

IR UPDATE WEEKLY

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Meeting Is Living

Martin Buber (1878-1965), a renowned philosopher and theologian, is the author of *I and Thou* and is most famous for his thesis of dialogical existence. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature ten times and the Nobel Peace Prize seven times, according to Wikipedia.

Buber intrigues me because of his assertion that: “All real living is meeting.” Another way of saying this is: “All actual life is an encounter.” He seems to say that we only truly live when we experience each other’s authentic existence. This idea speaks to me because I have spent the last 37 years bringing people together to experience each other. I experience life most intensely when my efforts help bring others together.

NIRI brings people together to experience each other’s authenticity. I see this all the time, including last week in Dallas with the NIRI DFW chapter. Some 30 members drove from all around the vast Dallas-Ft. Worth “metroplex” to hear some remarks from me and to meet each other. Why do over-busy executives do this? Surely, they get to experience plenty of people at work and in their lives. They get to go to plenty of meetings. It was a beautiful day, but Dallas offers many of those. Lunch was good, but hey, it was just lunch. So, why, then, do thousands of NIRI members get together in hundreds of ways throughout the year?

NIRI members go out of their way to get together for all sorts of reasons. Perhaps one reason is that there is power and validation, as well as comfort and community in getting together with peers and colleagues. Whatever the reason, when we step into a meeting of our peers we step out of our isolation and become engaged in the experience of becoming. We live.

To live and grow requires an act of commission on our part. We must take a step, begin the journey. As Buber wrote in *Between Man and Man* (1965): “You do not attain to knowledge by remaining on the shore and watching the foaming waves, you must make the venture and cast yourself in, you must swim, alert and with all your

force, even if a moment comes when you think you are losing consciousness; in this way, and in no other, do you reach anthropological insight.”

Come meet with us. Come live. Join your peers in Las Vegas for the 2018 [NIRI Annual Conference](#), June 10-13.

All the best,
Gary



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P.S.: Don't let the sun go down before you register for the [NIRI Annual Conference!](#)