

Wynne Leon

Welcome to the sharing the heart of the Matter podcast, where we honor the storyteller in us all. I'm Wynne Leon and in this episode I'm with my dear friend and Co host Vicki Atkinson, and we are talking about the keys to success as collaborators. We talk about how. Openness and authenticity are necessary to be good partners. I bring my years of experience as a consultant for collaboration software to the table, talking about the right mix of structure and openness to provide room for individual expression. Vicki gives us a great metaphor about understanding what history is best packed away in a steamer trunk versus carried with us in a backpack. And I love that because of my very favorite backpack meditation. Here's the thing. Writing our stories has enabled Vicki and me to become collaborative partners, even though we've never met in person. We recognize that we are lucky to have been able to build such a connection and that it doesn't happen every day. So in this podcast conversation, we breakdown the path to connection through vulnerability, openness, warmth, and responsiveness in order to share what's. Worth for us? It's a great episode about how to collaborate with others. You know you'll love. It. Hi, Vicki. Hi, Winnie. So good to see you did. Ohh Mary win. We've talked about how we came together to launch a shared blog. And podcast and other classes without ever meeting, and we still haven't ever met in in person. But it's one thing to start something with somebody else, and it's another to keep doing it successfully. What do you think the secret is?

Vicki Atkinson

Well, first, our listeners might want to weigh in on our definition of success, right? Right. We might want to open with that like. Well, it's all relative. Right? Right. You know, when you when I were talking about having this chat. It's I think it's such a good question because I I think a lot of people especially in the. The world of work right now, there's a lot of attention, renewed attention on Team building, collaborative work. You know, partners synergy, you know, doing our best collectively and and I think.

Wynne Leon

It.

Vicki Atkinson

The older I have become, the more I realize I'm. Without really being conscious of it, checking for authenticity. And so you and I have talked about how we tend to be pretty open people. And sometimes that can be construed as weakness or softness and we could go down, you know, in gender, you know, alley about that and have that long conversation. But we tend to be pretty open. But during that period of getting to know people. Whether it's work related or social. I'm I'm looking for those. Patterns, those checks for authenticity. Right? Because people can be really good at portraying for a while who they wish to be right. But I think one of the things that is connecting thread kind of our connecting tissue is that good, bad or otherwise we've been burned. You know, by people who maybe were, you know. Marauders and Masqueraders were right, you know, couldn't sustain the performance long enough. So I think that's helped us along the way. And then there is that mutuality. I think we were good partners, I think for each other. Because we listen and then you

know, and that the pausing that you know, what do you think and all ideas are good ideas. But we were just talking about this. We can't chase every good idea. And so every time we talk, I feel like there is that good kind of natural arc in our conversations where we. Do a lot. Of that, and then we settle. So I don't know what, tell me. What you think?

Wynne Leon

Well, you know, this goes again to growing up and becoming self aware and knowing when our ego is at play. It.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, we are.

Wynne Leon

Meaning. Feeding some need to. Be primary or be recognized or something like that. And when I when I know when I'm doing that and it's only been in the probably the last seven or eight years that I've been able to spot that in myself.

Vicki Atkinson

MHM.

Speaker

MHM.

Wynne Leon

When I'm doing that, I'm not motivated by the right thing, and I think one of the things that strikes me about how you and I have worked together is that we seem to be able to keep those egoic needs at Bay to some degree so that we can promote. Other and we can promote others and with that authenticity that you're talking about, which is we really want to we we really are here to do that, yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, yeah. Well, and do you think, you know, people have asked us this question before because I I think you can have deep and meaningful relationships that are place based. You know it's it's, you know, it's something that we've all learned how to do. And for me it you know I'd love to be able to give you a hug. I've said that before but it doesn't. What we share and and the confidence is that we keep for each other. It doesn't make any of. That less. In any way, but I really I I think some of that is. When you write, you know and your book was so deeply personal, you know, finding my father's faith. And then when you read, you know, early drafts of surviving, Sue. We write with heart and I I think I knew you when I read your book. And then when I had time to spend with you this.

