

# The Power of the Huddle

Concentric Circles of Community



# Introduction: Who I Am

## Professionally:

- ★ Graduated with M S I S in 2004
- ★ Public librarian for 21 years
- ★ Director at Kinderhook Memorial Library from 2012-2022
- ★ Came to NYLA 2022
- ★ Freedom to Read Foundation Board Member

## Personally:

- ★ Extroverted
- ★ Feelings forward
- ★ Stubborn
- ★ Relentlessly optimistic
- ★ Gen X
- ★ Pop culture obsessed

# The Storm We Are In

- Book bans/challenges
- Villainized and under attack
- Met with suspicion and accusation from many
- Erosion of public trust
- Shrinking funding
- Staff and volunteer burnout



A boy who needs a friend  
finds a world  
that needs a hero  
in a land beyond  
imagination.

# THE NEVERENDING STORY

WARNER BROS. and PRODUCERS SALES ORGANIZATION present

A BERND EICHINGER/BERND SCHAEFFERS production

A WOLFGANG PETERSEN film THE NEVERENDING STORY

starring NOAH HATHAWAY BARRET OLIVER TAMI STRONACH PATRICIA HAYES SYDNEY BROMLEY

GERALD McRANEY MOSES GUNN Music by KLAUS DOLDINGER and GIORGIO MORODER

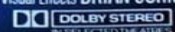
Executive Producers MARK DAMON and JOHN HYDE Associate Producer KLAUS KÄHLER

Co-Producer GÜNTER ROHRBACH Screenplay by WOLFGANG PETERSEN and HERMAN WEIGEL

Produced by BERND EICHINGER and DIETER GEISSLER Directed by WOLFGANG PETERSEN

Conceptual Artist UL DE RICO Production Designer ROLF ZEHETBAUER

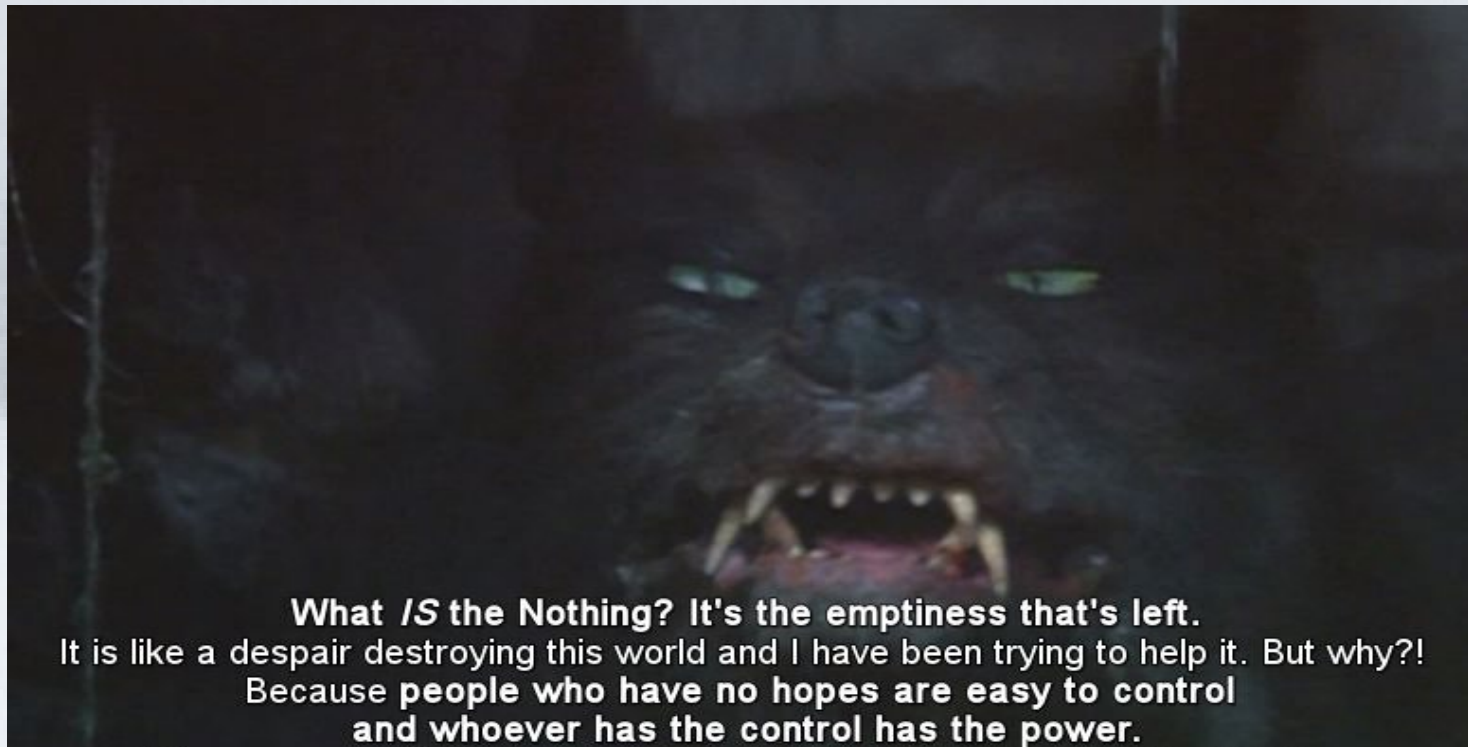
Supervisor of Special and Visual Effects BRIAN JOHNSON Editor JANE SEITZ Director of Photography JOST VACANO, bvk

