

For Immediate Release

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## An Evening with John Dolphin Allen

*Ecologist, poet, philosopher and inventor of Biosphere 2*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY LIGHTS BOOKSTORE**

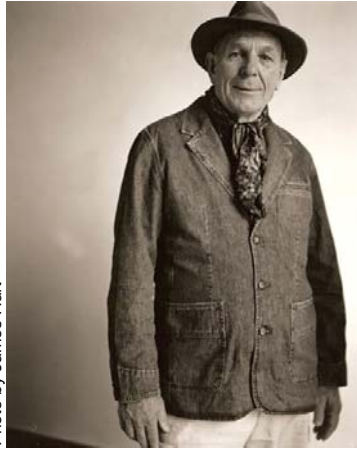


Photo by James Hart

Discussing his new book, *Me and the Biospheres: A Memoir by the Inventor of Biosphere 2* (Synergetic Press), and reading from his poetry and other writings.

In a world wracked with climate change and energy crises, Synergetic Press is proud to announce the long-awaited release of *Me and the Biospheres: a Memoir by the Inventor of Biosphere 2*, the definitive autobiography of one of the most luminous minds of our time. John Allen unfurls “a story that is both a warning and a call to action” (Tim Smit) and navigates the reader through his engaging and charming account of the largest laboratory for global ecology ever built.

Biosphere 2 covered three acres of Arizona desert and included models of seven biomes: an ocean with coral reef, marsh, rainforest, savannah, desert, farm and a micro-city. Eight people lived inside this structure for two years (1991-1993) and set world records in human life.

Accomplished total systems scientist, poet, philosopher and inventor John Allen began his story and the manifestation of Biosphere 2 by assembling many “smaller” projects: the creation of a ferro-cement hulled ship to study ocean and river ecologies and cultures, the development of a rainforest enrichment project, a theater group, world-class art gallery and more. These projects and Biosphere 2’s awe-inspiring construction and operation demanded the efforts of the most diverse team of international scientists, engineers, artists and thinkers with whom John Allen worked closely for decades. His memoir, lavishly illustrated with nearly four hundred photographs, is a rich and complex narrative that comprises his travels to Egypt, Vietnam, Nepal, Tibet and India and his meetings and friendships with people like Buckminster Fuller, William Burroughs, and Ornette Coleman. From building developments in Iran to adobe houses in New Mexico, from Harvard Business School to cafés in Tangiers, from corporate meetings in world cities to mystical moments with Sufi sages, John Allen has impacted millions of people with manifest integrity.

Humorous and Whitmanesque, *Me and the Biospheres* is a tribute to the ingenuity and dauntlessness of the human mind.

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*Me and the Biospheres is an excellent and highly inspiring book, showing in a fascinating way what single humans can accomplish with like minds, and how important and trend-setting far reaching holistic thinking and consciousness change is for human evolution and survival of our species within a livable environment, the gaian biosphere.*

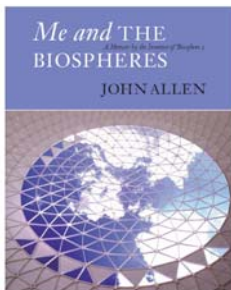
Dieter A. Hagenbach, Gaia Media Foundation, [gaiamedia.org](http://gaiamedia.org)

*The Biosphere 2 project was surely one of the great scientific and technological enterprises of our time. Building a working model of the Earth's biosphere is essential preparation for the coming era of space travel and manned exploration of other worlds. In this memoir by the multifarious genius inventor/explorer John Allen, we learn how he used his knowledge and experience in engineering, metallurgy, design, ecology, large-scale organizational finance, agriculture (and other fields), to draw together and inspire an extraordinary team of highly skilled and knowledgeable collaborators from a wide range of scientific and technical disciplines. He relates amazing stories from his years of travel in all parts of the world, doing ecosystem restoration projects, building a research ship that (still!) sails the seven seas and co-creating a travelling theatre in which he and his friends explored the mythic and moral dimensions of the multifaceted adventure of life in the biospheres. An astonishing book! Inspiration guaranteed!*

**Ralph Metzner, Ph.D.,** author of *The Unfolding Self* and *Green Psychology*

*[An] enthralling account of disciplined, daring, imaginative and truly staggering achievements, of, conceivably, the greatest magical-technological mind of our time.*

**Terry Wilson,** author of *Here to Go* and *Perilous Passage*

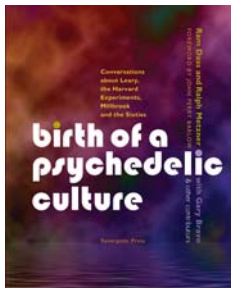


**John Dolphin Allen** – a pioneer of biosphere science, philosopher, poet and inventor of the Biosphere 2 project. More info at:

[www.meandthebiospheres.com](http://www.meandthebiospheres.com).

**Paperback, 336 pages, 16 page color insert, Illustrated, ISBN 978-0-907791-37-9 \$39.95**

**Synergetic Press** was founded in 1969 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After 40 years of publishing, we are still fiercely independent and continue to follow our mission of advancing the most relevant and far-reaching work they can find in the fields of biosphere science, ethnobotany, and world cultures.



**Synergetic Press** recently launched at City Lights to an overflowing audience their latest publication, *Birth of a Psychedelic Culture – Conversations about Leary, the Harvard Experiments, Millbrook and the Sixties*, by Ram Dass and Ralph Metzner, with Gary Bravo. Foreword by John Perry Barlow.

**ISBN 978-0907791-38-6**

**Paperback, 264 pages. Illustrated with rare photographs, \$29.95**

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