

North American Invitational Summit: Bonding and Attachment in the Family—Addressing the Root Causes of Social Problems at the Earliest Stages of Life

Santa Barbara, CA, March 27-30, 2003

Note: This printout is provided only convenience of those not having ready access to our website and is a poor substitute. Registrants, once enrolled will need regular access to email (check with a friend or the library)

Contents

- **Overview**
- **Purpose and Goals**
- **Program Summary**
- **Who Should Attend**
- **Sponsors**
- **Schedule (see separate file)**
- **Speaker/Panelist Bios (see separate file)**
- **Venue and Costs**
- **Post-Summit Workshops (see separate file)**
- **Register for Summit** (registration form in separate file)
- **Spread the Word**
- **Help Someone Else Attend**
- **Sponsorship Opportunities**
- **Networking Data Input Form** (done only on Web, available mid March)
- **Networking Area** (for registered participants--password required--available on Web in mid March):
- **Blueprint and Proclamation** (see separate file)

Auxiliary files: (these are linked from underlined words in the main pages below)

- **Shall We Form a Choir?**
- **Model Community Candidates**
- **Toward a Paradigm of Connection: How Circles and The World Café Can Foster Transforming the Lives of Children**

Continuing Education (CE) Credits will be provided in these categories: RN, LVN, LCSW, & MFT, for a maximum of 30 hours.

Overview

This unprecedented interactive Summit will bring together a multi-disciplinary, dedicated population of passionate individuals and organizations to share current scientific evidence, clinical experience, and cross-cultural knowledge and practices about family bonding and attachment. Building on the [Blueprint for Transforming the Lives of Children](#), participants will collaborate in creating a plan to actualize a broad-based social movement throughout North America.

Who Should Attend?

- Health and social service professionals
- Educators
- Cultural, civic, and not-for-profit leaders
- Early childhood teachers and childcare providers
- Activists
- Researchers
- Media representatives

What Will I Gain?

- A comprehensive picture of the multi-dimensional aspects of family attachment and bonding.
- Opportunities to network with a diverse and passionate population of people.
- A place on a collaborative team to actualize a broad-based social movement throughout North America.
- Practice using an innovative process for cultural change (The World Café).
- Greater support and empowerment for your individual and collaborative endeavors.
- An opportunity to attend in-depth workshops.
- The unique *Summit Handbook* filled with a wide range of resource materials.
- Access to books, videos, poster sessions, etc.
- Great meals and time spent in a spectacular natural environment.

Whether you are working solo or in a group, we believe that, together, we can create a harmonious choir that can strengthen your experience of belonging to a powerful transformational movement.

Purpose

This interactive Summit will bring together leading-edge organizations and individuals to share current scientific evidence, clinical experience, and cross-cultural knowledge and practices about family bonding and attachment. Participants will bring their unique experiences and knowledge to enhance and unify the entire group's understanding of the many diverse factors affecting the development and wellbeing of children and their families. The areas addressed in this Summit are outlined in the aTLC *Proclamation* and *Blueprint* for Transforming the Lives of Children. They include the personal, interpersonal, family, community, and societal aspects of attachment and bonding.

Having a clearer picture of family attachment and bonding and seeing how the various parts fit within the whole, participants will collaborate to create a plan to initiate and actualize a broad-based social movement throughout North America. Participants will leave the Summit feeling supported, energized, and empowered to expand the impact of their individual and collaborative work.

Goals

Much of this unique weekend event is interactive, enabling participants to contribute their knowledge, experience, and skills. The goals of this event are to:

- **Facilitate information-sharing and dialog among a multidisciplinary group** of individuals and organizations working on family bonding and attachment issues;
- **Provide a historical and cross-cultural perspective on bonding and attachment**, and the various practices in which different cultures and communities have engaged that either promote or inhibit successful bonding and attachment;
- **Delineate the wide spectrum of societal problems in North America** that have their roots in an inadequate understanding of, and disregard for, the significance of family bonding and attachment;
- **Facilitate interactive, cross-disciplinary, small-group discussions** and, in particular, encourage multiple attendees from the same region, or with similar interests, to develop model communities or collaborative projects;
- **Translate evidence-based scientific findings into action steps** that can be applied at every level of society;
- Encourage Summit participants to expand and deepen the Alliance by helping to **bring into reality its vision of a broad-based social movement that will significantly improve the state of family bonding and attachment in North America.**

