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For Release: On Receipt  
Contact: Charles Hayes, 907-376-2932, autpress@alaska.net

### **The One Who Dies With the Most Toys--Is Just As Dead! Author Attacks Material Culture in Groundbreaking New Book**

WASILLA, ALASKA: Every once in a while, a book comes along that can change the entire way society thinks. From Martin Luther to Harriet Beecher Stowe to Rachel Carson, and more recently, such authors as Christopher Lasch (*Culture of Narcissism*), John Naisbitt (*Megatrends*), and Alvin Toffler (*Future Shock*) have had a deep and lasting impact. Every thinking person needs to be familiar with the work of these writers.

Into this select group, from a small town in remote and rugged Alaska, comes a new contender: Charles D. Hayes and his new book, ***Beyond the American Dream***.

Exhaustively researched—the 24-page bibliography cites authors as diverse as Einstein, Kant, Stephen Covey, Mario Cuomo, Deborah Tannen, Peter Drucker, Will Durant, Erich Fromm, Al Gore, Cornell West, Abraham Maslow, Jack London, and Gail Sheehy—this new and dramatic work explodes myth after myth of American society. Hayes is thoroughly unconventional and also unabashedly liberal; he makes the case that the materialist era is ending and a new era is dawning in America: the era of multicultural accommodation and lifelong learning.

"It is an inspiration to hear from someone who both cherishes and exemplifies independent thinking. A brilliant and moving work."

—*Philip Slater, author, The Pursuit of Loneliness*

***Beyond the American Dream*** is not a quick and easy read. Rather, it's a probing, intense examination of the entire American society; race relations and affirmative action (he's a strong proponent), environmental issues, fallacies of the New Age movement. It's a book that will be talked about for years to come.

"In a world of flabby, fragmentary, and postmodernist thinking, Hayes offers a glowing tribute to old-fashioned curiosity and reason."

—*Barbara Ehrenreich, author, Fear of Falling, Blood Rites*

Journalists: to get your review copy of ***Beyond the American Dream***, which will be released during Self-University Week, September 1-7, 1998, or to arrange an interview with Hayes, please contact the publisher at 907-376-2932 or by e-mail at <autpress@alaska.net>.

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For Release: On Receipt

Contact: Heidi Hanson, (800) 549-UCPE (8273), <hansonh@lmi.net>

### **30-Year Effort to Understand Human Consciousness Crosses Disciplines to Reveal 12 Truths that can Change the World**

- Why does the dollar bill include metaphysical symbols and ancient Egyptian images?
- Which well-known martial art is actually a traditional shamanic discipline, and what answers does it offer for our own time?
- Are angels engaging in genetic engineering?
- What are newscasters REALLY saying when they report the day's events?
- How can the feminine principle become a catalyst for global social change?
- Why will a society built on "Thou Can Do" accomplish so much more than the one built on "Thou Shalt Not"—how can society encourage world-improving behavior without resorting to threats and punishments?
- *And what do all these diverse questions have to do with each other—or with you?*

The answers lie within the covers of a remarkable new book, **The Gathering**, written by Joseph Samsen. In 1068 pages, this book takes the reader on a quest for the 12 Universal Truths—a far-reaching journey that freely crosses disciplines. Samsen examines American and Eastern law, philosophy, metaphysics, history, current events, and even the supernatural. His goal: to awaken the impulse to be an "evolutionary inverter," who can create a more peaceful, just, and spiritual society rising from the (metaphorical) ashes of the present day. Beautifully illustrated by Heidi Hanson, the book is an ambitious attempt to not only synthesize human knowledge and planetary consciousness, but to use that knowledge to collectively forge a better world.

For more than 30 years, Joe Samsen has been independently studying the worlds of consciousness, philosophy, metaphysics, and social reality. Academically trained in law and Asian studies, he is an avid reader who is fascinated by both the physical and the nonphysical worlds. He has studied martial arts intensively with teachers from Taiwan to Toronto, and investigated shamanistic traditions of many cultures, including Seneca, Toltec, and Chinese as well as western scholars like Alice Bailey and Elwood Babbitt. As an Army lieutenant stationed in Europe, he had the job of protecting nuclear weapons from both European terrorists and Russian spies—and the life-based, affirmative leadership style he developed there led him on a further quest to understand the principles of human behavior. More recently, he was a research supervisor at a biotech company. He's also an accomplished Celtic fiddler. Joe has spent about eight years researching and writing his book, and a lifetime preparing for it.

