

# The Art of Hosting

and convening meaningful conversations

November 6-8—Riverwood Inn and Conference Center, Otsego, MN

**The Art of Hosting and Convening Conversations That Matter** is a training for all those who aspire to learn how to work with groups in more interactive, engaging and effective ways.

**We Invite**

*Social Innovators*

Teachers

**Leaders**



**Entrepreneurs**

Students

**Policy Makers**

**This training will give participants the opportunity to:**

- Explore **hosting conversations** as a core practice and skill set for **leading change**
- Develop competence in multiple **interactive processes** that produce **learning, creativity, and shared commitment** to action (processes include Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry, Circle, World Café, & others)
- Learn to **design** and **lead** conversations that result in clearer thinking, intelligent solutions, and group coherence
- Explore how to **apply** these tools to a project in progress, and determine how to explore your skills and practices beyond this workshop
- **Experience** the art of hosting as a fundamental organizing pattern that invites **profound shifts** in how we might live and work together

**How can we move through the complexity in our lives and communities to create space for something new to emerge?**

**How can we work across generations and typical divides to find solutions for the common good?**

**What is the change I am inviting in myself and my leadership?**

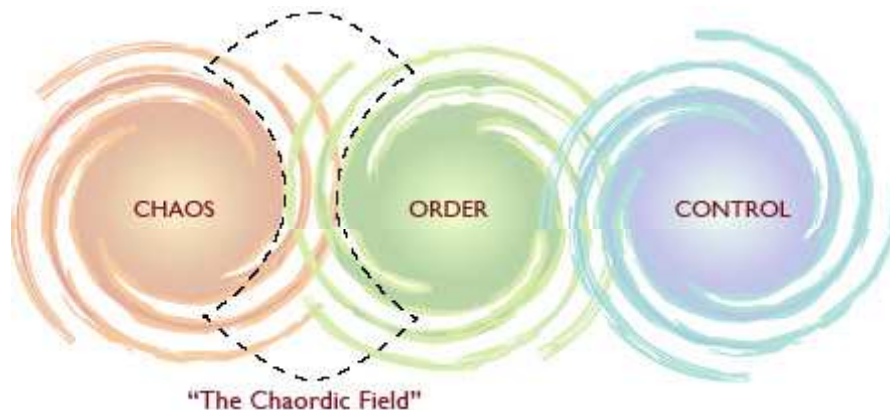
**What could my leadership also be?**

Need to know more? Check out [www.artofhosting.org](http://www.artofhosting.org) for more information on the training process.

# The Content

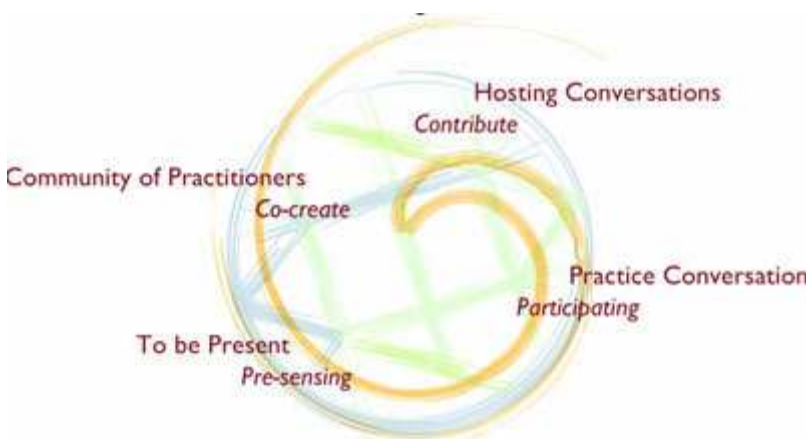
## The Art of Hosting is more than just a training:

- It is a response to a world that is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented, where true solutions and innovations lie not in one leader or one viewpoint, but in the bigger picture of our collective intelligence.
- It is a response to a time when institutions and democracy itself are failing to address the increasing chaos in our world. It is an experimentation ground for those seeking to find new, effective and healthy patterns for organizing, innovating and interacting for tomorrow's systems.
- It is a practice ground for all who aspire to bring out the best in others. It is built on the assumption and experience that we need to find new solutions for the common good, whether in corporations, government, education, non-profits, social movements, communities, or families.
- It provides the basic theory and practices of the specific competences required to live and work in the tension between chaos and order-The Chaordic Field where learning and innovation take place and where wise and sustainable change can be discovered.



