

The Sedona Summit: *Exploring Synchronized Energies*

by Shoshana Stadtler, ITPI Programs Manager and Operations Manager

Emanuel Kuntzelman, president of our sister organization, Greenheart International, invited a group of people representing select organizations to a retreat last November to discuss how we could come together to transform the planet.

The four organizations that were invited to participate were Greenheart, ITP International (ITPI), The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) and the Theosophical Society in America. Pam Kramer, Barry Robbins, Christina and Jim Grote, Rich Sigberman and I represented ITPI. I felt a little bit in over my head, to be honest, but I was curious to see what this group of leaders could produce when given such a hefty task.



The schedule for the weekend included visits to energy vortexes around the Sedona area, hikes to see incredible views of the red rocks and many meeting sessions. What happened next, though, was very interesting...

We started out by visiting the Hopi Hot Spot, an energy vortex, where we commenced the retreat with a meditation, greetings and a sage cleansing. As we piled back into our cars, we found ourselves in a storm. In over a decade, there hadn't been rain like this in Sedona. It seemed that the heavens had other plans for this group, since playing outdoors all weekend wasn't going to be an option.

We met in a beautiful, cozy space that was full of musical instruments, a working fireplace and comfy pillows and couches. Since the rain was threatening to keep us indoors, we made the best of it with energized conversations about what we, as a collaborative, could offer to the planet to make it a better place. Although we had different ideas, we also shared many common ones, and we built on those. We created a list of qualities and changes that we would want to see in a world transformed. Then we developed ideas of how we could come together to create an opening for these changes to take place. Finally, we came up with a list of shared visions, ways we could work together and ideas for new ventures into transformative leadership and a shift in the way we view the world.



I wasn't the only person there under the age of 40. Alan Pierce from IONS, and Jill Robinson and Andrea Dennis from Greenheart rounded out the younger generation of leaders. We also had Taz Rashid from Club Divine in Chicago, who brought a music and dance perspective to the group. (That's something I can really get behind.) The age gap made for interesting group dynamics. There was a lot of discussion about how we, as young leaders, could implement these changes by using social networking and other tools of the younger generation.



We talked about a consciousness festival, a Burning Man camp, conferences and other gatherings. The conversations proved to be very energizing and exciting, and sometimes even got away from us a little. With so many strong opinions in the room, I found that this meeting of the minds was also a practice ground. We all had to practice patience, blending, listening and being open-minded and open-hearted to produce good results.

There were breaks in the rain when we were able to visit another energy vortex, go on a short hike and see more of Sedona. It's such a beautiful and inspirational setting, and the energy from the land seemed to charge up our retreat.

I left feeling that I had a new community, connections around the country with like-minded individuals and a deeper bond with my friends at Greenheart. It's exciting to imagine what we're capable of when we come together with a common goal and work together to make a difference. I'm looking forward to our second annual Leadership Transformed Retreat with Greenheart in Chicago this May. Members from all of the organizations involved in the Sedona Summit will be joining us. It will be so much fun to be together again!

I feel so grateful for being included in this retreat, and I can't wait to see what happens next

[Video Slideshow](#) by Lori Fleming (who photographed and recorded the retreat):

[Photo Album](#)