My Story, Your Story, WISR's 39-Year Story of Personalized Education and Social Change Continues

WISR’s 6th Annual Conference, 2014

Western Institute for Social Research
2930 Shattuck, #300, Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 655-2830 mail@wisr.edu

Thursday, October 30, 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Friday, October 31, 9:00 am to 8:30 pm
Saturday, November 1, 9:00 am to 7:30 pm

~Please register early by Friday, October 24th if possible, Late registration will also be accepted at the door—see last page for registration form~

We will feature the work of some of WISR’s Students and Faculty; a panel on Education for Social Change (including WISR’s Learning for a Change Think Tank, and leaders of the Monthly Series of Course Sessions Discussing Films on Issues for Social Change) a panel on Narrative Approaches to Transformation, Healing and Social Change (how storytelling is used in counseling, medicine, action-inquiry, and other disciplines); and a presentation by WISR’s President with discussion about WISR’s exciting move toward accreditation.

~~~ Schedule ~~~

Thursday, October 30th:

3:00 pm: Gather and Registration

3:30 – 5:00 pm: Film Clips—Stimulating Dialogue on Matters of Social Change
WISR’s President, John Bilorusky, PhD will show some film shorts, and lead a discussion.

5:00 – 6:00 pm: Light supper will be provided.

If local participants would like to contribute food, beverages, and snacks for the conference, please RSVP Marilyn@wisr.edu re what you plan to bring. People can also go to the nearby Berkeley Bowl or restaurants to eat or bring food back “to go.”

6:00 - 8:30 pm: Richard Horrell-Schmitz, WISR EdD Student, “Defying Deficit thinking: an examination of overt and covert ableism in education with a look at the negative ramifications of deficit focus in the classroom and adulthood.” Presentation, audience participation and discussion, as well as a short video to share his experiences on these issues in Ghana over the summer.

Friday, October 31st:

9:00 am: Gather and Registration
9:30 am - 10:45 am: Cindy Perkiss, WISR PhD Student, “Using Somatic Experiencing and Art Therapy to Facilitate Post-Traumatic Growth.” Through case material and didactic presentation, discussion will focus on the exploration of Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG) and the ways that Somatic Experiencing (SE) and Trauma Art Therapy can help to facilitate PTG. She will use the projects she has focused on during her studies at WISR, which have included becoming a Certified Trauma Art Therapist, work as a Somatic Experiencing Training Assistant, exploration of the intersection of trauma and chronic pain, and her own story of living with chronic illness, to discuss these concepts along with questions that have arisen along the way.

10:45 - 11 am: Break

11:00 am - 12:15 pm: Roger Mason, WISR PhD Candidate, “Shaker Gifts to the 21st Century, is a contemporary assessment of what is to be learned from the alternative communitarian experiment of the 19th Century.” Roger will present on, and lead a discussion of his dissertation on the Shakers’ innovative social practices instituted by 24 communities among these first generation American citizens. The Shakers established an alternative social model to confront the issues of gender/racial/religious/family relationships, combined with a unique style of collaboration to produce many innovations improving everyday life. This unique social network thrived in a divided nation, effectively reacting to the consequences of social change and social conflicts. These issues continue to be active and alive the world today.

12:15 - 1:30 pm: Lunch and Socializing. Participants are encouraged to form small groups to go to nearby restaurants for lunch, or bring back food “to go.” (WISR will provide beverages and some snacks.) For example, groups of Alumni could get together, MFT/Psychology students, Students of Education and Social change, Community Leadership, Prospective Students and Visitors. Please join in with a group of your choice, or we’ll introduce you to others and help you pick a group. Groups are welcome to bring food back to meet at WISR as well.

1:30 – 3:00 pm: Education for Social Change Panel of WISR Faculty, Students and Community Learners. WISR faculty member, Marilyn Jackson, PhD, will facilitate. Participants in WISR’s Learning for a Change Think Tank will discuss models of education designed to improve society. Leaders of the Monthly Film Series on Issues for Social Change will discuss the themes of films shown this year on such topics as inequality, Ecowarriors and the Indonesian Rain Forest, community-building, the Koch Brothers and social democracy. Panelists will make brief comments to stimulate open discussion. Participants will include Nasira Abdul-Aleem, WISR MA Student; Faye Antaky, Community Learner; and WISR Faculty members: John Bilorusky, PhD; Torry Dickinson, PhD; Marilyn Jackson, PhD; Vera Labat, MPH; and Michael McAvoy, MA.

3:00 - 3:15 pm: Break

3:15 - 4:30 pm: Eric Mauer, WISR PhD Candidate, "Teaching Young Children as an Act of Love: The critical roles of play and of the teacher-child relationship in early childhood education.” Eric will present on, and lead a discussion of, his dissertation inquiry. He is investigating ways in which we can make early childhood education more compassionate, more loving and kind, more just, and more helpful in encouraging the potential of young children. He interviewed fifty five persons, including thirty one early childhood teachers. He has found himself looking at political issues by the dissertation’s end -- looking at schooling as a political activity and looking at and asking questions about the politics of schooling. He has developed several important questions that he hopes other researchers may tackle.