Program Summary

The Summit begins with dinner Thursday evening and ends at 3pm on Sunday. The opening session will feature Joseph Chilton Pearce (*Magical Child*) and Suzanne Arms (*Immaculate Deception*). The closing session will include Michel Odent MD, (*The Farmer and the Obstetrician*), and California Senator John Vasconcellos. The Summit is centered around nine plenary sessions, each addressing an area of the aTLC Blueprint. One participant has been asked to open each plenary session with a brief overview of the area, focusing on the question for that session:

A panel of three to five participants then explores the question further, in a process known as Appreciative Inquiry (which differs from the usual approach of critically appraising what has been said). The panels are designed to stimulate creative thinking and brainstorming among all participants, as they break into small groups that intermingle, using a unique format, called The World Café, which enables people to interact deeply and creatively.

The questions to be explored (subject to change as the Summit unfolds):

Day sessions:

- Conception and Pregnancy: What Facilitates a Strong Bond?
- Birth and Postpartum: How Can the Bond Be Protected?
- How Can We Nurture the Nature and Needs of Children?
- How Can Trauma, Our Own and Our Infant's, Be Healed and Prevented?
- Piecing It Together: How Can We Initiate and Actualize Change at the Community and Societal/Cultural Level?
- Where Do We Go from Here? Collectively Creating a Plan for Action

Evening sessions:

- What Can Other Cultures Teach Us?
- How Can Nonviolent Communication Foster Bonding and Attachment?
- How Can *Getting Real* Truth Skills Foster Bonding and Attachment?

Professional meetings are usually conducted within a ***Paradigm of Control*** that focuses on a narrowly defined set of problems rather than possibilities, and on the delivery of solutions by experts who are assumed to have the answers. The Summit is based on a ***Paradigm of Connection***, which draws on the collective wisdom of the entire group and is focused upon identifying and expanding possibilities rather than delivering solutions. *While many of the participants will be accustomed to being presenters paid for their services, the Summit creates an opportunity for all of us to meet as peers and collaborators.*

Participants will also be asked to join (or create their own) action-focused “pod” with other participants. Each pod will meet once a day to develop an action plan for promoting change at the societal or community level. These action plans will be shared with the entire group during the closing session on Sunday. Daily progress reports of each pod will be provided to participants in printed summaries, so that all conference participants can see what others are thinking and doing.

Evening sessions will focus on the experience and knowledge of indigenous cultures, presented in a variety of creative non-linear formats, followed by opportunities to learn communication skills that enhance bonding and attachment.

Who Should Attend

Participants sought for the Summit include those:

- 1) **Active in teaching, psychotherapy, health care** (e.g., midwife, doula, counselor, nurse, physician), and are concerned about the impact of family bonding/attachment and desire to help prevent, assess and/or solve some of the problems that exist in North America (example: Alivio Clinic in Chicago, a collective of midwives who provide a full range of maternity care, who train birth educators and doulas from the local community to serve in their own community, and who use public money for low income, primarily Hispanic, families).
- 2) **Adept in a field that facilitates transforming the lives of children** and families and is of interest to participants in the Summit (example: Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication--books, tapes, and workshops, which teach highly effective communication skills to individuals and groups but are currently not known to many people or groups working in the area of family bonding and attachment).
- 3) **Who have created a model that focuses on parents/children/education** that warrants national exposure; have done work that should be brought to a larger public concerned about the state of family bonding/attachment (example: Parents' Place, part of the Monterey, CA, public school district's adult education program, providing attachment parenting education and support to 600 families with children from birth to age three).

