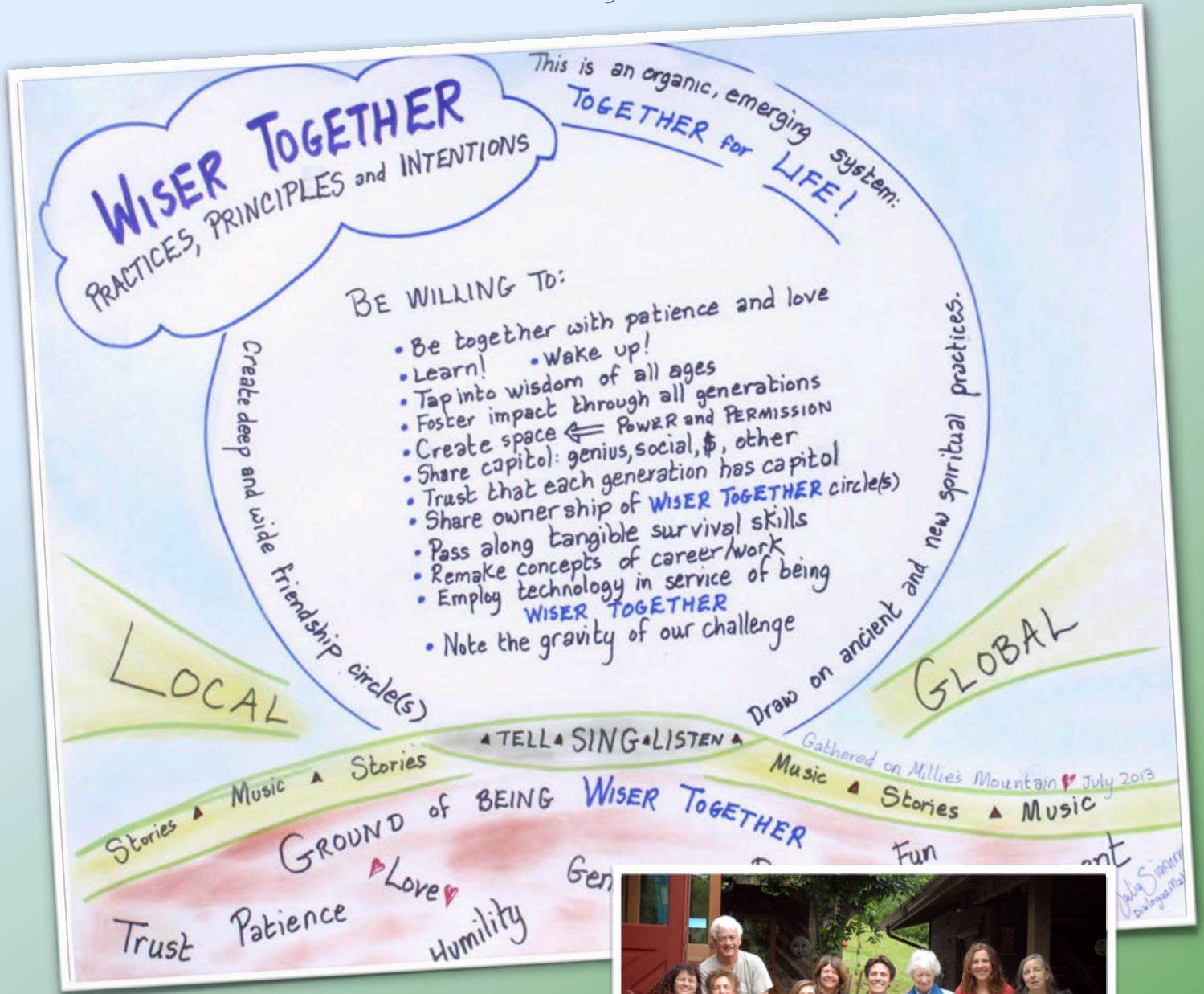


WiserTogetherGathering

BurnsvilleNC July 2013



AmyLenzo, AnneDoshier,
AshleyCooper, CherineBadawi,
DavidIsaacs, GinaMaira,
JoshuaGorman, JoyBoothe,
JuanitaBrown, JuliaSimmons, KerriganMcCarthy,
MatthewAbrams, MaureenMcCarthy, PatriciaParker, ZelleNelson

Contact info on last page.

Gathering Invitation

Hello ~

You are warmly invited to join us for "Wiser Together: A Small & Intimate Gathering."

We are convening a group of friends and colleagues near Asheville, NC from July 15 - 19 in service to Wiser Together - an emerging meme and field around multi-generational conversation, community, and collaboration.

During our time together at Millie's Mountain (David & Juanita's place), we will enjoy story sharing, slow food, deep inquiry, play and creative expression. The core intentions we are holding for this gathering are to:

- Initiate a multi-generational community of practice working for a more thriving, just, and sustainable world
- Uncover and articulate the essence of the Wiser Together meme, building on what's been done so far in this area
- Inquire into ways to spread this meme and field of practice in small and big ways
- Explore and design a Wiser Together collaborative social enterprise that can support itself and serve all of our initiatives
- Determine the human capital and commitment in our group & networks to manifest that which is designed
- Walk away with joy, clarity, and ease about what has life and is ready to move in this realm

We hope you'll be able to join us for this intimate time together!
with gratitude & in partnership,

*Juanita Brown, David Isaacs, Cherine Badawi, Joshua Gorman,
Ashley Cooper, and Matthew Abrams*



Criteria for Invitees

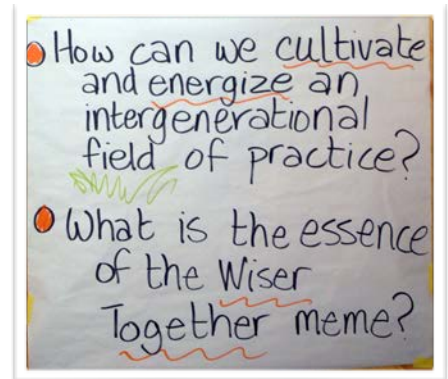
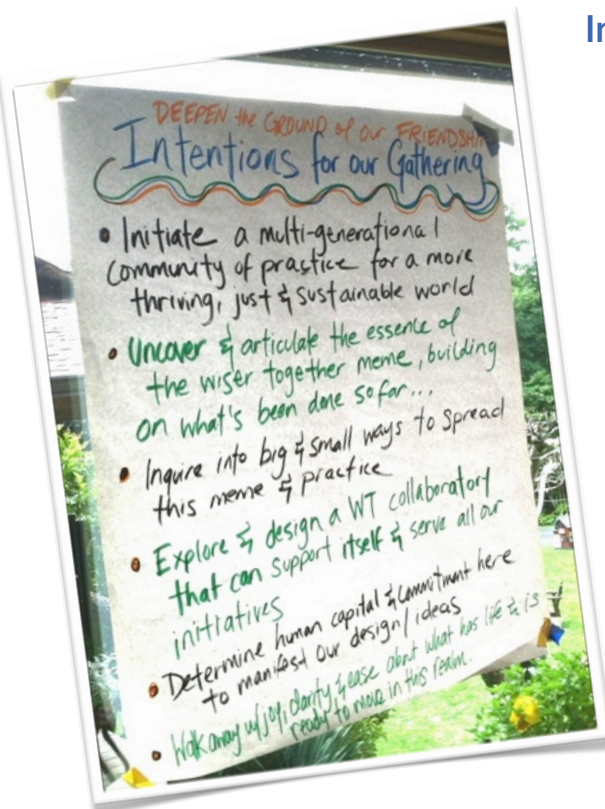
- That they have a real passion for the multi-gen space in their lives and work.
- We'd love to spend the rest of our lives in dear friendship with this person---and share the spirit of beloved community together.--and even if nothing "visible" happens as a result of the gathering (impossible to imagine!) we'd have loved spending nourishing time
- People are coming not only because X invited them and we want to be together--but also to the specific invitation/intention above.
- That a significant number of those coming have "outreach networks" where whatever we discover can ripple out in an organic and natural way.
- That some number come from the local area of Asheville & Burnsville (so we can follow up here locally)

Our MultiGen Players



Intentions for Our Gathering

- Initiate a multigenerational community of practice for a more thriving, just and sustainable world.
- Uncover and articulate the essence of the wiser together meme, building on what's been done so far.
- Inquire into big and small ways to spread this meme and practice.
- Explore and design a WiserTogether collaboratory that can support itself and serve all our initiatives.
- Determine human capital and commitment here to manifest our designs and ideas.
- Walk away with joy, clarity and ease about what has life and is ready to move into this realm.



Creating Our Collaboration Document

The Blueprint of WE

Each WiserTogether participant wrote a bit about themselves:

- why we're drawn to this opportunity and these people at this time
- who we are and how we work best
- our expectations and values
- and some questions to return us to center if needed

Then we read one another's Blueprint of ME to create greater Collaborative Awareness, co-creativity and trust.

THE BLUEPRINT OF WE
DESIGNING & BUILDING THE STATE OF GRACE DOCUMENT

Laying the Foundation for our Blueprint of WE:
Create a Collaboration Document for your work together.

The time you invest in creating a Blueprint of WE Collaboration Document exponentially increases creativity and resilience in your relationships. Even writing in each of the 5 Components below for 20 minutes offers a wealth of information for the people with whom you interact. Once you get going, use one of our full Quick Start Guides (blueprintofwe.com/qsg) to enrich and complete your Document. Ultimately, this is a living, breathing, changing Document, so you will be adding and updating as your relationship evolves.

STEP 1: Take 15-20 minutes to write just a bit of an answer for each question.
Don't go in-depth, just answer at least 1 question in each of the 5 Components below.

1. Story of Us
What draws you to these people and this situation.

1. Make a quick list of reasons why you choose to collaborate with others.
2. Why are you drawn to this opportunity to bring life to multi-generational collaboration?

2. Interaction Styles and Warning Signs
Who you are. How you work best.

Interaction Styles:

1. In your life/work, what do you look like on your best day? How do you show up?
2. How would you describe your personality or working style? (Do you like to work independently? Thrive in social settings? Prefer mornings or late nights? etc.)

Warning Signs:

3. Complete these sentences:
 - When things start to feel stressful, I look like this:
(Describe your reactions. Do you go silent? Get more dramatic? etc.)
 - When things start to feel stressful, I need this:
(What might you need that you couldn't possibly ask for in the moment? A short break to clear your head? Someone to ask you "How can I help?" A change of focus? etc.)

3. Expectations
What do we want to custom design together? Our agreements.

1. List the most important qualities/values you want to bring to the table
(Examples: Clarity, Integrity, Passion, Courage, Compassion, Financial stability)
2. What do you really want to explore or accomplish this week??

4. Questions to Return to Peace
Capture your most creative and compassionate selves ahead of time.

If there was stress or a misunderstanding, what questions or reminders centered again? (Examples: What do we need to say to each other that money play a part in this? Is there an expectation that's not being met? self now, while it's easy, and write it down.)

5. Short and Long-Term Agreements
Timeframes for coming back to center, if needed.

- **Short-Term Agreement:** If you have that knot in your stomach or something feels off, how long are you willing to go before addressing the issue? (Examples: 4 hours, 24 hours, 3 days)
- **Long-Term Agreement:** If the unimaginable happens, how long are you willing to go before you find peace in yourself and close the circle of pain? (Examples: 1, 3 or 10 years.)

STEP 2: Collect everyone's pages and merge them together into one collaborative document. (You can type them up into one document.) Now gather people together, in person or by phone, to have a Clarifying Conversation. Ask questions, learn more about one another, and Custom Design your work together. Keep updating your Blueprint over time.

