



## ***Peacemaking on the Potomac: A Women's Worldview***

### ***Why We Gather:***

*Peacemaking on the Potomac: A Women's Worldview* is an intergenerational, in-person women's peacemaking gathering. The purpose of *Peacemaking on the Potomac: A Women's Worldview* is for women peacemakers of varied experience levels – from seasoned to those who are new to peacemaking – to be in community together to heal, teach, learn and share about peacemaking, wellness and nonviolence in all our circles of kinship, from our families, to our communities, to our nations. We will discuss, among other things, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) issues, Tribal implementation, and family considerations to support a shared prayer of preventing and countering the epidemic of violence in our Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. We will also tend to our own healing so we can continue to serve our families and communities because we know the ripple effect is real – if the women are taken care of, our children will be taken care of, and our families, our lands, our waters, our communities will be taken care of. We will focus on the roots of who we are – beautifully diverse, while at the same time unified in the human family – and hold that beauty and respect in a multicultural circle. We will discuss our core values, our authenticities and our spiritualities. As we walk the land, and as we honor and are healed by the water of the Potomac, we will listen to, connect with and pray for the Feminine and the Mother. We will explore peacemaking (a process that is inclusive of both restorative and transformative justice) and have the opportunity to share other worldviews, so that we bring nonviolence, true justice, and healing to our own communities. This “Phase 1” will be “A Women's Worldview.” “Phase 2” will be an additional gathering that includes men, as men's nation is in need of this healing and nonviolence work, and men's nation and women's nation are in need of healing and nonviolence work between them.

### ***Who We Are:***

The organizing circle is Cheryl Fairbanks, Esq. (Tlingit-Tsimshian), Kavita Shourie (River Valley India), and Ariel Clark (Odawa Anishinaabe). We envision a total of 25 participants, which is intergenerational and diverse, including elders, youth, local and national community members,

and Indigenous and non-Indigenous women. [Roots To Sky](#) is the grantee, and Root To Sky's fiscal sponsor is The Social Good Fund.

***On The Land, By The Water:***

We will gather at Roots To Sky Sanctuary, a BIPOC-stewarded land sanctuary in Maryland, along the Potomac. The gathering is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025 to Sunday, April 27, 2025. We will serve organic, healthy food to nourish our bodies, and have gentle movement activity for those who would like to participate.

***The Contours of Our Circle - Working Agenda for "Phase 1" - "A Women's Worldview":***

Friday Evening:

- ❖ Participants arrive at Roots To Sky. Dinner spread available to accommodate different arrival times. The evening will be dedicated to gently arriving and setting the sacred space of connection, healing and learning.

Saturday:

- ❖ We will start at the fire, in the serenity room, with fire, water, sacred medicines and tea. Acknowledging the fire keepers (rotating, and always present with the fire) and the medicines and space that women can always come to for prayer and support during the weekend. We will then move into our circle, honoring the Elders with gifts and an Elders circle.
- ❖ We will offer programming including prayers, songs, a core values circle, a keynote address, a capstone address, and a healing circle. Our Keynote speaker will be Michelle Schendandoah (Oneida) who will share on the role of the matriarch in a contemporary society and discuss Haudenosaunee peacemaking and nonviolence practices. Our Capstone speaker will be Gina Jackson (Shoshone, Paiute, Oglala) who will speak about MMIW and community nonviolence and healing.
- ❖ In the evening, we will gather to stargaze, share stories and songs.

Sunday:

- ❖ Sunday we will depart. We will offer a spread of breakfast to-go so people can flexibly depart.
- ❖ We envision everyone bringing gifts to participate in a giveaway and door prize.

***Phase 2 - Peacemaking on the Potomac: Men's Nation and Women's Nations***

We envision another gathering, perhaps in the Fall, that includes men. For that gathering, we hope to raise \$45,000 so that we can accommodate a larger, but still intimate group.

*Peace circles have been used by our indigenous ancestors since time immemorial. It has been a "way of life" for resolving disputes by "talking it out and making things right". The sacred space of the peacemaking circle allows for fairness and healing to the individual, family and community. "Life comes from it, " as shared by Honorable Robert Yazzie, (Dine') Chief Justice Emertis of Navajo Nation. There is a spiritual connection, a collective wisdom and strength that brings about courage, change, and resolution for healing. Part of the healing process is sharing your story in the sacred space with others who care. Today, we reaffirm our ancient tribal core values and set a sacred space through a peacemaking process to move towards indigenous justice and a healthier vibrant united community. "Sovereignty begins at home; so does peacemaking."*

*- Gunalch'eesh, Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks*