

BI-COUNTY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE COMMUNITY MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021 3:00-5:30PM



Our Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference is for and by people who experience emotional distress, voices and visions, altered and extreme states of consciousness, labels of psychiatry, substance use, and trauma/trauma responses.

Thanks to community feedback, our steering committee is offering community meetings on the first Thursday of every month from 3:30-5:00pm (*NOTE: the time for April's meeting is 3:00-5:30 pm, which differs from that of our normal programming)

Join us for the opportunity to influence themes and workshops of future conferences, and continue connection, education, advocacy, and support.

Join us for a full screening of: "Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution"

We hope you will join us for a screening of Lucy Winer's powerful documentary, "Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution" followed by a discussion about the film with Lucy and members of the Bi-County Empowerment Conference Steering Committee.

Please take note that our meeting this month will be longer than our usual community meetings to allow time and space to discuss and experience this extraordinary film.

Join us on our Zoom platform by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93732941287?pwd=clhmeVY3ck9kSGtwWS90WXB0ZWdrdz09>

Passcode: 035115

Or join us by phone by dialing:

1 929 205 6099 (New York)

Meeting ID: 937 3294 1287

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aelMZF8C>

For more information, please contact Danielle LoBue on the Conference Planning Committee at:
dlobue@hali88.org 631-234-1925 ext. 314

This meeting is part of a series. Our last community meeting featured a discussion with Darby Penney and Lucy Winer, in which we explored, "what's changed, what's the same, and where do we go from here?" in the psychiatric system. We will continue the conversation this month with a screening of Lucy Winer's Documentary, as well as another workshop in May where we will explore ways to connect with our community, and raise awareness about the isolation we experience in the system.



Lucy Winer

An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Lucy Winer has devoted her career to social issues that get little attention from mainstream media. At the start of her career in the early and mid-1980's, Winer's documentaries, Greetings from Washington DC, about the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and Silent Pioneers, about LGBTQ elders, were among the first queer movies to be broadcast nationally on PBS, showcased at film festivals worldwide, and distributed to colleges and universities. Later films like Golden Threads and Rate It X dealt with issues of sexism, sexuality, aging, and AIDS with rave reviews from the New York Times, the Village voice, the LA Times the Wall Street Journal, among others. Winer is the first to admit that she was acting on impulse when she began her recent documentary, Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution. She made the decision to turn the camera on herself, she says, in order to support herself at a time when she felt personally undermined and in jeopardy. Looking back, she often says that she never could have predicted the amazing gifts that came with the making of Kings Park, including the opportunity to speak with diverse audiences across the country including peers, community providers, families, hospitals and clinics, schools of medicine, nursing, social work and law, public health programs, law-enforcement programs, jails and prisons.



Kings Park: Stories of an American Mental Institution tells the riveting story of a single abandoned institution, Kings Park State Hospital, on Long Island, New York. The journey back begins with filmmaker Lucy Winer's decision to revisit the state hospital where she was committed as a teenager in the late 1960's. To this end Lucy seeks out other former patients, their families, and hospital staff, who share firsthand accounts of life at Kings Park from its early years to its close in 1996.

The film ends with a vision of today. Accounts are shared of the well-meant, but brutally executed "emptying out" of the hospital, followed by scenes that capture some of the successes of community mental health care as well as our growing reliance on the penal system since the hospital's close. In this way, **Kings Park** brings to light our nation's current crisis in mental health care and helps us to understand how we got here. A vivid picture of a vanishing history and a hidden world, **Kings Park** bears witness to the many changes in treatment, policy and attitudes over the past century and reveals the painful legacy of these soon to be forgotten asylums.

View the website and trailer: <http://kingsparkmovie.com>

Some comments from People in the Field:

"Kings Park is a brave, compelling look at the life of a state mental hospital and those whose lives it has touched. Lucy Winer has thought long and hard about the subject, and brings to her film an admirable balance and depth, combined with sensitivity and even some humor. A brilliant exploration of a difficult and complex issue."

Oliver Sacks, MD

"A tour de force. I have not seen anything as well made, as sensitive, nor as thoughtful. It is beautiful cinematically and in terms of its emotional tone...a real masterpiece of personal storytelling and documentary filmmaking."

Howard Goldman, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry

University of Maryland School of Medicine

"Rarely are we able to change attitudes through education; I believe this video has the potential to do so... I cannot recall ever using an educational video that holds student interest like this documentary does. Discussion is usually profound. The video also promotes questions of: what is the status of mental health care in the United States currently, where is it going, how can nurses positively impact? These are important questions in light of the present angst regarding healthcare today."

Susan D. Bassett, RN, MS, CNE

South Dakota State University

College of Nursing