

An Inspiration — Imagine Global Community

By Sally Mahe,
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Well, where are those “hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer?” Do any of us feel a laziness and spaciousness these days? With so many fires blazing in California, maybe most of us can claim only “the hazy days.” With so much danger and mayhem in the world, maybe “lazy days” are gone forever and we are stuck with just “crazy days.” Maybe we need to figure out how to find enlivening spaciousness and joyful creativity no matter what.

My encouragement in these not so “lazy days” is for us to nurture spaciousness inside ourselves in any climate, condition or season of the year. Spaciousness is vital for creativity and inspiration. A wise friend told me that so many new thoughts, ideas, possibilities and dreams fail to land inside of us because they don’t find in us surfaces in which to live. Our whole selves (body, mind, heart, soul) are simply too full and busy to open up space for new stuff. Spaciousness, reverie, lollygagging, daydreaming all increase the planes inside of us where inspirations and visions and ideas can land and be nurtured. How do you create open spaces inside yourself for new ideas and inspirations to land?



One way I create space for creative possibilities to stick and get nurtured is by taking time to be with my journal. Sometimes I write and sometimes I re-read past and current entries. Sometimes as I write, I look out the window. I take in new blossoms on the deck and the feel of the morning air. I re-read my own words and quotations and insights of people I admire that I have recorded there. I listen and look for themes coming through. One vision that keeps captivating me is the reality of living as a global community on planet earth and the ability of people to create it. I take refuge in Marianne Williamson’s words:

Playing small does not serve the world...we were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.

The vision is that humanity experiences a new definition of community, one that is not traditional, i.e. people who are more or less alike, living in relative proximity to one another, with similar wants and needs; but rather, a community made up of people who are different and diverse in culture, styles, histories, beliefs, economics, geographic location, needs and wants. Imagine a definition of ‘community’ that speaks about diverse people, spread across the globe, aligned in common purpose, adhering to principles, such as, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Imagine people from Los Angeles to Lombok, caring about the well-being and betterment of each other. Imagine old and young, rich and poor, all colors and cultures who feel a sense of connection and who know they are

part of a global collective identity that provides for the needs of all creation. Imagine governing bodies who take their authority from these people? Vaclav Havel envisioned people acting in such a way, and called it *planetary democracy*.

Planetary democracy does not yet exist but our global civilization is already preparing a place for it. It is the very Earth we inhabit, linked with Heaven above us. Only in this setting can the mutuality and the commonality of the human race be newly created with reverence and gratitude for that which transcends each of us all of us together.

Impossible – perhaps, but that is the allurement.

I'm inspired by a friend, Audri Scott Williams, who organized a "Trail of Dreams," a world peace walk on six continents, several years ago. She writes:

We were Muslim, Christian and Indigenous. We were racially mixed, ages 4 to 84. My mother was in a wheelchair. We were straight. We were gay. We had to blend these differences in a way that allowed us to become family centered in a shared vision of peace and transformation. In preparation, we decided that when we reach a point of fear or overwhelm in relationship to "difference" as we walked for peace, remember to stop and drop – from the head to the heart, and feel our way through the experience.

Honestly, this entire experience never should have happened, yet our shared vision that, "we could change and transform the world – beginning with ourselves" was so naively huge – so huge, that we were unstoppable. We could not see outside of this possibility. So one step at a time we showed up to what showed up!

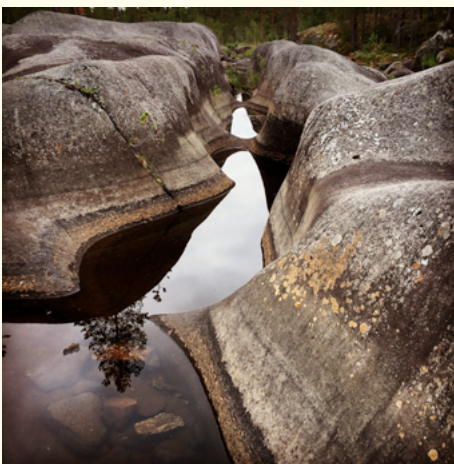
"Our vision was so huge, that we were unstoppable"

Why not have visions so huge...that they feel unstoppable!!

Encouraged by friends like Audri, and given times of reverie and spaciousness, inspiration is ignited in me again and again. One inspired action is to launch a worldwide inquiry engaging people in their ideas and vision for a global community. I would use Appreciative Inquiry (a popular methodology for positive change). The philosophy holds that rather than looking at deficits (what is wrong that

needs fixing) appreciative inquiry engages people in conversation about the strengths they already experience in community in the context they are in; and, inquires about what values and talents they have to bring to this endeavor right now. Other questions would invite people to dream, to draw, to envision their picture of a global community – a community with the power to transform humanity and provide a world that works for all. The theory says, as we inquire, so we go forward.

Appreciative Inquiry is rooted in the simple and profound act of appreciation, a life giving human action that evokes and recognizes the good in people, all kinds of people. In one to one interviews,



partners interview each other. People are invited to give the gift of listening. Responses can be gathered and illuminated with graphic imagery and shared widely. Appreciative Inquiry is rooted in humility – no one knows the one and only answer. Everyone is seeking, respecting divergent views and values. Who knows where such an inclusive, appreciative, humble yet bold inquiry might lead?

As we advance our capacity for face to face connection via ZOOM technology (and whatever other amazing tech tools get invented); as networks of like-minded souls find each other and help each other; as we experience the joys of friendships that cross culture, economic, religious and language barriers, the coming of a worldwide, cooperative, joyful and effective global community is not such a wild and far off vision. Recently, in my ITP community, I've experienced the trust and easy friendships that emerge in the ITPI Global Dojo with face to face calls. Given the clear purpose and the thoughtful “container” of ITP practices and principles that these calls offer, people seem to feel easily at home and connected in community no matter what continent they live on.

In the context of ITP's belief in transformative leadership, in pursuit of evolutionary love, and in keeping with the words of George Leonard, that, *like the human heart, the world points beyond itself to something greater and more beautiful than its present condition*, creating global community is part of who we are being and becoming – it is an expression of extraordinary human functioning.

Impossible? Let's do it!