

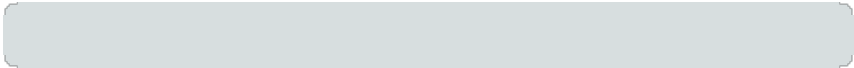


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June 2016



## Common Good News



### Love, learning, and leadership: 11th Annual Legacy Event celebrates Center's 25th anniversary

By Shelly Najjar

The Center for Ethical Leadership helps people recognize “what leadership looks like in various communities,” said Regent Brown at the 11th Annual Legacy Event on May 11. “We all have leadership in us, it’s a matter of being heard and seen and leading with that in our lives.”

The Center celebrated their 25th anniversary with their fundraising event at the Farestart Restaurant in downtown Seattle. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about what has been made possible through their support, and to meet other people working toward individual and social change for the common good.



Many people came forward to share lessons they learned and benefits they experience from being involved in the Center’s programs. Yukimi Mizuno and Regent Brown both spoke about their experiences in the racial healing circles, saying they found safety and acceptance. Regent, who is a member of the Community Peacemaking Council, says the racial healing circle was for her an experience that allowed her to “share, not defend, not explain, and not prove... it allowed my voice not just to be heard, but to be witnessed.”

Yukimi learned individual healing is important to making a difference for social justice. “Everything starts from me,” she shared, “I can’t focus on how to change others, it’s frustrating. In order to change the world, I have to change myself. In order to heal the world, I have to heal myself. In order to love others, I have to love myself.”

Speakers also mentioned the Center’s efforts to encourage collective leadership, as did the [new video about the Center’s work](#), which was shown for the first time that evening. In the video, Serena Burr said, “a leader can be anybody... it’s seeing strength and light in each other. We all have something to teach and to learn.”

### In this edition:

- Executive Director note
- 25th Anniversary - Annual Legacy Event recap
- Interview with CEL Board member, Fleur Larsen
- Upcoming events

### From the Executive Director



During the past couple of months I’ve been experiencing community in a wide range of ways - from local

to global; in times of sorrow and that of joy; with commonality and without. It’s illuminated for me that community shows up differently for each person and fills different needs, but the core is the same: our connection with each other and the difference it makes. Some connections are instantaneous, while some take time to nurture. It often depends on the level of openness, empathy and trust that is present; and the quality and strength of the connectivity is an important measure of a person’s and community’s resilience.

I became acutely aware of this as I journeyed through the cycles of life with my beloved, who recently passed away from glioblastoma multiforme. As his health declined, I experienced a global

Consistent with this, the event involved many people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and generations, all of whom wanted to celebrate and support the work of the Center for the next 25 years and beyond.

*The Center for Ethical Leadership would like to thank all those who attended and helped us raise over \$10,000! Also shout outs to our Board for planning and presenting this event, board president Shamsa Isaak for being the MC, Rochelle House and Andy Coe for sharing their gifts of live music for the event, the donors of the raffle prizes, and all the speakers who shared their stories with courage and honesty.*

## **An Interview with CEL Board Member Fleur Larsen**

Interviewed by Shelly Najjar

*Fleur Larsen is this month's spotlight in our interview series, where each of the board members introduce themselves to you and share some of their experiences.*



### **Thanks for your time, Fleur. Why do you support the Center and how did you come to join the board?**

I love the work that they do. I believe in the mission, and I think that doing healing work in our community and our organization is key for sustainability and capacity building to be done through an equity lens. When I was in high school, I participated in a youth program that the Center put on called Youth Leaders of Promise. It supported me and my leadership development as a young person. Then, I met Waing Waing while I was working at Seattle Girls' School. When she approached me about joining the board, it felt like a really amazing opportunity for things to come full circle, and be a way for me to be able to support an organization and program that was very influential in my life as a young person. Even though that program doesn't happen anymore, I felt excited about the opportunity to be able to support the work that the Center's currently doing.