Speaker

Mm-hmm. OK.

Vicki Atkinson

Hey, you were who I thought you would be. So it's like a big check. Right? Right. It matches. Right. And I I think that helps a lot.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. Right. I think so too.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

I'd say the other thing that I have noticed and and probably this goes to podcasting in general too, is that. We are both willing to ask the next question. So whether it's, you know? Just what we were talking about, you know, This is why I think it works. What do you think? And then we dive underneath that you know that. Secret of great communication of, of asking that next question of delving into, OK, well, why it's it's a curiosity that probably keeps us. It keeps us talking for sure. Well and I think about the people who've mattered in in my life to me and the people I've let go.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And everyone who's stuck and mattered was a terrific listener. And you are that you. You pick up on the spoken the what's not said, you know, all the the nuances around things. And you know it there you we can't say it enough that deep listening.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm. You know, and and really listening to understand versus just that transactional stuff. You know, it's there. There's nothing more important when you're working with a partner. Then, knowing you know when is it time to slow down, not because someone said stop or you know I I need that, but that sense that you have the the intuitive part. And and really trusting it. Yeah, well, right back at you on the listening score because you were very good at at listening as well. Well, and one of the things that you and I have talked about this, that continually amazes me because you're a problem solver at heart.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

And even like today, while we're doing this podcast, I'm sure you've got. At least two screens open, right? And you're watching, right? What's going on in your work world? And we're doing this. But you

know when when we think about what you do related to technology and software and and collaboration with the team that you lead, but also trying to meet customers needs. You know there's collaboration when it's it's fun stuff like what we get to do doesn't mean it's less, but it's it. It's the the fun stuff, right? But then there is the in the work world, you know, where you have to kind of bring people together, right. And seeking that synergy because you've. All kinds of of outcomes and accountable. So how how is collaboration different when you think of it in that part of?

Wynne Leon

Your world. Well, it's interesting because I think. It it's, you know, it's not till I've gotten a little bit further along in my career that I've been able to see the parallels between my professional life and and personal life. But I'd say relevant specifically to this conversation. Uh, the stuff that I see that makes collaboration work. What? For companies, is that you need structure, but not too much structure. And if I map that to what we're doing here in this podcast, you know we have some podcast prompts that provide structure we don't often follow it all the way because we have enough looseness, whether it's, you know, both within.

Speaker

Hmm.

Wynne Leon

On our own under. Planning and and with our guests that we could ask follow up questions or not follow the order or any of that. So it's the same thing that I see professionally. You know you give people a place to put their documents. You let them tag it. Is this internal or external or, you know, is the audience? Yeah. Is this final or is it drafted? Or is the audience, you know, just from my department or is IT company wide?

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

Do you need? To give them the structure so that people know.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Speaker

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Where to put? And they can put, but if you add too many more. Tags to it. People just won't do it at all. They won't put it there. So you need to have both that balance of structure and non structure, yeah. The more that. We get into the technology as it stands today as opposed to where it was 20 years ago. The more it is about creativity.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And supporting creativity within organizations. Yeah, I just did a a webinar professionally to just called a webinar professional professionally about the ideation process. How do we encourage companies to brainstorm on, you know, what the next internal project should be?

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And allow people to, you know, post their ideas. And so this was about the technology that supports it, but also about that creativity process.

Speaker

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

MM.

Wynne Leon

How do you spark creativity and also you know the the? One of the great factors that my partner on on that webinar was talked about is the gamification process. So you make a game out of it. You know, everybody can submit ideas, but you only get 2, two per month to vote on it. How do you make it fun? How do you change those neural pathways so it's not just work as usual?

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

This is people. Providing ideas about. Stuff. And so you know, that's the idea is, is a lot about what we do here when we collaborate with each other is how do you create that openness and creativity? As well as the technology to support it, yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, I think there are. There are those guiding principles that are also kind of like life lessons. For us too, because. Mixed in with everything that you just said.

