2017 Women’s Congress for Future Generations

Tomorrow is in Our Hands

November 3-5, 2017
Earle Brown Heritage Center  Minneapolis, MN
Welcome to the Third
Women’s Congress for Future Generations!

It is amazing to me that what started in Moab in 2012 has grown and spread well beyond an event, to a multi-generational community that continues to create and work together on behalf of future generations. Indeed, a theme of this year’s Congress is “Tapping into the fierce spirit of women to protect and defend what we love.”

Our solutions will come from our community. We cannot solve the complex problems of climate change, global and local injustices and health risks and inequalities without each other. And being together is not always easy. It can be hard work. With deep gratitude for the hard work that went into organizing the Third Women’s Congress for Future Generations, and all the work in between. I welcome all participants to bring their whole complex selves to this event. And thank you for being here in Minnesota for 2017.

Madeleine Scammell, Board Chair, Science & Environmental Health Network

Guidelines For Creating Our Beloved Community

1. Remain curious and open.
2. Respect differing viewpoints.
3. Speak your truth.
4. Refrain from judgment.
5. Take responsibility for your needs.
6. Remain engaged, even when you feel uncomfortable.

The Women’s Congress for Future Generations logo, our front cover art, is by Kat Bodie, a freelance illustrator who grew up in the St. Croix River Valley and now lives in Traverse City, MI.

The back cover is Jubilation by Minnesota artist Hazel Belvo, part of her Resurrection series described on page 8 in this program.

This program includes several mostly blank pages intended for your notes, ideas, doodles, inspirations, and reflections.

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Women’s Congress for Future Generations
https://www.facebook.com/wcffg.org/
@WCFFGenerations
https://twitter.com/WCFFGenerations

Use the 2017 Women’s Congress Hashtag: #WCFFG17
The Women’s Congress was first created to become a different way of making policy. Women’s voices were missing at every level of government and in every forum. We knew that decisions would be made differently if women were included. We knew that we were guided by a different set of principles—things like “the best defense against hard times is a well-fed neighbor”. We knew that we needed to watch out not just for our own children but our neighbor’s children and their great, great grandchildren. Our neighbor included the oak tree, the white pelican and the dragonfly. We knew that statistics about birth defects, hurricanes, breast cancer or whale beachings translated into stories of suffering. We knew that many of those tragedies could have been prevented. We felt in our bones that if suffering can be prevented then we had a moral obligation to prevent it and that tolerating some suffering to grow the economy was a false choice.

So we created the Women’s Congress for future generations to experiment with different policy-making processes that reflected a sane reverence, collaboration, and wisdom.

The Saturday afternoon event within the Women’s Congress weekend is the heart of the Congress and designed to model a policy-making process that includes the voice of other beings, elders, young people and women.

Each Congress we’ve focused on a different set of questions. We’ve primarily used a caucus format that resembles a Council of All Beings. We’ve included art, processions, litanies, music, poetry and declarations. Each of the Congresses has been shaped by dreams. For this Congress we have been deeply influenced by Rhiannon Chance Hanson’s dream about Guardianship (page 73 in the 2017 Women’s Congress Dispatch).

The outcome of the past two Congresses were Declarations. The first was the Declaration of the Rights of Future Generations. The second was the Declaration of the Rights of all Waters.

The outcome of this Congress (if you accept the challenge!) will be a Pledge to the Mothers and Mothers-to-be.

This goal of caring for the Mothers arises out of a poem by Wendell Berry* where he asks,

“So long as women do not go cheap for power, please women more than men. Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child? Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?”

We know that Night is the time when the fears for the future are most palpable. Our elders, who have gathered and winnowed the lullabies and dreams, who have rocked the cradles while the mothers and fathers are sandbagging the raging river, who have made the chamomile tea, can see if we have made the course correction and whether now, a woman near to giving birth can sleep in peace.

In this Congress we will examine what environmental problems and social injustices disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth. We will ask if our policies will satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child. These questions will be our compass for the future.

Carolyn Raffensperger
Executive director, Science and Environmental Health Network
Co-founder, Women’s Congress for Future Generations

*Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front ©, 1973 by Wendell Berry
Registration / Information
The registration/information area will be staffed at the following times:

**Garden City Lobby**
Friday, November 3  10:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Carriage Hall Lobby
Friday, November 3  12:30 PM – 6:00 PM
Saturday, November 4  7:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Sunday, November 5  7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Internet Access
Complimentary wireless internet service is available at Earle Brown. Select the Earle Brown network and enter the password AeroClub1918. Charging stations are located in the Pre-Function or Lobby areas outside of the Carriage Hall, Captain's Room, Harvest Room and Garden City Room.

Need Help?
Designated members of the Congress Planning Committee and Volunteers are available at any time to answer questions regarding the agenda, room locations, etc. Just come to the Info Desk or look for the red “ASK ME” ribbon on their name badge.

Photos
Please note that photos may be taken during the Congress. They may be used in future Congress marketing efforts and publicity. Permission to use such photos containing your image is implied by your registration for this event.

Meal Functions
Your name badge is required for all meal and break functions. Please wear your name badge at all times. Meals are served buffet style, and dishes are labeled to accommodate food allergies and preferences. If you indicated on your registration that you require vegan, kosher or halal meals, you received meal tickets when you checked in for plated meals. Please present your ticket to the buffet staff to receive your meal.

Speaker Info
Information about the speakers and artists is included in your program, as well as on our website, http://wcffg.org.

Sales
Birchbark Books has brought a variety of books and resources related to the 2017 Congress theme and mission. We encourage you to browse and support them. Authors present at the Congress will be signing their books. Several of our performers and artists have brought their work and it is also available for sale. If you want a second copy of the Women's Congress Dispatch, they will be available for sale as well.

Evaluation Forms
We will ask for your feedback about the Congress via an electronic evaluation form. Registered attendees will receive an email containing a link to a SurveyMonkey evaluation. Please respond to this quick and easy online form so we can better serve the Congress in the future.
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<td>Brunch/Light Lunch</td>
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<td>12:45-1:00 PM</td>
<td>Carriage Hall Doors Are Open</td>
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<td>(Please note that the doors to the Carriage Hall will be closed at 1:00 PM and there will be no entrance until the end of the Opening Ceremony at 1:30)</td>
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<td>Welcome, Four Directions and Blessing</td>
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<td>Janice Bad Moccasin, Jayanthi Kyle</td>
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<td>Thread of the New Story: Green Ribbon: What part of your story leads you here today?</td>
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<td>Barb Arney</td>
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<td>Deeper Exploration: Concurrent Workshops (choose one)</td>
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<td>1. Be the Spark: Leadership Development Programming for Sparking Deep</td>
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<td>3. The Birth of Blexit and The Paradigmatic Model for Movement Organizing</td>
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<td>Lisa Venable, Emily Jarrett-Hughes</td>
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<td>5. Healthy Child Neurologic Development: Challenges, Needs and Opportunities</td>
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<td>Ted Schettler, Ticiea Fletcher</td>
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<td>6. A New Model for Regenerative Agriculture</td>
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<td>Julie Ristau, Paula Westermoreland</td>
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<td>7. Planting Sacred Seeds in a Modern World; Restoring Indigenous Seed Sovereignty</td>
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<td>8. Resurrection the Feminine: A Conversation with the Artist</td>
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<td>Hazel Belvo</td>
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<td>9. Story Circle Stories—The Art of Action-Oriented Listening</td>
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<td>Sales (open until 9:00)</td>
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<td>Social Media Corner - Take a Groupie (open until 9:00)</td>
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Blessing in Song .......................................................... Carriage Hall
Jayanthi Kyle
Thread of the New Story: Purple Ribbon: What have you heard this afternoon that touched your heart?
Dinner