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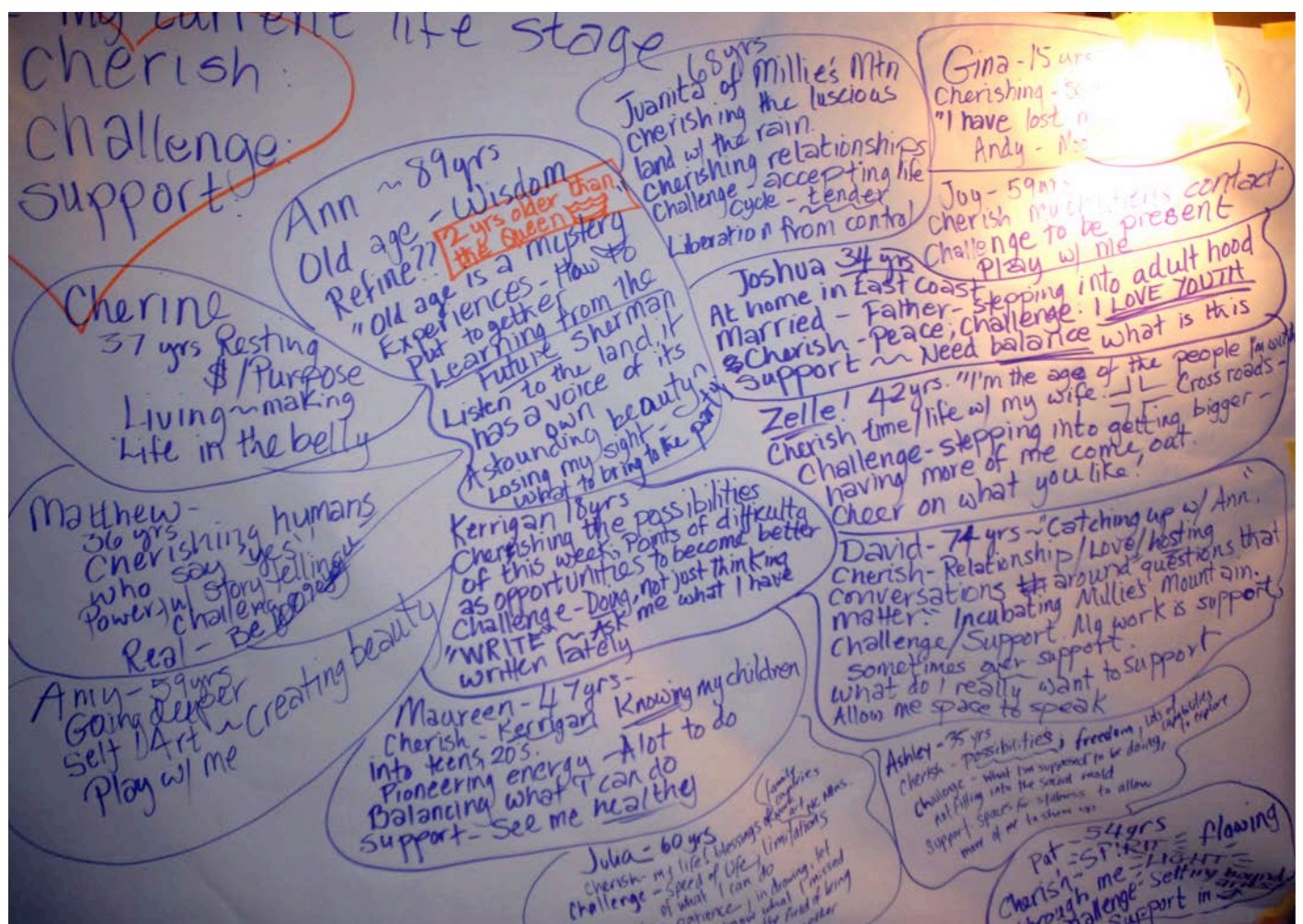
Monday

Opening&Welcome

Opening Circle ~ Each person spoke to:

"At this stage in my life..."

- something I cherish...
- something I'm struggling with...
- a way I'd love to be supported...



HarvestPoem

FromOpeningCircle

Ashley Cooper has a unique way of listening to a group and distilling the essence of what is being said into a remarkable form of poetry. This is the one she created from our opening circle share:

"At this stage in my life...something I cherish. A challenge. And a way to support me."

A deeper resting in who I am
Money, sufficiency, life purpose – How's
this dance go?
Share your stories of pregnancy and
being parented with me...
I'd love to learn about motherhood with
you.

Humans saying YES!!! – to me, my path
and supporting me
How do I tell and inviting story about a
world that doesn't yet exist – and make it
real?
Please be you and be vulnerable and
challenge me too!

A balanced life, a vibrant artist, at the gym
and with a pen.
Creating beauty – playing together

Everyone will age – but I'm of the oldest
age
Old age is a mystery... living all these
years in history –
How do you put it all together? What is
trying to emerge?
Listening to the land
Losing my sight and freedom of
spontaneity on wheels.
What can I bring to the party now... at 2
years older than the queen?!

Lusciousness of the land, nourished by
the rain
The subtlety speaks to me...
Now that I have the time... and
relationships all around
Accepting this cycle of life – life's cycling
– is tender
Help liberate me from my controlling
needs... please.

Learning self-expression – writing,
reading – I like it!
My best friend, dear to me...
I've just lost Moose –
Please be there for me

My sons, many children – I've earned
their respect
They have fun with me – I love it.
Being present, not projecting, accepting
folks for who they are now... can
challenge me
LET'S PLAY – and have such fun
Feeling at home.

Married, an expecting father, stepping
into maturity,
Confidence and comfort – at peace –
peace of being
But the freedom of youth and young
adulthood – I miss you
So now, in this chapter, what is life
balance?
Share your stories and wisdom
I have many homes – I cherish the
possibilities of this week
Something good is cooking!
I cherish points of difficulty – cause I'm
better in the end
Tick tock – setting aside some time to do
Ooh... that's tough
Please ask me, "What did you write about
last night?"
C'mon, for real, ask me!

I am the age of the people I'm with
Cherishing my life... my life with my wife
A crossroads it seems – a calling forth
My voice – our gift – to amplify – step in –
Let it get bigger and bigger
Me of me coming out – cheer me on –
ask for more

You know – I wasn't supposed to live this
long –
To be the mom of these amazing
teenagers –
It's blowing my mind – And I'm here to
live it.

All this passion, all this pioneering energy
– My body can't keep up

See me as me – one of the healthiest
people you'll ever meet.

Three quarters of a century... of LIFE!
And I cherish most the privilege of living
here,
The love of my life, and hosting
conversations around questions that
matter
The nature here is heart and is in my
heart – it's a womb with a view

My leadership is support – but sometimes
I over support
What do I ,
The love of my life, and hosting
conversations around questions that
matter
The nature here is heart and is in my
heart – it's a womb with a view

My leadership is support – but sometimes
I over support
What do I really want to support?
What can I let go of?

Anew age! Woa – the speed at which life
proceeds –
It takes my breath away
Not liking these limitations... but
cherishing my life –
It's amazing, so wonderful, blessings,
family, art, colleagues, and different
countries
Please have patience with me – let's add
and create together –
What do we need to capture in words
and images to support our time?

Feeling the prime fullness of possibilities. I
can do anything...
And yet at this age, the outside world
expects this and that of me
Stillness. Quiet. Reflective time. I heart it –
I want to listen. Ask me what I hear. Ask
me to stop and listen.

