



BOOK CITY ★Roanoke

Notes for

Dar Williams'

What I Found in a Thousand Towns

POSITIVE PROXIMITY: Living in close quarters doesn't have to result in conflict and loss of privacy. A community can use proximity to its advantage to integrate the talents and skills of residents. We have it 'positive proximity' in Roanoke and can strengthen it.

"First: there are **SPACES**, indoors and out, that naturally maximize the number of good interactions in a town. Generally these spaces have some individual character while still being open enough to accommodate the desires and interests of good citizens."

"Second, there are **PROJECTS** that build a town's **IDENTITY**—socially, culturally, and /or historically—helping them become...themselves. These projects bring out the advantages of proximity by attracting the passions and skill sets of people who are like-minded in some ways but very different in others, cross-pollinating abilities and personalities. Citizens tend to see past their partisanship and biases when they're trying to accomplish something they can't do alone..."

CHAPTER SIX! Local Foods - the Finger Lakes Region

- ★ "This region in western New York illustrates the ways in which food can connect and strengthen communities and shows how a cluster of towns and cities can build what I call an agrosphere..." (147)
- ★ Building consciousness—the seasonal experience of what grows around you, the history, the wood fences and stone walls, the barns, the food markets, and, of course, the food itself.
- ★ "We experience a sense of self-reliance and even abundance, a nice counterpoint to feeling subject to the vicissitudes of the larger economy."
- ★ "...more than an economy—a lifestyle..." (151) Integrated into other tourism and identity strategies (165)
- ★ "...the Finger Lakes region is filled with people who know the importance of a good food story."
- ★ On ad sales response in *Edible Finger Lakes*. "We all win when you make us look good." (152)
- ★ Building an itinerary...a depth of experience that makes you want to come back. (153)
- ★ Fermentation involves "a certain kind of careful sustained process and relationships between growers, producers, and sellers. (154)
- ★ Terroir. Visiting a winery is a way to see and hear the narrative of the region. (155)
- ★ Connecting the organizational dots as well as the narrative ones. (157) On the extension agent..."In any strong, self-defined social community with an economic backbone that comes from decentralized commerce, some individuals go above and beyond to bridge socioeconomic gaps and actively help all boats to rise." (159)
- ★ Gary Edmond, Regional Access, identifying gaps and opportunities in the system...bakery, bread CSA building markets. (162)
- ★ "the sheer snobbery that can go with (organic food) will easily deepen any chasm of negative proximity in a town." (166)
- ★ Food deserts (168). Fruit Tree Foundation (169). Farmers formal. (170) Land advocacy (175)

"Third...**TRANSLATION** is all of the acts of communication that open up a town to itself and the world...the ability of a place to incorporate every willing citizen's contributions, and in so doing, find ways to make life more interesting, welcome the outside world, and provide stability for those who need support."

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NEXT Session: Chapter 7 - **Partnerships**

CoLab - 110 Campbell Ave. SW

Tuesday, **Nov. 21** - 6:30 gather, 7 PM conversation