Transition and Introduction ......................................... Carriage Hall
Jayanthi Kyle, Carolyn Raffensperger

Cultivating Abundance: Revitalizing Indigenous Economies Through Re-Matriation of Seeds ............................................. Carriage Hall
Rowen White
This is a Spiritual Call: Women Leading the Way ......................... Carriage Hall
Faith Spotted Eagle, Joye Braun
Indigenous Water and Seed Guardians: A Conversation ................. Carriage Hall
Hosted by Sharon Day with Faith Spotted Eagle, Joye Braun, Rowen White

Full Moon Ceremony ................................................. Courtyard
Sharon Day

Agenda — Friday, November 3, 2017
Inspiration

Loving Action into Social Justice Work With Community

We built a place where animals find zen living as someone, not something.
We rescue farmed animals from cruelty situations, and provide a safe home for them for life.
Woman lead organization including all women board of Directors.
Nonprofit, 501(c)(3), fully funded by donations.
Coming soon: camps for teens and adults, public weekly tours.

For more information find us at: www.farmaste.org or call 651-400-0097.

Follow us on:

INSPRITION
INTO
LOVING ACTION
Social Justice Work With Community

Acting for justice is easier together.
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have been doing it for more than 350 years.
Join us as we work together for better.

Join This Movement
www.csjstpaul.org/together
7:30-9:00 AM  Continental Breakfast .................................................. Carriage Hall Lobby
              Registration Check-in
              Networking
              Sales

9:00–9:20 AM  Opening ................................................................. Carriage Hall
               Claudia Schmidt

Thread of the New Story: Blue Ribbon: What images and ideas do you want to bring forward into the river of our collective story?

9:20-10:00 AM  Why Environmental Justice Matters to Everyone ................. Carriage Hall
                Dorceta Taylor

10:00-10:30 AM Listening to the Voice of the Feminine Archetype .................. Carriage Hall
                Barbara Arney

10:30-11:00 AM Break ................................................................. Carriage Hall Lobby
                Sales, Book Signing by Dorceta Taylor

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Guardians of Future Generations: The Tree of Life Holds the Scales of Justice .................................................. Carriage Hall
                    Carolyn Raffensperger, Patricia Torres Ray

12:00–1:00 PM  Lunch Buffet ...................................................... Carriage Hall Lobby

1:00-2:00 PM  Convening the Guardians of the Night: The Grandmothers .......... Carriage Hall
               The Young Women Speak
               Water
               Climate
               Environmental Health
               Environmental Justice

2:00-2:15 PM  Break

2:15-3:45 PM  Guardians Meet to Caucus
               Guardians of Agriculture ............................................. Harvest A
               Guardians of Peace ..................................................... Harvest B
               Guardians of Medicine ............................................... Harvest C
               Guardians of Religion .................................................. Tack A
               Guardians of Animals .................................................. Tack B
               Guardians of Justice ................................................... Carriage Hall B
               Guardians of Politics .................................................. Captain’s

3:45-4:00 PM  Break

4:00-5:30 PM  Reconvene the Congress .............................................. Garden City

5:30–8:30 PM  Networking and Refreshing, Sales ................................... Carriage Hall Lobby
               Social Media Corner – Take a Groupie ................................ Captain’s Room Lobby
               Cash Bar ................................................................. Carriage Hall Lobby

5:45 – 6:45 PM  Dinner Buffet ...................................................... Carriage Hall

6:45 – 8:30 PM  Celebrate! A Time For Justice ....................................... Carriage Hall
                Sara Thomsen, Claudia Schmidt, Maggie Wheeler, Sarah Greer,
                Emile Hassan Dyer, Hazel Belvo

Remember to ‘fall back’ and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!
7:30 – 8:30 AM  Brunch Breakfast ................................................................. Carriage Hall Lobby
Registration Check-In
Networking
Sales

8:30 – 9:00 AM  Singing in the New Story ........................................................ Carriage Hall
Sara Thomsen

Thread of the New Story: Yellow Ribbon: Where do you see hope and want to sing its song?

9:00 – 9:15 AM  Break .................................................................................... Carriage Hall Lobby

9:15 – 10:45 AM  Deeper Explorations: Concurrent Workshops (choose one)
1. The Case for Reparations in Minnesota: An Opportunity ........ Carriage Hall A
   for Dialogue
   Susan Allen, Karen Clark
2. Food as Medicine and Earth-Friendly Agriculture: Ecologic Medicine ....................................... Captain’s
   Ted Schettler, Beth Dooley, Marita Bujold
3. From White Fragility to White Agility: Exploring Inter-Racial Friendship ... Tack B
   Katie Sample, Kate Towle
4. Missouri River Water Walk: Notes from the Field ................ Carriage Hall B
   Sharon Day, Sara Thomsen
5. A Mother-Daughter Conversation: Healing From Misogyny .......... Harvest A
   Faith Spotted Eagle, Brook Spotted Eagle
   Joye Braun, Floyd Braun
7. Overworked and Undervalued: Race, Gender and the Economy .... Harvest C
   Jeannette Huezo
8. Taking Back the Power You’ve Given to Money ........ Carriage Hall B
   Vicki Robin
9. Understanding the Connections Between Power, Privilege, and Environmental Racism ........................................ Garden City
   Dorceta Taylor

10:45 – 11:00 AM  Break .................................................................................... Carriage Hall Lobby

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM  Call for Justice: A Report from the Congress ................ Carriage Hall
Pledge to the Mothers and Mothers-to-be
The Grandmothers Speak

Thread of the New Story: Red Ribbon: What ignites your spirit to take action and co-create our new story?

Closing Ceremony

12:30 PM  Grab-N-Go  Pick up fruit, scones and coffee or tea to sustain you on your travels home.
**Resurrection: A Feminist Perspective** is a series of large-scale paintings depicting women in their struggle and in their rebirth just as our Mother Earth struggles for survival. Resurrection is an homage to the feminine spirit and a metaphor for future generations.

**PEACE** is sleep, the shining light of harmony, beauty and Mother Earth’s triumph over destruction. It is renewing and replacing damaged cells, strip mining, oil drilling, too much asphalt, too much mercury, too much carbon, too much!!!! I wanted to make an image that would say, “This is what we want for our Earth, rest and renewal.”

