

Main speakers & MC:

MC: Ambureen Rana

Ambureen; Ambureen uses they/them, and sometimes she/her pronouns. They are a pakistani american and a muslim. Ambureen is a northern Maine chair of MaineTransNet, the largest volunteer led transgender support organization in the US. They are a community organizer for Maine Equal Justice, helping low income folks acquire what they needs to thrive in this state. They are also a board member of Mabels Wadsworth center, a feminist clinic that provides important services to people of all genders.

Geo Soctomah Neptune

Geo Neptune is a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe from Indian Township, Maine, and is a Master Basketmaker, a Drag Queen, an Activist and an Educator. As a two-spirit (indigenous cultural gender role that is a sacred blend of both male and female), Geo uses they/them gender-neutral pronouns.

Learning primarily under their grandmother Molly Neptune Parker, Geo has been weaving since they were four years old. At eleven years old, Geo began teaching with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, and became the youngest person to receive the title of Master Basketmaker at twenty years old. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 2010, Geo returned home to Indian Township and began developing their individual artistic style of whimsical, elegant, traditionally influenced, and historically informed basketry.

As an Educator, Geo has worked not only within Wabanaki communities towards cultural preservation, but statewide within Maine schools to provide content for the state's Indigenous History educational mandate. Geo's activism has enabled them to travel the world to share about the contemporary issues faced by indigenous peoples, including to Capetown, South Africa and Barcelona, Spain for the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, and to the United Kingdom with PeaceJam: Winchester.

Geo's work narrates the journey toward embracing the sacred role of the two-spirit: a keeper of tradition, a teacher, and a role model for Passamaquoddy and other Wabanaki youth. Geo hopes to inspire other two-spirits from across turtle island to accept their truth and embrace their sacred responsibility.

Maulian Dana

Maulian Dana is the appointed Ambassador for the Penobscot Nation. Her role is to serve as the diplomat and representative for the Nation and to promote the inherent sovereignty of her people in all governmental arenas. She has a 20 year career in activism and advocacy for Indigenous rights in Maine centering on removing harmful stereotypical Indian mascots and the movement to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day to correct the historical narrative and honor the true original people of this land. She earned a Political Science degree from the University of Maine and her best accomplishment in life is being a mother of two daughters Carmella and Layla.

Cynthia Leiffer

Cindy Leiffer has been a nurse practitioner for more than 22 years and has worked in several primary care practices in Maine, including in Dover-Foxcroft, Millinocket, Orono, Rumford, Ellsworth, and Bangor.

Although she is no longer in clinical practice, Cindy continues to write and lecture about LGBTQ health in both professional and community venues around the state and nationally, with the goal of educating providers, staff, administrators, and the public about health care disparities and the importance of creating safe and affirming practice environments. She has become an outspoken advocate for transgender access to care and promotes offering hormone treatment as part of comprehensive primary care for transgender patients.

Cindy has done a wide variety of volunteer and activist work in Boston and Maine over the past 35 years. She is currently an active member of Congregation Beth

El's Social Action Committee, and she is on the Board of Health Equity Alliance and the Steering Committee of Maine TransNet. She is the Volunteer Medical Director for HEAL's new Free Triage Clinic. She was the recipient of the Equality Maine Community Courage Award in December 2017 and she was honored with Bangor Pride awards in 2017 and 2018 for her dedication to the health and wellness of the LGBTQ+ community and her commitment to caring for all people.

Cindy lives in Orrington with her wife, Edie, of 21 years; a golden doodle; and two cats. Edie's three grown children have given them six fantastic grandchildren to visit, play with, spoil---and give back to their parents. She is working on her memoir "The Glass is Half Empty and I'm Drinking the Rest: The Adventures of an Urban Jewish Lesbian Nurse Practitioner in Rural Maine."

Leah Kravitt

Sherri Mitchell,

Sherri was born and raised on the Penobscot Indian reservation (*Penawahpskek*). She speaks and teaches around the world on issues of Indigenous rights, environmental justice, and spiritual change. Her broad base of knowledge allows her to synthesize many subjects into a cohesive whole, weaving together a multitude of complex issues and articulating them in a way that both satisfies the mind and heals the heart.

Sherri received her Juris Doctorate and a certificate in Indigenous People's Law and Policy from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. She is an alumna of the American Indian Ambassador program, and the Udall Native American Congressional Internship program.

