



The Berkana Exchange
invites you on a

Women's Learning Retreat at Axladitsa-Avatakia in Greece

September 20-28, 2008



Connecting to our Authentic Roots: Self, Community and Nature

Join The Berkana Institute on a weeklong retreat for reflection and energetic collaboration amid the inspiring beauty of an olive grove in Greece's Pelion peninsula. We are calling women together to claim the special gift of women's leadership at this critical moment in our lives and our world. We gather to listen and respond to our own distinct calling, to share our collective wisdom and to inspire one another into courageous action. We invite you to bring your whole self and to engage all your intelligences—body, mind, intuition, emotion and spirit—in the joy of living.



Greece is an amazing backdrop for exploring women's leadership. We will journey back to stories and archetypes of leadership from pre-Hellenic times. We will also explore the historical impact of patriarchal cultures on women and how this has shaped our world today.

During this retreat, we will learn together, witness one another's work and share experiences common to us as women. We will cook together, make music, work on the land, stretch, move, dance, play and rest. From these personal exchanges and joyful engagement with our bodies, minds and spirits, we know that your imagination and resolve will be rekindled.

Through this experience, you will:

- Explore your distinct calling in the world
- Inspire yourself and others into courageous action
- Step into your authentic power and leadership
- Listen to and connect with the land
- Center, focus and renew your energy

About Axladitsa-Avatakia

Axladitsa-Avatakia, which means "little pear and trees that grow in a difficult place," is a 24-acre organic olive and fruit farm that serves as a place of learning and retreat. Founded by Maria Scordialou and Sarah Whiteley, Axladitsa-Avatakia provides opportunities for people of all ages and from all parts of the world to learn, explore, create and develop sustainable environmental, social and economic practices.

The land has a diverse ecology: 10 acres of protected woodland, 14 acres of agricultural land, four streams, wildflowers, and birds, foxes, jackals, snakes and other wildlife all living together in harmony. There are also spectacular views of the Aegean Sea.

How do I sign up?

We can accommodate 20 women on this Learning Retreat. To learn more or to sign up, please contact Lauren Parks at lauren@berkana.org or call (603) 661-2941.

How do I get there?

Axladitsa-Avatakia is located in the southern region of the peninsula of Pelion, Thessaly, Greece. Participants should fly into Eleftherios Venizelos, Athens International Airport (ATH) by the evening of September 19. We will stay overnight in Athens and then travel together as a group to Axladitsa on the morning of September 20. Participants can plan to depart from Athens no earlier than an evening flight on September 28.

How much does it cost?

The price of this retreat is \$2,900. This includes lodging, meals, ground transportation and activity fees. It does not include your international flight or trip insurance. This price covers the Exchange's costs for bringing you on this learning journey.

Axladitsa-Avatakia is part of our global network of learning centers. It is our hope that once you have seen the profound changes these leaders are creating, you will be moved to support the Berkana Exchange. Toward the end of the retreat, we will ask you to consider making a contribution.



For more information, visit www.berkana.org and www.axladitsa.org



Deborah Frieze is Co-President of The Berkana Institute and co-directs the Berkana Exchange. An entrepreneur, business strategist and social activist, Debbie joined Berkana in 2002 to help bring Berkana's vision into the world and grow the Institute. Debbie is also a member of the Tipping Point Network, a group seeking to catalyze a globally sustainable economy.



Teresa Posakony is Board Chair of The Berkana Institute. She has 20 years experience in organizational development, leadership development, change leadership and adult learning. Teresa partners with organizations and communities, increasing their capacity for creativity, leadership and wise action, encouraging people to move powerfully in service to their dreams.



Maria Skordialos is a co-guardian and co-host at Axladitsa-Avatakia. Maria is an experienced process designer and dialogue host, working with the principles of self-organization and participation to create conditions where individual and collective learning and discovery emerges. Since 2000, she has co-created journeys in Europe, North America and the Middle East.



Sarah Whiteley is a co-guardian and co-host at Axladitsa-Avatakia. Sarah offers a combination of skills gained from her diverse experience working as an outdoor educator, higher education lecturer, Royal Naval Officer and process host. Her inspiration for designing and hosting is rooted in her love of nature and the "inner field," teaching the art of self-organizing.

About the Berkana Exchange

The Berkana Exchange is an initiative of The Berkana Institute, co-founded by Margaret Wheatley, author of *Leadership and the New Science* and most recently, *Finding Our Way*. Berkana connects and supports pioneering, life-affirming leaders around the world who strengthen their communities by working with the wisdom and wealth already present in its people, traditions and environment. We define a leader as anyone who wants to help, who is willing to step forward to create change in their world. And we know that the leaders we need are already here.