- 4) **Involved with the creation of organizational, economic, and legal changes** that impact children/parents within the:
 - Legislative system--local, state, or national,
 - Insurance industry,
 - Educational system.
- 5) **Involved in social change**; an activist in the area of bonding and attachment and family wellbeing at any level:
 - Grassroots organizations,
 - Community and parent activist groups,
 - Educators of healthcare providers, psychologists, counselors, or teachers,
 - Policy makers in healthcare facilities, employers, universities, or government.
- 6) **Representing a culture where the continuum of parent-infant bonding remains intact.**
- 7) **Representing a significant, yet currently underserved, population** of parents, children, or families (ideally, already identified as a spokesperson for that population).
- 8) **Experienced in obtaining significant funding** through corporate or governmental sponsorship, grants, or other methods; ability to work with funding agencies.
- 9) **Successful at accomplishing goals with minimal funding** and believe this can be used as a model for other groups, organizations, or communities, etc., to use on behalf of family bonding/attachment (Example: New Horizons School for homeless children in Santa Cruz, CA, founded by a woman who has turned a dream into reality)
- 10) **Skilled in the use or synthesis of clinical or research data.**

Sponsors

- Alliance for Transforming the Lives of Children ([LINK TO MAIN WEBSITE](#)) founded in 1999, is a non-profit alliance of nearly 100 organizations and individuals committed to bringing a scientific, evidence-based vision of optimal human development into form.
- Santa Barbara Graduate Institute offers the first graduate degrees in prenatal/perinatal psychology and the first doctoral degrees in somatic psychology. A goal of SBGI is to bring evidence-based research and clinical practice from these vital fields into local communities.

Co-sponsors:

- Association for Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health
- Attachment Parenting International
- Global Maternal/Child Health Association
- Mothering Magazine
- Touch the Future Foundation

Venue

La Casa de Maria's Ladera Campus was home to a former Jesuit Seminary and acquired by La Casa in 1997 to accommodate the ever-growing demand for its programs and retreat facilities. The facility flourishes in an area of outstanding natural beauty high in the Montecito hills above Santa Barbara, where the air is pure, tranquility reigns, and the mountains sweep down to meet the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Despite the notice on the La Casa website that children are not allowed, we will have exclusive use of the campus and several families are joining us. Because aTLC recognizes the fundamental importance of attachment and feels the inclusion of parents' voices is critical to this Summit, babies and children are welcome. Due to the think-tank nature of

the sessions, participants accompanied by a little one should be considerate of others and be prepared to leave a session if their child becomes disruptive or needs comforting. Participants with children in attendance may wish their partners/friends to take primary responsibility for the children during the day--on or off campus. There are lots of fun things for kids to do in Santa Barbara. Note that we are charged a \$10 day-use fee for everyone who is not staying at La Casa, children included.

Costs

Registration for the Summit is \$435 (\$485 after February 25) and includes three lunches and three dinners at the Summit site (to encourage participants to remain on-site throughout the program). A full breakfast buffet is available for \$9/day.

A single room at La Casa de Maria costs \$65 (tax included--\$195 for the three nights—a reduced rate is available for partners sharing a bed). The retreat facility rooms are simple, as becomes a retreat center, with bed, desk, and washbasin. Bathrooms are shared, dormitory style. Phones and dataports are available in common areas. *Please do not contact La Casa de Maria directly, but email the Summit registrar with any questions and special needs.*

If you are staying Sunday evening for the post-Summit workshops on Monday, a room at La Casa will cost \$65. Sunday dinner and Monday breakfast and lunch are available (see registration form for costs).

Please contact us if you need a work-scholarship. (Note: You may also find that money is available in your own community, through governmental agencies, organizations, or individuals to support you and several others to come from your community, especially if you represent a minority or underserved group.)

Register for the Summit

To register for the Summit:

- Check the page “Who Should Attend” to make sure your interests overlap with the focus of the Summit.
- If you do not have an active email account, you will need to get one (yahoo & hotmail offer free accounts) and make arrangements with a friend for weekly internet sessions in order to receive important Summit updates and supply networking information.
- Download and complete the registration form (the instructions below are included):
 - Word format,
 - rich text format (RTF), or
 - Acrobat Reader format (PDF).
- Mail your check or money order (payable to aTLC) along with your registration form to the address below, or
- Pay via PayPal from your checking account or credit card, (TO POPUP WINDOW)

Receipt of your registration will be acknowledged by an email that simultaneously adds you to our Summit eNews on Yahoogroups. It is crucial that we have this means of keeping you informed of developments as the Summit nears.

