Spiritual practice is a form of experiential inquiry, an adventure in knowledge. It does not have to be about imagined goals in the distant future, nor does it 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 three highly experienced teachers from different traditions of knowledge, it will use inquiry, improvisational encounters, and creative dialogue to go beyond what we all already know. The emphasis will be on activating a dynamic aliveness—available right now—that carries over into every moment of our lives.

At the heart of the workshop will be a creative dance between a style of inquiry rooted in Zen and the Time Space Knowledge Vision introduced to 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 and practitioner, author of Open Mind Zen, and a Dharma Successor in the White Plum Lineage established by Maezumi Roshi. He will introduce participants to the practice he calls Zen Dialogue, which in turn grows out of the Voice Dialogue work of 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 teachings and practices of the Time, Space, and Knowledge Vision and his own work in the field of first-person consciousness studies. www.creativeinquiry.org.

Ron Purser is a long time student of Buddhist teachings and the Time Space Knowledge (TSK) Vision. A professor of management at San Francisco State University, he has a special interest in the contemporary relevance of Buddhism to social issues and transformative education. He is the co-editor most recently of 24/7: Time and Temporality in the Network Society. userwww.sfsu.edu/~rpurser

The Practices
We will use different modes of experiential and improvisational inquiry, shifting between tradition and innovation. Through Zazen meditation and koan practice Zen dialogue, creative inquiry, and TSK exercises, we will activate the capacity for direct experience and immediate insight. There will be time for personal practice, relaxation, and informal conversations.

The Setting
Ratna Ling Retreat Center, founded in 2004, is one of the most spectacular centers for leading-edge workshops anywhere in America. Located on 120 acres nestled among California’s coastal
redwoods, it features superb accommodations and meeting rooms and gourmet vegetarian food.
www.ratnaling.org.