Sherri is the Founding Director of the Land Peace Foundation, an organization dedicated to the global protection of Indigenous land and water rights and the preservation of the Indigenous way of life. Prior to forming the Land Peace Foundation, Sherri served as a law clerk to the Solicitor of the United States Department of Interior; as an Associate with Fredericks, Peebles and Morgan Law Firm; as a civil rights educator for the Maine Attorney General's Office, and; as the Staff Attorney for the Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal.

She has been actively involved with Indigenous rights and environmental justice work for more than 25 years. In 2010, she received the Mahoney Dunn

International Human Rights and Humanitarian Award, for research into Human Rights violations against Indigenous Peoples. In 2015, she received the Spirit of Maine Award, for commitment and excellence in the field of International Human Rights. In 2016, Sherri's portrait was added to the esteemed portrait series, *Americans Who Tell the Truth*, by artist Robert Shetterly. And, she is the recipient of the 2017 Hands of Hope Award from the Peace and Justice Center.

Sherri has been deeply committed to cultivating and renewing the traditional and ceremonial practices of her people. She has worked in many capacities over the past 30 years helping to highlight and advance the position of Wabanaki peoples. In addition to helping her own people, Sherri has been a longtime advisor to the American Indian Institute's Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth and was a program coordinator for their Healing the Future Program. She also served as an advisor to the Indigenous Elders and Medicine People's Council of North and South America for the past 20 years. In this role, she has worked with Indigenous spiritual leaders from across the Americas, helping to ensure that their voices are heard within the larger society. This has included bringing their messages to political leaders in the U.S., and Canada and the Indigenous Peoples Forum at the United Nations.

Sherri is the visionary behind "Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island," a global healing ceremony that has brought people together from all corners of the world. The ceremony is designed to heal our relationships with one another as human beings, and then to heal the relationship between human beings and the rest of Creation. It has been attended by people from every continent (except Antarctica), who have come together to pray with one heart and one mind for the healing of all life on Mother Earth.

Sherri is also the cohost of the syndicated radio program Love (and revolution) Radio, which focuses on real-life stories of heart-based activism and revolutionary spiritual change.

Isabella O'Hammon

White, trans, disabled, veteran, neurodivergent, survivor.

Bella Is a trans woman, Using her voice to fight for anyone underprivileged or underrepresented person. She Is an online Streamer, educator, and activist through

her page on twitch. When not streaming she Volunteer's for multiple organizations both locally and nationally. Volunteering on Suicide prevention hotlines, recently finishing training by rape response services. A friend to Racial justice and economic center when they need it. A current member of Maine Transgender Networks Steering committee. She's a disabled combat veteran and an addict in recovery, a conversion therapy survivor, a victim of homelessness as a youth that grew up on the street, a previous sex worker, and neurodivergent. So she focuses her efforts In helping all People affected by our oppressive, racist, ableist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, classist, and all around disgusting late stage capitalist system tries to leave behind. She is regularly a source for one of the national media personalities on " The Young Turks" Which has resulted in her being featured in multiple of their videos on gender and sexuality.

Angela Okafor Esq

Nigerian born Human. Daughter. Sister. Wife. Mother. Neighbor. Friend. Mentor. Award recipient 2018 Empower the Immigrant Women Trailblazer Award.

After series of doors slammed in her face while job hunting, Angela sole founded and runs her own Immigration Law Practice (Okafor Law Practice).

Angela is also the owner of Tropical Tastes and Styles LLC - International Market.

She directs social media services for Family Pharmacy Maine: Eastport Family Pharmacy & Machias Family Pharmacy. Former Board of Director (Maine Multicultural Center). Motivational public Speaker.

Believing every woman can be any and everything that makes her happily herself, Angela Self-trained herself to become a fashion designer, African inspired jewelry maker, African hair braider and wig maker.

Angela is a Community builder, cultural resource/consultant and connector. Arch believer in the multiplying effect of women empowerment. ‘Obsessor’ of good food and fashion. Immigrant

Amy Paine

Amy Paine (she/her/hers) is a member of the OUT Maine general board of directors and sits on the Development Committee. She has extensive nonprofit fundraising experience. Amy enjoys working directly with LGBTQ2S youth and

has chaperoned youth overnights and assisted with transportation to events. She has extensive experience working with at-risk youth. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Maine Orono and is currently a graduate student at the Muskie School of Public Policy. She is focusing her studies on bridging the gap between Indigenous sovereignty and governmental policies. She lives in Orono with her chihuahua, London.