 Filmed at Bavaria Studios, Munich

Soundtrack album and cassette available on EMI Records Ltd

DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. A WARNER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

“Because people who have no hopes are easy to control”



**What /S the Nothing? It's the emptiness that's left.**  
It is like a despair destroying this world and I have been trying to help it. But why?!  
**Because people who have no hopes are easy to control**  
**and whoever has the control has the power.**





All of you right now

Me

Artax and the Swamp of Sadness

## Finding freedom through connection



# Fight the Sadness! Fight “The Nothing”!

- The Nothing's creation was a result of neglect and forgotten hopes from Mankind's universe
- Studies suggest that individuals with increased hopelessness have a higher risk of premature death from various causes, including heart disease and cancer
- Antidote to hopelessness and despair is connection and love
- Cure for powerlessness is action
- We cannot go quietly into that dark night!



"I WISH IT NEED NOT HAVE HAPPENED IN MY TIME," SAID FRODO.

"SO DO I," SAID GANDALF,

"AND SO DO ALL WHO LIVE TO SEE SUCH TIMES.

BUT THAT IS NOT FOR THEM TO DECIDE.

ALL WE HAVE TO DECIDE IS WHAT TO DO WITH THE TIME THAT IS GIVEN US."

J.R.R. TOLKIEN, THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING



# The Dos and Don'ts of Weathering the Storm

What we do:



- ✓ Control what we can
- ✓ Think globally, act locally
- ✓ Be aware of current events
- ✓ Find connection

What we don't do:



- ✗ Obsess over what we cannot control
- ✗ Immerse ourselves in global trauma
- ✗ Stare into the void/doomscroll
- ✗ Isolate ourselves

**\*Remember: Doing your job is an act of resistance!\***

# Benefits of Being in Community

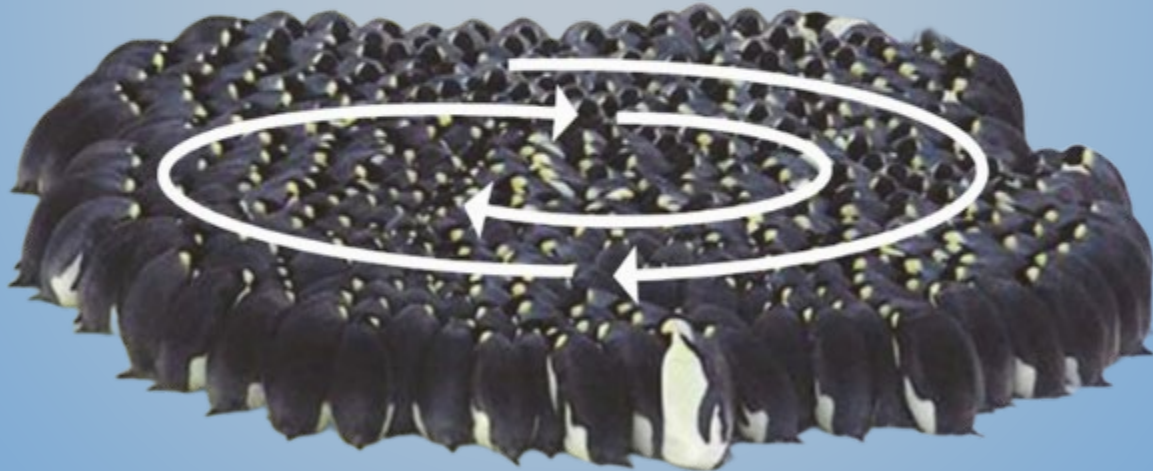
- Increased safety
- Built -in support system
- Feeling of belonging
- Opportunities for shared experiences
- Richer and more fulfilling social life
- Fosters civic engagement and sense of responsibility for the collective
- Hope and enthusiasm are contagious

**\*Be like the Emperor Penguins!\***



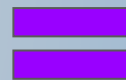
# Social Thermoregulation

A cooperative strategy used by many animals, including humans, to maintain a stable body temperature by huddling, nesting, or roosting together to reduce heat loss and conserve energy.



