

Catalyst

Catalyst is for alumni of our leadership development seminars to remain connected, and for coaching clients, prospective clients, and other interested parties to learn about who we are and what we do.

Supporting Your Vision

Much of my work is about helping people achieve their dreams and visions. It is exciting work – it is also hard work for the visionary, as I learned when I set out to achieve my own vision.

Here are some thoughts for those of you on this very exciting journey.

When you first conceive your dream or vision, nurture it. I thought of mine as a fragile flower which needed protection from large, unsuspecting feet to survive. If I allowed

too much of it to be seen too soon or by the wrong people, it would be easily (if unintentionally) stomped on, so I guarded it carefully while I allowed it to blossom.

When you are ready to talk about it, start with positive-thinking, like-minded people who think in possibilities and opportunities rather than threats and risks – people who will remind you of your

strengths, help you assess your needs, and support you in pursuing your goal. Speak with them regularly. I use “buddies” with whom I exchange weekly calls for my most cherished goals. We share successes, learn from failures, and exchange ideas, information and learning.

Consider hiring a professional coach.

To paraphrase Laura Whitworth of the Coaches Training Institute, one of the strongest reasons coaching works is accountability.

Having committed to your vision with someone else, it is harder to back out, particularly if you’re paying money for it. That money is an investment in yourself and your dream. For me, coaching has kept me focused on playing the bigger game I’d longed to play, yet feared. Now, I’m playing it, and I’m winning - I’d love you to join me!

We cannot climb up a rope that is attached only to our own belt.
– William Ernest Hocking

– Deborah Huisken

What Is Catalysts for Change?

Catalysts for Change is a 5-day experiential retreat to help business people refocus. We explore the nature and responsibilities of Leadership and look at the blocks and blindspots which keep leaders from achieving their full potential, drawing from a variety of disciplines including the performing arts, meditation, and 12-step principles. Participants access parts of themselves which are dormant or underutilized, exploring new, creative ways to maximize potential and respond to the rapid change facing leaders (and followers) today.

If you join us, you will have fun – you may also work harder than you ever have in your life. For more information, contact Dancing Star Productions at +1 413 367-9416, www.DancingStar.com, or Deborah@DancingStar.com.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Catalysts for Change: May 2002, Dartington Hall Conference Centre, Devon, UK. By invitation only – please contact us for details.



YOU CAN EXPECT TO:

- Be challenged to move beyond your blocks
- Increase your leadership skills
- Uncover hidden potential
- Add new tools to your repertoire
- Accelerate your vision for the future
- Work hard AND have fun

WORKSHOPS

Dimensions of Leading

It’s been a busy spring for Dimensions of Leading (DOL), our experiential workshop that explores leading, following, and teamwork. In May a group of corporate coaches gathered in New York City, hosted by the Actor’s



Participants at the corporate coaches session of Dimensions of Leading in May.

Institute, where we used DOL as an ice breaker and vehicle for exploration.

I then took Dimensions of Leading on the road, to a group of trainers in Poland in June. Although unusual for them, it was well received. One participant said “it was interesting to see how such a simple idea could have so much to teach us”. I was on the road again in October, offering a private session of DOL for the Society for Organisational Learning in London, where it was enthusiastically received.

In the business world, “soft skills” like art and emotion are downplayed. Yet if we don’t know all sides of ourselves, then we are bringing less than our optimal to any job we do...

Dimensions of Leading for the public will next appear in Massachusetts, and London in the spring - go to www.DancingStar.com for details. To schedule in-house sessions call +1 413 367-9416, fax +1 425 675-7707 or email Deborah@DancingStar.com.



Catalyst - A Dancing Star Production
One must have chaos within to give birth to a dancing star - Nietzsche

Publisher

Dancing Star Productions

Editor

Deborah Huisken

Submissions

Send comments, questions, and submissions for Catalyst to 32 North Taylor Hill Rd, Montague, MA 01351 USA. E-mail *Deborah@DancingStar.com*. For submission to be returned, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. We reserve the right to edit articles for length, clarity, and readability.

