

EMPOWERING MEN TO MISSIONS OF SERVICE. SINCE 1985



RON HERING

26th Annual

Mission of Service

Awards 2025



LIVE CELEBRATION RECORDING



EMPOWERING MEN TO MISSIONS OF SERVICE. SINCE 1985

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Who is Ron Hering?

What are the Ron Hering Awards?

MKP International Anniversary

MKP Mexico 10-Year Anniversary

Dr. Ron Hering (1936–1993), an educator, was one of the three co-founders of The ManKind Project and helped develop its signature experiential weekend, the New Warrior Training Adventure.

The Ron Hering Mission of Service Awards, established in his memory, are presented annually since 1998 to individuals or groups in each MKP Region/Area who have not only discovered their personal mission but are actively living it through significant service in the world.

MKP USA will celebrate its 40th Anniversary from September 26–28, 2025, in Tucson, Arizona—marking four decades since the organization's inaugural “Wild Man Weekend” in January 1985 and honoring its transformational impact on nearly 80,000 men worldwide.

The first New Warrior Training Adventure in Mexico took place March 20–22, 2015, which laid the foundation for MKP Mexico; by 2018 the region was officially launched, marking a significant milestone in the expansion of MKP’s global presence in Latin America.

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Mexico

Emilio Martínez

“I create a world of compassion through my presence, responsibility, and love.”

This man is a bridge between the present and ancestral roots, strengthening the community of tradition keepers (former LKS) in Mexico and forging connections around the world. With passion and commitment, he introduced elements of Mexican indigenous traditions into Nwta processes and deepened his knowledge in the construction and implementation of the Mexican sweat lodge. His work goes beyond MKP, planting seeds of consciousness and reconnection in her community. He has also been an ambassador in various countries and their communities of MKP, sharing traditions and knowledge, generating a worldwide experience of the ancestral traditions of temazcal. Every Friday, at the community temazcal, his presence is a living reminder of the power of tradition, brotherhood and spiritual growth.

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Mexico

Regulo Ortiz Fernandez

“I promote health through plants and education”.

Founder of the Indigenous Integral High Schools in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, with work as both teacher and administrator. Indigenous cultures are integrated into the school curriculum: language, traditions and customs, participation of the school in the community and vice versa. Development of educational materials in Indigenous languages and promotion of herbal medicine workshops for health.

Founder of the organic markets in the state of Morelos, as a producer of pesticide- and agrochemical-free products.

Therapist in Traditional Chinese and Mexican Medicine, involved in research, patient care, cultivation of medicinal plants, and the development of eco-technologies in rural areas.





USA • Heartland

Jeff Belden, MD

“My mission is to create a world of wonder by living my life with integrity, loving-kindness, and quiet reflection.”

In his career as a physician, Jeff certainly improved the quality of life for his patients. When he retired in 2016, he actively supported his patients in finding a new physician—realizing that the change would create deep-seated fear in some. He worked with all of them to take on a new level of healthcare ownership/partnership. Jeff has been a beacon of love and kindness for people around him. He publishes his wisdom for all to see on his website jeffbelden.com for the world to see. He is quick to volunteer, is thorough in his service, and knows when to step back. He has shared his talents with family, friends, church, community, and MKP. Jeff is one of the bridges between the STL community and the Columbia community. He shows up for both!

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Gordon Ritchie

“I create a world of compassion by living with pride and respecting all beings.”

Gordon initiated in 2017 and is member of the Alberta MKP board. He is a service leader and music director of Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Gordon affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person and strives, with others, to maintain a welcoming and inclusive faith community. He creates and composes music with deep connection, that lifts the spirit of all. He also works in the natural health field and constantly goes out of his way to support individuals on their path to wellness. He has and continues to foster connection, empowerment and spiritual wellbeing within the Queer community in Edmonton. Gordon is a deeply caring man that constantly goes out of his way to support and hold space for all he comes in contact with.



USA • Heartland



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USA • Heartland

Joe Thompson

*“I create an accepting world by sharing,
and loving openly.”*

I participate in the political process as a Senate District Leader to bring justice and equity in our nation and the world.

