
U.S. Women's Grassroots Congress

women's values must be the foundation for our world!

So Say the Women!



The Congress's Call and Emergence

It was in September 2011 that I first heard the voice of Mother Earth calling for a Women's Congress. The political scene was in full swing with promises and blame aplenty.

My teachers, The Ancient Ones and Mother Earth had told me years ago that it was the Mission of those souls in Female body suits to design the world. "The females are the intended leaders", I was told and I had seen miracles happen as women I worked with embrace that concept.

And the question that I was asked in the deep of one September night in 2011 was, "Who, of all of the candidates, is going to call the women together and ask what they want for their world and for those they love?"

My answer was, "Probably no one."

"Exactly," came the answer. "And so, you do it!"

Me?

And that is how it began.

The monthly planning meetings were very unusual also. I was used to working in a large group, often by way of conference calls. We would each have our assignment, we'd check in monthly at first and then weekly as the event drew closer. Each month we would report our progress, share new ideas, get our next assignments and then off to do our work.

Well!

That model would not work. I mean it. We tried and the energy just fell apart. And so we settled on trusting that The U.S. Women's Grassroots Congress was already an intelligent form that would be directing us. So each month we showed up on our call, set a Sacred Space with intention and then asked, "What am I to do this month?" With that question, we would each listen for the next 5-10 minutes and get our 'assignment' from the Intelligence of the Congress.

I Kid You Not! Amazing!

The Grassroots Congress in 2012

On March 24, 2012, thirty women gathered in Seattle, Washington and many others meet via Facebook, conference calls and LiveStreaming to discuss the values they felt necessary for their world. They recognized each other as amazing individuals representing many projects and organizations focused on Good for various aspects of life. We recognized that even with all that was being done, we were still working within a social environment, cultures, created from a Patriarchal/Domination agenda. And that agenda was having disastrous results in our homes and country.

Now known as The Founding Mothers, these women made a solid Declaration of Values to underpin and foundation the Shift so many are working for and creating.

And it wasn't easy!

The stage was set with the call to work from their hearts, their belly wisdom rather than from the places their personal path had taken them. In the palm of our hands we are common, together, united with what we want for those we love.

At the tips of our fingers, where our personal issues and dogmas have taken us, we see ourselves as separate.

We wanted to come from the "palm."

Using many collaborative processes, the women worked in small groups, the only question, "What values do you want for your world?"

Piece of Cake?

No! These women worked with deep commitment and intensity. They were serious about their task and by the end of day on Saturday, They had written enough values to fill 9 large papers that were hung around the rooms.

And then came Sunday morning..



Sunday, March 25, 2012

The walls were covered the 9 papers as the women into the room Sunday morning. 9 papers which meant a very, very, very long list of values.

As facilitator, I had the women go back into their original circles with a paper of values that was from another group. I postulated that there may be the same value written in different ways. So, instead of 12 listings of Love in some form, one listing of Love could represent all of them.

Well, that was my idea.

So, the women gathered, took the sheets and went about the task. An hour later, we have 4 sheets. **More manageable, right?**

I has set up the Congress after the principles of collaboration, not a democratic process. The majority for voting to accept these values as a representation of the Grassroots Women as not to be the majority, but consensus. Consensus meant that the women would be 95% in agreement or the values would not be accepted as representing women.

We used the Occupy General Assembly process, hand signal involvement, everyone speaking who wanted to, listen respectfully, etc.

So, a proposal came to the group. "We accept the condensed version of the values as those we agree represent women's voices."

It was proposed and I repeated it.

Total silence!

I mean TOTAL!

As the facilitator, I held space. I was not there to promote or to offer solutions or to gain acceptance. Just to hold space to let the voices emerge from the women.

And when it emerged, I was surprised.

A wonderful red-headed woman was the first in to ask to speak.

She stood in front of the group and with anger in her voice said, **"I have worked very hard, listened and pondered to find what I wanted to say. And now, I don't see my voice in this list!"**

Everyone was quiet and silent.

Then another woman with African American heritage stood and came to the qu. She was angry also.

“This is what happens every time I show up as a minority in a group of women. My voice is ignored!”

And she sat down. The silence continued.

Then a woman from a corporate background came to the front. She wasn't anger as much as she was surprised.

“You know, this is what happens to me at my job. In board meetings I am asked for my opinion or my ideas. And then, they are totally ignored or passed over.”

And she sat down.

So, with no-one else wanting to speak, I went to the front.

“It looks like we are seeing and experiencing that women's voices are discounted in many ways. This is a common situation and one that is not going to happen here.

“Clearly the condensed version is not acceptable. We will dismiss the proposal and go to the original 9 pages.”

With that, it was time for an early lunch break and the idea that emerged from the women was that they gather in three groups and over lunch work with the values.

So exciting to see!

And what happened after the lunch break was quietly earth shaking and ground breaking. I don't know if the rest of the women really grasped what they were accomplishing, what they were setting and the power it would yield in the coming years.

They came back with three declarations and without having planned for this outcome, they had framed a Declaration, a Vision and a Mission statement.

