoring the vision to hope, love, and light.

L/L meets this service the same way all who awaken to the greater picture do, by its constituent members' "radiation of realization of oneness with the Creator."

Ra: It is impossible to help another being directly. It is only possible to make catalyst available in whatever form, the most important being the radiation of realization of oneness with the Creator from the self, less important being information such as we share with you. –
17.2

This "radiation of realization of oneness with the Creator" is a function of *being*. Before we lift a finger or say a word, indeed, before we breathe in or breathe out, we are effortlessly radiating our essence into the world, and exponentially doing so when working in common-purpose groups. This service of being happens automatically. We are not choosing to radiate energy, precisely. We are not

making ourselves radiate. It happens regardless of what we're doing/not doing. It is a measure of our own work in consciousness: the depth and truth of our self-understanding, self-acceptance, and conscious union with and surrender to the Creator.

This is why self-work is world-work. The more that we can be grounded in the present moment, and open our hearts to unconditional love, the more that we can remove fear from our vision and tune our consciousness to the Original Thought, the more, as Ra says, we “lighten the planetary vibration,” the more that our light shines into this world. And where light and dark meet, one of the two is dispelled.

L/L Research is conscious of this principle, and thus seeks the Creator in its daily round of activities that the Creator's light may shine strongly through our open hearts.

Service—Sharing Information

Jim: Once you've gotten the taste of something that's really helpful to you, it seems to be a natural outgrowth, wanting to share it with other people. If you've got an open heart and you point it towards service to others, it just happens. You want to share it. You've got something good. Little kids, they discover a new cereal to eat on the shelf and they go and eat the cereal, see a new show on television, I think it's almost DNA, it's genetically programmed. “Hey share it with your buddies!”

Carla: Yeah, we're thrilled to death to be able to help anybody who might be able to find our stuff useful. Why else would we open up like that? Like I said, we're social people. We are *a* social people. And golly, if we find it useful, then maybe somebody else will too. – *Mission Statement*

On the level of *doing*, the principal and particular means of fulfilling our primary mission is to simply share information, a certain type of information. Not the latest scientific discoveries, or the day's Wall Street stock numbers, or that *hilarious* BuzzFeed article, helpful and applicable though those all may be. Our objective is to share philosophical information aimed ultimately upon the infinite and eternal, and, to the extent the service is requested, to then help translate those impossible concepts into material that supports the seeker in the building of their own myth upon the path of seeking the truth.

And at the heart of its mission, L/L Research shares channeled information from other, perhaps more informed sources. The human component is certainly present—it is silly to try to negate ourselves out of existence—but in its core mission, L/L is playing a more passive and receptive role in receiving and sharing information through the practice of channeling.

C: Well, people find us helpful. As long as we're relevant to the people that are seeking, then that's what we're aiming to do. If this material is helpful, we'll, you know, be there with it, offer it for free. It's really, it's a very humble aim, and that's just to continue to keep the material available, and to always be open to ways old and new that we may help the people that find our material useful. – *Vision of the Future*

Service—Demographic

With whom and to whom are we “sharing information”? Anyone that needs it, of course. But primarily we believe that it is the wanderer who will be attracted to this information, defined both as those who feel their soul’s came from elsewhere, and those who are spiritual outsiders relative to the main streams of consensus reality. Among those who consider themselves wanderers, along with those who have embarked upon the path of spiritual seeking in general, there often exists a great loneliness and profound sense of alienation. Significant, sometimes crushing pain can be a major debilitating theme of the wanderer and spiritual seeker.

It is the wanderer who we are, generally speaking, attempting to serve, empower, and awaken; reminding the wanderer that they are the Creator, that they are not alone, they have work to do, and that they are capable of the work.

The Cost of Its Information

Carla: Right from the beginning, we wanted it to be available for free. There was never any thought of anything else. The material was there, we never had the desire to push it on people, but if they found it helpful, we wanted to make sure they were able to get it. That was Don’s policy. We’ve just not changed. – *Mission Statement*

From square one, Don Elkins felt that whatever information he uncovered ought to be made available to others without charge. Carla and Jim each resonated with this policy to their core and have carried it forward. I have not seen Don’s thoughts on the matter, but I can only presume that he understood the transformative power of this philosophy, and wanted it to be made available to whomever might benefit from its perspective.