Caring and vulnerability are super powers, not weaknesses.







# Concentric Circles of Community

Core Values of Librarianship:

- ★ Access
- ★ Equity
- ★ Intellectual Freedom and Privacy
- ★ Public Good
- ★ Sustainability

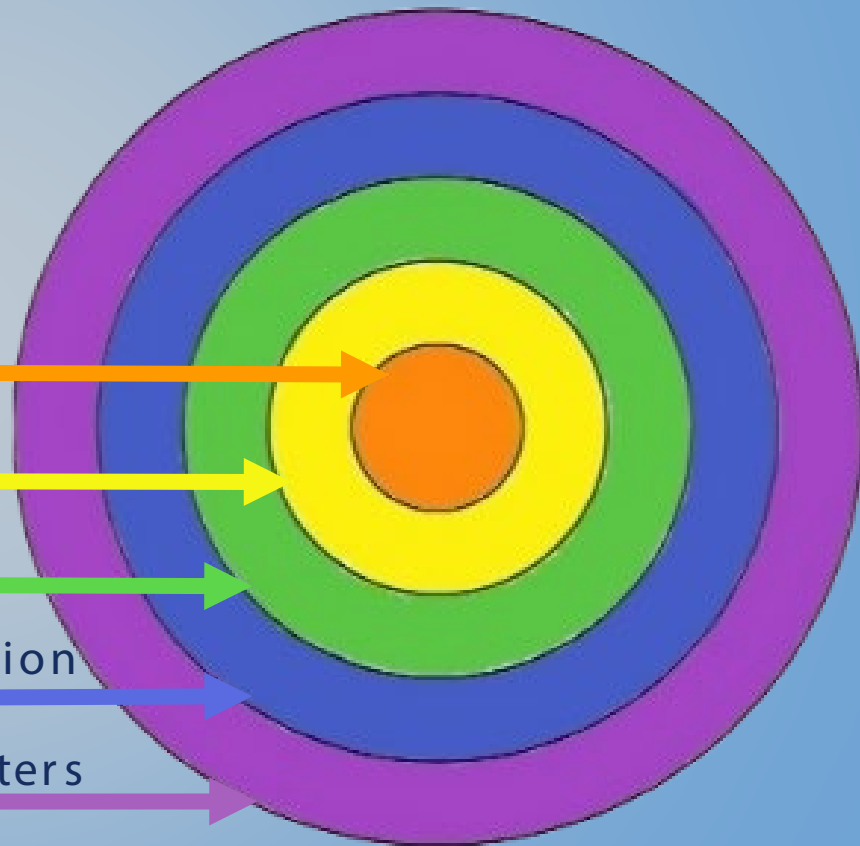
Family and Friends

Inside Your Library

Your Library Village/Town/City

Your State/National Library Association

Field of Librarianship and Supporters



# Important Things to Remember

- Concentric circles share a center, always come back to the why
- When you're not sure of anything, go back to our core values
- If you can be nothing else, be kind
- There is power and strength in caring/vulnerability
- Nobody has to be strong all the time, that's what community is for
- We are built for this moment
- Every storm runs out of rain; we will get through this together

# Books on Community, Hope, and Resilience


- ★ *Tribe* by Sebastian Junger
- ★ *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chodron
- ★ *Daring Greatly* by Brené Brown
- ★ *Palaces for the People* by Eric Klinenberg
- ★ *Radical Hope* by Carolina De Robertis
- ★ *Wintering* by Katherine May
- ★ *Tiny Beautiful Things* by Cheryl Strayed



A close-up of Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka, wearing a brown top hat, a purple velvet suit, and a large brown bow tie. He is smiling and resting his head on his hand. The image is framed by a landscape with a rainbow and hills.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS?**

**I'D LOVE TO ANSWER THEM  
FOR YOU**

A vibrant rainbow arches over a green field under a cloudy sky. The rainbow is a full spectrum of colors, from red on the outside to violet on the inside. The field is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural, perhaps rural, setting. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and hopeful.

If you take nothing else away from today, know that your  
community grew by at least one person (me) this morning!

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