

Power over Patriarchy Circle (POP)

Description

We learn patriarchy—the system of men holding power—before we learn ourselves. How does it enable our wealth but disable our own power? What does it take to account for its role in our lives, to shift our internalized norms, and identify new trajectories for our giving? Women are socially discouraged to talk about their relationship with money. In the tradition of feminist consciousness-raising circles, we will share personal stories to talk, for example, about knowledge about and control over money; “earning,” inheriting, and giving it away; and paid and unpaid labor in the home. As we contemplate how to shift philanthropy, we acknowledge that white, wealthy women have disproportionately benefited from their adjacency to patriarchal power. How can this toxic allyship be transformed?

Goals

To explore what patriarchy is and how it interacts with other systems such as racial capitalism

To look at histories of women challenging patriarchy

To share our experiences around money and family and build supportive relationships with each other

To think about what it means to control money and how we might use it differently

This circle is for you if:

- You want to conquer patriarchy and kick its ass
- You have conquered patriarchy and want to share your victories
- You want to discuss toxic gender roles in a spirited and supportive atmosphere
- You want to identify alternatives to patriarchal values and move forward on realigning your giving

Criteria:

Anyone who identifies as a woman or nonbinary

Willing to honestly examine the personal, interpersonal, and political aspects of patriarchy.

Attendance to all sessions encouraged. We are using a cohort model and want to build consistency with each other.

Timeline

The circle will meet monthly, six times for two hours each time, beginning in January 2023. We have provisionally chosen the second Friday of every month from 12 PT/3ET to 2 PT/5 ET, except the first meeting which will be Thursday, January 12, at the same time. Meeting dates are Jan 12 (Thursday), Feb 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9.

Bios:



Alethia Jones (she/her) is a social justice educator/facilitator with a background in urban politics, Black feminism, labor union organizing, and immigration. A working class immigrant originally from Kingston, Jamaica, she has navigated US Ivy League institutions from high school to PhD and has taught at public universities. Formerly a university professor and labor union educator and strategist, she recently served as global director of Open Society Foundation's Fellowship Program and joined Solidaire as an institutional member. She is a longstanding participant in support group circles through the Black Women's Health Project/Be Present. She is a dancer and a liberation coach. She is based in Brooklyn, New York.

Rachel Sherman (she/her/hers) is a sociologist who teaches and conducts research on social class, gender, culture, and labor. An inheritor of wealth from her father's family, she has begun to participate more actively in the last few years in wealthy progressive spaces such as Solidaire, as well as doing research on "class traitors" (but not in this circle!). She's especially excited about how conversation about people's own experience forms a strong base for social change. She grew up in Philadelphia but has lived in Brooklyn since 2005, after stints in Northern California, New England, and Santiago, Chile.

