

Finding Time for Community
Open Space Discussion 40th Anniversary of Hutchins School Oct 18, 2009

Recorder: Linda Sahr (travels@sonic.net)

Participants: Beth Warner (warnere@sonoma.edu, Tony Mountain (Anthony.mountain@sonoma.edu), Linda Suhr, Deidre Pleasant (deidrejoyce@comcast.net), Jennifer Meister (jenmeister600@gmail.com), Michael Varek (mvarek@aol.com), Dacia Sandoval (dacia.sandoval@sonoma.edu)

BW- What kind of factors affect your involvement in community groups?

LS-Time

BW-What has shifted over time to prevent us from being involved?

JM-Denmark is the “happiest” country. The gov’t funds groups such as laughing group, etc.

JM-At turn of century, family unit was intact.

BW-Scottish country dance, there is no politics, it’s fun. Sometimes I feel stressed and don’t want to go but when I do I feel so much better.

DP- After Hutchins I got an MA, now I teach online. I have a three-year old. Teaching online is so isolating. All this online activity is not connecting.

BW- “Friends” or Facebook are they really your friends.

JM-Face book is a useful social networking tool.

BW-Maybe we need to redefine what “community” means. Very few communal rituals.

JM-Religions serves the purpose in some ways.

BW-How can we set up our system so that we have time to do communal activities?

BW-If we were to take control of our time to “turn off” the myriad things.

TM-There is an overwhelming amount of ways to communicate-that we to by without for so long –that are distracting.

BW-When I was growing up, you didn’t call people after 9:00PM. If there a way to get back to community [?]

TM-Do you think about what is important in our life-the “rocks”.

DS-I am protective about my cell phone & email. I set limits. Ids feel they need to be connected 24/7.

TM-Maybe this is the new community. Maybe it's redefined.

DS-Moved to new community in WA, still struggling with finding community

JM-Lower-income people often do not have access to technology in order to connect

BW-How important is actually physically communicating together? As opposed to communicating online?