

# ninety-nine girlfriends

COLLECTIVE GIVING FOR IMPACT: PORTLAND & SW WASHINGTON

## CONVERSATION CIRCLES 2021 OVERVIEW AND FACILITATOR BIOS

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### WHAT ARE CONVERSATION CIRCLES?

Ninety-nine girlfriends provides various member education experiences about community, philanthropy and social change. Programs invite members to connect with one another and learn together about current trends. In 2021 we are organizing small “study groups” to dive deeper into one of the 4 topics that were prioritized in our 2020 Annual Member Survey. These topics will be discussed using a racial equity lens across all topics because of member interest in learning more about how people of color have been disproportionately affected by social issues. We’ve recruited and trained members to lead these discussion series. Each one will be organized across three sessions and provide opportunities for members to together explore a community issue in depth. We invite you to bring your own experiences and curiosity to these discussions.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN A CONVERSATION CIRCLE?

Each Circle Series meets weekly for 3 one-hour virtual sessions. Facilitators invite Circle members to explore a set of questions. The Discussion Guides and resources offer a starting point for discussions; each group may choose how they want to focus their conversations. Participants are encouraged to journal about their experiences in the sessions. Each Circle is invited to create an additional activity beyond the three sessions. This might be a group volunteer experience or additional conversation that emerged from the initial sessions, such as collectively reading a book or an article, seeing a film, listening to a podcast or inviting guest speakers to talk about the topic.

### WHAT ARE THE TOPICS FOR EACH CONVERSATION CIRCLE?

- **Homelessness:** Homelessness and houselessness continue to plague our community. What’s happening now with the new bonds? How can we move forward?
- **Impact/Sustainable Investing:** Can your investments aligned with your values, issues and causes and also get competitive returns? Learn about trends and options in impact investing.
- **Strategies for Social Change:** What strategies advance social change? How can social change strategies dismantle structural racism? How do each of us advance social change?
- **Women & Power:** Where do we get our power? Who are powerful women in our midst doing good in our world? How can we use our power for good, especially with regard to racial equity?

## WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE?

Topic	Facilitators	Series Dates & Times
Homelessness	Leslie Westphal Susan Rinker	May 11, 18, and 25 Tuesdays @ 6-7:30
Impact Investing	Jayni Kosoff Sarah Cleveland	May 16, 23, and June 6 Sundays @ 2pm-3:30pm
Social Change Strategies	Deborah Edward Michelle Duran	May 10, 17, and 24 Mondays @ 12pm-1:30pm
Women & Power	Holly Vaughn Edmonds Anina Estrem	May 11, 18, and 25 Tuesdays @ 6pm-7:30pm

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

Register [here!](#)

We invite you to review the Discussion Guides on the [website](#) Facilitator Bios, and Schedules. If you have questions, please contact Jayni Kosoff ([jayni.kosoff@gmail.com](mailto:jayni.kosoff@gmail.com)).

*Materials and resources for each series will be provided after you register.*

## CONVERSATION CIRCLES 2021 - MEET OUR FACILITATORS

### Topic: Homelessness



#### **Leslie Westphal**

Leslie Westphal retired after a 35 year career as an attorney for the local, state and federal governments, the last 25 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Portland recovering criminal proceeds to return to victims and government agencies. I have two daughters, am an avid gardener, involved in community organizations, and make the most of the Pacific Northwest bounties, hiking, biking, boating, birding.



#### **Susan Rinker**

Susan Rinker lived and worked overseas for 35 years as a HS English teacher and K-12 Curriculum Coordinator at international schools in Lebanon, Singapore, Taiwan, Philippines, Venezuela, Hong Kong, and London. As a writing consultant, she trained many international teachers at a Writing in Thailand and other countries. Susan returned to her home in Portland, to work at Education Northwest. Her avocation has been singing, as a soloist and choir member in all her global and US homes.

### Topic: Impact Investing



#### **Jayni Kosoff**

Jayni Kosoff worked in the fixed income markets as a Managing Director at Citi and at London Stock Exchange. Her work with institutional clients was on alternative beta and thematic ESG indexes, and analytics to create ETF and Mutual Fund products. She's advocated for gender equality throughout her career. She served as VP on the board of Women in ETFs non-profit, co-chaired the Global Events & Education Committee and contributed as a member of the Speakers Bureau. She and her husband moved from New York and San Francisco to live in Portland, where they enjoy the arts & photography, culture, cooking, nature, and traveling the world.



### **Sarah Cleveland**

Sarah Cleveland, Founder & CEO, Cleveland Consulting, a resource for institutional investors that have made a commitment to impact investing. She collaborates extensively with Steve Godeke (Godeke Consulting) to facilitate impact investment advisor searches for family foundations that want to align their investments, mission and values. Previously, she advised institutional investors on investment strategy, implementation and ongoing monitoring before starting her own firm in 2011. Sarah has been involved in economic research and financial services for over 30 years and active in impact investing since 2003.

## **Topic: Social Change Strategies**



### **Deborah Edward**

Deborah Edward worked in the nonprofit sector for decades - as executive director, researcher, consultant and professor with museums, arts & culture, immigration rights, healthcare and nonprofit management. She's a founding member of ninety-nine girlfriends. Born in NY, she's made Portland her home for the past 8 years, inspired by the can-do progressive attitudes and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest.



### **Michelle Duran**

Michelle Duran and her husband have lived in Portland since the early 90s. They have 2 sons and a bird dog. She's been part of the volunteer work force for more than 20 years! Her current direct service volunteering includes teaching financial literacy to youth and adults through Financial Beginnings - Oregon, mentoring high school students with their post-grad plans through Oregon's ASPIRE program, advocating for kids in foster care through Washington County CASA. Additionally, she gets involved with political activism as causes inspire her.

## **Topic: Women & Power**

### **Holly Vaughn-Edmonds**

Holly Vaughn-Edmonds is a social worker by training who segued into school counseling. She has worked Vancouver and Portland Public Schools for the last 27 years, primarily in middle and high school. She is currently a high school counselor at Franklin High School interested in the key transition from high school to their next post-secondary chapter — community college, 4 year college, or the workplace, specifically ensuring that our most marginalized students have access to people, resources and

information. When not working, Holly is in a swimming pool, on a hiking path, or in the kitchen creating something yummy.



**Anina Estrem, M.P.P.**

Anina Estrem is an advocate for Food Justice and Access with a decade of experience in anti-hunger advocacy, I currently manage Vancouver's largest food pantry. She is an Oregon native committed to ending hunger by channeling the passion that our region has for good food into awareness and policy changes which ensure everyone has access to healthy, culturally appropriate food.