



The Circle is Always Divinely Ordered

BY CHELLIE KAMMERMEYER

THE CIRCLE is always Divinely ordered; I first heard Colleen Benelli say that phrase in April 2014. My husband Mike and I had come to Portland to take the first step in becoming Professional Members of the Reiki Membership Association. (This was prior to the five-day RMA class that is available now.) I heard Colleen on her Reiki Chat® call and I remember thinking “Wow, I would love to take a class from her!” I checked into her classes and found that she had scheduled a I & II class that would be perfect for us to fly from San Francisco to take.

We took the class in April and went back in July to take the ART/Master Class. During this class, Colleen talked with us about becoming ICRT Licensed Teachers. I was overwhelmed by the idea—flattered yes, but daunted. It wasn’t like filling out a couple of forms and boom you are done. I felt like it was too hard, would take too much time and much more than I could do, so I quickly dismissed the idea. Fortunately for me, Mike was intrigued. However, prior to sending in the application we had to attend a Reiki Retreat as part of the prerequisites. The Retreat was in New York and I thought, okay, I’m in no hurry. We will go to the Retreat next year. Except that the Retreat was scheduled on Mike’s birthday, and his birthday request was that we go to the Retreat. Fine, I thought, we might as well go now. Besides, to be brutally honest, that way I would get to see if everyone was as nice as Colleen, or if the rest of the group of ICRT teachers were too out there for me.

We turned the trip into a mini-vacation with a side trip to see family in Ontario and a night in Niagara Falls. The drive was beautiful. We had a wonderful laugh about my comment about the great chairs everyone had on their front porches—Adirondack chairs because, duh, we were in the Adirondack Mountains. We arrived a little late on Friday evening. Pam and Don were singing and some people made certain that we had something to eat. I think it was during one of Pam and Don’s songs that I felt and I knew that I wanted to be a part of this amazing group of people. I don’t think it took two hours before I decided to apply to the teaching program and do whatever I could to become a Licensed Teacher. Little did I know the impact on my life that decision would create.

During the application process, I thought a lot about Colleen’s comments that the Circles were Divinely ordered—not just the

group of people that was together during a class, although that was true, but also even more the circles that happen in our life.

One of the clearest circles began over 16 years ago when I went to see an intuitive, Karen, to get her input on my current job. I wanted a promotion. She smiled and said, “You know that isn’t your path, right? You are supposed to do healing work.” Uh, NO, my current job was my path and I wanted a promotion, now, yesterday, not tomorrow. I left her office, upset, irritated and frustrated. My mom was a nurse; I had no interest in nursing, since blood and all that freak me out. How could I do healing work if I didn’t go back to school and become a nurse, or even more time consuming and costly, a doctor? I eventually became the manager of an auto dealership service department, and it felt empty. Shortly afterwards, my son gave me a gift to take a Reiki class. And truthfully, if anyone else had suggested it, I would have laughed. But my engineer son thought I’d like the teacher. So I went, and I loved it.

After a few years, while still at the dealership, I found an opportunity to volunteer to do Reiki with another energy worker who did acupuncture. She would put the needles in and then I would do Reiki. Her clients loved it and the combination was effective. It was a great experience learning to work with clients. One afternoon, she asked if I would stay a little later—a personal friend of hers had been in a car accident and she thought it would be great if I would add Reiki to her treatment. Of course, since I was volunteering, if I was busy she totally understood. Fortunately, Mike was in Alaska and I was in no hurry to get home. At 6:00 PM, I walked Karen, the intuitive who had suggested I do healing work. I felt this wave of energy and Reiki wash over me and a surge of knowing that my path was clear—I just needed to take the steps. Now, Karen is one of my dearest friends and our office space is in her suite of offices—clearly full circle.

The application process for the Licensed Teacher training seemed overwhelming, and I decided to just break it down into smaller steps. Once I had done that, it wasn’t as difficult as I thought it would be. The last prerequisite was taking the Karuna Reiki® course. The timing worked better for us to go to Sedona,

as if that could ever be a hardship. We took the class from Laurelle Gaia and Michael Baird. At the end of the class, I had a moment to talk with Laurelle and told her I would be sending in my application for the Licensed Teacher program. Her only question was, “You mean you and Mike or just you?” Well, that was a good question. Mike had taken all the classes with me and he had been to the retreat, so why didn’t he apply too? He had been my biggest promoter in the beginning. I got such delight in watching him mull this decision over. It hadn’t really occurred to him, yet at the same time, he thought, what a great idea. He was on board and I admit much more quickly than I was for myself. We sent in both applications and sent Reiki.

