

**A RETREAT IN THE PRACTICE OF POETIC MEDICINE
WITH JOHN FOX & JANET CHILDS
JUNE 14 - 16, 2012**

When Someone Deeply Listens to You

Using Poem-making, Creativity, Music, Song, Ceremony and Community Building In an Exploration of Deep Listening

John Fox and Janet Childs have given their adult lives to learn the practice of listening, to honing it—and they will, for the first time as co-leaders, bring their skills and gifts to bear upon how listening is essential to address personal questions and existential issues, to the grief and doubts people grapple with in their professional practice and personal lives.

Working together as a group/community/circle, in self-reflection and within dyads and triads, we will explore the experience of deep listening. Some themes we will address as essential to the practice of listening are: *openness, respect and attention*. We will do this through poem-making, ceremony, music and community building.

We will consider how poetry as healer helps to hone intuition, self-honesty and discernment. We will, practicing together through the medium of poem-making, observe when listening becomes clouded and distracted. We are interested in tapping collaboratively into the creative and spiritual dimensions of mutual listening—in a way that welcomes a transpersonal and self-actualizing awareness that awakens us to a larger fabric of being.

Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. When we listen to people there is an alternating current, and this recharges us so that we never get tired of each other ... and it is this little creative fountain inside us that begins to spring and cast up new thoughts and unexpected laughter and wisdom.

~ Brenda Ueland

WHEN: Thursday, June 14 - Saturday, June 16, 2012
(Thursday evening, day and evening Friday, all day Saturday, concluding at 5:00 pm)

WHERE: Vallombrosa Retreat Center
250 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

COST: \$410. Does not include travel.

WHO: The Cohort Training in the IPM Training and Other Dedicated Students. Please Inquire.

For more information and to register, please contact: John Fox, CPT, The Institute for Poetic Medicine at (650) 938-2717 or email john@poeticmedicine.org. Maximum registration is 16.



Janet Childs, M.A., A.A.E.T.S. (American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress) - Diplomate is the Director of Training and Critical Incident Stress Management at the Center for Living with Dying, a program of the Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara, CA. Combining her love of music with her personal and professional experience with loss, she creates a safe and healing environment to gently examine these difficult life issues.



John Fox is a poet and certified poetry therapist. He is adjunct professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, California. John is author of *Poetic Medicine: The Healing Art of Poem-Making*. His work is featured in the PBS documentary, *Healing Words: Poetry and Medicine*. He is President of The Institute for Poetic Medicine.