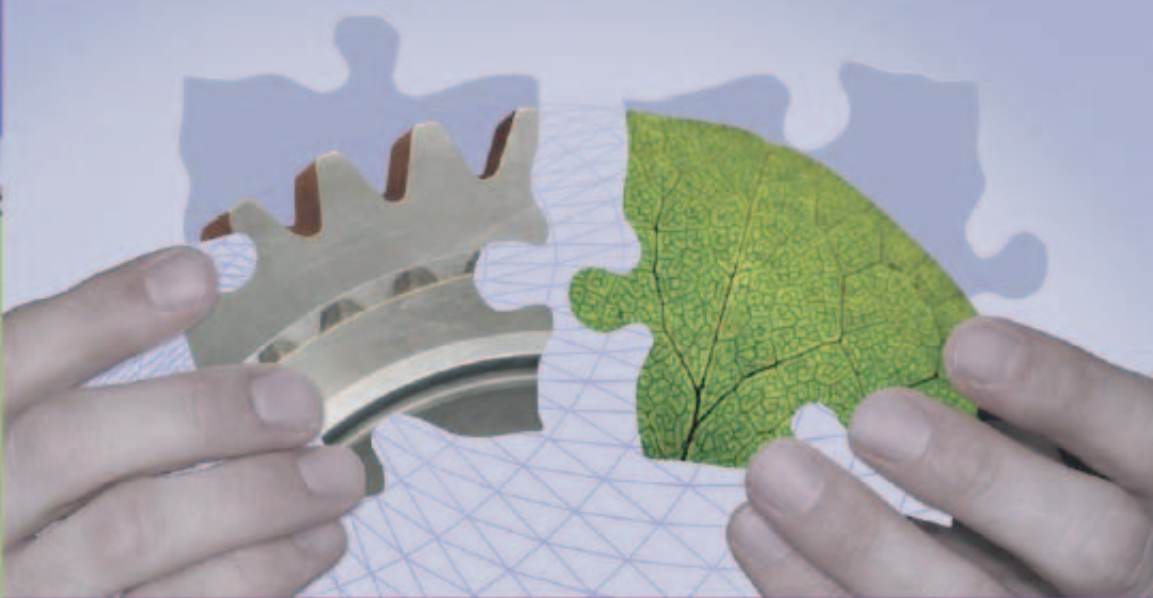


"This powerful, practical book has an explosive effect on opening your mind and imagination to a whole new world of possibilities."

Brian Tracy, author of *Focal Point* and *Create Your Own Future*



The Art of **Original** Thinking

| The Making of a Thought Leader |

Jan Phillips

The Art of Original Thinking – The Making of a Thought Leader

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Masterpieces are not single and solitary births; they are the outcome of many years of thinking in common, of thinking by the body of the people, so that the experience of the mass is behind the single voice.

VIRGINIA WOOLF

Introduction

Calling this book *The Art of Original Thinking—The Making of a Thought Leader* is a way of acknowledging that originality is a practice that can be learned, or rather rediscovered, reclaimed, with a certain amount of attention and surrender. As with any creative endeavor, originality in thinking, in being, requires a heightened state of alertness, a bridging of the poles, a show of fearlessness and willingness to forfeit the known for the unknown, the learned for the experienced. It requires a trust deeper than the sea, for what it asks for is a letting go, an unmooring from the safe harbor of certainty for a journey into the mists of mystery and possibility.

The compass is not the mind, but the heart, and the journey takes us away from what was and toward what can be. The old adage “Leaders are born, not made” represents a style of thinking that’s dualistic, argumentative, polarizing. It’s an either/or, right or wrong proposition. Someone decides it’s one way or the other and you have to choose. It’s that kind of thinking we’re leaving at the shore as we sail toward the possibility of unitive thinking: that leaders are born *and* made.

The premise of this book is that we are here to advance the evolution of thought, of human sensibility, of our own personal potential to be more than anyone ever said we could be. Its intention is to inspire thought leaders who are willing to be visible, vocal agents of evolutionary thinking for global good. Its reach is both deep and wide. It will guide you on a journey into your own thought patterns and processes, helping you free yourself from obstacles to original thinking. And once you begin to think from your genuine center, once you begin to experience your own pure, uncontaminated thoughts, you will feel rising up from within you a calling, a challenge

to be of use, an idea that needs you in order to become real in the world. And it is this idea, your own original thought, that will guide you, empower you, enable you to take your place as a thought leader and catalyst for creative action.

