

GENTLE ACTION

A GATHERING OF COMMON EXPERIENCE

Pari, Italy / June 14-20, 2023



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*"The world is a sacred vessel
and cannot be controlled. If you
tamper with it, you'll ruin it..."*

*Can you see things as they are,
without trying to control them?*

*Can you let them go their
own way while remaining
centered?"*

*Lao Tse, Dao De Jing #29
Mitchell & MacDonald*



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“The idea of bringing people in. They could be business people, they could be environmentalists, whatever, and bringing them in without any sort of fixed program, without them giving talks and powerpoint presentations. Just to sit in the room and see what emerges, because they are in a container, it's in an alchemical vessel which allows something transformative to take place. So that was the idea of Pari as a container.”

David Peat w/ Jena Axelrod in *The Absurdity of Certainty*.

GENTLE ACTION: A GATHERING OF COMMON EXPERIENCE

Dates	June 14 – 20, 2023
Location	Pari, Tuscany, Italy
Contacts	Rosemarie Nitschke, Canada Manfred Kritzler, Germany Stefan Felter, Sweden Michael Weaver, United States
Founders	Jena Axelrod Manfred Kritzler
Event	The event starts with a welcome dinner on Wednesday June 14 at 19:00 and ends after breakfast on Tuesday June 20.
Fee	850 euros, which includes: ▪ a 6-night stay in private accommodation; ▪ breakfast, lunch and dinner at the local restaurant featuring locally sourced produce and traditional dishes; ▪ the water, wine, and coffee provided with meals; ▪ refreshments provided at mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks.

The event

Join us for a week of living in the moment, for the moment, surrounded by the peaceful hills of the Tuscan landscape in Pari. With its beautiful palazzo, rustic bar, and numerous quiet places, the medieval village of Pari serves as an alchemical vessel for growth and personal transformation.

Throughout the week you will have plenty of opportunities to cultivate connections with Nature, others, and — perhaps most importantly — yourself. Explore the medieval village and its surroundings, or take in the beauty of the landscape from Pari's expansive palazzo.

Dialogue with others in a supportive atmosphere and experience what it feels like to have others truly listen to your unique perspectives and experiences from a place of genuine interest and curiosity. Set aside thoughts of forcing or striving and experience how insights and interconnections naturally bubble up during dialogue.

Become more responsive and less reactive by learning to actively listen, not only to others but also to yourself. As F. David Peat, one of the founders of the Pari Center states in his autobiography, *Pathways of Chance*:

“Much depends upon how we react when the unexpected occurs and a new door temporarily opens. Do we compensate as best we can and attempt to remain on our own predetermined track, or do we ask ‘What is life trying to tell me? In what direction could this new possibility take me? Is it worth suspending what I am doing at the moment to explore something new?’”[1]

Somewhat paradoxically, setting aside striving and engaging in gentle action often gives rise to the types of benefits that many people often seek, but seldom find in a sustainable form. Along with feelings of openness, trust, joy, and a childlike sense of wonder, gentle action often gives rise to a deeper sense of engagement with yourself, others, and the Universe.

[1] *Pathways of Chance*, pp. 1-2.

Our Story

Several years ago, a small group of us were sitting outside the bar in Pari, Italy when the idea came up to bring a group of very open-minded people together for a gathering without any agenda, topic, intention, or specific purpose.

After leaving Pari, we continued to meet monthly through an online Zoom dialogue, where our small group of three individuals gradually grew in a most organic manner. More than a year of online meetings led to our first *Gentle Action Gathering* back at Pari in September of 2022.

Our original group of Jena, Manfred, and Tom, who hail from New York, Germany, and Ireland were joined by several additional members of our online community. Stefan, Rose, and Todd traveled from Sweden, Germany/Canada, and Alaska to finally meet everyone in person. Two of our members, Lisa, from Italy, and Michael, from Connecticut, were unable to meet in person, but are quite active in our online meetings and preparations for our gathering in June of 2023.

Over the course of time, we have come to discover that we have much to share with one another due to, rather than despite, our differing backgrounds. And yet, we have also found that we also have much in common. Perhaps most importantly, we all share a genuine interest in one another's perspectives on the world, quite reminiscent of Rumi's quote:

"Out beyond ideas of right and wrong, there is a field. I will meet you there."

This June we have chosen to meet once again in Pari, Italy. This medieval village, nestled in the the Tuscan landscape, provides the perfect backdrop for new insights and explorations. During our *Gentle Action Gathering*, participants are largely free to roam around as they please. Meet in the newly renovated Palazzo, take part in a yoga class, explore the area's hot springs, or just sit down to have an espresso at the charming and peaceful square. Leave your daily routine behind to reconnect with your own innermost nature while setting aside the expectations of the outer world.

Communicating and interacting in the moment, for the moment has enabled each of us to interact with ourselves, each other, and the world at large in a much more playful manner.

Our Story (cont'd)

Over time, we have noticed that an almost childlike curiosity tends to emerge, unforced and unbidden “beyond the ideas of right and wrong” allowing us to experience the innate beauty of the present moment and our interactions.

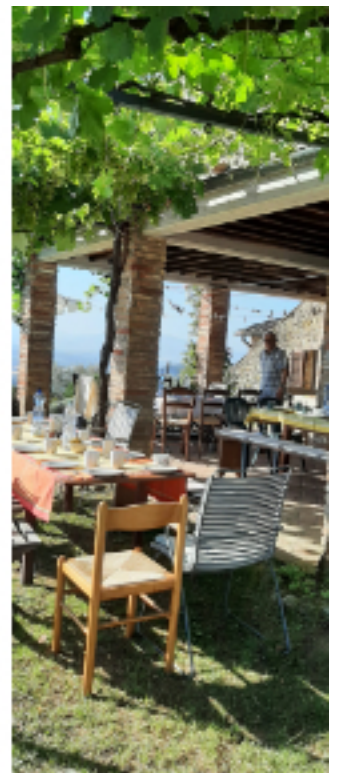
More than anything, our gatherings have given us a deep sense of connection and friendships that endure beyond the limits of time and space. This June we get to come home again.

It would be wonderful if you could join us,
Jena, Lisa, Manfred, Michael, Rose, Stefan, Todd, & Tom

What a typical day looks like

8:30 - 9:30	breakfast
10:00 - 13:00	Ease into the day, unwind, connect, and recenter.
13:00	lunch
16:00 - 19:00	Continue conversing, take a relaxing walk, explore the surrounding area, let your intuition be your guide.
20:00	dinner
21:00	free time (retire to your accommodation for quiet time, engage in informal discussions, or, if there is a village event such as music in the piazza, join in)

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‘The future has an ancient heart?’

CARLO LEVI

Our founder David Peat compared Pari to an alchemical vessel—a place where transformation can come about—as well as an opportunity to pause for a moment and re-assess one’s life. Participating in an event at the Pari Center means not only meeting with scholars and experts but living for a week in a medieval village, mingling with the local population, eating local dishes and drinking local wines. It also means being able to view the beauty of the surrounding countryside, and participating in a very gentle way of life far from the frenzy of work and city living.

Pari today continues in a remarkable state of preservation. In the 1950s Pari’s population began to drop from 1500 to the present 100 as people left to find work in the cities. The Pari Center maintains a close relationship with the village people and supports the local economy by renting accommodation—furnished apartments—on behalf of our participants, by having the local restaurant provide meals, and by supporting the local businesses.

Pari is located a few kilometers from the main superstrada that connects Siena to Grosseto. The nearest airports are Rome, Florence and Pisa. Once you have arranged your flight, we can guide you on the best means of travelling to the village.



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Pari Center