Thusly one of the earliest and longest standing aspects of its culture was to offer information freely. Fortunately the advent of the internet opened the doors wide to making the collected material of L/L Research available for all at no financial cost to the seeker.

This is not to say that charging for products/services and earning money is somehow mistaken or negative, only that L/L’s focus is upon the empowerment of the seeker, and it wishes to facilitate that process within its own power and means.

Not About Us

Though this tome¹⁸ is an analysis and exposition all about the people and the organization, the culture and tradition of L/L Research is one that does what it can to *get out of the way*. No, we don’t make ourselves invisible, or pretend like we don’t exist, or publish anonymously. But we do foster an environment that creates the most unmitigated relationship between seeker and material as possible. We offer the material on the existing archive website front and center, and on the new website we will give the library greater prominence than information about the organization.

¹⁸ If you’ve had the stamina and morbid curiosity to make it this far, you would surely agree that this is, by now, a *tome*, in a completely pejorative sense.

We recognize that we are secondary to the relationship between the seeker and the material. And we downplay our own interpretations, emphasizing their subjective, non-binding, non-authoritative nature. We, as Q'uo always does, emphasize the seeker's own discernment in determining what is and is not truth for them. We remind and highlight the authority within each seeker, and honor that authority. And we don't print t-shirts with our pictures on them. Though now that I think of it...

Carla echoes this thought (or rather, I have been echoing her thought), here:

Carla: We were never interested in making ourselves anything compared to the material. We felt that the material might be helpful to people and we wanted to make it available to them in case they wanted to see it. So, yes, we wanted it publicized. No, we didn't want to become big, and we never did. We never wanted that. It's always been very straightforward, "No, we're just idiots who have this wonderful material, and if it would be helpful to you, here it is. It's for free." And that has always felt right to us. – *Dealing with Psychic Greeting*

Respecting the Seeker

Carla: I remember one very memorable thing the one time Don was on the television camera. The interviewer guy said to him, "For the person that says that they don't believe in UFOs, what is your argument?" Don says, "I have no argument. I don't care whether people believe me or not. If they are interested, I'll tell them everything I know." You know? He was totally indifferent. I think it's a beautiful energy there.

It gives people freedom. It gives people dignity. It makes them not stupid, even if they don't agree with you. You don't agree? Fine, it's alright. See ya later.

Jim: I think the one thing that needs to be realized, is that people are doing what they need to be doing, whatever they're doing. And it may not look like it makes sense, or has any value or service to others when you're looking from your point of view. But people are all the Creator. They are all here learning something important. We can't say when a certain step has to be taken. Everything you are doing is important. Do it. – *About this Philosophy*

What is the greatest way to respect anyone? To respect and honor their free will choices.¹⁹ In both theory and practice, L/L has a tradition of respecting the free will of each who approaches this information.

Obviously those of L/L Research find *enormous*, unquantifiable personal value in this philosophy. Though we enjoy many sources of information from many quarters of the world, we have in large part built our own path using this system of thought, and view the world through the lens of this information. Under no circumstance, however, does L/L Research proselytize or evangelize the seeker. L/L does not coerce or persuade anyone into believing, adopting, or using this information. No suggestion is ever made that the seeker needs this particular information in any way in order to

¹⁹ Pure and beautiful though the above articulated ideal may sound in theory, in practice it is much messier, and cannot always be held to. Situations of enabling on one hand, and drawing a boundary against unwelcome action on the other, are two that come to mind. The relationship between two sets of free will and how they ought relate is the work of countless incarnations, and the pivot on which turns the polarization of consciousness.

achieve their goals, or to be a better person, to discover the truth, or to score with the opposite/same/unidentified sex.

