

Collective Wisdom Circles

“Intelligence emerges as a system connects to itself in new and diverse ways.” Meg Wheatley

Tammy Neilson
Creating Realities

My offering.....



- To share my passion for hosting Collective Wisdom Circles
- To share inspiring stories of the impact of engaging Collective Wisdom
- To offer an experience to deeply listen and witness your own wisdom

Together today....

- Share my story of co-creating and hosting Collective Wisdom Circles
- Share the ‘Grounded Theory’ research of Collective Wisdom work
- Share in a journey of a Collective Wisdom Circle – focusing on “Accessing my wisdom as a leader”

Collective Wisdom Circle Story...



What I witnessed.....

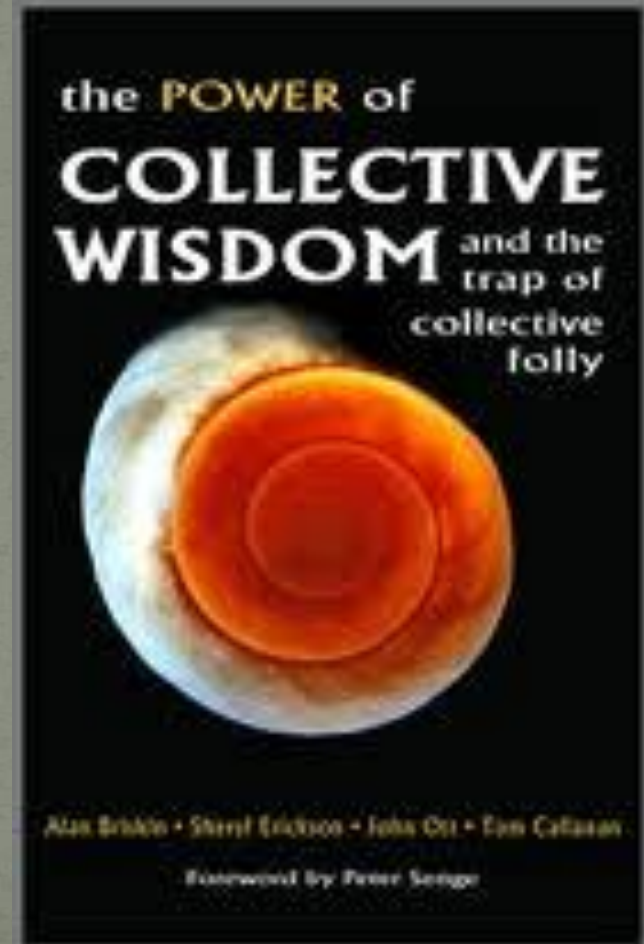
1. An opening to trusting their own power as leaders
2. A re-defining and re-writing of their own leadership stories (some which hindered and those that helped)
3. A challenging of outdated norms and the identification of new boundaries for self care
4. A letting go of self-doubts and criticisms that impeded effective leadership
5. An opening to taking in the impact of their leadership
6. A creation of passionate and authentic relationships within a community of women leaders

“ The more room you
give yourself to express your
true thoughts and feelings,
the more room there is for
your wisdom to emerge. ”

— MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

Collective Wisdom Theory

- Over 10 years ago the Collective Wisdom Initiative was formed by a network of practitioners and scholars around the world
- Fetzer Institute supported the development of the network and this book
- You can find further information at www.collectivewisdominitiative.org



What is Collective Wisdom?

“Wisdom reflects a capacity for sound judgment, discernment, and the objectivity to see what is needed in the moment”.

“Collective wisdom reflects a similar capacity to learn together and evolve towards something greater and wiser than what we can do as individuals alone”.

“We believe our capacity for collective wisdom is innate and its emergence in groups catalyzed by awareness of a compelling need and a higher purpose”.

- pg. 4 The Power of Collective Wisdom

My belief about Collect Wisdom:

- Collective Wisdom is the journey of accessing the deep inherent knowledge that lives within every individual, group and community
- It is the process of dropping down to listen and witness our own innate knowing and creating spaces for authentic sharing
- Collective Wisdom honours that the knowing already exists and our roles is to access it

6 stances:

The six stances that deepen our capacity for wise action and prepare us for collective wisdom to arise are;

1. Deep Listening
2. Suspension of Certainty
3. Seeing Whole Systems/Seeking Diverse Perspectives
4. Respect for Others/Group Discernment
5. Welcoming All That Is Arising
6. Trust in the Transcendent

1. Deep Listening:

- Deep listening invites us to be curious about what is really going on inside the person, the group, or the larger collective
- Deep listening is a way to pay attention to both interior and exterior worlds in order for groups to make sounder judgments and act in accordance with deeper values

2. Suspension of Certainty:

- This commitment to suspend certainty is what makes our knowing together collective, because something new and often unexpected emerges in and through the group
- A greater collective wisdom becomes possible because ideas are no longer the possession of one person or subgroup, but are shared by those who helped shape it together

3. Seeing Whole Systems & Seeking Diverse Perspectives:

- Groups need to gather information from many diverse perspectives to increase their understanding of the whole
- Committing to this stance requires us to find ways to synthesize diverse information, whether through multiple personal conversations, data collection or group methodologies that emphasize listening and discovery

4. Respect for Others & Group Discernment:

- Respect is a commitment to esteem others, even when disagreement arises. It is a willingness to recognize dissent as an avenue for new learning
- Discernment is a capacity in groups for differentiation, permitting the emergence of new thinking and new images of what is possible
- When respect and discernment are brought together, groups have a renewed ability to find common ground

5. Welcoming all that is Arising:

- How we invite others into relationship matters
- It brings attention to sharing power with others and treating others as equals
- This commitment encourages us to welcome the pleasant and unpleasant aspects of group life, recognizing that even disruptive obstacles or difficult circumstances can be critical aspects of our passage to wholeness

6. Trust in the Transcendent:

- Underlying and critical to all stances that aid collective wisdom emergence is a respect for human agency, the powers of nature and the significance of the spiritual dimension to the activities we undertake
- When we look out upon the world with awe and wonder, we are better able to see constructive possibilities rather than simply constricting limits
- We become capable of remaining secure even in our uncertainty and better able to ask others for assistance, co-creating a world that works for all

At its core, wisdom circles are made up of -
Tammy - the sagacious sage,
Laura - the salubrious chef,
and
You - the sentient souls
who will surely savour these
words in the circles:

Be Present

Authentic:
Ruminate over how to become better connected to yourself and - as a result - your community

Owlsh:
Spend numinous nights together with wonderfully wise women

Henotic:
Connect deeply with women in an irenic setting

Be Vulnerable

Unique:
Share your special gifts with the group; The circle loves to be stretched

Promissory:
Intend your dreams and watch them bloom. The circle is full of promise and opportunity

Be Honest

Insatiable:
Relish the postprandial discussions and discoveries. You'll want to come back for more

Be Supportive

Collective Wisdom Circles...

- Break into small circles of 6 people
- Choose a talking stone for your group
- *We will take a couple moments in silence reflecting on the questions*
- We will ring a bell, someone in the circle starts by sharing their reflections from one of the questions
- Everyone else brings their presence to the individual sharing
- Once the individual is done they pass the talking stone to another person in the circle
- We have 25 minutes for this journey so please self monitor sharing and group timing

Our reflective questions.....

1. What helps me deeply listen to my own wisdom as a leader?
2. What hinders my ability to be present to my own wisdom within groups?
3. What resonates for me around Collective Wisdom? (share my experiences or beliefs)



Thank you for
opening to the
possibilities of
Collective Wisdom!