Those who came before us did the best they could do, educating us to conform, to honor tradition, to study and sing and recite the appropriate creeds, anthems, and pledges. The instruction was never how to think, but what to think. Millions of us grew up believing everything we were told by people we trusted, abdicating our power to the proper authorities, and allowing our own creative powers to atrophy. Only now is it becoming clear to us what happened and what a distance we must travel to rediscover and reawaken our own originality.

This book is a road map for that journey. I am approaching it as an artist, hoping to create something that will envelop you in the experience of a new awakening, so that it is not just your mind that is fed, nourished, altered, but the entirety of you. I address you as an artist because I agree with Margaret Wheatley who says, “Start with the assumption that people, like all life, are creative and good at change.” You are an artist at life and whatever you’re making of it is the masterpiece you are working on. So I offer you the best of the poets and artists throughout history who have created words, images, stories to guide us, heal us, nudge us forward on this path of illuminating discovery: the discovery of our very own essence and the embodiment of our very own thoughts.

And I confess to this one desire: that as we each take this journey, we allow ourselves to become synthesizers of each others’ thoughts, and in that wild jumble of imaginations, in that glorious dance of unity and wholeness, we become the thought leaders for a new kind of planetary citizenship. That as we unwind and unfold our own creative DNA, as we unearth our own wisdom, that very act will awaken us to our commonness and common needs. And from that place, with that awareness, we will step into our power to create businesses, organizations, and institutions that thrive because they serve the common good. The solutions to the crises of our time do not lie dormant in one individual. They live like seeds in every one of us. It is not a savior who will rescue us from the plight and perils we face, but a communion of saints who go by our names.

This book is an attempt to awaken in all of us the memory of our vocation, our purpose—that we are here to advance life, to transform every experience into an uttering that is unique, that has never been heard before, that is a clue to the others, a warning, a leading. To be an original thinker is to be a scout on new horizons, an adventurer into new domains, a perpetrator of inspiration, a leader of thought and heartfelt action.

As the philosopher Beatrice Bruteau once wrote: “We cannot wait for the world to turn, for times to change that we might change with them, for the revolution to come and carry us around in its new course. We *are* the future. We *are* the revolution.”

This is the time, and we are the ones. Godspeed to us all.

Asking the Right Questions



What is faith worth if it is not translated into action?

MAHATMA GANDHI

Far better than a precise plan is a clear sense of direction and compelling beliefs. And that lies within you. The question is, how do you evoke it?

DEE HOCK

When I was in elementary school, I learned to attach importance to things based on one's willingness to die for them. The whole idea of heroes usually involved a sacrifice of someone's life. Being willing to die for your country was the essence of patriotism. And as a young Catholic child, the chance to be a martyr for my faith was something I could only hope and pray for.

I have an eighty-year-old uncle who still brings up World War II every time I see him because it was in the throes of that experience that he found his meaning. Whatever else he has done with his life—owning his own business, fathering eight children, giving blood to the Red Cross at every opportunity, showing up at the funeral of everyone he knows in his small upstate New York town—these, in his mind, pale in comparison to the great heroism he experienced as a paratrooper in the Philippines. What he was willing to die for has colored his conversations for sixty years.

When I teach photography workshops and ask people to share their favorite images of themselves, they often bring in photos where they were doing things one might describe as risky—skydiving, mountain climbing, skiing in the Alps, or standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon. The photos convey their courage, and they are proud to introduce themselves as courageous people.

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We have learned to associate courage with risk, and with the question, “What are you willing to die for?” But what if we ask, “What are you willing to live for?” If we determine for ourselves exactly what we choose to give our lives to, where we will direct our energy, what crises we’ll work to ameliorate or prevent, then we set ourselves on a trajectory that takes mountainous courage to sustain. We need to refuel constantly to stay the course, to avoid obstacles, to overcome resistance from ourselves and others.

When I was working as a freelance photojournalist, I attended a workshop given by a panel of photo editors from several mainstream magazines. There were four hundred photographers in the room and we were all trying to figure out how to get *our* photographs into *their* magazines. After the editors talked about their publications and what they were looking for, it was time for questions from the audience.