Speaker

It's.

Vicki Atkinson

There's that trying to lead without judgment, to get people to, to come together and, you know, bring what they have and value it before you discount it. And I think, you know, everything happens so rapidly that when you as a manager and a leader can create. One of that safe space to bring things together. And make it clear that it's not. They're not just like flat words. All ideas are good ideas, right? That is the most human of things, you know. So bring that forward. And then when we see, you know, teams of people connecting ideas and, you know. Bringing things together that AI, you know, maybe can do, but not the same way. Yeah. You know, there's such value in.

Wynne Leon

There such value and if you think about and I'm sure you saw this with your your study.

Vicki Atkinson

But yeah.

Wynne Leon

Sir. What I've seen with with my teams, you know, there's the person in the Mac that's, you know, halfway raises their hand and goes. I think this is probably it. They feel like it's a stupid idea or a stupid comment because it seems like it's basic and everybody else knows it. But they say the thing that should be obvious but that we've missed, yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah, right.

Wynne Leon

You know, like we are we. Why aren't we talking about this? And? And they're a little bit timid about saying it and you want it's to create that environment where people can say that so that we can talk about.

Vicki Atkinson

MHM.

Wynne Leon

The obvious assumption that we aren't writing down or the obvious idea of what we should do next, that we can encourage all the voices.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah, saying that. And it's hard because it it can be with teams that are a little dysfunctional. I'm not referring to any particular group in any way, I promise. But there is that what runs against everything you just said is that need to be seen. The competition that drives people. I need to look out for myself. If I don't, no one else will. And I I think it's it's not an easy thing. You know just set that dynamic and create a culture where every person is valued and what comes out of their head and heart. You want to see it, you want to hear it, you want to capture it. It may not rule the day and it may not drive the decision make. Thinking, but it might literally and and I love talking to you when

the word spark comes up repeatedly because you know your electrical engineering background too, but it might be that that spark or the conduit or the connecting point to something else. And that's the thing when you bring people together, that is the most glorious. Thing you know when that happens and I think that's some of what you and I see working together, it is that Better Together. You know I feel so valued so encouraged. I hope you feel that for me too. But it's the the nutball stuff the like. Hey, right, what about this? Where, you know, trading confidence is about things or the worries or the fears about stuff. Did I do this right? Right. You know, can I let it go? I think people need partners like that.

Wynne Leon

Absolutely.

Vicki Atkinson

Collaborators like that in every facet of our lives.

Wynne Leon

Yes, but I want to circle back on just what you were just saying right there which. Is. About, you know, somebody mentioned, you know, bringing up the spark and it's also I think one of the things that we talk about a lot is showing up and the goodness that you were just talking about is when we get everybody in the room to show.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Yeah, right. Yeah. And it can be hard to do because we're all carrying the misfortunes, you know of, you know, other group work in the past when they were over.

Speaker

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

We were ignored. We were dismissed or there was some kind of like hazing or. One of the things that used to drive me crazy is when people would just inadvertently dismiss people, and so it's the basics of acknowledging one another. I may not like your idea, but I appreciate that you brought it and recognizing that.

Speaker

MHM.

Vicki Atkinson

We're all pretty fragile, right?

Wynne Leon

Well before we started recording, you have this wonderful metaphor about a backpack versus a steamer truck. Can you say that now that we now that I pushed the record button, it was so good?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Speaker

Yeah. Yes.

