Day 2 – What Now?

Websites that were shared by participants:
www.initiativeofchange.com
www.interculturalacademy.org
www.du.edu/con-res/center/conferences.html
otherbeyondrealmen.blogspot.com

Recognitions:

Linda Hartling: Thanks to the moderators, presenters and notetakers. We co-created and shared ideas together.

Evelin Lindner: What makes sacrifice part of more normal life, experiencing your presence. To connect and find common ground, even though we have extremely different backgrounds and hold different views. We share suffering, trauma, anger, shame, humiliation and hope that we want to do something – a fire, passion for change. Connecting with this passion makes me work for the rest of the year. I’m now becoming tired. The network is growing beyond me, and I need help. If someone could help me several hours a day, please let me know. Someone who shares this love and wouldn’t do it just for money but a shared fulfillment. I would mentor this person.

I have a deep and profound dedication and devotion to connecting over gaps, rifts, deep divisions, connecting, reaching out, trying to get common ground, to be part of one human family, even though we have so many grudges, traumas, rifts, and I recognize them and try to connect over them. I appreciate you and get strength from you.

I want to walk my talk, I want to be a facilitator and an authentic human being, with all my faults and limitations. I don’t want to stand in front of the mirror while the Titanic goes down.

I humiliated several people yesterday, and I will apologize. I introduced the What Now? session yesterday wrongly and not everyone has been a part of it. Let’s look at whether we can help Arye with measuring humiliation and his project. One cannot focus on everything at every moment. Who here is wanting to help Arye with that?

Arye Rattner: Thank you, Evelin, for taking this approach, though it is not necessary. I envision a contact, empirical approach, maybe even a quantitative approach introduced into all the other work being done here. Listening for two days has made me excited. It’s given me ideas to build some measures. I’m leaving with a wonderful experience. I did have some expectations to see how we can connect. Social justice (one project already), in Chile, one Central American country – a long and difficult way to think about all the issues. How can we construct modules (or other methods) to measure humiliation?

Sara Cobb: We have 100 brilliant doctoral students, and Arye could make a presentation to them.

It’s time to rotate, bring in other leadership. Everyone wants Evelin to be well. Advisory committee could spread duties and roles, have other voices.
Evelin Lindner: This is a process. I was not prepared for the network to flourish as it has. I’m at my limits. I’m thinking through how it could be different, and what this would look like. How do we find help? We’ve been discussing it for several months, trying to find ways. There’s primacy in organic growth, the seeker and searcher, to open up spaces and give to planners to administrate spaces that have been opened up. I want to stay afloat of opening spaces, but I cannot do the planning. We need people to do the planning. The financial side: fundraising, scholarship, a research program…

Don Klein: I’m very excited to see this beginning to be operational, to develop it.

Final thoughts from assorted participants:

- Richness of human contact
- Vocabulary, filled with ideas
- Energy – tendency is to want to organize, what is the right balance of spontaneity of network and structure so that certain things move on?
- Forgiveness stories
- Spiritual belonging, optimism
- Gratitude for introduction to this community – hope for the future
- Humility – especially after forgiveness session
- Connectedness felt with group – wonderful rain in the desert
- Peace comes from opening yourself up. Demonstration for how this is possible
- Difference between the dynamics of shame and guilt
- Many interesting emails to read next week
- Somewhat lonely work we do – intellectual work and practice – good to be in company of people active in this work
- Encouraged to find home where three in life included: soulfulness, spirit connection, wonder
- Found the “stew” extremely nourishing
- Emotional, intellectual, political – important set of dimensions reached in discussion
- A few more baby steps in understanding own shame, humiliation and dignity

Evelin Lindner: I have hope for our work and hope for the world. Like after a hurricane… I always like to make the point that this is what we have to concentrate on first, otherwise there is no shared work. All debates are not taking place if we do not connect. Connecting first is embedding the device of debates within this connection. Thank you for being part of that. We have a tendency to object and build barriers. There’s passion to go over barriers and put the connection first. Embed.

Thank you everyone for doing this hard work. We’re going to step over the barrier first. We’re doing work that is invisible. Welcome to China in April, and New York in the summer of next year.

It’s the strong identification with the other and their humanness.