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USA • Chicago

Craig Stein

“I create a world of presence, love, connection and patience by embracing the present moment as it is with both others and myself.”

Craig Stein, a real estate broker, had never experienced profound grief until the sudden loss of his 15-year-old son in 2018. Following his NWTA, Craig embarked on a personal grief journey. He found a purpose beyond being fully present for my wife, my other two children, and my friends. In this process, he also realized the lack of safe spaces for young people to process their grief. This discovery led him to Willow House, a Chicago-area nonprofit dedicated to providing grief support, coping skills, and activities for children and young adults. Craig serves as a volunteer facilitator at Willow House, leading support groups primarily for 6th to 8th graders. He offers them a space to express their emotions and find comfort in a supportive community.

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Richard Adams

“To move first and foremost with compassion, to promote clearer understanding with everyone including myself.”

Aspiring reparationist committed to undoing the effects of racism and counterproductive treatment of any “other” human being. Avid supporter of social justice work and active participant as part of the Core 5 member bi-racial group-reparations for MA. Respected elder amongst his peers over 20 years of community involvement in support of fire circle communities.



USA • New England



Christian Brodkom

“Se mettre au service de l'homme et de l'humanité en permettant à chacun.e des passages, dans l'accueil, la bienveillance et le non jugement de l'autre.”

Christian est animé intérieurement par sa Mission de Vie qu'il a pu identifier clairement lors de son initiation. Christian est un "Passeur". C'est sa mission de Vie !
Il accompagne des personnes que des situations de Vie ont rendu plus vulnérables, plus fragiles...

- Des personnes en situation de handicap qui ont des rêves, des projets mais qui n'ont pas les ressources autour d'elles pour les réaliser.
Il les aide à passer du rêve à la réalisation

- Des personnes sans domicile qui vivent à la rue.
Sa maison est devenue une Maison d'Accueil ("D'Une Rive à l'Autre") où, sans conditions, ces personnes peuvent venir y retrouver des forces et du sens pour vivre !
Il les aide à passer de la rue à une maison avec un toit.

- Des jeunes qui ont des troubles psychiatriques.
Il leur propose des projets dans lesquels ils peuvent développer des nouveaux repères, de nouveaux élans, de nouvelles compétences pour elles et eux.
Il les aide à passer dans le monde du réel



Belgium



Francis Paquet

“Créer un monde d'harmonie et de paix en créant des espaces sécuritaires et transformationnels pour les hommes.”

Il est passionné par la nature humaine et son potentiel d'évolution. Il a toujours senti l'appel de décoder les mystères de la conscience et de l'inconscient, avec l'intention de comprendre qui nous sommes vraiment en essence. Il étudie depuis longtemps les mécanismes de la souffrance et travaille à tracer des chemins vers la libération de nos blessures. En ce sens, il a cocréé un projet qui se nomme "Pleinement Homme", ayant pour mission de contribuer à l'épanouissement d'une masculinité saine, en offrant et soutenant des espaces où les hommes peuvent cheminer individuellement et collectivement vers un mieux-être véritable, en cohérence avec leur essence propre.