Vicki Atkinson

You know, I I loved it when I I was, you know, in teacher mode in in my higher Ed career and. You know, then working with, you know, students and clients, one-on-one and I think one of the things I've learned and it's, you know, as a mom and you know, a a spouse and a partner too, is that. It's important to acknowledge that people have had misfortune, but in every encounter, that's not the topic. You know, we're we're not doing therapeutic stuff, but we acknowledge that in the the lived experience we've all suffered in some way. But I had a student years ago who. You know, he he really needed some help, but it was an academic course. It wasn't a therapeutic environment. And so we were talking about just how difficult it can be for. People to be who they are, be true to who they are. And so I remember talking with him and saying, you know, trying to find a way to reach him. And I said, you know, but everything that's happened to you is valuable, but leave it in the steamer trunk at home. It's OK that you've got some of it in your day. Bag your backpack because it's who you are.

Speaker

OK.

Vicki Atkinson

But you cannot carry it all with you all the time. It's too heavy. You don't want to go there, and it started a whole big, you know, dialogue with him, where I felt like I really got to him because that metaphor of the steamer trunk. You know it. It sparked all. Kinds of things for him about, OK, but when I want to, I can pop the top and I can go wallow. And I'm like, Yep, you can. It'll all be there waiting for you. Right. But then the the beautiful thing is when you're ready or when you need to escape, you can close the lid. You can even lock. It. You can put it out of sight. It can be right and you know, then take it even further. You know, junk pilot, right. But you know, it's OK to carry some of those things when you're working. The group where you've been slighted in some way, but please leave the steamer trunk. At home, right?

Wynne Leon

Leave. At home and I, you know, I I love that not only for all that wisdom that you just packed in there, but you know, of course, my favorite meditation is the one where you sit down and you take off your metaphorical backpack and you look inside and see what you're carrying it around. You take everything out.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

You know, set it in front of you by the metaphorical campfire right then at the end, when you're done breathing and you're done feeling you know how much your body can lift when you're not carrying that, you only put back in the backpack what you need.

Vicki Atkinson

Yes. Yeah. Yeah. And I think some people call that either, and that's beautiful. Doing like an emotional inventory, right. You know about what matters, what doesn't. And I think people that lead. Oops. Or are in partnerships. You have to be open and ready, you know, to to ask. Is it about what's happening now or is it something else? Does something else happen? Right. And being sensitive and aware, but I and allowing for that. Right.

Wynne Leon

Right.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, it's important.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. And then say we can leave our steamer trunks at home.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, you know it. It's so funny. I I worried sometimes when I was in that mode that things would come out of me but it. You're trying to connect and I think that's the thing. You know how? How can I say something in a slightly different way that will make sense? And this was a student who was a big history buff right up his alley. He like trains, right? So it's like, OK, yay. But it also reminds me that sometimes when we're doing things, it is it's allowing the spaghetti to be thrown on the wall.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

You know, and just allowing that to happen, which can, you know, it's messy and darn spaghetti.

Wynne Leon

Yes. It is but that. You gotta make messes to to be to in order to to sort things out to in order to get out of your butts. I think you know, I can always come back to what, the psychologist, Dr. Alison Gopnik from Berkeley, says about adult brains.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Versus children's brains, you know, adult brains. We have those neural pathways that that our our brain rewards us for what is going to what we're going to get done. And we have that neural pathway that could. It's a Blvd. It can go really fast toward. Things done. And you know, kids brains. Teach them more about what's going to teach them. The most, yeah. And so their neural pathways look like the streets of Old Paris. Why can't go very fast, you know? And but they're. But there's more connections and interconnections. And so it's all about slowing down.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

Our brains.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

Making a mess, throwing the spaghetti at the wall. To to get out of that rut of I'm just going to get something done today.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, yeah. And and knowing when to kind of call a ceasefire that you know, we've taken something as far as we can go. Maybe that's not the best, you know, sort of like visual but but when to to stand down, you know, yeah, we've gone and and I think. Sometimes that task completion. But but we've got to get to an end. I'm not sure how you feel about it in in your work world because there are deadlines and there are obligations and those things, but sometimes getting to a fast conclusion is is the very worst thing.

Wynne Leon

Mm-hmm. That's true.