Tuesday

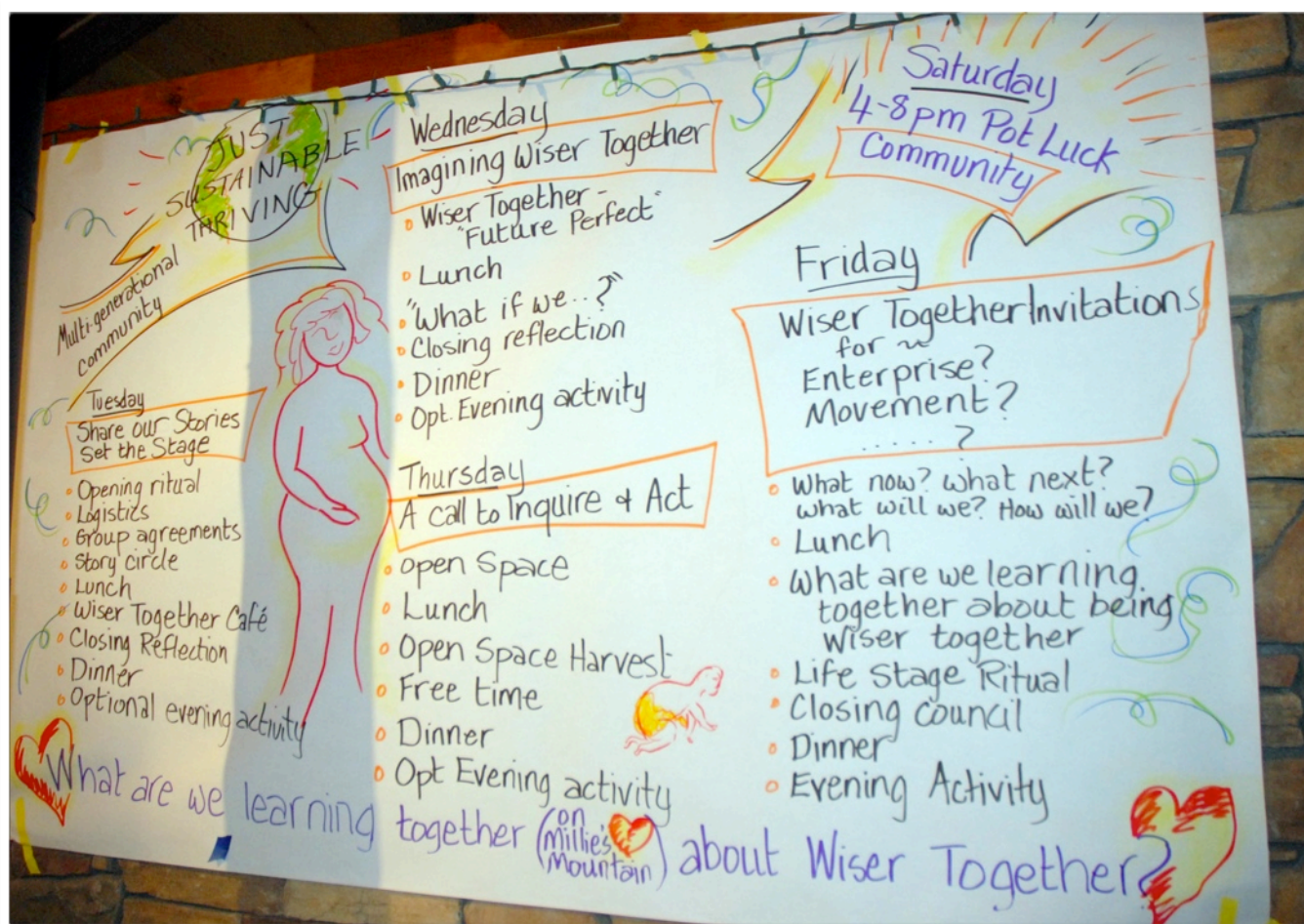
Setting the Stage & Sharing Our Stories

AM

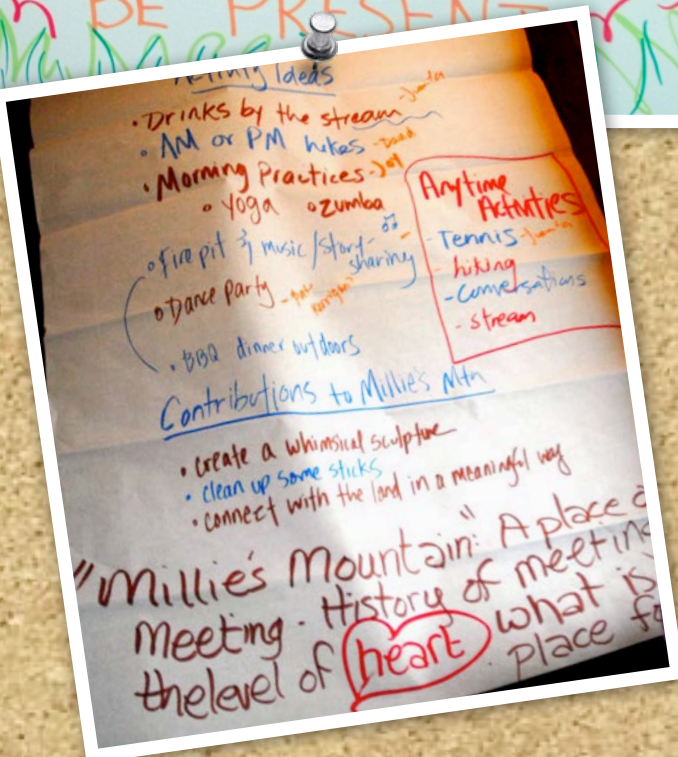
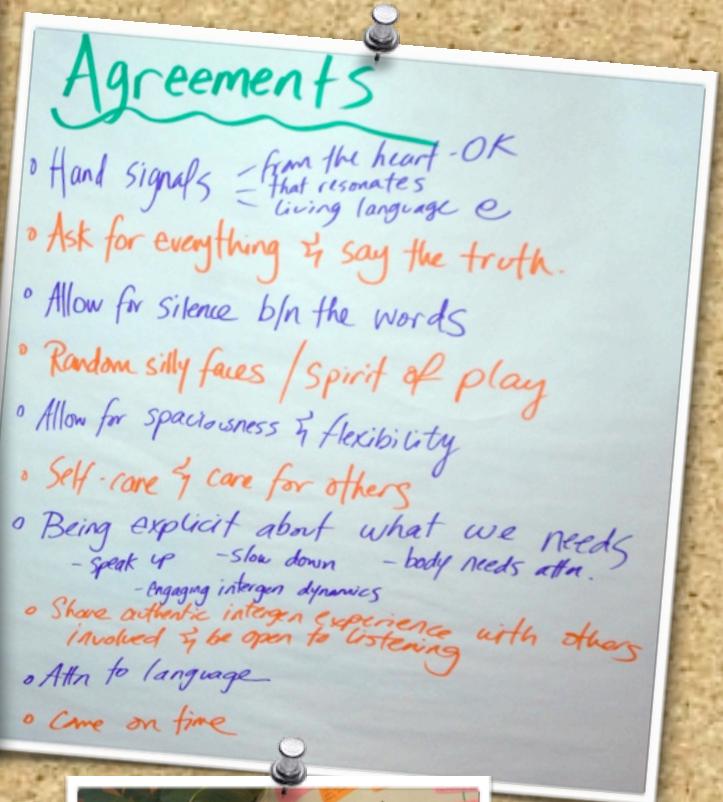
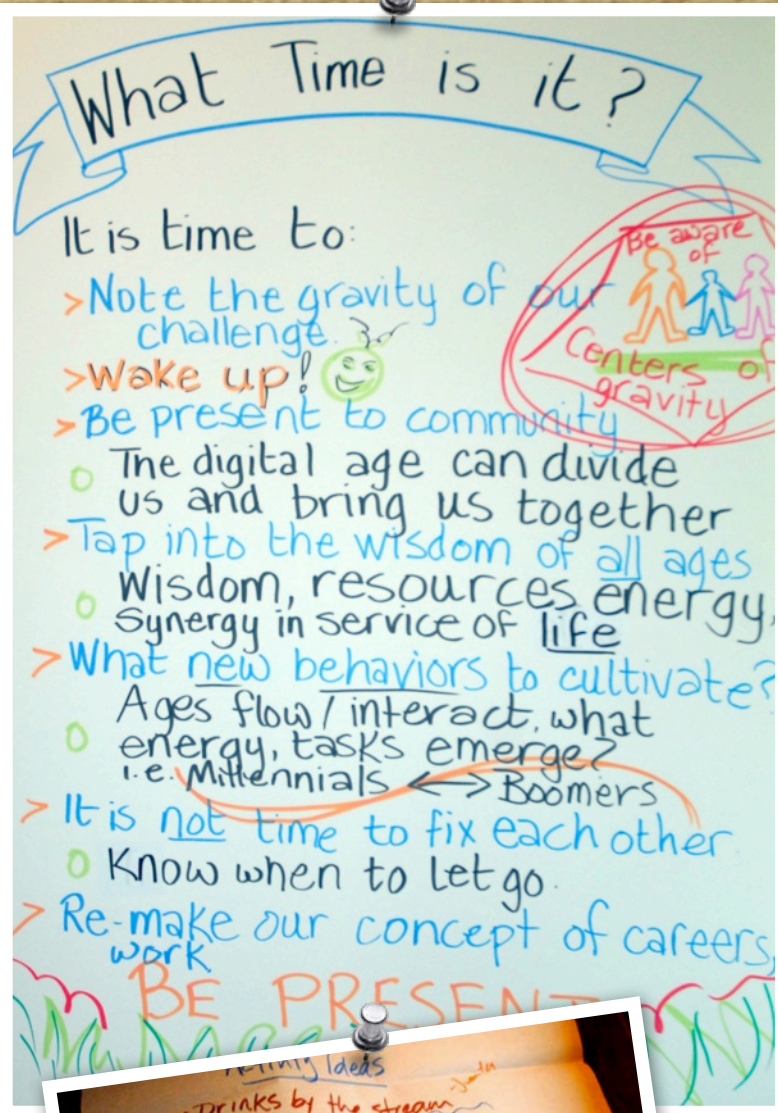
- Opening ritual/ceremony (drum & tobacco pouch intentions)
- Introduction of Facilitation Team + Wiser Together Story
- Logistics
- Group Agreements
- Story sharing circle (window into life story)

PM

- Wiser Together History, Context Setting and Meme exploration
- Wiser Together Cafe
- Share a story about a meaningful intergen relationship
- Reflect on the principles that made it meaningful
- As someone in your life phase, what is a question you would like to pose to other generations
- Mapping the field of Wiser Together - How is it showing up in our personal work & projects?



Setting the Stage



WiserTogetherCafe



WISER TOGETHER PRACTICES & PRINCIPLES

- Story telling > essential hearing
- Youth as objects to partners resources - Created space needed.
- Mutual trust + respect.
- Invitation - IMPORTANT - Dissonance ~ Desire to hear Knowledge across generations
- Patience ~ what is safe "Don't ask me to be the way you want me to be. It can get me killed."
- Practice of doing together w/ patience & love
- Willingness to learn
- Creating space - POWER & PERMISSION
- Desire for wider impact Across generations - We need all of us.
- Holding possibilities w/out Knowing h
- Humility
- Sharing

What does "WISER TOGETHER" Mean to you?

- ★ Personal story that embodies wiser to
- ★ Draw picture or symbol that reflects st
- ★ Share & Listen to deeper connections

WHAT QUESTION, IF YOU COULD EXPLORE IT MORE DEEPLY ACROSS GENERATIONS WOULD HELP MAKE YOUR LIFE & INTERGEN PARTNERSHIPS MORE RICH & REWARDING?

ROUND 2

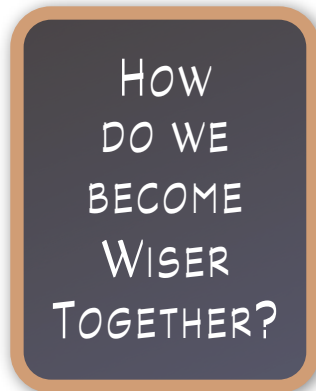
HIGHLIGHTS / MOST ALIVE / MOST TOUCHING FROM ROUND 1?

FROM THE STORIES WHAT CORE ELEMENTS / PRINCIPLES / PRACTICES REFLECT THE ESSENCE OF WISER TOGETHER & BEING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Questions

ForOurselves&Others

- How can I encourage people of other generations to be truly authentic with me in their perceptions and feedback regarding our relationships?
- Asking each other: What do you have to contribute?
- What do we each know/hold/have that could be valuable to the other?
- How might we play together? What would be the most fun for us both?
- What might we do together that we can't do alone?
- What insight would you give yourself (me) at this age (stage)?
- What do we each hold that if we shared, we'd become more whole?
- What are your stereotypes and/or judgements about my generation?
- What is the story of your generation?
- Imagine that dismantling the prison industrial complex or stopping violence depends on our working as partners. What do you need me to do or say to begin our partnership?
- How can we go beyond self-awareness to co-creating collaborative awareness?
- How can we communicate how languaging in living systems expression is essential to generating partnerships and values across generations?
- How can we develop intergenerational living/working/playing spaces? Particularly intergenerational housing.
- What to do when involved in a goal-oriented process or task but the goal orientation doesn't serve the relationships?
- Who's to say this is the way to live?
- Why are we grouped by age, often the least important of similarities?
- Why don't people see that we all need the same things?
- Are you interested in what has touched my heart?
- Do you want to know what I have learned?
- What are you afraid of?
- What do you care about?
- What does partnership look like to you?
- What is your definition of love?



Wednesday

VisioningWiserTogether

AM

- Imagining - Wiser Together
- (Future Perfect, 2016)

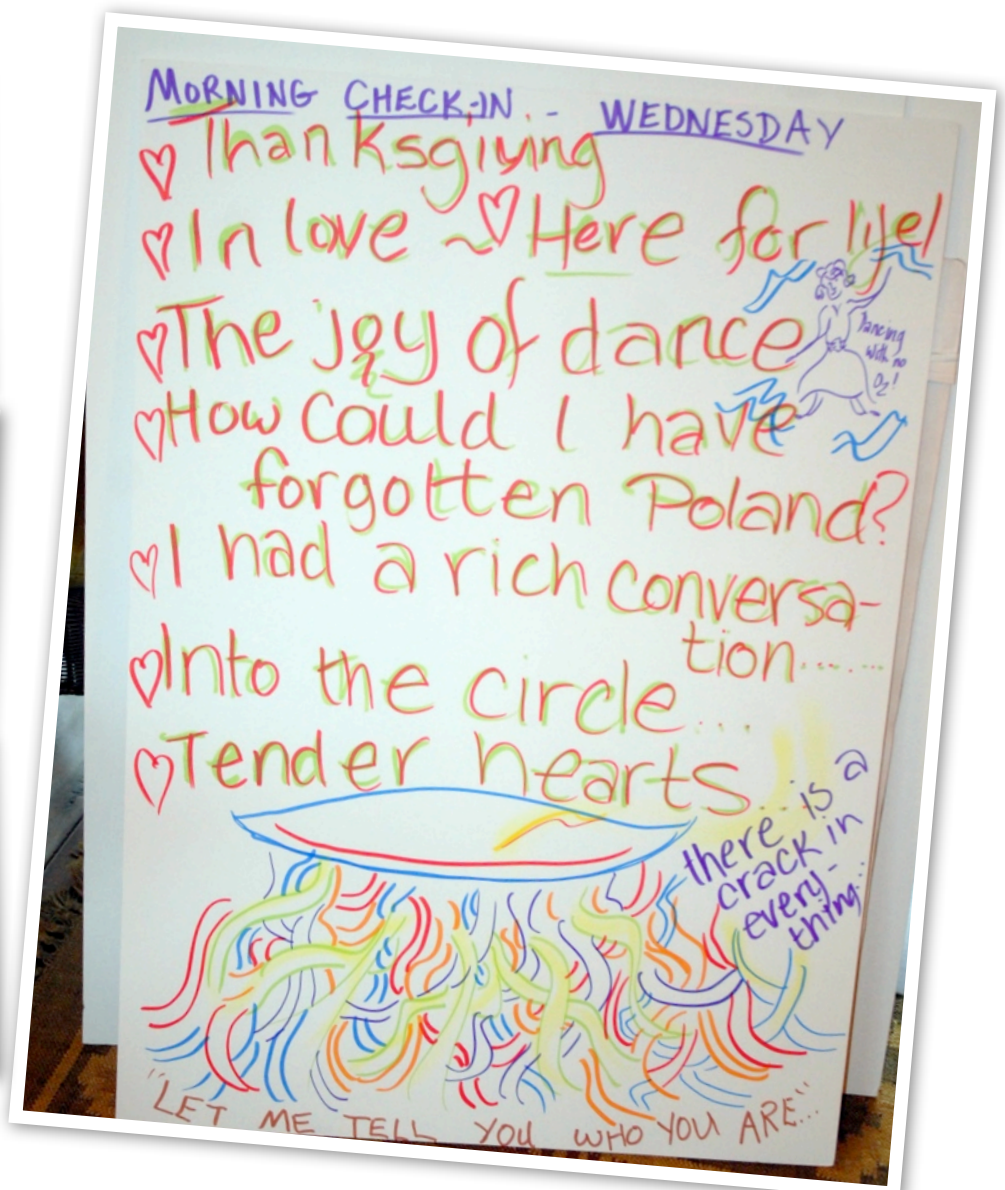


PM

- Creative Expressions of Affinity Project Groups for Possible Future Initiatives
- Strategize intention and process to bring Possible Future Project to fruition

Evening

Generational Song Share and Exchange



Just think....
A huge number of networks incorporate WIT principles!
Latino / Anglo family dance parties!
Churches joined to support intergen. partners!
Parties/shindigs have become the rage!