I started to ask my question, which I thought was fairly astute, but I could tell from their body language that we didn’t share the same opinion. I continued on, asking what the protocol would be if I was both writing the article and shooting the photographs for illustration. “Should I send the query letter to the articles editor or the photo editor?” I asked. I could tell by the rolling of their eyes that they were disgusted for some reason, but didn’t know why until one editor said to me, with a hint of disdain: “Look, honey, you can’t be a photographer and a writer. You have to choose one or the other. And if you choose to photograph, you have to decide *what* you’re going to photograph. We have our dog photographers, our cat photographers, our architectural photographers, our car photographers, our fashion photographers. You have to pick one and stick with it, or you’ll never be taken seriously.” The other panel members nodded their heads in agreement.

I felt like the country bumpkin in the palace. It was a humiliating moment and I slid out the side door as fast as I could. “Let’s see,” I asked myself, walking down the long corridor of the Jacob Javits Center. “What shall I photograph—dogs, cats, houses, cars?” I didn’t get too far down the hallway before realizing my mistake. I was trying to fit into *their* rules. In order to become a photographer of *one* thing, I would have to give up what I was living for, which was photographing people *and* events *and* places *and* animals *and* everything I saw that gave me pause. I was living to see it all and capture as much as I could through my lens.

Even though I already had one book of photographs and stories published by a prominent press, because of the photo editors’ comments, I questioned myself immediately. “They must know better,” I

thought. “They’re the decision makers.” But by the time I reached the exit door, I had reached my conclusion. Their box was too small for me, and their rules way too confining. What if someone had said to Michelangelo, “Look, buddy, you have to make a choice between painting and sculpting. You can’t do both.” We’d have the Sistine Chapel or David, but not both.

Instead of encouraging me to expand my vision, these “experts” wanted me to narrow it. The question was, “What was I willing to give up?” Whereas it should have been, “What was I willing to give?” I felt throttled and stifled in response to their question. The upshot was that I abandoned the freelance profession and went on to create work that was true to myself and worth living for.

As thought leaders, it is our business to be asking questions—of ourselves as well as others—that help us all redefine what we are living for and why. The generation that is stepping up to leadership is a generation looking for curricula and challenges that have an impact, that engage the whole of their fertile imaginations in bridging the gaps we have failed to bridge thus far in our shaping of a culture. When Mahatma Gandhi was asked what he thought of Western civilization, his response was, “I think it would be a very good idea.”

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, what’s surfacing from the muddy waters is a clear awareness of our national and cultural shortcomings. Our conversations about morality have detoured into the realm of private and personal choice, while we neglect the most basic moral questions confronting us: How can we use our immense resources to balance the inequities in our own nation? What has to happen to feed the 12.9 million American children going hungry every day, to secure health care for every citizen, and to create affordable housing for the working poor and the 35.9 million people living below the poverty line in America?¹

What we’re in need of is thought leadership that leads people in two directions: first, into their own deep recesses where they can access their feelings, their desires, their most basic human instincts, and identify what it is they are truly called to. This is a leadership of creativity and imagination that frees people from their social conditioning, familial expectations, religious and cultural programming long enough to enable their unique originality to surface. It is a process of self-definition, a washing away of all that is not authentic, a clarifying of one’s essence. The questions are personal:

What activities bring you joy and peace?

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To what do you aspire?

What do you perceive as obstacles to your success?

What inspires you?

If you could imagine yourself capable of fixing one broken thing, or creating one thing that doesn't yet exist, what would it be?

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

What did you imagine that profession would give you?

What would have to happen for you to have that now?

In a radio interview the other day, the host asked me, “How do you help people know what they want?” I once thought that was a silly question, but have since realized that most of us need help clarifying our deepest desires. Since our education was more a matter of *what* to think than *how* to think, many never learned the process of inner inquiry. By default, we end up being perfect consumers, going into debt for what advertisers tell us we need and want when maybe what we’d really like is to work less and have a little lakeside cabin on a mountain—which would be absolutely possible if we weren’t paying for all those other things we really didn’t want.

So a crucial part of original thinking is the clear-cutting of all thoughts that are not our own, and the answering of our own deep questions. If you aspire to lead, then you will need to do this for yourself first, then find ways to help others engage in the same process. The more self-awareness each individual has, the greater the potential of the group to succeed. When everyone comes to the table from a place of total freedom, with an unadulterated willingness to serve, with full access to their feelings and inner resources, and an awareness of the group’s mission and power to fulfill it, then that circle of individuals will be capable of achieving whatever they can imagine.

The Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung wrote: “In the last analysis, the essential thing is the life of the individual. This alone makes history, here alone do the great transformations take place, and the whole history of the world ultimately springs to a giant summation from these hidden sources in individuals. In our most private and subjective lives, we are

not only the passive witnesses to our age, but also its makers.” We are only able to access those hidden sources when we take the time to ask ourselves the proper questions and go deeply into the places where our genuine answers lie. This work is a prerequisite for thought leaders looking to shape a culture of compassion and engage others in the transformational work that such an endeavor requires. Finding the answers to our questions is the first step on that journey.

The next step is to move toward fulfillment. Any deep inquiry into the self will lead to a heightened sense of our interconnectedness and interdependence on each other. Who we are, in essence, is revealed to us through our interactions. What we value is revealed to us through our relationships with others. What gifts we have, what talents and abilities we possess, only become real when they are enacted in community. The very meaning of our lives only becomes apparent to us in our service to others. Given this, our next questions are directed outwardly. They pertain to the ways we manifest the gifts we discovered in our self-inquiry. They are questions that help us determine what to make of our talents.

As an individual, how can I do what I love while being of use to others?

As an organizational leader, how can I create a forum that calls forth the ingenuity of individuals and assists them in applying that toward communal solutions?

As a business leader, how can I deliver profits to the shareholders while rewarding fairly all those who made those profits possible?

As an educator, how can I make learning relevant and engage the students in real-life problem solving?

Here are a few examples of how some people are responding to these questions and what it’s leading to:

Author and educator June Gould, Ph.D., has been offering memoir writing workshops to a group of eight women, ages seventy and older at The National Council of Jewish Women, New York Chapter for the last three years.² What motivates Gould to do this work is her belief in the power of creative expression and the potential for change and growth that individuals have no matter what their age. “Despite our problems, we also have a passion to shape personally meaningful lives, to understand ourselves and the world around us, and to grow and branch out in

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positive directions,” she says.

As for the changes that occurred, Gould comments: “I watched them transform themselves into a real community. They began to genuinely like one another. Several of them said they had never shared so much of their ‘real lives’ with anyone before and this sharing helped them feel nurtured and appreciated.”

The women found themselves and each other through June’s classes, in writing their own stories and hearing the stories of others. The writing revived them, invigorated them, and once they experienced themselves as authors, as women of authority, the next step was to take this new energy and insight out into the world. Two women participated in international writing conferences. Several women who had poor or no relationships with their children called them, wrote to them, and resolved old conflicts. For the first time in their lives, they each got up at a microphone and read from their work at the National Council headquarters. And then they published their own book, *Important Women: Extraordinary Lives*, and they are doing readings and signings throughout the community. This is the difference that one individual made in many peoples’ lives once she became clear about how to share her gifts with others.

*Don't keep searching
for truth. Just let go of
your opinions.*

SENG TS'AN

*Each soul takes upon
itself a particular task. . .
Whatever the task that
your soul has agreed to,
whatever its contract
with the Universe, all of
the experiences of your
life serve to awaken
within you the memory
of that contract, and to
prepare you to fulfill it.*

GARY ZUKAV

*Compassion is an
unstable emotion. it
needs to be translated
into action, or it
withers.*

SUSAN SONTAG

Ten years ago, in a Subaru factory in Indiana, a few individuals decided to work together to reduce the impact their plant was making on the environment. Within ten years, they became the first auto manufacturer to reach zero landfill status. They recycle everything that comes into their plant, and, as a result, use less electricity while increasing productivity. This did not happen because a CEO had a bright idea and decided to enforce it. It happened because a few conscientious employees decided to take responsibility for doing the right thing.

One organization that is inspiring its members to become active co-creators is the World Future Society (WFS)³, a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational and scientific association with 30,000 members in over eighty countries and chapters in a number of cities. WFS acts as a

neutral forum and clearinghouse for ideas on future trends, and partners with several organizations to facilitate discussions of strategies for a better future at the global, organizational, and individual levels.

One partnership they've developed is with Global SchoolNet (GSN)⁴, a nonprofit network of more than 90,000 online educators in 194 countries dedicated to helping young people become literate and responsible global citizens. GSN uses a variety of project-based approaches focusing on collaboration and community-building. In partnership with WFS, Global SchoolNet sponsors an annual web-based CyberFair which engages students from 582 schools in 109 countries in preparing for the future by thinking about their own future plans, the conditions that will affect the future of their community, and future issues of global importance.