L/L Research recognizes that we live in a pluralistic world. There are many paths to the Creator—or to put that another way, many paths to who you really are—and many helpful sources of insight along the way, this information, potentially, being one among them. On this very personal and inward-directed seeking process, the seeker’s own discernment acts as the guiding star. That discernment is always to be respected and encouraged by offering this information in a spirit that honors Q’uo’s basic disclaimer prefacing each of their channeled messages. One example being:

“We would ask that each be careful to realize that we are not authority figures but really brothers and sisters who travel the same spiritual road, who are looking for answers to the same mysteries. We are happy to share our thoughts but, as always, we ask that you leave behind those thoughts that may present a stumbling block. Take only those that are useful to you and move on. And we would encourage you to practice this discrimination with all sources that you may hear or read, for, truly, authority resides in the resonance between your own nature and that which you need. When you meet your own personal truth it has a resonance to it that is unmistakable, and we ask you to trust that and not some outer authority, no matter how persuasive or powerful.” – Q’uo, September 10, 2000

Service—Responding to Seeker Communication

Carla’s knightly ethos included the desire to respond to *every* legitimate message sent our way from spiritual seekers. Fortunately we are small enough that that we can realistically hold to that aspect of our culture. Thusly we respond to every piece of communication sent our way within the limitations of our capacities, treating each seeker with respect, speaking in ways that empower the individual and encourage a vision of hope, and doing our utmost to assist the seeker therein—always conveying that we can, generally speaking, only offer subjective opinions and not objective interpretations. And that, while we certainly have our interpretations to bring to bear on this information, and reflections from our own personal paths to offer, we are not authorities—the seeker is his or her own authority who must learn his or her own lessons, and walk his or her own path.

In our replies to seekers, the culture of L/L Research is humble in the recognition that we don’t have “answers” to many questions. Not only are we, too, students of this information, but we also cannot do the learning for others, each must find his or her own answer, though we will certainly share our experience and whatever insight we’ve gained along the way. And we will remind each of the power of the faculties of will and faith that each possesses.

We recognize that whatever we have to share can be no more than a signpost pointing toward the ocean of truth, an outstretched finger pointing toward the moon.

The Signpost and the Ocean

To quote Ra again:

17.2 Ra: It is impossible to help another being directly. It is only possible to make catalyst available in whatever form, the most important being the radiation of realization of oneness with the Creator from the self, *less important being information such as we share with you.*

The italicized portion is inbuilt into the attitude of L/L Research. We value this information, we love this information, we think this information is the cat's pajamas, but we always understand that truth can never ever be captured by words, no matter how eloquently formulated or "accurate." Truth can only be, as Ra indicated, *approximated* by sound vibration complexes. In truth, you *are* the truth that you seek; the seeker *is* the truth that he or she has been looking for. How can we put into words who the seeker already is?

L/L recognizes the limits of what it has to offer. It knows that what it shares is a map—among many available maps—and not the terrain itself. Though we find the map to be one of the best available on this planet, the map cannot do the walking, or the navigating, or the discovering; it can only help provide some insight and information into the journey to come.

We are, in the end, only "humble messengers" of a truth or reality that is infinitely greater than whatever we could possibly do in this world.

Carla: ...it's not like we've found *the* truth and it's spelled TRVTH like in the comic strip piece, "B.C.," and we're standing up on a little stool in the park on Sunday and addressing the crowd about truth.

If this material may be helpful to some, we have it available. It's ridiculous to think that there will be one truth that would make sense for everybody. It's not that kind of a world. People are various; people are individualistic; some find comfort in thinking of truth one way, some find comfort in another. – *About this Philosophy*

Humor & the Light Heart

Life is too important to be taken seriously. – Oscar Wilde

We're not funny buckets, but we try to enliven and lighten it up as often as we can, and laugh at the folly and humor in our attempt to "dream the impossible dream."

Here L/L is, sharing material which lights us up like no other, and which, if applied, has the power to profoundly transform the world, yet in response to which the vast majority of this planet would respond with derisive or dismissive laughter, or scorn and ridicule, indifference, or even outright hostility. Here we are sharing information purportedly from a source of intelligence which says of itself that its members evolved upon our neighboring planet billions of years in our past. Here we are taking things seriously which can in no way be verified by scientific means. Though we are sincere in our trust of this information, and find the sources to be credible above virtually any other with whom we have crossed paths, we recognize the inherent humor in the situation, and try to bring it to light where possible.²⁰

Not to mention that this world is full of horrors, and life is difficult and taxing for most of us. Why not laugh?