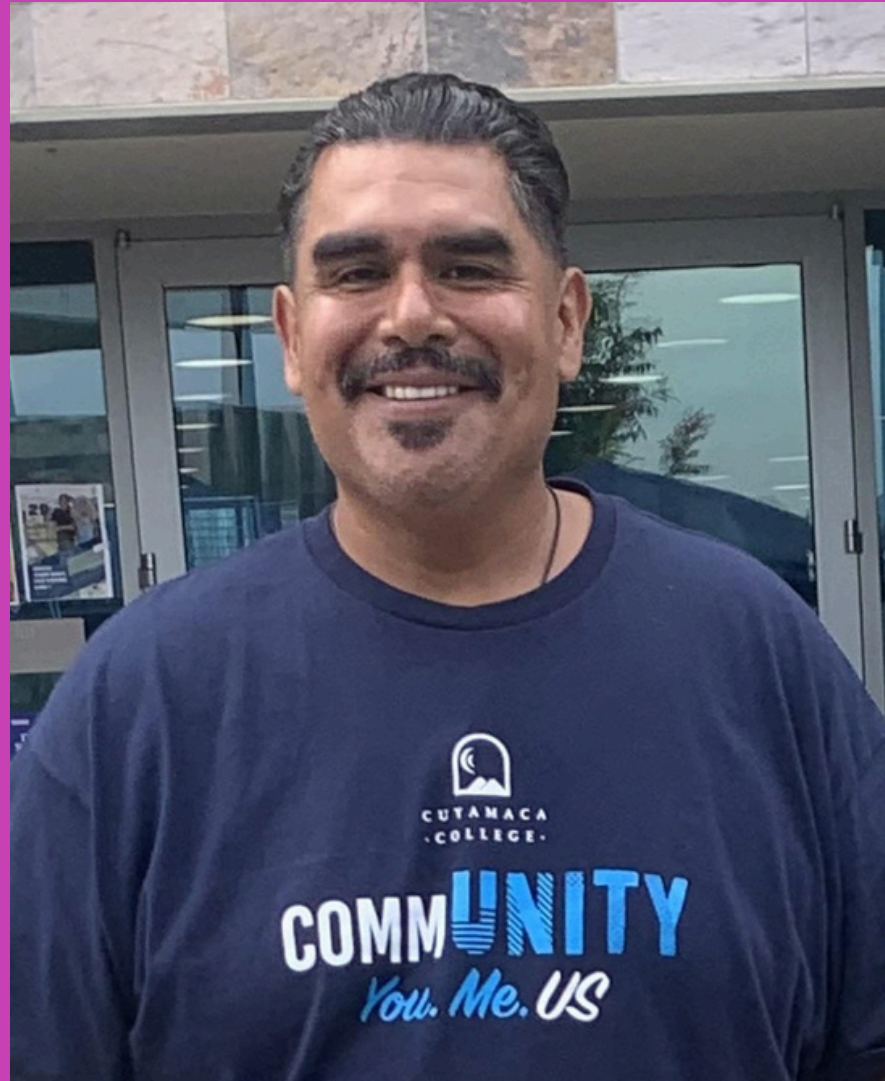
Canada • Québec

Octavio C. Leal

“I create a world of love and peace by not judging, by listening and by being patient.”

As a caring, peaceful, hardworking, and reliable family man, Octavio makes a difference in this world by serving children and teens within his San Diego County community. Through his church and as a college counselor working with formerly incarcerated students, Octavio volunteers with the Boys to Men mentorship program in San Diego, and has impacted and helped many students under the Rising Scholar Program, which serves justice-impacted students.

Octavio earned a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters degree in Education and Multicultural Counseling from San Diego State University. As a family man, he helps by taking care of his two granddaughters.



