

Dear Friend,

Ya' aah teeh!

We are looking forward to this year's Nature of Poetry writing retreat at Canyon de Chelly. Our Navajo hosts, Jon and Lupita McClanahan are eager to share with us the sacred ground of their home.

You are receiving this letter of invitation because you have previously attended a Canyon retreat and felt its blessings. Or because we feel your participation and presence will help to make this next retreat a deep and beautiful experience!

To consider whether this year's retreat is right for you, please read and consider the following ideas that focus on: intention, content and value.

If you have questions about the vision we hold for this year, we welcome your further inquiry! The dates for the retreat are May 23 - 30, 2006

We would like to phone you within the next two weeks to inquire about your interest in attending this very special retreat at Canyon de Chelly. We do hope you'll consider attending with us!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year,
John Fox and Friends



Photo by Tad Gielow

*John Fox, C.P.T. and The Institute for Poetic Medicine
P. O. Box 60189
Palo Alto, CA 94306
www.poeticmedicine.org
1-888-558-3451 ex. 2*



*The Nature of Poetry Retreat
A Week -Long Hiking and Poem-Making Experience*



The Nature of Poetry

IN SACRED CANYON DE CHELLEY , AZ

8TH ANNUAL

WEEK-LONG HIKING AND POEM-MAKING
EXPERIENCE WHILE LIVING ON SACRED GROUND

MAY 23- 30, 2006

PRICE: \$1,300

LED BY JOHN FOX, C.P.T. AND FRIENDS

INTENTION...

We will...

- Focus on exploring and being with our connection to the earth, elements, directions, Great Spirit (or whatever word is comfortable for you,) your experience and the natural cycles of life.
- Include daily quiet/silence time and agree among ourselves to be conscious in honoring this quiet at meals, or when we decide together to schedule it.
- Be intentional & cohesive at the start of our day, so that everyone who is well and/or is not in need of more rest, agrees to attend the early morning meditation, writing session and prayers.
- Have early discussions about issues of conservation regarding water, food and how to walk lightly and with care on this sacred ground.
- Write what needs to be written.
- Make time around the evening fire for stories and poems, laughter and teachings, silence and song.
- Use evening time to discuss issues and concerns that might arise, conversations that can make each person's connection to this place deeper and our work together more conscious.

CONTENT...

This year's Nature of Poetry Retreat at Canyon de Chelly will have a specific focus: the Four Directions and their corresponding 4 elements of Fire, Air, Earth and Water. In the company of our Navajo hosts, we have the opportunity to understand our own relationship with Nature by exploring each of these in-depth.

During our time together we will explore these elements and their qualities through our daily movement and meditations, walks, storytelling, meals, service, poetry, writing and sharing. Each day of our week we will begin our journey with one of the four directions; there will be a day set aside to explore each of the elements and our final day will be spent in closing the circle.

For those returning to the Canyon, it is an opportunity to deepen your connection to the Beautyway and to your own contemplative writing. For those who work in the medical & healing arts, pastoral & counseling psychology, educational or other creative professional fields, this is a unique opportunity to integrate the work you do in the world, with the work you do in your heart, each day.

VALUE...

The 4 R's of a Retreat at Canyon de Chelly: Respite, Writing, Roots of healing and Ritual--

The Nature of Poetry Retreat holds a space of respite, a time for the pressures and demands of the outside world to fall away. Life becomes simpler; living among and within the canyon walls becomes the primary focus and our need as human beings on natural resources becomes highlighted.

Living on sacred Diné land, promotes a depth in your writing, quite possibly you may not find this anywhere else on earth. You will be led by John Fox, Jon & Lupita McClanahan, and friends in reading and writing poetry and encouraged to connect with all living things and the stunning beauty of the canyon.

You may have strong challenges at this time in your life-- and that's okay. Fortunately, in this sacred place, you can renew and nourish the roots of Spirit: roots within you, within the retreat leaders and within the ground upon which you stand.

Daily rituals become the thread that connects all of us--morning meditation, visiting sacred spaces, meals and evening campfires. We realize that ritual is an important piece of our human fabric.

Some people spend time and money traveling to exotic locations to "do" things; this retreat isn't about "doing," but rather about "being" present to the uniqueness of your own voice within the canyon.

This is a rare opportunity for a non-native person to travel to and stay on sacred Navajo land. John (returning to the Canyon for the eighth year) honors both this sacred space and you. He joins this deep respect with excellent teaching and listening skills so that a safe place is made, a holy vessel, wherein you can explore your thoughts and feelings and express what matters to you.

John and his retreat staff of Lisa DeVuono and Tad Gielow, demonstrate their commitment to the sacredness of the land by asking participants to create a community of giving, in the spirit of "chop wood, carry water" and specifically through participation in a service project that will remain behind after you leave the canyon.

A single trip to Canyon de Chelly is a gift to you; a return trip to Canyon de Chelly is a commitment to a depth of respite, writing, deepening roots of healing and the ritual of building a community that is unparalleled.



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For information and questions please contact:

ProgramManager@PoeticMedicine.org