

Visionary and Veterinarian

I had the pleasure of seeing and listening to the internationally known veterinarian, Dr. Allen Schoen in October, 2006. I would love to share with you this rare opportunity.

After being deeply touched by Dr. Schoen's book, I looked forward to the day of his talk in Edmonton like a girl waiting for Christmas morning. His book is a breath of fresh air for in it he talks about what so many animal owners know to be true, but what no one dares to talk about.

In his book, he talks about his own experiences with the animals he has treated, but most of all he talks about the special relationship he had with his beloved dog, who he dedicates the book to. He tells of his struggle with the limits of conventional medicine and his resulting skeptical journey into holistic health for animals. He goes on to describe the amazing results he has had with holistic medicine, but doesn't stop there. He dares to touch on the most mysterious and most powerful healing form of all: love. The book is called *Kindred Spirits*. You can see a sneak preview of the book at: www.randomhouse.com/features/kindredspirits .

The title of his talk in Edmonton was "What is Ultimate Healing?" Dr. Schoen started off by saying he did not claim to have a formula for healing, but the title was meant to be provocative. Dr. Schoen highlighted what he has learned through his 20 years as a veterinarian, but also highlighted what he has discovered so far in his life-long search for the meaning of our existence. He concluded his talk by giving the audience his opinion of the best lead to finding ultimate healing – whether it be for an animal, for yourself, for a friend, or for the earth. He hinted that the power to heal is within everyone's reach – it is found in the quiet space inside yourself. The space that links us all to each other. Maybe animals are here to teach us how to reach that space? All I know is that I tend to reach that quiet space more often when I'm spending free time or playing with my animals.

Dr. Schoen is originally from the United States, but it was a nice surprise to find out that he had recently become a Canadian citizen, settling down in Salts Springs Island in B.C. Welcome to Canada! Lastly, I would like to say thank-you Dr. Schoen, from the bottom of my heart, for moving beyond barriers and having the courage to speak from your heart.

Sincerely,
Sonja Christopher