

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 26, 2021

***Whiteness Is Not an Ancestor at Town Hall Seattle***

SEATTLE, Washington — On Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 7:30pm PST Town Hall Seattle will present *Whiteness Is Not an Ancestor*. “This conversation offers new possibilities for how all white-identified persons can contribute to de-authorizing whiteness. Not only is this a humanizing path, it’s a necessary one for ensuring our democracy. The coup attempt on our nation’s capitol reveals how blindness to whiteness is a vulnerability for our democracy,” remarks author Lisa Iversen.

About the event:

For over two decades, family constellations facilitator and therapist Lisa Iversen has been working with groups, including descendants of ancestors who have perpetrated harm or been victimized in circumstances of injustice. This work has led to a timely and thoughtful discussion about the intersection of gender and white privilege, a collection of essays that brings together twelve white women who explore the role of whiteness in collective moments of immigration, colonialism, slavery, and war. In *Whiteness Is Not an Ancestor*, these writers from the US, Canada, and the UK disentangle themes of innocence, grief, race, privilege, and belonging in their families and ancestries.

Iversen joins two contributors to the collection—essayists June BlueSpruce and Anne Hayden—in a discussion moderated by Dr. Bonnie Duran, Professor in the UW Schools of Social Work and Public Health. Together, they explore their relationships with whiteness, sharing the genealogical

research, family documents, and deep reflections that informed their contributions to the collection. They invite us to engage with difficult truths of history, including concerns about the fate of democratic nations sourced in whiteness—and to continue the work of dismantling racism and healing collective historic trauma.

**"Well written...poignant and often raw...A timely and thoughtful discussion about the intersection of gender and White privilege."**

**— *Kirkus Reviews***

About the speakers:

**Lisa Iversen** is the director of the Center for Ancestral Blueprints and [CAB Publishing](#). She received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1992 and is the author of the book *Ancestral Blueprints: Revealing Invisible Truths in America's Soul* (2009). Her latest resource for navigating our shared humanity and the American experience is a newsletter on Substack: [whiteness is not an ancestor or citizen](#).

**Anne Hayden** is first and primarily a student of Nature and of the human heart. She has a BA degree in Eco-Psychology from Western Washington University and has taught and mentored students in the Eco-Psych field through Fairhaven College of WWU and Antioch College. As a trained initiation guide, she has guided nature-based, experiential programs for groups and individuals through Northwest Soul Quest for 25 years. Anne has extensive training in Process-Work, Authentic Movement, Systemic Constellations, meditation, deep imagery and other soulcraft practices, and methods of soul-centered dreamwork.

**June BlueSpruce** is a writer, intuitive healer, Systemic Family Constellations facilitator, and activist who lives in Seattle, WA. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Washington and worked for many years in health care delivery and research. Her work has been published in a poetry chapbook, several anthologies and journals, and scientific articles. She writes about dreaming, healing, and social change on her blog at [www.junebluespruce.com/blog](http://www.junebluespruce.com/blog). June's writing draws from personal experience, political awareness, dreams and intuitive insights, connections with nature, and intellectual research. She works with community-based groups on tree protection, climate change, LGBTQIA rights, and social justice.

**Bonnie Duran**, Dr. (PhD), (Opelousas/Coushatta Descendent) is a Professor in the Schools of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Washington, in Seattle. After completing her doctoral degree at the UC Berkeley, she has worked in public health and social care research, education and practice with a focus on Native Americans/Indigenous peoples and other communities of color for over 35 years. For the past 12 years she has worked in close partnership with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and Tribal College faculty, staff and students to conduct Indigenous culture-centered epidemiology and interventions research to enhance college success. This year, Dr Duran was elected Chair of the UW School of Social Work Faculty Council and is also serving as the Co-Chair of the Indigenous Expert Panel of the NIAID Coronavirus Prevention Network. She is also a Buddhist Mindfulness practitioner and teacher at the Insight Meditation Society in Massachusetts, and Spirit Rock Meditation Center in California and is on the SRMC Guiding Teachers Council.

For more info, and to purchase tickets (\$5), go to:

<https://townhallseattle.org/event/lisa-iversen-june-bluespruce-and-anne-hayden-with-dr-bonnie-duran-livestream/>