

My Stump Speech – Susan Scott

Where am I going?

I am dedicated to fostering human connection – at a deep level – with all people, including those of differing ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds and life experience and in so doing, to better the world by deepening our understanding that there is more than one right way to live a life.

Why am I going there?

I am not neutral. I believe that...

- ... our global community will succeed or fail, one conversation at a time.
- ... our most valuable currency is relationship.
- ... the conversation *is* the relationship.
- ... we must gain the capacity to connect with, understand and respect those whose perspectives differ from ours
- ... while no single conversation is guaranteed to change the trajectory of a career, a relationship, or a life, any single conversation can.

Who is going with me?

Those who...

- ...have the courage to live lives of ever-deepening *authenticity, passion* for their work, *the desire to* continually learn and improve, the *grace* that comes from on-going personal transformation, and whose egos are checked at the door.
- ...are attracted to my campfire and who will add their logs to mine.

How am I going to get there?

I will get there...

... by practicing human connection in each moment, with the person across the table in the meeting, the one holding forth or sitting quietly, the one cooking dinner, the one with whom I disagree, the one I haven't valued, haven't really seen. Until now.

...by choosing the road less taken, again and again.

...by being kind because everyone is carrying a heavy load.

...by serving as a tuning fork, sounding notes that ring clear and true, so that over time, the notes form chords and the chords become a melody that is unmistakably joyful and leads to dancing and laughter.

...by remembering that I am the one who needs this the most.