

Discovery Meeting #11

May 17, 2010

Minutes



Photograph by Jennifer Roth

Present: Susan Bayley, Phyllis Beinart, Holly Campbell, Linda DeHart, Chris Graefe, Pattie Heyman, Jared Kass, Nancy Lippincott, Pati Stillwater, Arthur Stowe, Pam Wilkins, Judy Young

Attending Via Skype: James Cavanaugh, Gail Ellison

Attending Via Conference Telephone: Mel Bucholtz, Caty Carlin, Amy Dunion, Nadya Tryton

PROCEEDINGS

New meeting space at Lesley, in Room 1A with telephone connection, worked better for sound system. We will meet in this room again on June 14, but it will not be available in the fall, so we are looking for another appropriate space. We are looking for a space in Cambridge with phone and computer connections and adequate parking, available from roughly 5:30 to 9:30 pm once a month.

Meetings will resume in September after a break for the summer.

Anyone with suggestions for an appropriate meeting location please contact Sue Bayley.

INTRODUCTIONS

We had nationwide participation for this call: Joining us by conference phone. three of them for the first time, were:

Nadya Tryton, a drama therapist at a St. Paul, MN, hospital and on the board of the National Association for Drama Therapy.

Caty Carlin, North Carolina maker of cloth figures and founder of Theater of the Soul.

Mel Bucholtz, a philosopher, educator and innovator who recently moved from Cambridge to Boulder, CO. He is the developer of the Tuning Effect process for psychological healing and personal growth, and founder of Interface Educational Foundation.

Amy Dunion, Coordinator of the Center for Healthcare Integration at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, CT, joined us again.

James Cavanaugh, Director of The Art of Health, and Gail Ellison, PhD, Skpyed in from Sausalito, CA.

INQUIRY OF THE DAY

James Cavanaugh noted that this year is the 21st conference of the Society for the Arts and Healthcare and asked us to consider the impact of the arts in healthcare movement, particularly in relation to the documentary, *The Art of Health*.

What do we expect TAH to achieve?

How will things be different after it is out in the world?

Linda observed that Dr. Rick van Pelt sees change in this area as a process that is measured in years: 5 or 10 or more. He suggests questions:

How many hospitals will be different as a result of TAH?

Indeed, how many hospitals are different today as a result of the arts in healthcare movement?

Mel said he was an "accomplished asthmatic" as a child, and after years of treatments and remedies finally found solutions when he went to the NY School for the Arts. See where the mind goes: it is a paradigm shift from fixing something broken to a quality of experience as healthy, **from anesthetics to aesthetics**.

Caty Carlin, a textile and cloth artist, offers cloth as a medium for healing that has been lost in history. Healing is embedded in cloth, and her interest is in raising peoples' awareness of what is already happening to support healing.

Cloth played many roles in history: Turkish women and daughters shared learning without needing to speak, weaving unique and [add space] mysterious symbols in their designs.

Women with breast cancer painted silk scarves when coming to their appointments, and when their session was over the scarves were set and ironed and they would wear the scarf out of the meeting.

Gail notes that when weaving a rug, Navajo women see only the part they work on, just as one's life is experienced in the present. Occasionally at the top the weaver runs a line to the edge to let her spirit out of the rug.

Pam noted that people relate to textiles such as *The Fiber of Life*, a very well-received exhibit she recently installed at Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Mel mentioned a book, "Touching, the Human Significance of Skin" by Ashley Montagu, noting that the skin is the largest organ of our bodies. "Cloth is an analog for skin," he observed.

The tradition of making quilts from clothing of the deceased is found in many cultures.

Rich subject matter for the documentary film.

REPORT FROM THE SAH EXHIBIT

The experience of the SAH exhibit and networking at the SAH conference was highly successful. Measurable returns include more than 15 high quality funding leads and at least that many leads for high quality content for the TAH.

Sue reported that we are still receiving contributions to pay expenses of the exhibit. Several pledges are "in the mail" and we welcome any additional contributions. A full report will be made as soon as all funds are received and disbursed.

Gail reports that all the leads are in a database and she and Jamie are pursuing them – reports to come as information develops.

Linda noted some of the extraordinary examples of how the arts are changing the perception of health, illness, and disability. Fashion photographer Rick Guidotti, Director of Positive Exposure, photographed people living with genetic, physical and behavioral conditions, celebrating the richness and beauty of human diversity, and transformed their perceptions of themselves in the process.

Performances by Kevin Kling, Billy McLaughlin, and Jason Gerling were living tributes to overcoming illness and injury in the pursuit of their art and mastery of life over disability.

Jamie mentioned that Willie Nelson has stated, "Music has saved my life." Perhaps we could create a series of weekly installments of people of that stature showing how their art has informed and transformed their lives.

Mel brought up other examples such as Dale Chihuly, renowned glass artist, who could be invited to show the power of the arts. He offered that he has access to many people who might be interested and able to help us and is willing to work with us to connect with them.

DISCUSSION

A lengthy discussion followed on developing a "pitch sheet" or fact sheet that can be used by networkers and supporters to use when we get access to prospects.

Jamie and Gail noted that they have multiple versions of the project description that are adapted to specific proposals.

In addition to a paper fact sheet, are there audio and or visual clips that can be used to promote the project? Can we develop them?

Nadya said that she has a connection to Sue Hausmann, principal of the Public Television shows "America Sews" and "America Quilts" – she is Nadya's mother! Perhaps she can give us guidance on how to get attention in the media?

Jared noted that there are two levels of development: 1 - widely recognized accomplishments and testimonials from well-known figures, and 2 - the inherent quality of creativity in the lives of "plain folks." "If I were a funder, I'd want to see both of those things being addressed," he said.

The best piece of marketing that we have currently is "Healing Words: Poetry and Medicine," the 1-hour documentary that James directed in 2008 as a pilot for TAH. Realizing that many people in the Discovery Meeting have not yet seen the pilot, we agreed to show it at our next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgently needed: designer to upgrade the Discovery Meeting website!
Anyone interested please contact Sue Bayley (sabayley@cox.net, 401-486-1901).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Next Discovery Meetings:

Summer break, then:

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 13

By Susan Bayley for Discovery Meeting • www.discoverymeeting.org