In early March, you will be asked to complete a networking information form to create a profile of your interests so that participants can maximize their interconnections when they arrive.

If you have difficulties registering, please send an email to register@atlc.org, or call Donna, 831-338-0818.

Summit Registration Address:

Alliance for Transforming the Lives of Children
Donna Worden, Registrar, 544 Debbie Court, Boulder Creek, CA 95006

POPUP WINDOW: **Paypal Instructions:**

- Log into your account with the link provided at the bottom of these instructions (if you are not already a Paypal member, you'll need to sign up--upper right side of page),
- If you want to use your credit card, and you've not already registered it, click on "Activate Account/Add credit card" (upper left corner),
- Click on the "Send Money" blue tab at top of page,
- Please type "info@atlc.org" for "recipient's email address,"
- Please type "Summit Registration" in the "subject" field, and your name and postal address in the "note" field (you do not need to fill in the "shipping information" and have it verified)

Take me to the [PayPal site](#) (this window will stay open so you can refer back to these instructions).

Spread the Word

We know that there are many people who should be at the Summit whom we don't yet know and who have not yet heard about this important event. Please either use this [form](#) to send an announcement to anyone you think should be invited or download a [generic announcement file](#) (in RTF) that you can cut, paste into an email message, and then personalize before sending your friends and colleagues.

Printed Information

For colleagues without access to the Web, you can download, print, and distribute these files:

One-Page Flyer

- Word format,
- Rich text format (RTF), or
- Acrobat Reader format (PDF).

Contents of Summit website, Acrobat Reader format (PDF)

- Main body of this Website including most linked auxiliary pages **but not the files below** (10 pages)
- Summit schedule (2 pages)
- Post-Summit Workshops (3 pages)
- Bios of speakers and panelists (5 pages)
- Registration form (2 pages)
- Proclamation and Blueprint (10 pages)

Help Someone Else Attend with a Summit Scholarship Donation

If you cannot attend, consider sponsoring a person of your choice or make a tax-deductible contribution to assist our scholarship fund in helping to increase the economic and ethnic diversity of participants. A list of scholarship contributors will be posted.

You can donate to our scholarship fund in amounts of:

\$50 \$150 \$435 Other \$ _____

Please either Mail your check (payable to aTLC) to address above, or Pay via [PayPal](#) from your checking account or credit card Thanks!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Contributors of \$3,000 or more will be listed as Summit Supporters in the program, and have the opportunity to be sponsors for one or more areas listed below.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Conference Handbook--Distributed to all participants	\$7,500
Videotaped Keynote Interviews--six individuals	\$5,000
Scholarships--supporting 20 students or those in need	\$3,000
Scholarships--for an additional 20 students or those in need	\$3,000
Website Archives--Summit Highlights	\$5,000

AUXILIARY FILES LINKED TO FROM TEXT

Shall We Form a Choir?

Q: Isn't aTLC's Summit just more experts preaching to the choir?

A: No, we don't think there IS a choir--not yet anyway.

But there ARE a lot of us preachers and many feel like lone voices in the wilderness.

There are also some great small vocal groups--often singing in different keys from one another other (and not even AWARE of each other).

- What if we could create a choir?
- What if we could compose and sing chorales that no one's ever heard before?
- What if we could blend harmonize our many different parts into one glorious chorus, even while some of us step up to the microphone for a brief solo, according the needs of the particular performance we're giving--relying on the support of the rest us as we hit highs (or lows) we never dreamed were possible when we were alone?
- What if we could meet regularly for choir practices and performances together, or in smaller groups several times a year--even monthly or weekly?

Some of us at aTLC have been doing this on monthly or weekly conference calls (doing the work of aTLC), and on a daily basis in cyberspace. We're ready for others to join us--with no criteria other than a willingness to reach for the highs (or the lows) and give it your all--if only for a few hours a month.

If these ideas light you up, come join us for practice/rehearsal and performance in March like you've never heard before. Experience the thrill of blending of our many voices to create a resounding (pun intended) cantata that will be remembered long beyond the very best sermon any of us could ever preach.