USA • Southern California





USA • Intermountain

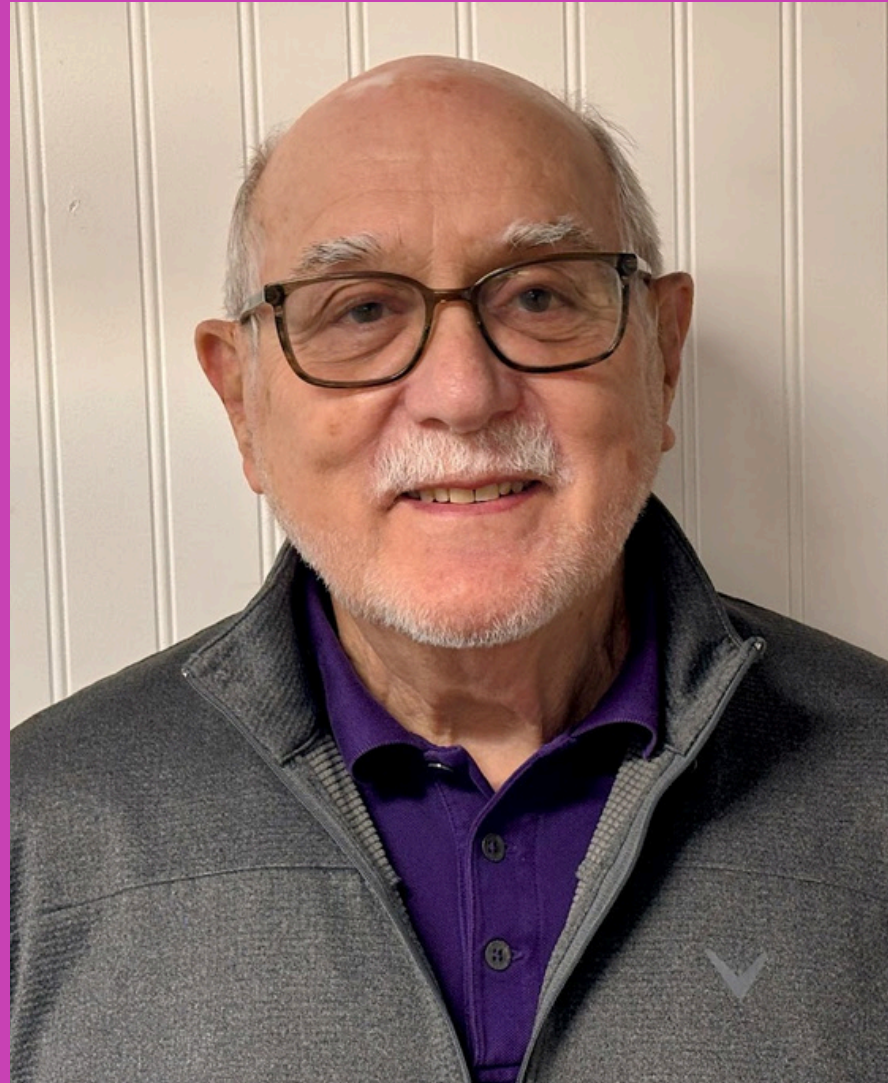
Scott R. O'Hare

"I create a world that vibrates loving energy, joyfully connecting all life by blissfully offering unconditional healing and safety."

At 38, Scott was at a low point, struggling with family, relationships, and business. Seeking help, he discovered the Mankind Project after reading *From Heartbreak to Wholeness* by Kristen Marcus. He joined the Men's Work 3-Week online course, where I found a supportive space for men to be authentic. This led to his Warrior Weekend in Southern Utah, a life-changing event that helped me break generational cycles of pain. Since then, he earned degrees in Social Work, Psychology, and Addiction Therapy. He now work as an intake coordinator for Veterans Services, helping homeless and at-risk veterans. He is a certified speaker for NAMI, raising awareness about mental illness. As a single father, his relationship with his children has flourished, built on open, honest communication. The tools and growth from MKP helped him transform his life and the lives of those he serves.

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USA • Houston

Bryan Siegel

“To create a world of unconditional love through service.”

Since 2009, Bryan has served as a Ritual Elder with MKP, most recently as USA Ritual Elder Coordinator and USA Elder Chair. He has been a pillar on the Land of My Grandfathers (LOMG) Board of Directors, generously offering his time and wisdom to support all who visit LOMG, the SCA retreat center. Additionally, Bryan serves as an Assistant Gabai at Beth Yeshurun synagogue, a respected role where he helps maintain order during services, assists the Rabbis, and ensures the integrity of Torah readings. His unique connection to people in our communities is evident. In our local MKP community, Bryan was instrumental in creating the Scott Cole Legacy Trust, which secures LOMG’s financial future. His deep sense of responsibility and leadership truly embody the values of the Ron Herring Award.

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USA • Upstate New York

Steve Aman

“I soften the landing from collapse by raising awareness and supporting resilience.”

Steve was one of three people who developed the Resilience and Acceptance in the Face of Collapse course that has been delivered to over five hundred individuals from twenty-seven countries. The course is currently being delivered by trained leaders in over thirty offerings.

Steve has been active in not only the UNY Warrior community, but also in the LifeStream Seminars in Rochester, Christmas Tree Farmers of New York, Big Brothers/Big Sister of Wayne County, Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County and Sanctuary at Crowfield Farm.

Steve is currently in training to become a community grief ritual tender.



Roman Chip

“As a man amongst men, I co-create a world of harmony and peace by teaching music. Performance is the basic format, and there are many versions to play with.”