**SEARCHING** beyond the Earth, deep into the fantastical world under water, for answers? For help.

**GRIEVING** for what we find might be lost.

**MOURNING I** and **MOURNING II** are painted in earth colors. The compositions of both figures are based on a spiral, which is a common form in Nature (the Golden Mean and the Fibonacci Series). The twist of the spiral bodies represent pain and the muscular structure of the bodies represent the strength necessary to acknowledge and experience loss.

**MOURNING II** is crossed with iridescent stripes that lift up off the figure, rays of hope and energy.

**RUNNING.** This image comes from a dream in which I was running, free and buoyant. I looked down and saw my body sparkling, shining and glowing, as I watched, all the sparkles turned into cells that began to break up and float away and I tried and tried and tried to pull them back together.

**VORTEX** represents our Mother Earth in the center of Nature surrounded by all natural elements.

**EMPTYING OUT** is the feeling of levitation when one is emptied of burdens and sheds all fears. It is a metaphor for cleansing our Earth, our bodies, ourselves of toxins, pain, disease and hate.

**JUBILATION** is a metaphor from a feminist perspective for the triumph of Mother Earth over devastation and for Hope and Joy for the future. Celebrate!

**ROOTS** is a metaphor that all living things on our Mother Earth are bound together and nourished by the Earth, the atmosphere and the universe. Follow your ROOTS and you will find that we are all connected. It was an accident (or not?) that the roots appear to be the heart.

**BLADES** is about all the Native Woman who are disappearing and no one reports them missing, no one knows what violence has been perpetrated upon them. No one seems to care. It says see me!

**EARTH MOTHER** is one of a series of large-scale paintings depicting women in their struggle and in their rebirth. She is fertility. She is the woman who is gestating in the earth, bringing life. This image was inspired by the Lilies blooming in the sanctuary of Plymouth Church on Easter Sunday.

**FLOWING.** One day, I was walking down West Broadway in New York and ran into a Native American friend who said to me “the world is on its knees, crying, we need all the help we can get!” And he said, “you cannot push the water”.

**BIRTHING.** I was in Masonic Hospital sitting with my oldest son in the last few day of his battle with cancer. I was entirely spent with grief and as he was sleeping, I went in to the lounge where I saw a book on the table and when I picked it up, it fell open to “your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself.” I wept. “They come through you not from you.” Khalil Gibran. “You may house their bodies but not their souls.” This image, these twins (Granddaughters) are gifts from the Universe. The hands are the Mother’s energy.

**EMERGING.** I was drawing the great walls of rock up north along Route 61 at Cut Face Creek when a figure emerged (in my drawing) from a deep crevice in the wall and I wondered, “Is this woman emerging? Or disappearing? But as the painting developed it was clear that she is emerging, as does the water from the earth. Thus she is hues of blue

**ROOTED IN MUD.** When I was a child, I heard my Grandfather (who was a farmer) say with awe “you plant a seed and it grows” as though it was the most mystical and spiritual event in the world. And when my friend, Susan Deborah King, wrote a poem entitled Blessings, it was, for me, the perfect metaphor for “darkness into light”. The dark side of the soul, the mud in our lives that is deep and thick and murky, that no one wants to sink in to, to touch. And then what it produces!! It’s the light, the blossom, the beautiful red rose or the fruit of the dark struggle of the soul.

**HEALING LOVE.** In 2008, as I was listening to a sermon by Sharon Tan from the United Theological Seminary about desire and greed and how moral and spiritual qualities do not correspond with economic values, I drew this image. She said that the rich get richer while poor get poorer and there is an essential indignity about an elite group and a few taking from the masses, the populous. Rather than righteous anger she recommended rigorous self-examination and read from the book of Numbers 21:4-9 “Look at the snakes within us.” But I was reminded by my totally intuitive drawing that the snake was a powerful positive symbol for the Patriarchy and had been appropriated as evil by the Patriarchy. In our culture the only positive symbol of a snake that I could think of is the AMA logo. So I decided to resurrect the Snake as a positive and powerful healing image.

**HEALING FEAR.** Inspiration for this painting came from a story in the book Daughters Of Copper Women, stories from the Nootka women in northwestern Canada as told to Ann Cameron. There are people who think that only people have emotions like pride, fear and joy but those who know will tell you all things are alive. Sisitul, the soul searcher, the fearsome monster of the sea, looks like a snake but rather has a head at both ends, each head more fearsome than the other. When you see Sisitul you must stand firm. Stand firm even though frightened and stand firm as both heads rise from the water. Stand firm as the heads come closer. Sisitul will see his own face. Who sees the other half of self sees truth. When he sees his own other face, when he looks in his own eyes he has found truth and will bless you with magic and truth will be yours forever.
Thanks to you, this weekend we are setting the course for a future where justice is the basis for the beloved community, where children can thrive in a healthy environment, where the artists and dreamers as well as the lawyers and activists help shape policy. Thanks to you, we have brought together a diverse group of women to tell their stories so we can weave the threads for the new story we want our great-grandchildren to inherit. Thanks to you, we will be able to carry on this work into 2018.

Your generous financial support has made all the difference. It allows us to bring these great women leaders to the Congress, to pay them a fair honorarium and to provide low- or no-cost registration fees to those who could not attend the Congress otherwise. It allows us to take this work into action in 2018 and beyond.

In addition, many of you have given your time, your talents and your treasure to create the Beloved Community. We cannot do this without you. We would not want to do this without you. We are deeply, deeply grateful.

Our Sponsors
1 Be the Spark: Leadership Development Programming for Sparking Deep and Committed Climate Action
Erin Pratt
Truly addressing the climate crisis will take long term, broad-based participation by individuals, communities, and faith communities. While many people are deeply concerned and even wanting to take action there is often a sense of being overwhelmed about the scope of the problem and confusion as to effective solutions which can lead to inaction. “Be the Spark” is a dynamic and experiential leadership development workshop series. The programming is designed to build relationships while giving participants premier organizing tools and strategic approaches for engaging their communities in climate change solutions. Participants learn how to invite the gifts and skills of those in their community to take action that inspires a sustained and creative effort in building a more just and sustainable world. In this workshop we will present the outline of this curriculum and share outcomes we have experienced as we have used this program as an organizing tool. Participants will be invited to consider concrete ways this can be implemented in their work in the world and will leave with resources for further exploration.

2 Becoming a Positive Change Agent with the Psychology of Sustainable Behavior
Christie Manning, Alyssa Erding
Building sustainability requires widespread shifts in lifestyles and daily habits, especially here in the U.S. How can each of us contribute to the shifts we need? As individuals, we have the greatest influence among our social circles – our in-groups. Yes, those who champion sustainability often find it difficult to share our knowledge with others – we may be perceived as pushy, judgmental, or just plain weird. In this workshop, we will share lessons from many years of academic and practical work in psychology applied to sustainability. First, we will talk about the critical role of individuals in creating conditions for social change. We will then cover several lessons from psychology, including: 1. How to identify and address basic barriers to positive action; 2. How values and social identity help shape behavior; 3. The importance of supportive social norms; and, 4. How to meet essential psychological needs such as competence, autonomy, and relatedness.

