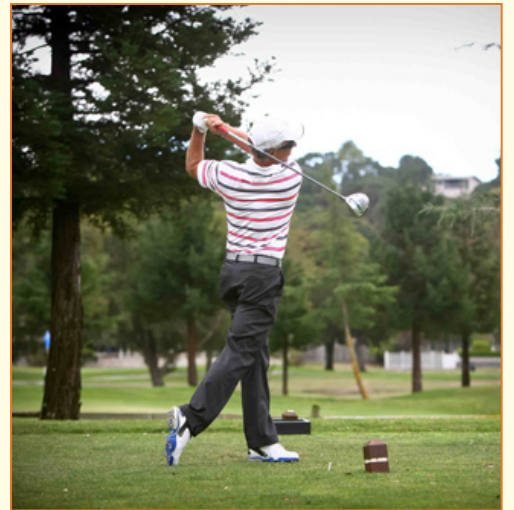


## Shivas Irons President Emeritus, Steve Cohen, Applauds ITPI & the Golf in the Kingdom Marathon Fundraiser

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your generous invitation and providing me the opportunity to participate in your recent ITPI fundraising event, the Golf in the Kingdom Marathon, at Peacock Gap Golf Club. It was truly a delightful and memorable day, and I was happy that I could be there and share such a positive experience with several other members of the Shivas Irons Society (SIS). It is not surprising that a golf event hosted by an organization like ITPI, which is working for the realization of the full human potential of body, mind, heart and soul would engender among the participants not only a strong sense of unity and camaraderie, but the true spirit of the larger community to which we all belong.



I especially appreciate the focus on the aspects of both learning and fun, with the learning exemplified by Bobby Clampett's excellent Impact Zone workshop that included the active participation of Champion Tour Players Steve Pate and Gary Hallberg. While I watched these remarkable athletes demonstrate their skill and mastery of the seemingly simple act of striking a golf ball with such a high degree of perfection and listened to them speak of the lifelong commitment and dedication to practice that got them there, it was easy for me to imagine George Leonard (who I'm pretty sure never attempted to play golf) standing tall and straight at the rear of the assembled crowd, his arms crossed, with his head held high and a knowing nod and appreciative smile on his face as he enjoyed this living demonstration of the principles of Mastery to which he was so dedicated.

Regarding the aspect of having fun, I especially appreciate that you created a golf format that places enjoyment and the joy of play and creativity well above the importance of "score." If there is one principle that any golf event that is inspired by *Golf in the Kingdom* must incorporate, it is Shivas Irons' exhortation, "*Tae enjoy yersel', tha's the thing, and beware the quicksands o' perfection.*"

How pleasantly appropriate it was that the only member of my foursome who was not present in body during the golf tourney won a prize for describing a putt he made in spirit form. So, be it "subtle energy" or not, I again sense the presence of George Leonard, this time with his concept of "New Games" and "Creative Play" from *The Ultimate Athlete*, which, by the way, is the context in which I first heard of George, 40 years ago when I was teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the South Bronx.

I was deeply touched to be included with my dear friend Glen Albaugh by Michael Murphy in his presentation of the Most Integral Player Award. My friendship with Glen and Michael goes back a long way. Both have been important mentors and significant supporters of my efforts as founder of The Shivas Irons Society as well as in keeping the organization effective in fulfilling its mission to provide "opportunities for community, discovery and transformation through golf." (For more information on SIS, please go to [shivas.org](http://shivas.org).)

In reminiscing on these relationships, I have surprisingly been brought to reflecting on my current and ever-changing path and how significant Michael and George have been in shaping it. When I first arrived at Esalen Institute in 1977, the very first "new age" workshop I took was George's Samurai Game. It took place over two days and at that time, they were the two most important days of my life.

The details are lost in memory, but the awareness that there was an entire world of possibilities, both internal and external, opened up and remains as if it were yesterday. I reached the first of many crossroads and explorations of consciousness. I am still exploring the path. Now all I have to do is figure out what the responsibilities are of being the Most Integral Player.

Receiving the award and high praise from Mike is even more meaningful than I realized in the moment. I feel there is a special connection between our organizations and I look forward to exploring further avenues of mutual support.

Warm regards,

Steve Cohen

President Emeritus, The Shivas Irons Society