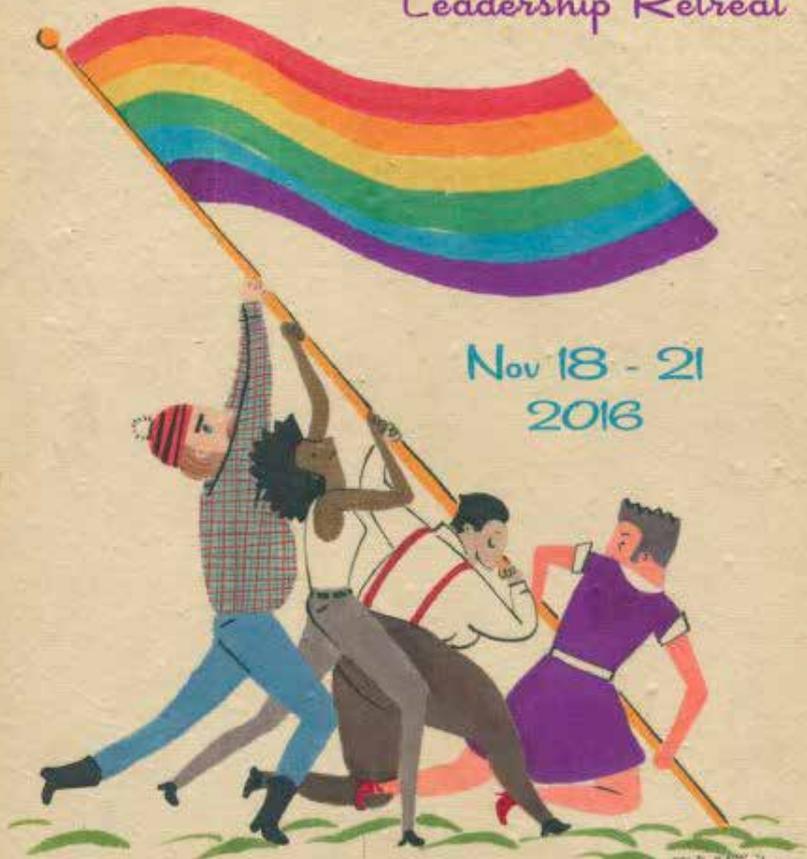


# GROUNDSWELL INSTITUTE

PRESENTS:

## LAVENDER

Leadership Retreat



[www.groundswell.institute](http://www.groundswell.institute)

## WELCOME TO GROUNDSWELL INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY

Groundswell is an unique project that explores the intersection of community, ecology, and queer paradigms.

Consisting of a non-profit retreat center and a developing residential ecovillage, Groundswell nurtures the cooperative ecology and culture that are essential for a sustainable future.

The non-profit Groundswell Institute creates visionary queer consciousness-raising and environmental programs, while also renting out the facilities to like-minded groups or individuals to gather for transformation.

The residential ecovillage lives across the creek from the retreat center, helping steward the land, maintaining permaculture-based agricultural systems, and helping provide the people power to run the nonprofit. Together, the Institute and community work to create sustainable natural and human ecologies that invite people in to create a more conscious, connected, and cooperative culture.

## LAVENDER QUEER LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Lavender is a weekend of healing and empowerment for queer leaders of all kinds and all levels of experience. It's a time to learn skills and create relationships with others who are building stronger queer communities. In these uncertain times we need to focus on what we as communities can do in response to right our course, to unite and fight with all our strength the tide of bigotry and violence that has already begun. Together we can arrive more powerful than ever on the other side.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### QORE QUEERICULUM

#### WHAT NEXT? FUTURES OF QUEER MOVEMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

The movement for equality and justice was just dealt a huge blow, one we will be feeling for years to come. What are the next steps we need to take in our communities? What shape do queer movements need to take to meet this new reality? What challenges and opportunities lie in store as we move forward? Guided discussions and activities help us explore these topics and more. **SAT 4:15pm in the Dining Hall**