Jean Point

Jean Point du Jour was born in Haiti. He graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in Childhood Development and Family Relations. He is currently a graduate student studying Human Development and his primary focus is on male violence and domestic abuse. He works as an Athletic Academic Counselor and serves as the graduate student coordinator of Male Athletes Against Violence (MAAV)

Danielle Ravyn Vanhelsing

Ravyn is a member of the transgender community of the greater Bangor area and is a strong willed activist for trans rights. She uses she/her pronouns and is the Co-Chair Elect of MaineTransNet where she also runs a multitude of trans and LGBTQ support groups. She is a volunteer at the Maine People's Alliance and Partners for Peace. She has also done work in the past with the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Transgender Lobby, Bangor Racial and Economic Justice Coalition, Rape Response Services, and the University of Maine LGBTQ services/Rainbows for UMA. Among all of that, she also does many individual projects to positively affect the lives of others all across the state of Maine, speaks publicly on trans rights often, and organizes many events in the Bangor area. She stands vigilantly against the control and/or oppression of any group of people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or religion.

Desiree Vargas

Desiree is currently a student at the University of Maine majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Native American studies. Desiree identifies as a cis-Afro-Indigenous-Latina. She is an intersectional activist. Her de-colonized, feminist, and communist views as well as having holistic healing skills under her belt helps her navigate the activist realm uniquely. Desiree is a member of the

NAACP, and the Socialist Party of Maine. She is a program assistant at the Peace and Justice Center. Her skill sets include Sexual assault advocacy, wellness coaching, writing for newsletter and magazines, public speaking, public relations, event organizing, office management and behavior health, child care.. Her certification in Massage and Polarity Therapy has given her the knowledge and skillset to add healing and balance not only to her own life, but to the spaces she occupies for work and writing. She writes for newsletters and does public speaking.

Dina Yacoub

Dina is originally from Syria. She moved to the United States 21 years ago and has been a resident of Bangor for the last 12 years. She received her Master's degree in social work from University of Maine in May, 2018. Dina has a passion for social and economic justice, and, therefore, she has been an active member at Food AND Medicine and sat on the Jobs Team Committee of Faith Linking in Action.

Dina also sits on the board of the Wilson Center through which she has worked with University and community faith groups. She presented on topics related to muslim women, spirituality, and the role of social activism in Islam. She has been working to break the stereotype of Muslim women as oppressed and uneducated through presentations in various venues including classes at UMaine, Husson, and high schools in the surrounding areas.

Out of a strong belief that women deserve to be treated with respect, Dina has been a volunteer with Partners for Peace, a domestic violence organization. She facilitates their support group and co facilitate their Education group as well. She strives to help empower the women she works with by building on their strengths and resilience.

Dina has received two awards in 2018; She received Outstanding Professional Master's Degree Student Award from University of Maine and also received Trailblazer 2018 "Empower the Immigrant Woman Award". Dina is a committed activist and will continue her dedication to expand social and economic justice, and to open dialogue among diverse groups.

Heather L. West

Heather is chair of the Eastern Maine Chapter of the Socialist Party, and is a disabled mom, activist and community volunteer.

Lizzie & Sophia

Lizzie and Sophia are Bangor middle schooler students. They will speak on the fantastic womxn in their lives...teachers.

Bio needed from : **Leah Kravette**

Sponsoring organizations:

Maine TransNet,

Sunlight Media Collective,

Bangor Racial & Economic Justice Coalition,

Health Equity Alliance,

Maine People's Alliance,

Bangor High School Students for Gender Equality,

Socialist Party of Maine,

UMaine Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program,

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England,

Congregation Beth El Social Action Committee,

The Wilson Center,

Resources for Organizing & Social Change,

Reversing Falls Sanctuary,

Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine,

OUT Maine,

Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor Social Justice Committee

Bios of Organizers:

Samantha Le

is a Chinese-Vietnamese American, meaning she was born in Vietnam to Chinese parents, and raised in America. She is a Vietnamese war refugee, aka boat people. She has lived in Los Angeles, New York City, and Baltimore, but she loves living in Maine the most. She is an optometrist, but finds being an activist with the Peace and Justice Center much more rewarding.

