

Leadership Transformed

Exploring the Practice of Social Action

by Pam Kramer, ITPI President

Excitement is mounting as we plan for **Leadership Transformed 2014**, our retreat with Greenheart International that takes place May 30 – June 2nd in downtown Chicago. The theme, *Exploring the Practice of Social Action*, is near and dear to my heart. At last year's retreat at Asilomar, we focused on leadership from the inside out by aligning our actions in the world with our soul's purpose. We had a fabulous time intermingling our diverse, intergenerational groups while upping our inner leadership game.

Our retreat in May, held at Loyola University's downtown campus, is focused on how to bring a spirit of peace and inclusion into our communications as leaders – with self, others, the world. This is where the exploration of peace-seeking communications and Integral Transformative Practice's (ITP) staying current practice come into play.

The pressing challenge humanity faces, I believe, is linked to communication barriers that prevent us from moving forward as a global society. The struggle often comes from imagining we need to be right. There are more harmonious ways to create pathways for inclusion, for inquiry and shared understanding. We will explore these themes and learn new integral practices for creating awareness around old patterns that thwart peaceful communications.

In Emanuel Kuntzleman of Greenheart's recent blog, he suggested the strategy of checking in with oneself. He writes, "Is my tone compassionate and welcoming?" and goes on to say, "My suggestion is to make a conscious effort to recognize the subconscious neural patterns that keep us locked into our old behaviors, and start working to override this habitual way of thinking and reacting. We need to start reprogramming the human psyche, and orient it toward peace. This starts on the day-to-day level. Peace-seeking communication begins with self, with family and friends and moves outward."

As with all our retreats, movement, meditation and play take center stage. We will interweave Leonard Energy Training (LET) and Improv practices into the mix (Second City's Rachel Hamilton will be there) to help us blend, empathize and skillfully relate to others. Penney Peirce, the popular author on intuition and skillful perception, will provide a context for using our untapped potential to increase our capacity to connect and see possibilities for engaging peacefully with others. Social change visionaries will shed light on how they've created successful ventures infused with transformative principles of peace and healing. Along with deep inquiry and learning harmony-based communications practices, we will create individual action plans for sharing our practice of social action in the world.

Our Saturday night festivities include a banquet dinner followed by Taz Rashid's Club Divine where we'll once again take to the dance floor to celebrate our journey of being alive together – in Chicago! Come join us there.