This year's top projects originated from Taiwan, Australia, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States, and the winners are featured at the annual World Future Society Conference. Now in its tenth year, the contest has involved more than one million students from 4,500 schools in 194 countries and is the longest running international cyber event for schools. Both World Future Society and Global SchoolNet inspire innovation among their members and are architects of programs that extend the reach of their creativity into the community at large. What makes them both so exemplary is their ability to partner with organizations, schools, universities, communities, and businesses to bring about the changes they want to see in the world.

In the business arena, one retailer that stands out as a leader in conscious commerce is the natural and organic food supermarket, Whole Foods Market, Inc. They first opened in Texas in 1980 when there were less than half a dozen natural food supermarkets in the United States and have since become a Fortune 500 company and have appeared on *Fortune* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work for List" for eight consecutive years. The company currently has 171 stores in the United States, Canada, and the

*How you do anything is
how you do everything.*
ZEN PROVERB

*Poverty is not a culture
to be understood, it is a
condition to be
eradicated.*
GARRETT KEISER

*The power that you
gain by pursuing your
interest will give you
the ability to take upon
yourself a greater
challenge than you
have taken on so far.
We gain in power by
pursuing our purpose in
life.*

HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN

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United Kingdom.

A group of sixty employees, known as Team Members, drafted a Declaration of Interdependence that sits on their website (www.wholefoods.com) and helps to explain their phenomenal success. Some of the notable characteristics at Whole Foods include: staff are all stockholders in the company; the stores show their commitment to their local communities by supporting food banks, sponsoring neighborhood events, and compensating their team members for community service work. No one makes more than fourteen times the average salary, and they donate 5 percent of their after-tax profits to not-for-profit organizations.

They have created an Animal Compassion Foundation to provide education and research services to ranchers and meat producers around the world who want to remain economically viable while maintaining standards of excellence for animal welfare. To do this, they are partnering with animal welfare advocacy groups and the farmers and ranchers they do business with.

They have also established a Whole Planet Foundation which is partnering with EARTH University in Costa Rica, Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala, and Grameen Trust of Bangladesh to conduct a micro-loan program to help women in these areas develop their own micro-enterprises. Whole Foods is concentrating its efforts in the regions where it purchases pineapples, bananas, and coffee, and their goal is to assist up to 8,500 women in their efforts to become self-supporting entrepreneurs. They are beginning with an initial \$2 million investment in 2005, but will continue to support the projects through the Global Five Percent Day, allocating 5 percent of all global sales on a designated day to microcredit loans.

In a recent interview for *What Is Enlightenment?* magazine, co-president Walter Robb attributed Whole Foods' success to their principle-driven culture. They see themselves as co-creators of the future, and their business decisions are made with that in mind. They do not sell sea bass anymore because it is not being fished in a sustainable way. And they discontinued tilapia when they found out hormones were being used in the production of the fish. Says Robb:

We're not retailers who have a mission—we're missionaries who retail. At the very heart and soul of Whole Foods is the mission. We're here to make a real difference in people's health and well-being, in the health and well-being of the planet, and in creating a workplace based on love and respect. So we put our customers and Team Members before our shareholders. And if you compare our performance to other

publicly traded food companies, it's superior. A thousand bucks invested in Whole Foods at the beginning in 1992 would be worth well over thirty thousand now. Since we've been public, we've delivered a twenty-five percent compounded annual growth rate. Our return on invested capital is north of thirty-five per cent. Those are some of the strongest numbers in the history of food retailing.⁵

Original thinking in the world of education is leading to some global-wide innovations that are as heart-touching as they are eye-opening. Curtis DeBerg, an accounting professor at California State University at Chico, is founder and director of Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE)⁶, an international network linking university students from several countries to high school students and business leaders in their communities. DeBerg's mission was to create an infrastructure rooted in both problem-based learning and community service-learning that matched high school students with international college mentors and local business advisers. With the help of these mentors, the students complete projects related to entrepreneurship, community service, teaching others, civic engagement in a democracy, and environmental awareness.

