

Bob Kamm is a man of deep lyric heart and an unlikely background. Because of his breadth of life experience, he has developed an uncanny ability to help people from all walks stand up in the world as the individuals they are truly meant to be. He accomplishes this primarily through brief, intensive retreats in which he paradoxically dispatches his compassionate wisdom with a no nonsense approach.

Bob often describes himself as, "just a guy who's had a life." But what a life! Born in New York City in 1947, he has done volunteer work in Bellevue Hospital, shoveled "hod" for brick masons, traveled through Europe and lived on an Israeli kibbutz for nearly two years. He has built houses, worked in California's Sierra mountains falling trees, hauled around sacks in a warehouse, run a jack-hammer and a forklift, driven a New York City taxi, written books, articles, songs and poems, sold cookware and cars and spent a dozen innovative years in business management. This latter experience prepared him to bring unique skills to his role as a leadership consultant and life coach. Now, in his second decade of consulting, he has brought insight and guidance to the likes of J.D. Power & Associates, General Motors, The Ford Motor Company, the Canadian Olympic Synchronized Swim Team, The Recording Academy of America (The Grammy's), the Maritz Corporation, American Honda and numerous other small, medium and large organizations and individuals in a wide variety of fields.

Bob has been a married father, a single father, a stepfather and now is a grandpa. He has had dreams shattered and realized. He's been down in dark dirt and hauled himself out.

When you put all this together you have a self-motivated, self-educated man of rare insight, wisdom and expressive abilities who has delivered hundreds of seminars, workshops and retreats with the aim of liberating the leader within business people, parents, artists, legal and medical professionals, athletes and civic activists.

As a business veteran, Bob gained wide recognition in the 1990's when he became the single most outspoken proponent of ethical transformation in the automotive retail field. Quoted in the New York Times, the Washington Post and USA Today, he electrified industry audiences throughout the decade in workshops on both state and national levels with his honesty, eloquence and innovative approach to business and life. He pioneered "Haggle-Free, Stress-Free Car Buying" early in 1991. This bold strategy—which eliminated haggling over price and cut right to the chase—was derided by many at the time, but has since been widely emulated as a paragon of customer-friendly practice by thousands of people far beyond the borders of the automobile business. Bob also broke new ground by developing a salary-based compensation plan for sales forces around the model of the professional sports team. This was considered heretical in a field dominated by straight commission. But once more, derision turned to imitation. Long before the term "family-friendly" entered the business lexicon, Bob designed innovative work schedules that supported the right of all workers to go home and be the parents their children needed them to be.

Bob began his full-time consulting practice early in 1994. Over the next few years, in direct response to the calls of his clients, he created a unique set of offerings as both a leadership consultant and life coach—from personal retreats to on-site coaching, from seminars to sojourns to Peru. The goal? To help individuals and



organizations reach the heights of creative and business achievement by honoring the fullness of their humanity. Through hundreds of workshops, he honed his mastery of the Socratic Method and other facilitating skills to engender deep inquiry and authentic dialogue. His experience in this field has resulted in the publication of a number of articles in various professional business magazines, among them, *The Journal for Quality and Participation, Strategies for Presidents* and *Dealer Business*.

In 2000, Bob published his first book, *The Superman Syndrome: Why the Information Age Threatens Your Future and What You Can Do About It*. In this work, he synthesized the learning of a lifetime—from areas as diverse as anthropology, neurology, sociology, human development, mythology and his own experiences as man-child walking the earth. The basic message? It really is possible to live a life of depth in a world dominated by speed.

In 2002, his second book, *Real Fatherhood—the Path of Lyrical Parenting* was released. While it chronicles Bob's personal experience as a single father, it could well serve as a primer for parents in all the diverse family settings of our time facing the challenge of balancing family, work and the need for personal nourishment.

In the course of sharing the ideas in these two works, Bob received the attention of the national press including CNN, MSNBC and NBC, Fox, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, CBS and ABC radio along with numerous other media outlets.

Between September 2002 and 2004, Bob lost his father—one of the country's deans of print journalism, his brother—a sports director for ABC-TV, and his mother—an author of two books and many articles on bereavement and remarriage. You don't have three fifths of your family wiped out in less than two years without feeling the hit. In Bob's case, it deepened an already profound practice as a life coach and leadership consultant. As Bob says, "Leadership is first about who we are, then about what we do. If we move through life without fully feeling our losses as well as our triumphs, we are not cultivating the fullness of our humanity.

An eternal student, Bob has traveled widely and has many interests from gardening to photography, history to neurology, anthropology to music and poetry. He attended The New School for Social Research, Rutgers University, Bard College, Antioch West and Dr. W. Edwards Deming's renowned four-day intensive seminar on Quality, Productivity and Competitive Position. Though many seek mentoring from him, he continues to grow by seeking it himself from an array of individuals in the Human Potential and Health and Wellness movements.

In March of 2007, Bob published his third book, Lyric Heart: Poems and Other Musings. Later that year, he was introduced by a mutual friend to Andrea. Their mutual passion for life, communication and relationship made them a natural match and the obvious subject for Bob's next book, a collection of love poems. Andrea, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Board Certified Clinical Art Therapist, introduced Bob to the theory and practice of Imago Relationship Therapy. Finding the topic compelling, Bob went back to school to be certified as an Imago Educator. In late summer of 2009, Bob and Andrea opened the San Luis Relationship Institute (www.slrii.com) in downtown San Luis Obispo as a way to combine their talents in helping people become more conscious and competent across the full landscape of their lives and relationships.