Vicki Atkinson

That we're driven that way because we're all juggling and managing lots of things, but that's not always. Yeah. The destination isn't always great. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And Speaking of destinations, one of the things that I've loved about working with you is like. I will take an outline or a course or an idea. As far as I can, and I'm thinking specifically about when we were doing this for that workshop we taught about, yeah. You know, creating resilience through creativity.

Speaker

MM.

Wynne Leon

And I'll take it as far as I. Until I'm sort of sick of it. And then I'll toss it over to you. And then you like. Add your magic to it and then it's something I can work with again because it's all fresh and new, you know? But that back and forth has worked really well between the two.

Vicki Atkinson

Of us. Ohh my gosh. So much so and I think. But if we hadn't done, I think kind of the boot camp along the way, you know, kind of getting to know one another. And like really low threat kinds of ways, just getting to know, I think that the back and forth, you know the other thing I was thinking about when we were talking earlier was you and I are very responsive to one another and it might not always be the whole response, but we're really good and I think it's because we.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

But a really high premium on it, I heard it. I saw it. You know, I caught the fly ball. I can't do anything with it right now. But I want, you know, I got it. And then when that time comes to kind of dig in and kind of pick up the handoff.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

I think what we we end up doing, at least for me it it. I get rejuvenated, you know, because working solo is really hard and you know, for a writer, friends you, we we don't know if we're connecting. Yes. You know if if our threads are following and you did something for me like that last week I I was writing the blog post. For our interview with Rick Camper. And I had like 12 wonderful ideas, but really, the piece was really about one or two, right. And so I handed off to you cause my instinct was. Like. Something's not right. But you were you right there, right. And so having the sort of second set of eyes, ears, but also you were able to crawl into my heart enough that you knew where it was going. But I probably had three blog posts into one thing.

Wynne Leon

And. Ohh great. But I love what you just said there about the getting to know each other in a low threat way so that we could keep opening these avenues of of feedback and interaction. Yeah. And we, we build the trusts slowly. I I think you and I are pretty open people we tend to.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

Like others and and and lead that way. But we also have been doing this for a year and a half now and we've built that relationship up overnight.

Speaker

Yes.

Wynne Leon

We've we've gotten to the point where we're like, yeah, I I don't like that idea. I I kind of think about when we were, we were brainstorming domain names for sharing the heart of the matter. So what's available? What do we like? And it's like, no, not that one, but this one and.

Vicki Atkinson

Ohh.

Wynne Leon

You know where we could go back and forth and say yeah, no, that doesn't resonate with me or. Yeah, but we we had to start and ramp up to that. We didn't just get there at that level 10.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. And I think one of the things that's been most surprising for you and I is how often we've got questions. We received questions from people about this dynamic, like the assumption how long, you know? One person asked me, like, what part of my academic career did you and I connect? Because they assumed that we were like college friends. And then, like, I'm much older than you are. So that's silly. And talk about two different career tracks who like it. Yeah, that would not have happened. But I think people assume. It's that there, there has been like an extended amount of time, but I what I love about that is. You know, I believe it's not about time served, but it's about, you know, the caring keeping and. What you said about building trust, but also you and I tend to be, even though we care about each other's feelings. And feelings generally, we don't gloss over and. Like skip, the importance of honesty in the process. We're we're careful when we have a point of view. That that we know may vary in some way. Mm-hmm. But I think we're both pretty cautious about how we say things. So it's about the idea.

Wynne Leon

But it's not about the source. Yeah, right. I think you've brought that full circle back to the authenticity part, which is if we didn't. Have that honesty we would be. Probably proceeding on some of these items in an inauthentic way. You know, if if we didn't couldn't speak up.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. The other thing that strikes me about what you just said is about how we met and how long we've known each other is that Jim Henson quote that we're which and I'm not going to say this perfectly, but something along the lines of. You know, there's no word yet for old friends that have just met. Yeah. Yeah, it doesn't happen every day. You don't meet somebody every day that you can be authentic and open and and trust.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Speaker

Mm-hmm. Hmm.

