

# ART OF HOSTING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Minneapolis Sept 16-18, 2013

Bring your questions, curiosity, real world work challenges and issues. Bring your passion, heart, courage and vulnerability. In the spirit of co-discovering, co-learning and co-evolving. Discover how to intentionally shift the shape of your conversations to get to different results.



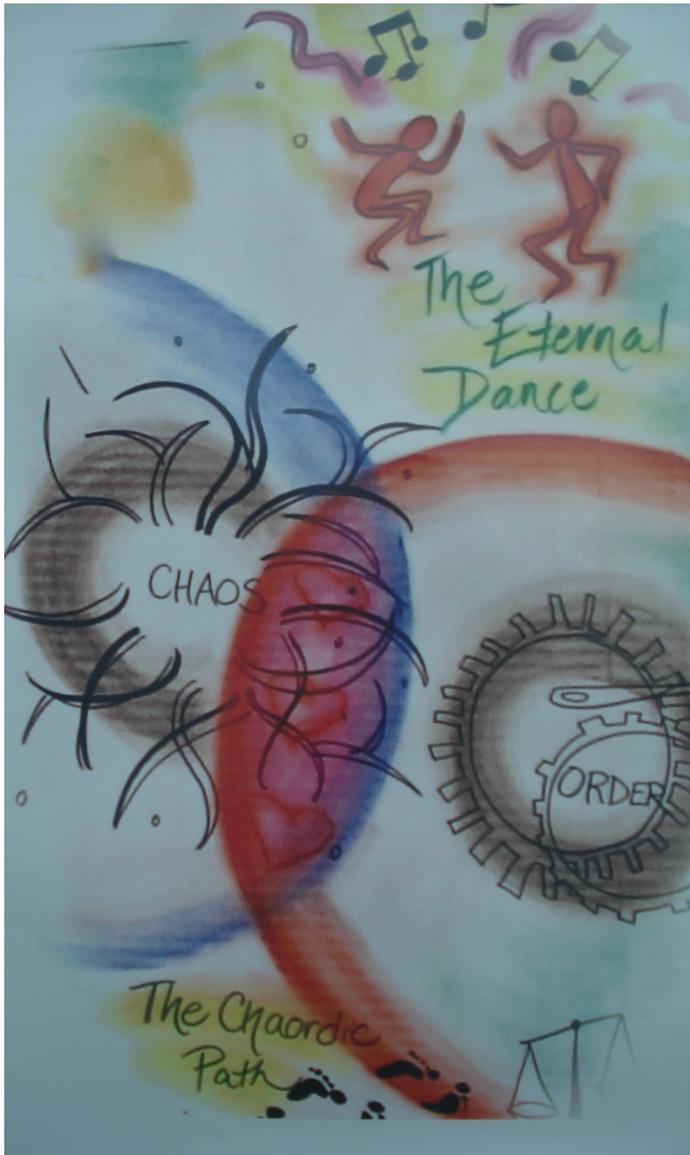
## Fostering Conditions for Social Innovation & Community Engagement

We live and work in increasingly complex times. The Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter is a set of **patterns and practices** for addressing **complexity**. It asks us to be **curious** and nonjudgemental and invites **generosity** of spirit and actions. It believes **conversation matters** and that good conversation leads to **wise action** generating different results.

**Social Innovation** is the generation of new ideas that work to resolve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges for the benefit of people and planet. True Social Innovation is **systems changing**. We can't do it alone.

A **new** set of **leadership skills** is being cultivated. Skills that tune into and are **responsive** to **ambiguity** and **emergent circumstances**, that foster **generative conversations** where perspectives can collide to spark new ways of thinking. Skills that invite **engagement** in whole new ways - in our communities, systems, organizations and teams. tapping into **collective wisdom**, knowledge and intelligence inherent in any group, any system, any community.

*What happens when we grow our courage and resilience in working with the status quo that says it wants to change but doesn't seem to know how?*



“Look for small steps of things you can do with people with whom you traditionally would never have cooperated - and do something useful, no matter how small.”

Peter Senge



## Three Days - Not for Spectators

### What is it?

This three day intensive is designed for you to experience and learn simple yet powerful processes that build community, activate collective intelligence, foster individual and collaborative leadership practices, tap into the inspiration and collective brainpower of your teams and stakeholders, sparking and sustaining imagination to drive innovative thinking and foster high value output.