Then they accepted the entire 9 page list of values with a 99% consensus!

The U. S. Grassroots Women had spoken!

The Foundation for Present and Future Generations

Women's Grassroots Congress Declaration

The Living Declaration of the United States Women's Grassroots Congress

We, the women of the United States Women's Grassroots Congress, commit to the values described herein as the firm foundation from which our country evolves, now and for all future generations.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the United States Women's Grassroots Congress is to hear women's voices and to integrate their values into caring social, economic, political, educational, environment, cultural, and spiritual domains for the health and well-being of all.

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Women's Grassroots Congress:

In envisioning a world where the diversity and sacredness of all life is honored and respected, we commit to support and act on those principles based on fundamental human values that women hold sacred

After the Civil War, women came together, devastated at the carnage and the loss of husbands, fathers, and sons. In their behalf, Julia Ward Howe, a Christian Unitarian, wrote a proclamation:

“Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

“Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

“We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.

“From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

“Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

“Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God/(Good)*.

“In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be



appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

Julia Ward Howe

Boston

1870

*added by Sharon Riegie Maynard

I did not grow up in a culture that promoted Julia Ward Howe's view of women. In fact, in my community, it was men who were made in the image of and spoke for god. But, girls and women were so valuable that they were kept silent and "cared for". Now, that may have been critical for safety in ancient village times.

But, the impact within my mother's circle of friends was that many did not learn to drive, to write a check, to question ideas. They were not encouraged to participate in matters of importance, to be in councils as decisions makers. They spoke of babies, diapers, recipes, and their husband's dreams.

Not only Julia Ward Howe had called for taking a stand but Francis David, Unitarian forebear, preacher and theologian, wrote well over 400 years ago,

“We will not cry over the century’s misery... So great is the power of the soul that it will triumph, even if the whole world is in rage or opposed to it.”

Synergy creates a web of energy that holds us all together. A web flows unseen vibrational qualities, creates a movement that feeds, informs and changes us all.

As we emerge consciously connected with our passions and contributions, the whole is enhanced. Each drop, i.e. event, project, conversation, conference, hug, or smile causes the entire web to quiver with new vibrancy.

“...I strongly believe that with ingenuity, almost any personal passion can be transformed into a vehicle for making the world a better place.”

Muhammad Yunus from Building Social Business

In envisioning a world where the diversity and sacredness of all life is honored and respected, we commit to support and act on those principles based on fundamental human values that women hold sacred.

We recognize that women, men, young adults and children of Good heart, also hold these values as sacred!

appreciation-of-others-expressed

archetype-of-mother

arts

authenticity-awareness-skills

basic-needs-are-met

beauty

being

being-alive

being-heard

belonging

be-needed

benefits all in the web of life

birth-rebirth

bonding, community

building-wellness

camaraderie-within-diverse-communities

care-for-animals,earth

care-for-creation

care-for-natural-resources

celebration of love

ceremony

cherish

chocolate-and-global -sweetness

clarity

coalesce-in-the-matrix-of-life

collaboration

commonalities



common-humanity
community-focus,support-efforts-of-all
companionship, out-reach-nurturing
compassion
compassionate-listening
competency-based-education
confidence
connection
connection-to-mother-earth
connect-to-earth
consensus
conservation cooperation
conscious decision making
courage, boldness
create-different-perceptions
creative
creative-process
creativity
culture-consciousness
culture
darkness-to-light
deeper-understanding
deletion-of-prescribed-roles
deliberate-decisions-around-consumption
democracy
dignity,diversity
divinity-living



do-more-good
each-being's-sovereignty
each-has-something-to-contribute
ecological-and-fore-thinking
economic-equality
education, self-worth
education-healing-nutrition-
homeopathy
effective-participatory-governance
empathy-compassion
empowerment
encouraging-outdoor-life-and-exercise
enough
equitable-sharing-of-world-resources
equity]every-educational-experience-based-on-needs-wants-of-the-individual
equal partnership
everyone-everything-is-sacred
experiential, mentoring, consequences, cultural-knowing, critical -thinking,
survival-skills, world-skills, self-reliance
faith
focus-on-god
forgiveness
forums-for-ideas-emotions, spiritual, soulful
foundation
freedom
fulfillment-of-human-potential- education-
system
fun, play



generosity

global-harmony

good for children

goodness

gracious

grandmother-mentoring

gratitude

gross-national-happiness

grounded-since-childhood

healing

health, vitality

heart

heart-based-living

hearth

herbal-wisdom

holistic-education

holistic-health

home

honesty, directness

honor of sacred plants

honoring

honoring-all-emotions

hope

housing

humanness-of-children-and-equality

humility

humor



imagination
impeccability
inclusion
inclusion-of-all-voices
inclusive-accepting
individual-expression
individuation
influence
ingenuity, new-ways-of-thinking
innovation
integrity
interconnected
interconnection
intercourse
interdependence-and-support-for-sufficiency
intergenerational-respect
internal-source-for-knowing-truth-power
joy
joy-of-learning
justice
know
knowing-each-other
knowledge
know-more
land-and-water-rights
language
lasting-and-loving



