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## Connections

How aware are you of your connections with others? What is the quality of your connections?

On a recent trip, I landed at the San Jose, CA airport and was met with a sunny, blue sky day—the kind that travel agents describe when they sell a vacation package to California.

I waited for my friend to pick me up at the curb. As I sat on the bench, I noticed a bird chirping under the eaves, not in a pleasant sing-songy tone, but in a more important tone. This bird clearly had something to communicate. It would chirp excitedly for 30 seconds, leave, and return after a few minutes. This happened several times and I wondered what it all meant.

As I sat, I noticed the surfer dude on the plane being picked up. A woman drove up in a truck, the kind you expect to take to the beach with surfboard thrown in. The woman got out and embraced surfer dude with a hug that said very clearly, "I'm glad to see you." She then moved around the back of the truck to the passenger side and got in, indicating that not only was the surfer dude home, he was also driving home.

A man in business clothes approached the next bench over, with cell phone in hand. He, too, was waiting for his ride. After several more calls, a woman drives up in a Mercedes. The woman inside is on her cell phone and business dude is on his. They are on different calls. Without so much as a "Hang on for a minute", the man opens the rear door, puts his luggage in, and gets in the front passenger seat. All the while, his companion is still on her call and shows no signs of anything more than picking up a familiar hitchhiker. There are no hugs, no smiles, not even a nod of the head as the man gets in the car. And he, too, is oblivious to his driver—even more than if he had gotten a taxi, as there, he would have had to identify his destination. The couple drove off, each immersed in their separate cell phone conversations.

It seems to me that bird was trying to tell me to pay attention. To notice and make purposeful connections with others. Soon after, my friend appeared. I smiled. I was glad to see her.

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energy industries. Carol specializes in helping clients get unstuck and into the flow of great work. She works her magic by bringing the power of the creative, intuitive right brain into a left-brained world. While her degrees in engineering from Northwestern University have served her well, it's been her life and work experiences that have moved her to do her best work. She is certified by The Coaches Training Institute and credentialed by the International Coach Federation