²⁰ Especially when Ra in deadpan says things like, "The ingesting of the fruit of the banana palm is recommended."

And, "You are competent at viewing pictures."

This aspect of L/L culture, too, goes back to the beginning. You can see Don and Carla being lighthearted in *Secrets of the UFO*. There they were telling one of the most profound stories to ever fall upon human ears, but making it light and having a good time in the process. Carla loved to laugh, and was often ready with a lighthearted comment, especially a pun. In punnery, fuhgeddaboudit—Carla was a master.

A Collaboration

L/L Research is an identity, a vibration, a means of service, and a focal point of energy that is greater than any one person. We function and work as a unified whole, collaborating internally, with volunteers the world over, and with the unseen realms. So much of what L/L Research is able to accomplish is thanks to the collaboration, and often beautiful friendships, we have with volunteers.

And we love it. Much of the progress over the years has been made because someone appreciative of the work has proactively approached L/L with a project or idea. And due to its culture, we respond and say, “No, we will not participate in your project to make *Law of One* adult novelty items.” I mean, we generally, actually, find ways to incorporate their ideas, often asking the volunteer what we can do to support *them*.

The volunteer culture has been absolutely beautiful. Last year alone (2014) we received the generous time, energy, and talent of 51 different volunteers! We thank them each year in the Volunteer/Donate section of the website.

Public Meditations

This is one of L/L Research’s biggest and longest-running *traditions*. As you know, Don began his meditation experiment in the early 60s, and at some point thereafter, perhaps not until the early 70s, I am unsure, those became regular public meditations, opened to most any who wanted to sincerely join. The tradition was maintained unbroken all the way until April, 2011, when Carla went in for her major spinal fusion surgery.

And within the meditations are traditions of procedure, including the round robin and the group tuning which precede each meditation, and the “I am the circle” song which closes each meditation.

These fortunately have resumed as of September, 2015! More on that later.

The Readership

J: Sensitivity, open hearts, intelligence, good will, they're really good people. I'm so impressed, some of the niftiest people I've met in the world come through our Homecomings.

C: All different kinds of walks of life and ways of expressing themselves and all that, but hey, they all are interested in listening to each other, because they are all good, good people. And that is one beautiful thing about people interested in the Law of One, they're just good people. So glad to know them. – *About this philosophy*

Twelve years of being planted in the center of the small L/L universe I can attest to the veracity of these statements. I have had the privilege to meet the most authentic, mature, sincere, good-natured, open-hearted, and self-aware people thanks to this work. Something about the quality of the material tends to attract the best people.

And whether we get to share energy over the course of a brief email exchange, or over the years of shared volunteer service for the organization, it is one of the greatest sources of joy, and one of the things that makes life on this planet tolerable.

This is in part why we created a website and have worked so hard to help seekers connect with *each other*. It's been such a blessing and boon for us that we want the same or similar for others. There is something magical and uplifting about working with others through the open heart. The brief weekend-long Homecoming Gathering is one case-in-point. Many are those who have attended who will confirm what a battery-recharging, hope-inspiring experience it is. Not due to any special quality of L/L Research per se, but due to the inner beauty of each who attends and the love they each bring to the circle.

Love at the Center

Our overriding desire is to see each other with love, to treat each other with love, to openly give and receive love, and transform this world through the open heart of unconditional love.

Not love unrelieved by wisdom, but wisdom operating only with the consent of love.

Though there are many sources of inspiration in this regard, we look to Carla as the nearest and one of the best examples of the never closed open heart.

A Culture of Ethics

To tout our ethics risks coming across as an exercise in patting the self on the back. As I have done repeatedly in this presentation, we acknowledge that we're fallible, we err, we're human, we're dummies, and we're bozos. There are others in the world who are more pure, more sacrificial, more saintly, more humble, more giving, and more selfless.