Advertising

Rates and deadlines available on request.

On Leadership

“...in the final analysis, the principles of leadership are nothing less than the principles of humanity. Treating people with respect and dignity. Raising awareness. Creating a vision and involving others. Bonding together through alliances and teamwork. Risking all. Learning from mistakes. Refusing to lose. Inspiring rather than coercing. Listening. Compromising. Caring. Ever changing and ever achieving. By practicing leadership themselves and by instilling it in future generations, the Founding Fathers ensured, as Abraham Lincoln would later say, “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth’.”

– from *The Founding Fathers on Leadership – Classic Teamwork in Changing Times*, by *Donald T. Phillips*.

Deb’s Corner



Here’s what I think.

There are two approaches to a challenge – exterior or interior.

The exterior approach – used by “Outies” – uses established meth-

ods developed, tested, proven over time by others. It relies on research, statistics, and other external proof.

The interior approach of “Innies” relies on wisdom, experience, intuition, and judgment, on leading from within. Innies may have learned established methods and approaches – regardless, they go on to create their own, making a unique mark on the world. I think of people like Louis Armstrong, Steve Jobs, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

I grew up trying to be an Outie to fit in. I have since learned the value of being an Innie. Too often I didn’t speak my truth for a variety of reasons, chief among them fear. These days I remind myself that no one else has my unique perspective, experience of the world. I encourage you to remind yourself of the same.

In that vein, I’ll share some of my thoughts in the aftermath of September 11. A longer version on my website is linked with e-mails I’ve received that have eloquently made points I share....

I first noticed it as Marketing Communications Manager. We called ourselves an international company, yet mentioned only our US offices, customers, successes. Hmmm, I thought, what about our non-US customers? Surely my company has a good reason for not mentioning the rest of the world in our sales literature? In fact, they’d overlooked this “detail”.

Then as European Marketing Manager, I heard and saw first-hand how hard it was for our overseas partners to have their voices heard, their contributions recognized. Now it was my job to be sure

they were heard. Being on “their” side – and observing what was going on around me – opened my eyes forcefully to how blinkered we are in the US, how unconsciously we think ourselves the center of all that’s best, most important, valid, use what superlative you will – how deeply the assumption of our superiority goes. What I experienced living and working in Europe is how much we don’t hear, in our US-centered media, of what other countries offer – much of it just as if not more superlative to what we produce in the US, be it material, intellectual, artistic, technological, or otherwise.

I’m grateful that September 11 has shaken our assumption of superiority.

Understand what I’m saying. I, too, was stunned, scared and deeply saddened by the destruction in New York and DC. I’ve cried for the people who lost their homes, their jobs, their lives. I remember at odd times that my world no longer feels as safe as it did and know the shock and grief that goes along with trying to come to terms with that awareness. I in no way condone what was done.

And as the shock abates, I see this is an opportunity for a very important step in our country’s, in our world’s development. We are ALL citizens of the world. Yes, Americans have done important and worthwhile things – humanitarian, technological, political and otherwise. We can and should take pride in those things. We have also been responsible for death and destruction in countries where we were motivated by greed, empire-building, a desire to forward our political, military, or economic agenda at others’ expense. I for one do not feel we can take credit for one without taking responsibility for the other.

I believe this is a huge conversation which we must have with each other.

I’m interested to hear your thoughts.



ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

To take advantage of any of these offerings – the executive retreat, workshops, or individual coaching – contact us at Dancing Star Productions: telephone: +1 413 367-9416, email: *info@DancingStar.com*. Or complete and send the form below to 32 North Taylor Hill Road, Montague, MA 01351 USA, fax number +1 425 675-7707.

Name _____ Position _____

Company _____ Address _____

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Phone _____ Fax _____

Comments: _____

Do you want to remain on our mailing list? yes no