Hi Former Classmates,

In case you missed it, Friday was the last day of class for our exciting adventure with individual and collective leadership models. We had one last fascinating discussion, then focused on what we learned from the class and talked about organizing another class for next quarter.

The discussion started about Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey which Roger had suggested we read at the last class. It is used as a fundamental leadership model and has all the elements of great adventure in conquering inner and outer forces. The story follows a particularly masculine frame, and emphasizes conquering vs caring. I didn't actually read the Hero's Journey, but Wikipedia says the myth is a circular journey made up of a number of challenges that is useful to consider from a both internal and external viewpoints. You can see the flow of the story in this listing of its stages:

The 17 Stages of the Monomyth (from Wikipedia)

Departure
The Call to Adventure
Refusal of the Call
Supernatural Aid
The Crossing of the First Threshold
Belly of The Whale
Initiation
The Road of Trials
The Meeting With the Goddess
Woman as Temptress
Atonement with the Father
Apocalypse
The Ultimate Boon
Return
Refusal of the Return
The Magic Flight
Rescue from Without
The Crossing of the Return Threshold
Master of Two Worlds
Freedom to Live

I did actually read a different book that was also suggested by Roger in the Spring "Change" Workshop. It's called 'The Chalice and the Blade' by Riane Eisler, which describes societal organizations as dominator vs partnership models. Ancient archeology and anthropology were studied to determine that at one point in history, a partnership model of cultural organization existed before a dominator model took over that remains in effect today. The conversation about masculine and feminine models then brought up the existence in some societies of an "other" category of person which is not male or female. You really don't want the details of what questions this terminology brings up, other than to note that western society doesn't have one, so it's complicated for us.

Roger extracted us from biology and set us on a more productive course to talk about impressions of our investigation of leadership models this quarter. I'll put down some of the group comments so you get the idea:

-the conversation is very different than my normal job and the little sparks of insight gained totally made the time worthwhile

-now I have a different attitude toward people, I want to create a social fabric by asking people to coffee

-I appreciated the different models presented by Roger, I learned a lot

-I talked to different people than I normally would have and the people seem open, like it's therapy

-I recently found a book that explained my leadership project and put it in terms of ideas we had discussed in class, it was great

-I was struggling with the difference between leadership and management and got my ideas validated, especially when Koo showed up

Then Tonia said that she wasn't sure of her leadership model yet, seeing her job as project management and not leadership. Roger had to stop us all and ask us all where to inquire about her leadership model based on what we learned in class. Tonia said that she works differently with different people, it depends on the situation and what they need. Roger says that that leadership frame is that you do what is best suited to produce the desired result. Roger emphasizes this by showing that you can see the same situation in a number of ways. Take the stone cutter story, for example. A visitor walks up to a group of men working. He asks the first one, what are you doing? The
first one answers "I'm doing what I have to to make a living." He asks the second one, what are you doing? The second one answers "I am fashioning stone to precise dimensions with very low tolerance." He asks the third one, who responds "I am serving God, I am helping to make this cathedral". The fourth man answers "I'm cutting stone."

You get the message. Other comments included:

-I see a significant change in the understanding of a number of people in the class, so the class must have been extremely valuable.

-I see the class as a demonstration of Roger's listening skills that can help us all with our teaching. He brings the themes in and ties them together.

-I saw the themes in process and now I can do that better myself, I am better able to look more at process than content

-The class took a lot of tangents, it wasn't a straight line

-I saw class as a wonderful journey and didn't care where it went so much

-The class write ups that Dianne sent out created a feedback loop that was a powerful service for everyone

So although we have to now let go of this class, we talked about organizing a slightly different class for next quarter. The topic would be effective team building, and would follow the same basic structure as the current class. Pete sent out a doodle poll on times when people are available. An outline for the new class will be created and we will check with CTL to see if they are open to a continuation. More on this later, in the meantime, please respond to the survey monkey request set up by Liz about this quarter's class.

Here's the link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZDZCJMP

And one last note, Roger will be holding a 2011 Personal Planning Session on January 8, 2011. Time is 11 am to 4 pm and includes Brunch (prepared by Suzanne). The class will take place at the Sanitarium, 1716 Osos St in SLO. The cost will be $30 or fair exchange.

The purpose will be to spend an afternoon considering your life in 2011 (and in general) 'holistically'. You will leave the session with a 'mind map' for 2011. A mind map is a radial display of information that allows you to see patterns and trends and work with manifesting the things you want in a systemic fashion. You will spend some time on framing the future, establishing some simple indicators, considering the current condition and engaging in a simple resource hunt.

The session will be limited to about 15 people. If there are more than 15 people, Roger will open a second session for January 15. Please let Roger (rogersburton@gmail.com) know if you are interested.

And that's all folks,

Dianne

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