

***The 2nd Baikal International Business Forum
“NEW MEANINGS IN BUSINESS – 2014”***



THE LEADERSHIP VISION QUEST

Lake Baikal, 02-12.08

This nine day program is intended for, but not limited to: leaders in business or non-profit organizations, educators, healers, therapists, change agents, visionaries, lovers of the earth.

This work takes as its starting point a vision of leadership that includes the natural world, linking our gifts as leaders to the larger community of living beings. The Leadership Vision Quest follows the model of an ancient practice that has served generations of humans as a pathway into fully conscious and deeply connected adulthood. It is rooted in the practice of the Four Directions, balancing the energies of play, work, insight, inspiration, and care for the world.

This work takes place in the natural world, a place we can return to in order to cleanse and reawaken ourselves. We rediscover ourselves in wild nature, mirrored by the silence, the wind, the landscape, the plants and animals we meet: they are all telling us our story, as they tell us their own. They awaken in us a sense of stewardship and service in the world.

UNDERTAKING A VISION QUEST

The Vision Quest has four core elements that serve as both challenges and supports for the journey: Solitude, immersion in nature, fasting, and community.

Solitude has been a part of mystical and initiatory paths throughout human history. It invites us to discover our own deepest nature and to open ourselves to the richness of our soul life.

Immersion in nature takes us back to the truth, that we are part of the Great Mystery and not the masters. We return to our place in the natural world with humility and gratitude, finding renewal and reflection in the wonder of creation.

Fasting is another ancient cross-cultural practice, one that opens the mind and heart. Most people will be able to fast during the solo period of the Vision Quest, but the practice can be modified to accommodate those who cannot fast.

Traditional rites of passage always take place in the context of community. The gifts from the ceremony of understanding, love and compassion help renew and nourish the whole of society. On our Vision Quest program, we work to develop community in the field, so that group members feel safe to speak from the heart, knowing that the container of community will hold them. This allows for deep sharing and witnessing; from there, the healing circle of community is carried home to loved ones, and out into the world.

The group begins near or in the wilderness, where we get acquainted and meet to begin preparations for the quest. We'll review flora, fauna, first aid, safety procedures, and the buddy system. We will present tools such as the medicine wheel teachings. There is time for sharing with other participants and staff, or for just sitting quietly. On the last evening together in base camp, the whole group will meet in council circle, where you'll have a final opportunity to share deeply of hopes and fears. The next morning, there will be a beginning ceremony at sunrise to bless you and send you off.

During the Vision Quest solo, you will enter sacred time and space, living by yourself in the wildness of nature. In the weakness of fasting [or eating lightly], you become more open and transparent. You live between the inner world of dreams, feelings, fantasies and the outer world of cold night air, the warming sun. You may be visited by loneliness, boredom, fear, and regret--among others. You engage them with your heart and spirit, recognizing them as worthwhile opponents. They push you into your depths.

On the last evening you will build a circle to represent your life, entering it at dusk and remaining awake until the dawn releases you. During the long night, you can sit, stand, dance, sing, pray, or just huddle from the cold. You are bearing witness to your own death and rebirth. What is important to carry into your new life, and what needs to be left behind? You ask the Spirit to help you find your way. Your prayers are answered as the first rays of sunlight pierce the darkness. It's time now to come down off the mountain and begin the journey back.

The return from the Vision Quest can be a time of great energy and joy, celebrating the healing and wholeness that you have found. After participants return to base camp, you will break your fast, then we will spend the balance of this day, and the next two, exploring the teachings of the Quest, reflecting the beauty and meaning of each story, and the challenges posed for the return. The task is to re-enter your life, bringing your unique gifts and opened heart back to family, friends and community. The task before you is, how can I bring my vision into my world, the world of work, relationships and ordinary life? The energy of the wilderness has flowed into us as healing, and from us enters the world.

Bios for Mike Bodkin and Renee Sweezy

Michael Bodkin, M.S., MFT, is a psychotherapist and wilderness guide who has directed the work of Rites of Passage for over 25 years. His passion is leading people to the mirror of nature to discover the gifts of their soul. He directs the guide training programs for Rites of Passage and has

led Vision Quests and trainings in places as diverse as South Korea , Australia, Sweden, The Czech Republic and Canada. He's also a strong voice for men's soul work, having guided men on the Men's Vision Quest for over 20 years. Michael lives with his wife Renée in intentional community near Santa Rosa, CA where he grows organic vegetables and plays bluegrass guitar and dobro.

Renee Swezey first undertook a Vision Quest with Steven Foster and Meredith Little in 1982 when they were the co-directors of Rites of Passage. She found the experience life altering and profoundly affirming. Since then, she has been an advocate and supporter of the work, by serving both as a staff person and board member with Rites of Passage for over 20 years. Renee honors and holds with deep regard those who feel called to this journey, leaving what is familiar to go into the sacred wilderness of the world and of oneself. She brings gifts of open heart, quiet courage and gentle presence to help create unique and vibrant community in the field. Renee is married to Mike Bodkin, the Executive Director of Rites of Passage, and lives in a rural intentional community in Northern California.

Seminar Fee: 4125 EUR.

More information and registration:

Philip Guzeniuk: +7 911 927 9248, fil@directorclub.ru, Skype: Phil.guzenuk.

The Organizer of the Seminar



Partners:



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