The process after sending in the application takes time. We waited and after what felt like an eternity, we were accepted into the program. Mike and I were the first couple to be accepted together, and our requirements were a little different than just one person’s. Over the course of the training, there have been a few times when we have teased each other and said, “If it weren’t for you, I’d be done,” but I wouldn’t have had the experiences with students and with clients that I have had without his partnership.

Mike and I have been married for 24 years and knew each other a long time before that. We are best friends and love teaching together. I, of course, talk a lot more during a class, and he is an integral part of our classes. His calm presence helps people share their feelings and experiences. Another circle—he was my first “client.”

One of the pieces of the training that initially concerned me is that the mentor teacher comes to you and co-teaches the Level I & II course with you. The requirement is to have at least eight students for this class, and the tuition goes to your mentor. I was completely fine with that part. It was the part of the agreement that you pay for eight whether or not you have eight that concerned me. What if only three people showed up? What if...(insert some other drama!)? Nine people signed up for the class. NINE! We might have had more; however we didn’t have room for any more. Again, the Circle was Divinely ordered. We had more than enough—lesson learned again and again!

There are reasons for each step along the way through the training. We talk regularly with our mentor teacher, Colleen. She has been our biggest cheerleader and has talked to us about many business practices as well as how to handle different circumstances as they arise. As our business has grown, we have felt empowered to make changes. Our website is new and improved. We had professional photos taken, which seemed like an enor-

mous undertaking. We feel comfortable in our teaching on a level that I had never dreamed possible.

I took a gigantic leap out of my comfort zone and developed a class based on the Five Reiki Ideals. It was a six-month course, one evening a month. We had a meal together, because I believe breaking bread together creates community on a deep level. Each month we discussed one of the Five Reiki Ideals. At the end of the sixth month, I was thanking the students for coming to the class and they just looked at me like I was a little cuckoo. Just because we had completed this didn’t mean that they wanted to stop coming to class to see each other and to develop Reiki on a deeper level. I was humbled and honored. We brainstormed some ideas to continue and they voted. We have now started classes on Reiki and crystals. Now a second group has started the Five Reiki Ideals class. I have no doubt they will become friends and share a deep connection also. We are looking at developing an online course so students who aren’t close enough to come to our home can be included. The Circle is always Divinely ordered.

There are three levels of Licensed Teacher training. We have the first two completed. It’s been about two years since we were accepted. The time would have flown by anyway and I’m thrilled to have reached this level of confidence and understanding. I’m also excited to know that if I have learned this much in this short time, I will be able to learn so much more. When I think about that I wonder how many more circles will come together in a Divine way.

Recently, I heard one of my students say, “Chellie says the Circle is always Divinely ordered.” My first inclination was to say, no, that’s Colleen, but I’m certain she said what she needed to say. Her circles are starting too.

Adam, our son, who paid my first Reiki class tuition, is looking at his busy work schedule to figure out a time to come for a Level I & II class. He and his wife are coming from out-of-state to learn Reiki. It has become such an important part of our life; they have decided it’s time for them to learn it too—another circle.

I’m always curious about how and why people learn Reiki. What draws them in? What pushes them to learn it? How did the circumstances of their life conspire to get them to that place? Our story is unique and also exactly like so many others. For some unknown reason, we took a class and the rest is history. Perhaps others are interested in becoming Licensed Teachers; the path is your own, and there are many who have already been down a similar path who are ready to help you. When Mike and I decided to make our Reiki practice our full-time business, we did what seemed natural. We did Reiki on ourselves and sent it to our business; and then we wrote a mis-

sion statement. It is “Our goal is to have a healer in every family.” To that end we want to teach the teachers. There is no way we can teach everyone, so our goal is to teach those who may want to teach and anyone else who wants to learn. Once a student has the ART/Master training, it’s amazing how many times a new teacher has an opportunity to teach.

The Circle is always Divinely ordered. We are all supposed to be here together on this planet, no matter what the political scene is (and as I’m writing this, I have no idea what will be happening when this article is published). However, I believe getting Reiki out to the world is a large part of the answer. Together we can change the world: it is Divinely ordered. 🌿



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