3 The Birth of Blexit and the Paradigmatic Model for Movement Organizing
Me’Lea Connelly
A grassroots economic activist organization, Blexit is introducing an era of economic renaissance by initiating the process to open a Black-led credit union in north Minneapolis. The effort will be led by the Association for Black Economic Power’s (ABEP) Proposed Credit Union Executive Committee. With all eyes on North Minneapolis as the epicenter of Minnesota’s statewide challenge to insure equity between white people and Black people, ABEP seeks to establish a foundation of economic stability for the Black community by driving the process to open the only Black led financial institution in the state. ABEP is organizing the project to establish a federally chartered Black-led credit union by 2019. “In this neighborhood you practically can’t throw a rock without hitting a payday lender,” Me’Lea Connelly was quoted by KARE-11. “They are … extremely predatory. I say predatory because their target market is poor people. Black poor people, especially in north Minneapolis, are the last people that can afford to pay a 200 percent interest rate on a payday loan, and it puts people in extreme debt.”

4 Guardianship: Consciously Standing for What We Love
Lisa Venable, Emily Jarrett-Hughes
Guardianship is a critical responsibility of our times and also the principle behind a movement. In this workshop we will explore the Guardian role as an energizing way of standing for what you love in the world with practical ideas to implement at government and community levels. Lisa and Emily will share what they have learned as they have been helping the Women’s Congress build a culture of Guardianship in both personal and political arenas. Together we can create an organized public presence based in feminine principles of compassion, caring and collaboration. You will learn about concrete actions you can take to promote the precautionary principle, the Public Trust Doctrine and a legal Guardian of future generations; how environmental justice is an issue in your community and to be an ally to others on the frontlines; be part of a new conversation about the public trust responsibility of Government; and explore how you will be a guardian of your inner resources for Guardianship work through such models as the Guardian Wisdom Circles. Be part of a community and create a world that honors the interconnectedness of all things where everyone thrives!

5 Healthy Child Neurologic Development: Challenges, Needs and Opportunities
Ted Schettler, Ticcia Fletcher
Healthy child development goes hand-in-hand with a healthy environment. Exposure to environmental contaminants and infectious agents, social circumstances, diet and nutrition all carry serious implications for lifelong health. In this workshop, we will discuss impacts of these variables on children’s neurological development with real world examples that illustrate urgent needs and challenges. A local mother whose son was affected by lead poisoning in Minneapolis will identify specific opportunities to support the health and well-being of all children in our community.

6 A New Model for Regenerative Agriculture
Julie Ristau, Paula Westmoreland
Since 2011, Main Street Project has been developing a scalable model of poultry-based, regenerative agriculture as a healing alternative to the conventional system. Our market-based model is rooted in indigenous wisdom and sustainable by design; produces an abundance of healthy food and ecological benefits; and eliminates the economic inequities in our current food system. We’re partnering with Ecological Design to demonstrate the power of our model at scale by redeveloping a conventional, 100-acre farm, near Northfield, Minnesota. The farm is located on marginal land that has been planted in corn for the last 15 years. Come learn how we are using poultry and perennial crops to bring the land back to life, building a multi-faceted Commons to reduce risk, and creating new financial pathways for farmers. Leave with new ideas and plenty of hope!
7 Planting Sacred Seeds in a Modern World; Restoring Indigenous Seed Sovereignty
Rowen White
All across Turtle Island (North America) we are seeing a great resurgence of indigenous tribes building healthy and resilient food systems as a cornerstone to cultural and ecological renewal programs. Through her work with the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network, Rowen is helping indigenous communities cultivate culturally appropriate solutions to restoring seed stewardship of traditional foods. Come learn about the beautiful seed legacy of the indigenous people of this land and see how you can be a part of the reconciliation between yourself and the seeds of your own ancestry. You can help revitalize this ancient web of relationships that comes with being an indigenous Seed Keeper.

8 Resurrecting the Feminine: A Conversation with the Artist
Hazel Belvo
This is a discussion about how the domination of the patriarchy has affected Women’s lives and is still accepted in our culture. Generation upon generation of women have been assaulted, each with its own unique form of perpetration. Rape, matricide, economic inequity and invisibility all contribute to the oppression of women throughout history, throughout the world. And yet the feminine survives. We rise, again and again. We rise. We teach. We heal. Cycle after cycle. Throughout history. Throughout the world. We heal our own wounds, and those of others. We bear children, and we love them with unbounded hope, even if it immerses us in unbearable grief. We women need to reflect on this power of the feminine and we need to share our experiences. In my own art and life, I have witnessed the cycles. I have survived and even thrived. And I remain in awe. Come, join me in this discussion.

9 Story Circle Stories – The Art of Action-Oriented Listening
Rose McGee
Power awakens when people listen to each other respectfully and share from the heart. In addition to experiencing an impactful story circle, participants will leave encouraged to facilitate circles designed to move into productive and inclusive community engagement. They will be introduced to a simple, yet complex approach, Sweet Potato Comfort Pie. After the shooting of Michael Brown, not knowing what to do, but having a strong urge to do something, Rose McGee baked 30 pies, drove them to Ferguson, MO and handed them out to comfort people. Upon returning home to Minnesota, she led her community of Golden Valley into being proactive during MLK Holiday. Volunteers baked the number of pies Dr. King’s age would have been (86 pies in 2015). In circle, they shared who to recognize with one of the pies. Respect was deepened as each person listened to the other – for Sweet Potato Comfort Pie is a catalyst for caring and building community. Healing is a matter that can be fixed when authenticity enters the batter’s sweet mix. Participants will be encouraged to share a small “talking piece” item that has special healing or nurturing meaning to them personally.
All my relations, come
Every nation, come
All my relations under the sun
We are one

We are praying, come
We are the song and we are the drum
We are one

We are the river, come
We are the boat, the paddle, the shore
We are one

Mni wičoni, sing (Mitakuye Oyasin…)
Mni wičoni, “water is life”
Mni wičoni, “water is life” for everything

We are the water, sing
We are the water
We are the water
We are where all life begins

We are the earth and sky
We are the thunder cries
We are the fire,
We are the light in your eyes

We are standing strong
Like a rock, like a stone
On this sacred ground we belong, we are home

We are the ancient ones
In your breath and bones we sing on
We are one

Mni wičoni, “water is life” —Lakota for “water is life”
Mitakuye Oyasin —Lakota for “All My Relations” www.echoesofpeace.org/water-is-life
A Woman’s Place ©
by Sara Thomsen

I am a woman, and my place is in the home
And my home is the whole wide world
We are world shapers, we are change makers
We are potters spinning clay, we are dreamers of a new day

