

PERSON, PLACE, & THING:
BEYOND THE NOUN OF LEADERSHIP



2020-2022

SEMINAR 1

Recommended Resources



William C. Friday
Fellowship FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS

Recommended Resources

Wildacres Leadership Initiative (WLI) invites you to join the current class of William C. Friday Fellows on its path toward rest, reflection, and reckoning. The 11th fellowship cohort began its journey with a formal InGathering ceremony on September 30, 2020 before spending four days grappling with the question “Who am I?” in the service of what 23 individuals from across the state might become together.

The following list of materials extends the offerings of the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship beyond the seated class. Compiled and curated by curriculum designer, lead faculty, and WLI deputy director Meredith Doster, this guide shares keywords, core values, and critical questions as they emerge and evolve across the 2020–2022 fellowship journey. All materials are rooted in the critical thoughtwork of the 2020–2022 fellowship framing “*Person, Place, Thing: Beyond the Noun of Leadership*” co-designed by Doster with Dr. Georgette “Jojo” Ledgister. From first to final convening guide, Doster authored all remaining materials in a role generously funded by Wildacres Leadership Initiative (WLI), a program of Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Doster shares her words and the public scholarship they represent as gift with the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship cohort, the greater WLI community, and all others. Specifically, Doster shares this curriculum as an open access educational resource (OER) via a [CC BY-NC-SA license](#).

The Seminar One resource guide that follows includes and references a wide variety of materials. Inclusion herein (as either link or citation) does not constitute permission to reprint or re-use. Instead, it signals engagement with someone else’s work. Please honor the licensing and copyright terms of any materials cited.

The Friday Fellowship fosters the kind of learning and unlearning made possible in the in-between spaces where individual truth claims and deep-seated beliefs are both nurtured and challenged by practices of relationship. Reading across these documents—and the lines of difference at the heart of the fellowship—Wildacres Leadership Initiative (WLI) encourages Fellows and friends alike to engage what is here with curiosity and courage. What do you make of these materials? And why might they matter? What is not here? And who is still missing?

If you are starting your journey with these resources, WLI invites you to consider reading the framing and convening materials as you begin. If you are a Fellow in the seated class or any of the previous cohorts, you might consider the following questions and resources as an opportunity to remember and return to your own fellowship journey and commitments.

What do you need to remember, read, reconsider, resist, rectify, respect, resolve, and return to today? *Shall we begin?*

FIRM FOUNDATIONS – PROCESS MATTERS.

OPENING ACTS – POSITIONALITY MATTERS.

THE COST OF THE QUESTION – PURPOSE MATTERS.

WORDS OF WISDOM – POETS MATTER.

INGATHERING CEREMONY – PEOPLE MATTER.

David LaMotte & Jaki Shelton Green

WALKING THREE WAYS – PLACE MATTERS.

Lattimore & Kingstown (Cleveland County)

Princeville and Tarboro Commons (Edgecombe County)

Rockingham (Richmond County)

THE PLACES THAT MAKE AND BREAK US – POLITICS MATTER.

North Carolina Histories

Edenton Tea Party (1774)

The Regulator Movement (1765–1771)

Harriet Jacobs (1813–1897)

MAKER/BAKER SPACE – PARTICIPATION MATTERS.

Making (Pinch Pots)

Baking (Bread)

OBJECT LESSONS – PAUSE MATTERS.

STRANGER WITH A CAMERA – POWER MATTERS.

GROWING SHARED VALUES. WHAT MATTERS? TO WHOM? AND WHY?

**READING PASTS, REMEMBERING FUTURES –
WHAT IS WLI READING NOW?**

Firm Foundations – Process matters.

Transparent and inclusive processes invite the fellowship network's participation in the journey of the fellowship class. Honoring the multi-layered and unfolding work of relationship, Fellows from previous classes make and hold space for one another and for the incoming cohort. Incorporating a new class into the network can take the form of formal mentoring relationships between incoming Fellows and those from previous classes, as well as organic relationship-building across all classes. The strength and impact of the fellowship—and the network—rests on the participation and contribution of each Fellow.

Summer 2020 Reading and Resources

Person, Place, and Things: Beyond the Noun of Leadership

Seminar One Convening Guide

Opening Acts – Positionality matters.

Seating Fellows across lines of difference, the Friday Fellowship takes context seriously. Fellows will consider the birthright inheritances that shape their voice, experience, and the place from which their truths speak. Fellows will also learn to listen for and engage stories and experiences of lifeworlds beyond their own.

What if...?

(Edgar Villanueva, Decolonizing Wealth)

Stories move in circles. They don't go in straight lines. So it helps if you listen in circles. There are stories inside stories and stories between stories, and finding your way through them is as easy and as hard as finding your way home. And part of the finding is the getting lost. And when you're lost, you start to look around and to listen.

(Deena Metzger, Writing for your Life)

We rely on the known to understand what is unknown. One thing suggests another: the familiar, already experienced, carries us to the strange, as yet unexpected shore.

(Brent S. Plate, A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects: Bringing the Spiritual to its Senses)

Yet all my efforts to start over always ended up taking me back to the past, allowing it to serve as foundation for the present...To me, coming home was often like going back in time.

