

Deepening Community

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Reading Circles

THE LEARNING COMMUNITIES at Tamarack love to be in conversation with one another. It is no wonder that *Community Conversations*, the previous book by Tamarack's founder and president, Paul Born, became a Canadian bestseller. Born's most recent book, *Deepening Community*, is the perfect platform for conversations, whether with a group of friends, workmates, a faith community, or neighbors. Read this book with others and then come together for some great conversations. Here are some topics and questions for discussion. Also remember to go to www.deepeningcommunity.com for more guides, exercises, and stories to make your journey toward a deeper community easier and more effective.

Community in Chaotic Times

What is causing you to search for community? What are you finding, or failing to find? What is your first memory of community? What will your children's memory of community be? How do we overcome our fear in these chaotic times? With whom do we connect to make sense of what is going on? How do we get ready for what is coming? What is your story? What will your story be?

Living Afraid Together

When did you last seek out others who were like you because you were afraid of those who were not? What do people do when they are afraid? What happens when you are afraid? How easy is it to depersonalize someone? What happens when we create an “us and them” scenario? What does community become when we organize against others? What is the possibility of community then?

Telling Your Story

Do you want to deepen your experience of community? Where do you belong? When do you experience community in your life? What is missing? What more are you seeking? What is community? How can you make community a bigger part of your life? How can you have a better quality of community in your life? How can you increase possibilities for community? How do you know that you’re where you belong? How do you deepen your experience of community?

Enjoying One Another

In what ways do you believe that community is good for you? For your children? What brings joy for you? Is this different from happiness? What memories of joy do you have from experiences of community? Do you have this joy in community now? What has changed for you? How are your communities changing? How might joy be a bigger part of your community life? What are five things you can do in community that would bring more joy to your life?

Caring for One Another

Why does it matter to find places where you belong and are cared for and can give care? Who will be there for you when you are old, to keep you from isolation and loneliness? We hear often that we should prepare for retirement by saving our money; why do we hear so infrequently about the importance of building solid relationships to build up our “community bank”? How in our busy lives do we find community? If the opportunity for community is all around us, why is it so elusive? If caring communities are so full of promise, should they not be easier to attain? If community is natural to our existence, shouldn’t we just reach out more?

Working Together for a Better World

When have you seen collective altruism change something? How do people work together to have a collective impact? What does it mean to work together in chaotic times? When do you find joy together in these chaotic times?

Learn Together

Go to www.deepeningcommunity.com to meet other community seekers and to find more guides, exercises, and stories.