**The Gathering**, ISBN 0-9727751-0-2, \$29.95, is available exclusively at <<http://www.unitedcommunitiesofplanetearth.com/OrderGateway.html>> or by phone at (800) 549-8273.

Journalists: to arrange for an author interview and/or review copy, please contact the publisher at (800) 549-8273.

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For Release: On Receipt

Contact: Kyra E. Hicks, 703-931-2892, kyra@black-threads.com

## **The Mystery of Queen Victoria's Missing Quilt Virginia Author Offers \$250 Reward for Ex-Slave's Vanished Gift to British Royals**

ARLINGTON, VA: When Martha Ann Ricks was a 12-year-old slave girl in Tennessee, about 1824, her father purchased her freedom. Shortly afterward, he moved the family across the ocean to Liberia, where Martha Ann could go to school.

And in her gratitude for the British warships that patrolled the Liberian coastline, preventing slavers from stealing free blacks and selling them off in the Americas, Martha Ann spent several decades making a beautiful coffee tree-pattern quilt, and then saving her pennies to scrape together enough to deliver it to Queen Victoria. She was 76 years old in 1892 when she made the long voyage and presented the quilt to the Queen.

The quilt was part of the popular English exhibit the following year at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and two years later was photographed on display at the Atlanta Exposition. And then...it disappeared!

Quilter, researcher, and author Kyra E. Hicks wants to find it—and is offering a \$250 reward. Hicks is an accomplished fabric artist who has exhibited at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery (DC), the American Craft Museum (NYC), the Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago), and many other venues. Her forthcoming second book, **Martha Ann's Quilt for Queen Victoria** (Dallas: Brown Books Publishing Group, 2007, ISBN 978-1-933285-59-7), retells this powerful true story as a children's picture book (gorgeously illustrated by Lee Edward Födi).

The quilt, says Hicks, deserves better than to be lost to the ages. "This magnificent treasure is a crucial link in the history of three different countries on three different continents. It's not only a beautiful example of African American folk art, but also a vivid testament to the power of one woman's dream and her determination to succeed against all odds. It needs to be located, restored if necessary, and once again be made available for public view," she said.

Hicks is a recognized authority on the diverse and vibrant African American quilting traditions; her first book, **Black Threads: An African American Quilting Sourcebook** (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2003, ISBN 0786413743), is the definitive reference work in the field.

Journalists: Hicks is available for interviews. A limited number of galley are available to qualified reviewers.

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# Why Should *I* Care About Water Development Projects in Nepal?

Answer: Because this study is a microcosm of issues that transcend many disciplines and show up in developing societies worldwide.

If your work involves

- Economics
- Public Policy/Government
- Small Business/Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Studies
- Ecology
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Resource Management
- Agriculture
- Accounting/Finance

**You need to read this book!**

Dr. Wai Fung Lam of the University of Hong Kong compares two very different governance systems for the developing Nepalese rural infrastructure. His analysis shows that farmer-governed systems enjoy higher productivity—and more effective, reliable, and equitable water delivery—than state-run systems. Self-governing users are more entrepreneurial, have better resource knowledge, and are more deeply involved in their resources.

This book could have extensive impact on development and agriculture policy worldwide. The lessons go far beyond Nepal, and could be applied effectively not only in Asia, but in Africa, Europe, and the Americas—anywhere that scarce resources are a factor in public policy. Lam's blueprint for involving indigenous farmers and villagers in the decisions that affect them can be a model to build decentralized democratic economies worldwide.

*Governing Irrigation Systems in Nepal: Institutions, Infrastructure, and Collective Action*, ISBN #1-55815-505-8, US \$24.95. 275 pp., 48 tables and figures, indexed, with a Foreword by Dr. Elinor Ostrom (Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science, Indiana University). To arrange bulk purchase discounts for courses, please contact the publisher at (800) 236-0263/(510) 238-5010, X227, or e-mail [perenna@icspress.com](mailto:perenna@icspress.com)