

Communities_bio.doc

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There are many ways to describe one's life. The most obvious one is to use time as the main structure, describing parts of life in the sequence in which they occurred. This works well for many reasons. One is that often one part of life prepares for, or even causes another. For example a college education often strongly influences one's professional career.

However, I find it interesting to cut through the ball that makes of a life by slicing at different angles. Here is a slice through mine that interests me. The angle is "communities".

Being somewhat prolix (verbose? Loquacious? Those are kind terms for my .. uhh... problem) I could go on and on about my thoughts about communities in general. I will at least state that I consider that any strongly interactive relationship between two or more humans is a form of community. However, I think couples (marriages, long term romantic relationships, close friendships etc.) are unique enough to deserve their own slice. The communities I will focus on were usually 20 or more people, often with changing memberships over time.

I have also expressed my view that communities have all of the primary attributes of conscious beings. They have memory, purpose, opinions, desire to persist, and many other aspects, similar to those of an individual. Like individual they often have complex views that vary depending on the situation.

Enough generalizations. Here is a list of the communities that come to mind for me. My hope is to list them initially and then, eventually, fill in some detail about each one. I think it would be useful to name as many of the people I can remember well from each community.

My immediate family: my father, mother and sister

The Baya family : aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and close friends of the family

The White family

Falls Church – the kids in the neighborhood

Fairlington – the backyard community of kids

England – my classmates at the John Fisher School

England – the Bayas and the Spies

Carlisle 8th grade and the teen canteen

Monterey - The friends in Pacific Grove

Caracas – all the kids, sub-communities, Collegio Americano, Poker, each year

Theta Delta Chi

The Birdsalls

Columbus Indiana – Irwin Management Company, other friends (Tenner, Detraz, UU)

Hasting Unitarian Church

Brownson and Associates

The Couples Group

Elaine's family – daughter, Mother, Jane, Nick, others

The Barbaras and Fire Island

Star Island People

Pinewoods (weekends, weeks, friend, Sacred Harp)

The Revels

Merill Lynch

Scarsdale Quaker Meeting

Hofstra University - FCS, The Student Assistants

Abingdon UUs

Emory & Henry

In addition to these there were many smaller groups, and some large ones that were less bonded, that come to mind. These include;

The M.I.T. space team

Wildflecken

Summer Scholars and the Mindstorm teams

Adam & family

Josie and Alexa

I also think of the many individual friends and mentors I have known. These two should be listed and commented on.

Romantic relationships

Male friends, often members of one of the communities

Female friends, often members of one of the communities.

This "slice" is one of several I hope to write about, including

International trips I have taken

Vacations (e.g. Star Island, Pinewoods, Burning Man, Australia etc)

Schools I attended

Musical experiences

Strong Learning experiences

Religion and spiritual experiences