We are asking questions, we are opening up the door
We are searching, finding answers, we are wisdom seeking more
Rabbi, singer, teacher, professor, poet, preacher
Driving buses, styling hair
We are everywhere

We are women, We are sweeping the hearth
We are dreaming in the dark, We are weaving at the loom
We are the rhythms of the moon
We are world shapers, we are change makers
We are tenders of the earth, we are women giving birth

We are packing lunches, we are sewing the clothes you wear
We are sleeping on park benches, we are kneeling down in prayer
Doctor, dancer, scientist, carpenter and journalist
Telling stories, rocking chairs
We are everywhere

We are women, We are stirring the pot
We are keeping the fire hot, We are holding a child’s hand
We are the rhythms of the land
We are world shapers, we are change makers
We are potters spinning clay, we are dreamers of a new day

We are laughing, crying, we are taking the time to play
We are singing, we are sighing, we are making our own way
Politician, volunteer, refugee, and engineer
In the streets and on the air
We are everywhere

We are world shapers, we are change makers
We are potters spinning clay, we are dreamers of a new day
We are rule breakers, we are home makers
We are healers of the earth
We are mid-wives at the birth

We are women, and our place is in the home
And our home is the whole wide world

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3 From White Fragility to White Agility: Exploring Inter-Racial Friendship
Katie Sample, Kate Towle
The workshop will actively nurture interracial friendships within the very toxic and painful container of our white supremacist society. Participants will consider how the historical roots of racism and its modern manifestations impact their friendships. Friendships between people of different races offer a sanctuary from the harshness of the world. They also demand that we practice cultural agility over cultural fragility and that we understand our unique role, as cultural interpreters and first responders, in dismantling white supremacy. Finally, being in a close friendship with someone whose lived experience is one of historical racial trauma, you become skilled at learning how all friends intersect with different privileged or oppressed socially-constructed identities, including identities of gender, age and ability.

4 Missouri River Water Walk: Notes from the Field
Sharon Day, Sara Thomsen
Two of the Core Group who walked every day for 54 days will share some notes, stories and songs from the Missouri River Water Walk. This walk retraced the Lewis and Clark expedition and entered St. Louis on the same day in history that Lewis and Clark returned from their expedition: an expedition that led to further colonization and theft of indigenous lands by settlers and the US Government. The Missouri River Water Walkers walked through areas charred by wildfires, smoke filled air and ranch lands and many Tribal lands in their quest to undo some of the damage to the rivers and to the lands and indigenous peoples. Workshop participants will have a better understanding of why love needs to be at the center of our work. We will protect that which we care about; our children is a good case in point. When we reconnect with a waterway, with people and the environment, in an intimate way, we are more apt to take steps and action to protect and hold safe from harm.

5 A Mother-Daughter Conversation: Healing From Misogyny
Faith Spotted Eagle, Brook Spotted Eagle
Faith and Brook have lived with, worked with and studied the way trauma, including sexual assault and violence against women, impacts women, their families, and their community. They will discuss the impact of oil pipeline construction and its “man camps”, and the women’s groups they facilitated at Standing Rock. Their conversation will discuss what is being learned and how healing can happen.

6 Non-violent Direct Action: Lessons from Standing Rock
Joye Braun, Floyd Braun
What are the principles behind non-violent direct action? What did non-violent revolutionaries like Gandhi and King understand about its power that are relevant to our work today? How do we strategize around taking action on the profound interconnectedness of the issues that Standing Rock encompasses: environmental rights and justice, human rights and treaty rights? What worked and what didn’t? What are the lessons to take forward? Joye connects the issues of this pipeline to the need for a just transition for workers who have relied on building pipelines and police. “We’re not against the police at all,” she said. “We’re not against the construction crews — we know they are just trying to make a living. But they are working for the wrong company.” Joye understands we have to find a path forward for everyone - we cannot leaving anyone behind. She is masterful at understanding and teaching others how to think strategically about designing non-violent direct actions and what it takes to prepare yourself and others to engage in this kind of movement work.

7 Overworked and Undervalued: Race, Gender and the Economy
Jeannette Huezo
While economic inequality has received increased attention in recent years, less visible is the role racism and patriarchy play in the growing divide. This popular education workshop asks participants to reflect on their experiences of the economy and think about the structures that have contributed to the ongoing exploitation of work performed by women, immigrants and people of color. This session is led by the country’s most dynamic economic justice trainer/leader. You will be engaged in examining your own beliefs and knowledge about economic injustice. Ann Manning, former Interim Director of United for a Fair Economy says: It was Jeannette who taught me to look through the lens of economic injustice rather than poverty. Poverty has a way of blaming the victims rather than looking for the systemic policies and practices that create the economic divide.

8 Taking Back the Power You’ve Given to Money
Vicki Robin
The financial system promises happiness through consumption but propagates injustice, fear, domination, despair. Still we can liberate our minds, time and ability to serve through developing a clear understanding of our relationship with money. The tools in Your Money or Your Life by Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez have liberated hundreds of thousands of people from consumerism and identification with what they do for money. They have more time for what matters most. You will see what money really is, how much you actually keep of what you earn, what things and values are truly important to you, understand how to build your foundation of wealth and happiness, and open up a safe conversation about money in our lives.

9 Understanding the Connections Between Power, Privilege, and Environmental Racism
Dorceta Taylor
This session will explore the relationships between power, privilege, and environmental injustice in historical and contemporary settings. The workshop will examine how environmental injustices arise, the causes of inequities, and their outcomes. Session participants will examine how politics and policies intertwine to produce disproportionate negative environmental impacts in communities of color. One of the preeminent scholars on environmental justice as well as an activist, Dr. Taylor fosters seeing the world from a new perspective and inspires us to take action.
Susan Allen, DFL member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, represents racially diverse and mixed income neighborhoods in South Minneapolis. She is an attorney with the Jacobson Law Group providing legal counsel services to tribes and tribal entities on a full range of matters including complex commercial transactions, construction law, corporate governance and taxation. Susan is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is the first Native American woman to serve in the Minnesota Legislature and the first openly lesbian Native American to win election to a state legislature.

Barbara Arney is the founder and leader of Luna-Essence programs, weaving the Enneagram, ancient wisdom and neuroscience with tools and practices for evolving consciousness. She offers workshops, retreats, milestone rituals and coaching for men and women seeking to connect with the deeper embodied Self during times of transition and change.

Janice Bad Moccasin, tribal member of the Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota Sioux Tribe, resides in Shakopee, MN and served as the Assistant Tribal Administrator for 24 years and later transitioned into the new position of Community Cultural Support for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Her educational background is Psychology at the Dakota Wesleyan University. She has been trained and mentored in the cultural holistic healing modalities by elders, spiritual leaders and exploring by living practice of healing, growth and transformation. Janice is a passionate Cultural Traditional Natural Healer of various modalities of Wicozani, good health with cultural holistic practices within the movement of the Oyate Nipi Kte, grassroots healing movement, including an Certified Equine Specialist, Mind Body Medicine Practitioner, Life Coach, and Prayer Leader in various tribal communities.