Be that as it is, this culture is one that does consciously attempt to live by a code of ethics built upon love itself, including *but not limited to*:

- * giving the organization and its service our absolute best;
- * not using L/L Research for personal gain;
- * treating others kindly and with respect;
- * being as transparent and authentic as possible;

- * telling the truth; and lastly though not least,
- * finding and walking the high road, even if at times it may be inconvenient or difficult.

The Bedrock

The ultimate bedrock is, of course, the ground of one's being wherein each is one with the Creator and one with all things. For this manifested wavelength of love and light called L/L Research, our bedrock is the trajectory of seeking—and everything include in that package—set in motion and planted deeply in the soil of planet Earth by Don Elkins, Carla Rueckert, and Jim McCarty. We consider the direction and parameters they set worthy of carrying forward into all subsequent chapters of L/L Research's journey of evolution.

The Next Thing About the Culture

Whatever it is, it cannot be written, because I have committed a criminal amount of reader homicide by this point, and for the few who are still somehow living, we must be moving on.

As you can see, the L/L Research culture is GREAT. Actually, as you may have seen, there is a dovetailing of the L/L ethos and the principles of the Confederation philosophy. In our humble, fallible way, we're attempting to live and embody those principles, including surrendering our personal will, bending our efforts upon service, spending time in silence, and seeking to be one with the Creator.

PART III: THE HORIZON

This section heading is *literally* true! By the time you will have arrived here, it will be way into the future from the point you first began. Sorry it's taken us so long to get here. I think we took the scenic route.

Probabilities/Possibilities, But Mostly Probabilities

Jim McCarty

Sixty years ago this year, Don Elkins embarked upon his intensive quest to discover a truth he dimly sensed but could not see. When Carla passed away in Jim's arms this past April, L/L Research reached another junction point. A great deal hinged on Jim's feelings.

Would L/L Research continue in its present form? Would Jim continue to be the rock upon which it rests?

Jim gave up his solitary life thirty-five years ago, and has had to continually confront the catalyst of working in groups ever since. Though I believe the group work that he, Carla, and Don undertook was the most fulfilling, satisfying, "easy", and balanced of his life, it wasn't the only one group to which he's had to adjust. Other combinations have come and gone over the years, including the most recent iteration: Austin and I working for L/L.

After three-and-a-half decades of living and working in group settings, and giving so purely to L/L Research, he could have rightfully said, "Ya know, guys, I'm ready to move on. I've given all I have to give to L/L, and if I have to hear Q'uo *one more time*. . ." and either return to solitude, or pursue a new path that did not involve overlapping his home with L/L Research.

But, fortunately for the organization and everyone it serves, he didn't. Instead, Jim did the opposite: he rededicated his commitment to L/L Research, and stepped up his participation.

Before Carla's passing, Jim had reached that point in parenthood when the parent watches the child go off into the world on their own, the parent's intensive phase of care and direct management of the child's growth successfully completed. In that respect he became a benevolent founder, somewhat passively watching his organization's operation and evolution transition to a new generation. Though for metaphysical, personal, and logistical reasons, L/L still operates out of Jim's home—a home which, since its purchase by Don in 1984, was never completely personal but has always been a marriage of the organization and the people who live in it—L/L Research has, operationally and navigationally speaking, found its own legs, or perhaps is still finding its own legs.

But with Carla's passing, and much of Jim's energy, time, and consciousness no longer reserved for her care, he is digging back into ways to be involved. If you haven't noticed, his daily entries published to the "Camelot Journal" have soared with introspective openings into his thoughts and feelings, and reflections on spiritual principles. As you read the entries, you see to what extent he is reinvesting himself in his own journey of spiritual evolution, including initiating or increasing the contemplative and reflective disciplines of meditation, spiritual reading, and dream analysis. He's

engaged in more L/L correspondence, and has developed a passion for recording audiobooks which cannot be abated.²¹

Indeed, Jim has, in my opinion, been flowering through the intensive and sometimes unbearable grieving process. His energy is much softer, more open, more approachable; he is less anxious, tense, and hurried; he reaches out more and spends more time honoring interpersonal dynamics.

