

Women's International Day Celebrations-
Erasing the silence and the danger of a single story; Women in the aftermath of violence and wars, the multitude and the Kolo of first female/person story.

March 18-22nd, 2010 Novi Travnik, Bosnia

In the spirit of collaboration and the tenth year of the Kolo: Women's Cross Cultural Collaboration sisterhood with Novi Travnik's (Bosnia) Sumejja Kolo women take on Women's International Day as a celebratory event invested with their first person stories to host teachable cross class trauma healing and growth manifested as harmony and peace.

Inspiration for relating economic and gender inequalities specific to South Slavic peoples-females & culture will especially welcome contributions (your presence-bearing witness) from those often excluded from or marginalized. Based and founded on a decade of Danica Borkovich Anderson's Kolo Trauma format/methodologies borne from intensified learning exchange with the Novi Travnik, Bosnia, Kolo Sumejja women, the women focused trauma multi-disciplinary approaches are for various good practices nurture the Feminine Wisdom and raise women's economic, Female Cultural and Symbolic Capital.

Conference Theme-Erasing the silence & the violence of a single story for building Cross Class Collaborations & Coalitions

The 10th Year of the Kolo: Women immersed in Cross Cultural Collaborations with Novi Travnik's Kolo Sumejja women celebration.

International Women Celebrations attend to the continuing dilemmas that have developed the Kolo Trauma methodology such as: 1) a space/place for women (rural, invisible, marginalized or uneducated); 2) oppose the intention of "cognitive capitalism" and; 3) corruption/fraud present in the aftermath of war. Within the Kolo methodology are sustainability approaches to codified tacit wisdom of their native female communities & women's life experiences. Feminist articulation is needed via training, seminars, conferences, rituals and media information to fully view differently, women's labor & volatile capital within their own space & cross-class structures (i.e. rural women). Building coalitions of women's leadership, cross-class, respecting ethnic, religious, or creed, solidarity for human sustainability.

For the past century, wars and violence shaped our female social world. Continued oppressive systemic events justify violent policies, procedures and rule of law that excludes the female gender and minorities. The Rape Camps in the Balkan War (1991-94) followed through threats and disturbing realities using sexual assault, humiliating pervasive psychological debasement with outcomes of colonilization, domination, enslavement and even incarceration issues. War Crimes bled and continues to bleed into contemporary consciousness and into daily life experiences.

The Conference in the spirit of the Kolo Trauma healing methodologies/practices is a means of overcoming the reactionary violence justified by religious dogma and an entitlement to violence with the supposed intent to liberate into peaceful communities. The exceptional approach of Female First Person Stories erases the powerlessness, helplessness and terror transforming into

Female Solidarity Coalitions.

In keeping with the spirit of radical healing and peace activism, the following speakers encourage & employ formats and media that challenge the standard masculine orientated conference presentations. For instance, the Kolo practice has presenters/speakers using formats that allow for greater interaction between participants and audience (e.g. presenting an outline, rather than reading a paper), and that emphasize collective inquiry (e.g. organizing a workshop) and/or through Female First Person Story.

SPEAKERS BIO-KOLO TEACHABLE WISDOM SHARING

Wahu Kaara- Keynote Speaker- Kenya, A parliamentary candidate in Kenya's tumultuous recent elections, a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and a leading advocate for social justice in Kenya and around the world, Ms. Wahu Kaara has been central in the formation of various organizations promoting human rights, good governance, democratization, universal education, and gender equality. She served as a delegate for Kenya's National Constitutional Conference and as a councilmember for the Africa Social Forum and the Africa Women's Economic Policy Network. Ms. Kaara's more recent activities include serving as the Ecumenical Programme Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals at the All-Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi.

Gudrun Frank-Wissmann is a Filmmaker/Designer. Gudrun will be filming the conference in Bosnia. In early nineties Wissmann began to film matriarchal societies. For years she lived with the Cunama/North-East Africa and for months with the Garo/North-East India then to the Pacific Island Palau. Her films are broadcasted in German TV and she is co-founder of MatriaVal e.V.