Hazel Belvo is a painter and teacher. Art has always been her way of life. A matriarchal family, love of Earth and survival were undivided elements in her early life on a horse-powered farm. These things formed her passion for justice, for the Divine Feminine and the sacredness of our Mother Earth. Professionally, her work is a voice for these beliefs. She has been making art and exhibiting for nearly sixty years and is currently an Emeritus Professor at MCAD. Belvo is an integral part of the Grand Marais Art Colony where artists come from around the country to study with her in the summers.

Joye Braun was a co-founder of the Sacred Stone Camp where women gathered to protect the Missouri River from the Dakota Access Pipeline. Joye set up camp there April 1, 2016, with snow on the ground, before most of us had heard of Standing Rock. Joye is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network. She will be joined for this workshop by her husband, Floyd.

Marita Bujold, an artist and community organizer, creates environments for communities to define what they care about and pathways for collective action. To complete a Master of Arts in Leadership, Marita examined the dynamics of our publicly subsidized food economy. With the Community Food and Water and Farm Bill, Marita offers a vision for addressing the enduring challenges of climate change by investing public resources to shape locally adapted food economies in healthy ecosystems, serving the needs of all people and cooling the planet.

Karen Clark was elected to the MN House of Representatives in 1980 on a platform of economic and social justice and re-elected every two years since by her South Minneapolis inner-city constituents. Karen was the first openly lesbian elected official in MN and is now the U.S.'s longest serving openly GLBTQ elected official. A co-founder of the Women’s Environmental Institute, Karen serves as WEI's Executive Director (volunteer) and is also adjunct faculty at St. Catherine University Holistic Health Studies Graduate Program. Rep. Clark is known for her persistent and effective advocacy for low-income, Indigenous and communities of color through her legislative work--particularly affordable housing, job creation, basic civil rights protections, environmental justice, urban farming, and racial disparity issues.

Me’Lea Connelly founded Blexit, a grassroots economic disruption movement organization. She directs the Association for Black Economic Power, which is working towards the establishment of Village Trust Financial Cooperative, a black-led credit union in north Minneapolis. A singer-songwriter, she wrote the popular movement hymn, “Power.” She is also a playwright whose recent work includes the popular Minnesota Fringe Festival musical, “Niggas & Bitches: Black Men Celebrating Black Women.” Me’Lea is an activist in the movement for black lives.

Sharon Day, enrolled in the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, is an artist, musician, and writer. A 2nd degree M’dewiwin, she follows the spiritual path of the Anishinabe people. She founded Nibi Walks, Indigenous-led, extended ceremonies to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing our Earth’s fresh water. She is one of the founders and currently Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, a Native American provider of culturally appropriate programs to prevent further transmission of HIV, increase access to traditional and western medical services, and improve the quality of life for families, and communities.
Beth Dooley has covered the local food scene in the Northern Heartland for thirty years: she writes for Mpls.St.Paul Magazine, the Taste section of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune, and Heavy Table and appears regularly on KARE 11 (NBC) television and MPR Appetites with Tom Crann. She is author of Minnesota’s Bounty: The Farmers Market Cookbook, The Northern Heartland Kitchen and coauthor with Lucia Watson of Savoring the Seasons of the Northern Heartland, among other books. Beth guides local food trips for Wilderness Inquiry via Taste of the Apostles. She also teaches cooking classes at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Emile Hassan Dyer is a choir director, vocalist, improvisational performer, percussionist, storyteller, choreographer and dancer. He brings a multicultural perspective to music, drawing on his Cherokee and African heritages while performing the percussion instruments and vocal styles of many cultures. In November 2007, Emile won TrueNica Music’s International Song Writing Contest for Human Rites’ Dance For World Peace. Working with Maggie Wheeler, they weave singing, drumming and story-telling into a powerful and incredible musical tapestry of peace, justice and abiding joy.

Alyssa Erding is a 2017 graduate of Macalester College. She studied geology and biology in Australia, analyzing a bed of volcanic ash to see what sorts of minerals it has in it. She had a wonderful time exploring this beautiful country’s people, places, and geology! She was one of Macalester’s Sustainability Fellows working with Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness (FBW) to conduct research to find common ground for sustainable development of the Arrowhead region. Alyssa has studied Sustainability for Global Citizenship with environmental studies professor Roopali Phadke and political science professor Michael Zis.

Ticiea Fletcher is the Executive Director of “Missions to the Streets and “Minneapolis Parents for Lead Safe Kids.” Ticiea experienced the first-hand effects of environmental injustice when her 10-month-old son became sick from exposure to lead paint. He is now permanently disabled and Ticiea’s mission is to ensure other children are protected. A graduate of Robert Morris University with a degree in Business Management, Ticiea is an exceptional housing advocate and community activist for children’s health and a member of the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee.

Sarah Greer practices, studies and teaches vocal improvisation (spontaneous singing). She is passionate about every person’s right to sing and the power of singing to change the world. She performs regularly in the Twin Cities with a cappella ensemble the Give Get Sistet and jazz quintet BLU-7, as well as with a variety of players in other projects and collaborations throughout Minnesota. Sarah has received two Artist Initiative Awards by the Minnesota State Arts Board and has a degree in vocal performance.

Jeannette Huego came to the US in 1989 from El Salvador. She has spent her life working for justice and social change. The Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy, Boston, she coordinates UFE’s popular education work and facilitates many workshops, particularly for Latino groups, empowering those facing injustice to participate in the decision-making process around issues that affect their lives. She is co-author of several of UFE’s State of the Dream reports on racial economic inequality in the US, serves on the National Executive Board of the United Association for Labor Educators (UALE), and is a member of the Expert for Color Network of the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

Emily Jarrett Hughes helps creative, big-hearted people who seek a deeper experience of transformation for themselves and for the world. Through classes and one-on-one sessions she helps people build an embodied foundation for living a vibrant, courageous life. She blogs at wisdomdances.com.

Jayanthi Kyle is a songstress dedicated to singing from the heart. She collects songs that speak to her struggle, empowerment and ability to be, change, and move forward - while honoring the unremembered changers and movers of the past. She enjoys singing for people passing worlds: being born, or dying, or passed. She shares her voice with a number of bands and projects in the Twin Cities, including Jayanthi Kyle and the Crybabies. She supports The Million Artist Movement to dismantle white supremacy and support Black liberation, and works with Mama Mosaic on a “Minnesota girls are not for sale” piece seeking freedom for women and girl sex slaves in Minnesota.

Ann Manning leads the Women’s Congress for Future Generations, a project of SEHN. Her longtime interest in environmental and economic justice led Ann to gather a group of women in Minnesota to create the 2014 Congress. A recipient of the MN Women’s Press Change Maker Award, Ann has over 30 years of experience in executive and consulting roles, focusing on strategy, leadership and group facilitation.