Roman Chip has been an active music educator/performer in New Mexico since 1977. He has run a private music studio for over 40 years. In that time, Mr. Chip has taught students who have gone on to become public school and college professors. Others have made careers as professional musicians. Upon retirement he continues to teach. The private studio continues to be a focal point of his teaching. Other duties include consulting and teaching High School Jazz bands in the area. For the past 10 years, he has conducted and organized a Home School band program, offering students either in charter schools or home-school an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Recently Roman has stepped into the college teaching ranks. He is currently coaching NMSU Jazz Band 2 in jazz improvisation. Roman and his wife Patricia own a coffee shop. There they host a monthly jazz jam session for musicians to have the opportunity to showcase their talents. He is sought out as a clinician and adjudicator for concert and jazz festivals. He has taken his talents to Kentucky, Missouri, West Texas, Central America and New Mexico. For the past 35 years Mr. Chip has been involved with the City of Las Cruces Concerts in the park series. Roman announces and helps organize the events. The New Mexico Music Educators association honored Mr. Chip with the New Mexico Emeritus Music educator of the year award in 2024.



USA • Southwest





USA • Colorado

Stephen Matthew Aguirre

“I create a world of safety and love for our youth by sharing my authentic self.”

Stephen has long been committed to service, believing that true citizenship comes from actively engaging with and giving back to one’s community. His service work is diverse, including volunteering at the Denver Animal Shelter; mentoring and currently serving as board chair for the ACE Mentor Program of Colorado; coaching Little League baseball and youth flag football; actively participating with Guys Who Give; and assisting with a substance abuse support group at a local halfway house. Additionally, Stephen is mental health first aid certified, providing critical support to those experiencing mental health challenges. Through these efforts, Stephen has made a lasting impact, showing that even small acts of service can profoundly affect those in need.

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South Africa

Brendyn Alloys

“I co-create a safer world for all genders by engaging, connecting, supporting and holding space for men and boys in grassroot community-based initiatives that support safer and healthier communities.”

Brendyn is a social service practitioner with extensive experience, he works to uplift marginalised youth in Cape Town through a development programme that nurtures their potential with holistic support. He is deeply committed to tackling poverty, inequality, crime, and gender-based violence, working with grassroots organisations for over two decades to drive meaningful change. Through Gender Equity and Reconciliation International, he creates safe spaces for men and women to engage in healing conversations that promote gender equality. As the project lead for the Cape Winelands Head, Heart and Soul Rites of Passage Programme, Brendyn helps young men explore modern masculinity through ritual and mentorship. His work not only empowers individuals but also addresses harmful gender norms, reducing violence and creating stronger, healthier communities for future generations.

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Brian Hedden

"I co-create a world of love, harmony, and harmony by listening feeling, and acting."

Brian Hedden has always been driven by his mission. Over a harrowing 6-year journey, while being sued by an oil company, Brian completed an award-winning feature-length investigative documentary about climate justice activism in Colorado. Now, with minimal financial security but driven by his mission and passion for justice, he is pioneering a civic engagement website, Stump.vote, to empower voters and preserve democracy. Brian has led and participated in men's circles since his initiation in 2015 and has led a life of service to his mission as a public-school teacher, preschool teacher, organic farmer, activist, and self-employed videographer for value-aligned clients.



USA • Colorado



Michael Cervino

“To create communities of authentic connection and liberation by fiercely nourishing love.”

Michael Cervino serves MKP his greater community as part of his daily life. Michael states that he's been blessed to do this in both his professional and volunteer work. He has a 35 year-career raising money and movement building for nonprofit organizations whose missions advance social justice, civil liberties, low income housing, elderly and childcare services and social services. Michael's past volunteer work has included: 8 years on board of after school program at local elementary school, 4 years teaching woodworking after school class at the school and 6 years on board of high school home school association for School Without Walls. Current volunteer work includes: 3 years active member and facilitator in DC Men's Journey Community, Activist with Stand Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) DC, 4 years in leadership role on Steering Committee for The Nature Conservancy Membership Department's DEIJ initiative, 10 years sober and actively engaged in his AA community and sponsors 2 men, Mentors 2 men. Michael Cervino is an exemplary MKP Warrior and a beloved and tremendous human asset to his family, friends and community as well.