I don't speak for the intimate inner details of his heart, which are Jim's to know and disclose, but from an outsider's perspective, someone who has known and worked closely with Jim for over 12 years now, Jim has had to undergo a monumental conversion of paradigm. In his many years with Carla, his rules for life boiled down to one: care for and support Carla—in whatever way she needed. I've personally never seen anyone so single-pointed about *anything* as Jim was about Carla's care and upkeep. Every other priority, need, and desire in his life was made secondary to, and bent toward, his absolute dedication to Carla.

With Carla's passing Jim had not only to grieve the loss of his soulmate, but to rediscover who he is and why he is alive. As you who read the "Camelot Journal" will know, he has been doing just that, with courage, resilience, and faith. Part of that process has included returning some of his focus and energies to L/L Research.

And in that spirit he took a surprising step. Jim reinitiated the weekly public meditations after an over four-year hiatus due to Carla's surgery. Not only resume the meditations, but he has committed to channeling again after giving up the practice some twelve years ago, joining the only other person after Jim Carla called her "best student": Steve T., who himself has likewise taken a proactive step forward, committing to drive a considerable roundtrip distance two times per month in an already overloaded and catalyst-heavy life.

And thanks to their efforts, Q'uo is now back on the line! It was a banner day and a milestone for L/L Research. It was the first we've heard from Q'uo in over four years, and the first channeling without Carla since she first started in 1974. The readership has been thrilled with the resumption of the channeling, and, we imagine, Carla is beaming with appreciation from the other side.

In reinitiating the meditations, Jim, for the first time, made the meditations his own; that is to say, declared that this is what *he* wants to do as his own form of service and seeking. I had always gotten the impression that during the many years prior, Jim gave himself to things like the public meditations because, as he did nearly everything: *that was what Carla wanted*. This is not to imply that he didn't want the meditations, or wasn't personally fulfilled by them, or hadn't already unreservedly given over his life to L/L Research, only that his motivation was centered not so much on his own interests for service, but on Carla's interest, and his interest in serving her.

And it is such that after Carla's passing, and with Jim's blessing, support, and participation, L/L Research is still on the course, and has reopened the phone line to query our higher density friends with questions of spiritual evolution.

²¹ We've tried to lure Jim from the recording room with promises of sugary treats, but to no avail.

*L. Bean, L. Bridges*²²

The transition after Carla's passing in April of this year was, operationally speaking, seamless, as the running of L/L had been growing increasingly autonomous over the years, especially as Carla's efforts decreased due both her own choices and her health limitations.

Though autonomous, it's never become disconnected from Jim and Carla. We continue the tradition I began when Carla was with us: having weekly lunch meetings with Jim, reporting on L/L's activities, and, increasingly, operating as a group making group decisions and working together on projects.

The absence of someone, especially someone so central to all our lives, has, not surprisingly, created an entirely new dynamic. We three have had to find a new equilibrium. Fortunately, that was not catalytic in the negative sense, as we have all been sensitive to the other's needs and space, especially Austin and I in relationship to Jim's needs, and have adjusted accordingly. The atmosphere at the house continues to be one of outstanding harmony, positivity, and cooperation.

And thanks to Carla's lifelong prolific nature, we have *plenty* of work to do. Too much, actually. Carla had a way about her. When she opened up the creative spigot, inspiration effortlessly flowed, whether from her personal energies or from external sources. There was no bottom and no end to Carla's creative capacity—if she had lived to be five hundred years old, she would have been writing, speaking, and channeling that brilliant green-ray powered and indigo-fed blue-ray voice for five hundred years. In Carla's case, there seemed to be no off button, no way to close that creative spigot; it was always flowing.

What came through her and from her, along with other L/L channels, constitutes an enormous, profound, and truly awe-some resource. Almost forty years of transcripts, thousands of pages in published books, and a unique, whole system of philosophy and spirituality.

