

Wednesday November 5, 2008

5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Opening Reception

Building Equitable Partnerships Symposium

Join us for an informative and entertaining evening as we kick off the BEP Symposium 2008 with a reception featuring keynote speakers, performers and visual artists.

Keynote Speakers

Pat Capponi

Pat Capponi has carved out a career as an author, journalist, speaker, and social activist. She has written extensively on mental health, addictions and poverty issues, and has worked in a variety of settings, which have helped her to develop her skills as a community worker, an educator, a facilitator, an advocate, a writer and a public speaker. The following is a sampling of some of her accomplishments in these areas.

The Written Word - Books and Publications

Inc., 1993. 199p.

Dispatches from the Poverty Line, Penguin Canada, 1997. 194p.

The War at Home: An Intimate Portrait of Canada's Poor. Penguin Canada, 1999. 255p.

Bound by Duty: Walking the Beat with Canada's Cops. Penguin Canada, 2000. 212p.

Beyond the Crazy House. Penguin Canada 2003, 238p.

Last Stop Sunnyside, HarperCollins, Spring 2006

The Corpse Will Keep, HarperCollins, July 2008

The Spoken Word - Presentations and Workshops

Lecturer: Bonycastle Lecture, University of Winnipeg (2002)

Presenter: Police Leadership Development, Rotman School of Management (2001)

Presenter: Alternatives to the Use of Lethal Force, Urban Alliance on Race Relations and the Queen Street Patients Council, Toronto. (2001)

The Working World

A-Way Express Courier Service: Worked for six years, part-time, for this Toronto based psychiatric survivor run business.

Ontario Advocacy Commission: Served as a Commissioner of this body for a short time before the Harris government disbanded it.

Leadership Facilitation Program: Spent four years working with groups of psychiatric survivors across the province of Ontario, with a home base at Toronto's Gerstein Centre.

Dr. Cornelia Wieman

Cornelia Wieman, MD, FRCPC is Canada's first female Aboriginal psychiatrist (Anishnawbe). From 1997-2005, she worked at Six Nations Mental Health Services, a community mental health clinic based on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is both Co-Director of the Indigenous Health Research Development Program and Assistant Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is a co-investigator on several initiatives funded through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health including the National Network of Aboriginal Mental Health Research (NNAMHR) which she co-directs with Dr. Laurence Kirmayer.

In 2007, she was appointed to CIHR's Governing Council. She was a member of the Advisory Group on Suicide Prevention (2002-2003) that developed a framework document for the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations & Inuit Health Branch to address the issue of First Nations youth suicide. From 2002-2005, she served as Deputy Chair of Health Canada's Research Ethics Board and currently serves as Chair of the Drug Utilization Evaluation Advisory Committee, First Nations & Inuit Health Branch. Since 2005, she has served as Chairperson of the Vision 2020 initiative – an Ontario-wide strategy to train more Aboriginal physicians. In 2005, she also joined the Council for Early Child Development as a Member of its national Board of Directors. In 2006, she was appointed as a Member of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation's Board of Directors.

In 2007, she was appointed to the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Advisory Committee, part of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. She was a 1998 recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, recognizing career achievement in the category of medicine

Performances

Throughout the evening we will be “edutained” by a number of superb artists, including:

ECHO Women's Choir – Members of the 70-strong community choir will uplift us with songs in a variety of languages focused on themes of social justice and equity. Co-directed by: Becca Whitlaw and Alan Gasser. The choir, by singing together, aims to build a strong, varied and vibrant culture and community.

The choir cultivates the beautiful, rich and powerful sound of adult women's voices. ECHO strives to expose audiences to the richest possible repertoire performed with passion and musicianship.

ECHO is dedicated to remaining an accessible community to all people in Toronto by allowing a sliding scale for membership fees and for concert tickets. Along with our semi-annual concerts, we often sing at grass-roots events around the city.

Website: <http://www.echowomenschoir.ca/>

Grupo União na Capoeira – A community group that practices an ancient form of movement that originated in Brazil. The G.U.C.'s mission is to utilize Capoeira to build strong communities, promote unity, fight poverty and marginalization.

Mestre Umoi de Souza has over 30 years of Capoeira experience. He founded Grupo União na Capoeira in 1983 and currently has academies in Brazil, Canada, Norway and Portugal. G.U.C. Canada was formed in January 2006 under the leadership of Professor Kmelo, and is comprised of members varying in age and cultural backgrounds. There are over 500 G.U.C. members worldwide.

G.U.C. has a history of successful social work in inner-city Brazil and Portugal. For the last 24 years, G.U.C. has undertaken collaborative initiatives with governments and non-profit organizations aimed at empowering underprivileged youth-at-risk areas and young offenders.

The resulting programs utilized Capoeira training as a means of developing leadership and teamwork skills, as well as social tools that promote discipline, positive living and healthy self-confidence.

G.U.C. continues to offer Capoeira as a positive alternative to violence, anti-social behaviour, addiction and crime. Professor Kmelo runs an after-school program at Ryerson Community School in downtown Toronto. He has also conducted a youth Capoeira camp in the Etobicoke-Lakeshore area and offered Capoeira classes at Scaddingcourt Community Centre in Toronto. He also teaches Capoeira in Kensington Market.

Website: <http://www.gucanada.com/index.php?p=main&s=Home>

Jerome Morgan is a spoken word artist/poet living in Toronto. He has worked within many underserved communities within the city, exploring personal identity and social issues through different forms of art. He is currently working on a book called "A chance to be heard and he plans on doing this through his poetry, literature and storytelling. He has aspirations of traveling to Ghana in 2009 and back to Brazil and Jamaica to work with young people, using photography and storytelling to keep their stories alive.

Visual Artists from Inspirations Studio

A, B and C are visual artists who are part of Inspirations Studio, a project of Sistering - A Woman's Place. Inspirations Studio is a microbusiness incubator for women living with low income to learn art and business skills to develop small businesses.

Sistering is a community-based agency that has struggled with the reality of women's homelessness, poverty and marginalization for over 20 years. Our programs, services and advocacy work in concert to provide women with as much support as possible while they take greater control over their own lives.

The reality is that our programs are no substitute for plentiful, affordable housing and a real commitment from government, in all its forms, to eradicate the root causes of homelessness.

However, our programs are particularly successful in reaching the women who need our services the most.

http://www.inspirationsstudio.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1172&Itemid=93#2

Visual Artists from CAMH

Coming soon.

Distinguished Hosts for the Evening:

Dr. Alan Li, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

Susan Pigott, VP, Communications and Community Engagement, CAMH

Angela Robertson, Executive Director, Sistering

Special Guests...

Raymond Chung, Executive Director, Hong Fook Mental Health Association