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm: Halloween Party: Potluck, order pizza or Chinese food, or get take out food from the Berkeley Bowl, or the Mexican or Greek restaurants across the street. Socializing, snacks and film clips on social issues.

Saturday, November 1st:

9:30 - 10:45 am: Collaboration and WISR Seminars and Forums. We will break into groups to discuss individual and group learning projects and activities that are in progress and give feedback to one another within the groups. This will be a way to try out the new, added learning format at WISR of open forum sessions that will be ongoing 1 to 2 times per month.

10:45 – 11:00 am: Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: John Bilorusky, PhD, President of WISR will discuss details and updates of WISR’s steps in pursuing national accreditation, will answer questions, and lead a discussion.

12:00 - 1:15 pm: Lunch and Socializing. Participants are encouraged to form small groups to go to nearby restaurants for lunch, or bring back food “to go.” (see Friday lunch suggestion).

1:15 - 2:30 pm: Open Space Discussion of Tasks and Steps Needed for WISR’s Accreditation. We will break into groups based on interest regarding plans and tasks to be accomplished as necessary to accomplishing this important and exciting goal.

2:30 - 2:45 pm: Break

2:45 - 4:30 pm: Narrative Approaches to Transformation, Healing, and Social Change: WISR faculty member, Michael McAvoy, will facilitate this panel on the role of narrative or storytelling in their work, in such areas as medicine and healing, counseling, action-inquiry, violence prevention, and education. Participants will include John Bilorusky, PhD, Crystallee Crain, PhD, Ronald Mah, LFMT, PhD, Michael McAvoy, MA. We will break into groups for discussion and storytelling.

4:30 - 7:30 pm: Dinner and Socializing. We’ll order out or bring back food from nearby Berkeley Bowl and other restaurants across the street. We will wind down by enjoying an informal couple of hours of socializing and making plans for staying in touch often with one another.

Location: All events will be held at WISR’s new location in Berkeley at 2930 Shattuck, Suite 300, near Ashby, only three short blocks from the South Berkeley BART Station.

Parking in the neighborhood: some of it is two-hour only but much of it has no time limit. There is metered parking on Shattuck. WISR has only two spaces in the adjacent parking lot.

Everyone planning to attend is encouraged to e-mail John Bilorusky (johnb@wisr.edu) and let him know your plans for attending (approximately what days and times of those days you think you will participate). This will help in planning food, # of chairs, etc. Everyone is requested to make a minimum donation of $10/day-$25/3 days, to help pay for expenses associated with the conference. We plan to video tape some of the conference and take photos, and all participants are asked to fill out and sign the registration form (next page) giving us permission to do this.
Registration / RSVP Form

Please fill out this information and return it by email, mail or bring it with you to the conference. To help us plan, please RSVP very soon or by Friday, October 24th at the latest to help us arrange for food and seating (late registration will be allowed at the conference). *You can mail in donations or bring them to the conference apart from the form. Contributions may be made by check, credit card or through Paypal (by entering our e-mail address: mail@wisr.edu).

Which days and/or times/sessions to you expect to attend?

Thursday, October 30 ____________________________________________________________

Friday, October 31 _____________________________________________________________

Saturday, November 1 __________________________________________________________

****Donation (Suggested minimum: $10/day-$25/3 days to help with food and other expenses):

___________________________________________

***Additional Donation:____________________

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address (if we don't have it already) ____________________________________________

Phone (if we don't have it already) ______________________________________________

Email _______________________________________________________________________

Conference Participants, Please read the following: This conference will be videotaped for possible use on WISR's website and other educational uses. In order to participate in the conference, each person will need to agree to and sign the following statement: As a participant in WISR's Conference, October 30-November 1, 2014, I understand that my participation in the conference represents my implied consent for WISR to videotape and/or audiotape all sessions for educational use by the WISR community and to promote WISR’s work among the general public.

Your Signature_______________________________________________________________

Date__________________________________________

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