Spiritual practice is a form of experiential inquiry, an adventure in knowledge. It does not require withdrawing from the world. Instead, it can evoke a way to respond to what life offers without obstruction, a readiness to improvise, and a skillful attentiveness that expresses the natural freedom of mind.

This workshop is about conducting presence and embodying intimacy. Taught by teachers from different traditions of knowledge, it will use inquiry, improvisational encounters, and creative dialogue to go beyond what we know and activate a dynamic aliveness in every moment of our lives.

At the heart of the workshop will be a creative dance between two styles of inquiry, one rooted in Zen and other in the Time Space Knowledge Vision developed for the West by Tibetan lama Tarthang Tulku. With lightness and humor we will explore ways to awaken our minds and make a real difference.

The Traditions We Draw On

Al Rapaport is a Zen teacher, author of Open Mind Zen, and a Dharma Successor in the White Plum Lineage of Maezumi Roshi. He will introduce participants to Zen Dialogue, which grows out of Voice Dialogue (Hal Stone) and the Big Mind work of Genpo Roshi. www.openmindzen.com.

Jack Petranker is founder of the Center for Creative Inquiry, past dean of the Tibetan Nyingma Institute, and author of When It Rains Does Space Get Wet? He will draw on the Time, Space, and Knowledge Vision and his own work in consciousness studies. www.creativeinquiry.org.

Ron Purser is a long time student of Buddhism and the Time Space Knowledge (TSK) Vision. A professor of management at San Francisco State University, he has a special interest in social issues and transformative education. www.sfsu.edu/~rpurser

The Practices

We will use both experiential and improvisational inquiry, shifting between tradition and innovation. Through Zazen sitting and informal koan practice, Zen dialogue, creative inquiry, and TSK exercises, we will activate our capacity for immediate experience and rich insights. There will be free time for personal practice, relaxation, and good conversations.

The Setting

California’s Ratna Ling Retreat Center is one of the most spectacular settings for leading-edge workshops anywhere in the world. Set on 120 acres nestled among majestic coast redwoods and rolling meadows, it features both superb accommodations and meeting rooms and gourmet vegetarian food. www.ratnaling.org.

To register, go to www.creativeinquiry.org/events. The cost is $350 which includes lodging and meals. For questions, call CCI at (510) 809-1100 ext.222 (Tracy).