

# TAPROOT THEATRE

## CONVERSATIONS

### Raised Voices: Racism and White Privilege

Thursday, April 25 @ Taproot's Jewell Mainstage Theatre

Taproot Theatre is excited to partner with the Church Council of Greater Seattle and The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation to present **Raised Voices**—a series of events celebrating the stories of Seattle activists who are speaking into specific areas of injustice in our city. For tonight's discussion, we welcome two speakers who are actively involved in conversations addressing racism and white privilege in Seattle:

#### Rev. Dr. Linda Smith

Executive Director, SKY Urban Empowerment and Transformation Center

#### Karen Schneider, M.S.W.

Greenwood Resident & Co-Founder of the "Breaking White Silence" project

Moderator: Michael Ramos, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle

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**Reverend Dr. Linda M. Smith** serves as Executive Director and Senior Pastor of S.K.Y. Urban Empowerment and Transformation. She has been actively involved in many social arenas speaking and advocating for issues of equity, justice, race relationship and homelessness in the Greater Seattle and South King County area.

Her involving in civil government in the public square includes Renton Human Service Advisory Board, Greater Church Council, King County Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board and other organizations and activities that support eradicating issues around poverty, homelessness and racial injustices.



**Karen Schneider, M.S.W.** is retired from Compass Housing Alliance as a family advocate with homeless families. In 2014, Karen co-founded "Breaking White Silence" a project of the PNA. Its mission is to educate white people on "white identity" and the dynamics of racism through the formation of study groups using Dr. Robin DiAngelo's book *What Does It Mean To Be White? Developing*

*White Racial Literacy*. Karen is also involved with The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival, sings with The Seattle Raging Grannies and participates in the Frontline Allies group of [350.org](http://350.org) and the Citizen's Climate Lobby.

## Raised Voices: Resources

There are several resources where you learn more and/or find out about actions that you can take to advocate for racial justice in our city. Here are just a few recommendations about places to start:

#### How Do I Learn More?

- **Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence** by Derald Wing Sue
- **Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project.** Seattle has a unique civil rights history that challenges the way we think about race, civil rights, and the Pacific Northwest. <https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/>
- **Project Pilgrimage** builds interracial and intergenerational community by studying and gaining inspiration from transformational movements and individuals, and then taking action. <http://projectpilgrimage.org/>

#### What Can I Do Right Now?

Read *What Does It Mean To Be White -Developing Racial Literacy and White Fragility* by Dr. Robin D'Angelo to **gain a foundation in understanding "whiteness" and the dynamics of racism so you can have constructive conversations and effective actions to address racism.** Follow up with *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. If you want to be in a book group email [Cecily@phinneycenter.org](mailto:Cecily@phinneycenter.org).

**Support candidates** from school board, to city council members to senators that make racial justice a priority. **Speak Up!** Don't let racist words and behaviors go unaddressed. **Visit and support** the Northwest African American Museum. [www.naamnw.org](http://www.naamnw.org)

In the national narrative people of color are most often portrayed in negative stereotypes. **Develop a deeper understanding of the strengths, beauty and creativity of people of color by supporting their art, music, books & films.**

#### Questions, Responses or Stories to share?

Email Sonja Lowe at [sonjal@taproottheatre.org](mailto:sonjal@taproottheatre.org) Or share your story of activism with us by using #TTCresist and tagging @taproottheatre on social media. We'd love to continue this conversation with you!

This CONVERSATIONS event is held in conjunction with Taproot Theatre's production of **We Will Not Be Silent** by David Meyer and in partnership with The Sheri & Les Biller Family Foundation and the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