#### UNITE AND FIGHT: BUILDING STRONGER NETWORKS OF QUEER LEADERS & PLANNING NEXT STEPS

Whatever comes next, one thing is for sure: we must support each other more now than ever before. We'll talk about the tools and resources available to us, the ones we need to create, and how we can best use them to achieve our collective goals. At the end, we will talk about concrete next steps, how we can continue the work of the retreat, and how we continue to grow our communities. **SUN 2:30pm in the Dining Hall**

### GRIEF RITUAL

Those before me said "Don't Mourn, Organize!" Today I am saying "Mourn, Heal, Organize." This is a ritual to fully mourn the hurt, the hate, the pain we are all experiencing. This will be a place for our tears, our yells, our wounds, our ritual sacred objects. This will be a time to grieve - to pour out our emotions and to be held. This will also be a place for our laughter, our stories, our memories, and our hope. Part of the grief experience is both tears and laughter. All forms of expression are welcome at this ritual. Ritual to be facilitated by Priestess Ariel archer of joy, light, liberation, and magic. **SAT 6:30pm in Tidrik Lodge**

## WORKSHOPS

### Saturday Workshops

#### ENVISIONING OUR HERSTORY w/ ALETA ALSTON TOURE

Envisioning Our Herstory, Actualizing Our Humanity creates sanctuary in solidarity with Orlando Pulse massacre despite Florida's resistance to address the serious issues of inter sectional oppressions that need immediate action and cultural competency support through homophobia, state violence and racial discrimination. We envision that our frontlines will inspire a power of love where we can heal, captive fierceness and liberation. Come explore the Free Marissa Now (FMN) movement, an

alliance of organizations and activists that freed Marissa Alexander. We will describe components of the documentary project composed of storytelling, freedom songs, dance and artwork chronicling the #blackwomenslivesmatter movement. People's Movement Assembly processes that document the ways we participated in the FMN mobilizing campaign, which was the impetus for the #blackwomenslivesmatter. Although Marissa was the poster child for this struggle, the campaign highlighted a larger resistance against white supremacy, domestic violence and patriarchy. We as black lesbian organizers refuse to no longer be pushed out, overpoliced and pulled under the bus we are human. **WS 1: 11:15am in the Dining Hall**

### **OUT BEYOND THE BINARY THERE IS A FIELD OF LAVENDER I WILL MEET YOU THERE w/ ARIEL VEGOSEN**

Standing on the shoulders of giants I give praise to all those that created fairy space, gay men's space, women only space, and dyke space and I honor the need for those spaces in the time they were created. I honor now this new time we are ushering in. The time of separation has ended. Now is the time to step beyond the concept of binary. To see the girl-boy in me and in you! If you recognize that gender is not a binary or are curious about this concept or want to create spaces were all genders are genuinely included then this is the workshop for you. Are you tired of looking around a queer event and seeing that we are replicating the patriarchy and systems that no longer serve us? Then this workshop is for you! Are you triggered by the way I wrote this description - then this workshop is also for you. Let's get real about what scares us about talking about gender, let's find out how to be more welcoming and inclusive, let's do the work to make our radical queer spaces radical when it comes to gender too. This workshop will be facilitated by Ariel (your lovingly gender queer faggot beyond binary labels extraordinaire). **WS 1: 11:15am in the Living Room**

### **CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING w/ B/T CRAIG**

I will facilitate Decentering, an expressive arts process that can help us find a new perspective on a problem, identify concrete next steps, and connect with each other in the process. This workshop will be experiential and interactive. **WS 2: 2:30pm in the Annex**

### **THE DECORATED QUEEN w/ JASON PATTEN**

An artistic workshop including a discussion of "Queens" past and present, a discussion about the characteristics that help each of us endure

through activism work, a guided visualization for participants to reflect on their own attributes that make them strong, attributes they wish to develop more, and then visual symbols of these things they wish to embody. This will segue into a visual arts project including Queen playing cards and myriad elements of decoration and embellishment for participants to create an art piece of their more embodied, empowered self.

