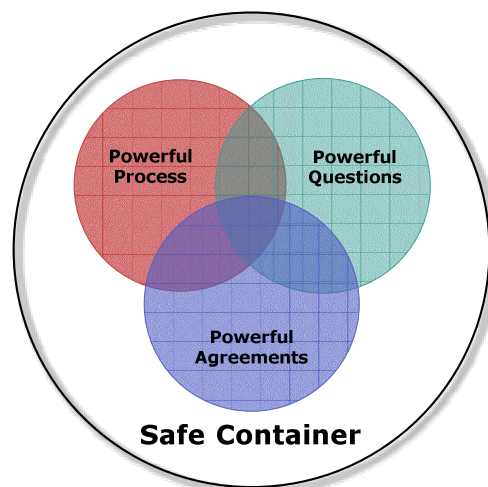


## What I've learned about dialogue

- The term dialogue means many things to many people.
- Don't be ashamed of promoting conversation that doesn't focus directly on solving the problem, finding agreement, or changing anyone's mind.
- Even though this is not the purpose, occasionally dialogue does change minds (or hearts.)
- Dialogue can help us find our common humanity and sometimes common values and desires.
- Dialogue can be a useful tool in strategic planning and visioning.
- Telling our stories is powerful motivator.
- Dialogue can be a little scary because it relies on the participants as much as the facilitator. You're giving up the illusion of control.
- We all have a topic or issue or viewpoint about which we're narrow minded.
- Dialogue practitioners have silos and arguments about definitions, just like every profession. And, like others, they often fail to use their own tools to resolve their conflicts.

### Elements of Successful Dialogue



# My Favorite Dialogue Resources

## Books

***Dialogue: The Art of Thinking Together*** by William Isaacs, published by Doubleday, 1999.

***Solving Tough Problems: An Open Way of Talking, Listening and Creating New Realities*** by Adam Kahane. Berrett-Koehler, San Francisco, 2004.

## PDFs

***Democratic Dialogue – A Handbook for Practitioners*** by Bettye Pruitt and Philip Thomas. Published by Canadian International Development Agency, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Organization of American States, and the United Nations Development Program, © 2007. (262 pages)

[http://www.undp.org/cpr/documents/we\\_do/democratic%20dialogue.pdf](http://www.undp.org/cpr/documents/we_do/democratic%20dialogue.pdf)

***Fostering Dialogue Across Divides***, written by Maggie Herzig and Laura Chasin, published by Public Conversations Project, © 2006. (172 pages) Available as a free download at

[www.publicconversations.org](http://www.publicconversations.org)

***The Art of Powerful Questions*** by Eric Voght, Juanita Brown and David Isaacs.

<http://www.theworldcafe.com/articles/aopq.pdf>

***The Uncertain Path to Dialogue: A Meditation*** by Sallyann Roth.

<http://www.colorado.edu/communication/comm3000002/uncertainpath.pdf>

***World Café to Go***. World Café is a process for dialogues with 12 or more people.

<http://www.theworldcafe.com/articles/cafetogo.pdf>

## Web sites

***Conversation Café***. Lots of information about hosting and facilitating dialogues using this process. <http://www.conversationcafe.org/>

***National Coalition on Dialogue and Deliberation***. Tons of information and resources on dialogue. <http://www.ncdd.org>