

OUR CIRCLE



Center for Restorative Justice
at Suffolk University

JULY 19

Property of the
UNPACKING THE PARADIGM
Center for Restorative Justice
LEARNING FROM SURVIVORS
at Suffolk University



Center *for* Restorative Justice



CIRCLE UP

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LEARNING FROM SURVIVORS
JANET CONNORS AND CLARISSA TURNER
“LEGACY LIVES ON”

AGENDA – JULY 19TH, 2023

9 AM – 11AM

- Opening
- Check-in
- Values and Guidelines
- Unpacking the Restorative Justice Paradigm

LUNCH BREAK

1PM – 2PM

- “The Three Cree Women
- Contrasting the Paradigms
- Check-out
- Closing

2PM - 4PM

Learning from Survivors

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OPENING AND CLOSING

- Participants will help co-keep our circles by doing openings and closings the next 8 days we have together.
- Because our time is precious and immersive, we need openings and closings to be meaningful and short.

DAY 2: Tuesday, July 18th: **Michael, Celeste**

DAY 3: Wednesday, July 19th: **Jess M. - Chrissy**

DAY 4: Thursday, July 20th: **Jessica C. - Anna** ,

DAY 5: Friday, July 21st.; **Jahnlsa, Anthony**

DAY 6: Saturday, July 22nd : **Eric - Molly**

DAY 7: Monday, July 24th: **Devon, Tana**

DAY 8: Tuesday, July 25th: **Osiris, Natasha**

DAY 9: Wednesday, July 26th: **Maura, Lori**

DAY 10: Thursday, July 27th: Circle Process Training with Kay Pranis

DAY 11: Friday, July 28th: Circle Process Training with Kay Pranis

- Please try to connect them to the focus of the day

OPENING

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CHECK-IN

What value speaks to you today and why?

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CREATIVITY

Can you think of creative ways to bring up values and guidelines for our circle culture each day?

VALUES

Resiliency Strength Respect Humility Wonder Awe

Change Curiosity Communication

Openness of possibility Importance of our Roots

Appreciation for gifts that brighten our lives and our new days

Everything is connected / beauty in reciprocity Dignity

Everything has value Being present Beauty in lived experience

Humor Connection Appreciation

Listening for subtleties Inherent worthiness

We are all part of the earth - we send and receive energy

Gratitude Appreciation of stillness Community

Power of connecting to nature Respect Generosity

Be patient and be mindful Healing presence of nature Power in growth

Beauty where you find it Open Mindedness Patience

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Our Guidelines: What do you need from yourself and others in our circle in order to fully participate?

- Honor the talking piece to speak, and listen
- Power to pass, respect silence as a voice
- Speak and listen from the heart
- Be You
- Express as much vulnerability as you want to offer
- Take the lesson / Leave the story and details
- Give Grace to self and others in our learning process and taking care of needs
- Allow time to process, allow a moment before a round starts
- Courage
- Willingness to be vulnerable
- Curiosity
- Be present
- Patience with self and others
- Come open to learn
- Take care of self in balance with taking care of the circle
- Good Humor/ Good Faith
- Reserve judgement
- Freedom to think out loud without judgement
- Be aware of defenses to staying open
- Be open to the need for questions/clarification
- Trust you know what you are saying
- Be mindful of Mind, Body, Soul and Emotions
- Trust each other and Trust the circle
- Be aware and work toward more awareness of biases
- Separate individuals from the systems they work for
- Honesty and acceptance of honesty
- Come open to learn and unlearn
- Openness to be called in to these guidelines and to understanding each others' interpretation of them
- We bring issues to the group to collectively resolve
- Space to reach out to the keepers/facilitators directly about issues

WORLD VIEW

“World views are hard to talk about. You have to substantially escape your own to even begin to hear what is being said about another. For instance, I remember being told at an aboriginal justice conference that western and aboriginal scientists might approach the study of a plant in very different ways. The western scientist, we were told, would probably focus primarily on understanding and naming all the parts and properties of the plant; figuring out its root, stem and leaf patterns; examining how it takes in water, sunlight and nutrients; determining how it reproduces and its life expectancy; and so forth. The aboriginal scientist, by contrast, would likely focus on understanding what role that plant plays in the meadow. She would examine how it holds soil when the rains come: what plants flourish close to it; what birds, animals and insects are attracted to it; how it is useful to them; what kinds of conditions it needs to remain healthy – that sort of thing. It’s not that the two scientists would pay no attention to the concerns of the other, just that their emphasis would be different; they would see the plant in different ways.”

-- *Indigenous Healing*, 2014 Rupert Ross p. 4



CONTRAST OF THE PARADIGMS:

Western Justice System VS Aboriginal Justice

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Informed by lived
experience,

Ross, Sered and Zehr, how
would you characterize the
two paradigms here?

Rupert Ross (Aboriginal Justice)

Danielle Sered (Western Justice System)

Howard Zehr (Western Justice System)



REFLECTION

What drew energy
in your group
about the two
paradigms?

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LUNCH, READ & PONDER

Read and ponder:

:Rupert Ross, *Returning to the Teachings, Exploring Aboriginal Justice*, chapters 1 (focus 3 Cree Women pp, 2-12), 3 and 4, 5.

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Pair 'n Share

How does the conventional mindset show up in your workplace?

Name a contribution you make to how it shows up.

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CONVENTIONAL VS RESTORATIVE

- What rule was broken
- Who broke it?
- What punishment is deserved?

- Who was harmed?
- What are the needs of those involved?
- Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?

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MINDSET SHIFT

TELLING



LISTENING

KNOWING THE ANSWERS



BEING CURIOUS

INSTITUTION/THIRD PARTY
TO RESTORE BALANCE



THOSE AFFECTED TRYING
TO RESTORE BALANCE

FOCUS ON THE
WRONGDOER



FOCUS ON THOSE HARMED
& THOSE WHO CAUSED HARM

EXTERNAL COERSION



INTERNAL MOTIVATION

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Round

Howard Zehr says that Restorative Justice addresses the harm caused by an incident as well as the harm revealed by the incident.

How do you relate that to The Three Cree Women's case?

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CHECK-OUT

We invite you to release one word into the circle to express an impression from today





CIRCLE UP

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HOMEWORK

DUE NEXT CLASS:

- Journaling on today's presentation, Learning From Survivors
- Skim/Read: Fania Davis, *Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice* and Danielle Sered, *Until We Reckon* ch. 6
- Please go to *Northeastern University School of Law, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project* Website and familiarize yourself with it. <https://law.northeastern.edu/academics/centers/crrj/>
- Next view the video: *The Lynching of Henry Gilbert*
- Then review the program from CRRJ's *memorial event for Denna and Estella Strickland*. Finally, Explore the *CRRJ Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive*, which houses CRRJ's findings on roughly 1,000 cases. You can browse the site. Please run searches for Henry Gilbert and the Stricklands. That way you can review the Incidents and associated documents. You do not need to closely read every document, but just to browse through the Archive entries
- Opening and Closing for DAY 4 Friday, July 20th: **Jessica C. - Anna**



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DNISOT