Wynne Leon

This isn't, you know, the friends on TV where everybody, you know, walks into a coffee shop and or immediately fast friends. It just. Yeah, these are, I'm super grateful. And for you, because it is a treasure to meet somebody especially. Later in life that you can be open and honest with and collaborate with.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Well, and I think you and I put a premium on depth. Mm-hmm. Like I, I have a A and I appreciate them all. A lot of. As friends, but I I don't need a lot of people at a depth level, but the people that are really, really important who know me inside out and backwards. In all the ways that matter to me. They're they're not at the surface, they're the people that. Have listened to everything that I have offered, knowing that there's probably more, but there's an openness to that and I, you know, it's one of the things that I appreciated about you early on. I got the depth from your book. And then interacting with you. Uh, you know that you. You are thoughtful. You are kind. You are considerate. You are ambitious. You're wildly intelligent. You're terrific, mom. A really good dog parent, right? Cooper got this dude.

Wynne Leon

Keep going. Keep going.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, I know you are. You know, in a really good leader. But even with all those things, sometimes people in life aren't gonna like us, and they're not gonna be our people. And, you know, we can be really accurate. English. But then, like you said, when you find someone who kind of sees your heart, I'm done. Right. Good enough. I'm. I'm there. And and we. I think we have.

Wynne Leon

Yeah. That. Yeah. And I like what you said about. That's because bringing it back to writing, you know, certainly there's the depth that I found in you in reading your book. You know, I had gotten to know each other. Already, by the time I read your book, but you know that that that depth of where you came from certainly helped build my understanding and and the thing that one of the things that I think we encourage in each other is depth and writing because.

Vicki Atkinson

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon

It's it's a hard thing to mine for and it's a hard thing to keep to keep working at. It's it's, it's vulnerable and exposing and and, you know, having somebody who helps bring about that perspective because they're willing to to look for depth to.

Speaker

Yeah. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Do you think matters?

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. Ohh my gosh yeah, and I I hadn't really thought about it in that way, but I think you're right. If we think about the meeting in the middle. Well, you and I came together and it was all around that. Like big bonfire of vulnerability, you know that we're trying to, like, deal with every day in our lives because I feel like exposed, right. And, you know, I wrote about this and, you know, I'm being careful with people's feelings and names and situations and. I don't want to say too much, but it when we have done that, we've gotten the best feedback from other people that sometimes you know on a good day whether it was a book or a blog post or something else. We did working with a group of people. There's value in the storytelling. You know, if you can, I can, you know, maybe there's hope. And in the end. That's all we're looking for. You know, instilling hope, right? Keep going. You can do it. We do hard things. My favorite. When, Leon. Yes. Expression. Ever or light and lift, which is one of my favorite doctor, Victoria Atkinson. Yeah. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

Phrase.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah, because it life is short and and we have very little control. I like control. Well, I like control. I really do. But I've had to give that up. But a good day is is a day, right? When we feel like, you know, that the light, the love, the lift, we're doing the hard things on the.

Speaker

OK.

Wynne Leon

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson

Other side. Of the hard things you know and for you. That's, you know, climbing massive peaks and, you know, doing the unthinkable. Right? But I I will never understand that fully. But even smaller things in my life that are hard, that I obsess about and worry about on the other side of hard things. My shoulders are back, my posture is good. I can do anything, right, you know? And and that's we want to live our lives that way. And you know what I love about this conversation is now we have the bonfire of vulnerability in front of which we are going to sit with our backpack.

Speaker

Yes, yes.

Wynne Leon

Versus our steamer truck, and we're going to sort things out and we're.

Vicki Atkinson

We're going to create light and lift because we've done hard things. Yeah. Wow. That's a mixed up message there. All I wanna know is like is we're around the big bonfire. Can I have smores smores? Right. Where are the snacks?