USA • Mid Atlantic



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Ernest



Frerik



Jacob



Krister



Mattis



Anton



Nordic

Anton Ullenius, Ernest Beckman, Fredrik Ampler, Jacob Martinell-Funch, Krister Hervén, and Mattis Norrvid

Anton: I create a loving and meaningful world by exploring and expressing what is possible.

Ernest: My mission is to create and protect empowering spaces by living my authentic power, bliss and creativity.

Fredrik: I create a world of beauty by being fantastically myself.

Jakob: By inspiring and standing firm, I empower people and co-create a world of love, authenticity and safeness.

Krister: I create a world of love and transformation by expressing my needs and connecting full-heartedly.

Mattis: I create a world of connection and love through being honest, direct and loving in action.

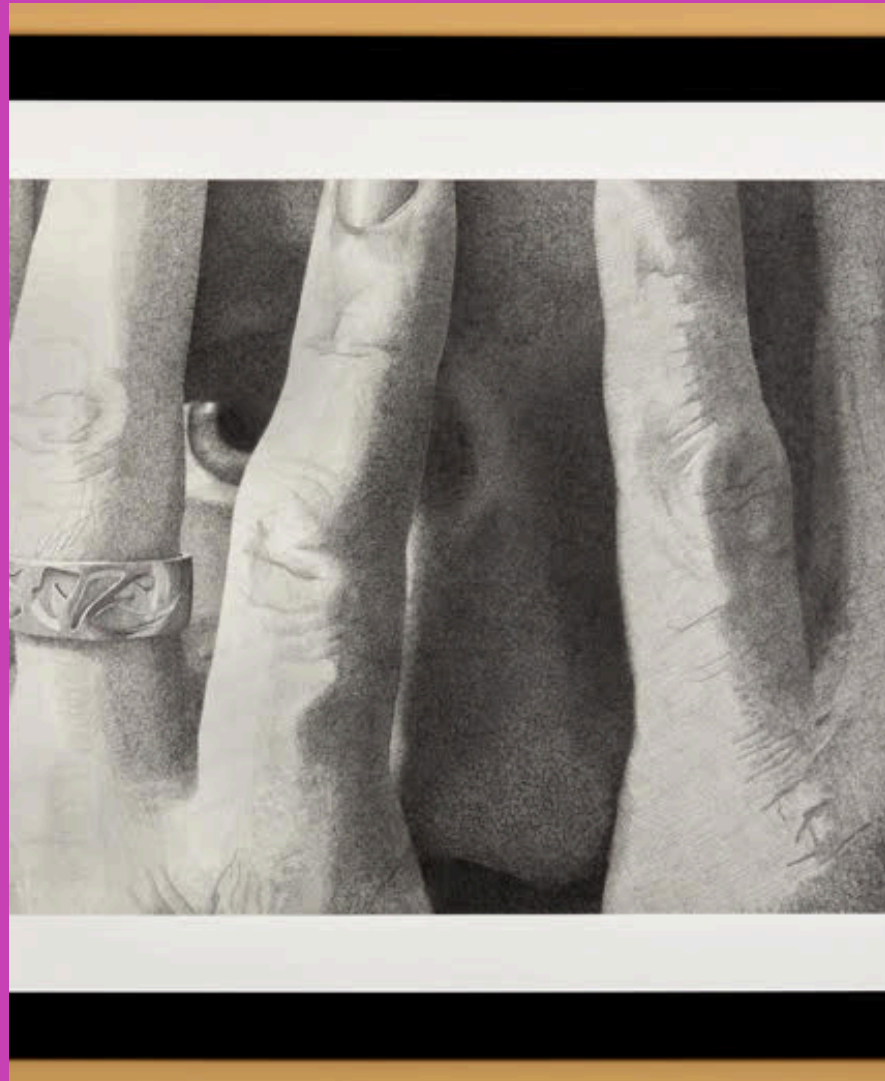
These six men, supported by the Nordic community, have created and continue to develop a unique Nordic Rites of Passage event for fathers and their teenage sons. The intention is to raise the awareness of both parties of the potential as well as challenges as well as supporting the transition from father/child to father/young man relationship. Ritual, discussion, play and meditation are used to guide both parties through a separation from the old and awareness of the new as well as the creation of Mission statements for the new role. The participants are offered follow-up meetings to support the implementation of their insights from the event and their continuing growth. The event sends men back into the world with more awareness of their talents and potential as well as that they are not, nor ever need be, alone.