According to DeBerg, poverty is more often the expression of low productivity than lack of resources. Through the SAGE network, high school students are learning how to galvanize their creative energies and design entrepreneurial projects that are profitable and socially-relevant. The economist Jeffery D. Sachs wrote, "The very hardest part of economic development is getting the first foothold on the ladder." SAGE and Rotary International are developing a partnership in Ghana to involve students there in helping Ghana get their first foothold of the ladder by empowering youth to create wealth with mentoring, advising, and support from the local community. The strategy is to prepare and empower Ghanaian youth through a youth entrepreneurship *and* community service program, while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of financial literacy, ethical business practices, civic engagement, and environmental awareness.

Students involved in the SAGE program come together annually for a World Cup Competition and each team has fifteen minutes to make their presentation in English before more than thirty judges from academia, nonprofit organizations and the business sector. The 2005 competition took place in San Mateo, California and included student teams from eight countries: the United States, Poland, Ghana, South

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Africa, Russia, Tajikistan, China, and Ukraine. With a sophisticated audio-visual display as background to their presentation, the Ukraine high schoolers were judged the best. Among their award-winning projects were the publication of a four-color magazine, and the creation and management of a popular new music group in their home city of Odessa.

The high school SAGE teams from Shanghai, China, and Cape Town, South Africa, took second and third place, respectively. The US entry, from Northwestern Lehigh High School, New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, came in fourth. Willie Hopkins, CSU, Chico dean of the College of Business and a judge for the competition, said:

The way they crafted their business plans, explained the operations of businesses developed from their plans and demonstrated the benefits that their respective communities derived from these businesses, made me feel extremely optimistic about the future of our world. Through this competition, these young high-school students have not only learned self-reliance and how to contribute meaningfully to their local and global communities, they have also learned the importance of operating business in a socially-responsible manner.

Fifteen SAGE students in Oakland were involved in the creation of the new Youth Empowerment School (YES), which is part of Oakland's Small Schools Initiative. They worked with Principal Maureen Benson to design a school that would help shape community leaders by engaging the students in the issues their local communities were dealing with. According to the plan, the school would start out with only 128 ninth-grade students, and each of them would go out into the community to gather data for an hour and a half each day. At the end of the ninth grade, based on that knowledge, the students would decide which issues they wanted to study further. From grades 10 to 12, they would work on projects that came from their needs assessment of the community. In a recent e-mail exchange, Benson reported, "We have 230 students, and are in our 3rd year. School is great, violence is down, and achievement is up! It really takes a village and our community has stepped up to it!"

There are exemplary programs in K-12 schools across the country, and one organization that is helping to spread the word about practices that work is the George Lucas Educational Foundation (GLEF). Disenchanted with what school had to offer him as a child, the filmmaker Lucas asked himself what he could do to improve creativity in today's

schools and his foundation was the inspired answer. GLEF has thirty full-time employees, a \$4 million annual budget and headquarters on the founder's Skywalker Ranch in the Marin County hills. It publishes *Edutopia*, a new magazine for a new world of learning (www.edutopia.org), a monthly must-read for teachers that celebrates the renaissance of originality that is changing the face of American education.

Lucas' goal is to document and disseminate information about effective, creative programs in K-12 schools to help these ideas spread nationwide. GLEF supports projects in both public and private schools, distributes an e-mail newsletter, and maintains an extensive website that contains all of the multimedia content they have published since 1997. They provide free downloadable teaching modules that were developed by education faculty and professional developers that can be used in the classroom, workshops, or meetings. Detailed articles, research summaries, and links to hundreds of relevant Web sites, books, organizations, and publications are also available to help schools and communities build on successes in education.

They have a robust collection of short, online documentaries on classroom innovations that allow visitors to visualize what these innovations look like, as well as a multimedia compilation of success stories in our nation's schools. The GLEF staff has also developed multimedia programs of interest to educators, community leaders, and policymakers interested in gaining deeper insights into community partnerships with business and nonprofits, curricula integrating technology and real-world projects, and new approaches to assessing student learning.

June Gould is just one individual among millions who is doing what she loves to do in the service of others. The World Future Society, Global SchoolNet, Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship, the George Lucas Educational Foundation—they are four of 1.5 million nonprofit organizations in the United States responding to the question, "How can we apply the resources of this group to the needs of our community?" The Youth Empowerment School is one among thousands of educational institutions stepping out of old traditions and creating new ones that inspire students to ask new questions, think originally, and engage with their communities in a meaningful way. Whole Foods Market is one of a myriad of businesses who are asking the questions: How can we serve our communities? How can we best respect and reward our employees? How can we maximize our positive impact on the planet while we maximize our profits?