### Who Should Come?

Forward thinking leaders, other innovators, organizational and community leaders who are seeking higher impact ways to engage, inspire and activate innovation and business value within their teams and stakeholders. Come prepared to step in, step up and practice.

### What to Bring?

Bring your key issues, challenges, existing and emerging projects, provocative questions. The stuff you are working on now - or want to begin soon. Bring your team, a colleague, a sparring partner, an ally. You will gain a common language, frame of reference to support each other and fuel your courage.

## your hosting team:

We are particularly inspired by the power of true collaboration, the strategic impact of leadership that leverages networks and relationships for innovation, engagement and wise sustainable action. We are involved in collaborative contexts locally and around the world.



**Kathy Jourdain** is passionate about co-creative leadership and creating the conditions to help shift the shape of our work at a time it is most needed in the world. She is a steward and practitioner of the Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter and is recognized for her prolific writing (<http://shapeshiftstrategies.wordpress.com/>) on what she is learning as she co-hosts on training and consulting teams in Canada, Brazil and the United States. As a process artist, she sees AoH as a metaphor for the longing in the world to be in relationship together. She has recently published her first book: *Embracing the Stranger in Me: A Journey to Openheartedness*.

## AOH - A SET OF PATTERNS AND PRACTICES THAT INVITE US TO SHOW UP HUMAN TO HUMAN, WORKING ACROSS IMAGINED AND REAL BOUNDARIES TO DO GOOD, MEANINGFUL WORK TOGETHER

### Frameworks we explore:

- World View
- Living Systems
- Four Fold Practice
- Divergence-Emergence-Convergence
- Chaordic Path
- Theory U
- 2 Loops of System Change

### Approaches we use:

- World Cafe
- Open Space Technology
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Circle and Dialog
- Chaordic Stepping Stones

### What emerges:

- Deep learning
- Powerful questions
- Engaging strategies
- Bold action
- Local Allies
- Courage and inspiration
- Emerging frameworks
- Imagination
- Community
- Engagement



**Jerry Nagel** believes strongly that participatory leadership and dialogue processes create communities and organizations where people are treated with respect and where there is an opportunity for all voices to be present and to be heard. These processes bring forth the knowledge, wisdom and leadership capacity that is within each of us, our organizations, and our communities. Jerry is deeply committed to hosting meaningful conversations around many of our most difficult issues, including race, gender, age, sexual orientation and political and economic power.



**Dave Elliis** is a Principal Consultant at Three E Consulting, a group dedicated to using Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter for strategic planning and community engagement. He has hosted discussions with groups ranging from 10 to 800 participants on topics from strategic planning for communities and nonprofits to community engagement with state and other agencies. Dave was a Community Impact Partnership Manager at Greater Twin Cities United Way for over 5 years, and an employee with the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) who retired after 20+ years of service. He now facilitates community and agency strategic planning sessions.



**Barbara (Bob-e) Simpson-Epps** has spent a lifetime working to enhance the operations and effectiveness of organizations in both the public and private sectors. Deeply committed to strong, healthy and resilient communities, she has used her expertise to build and sustain diverse environments. Bob-e is a recent Bush Fellow and plans to engage others in creating a system-wide, community-based and culturally-specific approach to address trauma- and stress-induced health issues in the lives of African American and American Indian children and families using the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) and brain research.

# Logistics

## Location

Center for Families  
333 4th Street North, Minneapolis, MN 55412

## Dates and Times

September 16-18, 2013  
Registration begins at 8:00 am on the first morning. You are invited to arrive early each day for a 9:00 am start time. We will end each day at 5:00. Morning coffee and lunch are provided.

## Registration

Go to <http://meadowlark.co/> to register online.

Space tends to fill quickly. Registration is not confirmed until payment is received.  
Registration Deadline: September 6, 2013

## Your Investment

Registration Fee: \$ 525.00

Includes morning coffee or tea, lunch and a resource book.



“Leadership in complexity requires different skills than traditional models of leadership. It requires us to think of leadership as inquiry, and this in turn means that we need to think much more critically about the kinds of questions that we ask. It may not be the answers that need changing, but the questions.”  
Brenda Zimmerman



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September 16-18, 2013 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

For more information contact:

Jerry Nagel at [Jerry@Meadowlark.co](mailto:Jerry@Meadowlark.co)

- or -

Dave Ellis at [wdellis1951@yahoo.com](mailto:wdellis1951@yahoo.com)

**What can we do together that we can't do alone?  
What begins to shift and change when we engage people fully?  
What more in me needs to show up to make that possible?**