

SUNDAY Books

AUGUST 15, 2010



ON THE SHELVES

"My Hollywood"

MONA SIMPSON

Lonely Hollywood wife and her Filipina nanny examine the psychological price of good mothering in contrasting narratives

Best-Sellers List **D5**
Calendar **D5**

Sharing their hope

Locals among visionaries featured in '100 Words'

By **KARNA HUGHES**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

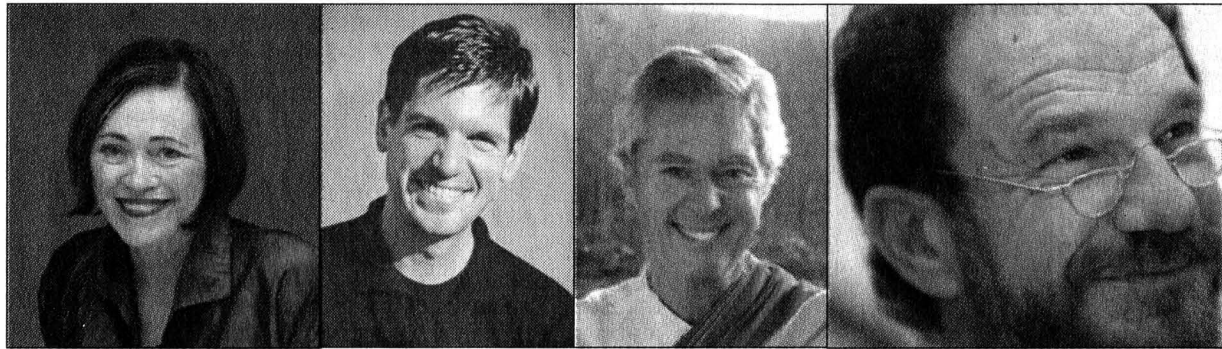
The economic meltdown. Environmental degradation. Wars without end. Ethical breaches by political and religious leaders.

The times we're living in may seem bleak to many, but British author William Murtha sees paradigm-shifting possibilities in today's crises.

"As we watch unworkable ideologies crumble to dust, there is much cause for celebration amongst the darkness and despair," writes the Devon, England-based philanthropist and global activist in his new book. "We are a race awakening to its highest potential."

Published this spring by Conari Press, "100 Words: 200 Visionaries Share Their Hope for the Future" (\$16.95) contains messages from those who've spent their lives working for positive change and challenging the status quo.

For his project, Mr. Murtha asked the world's cutting-edge thinkers and humanitarians to offer their hope and



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SARAH VOLLAND PHOTO

NEWS-PRESS FILE

Five Santa Barbara County residents contributed to "100 Words: 200 Visionaries Share Their Hope for the Future." Among them are, from left, Jean Weidemann, Scott London, B. Alan Wallace, and Noah benShea. Several will appear at a book signing today at Chaucer's Books.

encouragement for generations ahead in 100 words or less.

In perhaps a testament to Santa Barbara's cultural, psychological and spiritual riches, five local residents wrote entries for the project.

Santa Barbara contributors include futurist Barbara Marx Hubbard, philosopher Noah benShea, journalist Scott London, Buddhist scholar B. Alan Wallace and sustainable development pioneer Jean Weidemann.

(Conscious relationship authors Kathlyn and Gay Hendricks of Ojai also participated.)

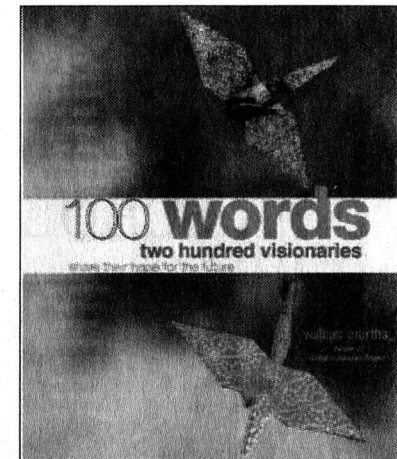
Chaucer's Books will host a book signing featuring some of the local writers at 3 p.m. today; another signing will be held at Tecolote Book Shop in Montecito Sept. 25. Among those confirmed to appear at Chaucer's are Noah benShea, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Jean Weidemann, and Scott London.

A brief biography for each

contributor is listed in "100 Words," along with five books, poems, songs or movies that have most inspired their life and work.

"I was surprised and humbled to be included in such company as Jane Goodall (whose TACARE project the Weidemann Foundation has sponsored), and some of the other people, like Alice Walker, the people I know and have looked up to for inspiration

Please see **VISIONARIES** on **D5**



IF YOU GO

A book signing for "100 Words: 200 Visionaries Share Their Hope for the Future" will be held at 3 p.m. today at Chaucer's Books, 3321 State St.

Local contributors confirmed to appear at Chaucer's include Noah benShea, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Jean Weidemann and Scott London.

The store will donate 10 percent of proceeds from the book sales to the contributors' nonprofits.

A second signing event will take place 4 p.m. Sept. 25 at Tecolote Book Shop, 1470 East Valley Road in Montecito. Authors to appear are pending confirmation. Ten percent of book sales will go to the Weidemann Foundation.

Writers agree: There is reason to hope

■ VISIONARIES

Continued from Page D4

and leadership myself," Dr. Weidemann, a philanthropist and microlending advocate, told the News-Press.

In her entry, she proposes seeing the world's challenges as occasions to "live from a place of interconnectedness."

"If we meld the spiritual parts of our beings with heart-centered activism," she writes, "we can create social and economic equality, access to resources, and peace."

What does it mean to be a visionary?

"I always just thought of myself as an ordinary person just doing something that I loved so much, and it was to bring justice to the world in terms of income and equality — that happened to be among women in developing countries," Dr. Weidemann said.

She believes other ordinary people can create seismic shifts, by "following their hearts and doing what brings them joy," she said.

"They may be doing it in the face of an obstacle or obstacles ... (But) they're so aligned with their

purpose in life that they don't get sidetracked easily."

When reached by the News-Press, Scott London said he was flattered to participate.

"Some of my intellectual heroes are between the covers of this book, so to be among them is really a great privilege for me," he said.

In his contribution, the Santa Barbara resident writes about looking at the unparalleled genius within each of us.

That's saying something, since, as the former host of "Insight & Outlook," a cultural affairs show broadcast on National Public Radio stations, he's had

the opportunity to meet many a genius, including several of his fellow contributors.

"I think that hard times can be a really great opportunity to dig deep within and to find some inner passion or some inner genius that can help to propel us in a new direction," he told the News-Press.

"When we're going through difficult times as a culture, that can be a great time to go back to basics and examine what we're doing, how we're doing it and see how to do it differently."

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