The new currency is Love!

Collective sense of meaning + significance
about life is shifting...
we are comfortable in our skins
our senses are alive!

It's common to have friends
in all generations!
End of life is not feared!

Youth leadership
is brightening
young voices are empowered

We look vibrant and move with ease and grace
All stages of life are valued—
There are no judgements or assumptions because of age

Living learning circles meet often
Cross generational skills share centers
crafts, story telling, cooking, growing,
technology, leadership

Elder/Preschool Sustainable communities
saturated in my ability to learn

Our social
DATA

Wise Mountain
SHARES
"WISE TOGETHER"
MUSIC FESTIVAL

All because two
people tell in love

WISER

Fruits of Identity
Project
inter-gener-ation
is practiced
Print of
on peoples

A FIELD OF DREAMS
PLANT, NOURISH, WEED.



VisioningWiserTogether



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Thoreau - Building Castles in the sky

Challenges - Building the pillars

① Industries working together

People see how WISER TOGETHER works

Playbook - Open Source

② Multi-Gen Co. products?

What are WISER TOGETHER products?

Multi-Gen Co. products?

ie. School to prison

Sharing Stories & strategies - how did you do that?

Questions

Every Generation must find its cause

What are you called to do?

③ IDEA Identity Development Adventure

Enrichment?

Open Source

How to leverage?

How to destitute?

④ Community focus for

Expand the bee hop!

First dance - Latino

Through 'friend to friend'

Churches got involved

Imagined place - in Town Square

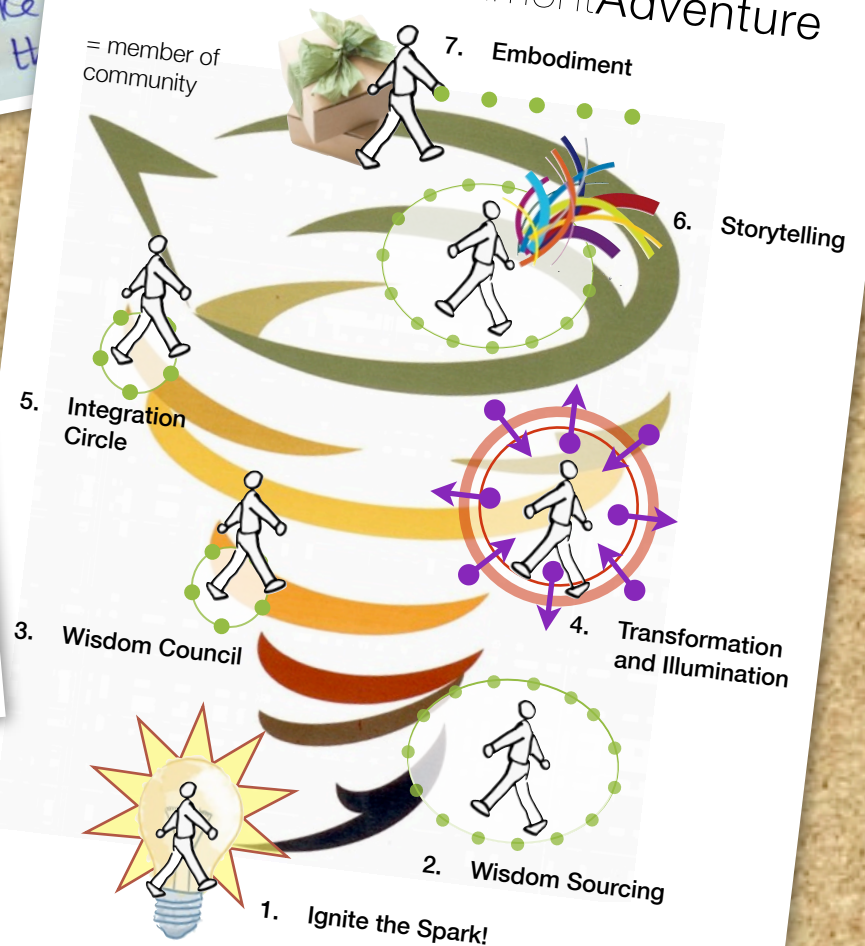
Ronald MacDonald house had a

Kit for do-it-yourself Kit for

Backyard Carnival.

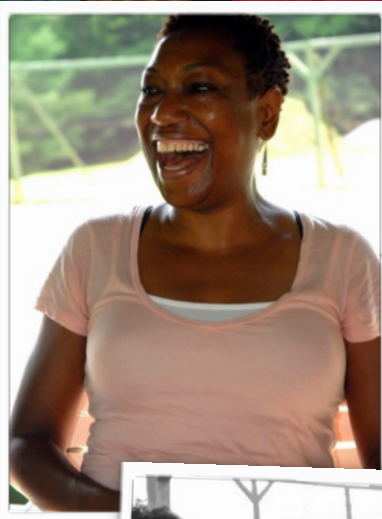
Dream - Imagining what does this future look like to, make it

The Identity Enrichment Adventure



GenerationalCaucusingandInter-relating

SongsfromtheGenerations



Sometimes it feels like we started it all..
Everything that was anything
was happening in the 60's

Sex, drugs and Rock n' Roll
Free love, folk songs, women's lib
Black power, power to the people

Letting our freak flags fly

And here we are -
Still here today
A little tired, but still fired up

Still looking for the legacy
Still dedicated to everybody being free

We were going to change the world,
stop the war and raise up the poor
Living in a connected world
Music and Dance guides our trance

We're plugged in to technology

What's important to me... to me... to me?

Poverty to the drug economy

Chorus:

*Every generation must find its cause
I'm gonna love who I'm supposed to love
I'm gonna be who I'm suppose to be
Every generation must find its cause*

I'm living my sexuality

It's the new reality

Enough of this Bull Shit

Time to get down!!

Chorus:

*Every generation must find its cause
I'm gonna love who I'm supposed to love
I'm gonna be who I'm suppose to be
Every generation must find its cause*

Thursday

Activating — Areas of Focus for Inquiry and Design

AM

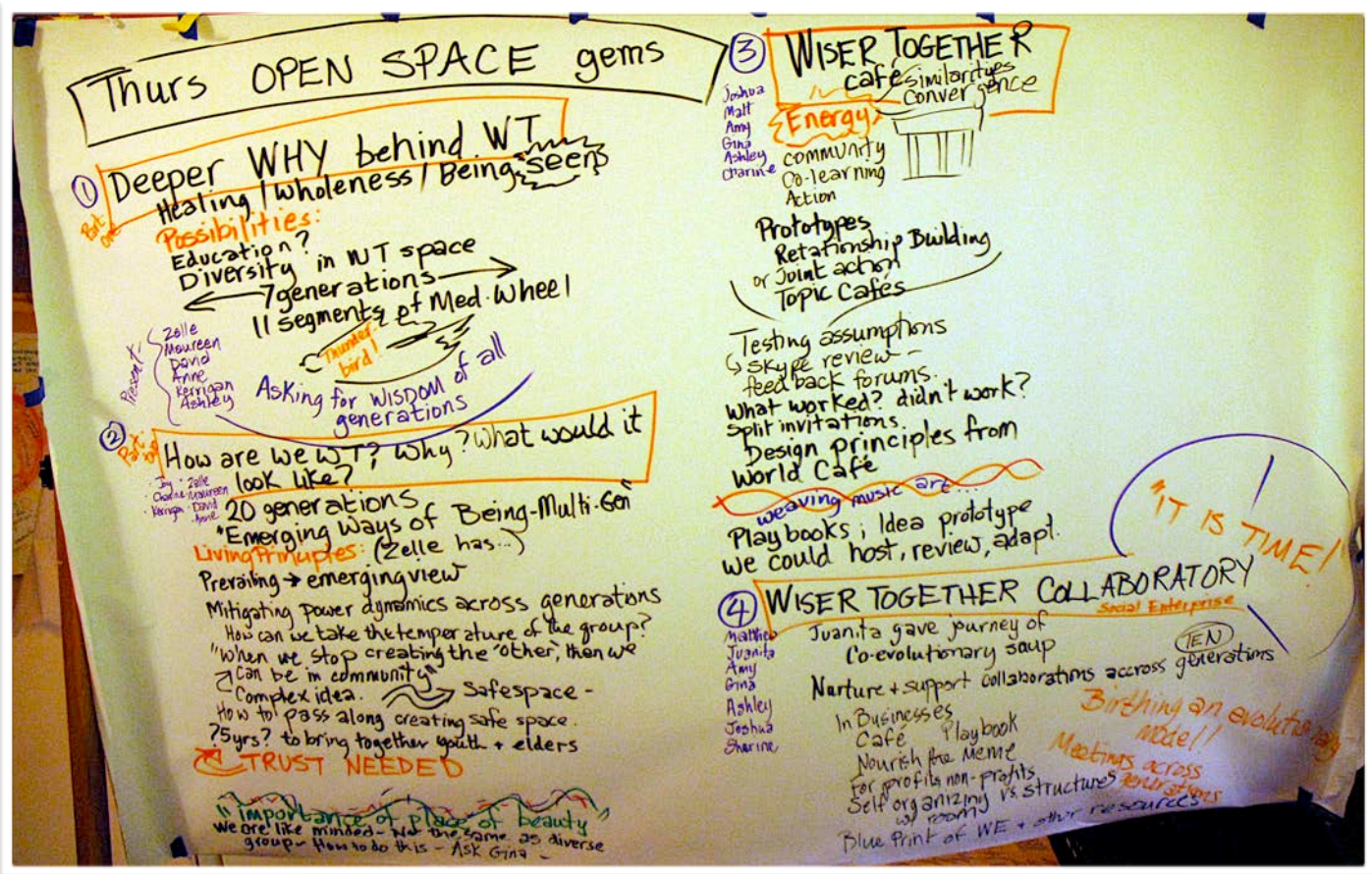
- Open Space (Themes included: Deeper 'WHY' of Wiser Together; Guiding principles and practices of cultivating a 'Wiser Together' field; Wiser Together Cafes; Wiser Together Collaboratory)