## The training process:

The specific competencies required by living and working in the Chaordic field are depicted below. This Four fold practice is the foundation of the Art of Hosting.



## Interactive!

Our learning will grow out of everyone's contributions and presence—we will support each other as co-learners.

We will learn by observation, experience and practice, using interactive processes to build a safe and inspiring learning environment.

If you would like additional information, please contact Maggie at [maggie@ngplains.org](mailto:maggie@ngplains.org).

# Meet the hosting team



**Tim Merry**

Host, Social Entrepreneur and Slam Poet

In a time of increasing speed, diversity and information saturation, the clarity we seek is already within ourselves, our communities, organizations and networks. I am inspired by what happens when we create the conditions for people to engage meaningfully with each other, reach collective clarity and take action that is sustaining.

It is time for us to gather together and co-create our solutions. We need the processes and organizational patterns that allow humans to gather in their authenticity and act with accuracy for the common good. Let us call now the conversations that matter, gather in our collective wisdom and act for the future that is calling us on.

Currently Tim is co-leading a community leadership and social entrepreneurship training centre in Canada called the Shire, [www.oftheshire.org](http://www.oftheshire.org). Tim was also a founder and partner of Engage! Interact in the Netherlands, [www.engage.nu/engage](http://www.engage.nu/engage).



**Jerry Nagel**

Host

For the past 30 years, my work has focused on supporting vibrant communities through

strategies centered on economic solutions. I have come to realize that while necessary, these external, economic actions alone are not sufficient to build healthy, balanced communities. To have truly vibrant communities we all need to be physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy. My work is now centered on building our leadership capacities to draw out all our collective wisdom, listen and act from a shared place, balance our inner and outer worlds, and connect with each other and nature so that we can live together in a more sustainable and nurturing way. I am also a recovering economist.

**Sera Thompson**

Host and Change Agent



In the past 6 years, Sera has Lived and worked in Canada, the United States and Southern Africa. Sera has organized and facilitated conversations, conferences and strategic change processes that invite profound shifts in thinking and acting for non-profits, corporates, academics and government from teens to elders with dozens of nationalities. She is an active practitioner in a global learning community of people committed to finding and creating new patterns for the way organizations and communities access diversity, respond to change and manifest their full potential. [www.pioneersofchange.net](http://www.pioneersofchange.net)

## Local Co-Hosts

**Reggie Edwards**

Region Nine  
Development  
Commission

**Fiona Lennox**

Independent  
Consultant

**Judy Jewison**

Co-Founder  
REALM  
Consulting  
Group

**Joe Bartmann**

The Rural  
Learning  
Center

# Logistics

## The Art of Hosting and Convening Conversations

November 6, 9 a.m.-November 8, 4 p.m.  
Riverwood Inn and Conference Center, Otsego, MN

### The training will take place at Riverwood Inn and Conference Center

Riverwood Inn and Conference Center is situated along the Mississippi River in Otsego, Minnesota. Visit their website to learn more at [www.riverwoodinn.com](http://www.riverwoodinn.com)

### The training will run Thursday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will start at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday and end around 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. During the evening, participants will have an opportunity to enhance learning through informal conversations and activities.

**Participation is Limited!** 35 participant maximum—submit your registration soon to secure a spot.

**Tuition (includes meals during the training)** \$900 per person

### Accommodations

\$89 plus taxes for each night of lodging at Riverwood Inn (based on single-room occupancy). Please reserve your room at Riverwood Inn by calling (763) 441-6833—indicate your reservation is for the Art of Hosting training.

### To register, please complete the registration form and send it via mail, email or fax to:

Address: Northern Great Plains, Inc.  
4838 Rocking Horse Circle  
Suite 201  
Fargo, ND 58104

Email: [maggie@ngplains.org](mailto:maggie@ngplains.org)  
Fax: (701) 364-1350  
Phone: (701) 364-1349

**Registration and payment will be accepted until October 15<sup>th</sup>—pre-payment is necessary to reserve your place in the session. Please send payment (checks only, please) to the address above with participant name(s) indicated.**



*Experience Collective Connection*