Malika Grasshoff/Makilm, Dr., is an indigenous historian and gender researcher. Raised in a village in the Kabyle Mountains of Algeria- Berber population, her never before published insights into the rites and myths of the extraordinary life of Kabyle mothers is found in her book: *The Magical Life of Berber Women in Kaylia & Symbols and Magic in the Arts of Kabyle Women* (Peter Lang Publishing, New York, 2007)

Kolo Sumejja, Travnik & Novi Travnik, Bosnia, Bosnian Muslim women war and war crimes survivors – Certified Kolo Lay Therapists after a decade of intensified learning exchange with the Kolo: Women's Cross Cultural Collaboration articulates their first person stories that evoke substantive meanings out of the past events.

Ahmica-Vitez Women War Crimes Survivors, Ahmica, Bosnia, 1st Person Stories, teachable wisdom for participants to bear witness, perform cultural memory and constitute new hybrid forms of peaceful commemorative applications.

SPEAKERS BIO-KOLO TRAINING & WISDOM SHARING

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Genevieve Vaughan- author of the Gift Economy, since 1997 gave recognition that giving is an alternative paradigm to exchange that provides the fullest expression of our humanity/spirituality and our greatest relationships are social and cultural relationships. Vaughn provides essential support for feminists dealing with the political, spiritual, economic and environmental that is overcoming violence, wars and conflict to redraw the world as women have known it into peaceful dimensions.

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CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS- SPEAKERS- KOLO TRAINING & WISDOM SHARING

Danica Anderson, MA, Certified Criminal Justice Specialist #16713, Fellow in the Academy of Trauma Experts, The Kolo: Women's Cross Cultural CEO and founder. A forensic psychotherapist and the only American in the role of gender psycho-social victims' expert with the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Ms. Anderson found herself in Africa wearing a flak jacket in the middle of nowhere surrounded by conflict, disease and death. She has witnessed and has worked with people from her homeland (Bosnia) added to the multiple countries in Africa including Chad, Congo, Sudan and Uganda. It was in Kerala, India, after the Tsunami a year later that revealed more insights from the indomitable women survivors. Then in Sri Lanka where she worked among the displaced, raped and maimed decades long civil war survivors, she asked herself "what do I do with all that has been heard and witnessed."

Danica began to excavate and develop female culture practices that heal and manifest a communal collective from her journeys across the globe. Founded upon the South Slavic Kolo, to be in a circle or to dance the folk dance, the Kolo Sumejja women and Danica developed and apply a Kolo trauma format for women in conflict, wars or aftermath of violence. In essence what can be offered with this presentation is to spark those inexplicable moments where participants are touched by something beyond their normal awareness and glimpse the wider reality. Interweaving interviews with marginalized women, who are invisible in media somehow, capture glimpses of engendered perspectives that are needed in approaching disaster, emergencies and looming health issues. We are constantly facing overwhelming situations in our modern lives! With this presentation we seek 'gnosis' from traumatic events and offer our hearts to those in great need on the violent frontlines of conflict.

Silvana Hoitt, Denver, Colorado: Croatian and Ukrainian, she speaks many languages, works with refugees in Denver, Colorado and has been working with the kolo for the past seven years. As the Kolo: WCCC Events Coordinator, Silvana has worked on many projects and coordinated events in Bosnia (2007) which culminated into her art show in Denver.

Susana Koric, Novi Travnik, Bosnia: For a decade, Susana Koric and her circle/kolo of women-sisters have lived in female solidarity, became certified kolo advisors and healed a century of trauma in their communities. Susana, now, faces diaspora with her son residing in Portland USA. In May 2009, Susana went to Portland, Oregon and presented at a Kolo: Women's Cross Cultural Collaboration fundraiser. Her story is about collectivizing memory where she anchors the past in the present as she recounts her first person story of what she faced in the 1991-1994 former Yugoslavia war. Susana and the Kolo Sumejja women have employed advocacy as they traveled to Belgrade, Republic of Srpska for the Anti-trafficking Vagina Monologue Event, visited with the Srebrenica Widows in Tuzla, and conjoined with the Ahmica Women War Crimes Survivors for the Kolo Trauma Training and sharing.

Sandra Ljubinkovic, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia: Sandra Ljubinkovic's work with Anti-Trafficking in Belgrade had the Novi Travnik, Bosnia Kolo Sumejja at the televised event for Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues. Ljubinkovic facilitated several trainings and interfacing with the Novi Travnik, Bosnian Kolo Sumejja communities while continuing her commitment to the varied facets of her activism work ranging from Anti-trafficking, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender issues to human rights.