The Art of Radical Listening: Revealing Collective Wisdom for Change

By Patricia Plude, D.Min. with Kinari Webb, M.D.

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A book cover with a green circle

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**Quotes:**

(except for the last, these are all excerpted from Amazon reviews; not sure how to ascribe them!)

“A transformative masterpiece that invites readers into the profound practice of deep listening to foster meaningful change.”

“A comprehensive, ground-breaking, and highly readable handbook for how to create real change in people's lives by turning the traditional philanthropical model on its head.”

“If you are with an organization looking to make a positive impact in the world, you should read *The Art of Radical Listening*.”

“A blend of heartfelt narrative, actionable wisdom, and a call to re-imagine our roles in creating a sustainable future!”

“A must-read for changemakers committed to equity and environmental justice!” Julia Riseman, Director of Philanthropic Investments at the Center for EcoTechnology and Co-founder of Health In Harmony

**Narrative Description:**

When life circumstances compelled Patricia Plude and Dr. Kinari Webb to live together for a few years in intentional community, Webb would often—over dinner or a cup of tea—share stories of how she came to develop and implement Radical Listening™, a transformative practice that unveils collective wisdom by fostering a deep sense of interconnectedness and community. During these rich years of living in community, Webb also conceived and wrote much of her memoir, *Guardians of the Trees: A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet* (Flatiron Books, 2021)*.* The stories of this memoir, an exhilarating and galvanizing account of personal and planetary healing that began deep in the rainforests of Indonesia, also found their way into the multifaceted dinner conversations of these years.

As a musician, a teacher, a community organizer, and a pastor, Plude knew well the transformative power of deep listening, and through Webb’s stories she became more and more intrigued by Radical Listening as a compelling and innovative methodology. And so, when Health In Harmony—the organization Webb founded to work in the intersection of environmental conservation and community health in Indonesia—began expanding and using Radical Listening on two additional continents, Plude and Webb teamed up to not only document the practice of Radical Listening, but also to teach it. *The Art of Radical Listening: Revealing Collective Wisdom for Change* was born.

A highly-skilled teacher, with a lifetime of experience, Plude offers clear and practical guidance for the formation of a Radical Listener. Focusing on techniques designed to make the listener a better “Receiver,” *The Art of Radical Listening* offers insights on how to approach every interaction—whether one-on-one or with large groups—with an open, empathetic heart.

Plude’s compelling teaching is enhanced by inspiring poetry and vivid, real-world stories of Indigenous and local communities leading the way in climate solutions. It is carefully illustrated through step-by-step exercises, many of which can be practiced immediately, in everyday interactions. *The Art of Radical Listening* gently guides the reader through a process of formation that culminates with being able *to listen to a group as a whole*, all the while cultivating a deeper understanding of how Radical Listening reveals collective wisdom and key fulcrums of change.

Whether used in philanthropic work, community organizing, or personal communication, the principles and techniques taught in *The Art of Radical Listening* will help each of us become part of a future where listening can transform lives, communities, and the world itself.

**Bios & Photos:**

**Patricia Plude, D.Min.** is a teacher, musician, organizer, and pastor. She is an educational consultant for Radical Listening with Health In Harmony, a certified leader of Interplay, and a leader with Faith in Action, a network of congregations and community leaders organizing to uphold the dignity of all people in the San Francisco Bay Area. Pat lives in San Francisco where she has served for over two decades as the Minister of Music, Arts & Formation for First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, a vibrant, progressive congregation working in the intersection of spirituality and social and environmental justice.

A person wearing glasses and a red and white jacket

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**Kinari Webb, M.D.** is the founder of Health In Harmony, an international nonprofit dedicated to reversing global heating, understanding that rainforests are essential for the survival of humanity, and a cofounder of Alam Sehat Lestari (ASRI). In 2021, Flatiron Books published her award-winning memoir, *Guardians of the Trees: A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet*. Kinari lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her partner and two young sons.

A person smiling in front of a bush of flowers

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**In an Interview Dr. Patricia Plude and Dr. Kinari Webb can discuss:**

* Why we need Radical Listening, now more than ever—for the survival of our species *and* the planet.
* How Radical Listening is simultaneously the act of listening to a group *and* a larger process that results in an ongoing partnership based in reciprocity.
* How Radical Listening is similar to, but different from active listening, facilitation, and participatory methods of community engagement.
* The five skills of Radical Listening: Embracing Interbeing; Cultivating Presence; Building Rapport; Being Able to Remember & Reflect; Relating to Emotion. How these skills bring body and mind together to create a more effective “Receiver.”
* How the components of Radical Listening help foster anticolonial ways of being in relationship.
* How the practice of *listening to a group as a whole* is new territory in community engagement practices and how the practice never fails to reveal key fulcrums of change in communities.
* What Radical Listening is *not,* and how it can potentially be misused.
* How Radical Listening at Health in Harmony sites around the globe (Indonesia, Madagascar, Brazil) has transformed, and continues to transform, communities and rainforests.
* How Radical Listening might be used to reduce polarization in our society today.