Besides chorales, we could sing rock&roll, blues, spirituals, do drumming circles, chanting, and a host of other ways of blending voices and instruments.

That's our vision of the Summit and the Alliance. What's yours?

Model Community Candidates

The sponsors have identified three regions based on their interest and unique programs:

- Boulder, CO
- Eugene, OR
- Santa Barbara, CA

Representatives from these model communities will be encouraged to foster a broad-based social movement that will significantly improve the state of family bonding and attachment across all levels of society.

Participants from each of these communities will be encouraged to meet together during the Summit, and continue to meet and expand their work after the Summit as they create and implement community-specific action plans.

Successful collaborative groups may then become aTLC "model community action teams." These teams and their communities can serve as models for other communities.

Our plan is to foster ongoing communication among these teams and to reassemble them in 2004 to evaluate and learn what has been accomplished since the Summit. Based on their success, other communities across North America will be invited to join this movement.

Toward a Paradigm of Connection: How Circles and The World Café Can Foster Transforming the Lives of Children

©2002, John W. Travis and Meryn G. Callander (a work-in-progress)

Most powerful social movements are the result of paradigm shifts that begin with a small number of dedicated pioneers (innovators) who attempt to present their ideas and experiences to the public, often facing resistance and ridicule.

All truth goes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Then it is violently opposed. Finally, it is accepted as self-evident. --Schopenhauer

For those small audiences who are eager to grasp the new paradigm (early adopters) the presentation model is useful, but for those invested in the status quo, listening to lectures and presentations is not very effective at changing beliefs.

Before new paradigm can sweep through a culture, the innovators and adopters need to work out their differences, a step that often fails and the movement dies. A first step in its success is for the innovators and early adopters to sit face-to-face with each other to explore their own differences and to build a harmonious **choir**. Often this is attempted using the lecture/presentation approach, and is referred to disparagingly as “preaching to the choir”—when, in fact there usually is not yet a choir, only a collection of lone voices and small (but vocal) groups trying to make a difference.

Creating a choir can be done more effectively by using an approach called the **Paradigm of Connection**, a term we use to describe a shift in the way people are coming to view a variety of subjects, from health to parenting. We believe this paradigm is fundamental to transforming the lives of children, and to work effectively, it requires the use of a circle format more than a lecture format.

aTLC began as a small circle of innovators, and has continued to conduct most of its work using circles. aTLC now stands at a crossroads where must find a way to continue to use a circle format as we initiate and facilitate social change with larger groups. Once a critical mass of innovators and early adopters has learned to sing in harmony, an unstoppable transformation usually sweeps through the culture.

MOVE If disparate groups can be brought together to explore controversial issues, posed as questions (e.g., “What common ground do right-to-life and pro-choice advocates share?”), is less threatening than each side attacking the other with their rhetoric, and often produces remarkable transformations in groups holding disparate worldviews.

Working with Larger Groups

We have discovered just such a technology--called **The World Café**. This model has the ability to create the “magic” of small circles within large groups of individuals (fractal circles). One of its foundations rests in the willingness of participants to suspend their belief that someone (usually an expert in front of a lecture hall) already has the answers. A Café experience fosters a process called **Appreciative Inquiry**, which asks open ended, provocative and evocative questions of the whole group--questions such as:

- What is it we don't know?
- What do I need to know in order to "solve" the "problems" before me?
- How can I see these apparent problems as opportunities?

Fundamental to appreciative inquiry is the hypothesis that human systems grow towards the questions they ask and seek to answer. For an excellent review/summation of the field of Appreciative Inquiry, [download this paper](#) (a 20-page Word document) or a [quick edit](#) of the juiciest portions (4 pages) of the same paper.

A Café experience uses Appreciative Inquiry and the Paradigm of Connection by encouraging us to become connected by and through going into the unknown together, asking what is it that we don't already know.

Some Highlights of The World Cafe Model (from The World Café Website)

What if:

- The future is born in webs of human conversation?
- Compelling questions encourage collective learning?
- Networks are the underlying pattern of living systems?
- Human systems--organizations, families, communities--are living systems?
- Intelligence emerges as the system connects to itself in diverse and creative ways?
- Collectively, we have access to all the wisdom and resources we need?