The journey for all conscious citizens is a twofold journey: the

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inward odyssey—which is private, personal, spiritual—whereby we encounter the nature of our desires, the elements of our morality, the raw materials of our meaning. This is where we burrow into the caverns of our own souls and ask ourselves who we are, what we care deeply about, what gifts we have to share, what light is ours to shine. This is where we honor our individuality, claim our unique talents, and come to terms with our power to create. It is through this process that we develop our ability to author our own lives, unearth our hidden strengths, and honor our true calling.

Once we know what fuels our joy, what talents are ours, then the next move is an outward step, and the journey becomes public. It is a matter of social coordination now, matching our desires with the needs of the world. It was my love for travel that inspired a global peace pilgrimage, allowing me the chance to travel through dozens of countries, creating an occasion for people to come together and share their ideas about peace-making in the world, in their villages, in their families. It was my love for art and social action that led me to co-create an organization devoted to socially-responsible art. It is my love for writing and my love for this earth and her people that calls me to work such as this.

I am clear about what I am living for after many years of asking all the wrong questions. There is no cause, no religion, no country that I would die for, but I am living to help co-create a Western civilization that would delight even Gandhi. Every choice I make is in the service of that. Every joy I experience is rooted in that. And every day I wake up to the sound of that call.

What is the call that is beckoning you? What is the legacy you will be leaving behind?

Jan Phillips

Visionary Thought Leader

Provoking Thought • Evoking Spirit • Inspiring Action



Author photo by Tiger Lee

Jan Phillips is a visionary thought leader, award-winning author, and dynamic speaker. She teaches individuals and organizations to ignite their original thinking and capitalize on their diverse strengths to achieve success while being a force for good in the world.

Jan is one of the founders and principal members of the 9th Element Group, an organization dedicated to promoting thought leadership by providing compelling keynote speakers, educational programs, products, workshops, and seminars.

Jan is known worldwide for her keynote speaking, workshops, and multimedia video presentations. She creates a unique multisensory experience, weaving humor, storytelling, captivating imagery,

and music to inspire and ignite insights for life-changing action. Jan shows people how to access their wisdom, activate their own creative energy, and communicate with passion and power.

Jan is the author of *Marry Your Muse*, winner of the Benjamin Franklin Award; *God Is at Eye Level—Photography as a Healing Art*; *Divining the Body*; *Making Peace—One Woman's Journey Around the World*; and editor of *A Waist is a Terrible Thing to Mind*.

Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *People*, *Ms.*, *Spirituality and Health*, *Newsday*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Body and Soul*, *National Catholic Reporter*, and *Utne*.

For more information on Jan Phillips: www.janphillips.com

For more information on this book: www.artoforiginalthinking.com

APPENDIX

The 9th Element Group is an organization of creative and visionary evoluminaries who perceive thought leadership as an art form and a practice that links information to inspiration, heart to mind, commercial interests to compassionate action. Recognizing that we, as global citizens, are at a critical point in our evolutionary process—responsible for decisions more serious than humankind has ever faced—we are dedicated to educating leaders who are ready to unleash their imagination, activate their unlimited creativity, and produce positive, productive and profitable changes in their businesses and organizations.

As a product-driven company, the 9th Element Group produces educational programs, publications, and multi-media materials that ignite original thinking, expand global consciousness, and propel businesses and individuals to higher levels of awareness, efficiency, and achievement. Our keynote presentations are upbeat, invigorating, and insightful productions that incorporate music and imagery to touch the heart while they move the mind both forward and inward.

Through its Thought Leadership Institute, the 9th Element Group offers full-day and weekend intensives in the OriginalThink™ Process to move participants from acquired learning habits to original thinking that is evolutionary, inspired, and future-based. Using a multi-media, multi-sensory approach, we ensure a holistic and full-bodied experience that leads to transformation on a cellular level.

The 9th Element Group maintains an Insight to Action Resource Center on its website (www.9thelementgroup.com), providing connections to a network of agencies committed to serving the public in local, national, and international venues.

For information on our keynote presentations or educational programs, visit our website www.9thelementgroup.com or call 858-431-5003.



9TH ELEMENT GROUP

The Business of Thought Leadership