PM

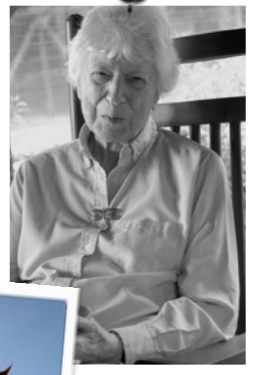
- Open Space Harvest
- Free Afternoon

Evening

- Margeritas, BBQ & Bonfire



Areas of Focus



Thurs Morning Check-in

- ♥ "How I Found the Medicine Wheel" - Ann Dineh - Do know where their Gods come from. The Great Spirit flows around all life
- ♥ Women in the center of the medicine wheel → for healing. "I had carried 15 women since the war" - WWII
- ♥ That was the beginning of my clan
- ♥ What is the light you bring w/ you ^{this morning?}
 - > Structure for us to be wiser together
 - > Long term goals can be accomplished even when I don't want it to be long term
 - > Wholehearted response
 - > The call of the bird I hear
 - > To make the implicit - explicit
 - > Light of flashlight. Pain - and pro
 - > Admiration for this group + proc
 - > Yearning for learning - what is
 - > Fire of work before us, balanced w/
 - > Quiet, stillness, surrender
 - > What if... this is a time called n critical mass is remembering are all connected.
 - > Recognizing that healing is pre
 - > I know that the great spirit of us ~ heals us and is pre called upon

Wiser Together Cafe

Purpose/Intended Outcomes -

- connections / community building
- learning
- action
- mutual appreciation of each other & what's possible
- awakening the "Wiser Together" meme
- 2-3 prototypes - 1) awakening 2) action
- Wiser Together "issue cafes"
- serves as a place for people to talk, connect, heal, whole
- Going Forward - pilot X Wiser Together Cafes and then
- Action Plan
- convene online to share our learnings
- Research Questions - What were the attractors? Why did people come? Feedback Forms? What worked well? What didn't work well? Split Testing?

Design Elements -

Cafe Questions

- 1) Share a story of when you learned from an intergen relationship? What were the goals of that?
- 2) What are the challenges & gifts of our generation? How can we support one another? collaborate? work toward social change?
- 3) How can I bring this intergen awareness back into my own life? From my perspective, what do I care about?

a Wiser Together Collaboratory

Purpose - To nurture & support collaboration across generations on behalf of a "thriving... world" [past, present, future generations]

How:

Services, Products - Training, hosting, Playbook, Consulting Writing + Research, Online Resource Hub

Next Steps and Closing

AM

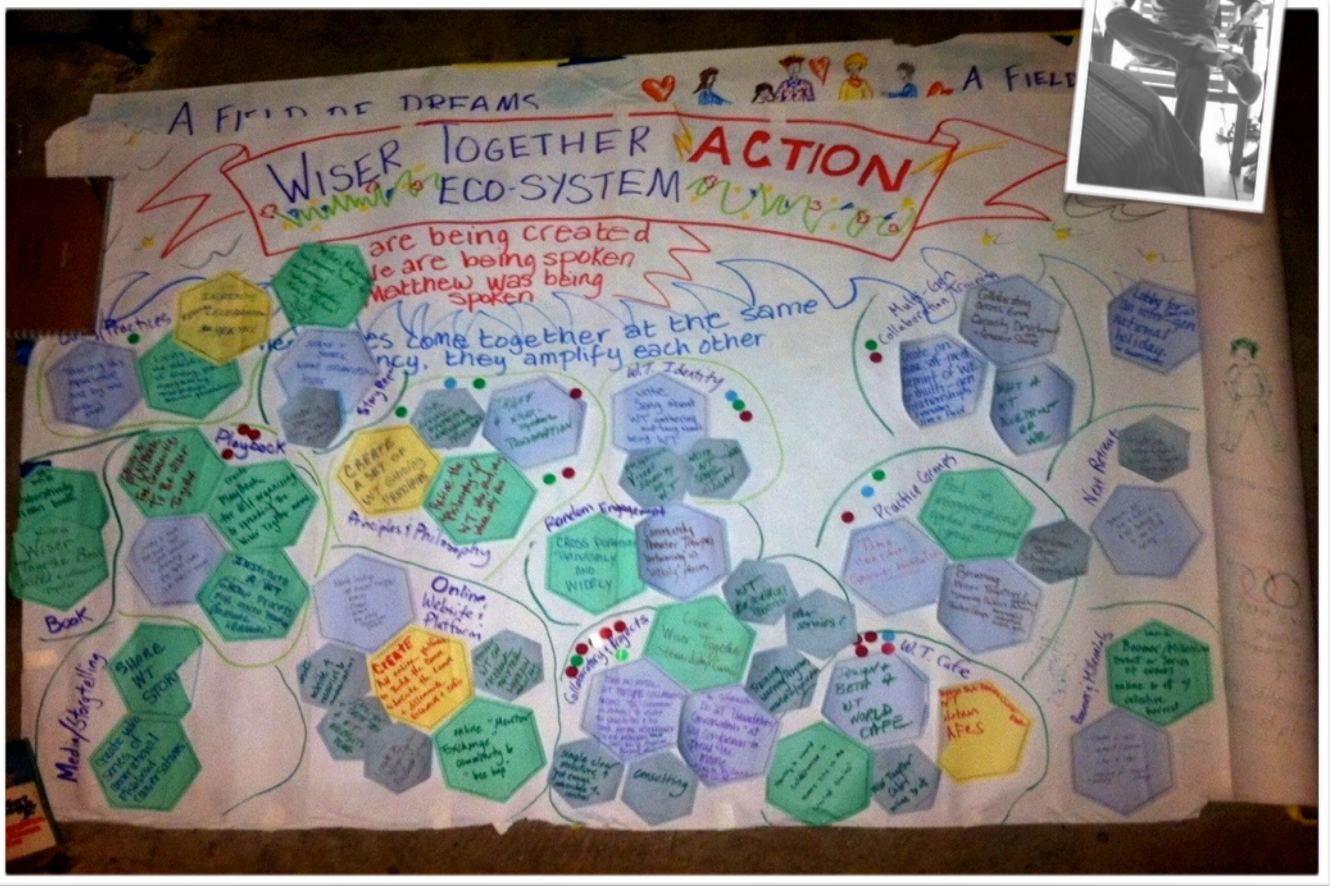
- Open Space (Themes included: Deeper 'WHY' of Wiser Together; Guiding principles and practices of cultivating a 'Wiser Together' field; Wiser Together Cafes; Wiser Together Collaboratory)
- Living and Resilience Systems Intro
- Wiser Together EcoSystem of Action
- Meditation
- Identifying and prioritizing core areas for next steps
- Lunch working groups to clarify next steps in key focus areas (Wiser Together Collaboratory and Wiser Together Principles & Philosophy)

PM

- Closing Reflection: What are we learning together about being wiser together?
- Shower of Love Appreciations
- Closing Council

Evening

- Burnsville Adventure & Kerrigan's 19th Birthday



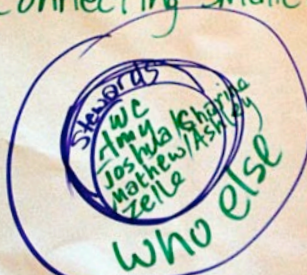
NextStepsandFocus



Determining Philosophy, Principles, Why
 First Draft - Core team Ashley + Pat + Kerrigan
 → Small team for review
 Principle Values Mission Vision Philosophy → Final Product?

Learning Partners:
 Ivanita David Julia Zelle
 Mashallah Salaam - Possible core team member

Collaboratory
 > w/ whom should we have conversation?
 Next steps to include others
 Meeting in 3 weeks to review
 Setting intention, clarity
 > Defining questions
 > Collaboratory will have stewardship circle
 Connecting smaller circle



All will reveal!
 Remain aware
 of timing!
 who else

Just Sustainable Thriving
 Multi-Generational Community

Tuesday Share our Stories set the stage
 ~ Hearing stories of another confirms who I am.
 The difference
 The moments when the universe is speaking through us
 being in a prism reflecting back through generations = holographic
 ~ Bed/Coffee morning. Not as elder/younger - People feeling joy + challenges of two people we were from life experience, not roles - Gift of possibility.
 ~ I take a completely different perspective on life. I feel the love. My writers block lifted! Elders and younger -

Friday Reflections
On being WISER TOGETHER
 ~ Two Moms bringing their children - Filling my heart with love
 Idea riffing
 ~ seeing in Kerrigan's birthday
 > Submitting to the trust, the holy dynamic of living
 ~ Doing together of dinner words not needed, seamless event
 Intergenerational embodied experience
 ~ Walking up the mountain - OLD mountains history of the people and the land.
 ~ Funner together Swiser Together
 Loved sharing music ~ threads of experience through Tension + wisdom through intergen. collaboration.
 ~ Power of Circle ~ Zelle story
 ~ Kerrigan + Gina what we shared because of their presence shifted
 ~ Conversations with Anne
 ~ People who wanted to be here - I am feeling wiser together through those who wanted to be here - Having friend w/ me through Buddha.
 ~ Conversations with Anne ~ w/ Marguerittas - This is what intergen. wisdom means. I am affirmed through Anne's stories.
 ~ David's patience w/ Kerrigan
 ~ Intergen creation of knowledge

HarvestPoem2

Moments of BeingWiserTogether

Ashley Cooper has a unique way of listening to a group and distilling the essence of what is being said into a remarkable form of poetry. This is the one she created through the course of the week.

Two moms here with our children
With our kids... we need to be wiser
together

Feeling an overwhelming, overflowing,
expansive amount of love

On a safari... riffing for hours
Connection
Bringing in the birthday – talking of love,
women and guy stuff
And submitting to the journey
Trusting in the holy dynamic
Being taught by each other

Doing Dinner together – an
intergenerational context of something
we all wanted to experience together
No director
All contributing what one can

The Whole knows

Walking up the mountain – I realize these
are the oldest mountains in the world
The people who've lived on this land
The pieces of history
The indigenous wisdom
The wisdom we're all remembering

YESSSS!!!!

Funner together – that's wisdom in its
essence!

And sometimes we have to miss out on
moments we want to be in on
Let's do it again
Bringing the wisdom of our threads
together
Music and song

Wisdom comes with collaborative
thinking
And tension – pushing through the
dissonance
To stand within the wisdom

The power of circle to invite out the
magic – of my Zelle story
Because of the presence of Gina and
Kerrigan

With Anne... a thread of meaningful
conversations between conversations

I am feeling wiser together as I feel all
the people that are actually here –
Brought along with us... here with us

Memory markers for what
intergenerational creation together really
is
Margaritas with Anne

Hearing your story and feeling more
affirmed for who I am
Because I'm here with you

Synchronicities
Holographically reflected realities
Shining expressions of wisdom living our
reality

Bed teas with family
Transitioning to another stage
Wiser-Together – we're here as life
experience
We're transformed beyond our roles
Maturity. Together. Our hearts touching.
A completely different perspective on life

Connecting deeply – learning truly who I
am
Feeling love radiating brings down the
walls...
Writers block undammed – the flow of
writing pouring fourth

For others – identifying as an elder can
be an honor or a distance
In our society, elders are held in the
deficit – it's damaging how we can be
together
And the same thing has happened to
youth – things are slipping back
Dissipate the role distance and replace it
with the human distance

90 years of experience – I try to share
the stories
I have such trust in us

Cause Joy... it's a joy to sit across from
you
And all of you – it must be noted

This barn blends as if it's been here as
long as everything else
And on the inside – it's got a lot of life
All of us – on the inside – young, playful,
alive
Age has no limits to how your mind can
always be at play

Perfectly falling into place – those little
moments
“Did you see that shit?”

