



Center for Action and Contemplation

[CONTACT US](#)
[GUESTHOUSE](#)
[HOME](#)

[About Us](#)

[Programs](#)

[Resources](#)

[Get Connected](#)

ABOUT US

[Mission](#)

[History](#)

[Our Founder](#)

[The CAC](#)

[CAC Staff](#)

[Map & Directions](#)

A Brief History of the CAC

The Center for Action and Contemplation began as a tantalizing dream of Richard Rohr's in 1986 during his first year in Albuquerque. By October of 1987 we were ready to put together a newsletter, and Pat Malcolm became the obvious choice for the artist. The cover of the first edition was a drawing of Dorothy Day, one of our many inspiratrices. The name Radical Grace was chosen because it expressed the paradoxical nature of the Center's purpose. We were trying to stand in a middle place, not a stance of mediocrity, but at the center of the cross, where opposites are held together.

Action and contemplation were once thought of as mutually exclusive, but we believed that they must be brought together or neither one would make sense. We felt that we were trying to be radical in both senses of the word, simultaneously rooted in tradition and boldly experimental. One of the expressions of the radical nature of our work was our extensive inclusivity, bridging gaps within the spiritual and justice communities, building a rhythm of contemplative prayer and Zen meditation into our days, and even more fundamentally, believing that external behavior should be connected to and supported by inner guidance.

Another aspect of our radical stance was our belief in the necessary link between art and justice, in an erotic and passionate commitment to life. We wanted not an elite aestheticism but a fiercely grounded faith in the power and beauty to move-and possibly save-the world.

We planted our flag and set out to do something bold and beautiful and meaningful in the world. We believed then, as we do now, that the power to be truly radical comes from

<http://www.cacradicalgrace.org/aboutus/history.html>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

[Return to Section 10](#)