

How can we transform our organizations, communities and lives through the action of meaningful conversations?



The Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter: From strategic conversation, to wise action to systemic change

**September 28 – October 1, 2008
Rivendell, Bowen Island, BC, Canada
(Near Vancouver BC)**

The Art of Hosting is a combined experiential training, learning lab, and retreat for all who want to create and apply practices of working effectively with others to create innovative and comprehensive solutions during times of change. It is a powerful leadership practicum as well as a daily pattern and practice for individuals, communities, families, businesses and organizations who aspire to work in more interactive, engaging and effective ways.

We welcome fellow leaders – trainers, teachers, consultants, politicians, CEOs, managers, social workers, entrepreneurs, social innovators, youth workers, community builders, hosts - pioneers from all walks of life - who want to see and act wisely from a different perspective and practice leadership where our own and other peoples courage, creativity, intelligence and wisdom are set free.

This Training is NOT for Spectators:

Our learning will grow out of participant contributions and presence—we will support one another as co-learners.

We will learn by observation, experience and practice, using interactive processes to build a safe, challenging, and inspiring learning environment.

Take a chance to experiment and apply these tools to your own projects in progress, as well as develop and continue a new practice and a new community of co-learners that will last well beyond this training.

Develop competence in several interactive processes including **World Café, Circle, Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry** -- that produce learning, clarity, creativity and shared commitment to action.

Learn to design and lead meetings and conversations that result in clearer thinking, intelligent ideas and solutions, useful harvest, group coherence and wise decisions.

Experience the Art of Hosting as a fundamental organizing pattern that invites profound shifts in how we might live and work together.



Why this training now?

The Art of Hosting is a response to a time when institutions and democracy itself are failing to address the increasing chaos in our world and is an experimentation ground for new, effective, and healthy patterns for organizing, innovating and interacting.

There is a new story emerging among us that brings the best of what we've learned and what we are, trusting we will find ways of living that are more sustainable and nurturing to ourselves, our families, communities and Earth.

How It Works

Experience and learn models of conversation that engage people at a deep level about topics they really care about and that foster actions at many scales to make a difference. These tools and insights offer paths to guide us through duality and polarization toward a wise and resourceful experience of our own capacity and a more civil society.

A core team of facilitators, steeped in the process, open the circle. The team expands throughout the retreat to include all who want to practice hosting. There are many levels of participation.

Doing is balanced by being. Frontier science and ancient wisdom offer ballast. Conversations and personal experience, rather than lecture, is the practice. There are designated times for individual, group and team learning with space to “get” what surfaces in periods of silence, play, nature walks, and reflection.

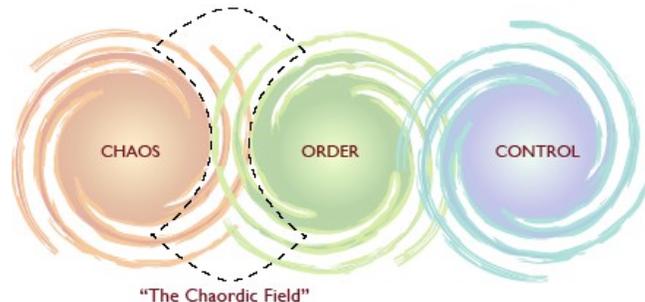
Context & Background

We are inspired by what happens when people meet with the purpose of learning and developing their own competences in relationship with others.

We have discovered that the principles of **self-organization, participation, ownership, and non-linear solutions** are the keys to both individual and collective discoveries.

We have also discovered that practices that take us from the personal to the systemic help us to scale our work at many levels. Personal practices of being present, participating in conversation and harvesting for wise action work at the levels of the individual, group, organization and the system as a whole.

We are inspired by what happens in the **creative tension between chaos and order** – just enough chaos to make creation of newness possible and just enough order to bring ideas into wise action.



From this tension, hosts, facilitators and leaders are called to work with groups, organizations and communities to walk a path of innovation and creativity. The Art of Hosting and Harvesting examines mental models, design tools and group processes which support this

work, leading to powerful and sustainable results.

Change for the common good in organizations and communities calls for involvement, collective intelligence, and co-creation to discover new solutions and build powerful systems of influence.

This is a response to a world that is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented, where true solutions and innovations lie not in one leader or one viewpoint, but in the bigger picture of the collective intelligence. It is learning to lead from the perspective of the whole system, the field of the emerging future.

It is a place for those who are interested in being part of a shift to sustainable, resilient and thriving organizations and communities across the world.

If the group is an art form of the future, then convening groups is an artistry we must cultivate to fully harvest the promise of the future.

Jacob Needleman, Centered on the Edge

The Hosting Team



Chris Corrigan
Host and Consultant
Harvest Moon Consultants
Bowen Island, British Columbia
www.chriscorrigan.com

I am a facilitator of conversation in the service of emergence. My business is supporting invitation: the invitation to collaborate, to organize, to find one another and make a difference in our communities, organizations and lives. I work with organizations seeking to improve their work, communities seeking to improve their future, people looking to improve their lives. I hold and care for process - the ways in which we work together - to encourage people to make their best possible contributions. I have an unflagging belief that the answers and leadership we need arise out of collaboration and conversation. By facilitating dialogue, I do my best to hold space for futures to emerge. I am a partner in Harvest Moon Consultants and work with communities and organizations across North America, Europe and New Zealand.



