The Universe Story: Tapestries by the Kopanang Women’s Group of South Africa
April 16 - May 6, 2005

*Opening Reception:* April 18, 4:30-6 p.m.
Hege Library Atrium (Free and Open to the Public)

In conjunction with its emphasis on ecology and care of the Earth, the new Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch of the Greensboro Public Library has chosen Earth Day 2005 as a day for the Greensboro community to honor one of its own who has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the care of the Earth, and indeed, the entire universe: Thomas Berry. This extraordinary traveling exhibition provides a magnificent visual component to the celebration and pays tribute to Berry, whose work helped to inspire it.

The thirty-one embroidered panels presented in the exhibition tell the story of the universe exploring the mystery, the potential, and the cosmic link that humans share with all of Earth’s organisms—from bacteria to bears.

The panels were completed by the women of Kopanang, an innovative, South African community-based, initiative addressing poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, and the legacy of apartheid, and were commissioned by Faithful Fool Street Ministry in San Francisco, CA. Inspired by the writings of Brian Swimme, Thomas Berry, and Miriam MacGillis, Sister Sheila Flynn, the founder of Kopanang, designed each panel. After six months of training in embroidery, eighteen women from Kopanang took on the project, adding their personal aesthetics in order to make each panel a unique expression of themselves and their place in the universe.

Co-sponsored by Center for Ecozoic Studies, Greensboro Public Library, Guilford College Art Gallery, The Guilford Initiative on Faith & Practice, and Forevergreen (the Guilford College student environmental club).