The Principles of the World Café:

- Clarify the Context
- Create a Hospitable Environment
- Explore Questions that Matter
- Encourage Everyone's Contribution
- Connect Diverse Perspectives
- Listen Together for Insights and Deeper Questions
- Harvest and Share Collective Discoveries

For more information on how Cafes are structured, download and print this [resource guide](#) from the World Cafe

Conversation--the Primary Tool of Connection and Relationship

An assumption of the Paradigm of Connection is that the primary tool of all social interactions is conversation ("What if all of life is a conversation?"). How best can this tool of language, seemingly unique to humans, be used to enhance wellbeing?

When in problem-solving mode, conversations tend to reflect the Paradigm of Control, where participants/students/children turn to an expert/teacher/parent for the answers, and remain disconnected from their innate healing potential and wisdom. When groups engage in this model, the nature of their interactions tends to be transactional (you do this--I'll do that) This tends to hinder or limit mutual inquiry.

Possibility-Seeking/Collaborative Learning is at the heart of the Café Model, where conversations are transformational ("what would we learn if we do this?")? No specific outcome is anticipated, but rather the magic of a circle is invoked, producing a result larger than the sum of its parts. What if it were true that when power is shared, amazing "solutions" can emerge from the collective whole

MOVE? Note: People may feel less comfortable with the Café process if they are attached to a specific method of driving their agenda and getting the outcome they want.

What if the foreground is not the content of a meeting, but instead it is our being in community in the context of a learning conversation? If this were true, the Café Model can best used as a background that supports the co-evolution of collaborative learning conversations.

We look forward to hearing about your experience as we co-evolve our work within the Paradigm of Connection.

Appreciative Inquiry

The term Appreciative Inquiry was created in 1986 by David L Cooperrider in his doctoral thesis: 'Appreciative Inquiry: Toward a Methodology for Utilizing and Enhancing Organizational Innovation.' He developed the methodology with a team of colleagues including Suresh Srivastva and Diana Whitney, and, having gained his doctorate at Case Western University, is now associate professor of organizational behavior at the university's Weatherhead School of Management.

Definitions of Appreciative Inquiry

Appreciative Inquiry is the cooperative search for the best in people, their organizations, and the world around them. It involves systematic discovery of what gives a system "life" when it is most effective and capable in economic, ecological, and human terms. AI involves the art and practice of asking questions that strengthen a system's capacity to heighten positive potential. It mobilizes inquiry through crafting an "unconditional positive question" often involving hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. In AI, intervention gives way to imagination and innovation; instead of negative, criticism, and spiraling diagnosis there is discovery, dream, and design. AI assumes that every living system has untapped, rich, and inspiring accounts of the positive. Link this "positive change core" directly to any change agenda, and changes never thought possible are suddenly and democratically mobilized.

--David L. Cooperrider and Diana Whitney Taken from *Appreciative Inquiry*

Appreciative Inquiry is a theory and practice for approaching change from a holistic framework. Based on the belief that human systems are made and imagined by those who live and work within them, AI leads systems to move toward the generative and creative images that reside in their most positive core--their values, visions, achievements and best practices

--Jane Magruder Watkins and Bernard J Mohr, in *Appreciative Inquiry*

The Appreciative Inquiry Cycle

Stage	Activity
Definition What is the focus of our inquiry?	Defining the focus of the Inquiry <i>Members of the core team (consisting of members of key stakeholder groups) define the focus of the inquiry</i>
Discovery What gives life?	Interviewing of all by all <i>People hold one-to-one conversations to identify life-giving forces</i>
Dream What might be?	Creating shared images from the interview narratives, of the common themes expressed as <i>provocative propositions</i> <i>People identify the themes that appear in the stories</i>
Design What should be?	Creation of blueprints for change: the social and technical systems needed to realize the dream <i>People create shared images of their preferred future</i>
Destiny How can we realize the dream?	Working together to implement the design <i>People find innovative ways to bring the preferred future to life</i>

Based on a paper written by David Saunders, Derek Grant and Dr. Peter Critten, Middlesex University, United Kingdom.