laugh, rejoice

learning-from-Mother-Earth

leave-a-legacy

lenience

levity,play

life-security

listen

listening

loud

love

manifest

meet-basic-human-needs

me-to-we, ego-eco

midwifery

mirror

modeling-Mother-Earth

momentary-reality-check

mother-with,intuition

multicultural-inclusion-and-access

nature

new-forms-of-energy

no-more

oneness

one-world-tribe

paradigm-possibilities

partnership equality

peace



peace-non-violent educaAion
place
play
political
political-and-economic-rights
positivity
possibility
power
practice-being-embodied
presence
pro-active
pro-active education
process-oriented,experiential-learning
protective stance
quality, durability, sustainability
reclamation-of-deep-feminine
reclamation-of-divine-masculine
reclamation-of-sacred-divine
recognizing-our-energetic-selves
reflective
relating-essence-to-essence
relationships
religion
reproductive-rights
resourcefulness
respect
respect-difference,wisdom-of-all



respect-for-Earth, value-what-we-are-given
respect-ideas
respect-multicultural-traditions
respect-sacred-oneness
respect-the-feminine
respect-traditions, respect-cultures
respect-traditions, respect-cultures
respect-uniqueness
rest
restitution
restoration-of-co-operation
restoration-of-democracy
restoration-of-garden-of-eden / thriving, abundant world
restore-sacred-sexuality
revelation-revolution
reverence for all life
right-to-be-fulfilled
right-to-choice
right-to-one's-opinions
sacred-life
sacred-mother-earth
safety
safety-and-nonviolence
safety-of-expression
sanctity
self-assurance
self-determination



self-respect
servant-leadership
serve
serving-the-whole
seven-generation-planning
sharing-resources
simplicity
sisterhood
soul-level-discussions
space-for-silence
spiritual-warriorship
stakeholders in our own direction
support, comfort
support-education
sustainability,education
taking personal responsibility
thinking, innovation
tolerance
to-of-for-by-the-people
transform
transformation
transparency
trust
trusting-the-body-to-heal-itself
trust-ourselves
truth
unity



resembled a list of values that came about from Paul Ray's surveys. He called those with such values, **Cultural Creatives**.

Values of Cultural Creatives identified by Paul Ray:

- *Love Nature and are deeply concerned about its destruction*
- *Place great emphasis on relationships within all in the web of life*
- *Are not materialistic or money-driven*
- *Have artistic and creative inclinations*
- *Are interested in spirituality and personal growth*
- *Have a habit of volunteering*
- *Desire equality and inclusion for women*
- *Are concerned for planet-wide issues like global warming and poverty*
- *Are willing to pay higher taxes if it benefits society*
- *Are concerned about the high cost of corporate profits.*



Addendum*

“As an Shawoman who has taught and worked in energy for over 40 years, I can tell you that if we do not learn, understand and use the Law of Manifestation, get ourselves back into your place of purpose and power, this Body of Humanity will deteriorate and die.

“. . . the Law of Manifestation is not to cause death but to cause whatever negative/ discounting constructs within the field of humanity’s energy is not named and removed WILL continue to escalate and cause increasing death! And currently the societies whose agendas are to use, dominate, discount and destroy in the process are NOT being identified and eliminated on an energy level as they ought!

“Our Divine family members in **female body suits were intended to be the ‘immune system’ of the One Body.**

“The immune system is intended to be so sensitive that it notices any danger, foreign energy in the physical body quickly and sends out the call, “This construct is foreign and does not belong. Identify it, neutralize it, contain it, dissolve it and and remove it from the field of this body.” And all defenses within the body answers the call without question and the foreign danger is removed.

“**Unfortunately, females have been targeted, discounted, controlled, diminished, dominated and tortured, raped and killed for eons. They have been made to discount their own warning system, distracted into frivolous activities, put under the authority of men, and have chosen to silence their voice in order to be accepted and safe.**

“**Not a good position for an immune system!**

“So, now . . . manifestations of the Outsider agendas of control, domination, usury have free rein in our world! **Women’s voices are treated as gnats to be swatted away, certainly ignored.**

No immune system does not bode well for the One Body of Humanity!

Hey, doesn't that sound like **Cancer?** We are told that our physical body's immune system does not recognize Cancer as a foreign danger and so Cancer grows and grows and grows.

Hey, doesn't that sound like **Terror?** We are told that our world is in an unending War on Terror and it is us, or maybe the Muslims or police or young colored men or who knows where next the finger is pointed. We have forgotten that Terror, Violence, Active Shooters are an expression of foreign Outside agenda's. We do not stand and speak truth to Power...

Oh yes, that is right, we have no active immune system because females are emotional, weak, to be used for other's purpose, and don't look pretty when they are angry.

from [Active Shooter, I See You](#)

by Sharon Riegie Maynard

e-book published 2015



The Founding Mothers of the United States Grassroots Congress

have stood up. They have put their feet to the Ground. They have plunged their staffs deep into the Mother and said,

“The values described herein are the firm foundation from which our country evolves, now and for all future generations..”

Amen!