

## Creative Age: Imagination, Insight, Wisdom

March 10-14, 2019

Join us for Saint John's On The Lake annual Spirituality and Aging Symposium. Each day will feature experts in the field of creativity and aging, theater and music performances, and opportunities to participate in spiritual and creative practices.

### Featured Speakers

#### Howard R. Moody

*Vice President and Director of Academic Affairs AARP, Washington, D.C. Retired Executive Director Brookdale Center on Aging, Hunter College*

Moody is the author of over 100 scholarly articles and a number of books. His most recent book, *The Five Stages of the Soul*, has been translated into seven languages worldwide. He is the editor of newsletter, "Human Values in Aging," reaching 10,000 subscribers each month. In 2011 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society on Aging; in 2010, the Robert Kahn Award for Successful Aging, from *Masterpiece Living* and in 2008 he was named by *Utne Reader Magazine* as one of 50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World. He is a bioethicist and author of *Ethics in an Aging Society* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), the first book on biomedical ethics and aging. For eight years he served as Editor of "The Soul of Bioethics" newsletter, published by the Healthcare Chaplaincy. A professional speaker for many years, Moody was one of the founders of NextAge Speakers Bureau, the world's first speaking agency devoted exclusively to issues of aging.

#### Stuart Kandell, Ph.D.

*National Center Creative Aging (NCAA), Washington, DC*

Stuart Kandell has been called a "pioneer in the field of creative aging" and is nationally known for leadership of Stagebridge, the nation's premiere performing arts company of older adults which he founded in 1978 in Oakland, CA, and ran until 2013. Kandell studied theatre at Northwestern University, earned a Master's in Drama at University of Newcastle, England. In 1996, he was the first American to receive a doctorate in Intergenerational Studies from Union Institute. He was appointed a Research Associate in the Department of Medical Humanities at the University of California, Berkeley in 2015. Kandell and his work have been featured on CNN, World Monitor TV, PBS, and in many national publications and magazines. For over twenty years Kandell has been a featured speaker and workshop leader at conferences around the globe and most recently the keynote speaker for Senior Theatre USA.

#### John Leland

*NY Times reporter, author*

John Leland is a Metro reporter for The New York Times. Since 2000, he has covered topics ranging from the poetry of rock lyrics to the housing crisis. Leland began covering retirement and religion in January, 2004. In 2015, when John Leland set out on behalf of The New York Times to meet members of America's fastest-growing age group. He anticipated learning of challenges, of loneliness, and of the deterioration of body, mind, and quality of life. But the elders he met took him in an entirely different direction. Despite disparate backgrounds and circumstances, they each lived with a surprising lightness and contentment. The reality Leland encountered upended contemporary notions of aging, revealing the late stages of life as unexpectedly rich and the elderly as incomparably wise. *Happiness is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old* (2018) is Leland's reflection on how to "live better"—informed by those who have mastered the art.

## **William T. Randall, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Gerontology, St. Thomas University, New Brunswick, Canada*

Bill Randall graduated Harvard University, Cambridge University, and Princeton Theological Seminary. His first career was as a minister. Following doctoral studies, he was invited to St Thomas University to be the first Visiting Chair in Gerontology. He teaches courses on: Adult Development and Aging; Aging and Health; Narrative Gerontology; Counseling Older Adults; Older Adults as Learners; and Humor, Play and Creativity in Later Life. Randall is committed to furthering awareness of the importance of "narrative care" in a wide range of settings, from hospice to hospital, special care home to nursing home, and churches to communities. Randall has over 60 publications to his credit on topics related to narrative, reminiscence, and aging. He has written articles for journals in the fields of gerontology, social work, education, healthcare, and psychology. Including: *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Aging Studies*, *Theory and Psychology*, *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *Journal of General Education*, *Critical Social Work*, *Rural Social Work*, and *Narrative Inquiry*.

He is author, co-author, or co-editor of seven books.