Christie Manning teaches in the department of Environmental Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Christie is a co-author on a recent review article in the journal Science, “Beyond the roots of human inaction: Fostering collective effort toward ecosystem conservation”, as well as a 2016 academic textbook, “Psychology for Sustainability”. Her research and teaching explore the cognitive, social and situational factors that influence people’s behavioral and lifestyle choices and how these choices positively or negatively impact ecological and social systems. Much of Christie’s research focuses on how people perceive the issue of climate change, and she is particularly interested in motivating resilience-building action for climate change preparedness at the community level.
**Rose McGee** is a sweet potato pie philanthropist, storyteller, and story circle facilitator. She is creator of the Sweet Potato Comfort Pie™ Initiative, has a TEDx Talk on The Power of Pie, and was featured in the national PBS documentary, A Few Good Pie Places as well as in The Real, USA Today and Huffington Post. She is co-author of the book, Story Circle Stories. She led her own community of Golden Valley, Minnesota, in baking 56 Sweet Potato Comfort Pies and personally served them at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., where nine black people were killed. She was selected in June 2017 as Golden Valley’s Citizen of the Year. Rose is a program officer for the Minnesota Humanities Center.

**Erin Pratt, LPC,** is the Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light Program Director where she designs, coordinates, and facilitates programming for MN IPL and individual faith communities. She is a professional counselor and a wilderness therapist with a background working with adolescents, families, and groups. She was a psychology fellow at the UMN Healthy Youth Development and brings these researched based principles into her program design and delivery. She is director and youth counselor supervisor for All in the Circle: Creative Arts and Nature Camp!

**Carolyn Raffensperger** is executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network. As an environmental lawyer she specializes in the fundamental changes in law and policy necessary for the protection and restoration of public health and the environment, including new government models that depend on ideas of precaution and ecological integrity. Her work is the most comprehensive exploration to date of the history, theory and implementation of the precautionary principle. Carolyn coined the term “ecological medicine” to encompass the broad notions that both health and healing are entwined with the natural world.

**Julie Ristau** is Chief Operating Officer of Main Street Project, focused on guiding and overseeing the overall operations of the organization. Her expertise crosses many fields. Previous to coming on board with Main Street, she founded Regeneration Partnership, a consulting team that provides strategy development, land restoration planning, operations management and enterprise expertise to farms and organizations. As an active community leader, Ristau co-founded, designed and led Homegrown Minneapolis, the city’s local food initiative and is a board member of Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate board.

**Vicki Robin** lives on Whidbey Island where she works on water and agriculture issues in the Salish Sea arising from militarization of her region. She also co-developed the Conversation Cafe method and loves being an improvisational theater actor.

**Katie Sample** is a retired home-based missionary under the American Baptist Convention and a retired Minneapolis Public School Social Worker of 25 years who specialized in working with youth, parents and community engagement. She is the founder and was executive director of the African American Academy for Accelerated Learning (AAAL) from 1988 through 2009, providing cultural education through Summer Programs, parent education, education conferences and international travel. She has a passion for mentoring youth toward self-identity, strengthening their God-given talents and encouraging them to excel in spite of many barriers within this society.

**Ted Schettler, MD,** serves as SEHN’s Science Director after practicing medicine for many years. Ted has worked extensively with community groups and non-governmental organizations throughout the US and internationally, addressing many aspects of human health and the environment. Noted author and speaker, he is frequently quoted in the popular press. His recent work includes books on reproductive and developmental health effects of exposure to a variety of environmental toxicants.

**Claudia Schmidt** is a singer, songwriter, musician and story-teller. Native to Michigan, she has performed on stages throughout North America and Europe for more than four decades. She has recorded nineteen albums of mostly original songs, exploring folk, blues, and jazz idioms featuring her acclaimed 12-string guitar and mountain dulcimer playing.

**Brook Spotted Eagle** is a Ph.D graduate student at the University of Washington and daughter of Faith Spotted Eagle. Her graduate work has included a study of the ways in which Brave Heart women — a group responsible for safekeeping the environment and sacred sites and reviving traditional Native American language, culture and ceremonies — collectively approach trauma-healing, the nuanced ways in which trauma impedes development and community wellness, recognition that breaking existing intergenerational cycles of trauma requires both collective and individual action.

**Faith Spotted Eagle** is an elder of the Yankton Sioux Nation and mother of Brook Spotted Eagle. She is a founding member and leader of Brave Heart Society, a group responsible for safekeeping the environment and sacred sites, and reviving traditional Native American language, culture and ceremonies. She is noted for her leadership and activism in the Keystone XL Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline protests, combating sexual violence and assault. She serves as a post-traumatic stress disorder therapist. Faith is the first ever Native American to win an Electoral College vote for president.
Presenters, Performers & Artists

**Dorceta Taylor**, professor in University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment, teaches and conducts research on environmental justice, climate change and sustainable development, sustainable food systems and gender and environment. A compelling author, she believes that “each person has the capacity to learn and get excited about environmental issues. I think a thorough understanding of the past informs present thinking and actions. I believe that teaching that is built on a foundation of solid knowledge, rigor and freedom to push the boundaries and think beyond the ordinary produces the most exciting results.”

**Sara Thomsen**, award-winning singer and songwriter, is the the founder and artistic director of the Echoes of Peace Choir, a non-audition community choir in Duluth, Minnesota, which works to expand and develop the work of examining critical social issues using music and the arts to build and bridge informed, engaged, and caring communities. Increasing wonder and awareness, deepening spiritual connection, and widening social engagement through song is at the heart of her work. Sara’s ability to get people singing magically transforms gatherings into communities empowered with possibility. Thomsen’s song “Precious Waters” received a Woody Guthrie Songwriting Award. Thomsen’s home base is in the Lake Superior region near Duluth, MN.

**Patricia Torres Ray** is a Minnesota politician and member of the Minnesota Senate representing District 63 (portions of southeastern Minneapolis and eastern Richfield). She is the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Minnesota Senate. Torres Ray earned degrees in urban studies and public affairs from the University of Minnesota. Her special legislative concerns include education, health and human services, the environment, and economic development.

**Kate Towle** is a youth advocate, consultant and writing coach who works with schools, youth organizations and emerging non-profits to generate best practices to engage youth as intercultural leaders and social innovators. Kate’s idea to support Minnesota youth on their own model for civic and intercultural leadership, won her the 2011 St. Paul Foundation’s Facing Race Idea Challenge. Kate coaches young leaders as they foster strong identity development; leadership in inter-cultural bridging; and inter-generational discovery around the youth experiences in life and in the classroom.

**Vien Truong** is one of the country’s foremost policy experts and strategists on building an equitable green economy. She serves as CEO of the Dream Corps, and leads Green For All, a national initiative that puts communities of color at the forefront of the climate movement and equality at the center of environmental solutions. Vien has developed numerous energy, environmental, transportation, and economic policies and programs at the state, federal and local levels. She has advised on billions of dollars in public investments for energy and community development programs — including helping to create the biggest fund in history for low income communities.