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Randall Richard Rogers

"My mission is to do my work so I can better support my brothers doing theirs."

Having been initiated in 2007, Randall has been asking hard questions about living out in the world. He has been offering monthly open circles for the past 14 years which have totaled over 120 circles. Creating invitations with remnants of his design skills, his graphic invites probe themes of Hope, Fear, Anger, Sex, and Relationship with humor and gravity. Those Friday evening circles consistently draw between 12 to 20 men from ages 20 to 85. "It's an ode to the Masculine energy of the Village we've given up socially," he claims when asked. He has introduced a new monthly breakfast circle recently in response to this year's election (2024) with the question, "Who are you as man, now?" This circle is based on supporting men to build their own forms of Resistance and Resilience (in the face of massive Disruption). With his artist ability with a variety medium to express his philosophical thoughts and beliefs in the world, he has created a series of eight large format graphite drawings which were conceived and created a couple years after his initiation. One of his favorite drawings entitled, "A Man's Willingness To Be His Own Prison" is shown below. His art has been recognized and won awards in many galleries in the United States.



USA • Central Plains



John Kurk

“I bring deep healing to men and women globally through loving and empowering themselves and myself.”

Outside of his active role in helping to establish and grow the MKP UK & Ireland community, John has consistently lived his mission within the wider shadow work movement. Over the years, he has supported and guided countless men—and many women—on their journeys of healing, growth, and self-awareness. His deep experience and unwavering commitment have made him not only a powerful facilitator but also a generous mentor to others seeking to develop their own skills in holding space and working with shadow. Whether through one-to-one sessions, group work, or training environments, John has left a lasting and meaningful impact on those he’s worked with, and his influence continues to ripple far beyond the immediate MKP community.



UK & Ireland





USA • NorCal

Peter Karp

“I create positivity, connection and love that heals by offering my calm and steady presence.”

As President of the Parkinson’s Support Group of Sonoma County (PSGSC), Peter has been a steady, compassionate leader committed to the group’s mission that no one faces a Parkinson’s diagnosis alone. He stepped into his role during a time of transition and remained dedicated even after the loss of his beloved wife to the disease. He has expanded and refined the work of the board to meet the needs of a growing community. A skilled negotiator, organizer, and facilitator, he leads with empathy and purpose. His efforts have helped transform PSGSC into a strong, connected, and resilient support network. His ability to build community and inspire others is at the heart of his leadership, and the members of PSGSC are deeply grateful for his service.

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USA • Hawaii

David Sands

“I create a safe and secure world by loving everyone unconditionally.”

David developed a climate solution by reforesting deforested lands with noninvasive tropical timber bamboos, the fastest growing plants on Earth, and turning that bamboo into a primary global building material thereby avoiding 25% of emissions from wood, steel, and concrete, and now implementing that solution.