Wynne Leon

That's it. Right, yes, yeah. Funny story. We were just at a Airbnb with my kids and they were doing some smores. And and one of my pet peeves is that we get a bag of big marshmallows every time we do this, and then we only use like, ohh yeah. And yeah, I I brought back the bag of marshmallows from the last time we were at the Airbnb. And it was a little bit hard.

Vicki Atkinson

Yeah. 1/3 so. Yeah.

Wynne Leon

And they were trying to get him on the sticks cause the person. For Harden, somewhere in this it all went wrong and some marshmallows went fleeing all over the deck, and goopy is Cooper is the dog is trying to eat them all.

Vicki Atkinson

No, that is, yeah, I mean, you're you're lucky that like one of the little humans didn't get impaled. Right cause I'm matching like trying to like but you know let nothing go to waste, right? We don't wanna.

Wynne Leon

Do that. Yeah. Well, one of the little humans at the store the next day said could have some new marshmallows.

Vicki Atkinson

Well, and didn't Mr. G recently like give you quite a scare because he's he had like, a like out of nowhere. He had this, like, really big worry that he expressed that he was worried about something and it was that there might be like a A Leon household shortage of Mars, right? Am I right?

Speaker

Oh my gosh.

Wynne Leon

You have such a good memory. Yes, he said that from the back of the car one day, Mama. I'm scared sometimes I'm scared. I'm gonna run out of marshmallows.

Vicki Atkinson

Oh my God.

Wynne Leon

No, we've got about 5 bags of 2/3 full from all the time, so we. Go get them.

Vicki Atkinson

For some more, but there's like boulders, right? Little man race. You won't be able to eat them. And Cooper's gonna like. Chip a tooth trying to eat. Them. Yeah, all of that, I say if we're around our bonfire of vulnerability, skip them or swallows. I just need, like the chocolate and the marsh or the Graham crackers. No marshmallow. I don't get that. Yeah. Oh, my gosh. And so our listeners now are probably thinking, ohh, they do better.

Wynne Leon

Cracker, OK, alright.

Vicki Atkinson

And they have gas.

Wynne Leon

Well, you know, I'm just gonna say this is the unstructured part, the collaboration is this is that we're willing to to show up and take it, take the stories and the. Metaphors where they. Need to go.

Vicki Atkinson

Absolutely. And and in some ways we could kind of blame the listeners a little bit, cause if people wouldn't, would stop asking questions about how we do what we do. We wouldn't have to do this right. We wouldn't have to explain. It's the peek behind the curtain. Wait.

Wynne Leon

It is, but it's. I think it's one of the for me, one of the most important curtains that we have. Yeah. Collaborating with other people. Passing on the lessons that we've learned. Yeah, it one of the most hopeful sociologists that I love hearing, Nicholas Christakis. Mm-hmm. Who is so hopeful about the Longview of humanity? Yeah, as we are one of the only species that will teach people outside of our family groups.

Speaker

Hmm.

Wynne Leon

That your husband can come together and collaborate because we can support and encourage each other.

Vicki Atkinson

Alright.

Wynne Leon

And provide the doctor, Vicki Atkinson, light and lift.

Vicki Atkinson

I don't know about that. Yeah, it is hopeful and I think it's the thing that gives us a sense of peace about the future that will all the things that you're dealing with in your work world about how to harness AI and use tools in ways that will enhance. But there aren't substitutes for us laughing together. And figuring things out.

Wynne Leon

Yeah, and right, figuring things out and encouraging. And other and sharing stories, because that's where, you know. We remember that we have to show up and be authentic, to tell our stories.

Vicki Atkinson

Absolutely. Well, this was fun. Thank you, Mary Wynn.

Wynne Leon

Ohh, fun. Thank you Vicki Atkinson. Thank you for listening. Our music is composed for sharing the heart of the matter by the exclusively talented duo of Jack Canfora and Rob Koenig for show notes and more great inspiration, please visit our site at sharingtheheartofthematter.com.