We consider all of the material, the culture, the identity, and every ounce of energy a treasure beyond treasures that under no circumstance is to be risked by hasty, foolish, or imbalanced action. Austin and I, and perhaps to some extent Jim, nurture a desire to complete the ship's retrofitting and upgrading, and take her back out into open waters, deeply into the unknown; perhaps a continuation into regions that Don, Carla, and Jim together explored, or perhaps entirely new places of discovery and service, though always in the spirit and within the parameters of its founders' intentions.

There may be time for risk, for making a bold adventure, but the attitude now is a conservative "steady as she goes" until that moment is sensed. When and if such a moment for a radical adventure should arrive, it will happen organically, of its own, so to speak. It cannot be manufactured, and it cannot be made to happen before its time. Though we will certainly set an intent, nurture a desire, and head in a general direction, allowing the universe to respond to that desire as it will. We will

²² When we were but wee lads, probably still in our respective wombs, our moms endowed us each with the same middle name. Which shall remain undisclosed for all of eternity.*

*Except in 4th, 5th, and 6th density, where everything is disclosed. (It makes no sense to even think about 7th density. So stop it, right now.)

remain open and sensitive to the promptings of spirit, and move according to whatever inspiration arrives, but we will not move without that inspiration and vision.

Whether the unknown is ever so dramatically penetrated again, there is powerful and positive service to be offered in simply continuing the mission as it currently stands. And if all L/L Research ever does from this point forward is to continue its current trajectory of serving spiritual seekers and sharing spiritual information as it presently does, then we, the younger generation, will die happy, looking back upon our respective incarnations feeling amazed that we had the honor of being on and piloting this ship unlike any other on planet Earth.

Until the acts ring down and the light comes up once again²³, we will also see ourselves in the roles of stewards whose principal responsibility it is to safeguard this torch—that we may pass it safely and securely to those who will follow us.

The Greatest Voyage

Don initiated his intensive, lifelong search for answers in 1955. He saw tantalizing clues and puzzle pieces all around him, and he intuitively knew they pointed to a greater reality, and told a greater story, but what was that story? What great truths remain hidden behind the curtain?

Don held a peculiar confidence that he could gain those answers. Consequently, he gave himself completely to quixotic quest of investigating the leads on the far edges of human understanding, leads that conventional thinkers utterly ignored and dismissed, and pursued them unremittingly year after year.

Did Don find the bigger picture he sought? Did he succeed? What do you think?

I think he and his two companions succeeded more profoundly than his wildest dreams could have imagined or anticipated. Prior to 1981 alone, through his wide range of investigation into the paranormal—especially the years of dialogue with discarnate sources of intelligence through conscious channeling—Elkins was able to piece together a coherent vision of reality that was already superior to the old and crumbling containers of conventional thought. Had he stopped before Ra spoke a word at the beginning of 1981 and gone no further, his work would have been a success, especially in offering a vision of the infinite Creator, and the love which binds all things, to the wanderer who dimly (perhaps even acutely) remembers that there is something more.

But fortunately the work did not end there. The great apex of his life—and Carla's and Jim's—began on January 15, 1981, and continued until Elkins' death in November, 1984.

What the *group* uncovered, thanks to the purity of their dedication to service by means of the Ra contact, is an event that is better left measured by future generations, by minds greater than my own who can properly situate and contextualize this event, assess its role in history and impact upon subsequent generations, if any, and determine its overall significance in human evolution.

²³ .)

For the purpose of this book I contend strongly that Don Elkins achieved his objectives²⁴, outrageously so. Though his questions to Ra could have gone on indefinitely into the future, and countless lines of inquiry explored, the 2,630 questions he and the group were able to ask were more than sufficient to pull back enough of the curtain to reveal a vision of the cosmos that makes the wandering heart absolutely leap with pure joy and recognition, a vision of *the way things are* that restores faith, trust, and peace, and that reminds each that they are nothing less than the Maker itself.

With that picture gained, is L/L Research's mission to venture out to pull back ever more that opaque curtain obscuring the universe from human eyes? Is L/L Research's mission to stay put and serve as a safeguard and depository for the Confederation's gems, to share it freely with all who are interested, and to serve the community of readers? Is L/L Research's mission to take the information gained and *apply* it for both personal spiritual evolution, and perhaps for discovering higher-chakra ways of serving humanity, including communication and healing?