**Lisa Venable** is a professional speaker, writer and spiritual activist with a passion for collaborative dialogue. She is a faculty member of the Adler Graduate School of Counseling, a former Public Policy Associate for the United Way and a bipartisan consultant to the Minnesota Legislature. Her love for the natural world and years of political experience led her to serve as coordinator of the Women’s Congress Guardianship project.

**Paula Westmoreland** is an agroecologist and permaculture designer with over 17 years of experience designing and installing rural and urban farms, community spaces and homesteads. She founded Ecological Design in 2000 and co-founded the Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate in 2003.

**Maggie Wheeler**, though best known as an actress for her role as Janice Litman on the TV show *Friends*, says that teaching music is her calling. A co-Founder and Director of the Golden Bridge Community Choir in Los Angeles, she believes that singing brings people together and the choir is an exercise in community-building. Working with Emile Hassan Dyer and utilizing music from diverse world cultures, they weave singing, drumming and story-telling into a powerful and incredible musical tapestry of peace, justice and abiding joy.

**Rowen White** is a Seed Keeper from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and a passionate activist for seed sovereignty. She is the director and founder of Sierra Seeds, an innovative organic seed cooperative focusing on local seed production and education, based in Nevada City, California. She teaches creative seed training immersions around the country within tribal and small farming communities. She weaves stories of seeds, food, culture and sacred Earth stewardship on her blog, Seed Songs.
We are deeply grateful to those of you who stepped up over the past year and half to make the 2017 Women’s Congress a success. We offer a deep bow of gratitude to you. Your talents are broad and deep, your caring for the world and each other truly modeled the beloved community. Crafting large events is never easy and to see the kindness and compassion expressed, the tolerance for different styles, different dreams of what this could be, yet always coming together with the broader vision in mind, was truly inspiring.

We also know many of you who are not listed here have contributed in significant ways - showing up at monthly potlucks, reaching out to your networks to encourage them to attend the Congress, taking on the role of Guardian to protect future generations through your commitment to encouraging local and state governments to broaden their role, prioritizing protection of our common wealth and public health. We thank you and acknowledge the important contribution you are making in the world.

2017 Women’s Congress Team

Alejandra Tobar Alatriz  
Elizabeth Anders  
Kay Anderson  
Barbara Arney  
Sierra Asamoa-Tutu  
Abigail Barrett  
Hazel Belvo  
Brad Blackett  
Jacqueline Brooks  
adrienne mae brown  
Monica Bryant  
Michelle Bye  
Me’Lea Connelly  
Kayhla Cornell  
Rebecca Cramer  
Nancy Cosgriff  
Nicki Craig  
Kate Dayton  
Chery Hays Day  
Sharon Day  
Janet Dieterich  
Suzanne Donovan  
Beth Dooley  
Catherine Dubbe  
Trudy Dunham  
Laurie Dunn  
Hope Esparolini  
Betty Folliard  
Rhiannon Chance Hanson  
Laura Hedlund  
Joel Hodroff  
Denise Hollis  
Emily Jarrett-Hughes  
Helene Johnson  
Barb Kobe  
Margie Kostouros  
Robyn Langkos  
Kathy Magnuson  
Ann Manning  
Rose McGee

Emily Moore  
Dawn Morningstar  
Nancy Myers  
Patricia Neal  
Julia Nerbonne  
Vicki O’Day  
Nancy Olson  
Norma Smith Olson  
Karen Olson Johnson  
Connie Osterbaan  
Nancy Peterson  
Erin Pratt  
Joan Portisky  
Carolyn Raffensperger  
Jean Ross  
Meredithy Jones Rossi  
Steve Rossi  
Akilah Sanders Reed  
Barbara Sanderson  
Ted Schettler  
Kathleen Seestadt  
Sherri Seidmon  
Megan Sheridan  
Kaia Sven  
Jan Swanson  
Julie Swanson  
Wayne Swanson  
Michelle Thelan  
Gene Tierney  
Patricia Torres Ray  
Barbara Vaile  
Lisa Venable  
Dawn Vogel  
Maryah Wolszon  
Ikidowin Theater Ensemble  
SEHN Board of Directors  
Birchbark Books

Women’s Congress Dispatch  
Authors; those not listed to the left by name include:

Susan Allen  
Rebecca Altman  
Marita Bujold  
Arrietta Chakos  
Claire Curran  
Gina Coplon-Newfield  
Katie Deschene  
Charles Eisenstein  
Jeannette Huezo  
Kim Leary  
Mary Lyons  
June Mathiowetz  
Joan Mitchell  
Amy Mondloch  
Kandi Mossett  
Tanya Taylor Rubinstein  
Madeleine Scammell  
Bhavna Shamasunder  
Dorceta Taylor  
Roslye Ullan  
Rowen White

Many thanks to Dumas Apple House and M. Sue Wilson Law Offices for the apples on our tables.

And MANY thanks to all of you who are volunteering this weekend. What a gift that is for everyone here.

A special thank you to the Grandmothers and Story Sharers. You have planted the seeds of the new story the beloved community is eager to live into.
Repairs ecological damage from agriculture
Produces affordable, nutritious food
Pays fair wages to workers
Creates opportunity for new and established farmers
Integrates perennial and annual crops
Sequesters carbon to assist in reversing climate change
Avoids the use of chemicals
Eliminates polluting runoff
Reduces risks to public health

We're developing a poultry-centered regenerative agriculture system that can change how food is produced around the world.

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The dramatic memoir of growing up in an orphanage for biracial children in Africa.

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Maria Nhambu continues her inspiring story in America.

creator of AEROBICS WITH SOUL®
The African Workout
we are bending the future, together, into something we have never experienced. a world where everyone experiences abundance, access, pleasure, human rights, dignity, freedom, transformative justice, peace. we long for this, we believe it is possible.

adrienne maree brown
We are living in an historic moment. We are each called to take part in a great transformation. Our survival as a species is threatened by global warming, economic meltdown, and an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor. Yet these threats offer an opportunity to awaken as an interconnected and beloved community.

Desmond Tutu
If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice, have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege.

Bell Hooks
Womens Congress for Future Generations - Coming Attractions

Guardianship Strategy (Meeting on December 4, 2017 in the evening, Minneapolis)

"Moving Forward: Priorities for Action in 2018 and Beyond for the Women’s Congress for Future Generations" (Brunch & Gathering on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Wilder Center in St. Paul)

Your support is critical to this work going forward. You can help us carry the projects and programs of the Women’s Congress forward into 2018. Online donations can be made at: www.wcffg.org

Checks can be sent to:
Women’s Congress
PO Box 50733
Eugene OR 97405

For stock transfers, please contact sherri@sehn.org.

This weekend only, for a $500 or more donation, you will receive a signed 16” x 20” print of either Jubilation or Spirit Tree by Hazel Belvo.

Thank You!