

## World Café Is On The Move!

Discussion created by Sheila LeGeros on 12/15/2009 8:44 AM

[Sheila LeGeros](#)

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I just got a newsletter from World Café; they are doing some really exciting work. Here is an excerpt:

*With the help of experienced hosts throughout the global network our World Café Community Foundation team launched the new World Café online community space, which is growing at an astounding rate. With it, a much larger circle of World Café stewardship has evolved. We helped pioneer a new way to host World Café conversations using teleconferencing, developed exciting initiatives in multi-generational collaboration and took the concept and practice of conversational leadership into a wide range of organizational settings. We saw new connections and friendships form and grow in Japan, Hungary, Russia, and other places around the world. World Café stewards hosted the opening cafe for the Dalai Lama's visit to Vancouver and participated in the birth of the European Salon in Austria. Doctoral students at the Fielding Graduate University and elsewhere began planning innovative action learning research projects focusing on World Cafe.*

I participated in a World Café hosted by Juanita Brown on Maestro Conference this fall. They admitted it was their first Maestro Conference session, and it was clear they didn't have a script and had not done a dress rehearsal, which made it a bit rough at times. But, nevertheless, the result was pure poetry. The groups I participated in were so inspiring, and took me to very deep places. I felt amazing connection with total strangers in only 10 minutes. World Café and Maestro Conference are very well suited partners, because Maestro Conference gives the facilitator the power to put hundreds of people into groups of 4 for intimate conversations with the touch of a button.

Maestro is now working on calls for 1000 people, and plans to master 2000 people by Spring 2010. They are gearing up for even greater numbers for the Obama administration's initiatives on public participation.

I think we have the opportunity to do the same thing with ToP in 2010 that World Café

has done this past year by taking things online. How can we get some wins in 2010? How can we speed-up our work? What is really necessary for us to do, and what is not necessary? I hope this stimulates your thoughts so that when we join together in St. Paul in January, your creative juices are flowing!!!

Happy holidays,

Sheila

[Regina Rowland, PhD](#)

Posted by [Regina Rowland, PhD](#) on 12/15/2009 10:00 AM

Exciting! We held world cafes virtually in November in my Evolutionary Leadership group, actually using Skype; each table was hosted by a virtual host on a laptop, which stayed at the table while the other three participants in each group wondered around. It took quite some laptops to facilitate this "hybrid" form and worked really well. I think the video was nice though (which Maestro does not have). Sigh...can't we have one WONDER tool that does it all?

I also facilitated a cafe recently in a mixed group of visually impaired and folks with normal eyesight. After the first question I turned off the lights and they worked in pitch-darkness, amazing results in the changed behavior, really interesting (the conversations became quieter, and slowed down quite a bit, also people moved closer to each other. Where can I post this to the larger community, Sheila? Thanks

[Sheila LeGeros](#)

Posted by [Sheila LeGeros](#) on 12/15/2009 11:34 AM

Hi Regina,

Your work sounds great. The larger community exists in a couple places:

- 1) There is the IAF -- they have an ongoing blog. It's mostly about questions, not about successes.
- 2) There is a LinkedIn Facilitator Group -- I'll send you a link.
- 3) I'll post it in the TTN LinkedIn Group. I believe this is a closed group -- open only to ToP Trainers Network members -- has an annual fee.
- 4) What do others recommend?

Best, Sheila