Being in this Wiser Together context
affirms my sense of self
My generational sense of self
My larger Self... in circle with all of you –
Whole and complete

Woa... I'm getting to know more of
myself
Expansive – larger than myself

Here again for the power of YES!!!
So many of us saying YES – large and
small
And from there a deeper wisdom—
A best version of myself...
Swimming in the river of yes

Bubbling, bubbling images
repeating
Spirit coming up to the surface
And whatever it is... it's
completely alive!

The complete rightness of us...
being here...
More of ourselves,
understanding ourselves
In a larger context, a part of a
whole

Spiritually developing across
generations
Here with you, with me
Grandmothers, children
Tapping into a large reality of
existence
Nourished with smoothies

Thank you from the bottom of
my heart to the bottom of yours

Saturday CommunityPotluck!

Afternoon/Evening

- Mingling
- Dinner Conversation
(Share about a meaningful exchange you had across generations)
- Large group reflection and partner exploration of next steps
- Jam Session and Sing Along!



You're invited to an exploration of
being WiserTogether at Millie's
Mountain in Burnsville, NC USA



HarvestPoem3

CommunityPotluckPoem

Ashley Cooper has a unique way of listening to a group and distilling the essence of what is being said into a remarkable form of poetry. This is the one she created during our Saturday Community Potluck.

Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

Looking at everything that came
before us—
And all that's still to come

(You could be Elvis!)

Relationships and brotherly
dynamics –
So moving

Honoring the names and history
Sadness at the loss and hope at
the joining
A legend

I'm lit up
Seeing the joy you feel learning
new things every day

A second chance...
Not a cast-away...
Spiritual family

Brings joy to my heart
Journeying through education

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one...
I hope some day you'll join us

Cause my roots are in Carolina...

I cried twice



Spaghetti Fridays for all 9 foster
kids
Singing. Singing.
And listening for when it's time to
pass the tradition along

Forbidden to talk about fairies at
the table
Until the vicar came to learn
Affirmed

Deep wisdom
Empower our children to teach
us... and trust

Sometimes the stories are too
much to tell
And the chapstick gives a kiss

Sitting here in circle –
A revolution of coming together

Growing food, nature providing
So come join us for a potluck
As the moon is here holding it
down

This is real education
You don't see it in books
Sharing through stories
We learn from all directions
From the youngers and the
olders

Unconditional love crosses all
ages –
Bringing us together
Weaving people and history
A narrative... a journey...
Weaving a thread between us

That connects us
And ties us into history

Our times are thirsty for this
connection
In circle. In openness. In love.

Traveling from near and far to be
here together...
Looking over, under and through

Seeing my closed mind...
And opening to learn from the
yongers...
And maybe they'll listen to me
too

Maybe we're all so connected
that we'll feel each other

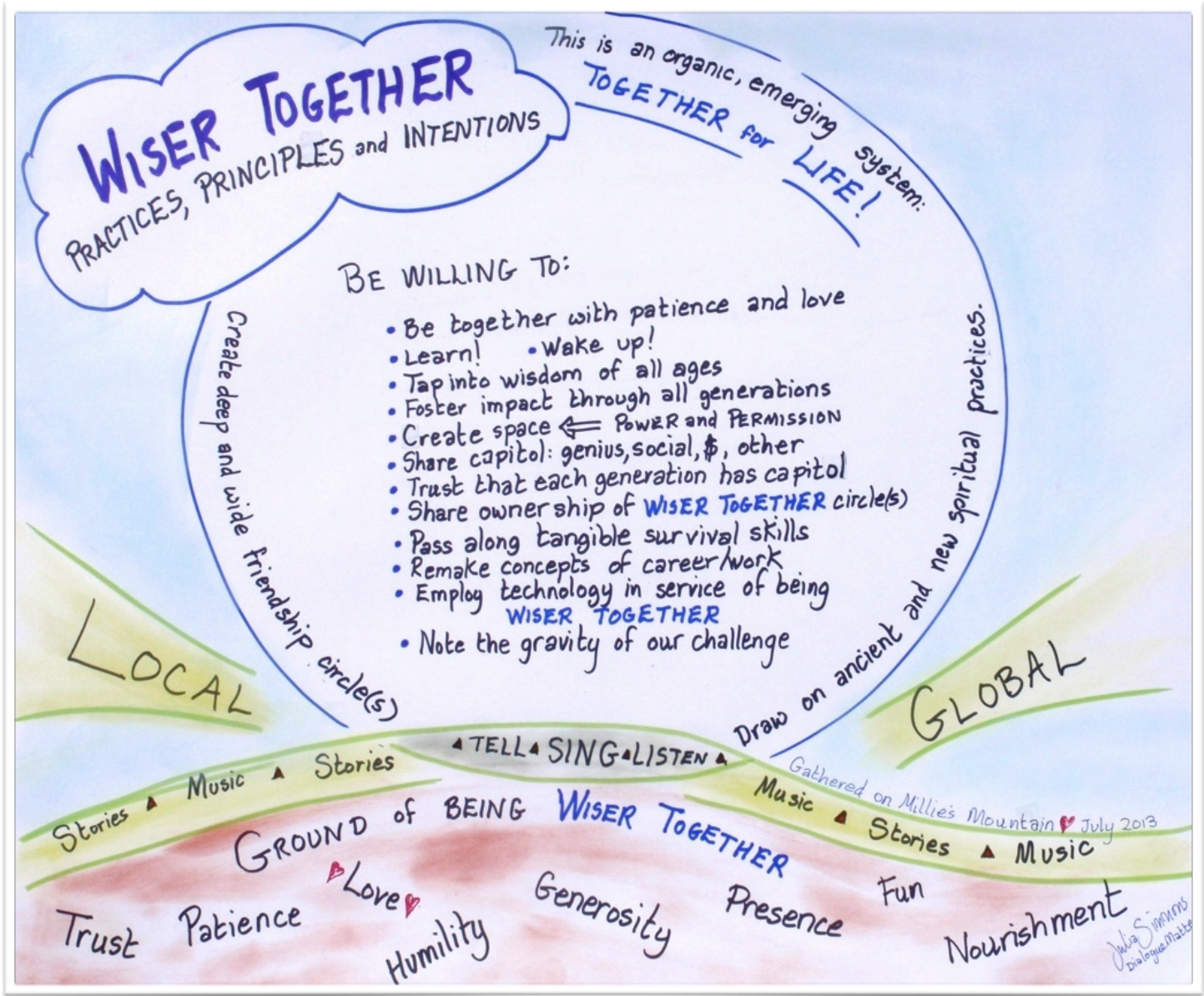
Exhilaration that we finally
recognize the illusion of
separation—
In essence we are joined beyond
our years

Following an infants eyes,
following the hallowed ancient
eyes
Don't pass them by—
Say hello



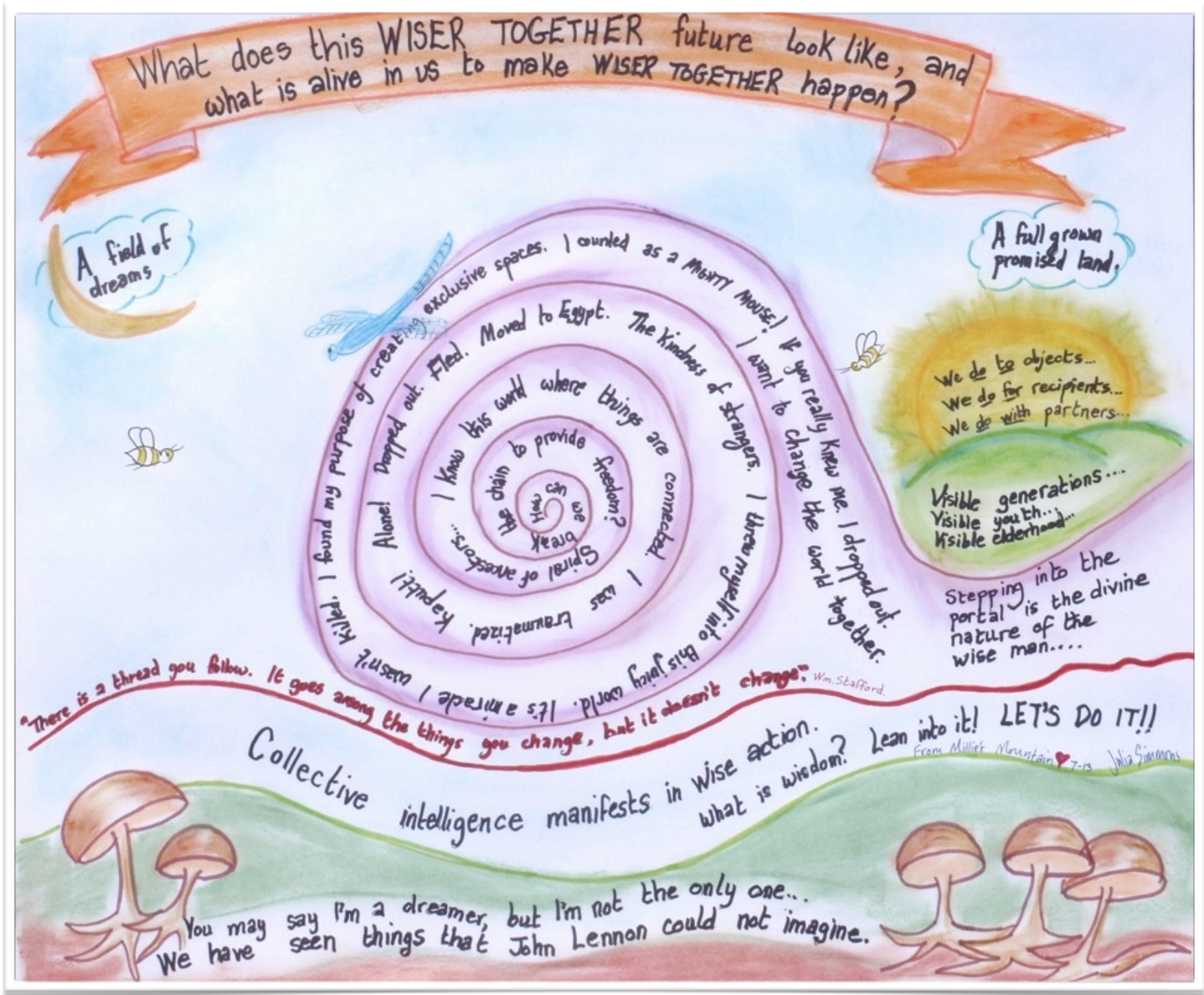
Reflections of the Event

Visual Overview 1



Reflections of the Event

Visual Overview 2



Reflections of the Event

Visual Overview 3



ReflectionsoftheEvent

EachPersonSharesTheirThoughts



JuanitaBrown

68 years old



My Reflections

Becoming Wiser Together on Millie's Mountain

We gathered on Millie's Mountain
The womb with a view
With the Garden of the Heart at our backs,
Surrounded in a sacred circle
By the cottage, the tobacco barn, the haybarn
and
The old farmhouse--a hobbit house
Filled with memories of earlier days.

We gathered across ages and stages....
From 15 to 90 we were, such beautiful faces
gathered round.
Honoring the ancestors
Honoring the land upon which our Spirits
And mutual intentions could rest.

We journeyed into our hearts
We journeyed into our minds
We listened to the call of our times.

Why Wiser Together, we asked?
What's possible now
That might not have been possible before?

What might the "future perfect" hold
For this delicious meme....
Wiser Together--across generations, cultures,
differences, & similarities.
Entering through the generational doorway
But oozing and spreading to become Wiser
Together
In every dimension of our lives and work.

Can we sing it out?
Dance it out--Bee Hopping all the way?
Drum it out?
Act it out?
Creating community performances
From the best hopes and dreams
For our lives and for this work
Becoming wiser.... together?

What wants to emerge from this....
The delicious soup we're creating
From all the special ingredients we are
Bringing into the mix?

Sharing food and potluck suppers
With those in our local communities
Sharing Wiser Together Cafes....
Becoming a Collaboratory
of kindred spirits.
Who make the path by walking it.