Dawn Neptune

Dawn Neptune Adams is a two-spirit member of the Penobscot Nation and stroke of lightning in a global storm of resistance to the status quo. Her activist resume stretches back to 1998 when she began fighting for Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice in Huntington Beach, CA. Dawn has been on the frontlines of movements such as Occupy Wall St., Idle No More, Standing Rock and the struggle to resist territorial theft of Penobscot land and water. She is a narrator and citizen-journalist with Sunlight Media Collective, Wabanaki liaison to the Maine Independent Green Party, and a Racial Justice Consultant to the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine. She is an anti-war activist who is especially well-versed in geopolitical issues.

When not battling plutocrats, polluters, and patriarchy, Dawn spends her time raising a daughter, gardening, writing, and building fine furniture. She dreams of a day when we can all eat the Salmon from the Penobscot River and live together in peace.

Danielle Ravyn VanHelsing- Ravyn is a member of the transgender community of the greater Bangor area and is a strong willed activist for trans rights. She uses she/her pronouns and is the Co-Chair Elect of MaineTransNet where she also runs a multitude of trans and LGBTQ support groups. She is a volunteer at the Maine

People's Alliance and Partners for Peace. She has also done work in the past with the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Transgender Lobby, Bangor Racial and Economic Justice Coalition, Rape Response Services, and the University of Maine LGBTQ services/Rainbows for UMA. Among all of that, she also does many individual projects to positively affect the lives of others all across the state of Maine, speaks publicly on trans rights often, and organizes many events in the Bangor area. She stands vigilantly against the control and/or oppression of any group of people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or religion.

Anne Day is an Advocate and Artist. My best work is entitled ' I Believe Her'. I'm a woman with long term recovery from addiction and an integral part of the 12 step community here in Bangor. I'm passionate about women rights and equality. Cisgender, straight and white.

Desiree Vargas is currently a student at the University of Maine majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Native American studies. Desiree Identifies as a cis-Afro-Indigenous-Latina. She is a intersectional activist. Her de-colonized, feminist, and communist views as well as having holistic healing skills under her belt helps her navigate the activist realm uniquely. Desiree is a member of the NAACP, and the Socialist Party of Maine. She is a program assistant at the Peace and Justice Center. Her skill sets include Sexual assault advocacy, wellness coaching, writing for newsletter and magazines, public speaking, public relations, event organizing, office management and behavior health, child care.. Her certification in Massage and Polarity Therapy has given her the knowledge and skillset to add healing and balance not only to her own life, but to the spaces she occupies for work and writing. She writes for newsletters and does public speaking.

Kimberly Hammill

Kimberly Hammill is a social worker and community organizer in Penobscot County, Maine. Kimberly holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work and works as a mental health counselor. Kimberly is a founding member of Bangor Racial and Economic Justice Coalition (BREJC). BREJC seeks to move white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for social justice and accountability, and has mobilized for a more economically sustainable, racially just, and socially conscious Penobscot Valley community. BREJC formed on 14 August 2014, to join the Ferguson Action Network after the murder of Mike Brown, and focuses on community building, law enforcement accountability, and building a rapid response network. Kimberly serves as a board member for Health Equity Alliance

and Resources for Organizing and Social Change. Kimberly is a voice for progressive good throughout Maine.

Isabella O'Hammon White, trans, disabled, veteran, neurodivergent, survivor.

Bella Is a trans woman, Using her voice to fight for anyone underprivileged or underrepresented person. She Is an online Streamer, educator, and activist through her page on twitch. When not streaming she Volunteer's for multiple organizations both locally and nationally. Volunteering on Suicide prevention hotlines, recently finishing training by rape response services. A friend to Racial justice and economic center when they need it. A current member of Maine Transgender Networks Steering committee. Shes a disabled combat veteran and an addict in recovery, a conversion therapy survivor, a victim of homelessness as a youth that grew up on the street, a previous sex worker, and neurodivergent. So she focuses her efforts In helping all Hiopeople effected by our oppressive, racist, ableist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, classist, and all around disgusting late stage capitalist system tries to leave behind. She is regularly a source for one of the national media personalities on " The Young Turks" Which has resulted in her being featured in multiple of their videos on gender and sexuality.

Karen Marysdaughter

Karen is white, middle class, cis-gender & heterosexual, using the pronouns she, her, hers. She has been a war tax resister (refusing to pay taxes to the federal government because of the percentage that goes to war) since 1983, and a political activist most of her adult life. She currently works part time for the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine as Co-Coordinator. Karen is trying very hard to listen to the voices of politically marginalized people and follow their lead (and open to feedback when she fails).