**WS 2: 2:30pm in the Living Room**

**WORDS MATTER: WINNING HEARTS & MINDS WITH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND LIFE w/ DIGGER KEITH**

Communication skills for understanding and being understood can change hearts and minds. Such strategies empower us to have effective conversations with those we don't agree with, and can convert people to our cause. We'll particularly focus on social media, but these skills are useful for all forms of communication. **WS 2: 2:30pm in the Dining Hall**

**Sunday Workshops**

**ACTIVATING IN HARD TIMES: SHINING OUR QUEER GIFTS IN THE BLEAKNESS w/ ARIEL VEGOSEN**

This election has brought many things to the surface: fear, anger, hatred, racism, sexism, and queer-phobia (LGBTQ-phobia). It might seem like the time to run, hide, or escape to another country but I believe we need to activate more than ever! So join this workshop to talk strategy, people power, and how best we can shine our queer gifts into this hardship. We as queers on the front-line have years of activism, wisdom, love, and magic to pour into the movement at this time. Let's collaborate and get serious about uping our game. This workshop will be facilitated by Ariel and all of your voices, knowledge, and skills - let's empower each other and shine our light into this challenge. **WS 3: 9:30am in the Dining Hall**

**ANTI ASSIMILATIONISM w/ GLENDON ANNA CONDA HYDE**

Modern Neoliberal policies are removing the gayness and replacing it with assimilation based rights such as military and marriage. By accepting heteronormative behavior as "rights" we are doing ourselves, and others, a disservice. This will explore Linguistic, Cultural, Archeological, and Biological theory of Anthropology to advocate for cultural preservation. **WS 3: 9:30am in the Annex**

**BODY LOVE w/ B/T CRAIG**

Let's take some time to lovingly re-connect with ourselves and each other so we'll be rested and strong when we take on the world. First I will guide us in looking inward to connect with ourselves and notice our needs. Then we will have an opportunity to ask for and receive nurturing from each other to address those needs. After all, "If you can't love yourself, how the hell you gonna love somebody else." - RuPaul **WS 3: 9:30am in the Living Room**

**QUEERCIRCLE DANCE: THE HULA HOOP AS GATEWAY INTO HEALING THROUGH INTENTIONAL MOVEMENT AND CREATIVE SELF-EXPRESSION w/ BENJAMIN BERRY**

Modern hoop dance has served many as a tool for achieving self-confidence, embodiment, empowerment, and mindfulness; a gateway into dance and a multigenerational source of play. It is familiar enough to evoke a willingness to try, yet mystifying enough to deeply resonate with colorful and eccentric people. In this session, participants will introduce themselves and discuss their experience with movement and the psychological "flow state," as well as its potential for healing and personal growth. Following this will be a brief beginner's lesson and guided play session with adult-sized hula hoops, allowing attendants to explore the benefits for themselves. The program will conclude with a closing circle where all can share their experience and brainstorm ideas for how to encourage more members of the queer community to explore movement and dance. **WS 4: 11:15am in the Dining Hall**

**SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS: THE REALITIES OF BEING LGBTQ AROUND THE GLOBE IN A PRE- AND POST-TRUMPION WORLD w/ JOHN DAVID DUPREE**

Being gay in small-town U.S. in the 50s is very much what it's like to be LGBTQ in the developing world in the 21st Century. Coping with the legal/social/psychological impact of the near-universal rejection of LGBTQ affects people worldwide with a PTSD-like syndrome. The 76-78 countries (depending on which source one relies on) where being LGBTQ is still "criminal" currently provide for penalties ranging from prison time to execution (at certain points in history also including required neuro-consultative therapy and/or castration of males). Before we can help our brothers and sisters in such repressive cultures, we may need to take stock of our own internalized homophobia and an upcoming administration that has already begun demonizing us. This will begin with discussing any vestiges remaining of our own self-loathing. As time permits, we may

begin the discussion of how we might use that increased self-awareness to help others - at home and abroad - struggling with the same issues of self-esteem. If we don't think of ourselves as "worth saving", we're in no position to help anybody else. **WS 4: 11:15am in the Annex**