- The Stories We Are: An Essay on Self-Creation* (University of Toronto Press, 1995/2014)
- Restoring Our Lives: Personal Growth Through Autobiographical Reflection* (Praeger, 1997)
- Ordinary Wisdom: Biographical Aging and the Journey of Life* (Praeger, 2001)
- Reading Our Lives: The Poetics of Growing Old* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Storying Later Life: Issues, Investigations & Interventions in Narrative Gerontology* (Oxford University Press, 2011)
- The Tales that Bind: A Narrative Model of Living & Helping in Rural Communities* (University of Toronto Press, 2015)
- The Narrative Complexity of Ordinary Life: Tales from the Coffee Shop* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

## **Barbara Ann Holmes, Ph.D.**

*President, United Theological School, St. Paul, MN, Author: Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church; Liberation and the Cosmos: Conversations with the Elders*

Dr. Holmes is a scholar and an author of books about the intersection of ethics, spirituality, mysticism, cosmology and African American religious culture.

She is the President-emerita of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and formerly professor of ethics and African American religious studies and VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of Memphis Theological Seminary. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Ethics) from Vanderbilt. She earned a law degree from Walter F. George School of Law, at Mercer University and practiced law in Miami, Atlanta, Macon and Dallas, where she specialized in civil litigation, corporate, and appellate practice.

## **John C. Robinson, Ph.D.**

*Psychologist, Seattle, WA*

Dr. Robinson is a clinical psychologist with a second doctorate in ministry, an ordained interfaith minister, the author of nine books and numerous articles on the psychology, spirituality and mysticism of the New Aging, and a frequent speaker at Conscious Aging Conferences across the country. His major works include *Death of the Hero*, *Birth of the Soul*; *But Where Is God: Psychotherapy and the Religious Search*; *Ordinary Enlightenment*; *The Three Secrets of Aging*; *Bedtime Stories for Elders*; *What Aging Men Want: Homer's Odyssey as a Parable of Male Aging*; his first novel, *Breakthrough*; and *The Divine Human: Final Transformation of Sacred Aging*.

## **Thomas Moore, Ph.D.**

*Author: Care of the Soul, Ageless Soul*

Dr. Moore is a pioneer explorer of the sacred art of soulful living, a lecturer and prolific writer on care of the soul, including the New York Times bestseller *Care of the Soul: Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness om Everyday Life* (1992), *Soul Mates: Honoring the Mystery of Love and Relationship* (1994), and *Ageless Soul: The Lifelong Journey toward Meaning and Joy* (2017). Moore is the author of an extended series of bestselling books on the sacred art of soulful living where he explores the modern-day dilemma of many who are either bewildered by the array of spiritual choices, or dulled by the materialism of Western culture. Drawing from the well of his own inner sources, he offers a new vision of how seekers can fashion their own connection to the sacred out of the materials of ancient faiths and everyday life.

## **Nina Kraus, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Neurobiology, Otolaryngology, Hugh Knowles Chair, Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL*

Dr. Kraus is a scientist, inventor, and amateur musician who studies the biology of auditory learning. She began her career measuring responses from single auditory neurons and was one of the first to show that the adult nervous system has the potential for reorganization following learning; these insights in basic biology galvanized her to investigate auditory learning in humans. Kraus studies the auditory learning and speech and music perception, with the goal to improve human communication in society. Through a series of innovative studies involving thousands of research participants from birth to age 90, her research has found that our lives in sound, for better (musicians, bilinguals) or worse (language disorders, concussion, aging, hearing loss), shape auditory processing.

## **Joy Harjo, M.F.A**

Harjo is a poet, musician, and author. She is an important figure in the second wave of the literary Native American Renaissance of the late 20th century. She studied at the Institute of American Indian Arts, completed her undergraduate degree at University of New Mexico in 1976, and earned an M.F.A. at the University of Iowa in its Creative Writing Program. Harjo draws on Native American storytelling and histories, as well as feminist and social justice poetic traditions, and frequently incorporates indigenous myths, symbols, and values into her writing. Harjo uses the oral tradition as a mechanism for portraying these issues and uses symbolism throughout her poetry draws from personal experiences to shape her writing.

## **Rabbi Michael Lerner**

Rabbi Lerner is a leading author, a public intellectual, and a spiritual leader. He earned a Ph.D. in philosophy and clinical/social psychology. He was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr./Mahatma Gandhi Prize for Peacemaking. Lerner's book, *Spirit Matters: Global Healing and the Wisdom of the Soul*, was described as visionary, prophetic, "a miracle," and as the single best introduction to spiritual thinking. Ken Wilber of the Integral Institute said "Spirit Matters is a profound and compelling look at the presence, or more disturbing, the absence, of spirituality in our world. Read it for your own soul, and for the soul of the world as well."