



Way Opens:

A Spiritual Journey

Patricia Wild

1. Re the cover: The photograph, taken in April of 1961, shows a Lynchburg, Virginia civil rights picketer whose sign says: “Khrushchev can eat here but we can’t.”
 - What is the historical context for that sign?
2. What does “Way opens” mean to you?
3. Why do you think so many chapters begin with a poem?
 - Which poem is your favorite? (Or, to put this question in “Quakerese,” which poem speaks to your condition?)
4. How is a leading different from a plan of action?
5. Have you ever experienced a leading? What happened?
6. Re the “racial others” quote from Tim Wise (p. 14):
 - What do you think he means?
7. Re “The cafeteria story” (pp 21-22):
 - Why do you think the author, at age 17, didn’t sit next to Owen?
 - What would *you* have done in that situation?
8. In October of 2008, after the author had told the cafeteria story to E. C. Glass students, Reverend Owen Cardwell told the high school students: “Patricia Wild saved my life.”
 - What did he mean?
 - Do you agree?
9. Re the Kennedy assassination incident (p. 89):
 - If you, the only African American young man in a school of 3,000 white students, had just “popped a guy,” what would you do next?
 - Were you surprised by how Owen handled the situation?
10. “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” By the end of the book, the author realizes that “you” is a collective pronoun—and worked with others to begin the meals-and-sharing program at her Quaker meeting.
 - Can you think of other examples when a small group of people worked collaboratively to effect change?