(Barbara Ellen Smith, "Legends of the Fall," in *Christianity in Appalachia*)

The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

(Howard Zinn, *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times*)

I learn again and again how precious it is to have memory. We are born and have our being in a place of memory. We chart our lives by everything we remember from the mundane moment to the majestic. We know ourselves through the art and act of remembering. Memories offer us a world where there is no death, where we are sustained by rituals of regard and recollection.

(bell hooks, *belonging: a culture of place*)

It takes organization. It takes dedication. It takes the willingness to stand by and do what has to be done, when it has to be done. A nice gathering like today is not enough. You have to go back and reach out to your neighbors who don't speak to you.

(Ella Baker, Puerto Rico Solidarity Rally, 1974)

The Cost of the Question – Purpose matters.

The fellowship awakens Fellows to their own formation and its impact on their learning and leadership. Conscientization works on Fellows individually and collectively. While Fellows may not agree about the purpose or impact of their learning, consensus is not necessarily the desired outcome. Instead, the fellowship celebrates many and varied pathways to personal and collective flourishing.

"Hatred often begins in a situation in which there is contact without fellowship." (Howard Thurman)

Who can and will we be to one another?

"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." (T. S. Eliot)

What does retreat mean to you? Do you remember how to rest?

“Treating different things the same can generate as much an inequality as treating the same things differently.” (Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw)

Where are you from? And who are your people?

“It is good to finally see you.” (Gregory C. Ellison II, *Fearless Dialogues*)

What do you notice? What and who do you notice yourself not seeing? Who and what do you notice now that you did not see before?

“Seeing is believing.” (Proverb)

What does it take to see something through someone else’s eyes?

“A picture never lies.” (Ann Caudill) / “A camera is like a gun. It’s threatening... It’s invasive. It is exploitative...and it’s not always true.” (Colin Low)

Who holds the camera? And who is still journeying as a “stranger” in this country?

“Things got turned inside out. And that’s because it’s impossible to talk about the senses in abstraction, to smell without an odor, to hear without a sound, to touch without some things to bump up against. The half-body meets its missing parts. Experience is a two-way process, a mutual give and take.”

(S. Brent Plate, *A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects*, Introduction)

What do you hold sacred? And, why?

“It’s not pots we are forming, it’s ourselves.” (M.C. Richards)

In this thing called fellowship, what ingredient will you be?

“Caminante, no hay camino.” (Antonio Machado)

What kind of journey will you take? And what kind of journey will your life and leadership inspire in others?

“In the beginning was here. It was also there. / We were, too. And it was good.” (Meredith Doster)

What kind of “good people” will we be? And what kind of “good trouble” will this fellowship nurture and inspire?

Words of Wonder – Poets Matter.

The Friday Fellowship draws inspiration and creativity from poets and word-smiths whose language invites new ways of seeing and believing. Sessions, conversations, convenings, and engagements often open and close with words that deepen complexity and invite pause. Fellowship readings intentionally balance a variety of genres, lifting up the voices of those whose words offer pathways to critical engagement and celebration alike.

James Baldwin, "Untitled"

Wendell Berry, "The Real Work"

Lucille Clifton, "blessing the boats"

Billy Collins, "Litany"

Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*

Jaki Shelton Green, "i know the grandmother one had hands"

Joy Harjo, "Remember"

Linton Kwesi Johnson, "Love after Love" (Derek Walcott)

George Ella Lyon, "Where I'm From"

Antonio Machado, "Caminante, no hay camino"

Carrie Newcomer, "Holy as the Day is Spent"

Marge Piercy, "To Be of Use"



InGathering Ceremony – People Matter.

The Friday Fellowship centers the work of relationship. Each Fellow is invited to share fully in the holding and maintaining of space for self and others. Practicing presence together and sharing in both structured dialogues and informal conversations, the Friday Fellowship nurtures and supports the flourishing of all people, including—but not limited to—those who journey as Fellows on behalf of communities across the state.

David LaMotte & Jaki Shelton Green

David LaMotte

— — —. "[Music Can Help Us Understand Peace and Conflict](#)," TEDx Asheville, September 2017.

Set List (Afternoon Concert)

[Deadline](#)

[Drops Like Me](#)

[Taste the Light](#)

[The Way It's Done](#)

[Grey Eagle](#)

[SS Bathtub](#)

[Shadows](#)

[Get Together](#) (Dino Valenti)

[We Are Each Other's Angels](#) (Chuck Brodsky)

Jaki Shelton Green

Dallis, Jameela F. "[How Jaki Shelton Green Invents New Ways to Be](#)." Our State, September 29, 2020.

Green, Jaki Shelton. [The River Speaks of Thirst](#). Released 2020. Soul City Sounds, digital album.

Walking Three Ways – Place Matters.

Walking in Place, Three Ways

As a statewide fellowship, the places at which the Friday Fellowship convenes—and those Fellows call home—become active participants in shared experience and learning. Traveling together across the state, each seminar weekend highlights particularities of place that contribute to North Carolina statehood and community. Imagined, disappeared, beloved, haunted, traumatized, and erased places are all core to the fellowship experience.

