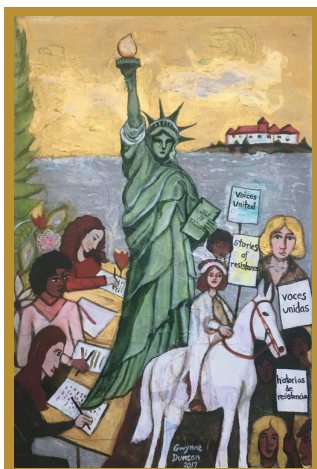


This event is presented by:

Herstory Writers Network, Voices of Wyandanch,
and the Wyandanch Plaza Association



All paintings by Gwynne Duncan

It is our mission to bring unheard voices, both near and far, into the public arena; to transform lived experiences into written memoirs powerful enough to change hearts, minds, and policy.

Through three decades of bringing people into small writing circles and providing the empathy-based tools to break silences together, we join hands to create a powerful grass roots literature that will champion a culture of equity, inclusion and justice. Our facilitated writing workshops help people break their silence, add their voices to the public discourse, and process the experiences that have shaped their lives.

Laugh with us, cry with us, create and resist with us, as the people of Wyandanch and the surrounding communities take us into the moments that have made them into the leaders that they are today. Join a judge who dares himself to do better, and parents and educators who turn adversity into empowerment and grace for the children and world of our collective future. Raise your voices as you listen to the stories to join in the ripple effect we can have when we all come together to imagine the new solutions our stories call forth.

Since 2018, Herstory has been the Long Island representative of a state-wide movement to use literature to examine the cracks in the liberty bell, initiated by the National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy. We thank Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, New York Community Trust, Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund, Valley Mitola Ryan Law Firm, and the Wyandanch Plaza Association for making this year's Freedom Forum possible.



Freedom Forum 2026

THIS IS COMMUNITY: HEALING AS WE GROW

Saturday, October 3rd
Wyandanch Plaza,
Wyandanch, NY
2:00 - 5:00 pm





Program

2:00 - 2:30 pm

Meet and Greet with Herstory board, staff, fellows and partners,
children's activity table, lite bites
Songs by José Corea and others

Welcome by our Cohosts

Herstory and Voices of Wyandanch and Legislator Jason Richberg

"Healing isn't a Destination"

by Renita Grimes Certain

"Pink was Always Mine"

by Betty Amaya

"Retail Therapy"

by Monique DeMory

"Terry"

by Judge Fernando Camacho

Excerpts from

"The Price of Thinking: The Story of an Educator in Times of War"

A Memoir in Progress by José Corea

"The Phone that Never Rang"

by Safaa Ata

"Día Martes / A Tuesday"

by Yolanda Gress

JOIN US FOR A GROUP MEDITATION AND CALL TO ACTION

If our words had the power, what would we want to see?

Led by Erika Duncan, Herstory's Founder,

Monique DeMory of Voices of Wyandanch, Judge Fernando Camacho,
and Alyssa Harrilal, Herstory's Jacob Volkman Human Rights Fellow

Sponsored by:



VALLELY
MITOLA
RYAN



Council on
the Arts



The New York
Community Trust

THIS IS COMMUNITY: HEALING AS WE GROW

What does it mean to have courage in community? To no longer hide our secrets and our scars?

To harness the power of reshaping and sharing our stories to create a communal holding space for the missteps that have harmed us and caused us to harm.

To listen to our collective power in overcoming our grief for what can never be rewritten and our collective power to rise out of the cruelty too many of us have known firsthand, to reclaim what is good in being human.

Forever and forever reshaping our stories and our words, as we open our hearts to this journey where our lives and communities are inextricably entwined, in all of our terror and wonder, and all of the possibilities that yet lie ahead.

Para la traducción al español,
escanee aquí:



www.herstorywriters.org



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