Tenneson Woolf
Host and Consultant
Orem, Utah
www.berkana.org

My work is leadership and community development – hosting spaces for co-created insight and solutions. I work in partnership with clients, colleagues, friends, family, and community to integrate learning and action of self, team, and community. A few of my current partnerships include: *The Berkana Institute*, where I am helping to co-create more availability of the hosting pattern through client systems and open enrollment trainings; *The Salt Lake Center for Engaging Community*, where I support and design local dialogues on living in healthy community; and formerly, *The Dyer Institute for Leading Organizational Change*, where I worked with university students, faculty, and managers on practices of change.



Monica Nissén
InterChange Aps
Silkeborg, Denmark
www.interchange.dk

I started my professional life as an architect but found very early on, that designing processes, was just as interesting as designing buildings. For the past 25-30 years I have worked as a process consultant. Since Toke Moeller and I co-founded InterChange aps in 1991, we have worked with dialogue based, participatory processes, engaging larger groups of people in co-creating solutions, strategies or the futures they want.

In working with larger groups, my special interest has been “Learning Ecology” – that is to harvest the results of these conversations, as newsletters, documentations or graphics, so that the collective wisdom can be captured, made visible and fed back “into the system”.



Caitlin Frost
Harvest Moon Consultants
Bowen Island, BC
www.harvestmoonconsultants.com

As a facilitator, coach and life learner, I have a deep interest in conversation - both the internal conversations that feed our actions in the world and our sense of who we believe we are and what we are capable of, and the external conversations that we have with others to be heard, understood and connected in our work and in our lives. I am interested in cultivating both individual and collective practices that allow us to step fearlessly and effectively into our own leadership and support others to do the same. I am a practitioner of Open Space Technology, The Work of Byron Katie, and Compassionate Communication and a traveller in many other processes of conversation, clarity and community. I am a partner in Harvest Moon Consultants, located on Bowen Island, British Columbia.



David Stevenson
CEO, Vancouver Island Aboriginal Transition Team
Victoria, BC
www.viatt.ca

I am a recovering consultant currently working as CEO of a Government Crown Corporation charged with planning and implementing a unique Aboriginal child and family services system for Vancouver Island. Our team is tasked with facilitating the conversations and planning to capture the emergent/ancient models of leadership that support the opening and holding of collective courage, vision and purpose. Bridging the wisdom of elders, youth, and traditional and political leadership with a complex colonial system, we track the deep practices and purposes at the heart of our most important conversations.

Sponsors of this Training

The Berkana Institute and our hosting team invite you to be part of a small group of inspired leaders, who are expanding the role of leading through conversation.



The Berkana Institute (www.berkana.org) connects and supports pioneering, life-affirming leaders around the world who strengthen their communities by working with the wisdom and wealth already present in its people, traditions and environment.

The Art of Hosting Community:

More information about the Art of Hosting and international events and community of practice can be found at: www.ArtofHosting.org.

The Art of Hosting is itself a collaborative community of practice, exploring together how to best host the conversations and changes that matter in our communities, organizations and lives. The network of friends includes: Shambhala Institute, The World Café, Open Space, Berkana, PeerSpirit and Pioneers of Change.

Logistics

Location – This is a residential retreat hosted at Rivendell Retreat Centre on Bowen Island, BC, Canada. Rivendell is a relaxing and inspiring location, settled on 6.5 acres atop Cates Hill, with magnificent views of mountains, forest and shining sea. Bowen Island is a 20-minute ferry ride from Horseshoe Bay, which itself is a 30 minute drive or bus ride from downtown Vancouver.

- [BC Ferries website](#)
- [Metro Vancouver public transit trip planner](#)



Beginning and Ending Times – We welcome you on the 28th to register and settle in beginning at 4:00. We will eat dinner together at 6:00 and meet in our opening session at 7:00. Our closing session on the 1st will end at 4pm. In the evenings, we will continue to talk, work and play together. Evening offerings may include outdoor walks, beach visits, music and conversation.

Registration Deadline is September 15, 2008 – This is a residential retreat with spaces for 24 participants. Spaces tend to fill quickly. *Registration is not confirmed until payment is received.*

Registration contact:

Online: <http://www.berkana.org/aoh>

Phone: Angie Dierdorf, 509-835-4228 (Washington – Pacific Standard Time)

angie@berkana.org

Cost – For Profit Organizations: \$1,150 (Tuition) + \$350 (Accommodations, Meals, Materials)
Not for Profit Organizations: \$850 (Tuition) + \$350 (Accommodations, Meals, Materials)

Note: Most rooms are shared accommodations. .

We request that participants take to heart the invitation to "pay what you can--and a little bit more...." This means we count on:

- Participants that cannot afford this price step begin a conversation with us about what they can afford to pay.
- Participants with financial ease or organizational backing to consider a contribution beyond the registration fee to support others.

In The Art of Hosting we draw on three principles:

- we rely on human goodness
- we depend on diversity, and
- we live from a spirit of generosity.

We price events to modestly support a hosting team and pay the cost of the facilities, registration, and materials.

More Information – Caitlin Frost (caitlin.frost@gmail.com) or call: 604 947 9236. (Pacific time)