



PERSONAL VILLAGE



NEWSLETTER

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Is Brief Community Real?

Recently Cynthia was struggling with the issue that most of the people who flow into her life seem to flow out the other side before long. She was getting discouraged at putting the effort into building relationships only to have them slip away. One person moved. Another got married and drifted away. Some said they wanted to be friends, but in time the magic of friendship seemed to dissipate. She asked, "Should I try to build community when people are only going to leave?"

In our busy world where mobility is the rule rather than the exception, Cynthia's question is one often asked. My bank once advertised that each customer would have a "personal banker." So I set out to forge a relationship with mine. I knew that my banking transactions would be easier for both of us if we knew each other. I learned about his family and his life and he mine. Once I needed a quick car loan and our relationship smoothed the way. Then he moved and I started over with a new "personal banker." Again a relationship developed and then he moved. After the fourth "personal

banker" I gave up. The same thing often happens in our personal lives too.

I later realized that is the nature of relationships. Most of them come and go, but that does not mean it is not worth the effort to form a friendly, gracious and respectful connection. Community happens every time people engage. To form a caring bond with the grocery store clerk or the homeless person on the street as well as our colleagues at work or school is just as important as creating a strong bond with those few people who do stick around for many years.

The answer to Cynthia's question is: create community everywhere with whom ever you meet. Know that all relationships end. Most sooner, some in time and a very few after a lifetime. You never know what will persist so engage everyone with great warmth and respect. All relationships, even the brief ones, have great value.

Personal Village Classes

Community Studies Class

This in-depth class is open to serious community building students. We meet in Seattle the second and third Thursday of every month with some additional all day Saturday sessions. Contact Marv if you are interested.

Marv is Available

Marv is available to create a community building class for any group. He can tailor it to meet your needs. Call him for more information

Personal Village Calendar

Online Personal Village Workshop

This seven session class will give you the hands on practical skills to build a supportive Personal Village for you. It will include e-mail interaction, homework, and actual practice with new people and a weekly Saturday morning conference phone session 8AM to 9:30am PST Saturday, October 12, 2007 through December 1, 2007

Cost:

\$375.00 including two books.

(\$275 advance registration price break until August 31st.)

Contemplation of the month:

Community Is The Net Of Relationships That Make Life Work. It Is Your Greatest Treasure.

For more information on any of these events go to personalvillage.com or contact Marv directly at 206-364-9494 or marv@marvthomas.com

Visit us Online at personalvillage.com