

## *A Gathering*

September 30, 2003

Cindy put it well for all of us: “It is so good to be with my tribe!”

When we got together at Valerie Uccellani’s parents’ home in Shelter Harbor, Rhode Island, we spoke for hours at a level of *profound intimate connection*—another of Cindy Bizzell’s terms. Men and women, young and old, tired out and energetic—we shared personal stories and events of the past year and hopes for the New Year with reckless abandon. We discovered amazing grace in one another: Christina’s new film, Peter’s achievements with the Canadian Council of Churches, his boys’ cache of crabs found on the shore, Marian’s strength through illness, Barbara’s dance with synchronicity and the supportive convergence of JUBILEE graduates in her circle, Cindy’s sparkling humor, Connie’s generous new family Christmas tree farm, and Val’s unique energy (and sweet parents!).

Global Learning Partners is not family—not at all. It is not merely a business venture and this was not a meeting of the board of directors, determined to increase profits. It is not a charity—it is simply a group of friends sharing a passion for learning and for one another.

We walked on the beach... we ate good food and drank good wine. We laughed a lot and were awed at the 7 and 10 year old’s energy as they ravenously explored the beach. This was an event of conversation as described by Meg Wheatley: conversation where we turned to one another and listened.,

I personally left restored, healed, invigorated for new work and new living. Such conversations are absolutely essential in this noisy world of ours.