The roads and the waterways are open. We set our intent and leave the rest to faith.

Ultimately the best way we can penetrate the unknown, and serve in a very powerful way, is to *use* the raft of this philosophy to reach and stand upon the other shore with our own two feet, to discover, through disciplined will and faith, that inner land to which Ra's words can only point, and to then communicate our findings to others, most importantly through the radiance of being. We *are* the truth that we seek, and our very being *is the service* we seek to offer.

Our energetic vibrations communicate far more than any collection of sign and symbol. As we free ourselves, we free others. The Confederation and other sources of spiritual insight have said all along that we literally change and transform the planetary atmosphere through our own energy and consciousness.

We continue on, then, attempting to *apply* the loving wisdom of this system of thought in the hopes that we will reach the other shore, and awaken from the planetary dream into the present moment. No greater journey could there be for this ship, no greater service could we render, no greater way to thank Ra, Q'uo, and others than to put their maps to use in the journey of seeking that ends in a moment, but who can say when the entity will open the gates to the present . . .

²⁴ Near the end of his life, Don, referring the Ra Contact, thanked Carla for "giving me my life's work."

EPILOGUE

Oh how I wish I could show this book to Carla! I have always glowed when doing something that met Carla and Jim's approval and earned their praise. I loved telling Carla about the things that I, and later Austin and I, were doing to continue Carla's labor of love.

Numerous times and multiple places I've written in praise and thanksgiving for the gift that the incarnations of Carla L. Rueckert and Jim McCarty have been to me, along with the fruit of their life's work, L/L Research and the Law of One philosophy. The profundity and power of the Law of One to light the darkened places and inform my journey are alone enough to earn a lifetime of gratitude. Indeed, I feel the Law of One is a source of information I've probably been seeking for many incarnations during my long walk through the metaphysical night of planet Earth.

But their gift didn't, for me, stop there. Carla and Jim gave me both a physical and spiritual home in a world that, upon awakening, I had inadvertently become estranged to. Within that home they gave me spiritual friendship, along with the space, the time, and the opportunity to not only heal, but to discover who I am and whatever limited talents I may have.

Outside of my wonderful parents who brought me into this world, I have Carla and Jim, Carla especially, to thank more than any other. Carla gave me everything I have in my adult life, including the singular opportunity to marry my work with my spirituality and desire to serve. Through L/L Research I have met the most open-hearted, self-aware, authentic people in the world, and formed a network of love-based friendships and bonds of family. Exhibit A: half of my wedding party consisted of friends from the L/L universe.

I hope that in narrating some of the highlights of its history, sharing with you some of the work we've been doing, relating our thoughts about the future, and articulating some of the core principles of this unprecedented thing Carla, Jim, and Don have built on this planet, I have helped to secure and root L/L Research's existence ever more deeply so that it may endure, and continue to serve others, and continue to reach for the stars.

With love and light,
Gary L. Bean – Director, L/L Research

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I'm not sure that this work is sufficiently substantial to merit thanking people. I imagine inflating and then filling a small kiddie pool with water in the backyard, and then taking the time to thank my dad and mom, and everyone who contributed to the successful completion of my pool-filling project.

Nevertheless, I err on the side of expressing gratitude. And where better to start than to say:

To my mom, for providing a meticulous editing review without knowing how to use Word's track changes feature.

To Michelle Holt for being the paper's first reader and helping me to warm up to the notion that this may not, actually, suck.

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To all those who donate their time, talent, or treasure to L/L Research. We could not continue our service without you.

To Carla L. Rueckert and James McCarty, without whom I would be scraping my knuckles somewhere.

Gary -
What a beautiful,
profound, intelligent, &
loving work of your
heart & mind this
paper is. I have no
doubt whatsoever that
Carla would be (and is)
thrilled with your
words and your vision.
No one could have
queried Ra as Don did,
channeled Ra as Carla did,
or write about it all as
you have. Love & Light,
Jim