**What are some of your other projects, interests, and passions?** One thing I'm really invested in is anti-racism and social justice work. Since I've been working in Seattle, I feel so connected to the community, and want to be part of things that are going to further equity in all aspects of Seattle. The big project I'm working on right now is launching my facilitation work and a workshop series that I've developed. The workshop's called "The Privilege to Work for Pennies: How Martyrdom Undermines Equity in the Service Sectors." It focuses on asking the questions of who's doing the work in the non-profit sector, what are the norms, and how are the norms affecting the outcomes? Can there be true equity within a culture of charity and martyrdom? How can we ensure racial and economic justice when the people in leadership don't represent those most affected? It's about sustainability from a foundation of equity and diversity. What leadership advice would you give to others? It's essential for a person to know that they're powerful, and that the impact they can make on the world can be significant. The world is waiting for each person's gifts and talents to be expressed fully. There's logistical things, but that's a fundamental piece of leadership advice. The next question is just for fun:

**What are some of your hobbies?** I really love to go snowboarding. I grew

community of people connecting through the human experience of pain, grief, and loss. He had made a difference in many lives around the world, and now they reach back to connect, show their support, and share their appreciation in this time of mourning. Amid the sorrow, I find myself caring for and admiring people I barely know or never met – as if he had become an epicenter for transcendent love that extends kinship between strangers just by the mere connection of having known and loved him.

I felt transcendent love also present at the Legacy Event in May, where the Center was the epicenter, connecting people through the shared purpose of creating healthy, just and inclusive communities. In contrast, this experience of community was cheerful, localized and celebrated the difference that the Center makes as a force for the common good. Behind that force are the combined gifts and talents of individuals, guided by shared values, and powered by collective leadership to solve critical community issues. The amity at the event reminded me that we need FUN to create social change. Fun helps build Fellowship, which nurtures Unity, which cultivates Networks of support, leadership and resources that help make the social impact we seek.

Whether it is in grief and sorrow or joy and celebration, we benefit from being in community. We may show up in different ways, but it all relates to giving and gaining a sense of belonging that emboldens us. This month, I encourage you to reflect on the different ways in which you experience community. What would it look like to extend that feeling of belonging to someone

up going to Snoqualmie Pass and learning to snowboard there. I also love to garden at my house, and I like going square dancing at the Tractor. I love jumping in cold water when it's hot out, and being outside as much as possible.

**Is there anything else you think the readers of the newsletter should know?** The work that the Center's doing contributes to long term, sector-wide change. They focus on individual stories and healing work, creating healing space, so we can show up more fully and more powerfully as individuals and as a community.

**Thanks for your time and service on the board, Fleur!**

*Readers, if you are committed to the Center's mission and interested in supporting and growing the organization, please email [Steve Stapleton](#) for more information about board membership.*

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## Upcoming Events:

### Double Identity Circles

**July 12, 5:30-8:30pm, July 16 2-5pm, or August 13 2-5pm**

These circle sessions will focus on the topic of "Double Identity" that affects many immigrant and refugees in our community. Each 3-hour session will utilize the Peacemaking Circle process to create a safe and empathetic space for deep listening and story telling. These sessions will be facilitated by our intern, Taishi Ozeki, a student at Fordham University. Participation is free and open to all, but advanced registration is required. [Click to register](#)

### Introductory Peacemaking Circle

**July 22-23, 2016.** Experience the Peacemaking Circle and learn leadership practices that promote healing, as well as individual and community health. We need healthy leaders to create healthy change. Contact [Keiko Ozeki](#) for more information, or [click to register](#)

### Circle Keeper Training - The first step

**August 19-20, 2016** Participants must have attended an Introductory Peacemaking Circle before registering for the Keeper Training.

[Click to register - \\$375](#)

### Save the Date! Gracious Space Mastery class

**September 29-30, 2016**

We could all use more Gracious Space.... so here is a very special opportunity for the right people at the right time... *Are you one of them?* The Center is excited to announce a rigorous **Gracious Space Mastery** class which is designed to prepare and support trainers, managers and directors within organizations to teach and facilitate Gracious Space in-house. Registration information will be available soon. Contact Pat Hughes at 206-595-9582 or [Steve Stapleton](#) at 206-328-3020 for more information.

else? In community,

~*Waing Waing*

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