## **THE "WHY" OF WHAT WE DO: ARTICULATING THE IMPACT OF YOUR WORK w/ THOR YOUNG**

A common challenge activists and leaders face when discussing their work, is finding a way to measure and articulate impact. Having the skills to identify and discuss impact enables a person to gain confidence and support of grant makers, donors, and decision makers in the world. What do we mean when we say impact? In this session we will define it and work with participants to create a structure for discussing their work. **WS 4: 11:15am in the Living Room**

### **PRESENTER BIOS**

*\*All contact info for presenters is included in the directory insert\**

#### **ALETA ALSTON TOURE**

A Blackside filmmaker on Eyes On the Prize I& II; The Great Depression; The Malcolm X; War On Poverty and This Far By Faith Documentaries. Teaches Universidad Sin Fronteras and Freedom School.

She was a community organizer/ strategist that then became a Ford Fellow at the MIT DUSP Community Fellowship.

Worked with the Boston Womens Foundation; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; Malcolm X Grassroots Movement; Mayor's Office of Boston, MA., Hartford, CT., Birmingham, AL., and Savannah, GA.

#### **ARIEL VEGOSEN**

Ariel Vegosen is an educator, professional Gender Inclusivity Trainer, workshop facilitator, writer, mentor, consultant, performance artist, and ritualist. Ariel is the founder of Gender Illumination an organization dedicated to creating safer spaces for Trans and gender queer people through the tools of education and policy change. Ariel is an ordained Kohenet Priestess and has a certificate of Spirituality and Social Change from the Pacific School of Religion ChangeMaker Fellowship. Ariel is also the founder of Gender Blender. Ariel's work focuses on intersectionality, gender justice, environmental justice, and creating communities across diverse cultural backgrounds.

#### **B/T CRAIG**

B/T is an expressive arts therapist who lives and works in Mendocino County. They are interested in supporting and empowering people who feel like outsiders, especially rural and small town residents whose sexualities or genders are stigmatized by the people around them.

**BENJAMIN BERRY**

Benjamin Berry is a nomadic hula hoop dancer, instructor, and performer who has been hosting workshops across the country since the summer of 2015. That year he connected with the online hooping community by participating in Hooping Idol Season 5 and the Electric Forest Hoop Troupe contest, ultimately earning him Hooping.org's Male Hooper of the Year. His mission is to help other people become more confident, empowered, and embodied through intentional movement and creative self-expression.

**DIGGER KEITH**

Digger has been involved with the Radical Faerie & Comfort & Joy community for 10 years, leading events like Queericulum. He is a second year student in the Master's program for Industrial/Organizational Psychology at San Francisco State with an interest in leader development. He has studied Non-Violent communication and has recently effectively exercised his communication skills in sensitive conversations with Trump supporters on social media.

**GLENDON ANNA CONDA HYDE**

President Sacramento Anthropological Society, Activist, Community Organizer.

**JASON PATTEN**

Jason has spent the last five years working in various forms of education, including teaching outdoor skills and wildcrafting, apocalypse preparation, live-action role play storytelling, and English reading and writing, all through a lens of teaching about injustice and systems of power. He strives to help create containers that invite everyone to share their personal narratives, to find intersectionality among diverse experiences, and enjoys the process of turning ideas into action.

**DR. JOHN DAVID DUPREE**

Ph.D. in International & Cross Cultural Communications with a specialty area in Public Health - helping people learn to live healthier lives in their own cultural context. Worked with LGBTQ community in 56+ countries. Have two biological (white) children and four adopted (black) children. Jumaane and I are in our 38th year together; mixed-race; married during the pre-Prop8 window in August 2008. One-time interim ED of Pacific Center in Berkeley; co-founder of the AIDS Project of the East Bay.

**THOR YOUNG**

Thor Young is a professional arts administrator, fundraiser and artist, who previously served as Executive Director at The Crucible in Oakland, helped to build the new fundraising department at Burning Man, and helped work on a number of large-scale public art installations in the Bay Area.

# DOODLES, NOTES, AND STUFF

# GROUNDSWELL

Cover Art for Lavender by Felix D'Eon

[www.felixdeon.com](http://www.felixdeon.com)

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