Learning, bringing others to the
playground of possibilities
That we can now see
with so much greater clarity.

Honoring the sound of the drum
And the sound of our own hearts
Beating out the rhythm of
Passion and possibility
That was always
Right here in our midst.

Si Se Puede! (Yes, We Can!)

AshleyCooper

35 years old



My Reflections

One week, held in the arms of love

Deep connections, old and new
Weaving together seamlessly
An essence of humanity

Amplifying bonds
Growing understandings
Confirming spiritual hunches
Accessing collective wisdom

We are wiser together.
Learning from my 15 year old sister and my 19 year old brother,
I know there are shades of life experiencing that I don't have access to, that they do.

Time on the planet -- both duration and epoch -- influences the lens of life we access and see.

The power of music to tell a story and communicate a time's tales.
The vulnerability of first love, life changing connections that make us who we are.

I have a deep longing to learn from these angels whose views are not my own.
This week was soul medicine of stepping in together
Feeling the edges of our togetherness blur the boundaries of our aloneness.

We are wiser together.
Holding the hand of an embodied elder,
Her eyes piercing love and unsettlement.
Love -- I see you, I love you, I support you in blossoming to be more of who you are.
Unsettlement -- Stay awake, pay attention, you are needed. There is wisdom in this world that is not being lived and you are needed to move more justice, interconnected vitality, and divine guidance into being. (And the fairies are real.)

We are wiser together.
My sister standing at my side.
Reflecting life in colors different from my own, but from a heart in time with mine.
Holding each other tenderly as learning moments furl to life.
I can relate. I see that too. I'd love for you to be with me in this journey.

We are wiser together.
I am here to help you see you --
You are here to help me see me --
We are here and willing to see ourselves.
We reflect the beauty, rawness, silly wonder and superb opportunities for learning, growth and connection.

We hold a deep faith and trust that there are pieces to a puzzle that each of us hold
And we need one another to see the whole.
We are dedicated to staying in the fire, to be with the inquiry we stepped our beings into.
We know that we are just a few in a sea of many
Who hold the wisdom to unraveling the mystery and igniting more mystery.

This is a path of softening our vision,
Loosening the grips on our knowing,
Trying out living in the skin of another.

This is a path of deep listening --
Listening for the voices that are needing to be heard
Listening for the voices that I need to hear
Listening for the voices that I tend not to hear.

This is a path of experimentation and practice --
Making wild hypothesis about what may be possible
And with conviction and commitment, stepping boldly into the practice field

Trying on the emperor's robe, dancing in the ballerina's tutu, holding a lover's hand.
What are the edges of being human together that we can infuse with our curiosity and wonder in order to discover new patterns for being together?

What are the practices of being together that we can wisely step into to discover the edges of how they serve ourselves, this generation of beings alive on the planet now, and the generations that have yet to arrive?
How is it that I need you, you need me, and where are the others we don't yet know that we need to meet in order to nurture more beauty that will set us all free?

Will you join me in this adventure of divine inquiry and play? Can we learn together, dance together and vibrantly be wiser together?



These elements contributed to my positive experience of Wiser Together.

1. The weave of the planners experience, love and expertise in the pre-event stage.
2. Limiting the participants and careful attention to having different generations/ages represented.
3. Inviting people to ask for what they needed in terms of support from the group and incorporating different ways of expression.
4. The beauty/peacefulness of Millie's Mountain and the gracious generosity of Juanita and David in opening their home to us.
5. Fresh and Healthy meals and snacks.
6. Using a talking stick and making sure everyone had a chance to speak if they chose.
7. Both spontaneous and planned time for playfulness and silliness encouraged .
8. The use of ritual for anchoring our days together, setting our group and individual

intentions and becoming pregnant with our dreams and possibilities.

9. Non-verbal communication through music and dance to enhance/balance the spoken exchanges.
10. The opportunity daily to become a co-creator alongside the planning team.
11. The event was affordable and scholarships and other help was made available.
12. Having a graphic recorder (Julia)
13. Weaving the local community into the week with the closing pot-luck.
14. All the planners coming from clear intention and good heart before during and after.
15. It helped that everyone was understanding of my coming and going in response to the needs of my job schedule.

KerriganMcCarthy

18 years old



The wiser together gathering was an incredible experience. I loved the collection of input from every generation. Our collaboration helped us come to the conclusion that we are all one generation together on this earth right now, leaving no need for separation between ages. Immediately I connected with everyone that was with us for the week which really allowed for the deeper more important conversations to flow with ease. Not a moment of the week passed without full enjoyment but a few aspects certainly stood out to me.

The exercise where we put ourselves in 2016 and visualized what was going on at the time gave me a chance to dream up a few possibilities of what a better world looks like, such as a world where grades no longer define potential and intelligence. Then, when we stepped back to 2013 it was easier to think of our first steps in being wiser together since we had a clearer goal in mind. Spending time with such an inspirational group of people definitely

brought out the life in me. Being a part of a community that collaborates and cares for each other ignites my internal drive for productivity. The in-depth conversations throughout the week constantly challenged my mind to think above and beyond. All ideas are worth exploring since you never know where they will lead you. As our days go on we are continuously finding, building, and creating our lives. Coexistence entails a sharing and learning of ours and others mistakes and triumphs. From the Wiser Together experience, I soaked up many ideas of how I wish to go forth in my daily life. It has sparked my attention to make connections with anyone, young or old. Everyone has their wisdom that is worth sharing. Those who are willing to listen are truly the ones to benefit. All of the music was awesome as well from the drum circles to our circle when we shared our various generations high school hits.

ZelleNelson

42 years old



of note

EACH ANIMAL IN THE POEM
REPRESENTS ONE OF THE
PARTICIPANTS FROM THE
WISERTOGETHER GATHERING

My
Reflections

Unfolding

*a poem reflecting on the
WiserTogether Gathering, July 2013*

– written by Zelle Nelson

SPRING

we started as an inkling, a noticing, a seed

a seed as old as time & as vital as a moment

SNAP. our seed sparks.

germinating, imagining, growing

nurtured by **EARTH**, sprouting & tender pushing our way up.

Ahhhhh – **SUNLIGHT**. warm, embracing, encouraging

soft, sweet **RAIN**, quenching our thirst... thirsting our unfolding

larger, bolder, brighter

a **BREEZE** light & lovely lifts the fragrance of petals & nectar,

sweet & succulent memories of old, & possibilities of new

SUMMER

STREETECH. inquisitive, searching, sniffing noses of two
young bunnies are enlivened by the scents

bluebird flutters by. hawk's shadow from high in the sky dapples
a wink from fox. dart goes deer.

ZelleNelsoncont.



My
Reflections

Autumn

ant crawls, tickling bear's toes

bee seeks nectar, sourcing others growth

SSSSHH. leaves fall gently on flowers newest petals

squirrel stores treasures, mouse wiggles her nose.

cricket chirps. badger ambles.

SWOOOOOOSH. dusk descends as owl cries...Whoo. Whoo.

howling, welcoming, encouraging moonlight. Oowwoooo!

wolf is heard throughout the night.

stars twinkle countenance of care on our flower of discovery,
reawakening. do you dare?

WINTER

we danced in circles & cycles with flair, sharing songs & stories

growing, giving, receiving, living, dying, thriving, inspiring.

dawning a new day,

listening for life's heartbeat

unfolding...

in order of appearance

two young bunnies = Gina and Kerrigan

bluebird = Maureen

hawk = Zelle

fox = Matthew

deer = Ashley

ant = Amy

bear = Joy

bee = Pat

squirrel = Julia

mouse = Juanita

cricket = Cherine

badger = Joshua

owl = David

wolf = Anne

MaureenMcCarthy

47 years old

My
Reflections

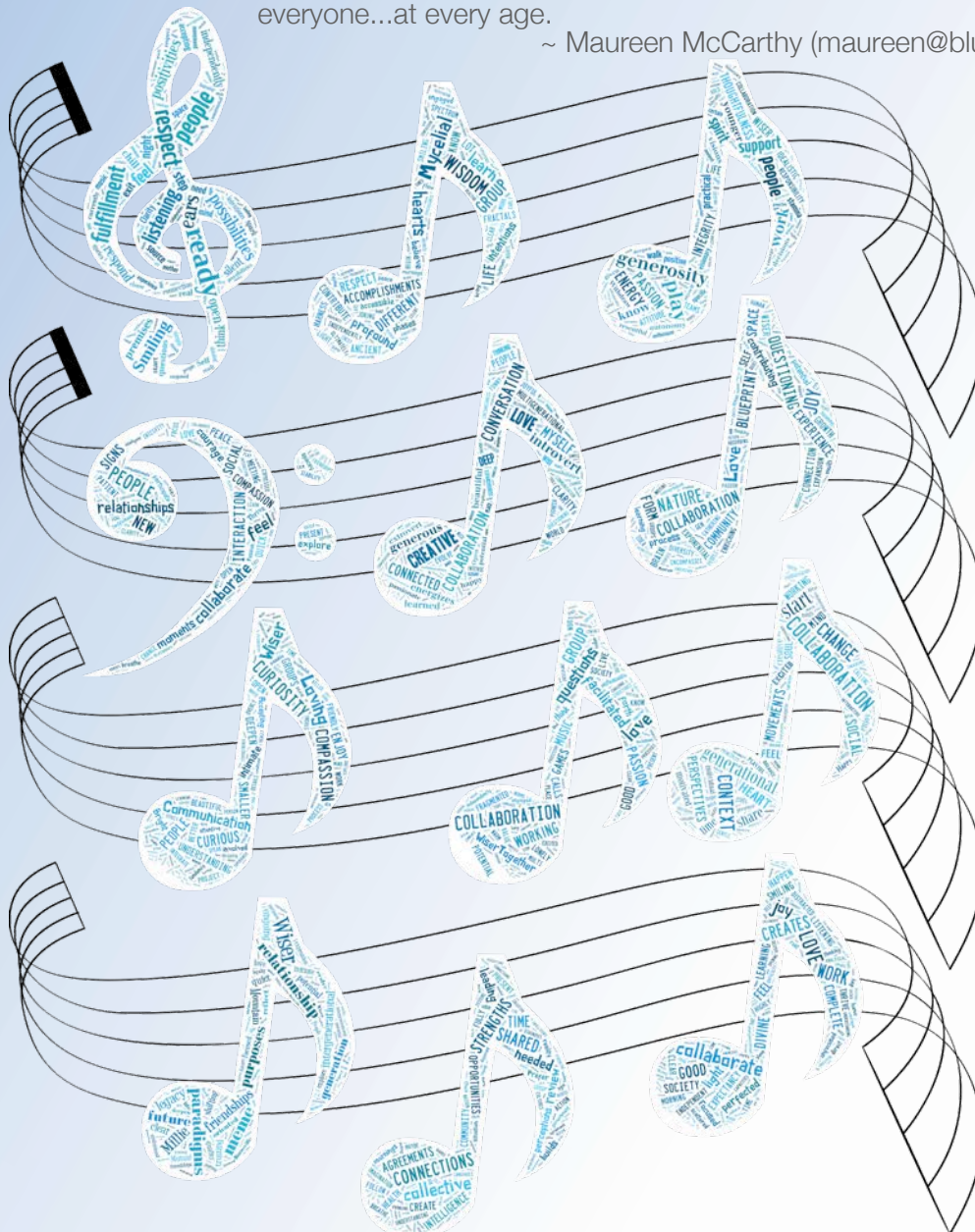
WiserTogether

When we gathered to explore the WiserTogether meme, each of us wrote a bit about ourselves and what we were looking to create using the Blueprint of WE Collaboration Document. I took each person's writing and created a Word Cloud. The symbols below sing out a note from each individual, and the radiant melody that emerged when we collided. To become WiserTogether, we must know ourselves, exchange that information with others, and co-create a tune that turns up the volume on compassion, curiosity, lifelong-learning, and LOVE for everyone...at every age.

~ Maureen McCarthy (maureen@blueprintofwe.com)

Music and Lyrics by

Amy
Anne
Ashley
Cherine
David
Gina
Joshua
Joy
Juanita
Julia
Kerrigan
Matthew
Maureen
Pat
Zelle
and You...too!





My Reflections

My Reflections

KerriganMcCarthy

[illegible]

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during Wisertogether





My Reflections

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during Wisertogether



Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether



WordCloudscont.

My
Reflections

AshleyCooper

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether



CherineBadawi

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether





My Reflections

My Reflections

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during Wisertogether



Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during Wisertogether





My Reflections

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during Wisertogether



Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether



WordCloudscont.

My
Reflections

Maureen McCarthy

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether



Zelle Nelson

Your chosen words from your Blueprint of WE during WiserTogether



Two things stay with me from our magical time on Millie's Mountain...

The first is the quality of energy we generated together during those few days... I remember feeling extraordinarily energized by all the music and creative "representing" going on, the fresh perspectives, optimism, and "can do" spirit, and thinking it was part of the particular joy of engaging with "younger" people. I don't know if it was contagious, or liberatory, or if it was always there in all of us, but soon that powerful celebratory, revelatory energy was part of everything and could be found in everyone – whether we were cleaning, dancing, meeting, singing, walking, telling stories, or making meaning and plans together.

The second is the power of place... I felt that the land, Millie's mountain, partnered with us in a very direct and impactful way. Being in the presence of those wise old hills - sheltered by the rise at our back and enlivened by the ever-expanding view in front of us – literally gave us our ground. There was also something about the way the land and the elements were appreciated and acknowledged as part of our gathering that seemed to be a quintessential part of what it is to be wiser together.

CherineBadawi

37 years old



It's just how it's supposed to be.
Youngers with their sparkly eyes, asking
questions, spewing rhymes,
With eager ears longing to hear
Stories of yester-year
Elders rocking with a knowing grin
Reminding us that we're all kin
And middles bridging different spheres
Striving to work for a world without fear
Alone, we fall in isolation and sorrow
Wiser together, we unite for a better
tomorrow
It was truly an extraordinary convergence –
from 15 to 90, we sat in circle and shared.
Our stories, our hurts, our hopes and
dreams. We listened a lot. We opened our
hearts. We danced and laughed and sang
and cried. Fed by an abundance of
delectable eats and the warmth of each
other's hearts. I was moved by this
experience. As one who has grown up

without grandparents, or extended family
nearby, I really came to realize that we need
each other. We serve each other. To have my
feet rubbed after a long day holding up a
pregnant belly by a beautiful older who
knows what a gift it is. To rejoice in stories of
the trials and wonders of menstruation with a
younger. To share songs from 7 decades and
learn of great battles of yesteryears, won by
the strength and resilience of generations
before. To bask in hope and anticipation of
what's to come with the wildly brilliant
youngers that were among us.
Precious time. We all deserve it. Ages and
stages belong together. May we continue to
cultivate what nature has clearly intended.
We are indeed wiser together – and we need
our wisdom, now more than ever!

MatthewAbrams



Wisdom and
Innocence
Searching for
Each other to
Reflect

The Knowings
Of nature
Gathering
Eternal forces
To
Hold the light
Emerging in the
Rhythms of life

PotluckParticipants



My Reflections

CheriTorres

Thank you all for a wonderful evening last night. How inspirational and enlivening, as it always is when I'm on Millie's Mountain.

I was inspired this morning to ask the Wiser Together question in an ongoing conversation with my AI colleagues. We've been talking about how to blend AI with digital tools to enhance the potential and outcomes of AI and this morning I suggested we invite millennials and digital natives to play!

Michael said one of the ideas that his very small group talked about regarding how might we expand the Wiser Together movement was to work toward intergen representation on community government committees and councils. Greenville has already done this. We might take a field trip there with an intergen team and find out how it's going: what's working well, what have they learned, and how did this come about--what do they recommend.

We might also research how other similar communities are doing this. When government bodies begin to engage our youth it will could a powerful message and help move us into a more sane future.

This was up on your beehive wall about the future. If there are others interested in exploring this further, I think we'd both be interested in that conversation.

Now I'm imagining generational representation where all generations vote for a generational rep to councils and boards

Ready for action,
Cheri

CarlyHart

onewritersink@yahoo.com

who accompanied Ruth Pope (the other elder, elder from Burnsville)

I'm so glad to hear from you. I truly enjoyed the Wiser Together gathering and look forward to the next one! Thank you so much for the invitation.

This past weekend I've moved to Bakersville to be closer to Ruth. I'm sharing a house with a dear artist friend of mine, Seth. We've been friends for 10 years now. I hope he'll come to the next gathering with me. He's a great guy.

I was touched by the fact that everyone was there with an open heart and mind and willing to share their stories. It was refreshing to know that community, compassion, and understanding were the focus for everyone there. I could really feel the love.

Honestly, the only thing that challenged me that night was my mood due to a lack of sleep from a very rough week. I'm sure now that I have a nice home here locally the next gathering will be better for me.

Happily I learned that there are like-minded people in this beautiful area, there is a collective consciousness involving sharing and generations working together to improve the quality of our lives.

My hope is that we continue to meet, and get to know each other better, at least once a month and collectively work on issues at hand for the betterment of our area and perhaps even globally as well. On a personal level I see this as a great and fast way of making really good friends in the area.

I wish I could have stayed longer...the music was so good, but alas, I was on Ruth's time schedule, not my own.

I thank you, David, and all involved. I had a lovely time and look forward to the next one!

PotluckParticipants

My Reflections

JoyBoothe

The potluck provided a way to ripple outward from the week in a real and tangible way.

I felt embraced by the peace and happiness of extravagant intelligence and love...like I had found new members of my tribe.

My spirit was energized with the gifts of deep listening, shared stories, ideas, food, dance, music, tears, laughter and hugs.

The setting of Millie's Mountain and the warm welcome of Juanita and David created a warm and safe cocoon. There was healing, inspiration and deepening of individual and shared vision.

I'm excited to work with Juanita on the multi-gen, Latino themed dance at the Burnsville, N.C. Town Center.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to deepen my relationship with Jared McQueen.. who I've known from his birth. Jared and I have partnered on a number of community multi-gen events in the past several years.

KarenHead

What touched you?

The gathering of people willing to participate – without hesitation touched me. Seeing the young ones, sitting together on the floor, listening and sharing stays with me as well.

What challenged you?

The only challenge was figuring out what to bring to eat, but this is a tiny hurdle.

What did you learn?

I learned about the all black school in Yancey County, about a strong teacher there who made a difference and influenced her students to excel in school and to seek to learn.

What possibilities do you now see here in our local area that might not have been possible before?

There could be another gathering, with more diversity. I believe that the interest within the individuals attending might inspire us to ask others to attend. Sharing stories is a powerful way to come together and stay together.



"3ProcessesWeLoved"

❖ Ashley Cooper

1. Future perfect - living in the year of the future. Speaking from the present of that moment in time.
2. Sharing songs and music from the different time periods, but sharing a theme of 'when I was in highschool' - something we all had an experience of.
3. Publicly voicing reflections of things we were seeing in each other - the individuals involved offering and receiving those gifts -- and the witnessing of the group to those precious moments -- helping to root that essence into the individual and each other's being.

General Notes

- Stepping into an articulated elderhood – letting youngers see elderhood. Making elderhood an available place in the spiritual practice of life.
- What we are wanting to step into at each stage – our spiritual place in life.
- Intra-generational caucusing – what are your stereotypes about my generation? What is the story of your generation?
- What are you called to do? What can we do together? What are we called to do together?
- How are we wiser? Why are we wiser? What allows us to be wiser together? How are we already wiser together and don't even know it?

Seeing into the future

Living our future

Re-memembering ourselves

Growing our visions

Pulling them more into reality

Today – let's choose something we really want to gift our attention

OPPORTUNITY

What conversations or experiences do you need to have with this Wiser Together group?

We are being created

❖ Zelle Nelson

1. [Storytelling](#) ~ On the first day we had 2-3 minutes to give a reflection, tell a story about our inspiration. I told my story about receiving the name Zelle. One of the most powerful aspects for me was to actually be in the center of the circle to tell my story.

Why it is valuable - Contributes to shared story, personal reflection, being seen, healing grief

2. [Open Space](#) ~ On Thursday we had 2 Open Space sessions. I feel Open Space is crucial to get every piece of conversation. There were topics that I felt had not been addressed yet that were able to be held during the Open Space.

Why it is valuable - Creates the space for any topic to be discussed

3. [Identity Development](#) ~ On Wednesday I worked with Joshua to share and display the identity development arc (that is not the actual name, but I am not remembering it right now). Did Matthew take a picture of that artwork?

Why is it valuable? - There is a need for both personal and collaborative growth for the WiserTogether meme to expand

❖ Maureen McCarthy

1. Meeting in circle, in both small groups and large. People often forget that key concept if they're not immersed in it.
2. When we met in small groups and acted out our interests in WiserTogether going forward which created The Bee Hop, etc.
3. Having Julia there as a graphic facilitator and seeing her drawings progress as we progressed. It gave us a constant perspective on what we were experiencing.

“3ProcessesWeLoved”

❖ Pat Parker

I think it was Wednesday afternoon, the second (official) day of our gathering, when the idea came to me that, in the current context, when there are so many issues that separate people and make us forget our humanity, it doesn't seem to be enough to simply bring people together in the same space (although that surely is a place to start). Earlier that morning, Joshua had shared information about the various generations alive at this moment—perhaps the first time in the history of the world that so many generations are sharing the planet. I began to think that actually learning to be “wiser together” when generations engage with one another is the thing that needs to be named. What does it mean to be “wiser together?” How are we wiser? When are we wiser (or not)?

As I've reflected more on these questions, I've begun to think in a broader conceptual frame: What is Intergenerational wisdom? When do we need it? How do we create opportunities for it to emerge (or not hinder it when it's already there)?

I looked up some definitions of “wisdom” in the Oxford online dictionary¹:

- the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.
- the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment: some questioned the wisdom of building the dam so close to an active volcano
- the body of knowledge and principles that develops within a specified society or period: the traditional farming wisdom of India

I like the last definition, “the body of knowledge and principles that develops...,” because it reflects what I think are some of the core ingredients of becoming wiser in an intergenerational context: intentionality (Let's create something together!), emergence (Let's trust the process of putting our hearts, heads,

and hands together and seeing what happens), and space (Let's create community!). Our gathering at Millie's Mountain had these key ingredients and there were several moments that illustrated these beautifully. For example, I loved that at the outset, each person revealed their age, which for me demonstrated the intentionality around exploring the meanings of generational experience and allowing the group to be transparent about “age” as a made up social category. Also, there were plenty of opportunities for the emergence of wisdom, spontaneous conversations, through trial and error, dancing (!), contention, creativity, and reflection. I felt fully free to share my thoughts, ideas, and creative energies within our group. Finally, Juanita's and David's home truly is a gracious space and it was wonderful to see the Wiser Together collective wisdom emerging from the various corners of Millie's Mountain.
http://oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/wisdom?q=wisdom

❖ Cherine Badawi

1. Our story sharing circle
2. Favorite song in high school sharing that happened spontaneously
3. The Potluck!
4. Love and appreciation to all who sat in circle upon Millie's Sacred Mountain!

❖ Matthew Abrams

1. Using primal/indigenous music to settle into place
2. Going beyond imagining the future and actually transporting into it
3. The spaciousness of our time together - I found that so much of the magic happens in the places in between.

WiserTogetherGathering

BurnsvilleNCJuly2013

For more info contact

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or

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