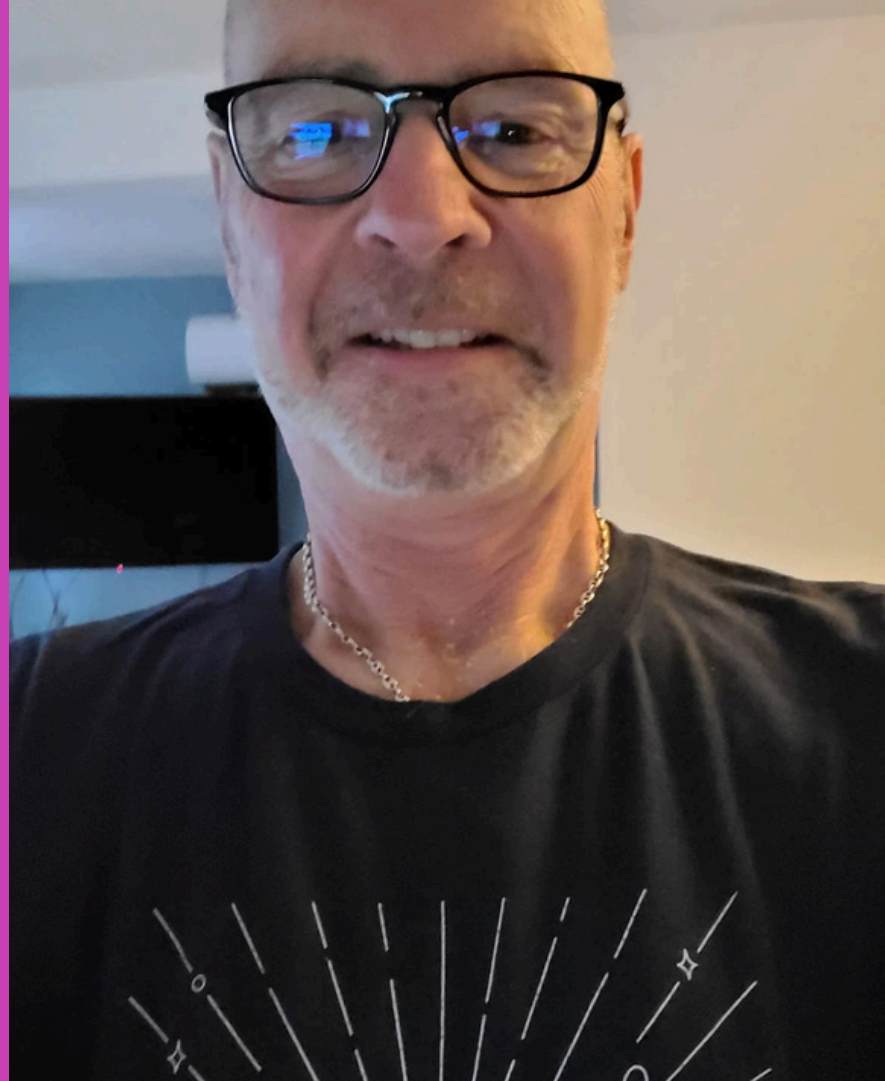
Stephen Disher

"I create a world of inspiration and inclusion by listening, speaking and creating."

Through his business Rain Coast Earthworks, Stephen designs and builds systems and landscapes as a response to the challenges his region faces amid climate change using xeriscape, rainwater harvesting, and other drought-mitigation measures in the drought-prone region he calls home. As part of his community, he led the creation of "Legalize Housing" - a small advocacy and mutual aid group focused on re-shaping local attitudes and zoning bylaws to not penalize nor evict local residents who live in trailers and tiny homes. Through his creativity and ingenuity in using recycled and reused materials he is leading the way in building small scale housing that is affordable, energy efficient and sustainable. He has taken risks in bringing this way of building housing to the local and regional governments to help educate them on alternatives to the development processes that destroy local ecosystems. He is an active peacemaker in the community and offers space and guidance for conflict resolution sessions free of charge.



Canada • British Columbia



USA • Philadelphia

Jonathon Goldstein

"I create a world of love and acceptance by serving with my heart open."

"Jonathon is very involved and of service to MKP as well as to men in the community and in multiple organizations related to ocean conservation. He spoke to me on my weekend and said some words I will never forget "Men who cry are powerful men. Keep crying and and you'll be great". Those words went straight to my heart. Since that weekend I have found Jonathon to be a beacon of hope and a warm hearted, helpful brother who always picks up the phone when I call. Despite how busy his job and personal life is he always finds a way to be there for me." - Dave Schiman

Stan Sherman has known Jonathon for 37 years, and is one of his closest friends. While it took 18 years to get Jonathon to the weekend he's been a man on mission and on fire ever since. He's very busy with his full time business and family as well as helping to lead open circles, staffings, area admin, I group facilitation, and countless breakfasts and lunches with men and brothers mentoring and supporting men. "You can't really find a man more committed to other men in our community and the world. He's out with men in the community creating missions of service. He's the poster child of supporting men in our community. Johnny is "family" to me" - Stan Sherman

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*“I don’t know what your destiny will be,
but one thing I know: the only ones
among you who will be really happy are
those who have sought
and found how to serve.”*

— Albert Schweitzer

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