



**ILA October Conference
Closing Comments
Katherine Tyler Scott**

Hasn't this been a wonderful Conference? I just met someone on the elevator today who said "My head is full, my heart is bursting, and my feet are tired." I think we can all relate to this description at this point. Each of us has a perspective about what we have experienced here and what it means; I feel privileged to share mine.

We all know that ILA is a unique organization of scholars, practitioners, and researchers who all share a mission of promoting a deeper understanding of leadership knowledge and practice for the larger good of individuals, organizations, and communities worldwide. What this conference has inspired us to do is to re-interpret this mission in light of the current reality and our desire for a different future.

In Sherry Penny's warm and gracious welcome and Chancellor Motley's energetic invitation we heard both pride in this "City of firsts," as well as acknowledgement of the challenge of being a place of tradition *and* innovation.

Our President, Cynthia Cherrey provided a context for our time together and for Leadership 2.0. She described a state of chronic shifts and a degree of change that calls us to think differently and to develop and use the skill of *complex-ipcacity*.

The issues we face demand a different way of leading, something we've heard daily. Every speaker we in our Plenary Sessions as well as many workshop leaders have shared this appraisal as well as their own thoughts about what this means for leadership study and practice and for us individually and collectively.

Leadership 2.0 is Leadership 1.0 on steroids! – a call to action, persistently demanding the answer to the question posed by both Jean Lipman Blumen and Rosabeth Moss Kanter – "Leadership for what?"

The answers will come from all of us and from our willingness to work across boundaries and explore the intersections between what we are learning and doing and between who we are and what we believe. We must be willing to let

go of the illusion of control, as Cynthia said and be on what I describe as the margin.

Ecologically, the margin is a biologically rich and diverse place where different habitats come together. In Leadership 2.0 these are the spaces in which we can bring our whole selves; where we cannot and will not permit professional, cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic and/or religious classifications to divide us or to perpetuate the illusion that we don't share a common humanity or the same fate. We are connected and when we move from our places of professional centrality to where we intersect, we find ourselves in the space of great potential and a wealth of possibilities for creating change that is truly transformational.

Being on the margin gives us a sense of humility and a renewed respect for differences. It enables us to see from a distance with clarity and compassion- the kind that Caron Armstrong spoke of – the kind of compassion that urges us to action.

The margin is not a neat orderly antiseptic place. It is organic and at times messy and unpredictable, but those who inhabit it understand that it is the place from which the new order will emerge. In order to achieve this new order ILA will need to continue to be a space of hospitality, where strangers can enter and discover themselves and experience the freedom to be real and authentic, open and honest, like every single honoree who received the Leadership Legacy awards. They personify Leadership 2.0.

We must commit to creating such places and spaces for those whose lives we touch and whom we teach.

As Henri Nouwen writes; "Most of us know from experience what real hospitality feels like. It means being received openly, warmly, freely, without the need to earn your keep or prove yourself...a hospitable space is alive with trust and goodwill rooted in a sense of our common humanity." Of course we must also be accountable; assessment is key to ILA's credibility, but we must also be counter to the culture. We must not accommodate distortions or mistruths. We must engage others in doing their inner work and in aligning their values with their actions, and enabling them to exercise their gifts in order to bring about the transformation we envision. Jung reminds us that "who looks outside dreams; who looks inside awakens." We must awaken ourselves to our inner potential and use it to bring about external change.

Michael Jones, who has shared his gift of music with us says this eloquently in his beautiful book, *Artful Leadership*: “We must awaken ourselves to our inner patience and use it for external change. When a leader leads from their gifts they will seek to temper power with beauty, accomplishment with humility and action with reflection. In this way they may find the faith to engage their world with fresh eyes and ears each day.”

The answer to the question of “Leadership for what?” is yet to be answered. The answer to what our leadership in action will be will not be answered in this Conference, but the answer, as Jeff Schwartz said, is in our hands.

I will end with one of my favorite quotes from George Bernard Shaw:

“Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which we’ve got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it onto future generations. “Like life, leadership is no brief candle to us. It is sort of a splendid torch which we’ve got hold of for the moment and we want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations. When we convene in London next year we will all bring the torches of change for Leadership 2.0. for the next generation.

Thank you, and now the real closer, Sherry Penny.