Lattimore & Kingstown (Cleveland County)

Kingstown

"Community Named in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr." *The Shelby Shopper* (online).

George, Dustin. "The only American town named for Martin Luther King Jr. turns 30." *The Shelby Star*, July 14, 2019.

Lattimore/Cleveland County

Thomas Dixon (1864–1946)

— — —. *The Clansmen: An Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan* (1905). The North Carolina Experience. Documenting the American South. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brody, Richard. "The Worst Thing about 'Birth of a Nation' is How Good it Is." *The New Yorker*, February 1, 2013.

Fleischmann, Jeffrey. "A New 'Birth of a Nation,'" *LA Times*, September 30, 2016.

W. J. Cash (1900–1941)

— — —. "The Mind of the South." *The American Mercury*, October 1929.

Rubin, Louis D. "W.J. Cash after 50 Years." *VQR: A National Journal of Literature and Discussion*, Spring 1991.

Princeville and Tarboro Commons (Edgecombe County)

Princeville

Mizelle, Richard M., Jr. "[Princeville And The Environmental Landscape Of Race](#)." *Open Rivers: Rethinking Water, Place, and Community*, Spring 2016, Volume 2.

[Oral History Interview with Edith Warren](#), August 28, 2002. Interview K-0601. Southern Oral History Program Collection (#4007) in the Southern Oral History Program Collection, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

[This Side of the River](#). Produced by Drew Grimes and Ryan Rowe. 2006. The Language and Life Project. North Carolina State University. Documentary.

Tarboro Commons

Greer, Allan. "[Commons and Enclosure in the Colonization of North America](#)." *The American Historical Review* 117, no. 2, (April 2012): 365–386.

Nelson, Garrett Dash. "[The Town Was Us](#)," *Places*, July 2018.

"[The State of the Commons: A Report to Owners from the Tomales Bay Institute](#)." A Report by the Tomales Bay Institute. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rockingham (Richmond County)

Hartman, Matt. "[A Highway to Progress, Foiled By Old Values](#)," *Bloomberg CityLab*, November 17, 2017.

[Pee Dee River](#), Anson County, North Carolina, 2017.

R. C. Historical Society. "[A History of Richmond County: It Leaks Fresh Water Like a Sieve](#)," *The Richmond Observer*, August 30, 2017.

The Places that Make and Break Us – Politics matter.

The political world creates and constrains our societies and cultures. For some, it is judge, jury, and executioner. For others, it is a sacred sector from which cities, counties, states, and nations are born. The fellowship invites deep relationship across lines of ideological difference. Beginning one month prior to the national election, the 2020–2022 fellowship class will consider the politics at the heart of many lived experiences. Faculty member Darin Waters will offer historical context across the fellowship experience to contextualize contemporary polarization and extremism in North Carolina and beyond.

North Carolina Histories

Escott, Paul. Many Excellent People: Power and Privilege in North Carolina (1850–1900). Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985.

Powell, William S. Encyclopedia of North Carolina History. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

— — —. North Carolina through Four Centuries. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.

Edenton Tea Party (1774)

A North Carolina History Online Resource. 2018. "The Edenton 'Tea Party.'"

"A Revolutionary Tea Party," Our State, October 16, 2018.

Carney, Richard. "Edenton Tea Party," North Carolina History Project.

The Regulator Movement (1765–1771)

Denson, Andrew C. "Diversity, Religion, and the North Carolina Regulators." *The North Carolina Historical Review* 72, no. 1 (1995): 30–53.

John Spencer Bassett, 1867–1928. The Regulators of North Carolina (1765–1771). The North Carolina Experience. Documenting the American South. University Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Powell, William S. A North Carolina History Online Resource. 2006. "Regulator Movement."

Harriet Jacobs (1813–1897)

Cecelski, David. "The Town of Harriet Jacobs—'A Soul that Burned for Freedom.'" Author's website, May 11, 2018.

"Harriet Jacobs," North Carolina Writers Network.

Yellin, Jean Fagan. A North Carolina History Online Resource. "Jacobs, Harriet."

Maker/Baker Space – Participation matters.

Participation is key to the fulfillment of the fellowship's promise and potential. When Fellows participate, differences emerge and learning deepens. With the cohort at the center of the design, each Fellow shapes a piece of the curriculum only she can offer. While participation is crucial, it does not necessarily imply vocal engagement. Deep listening and intentional stillness can signal participation as much as engaged conversation.

Making (Pinch Pots)

Paulus Berensohn (1933–2017)

"A Tribute to Paulus Berensohn." 2016. Penland School of Crafts, Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

Clark, Garth. "To Spring From the Hand with Paulus Berenson," CFile, September 24, 2015.

Oral history interview with Paulus Berensohn. March 20–21, 2009. Archives of American Art.

M.C. Richards (1916–1999)

Popova, Maria. "The Art of Centering: Potter and Poet M.C. Richards on What She Learned at the Wheel About Non-Dualism, Creative Wholeness, and the Poetry of Personhood." Brainpickings, January 3, 2020.

– – –. "Creativity as a Way of Being: Poet and Potter M.C. Richards on Wholeness, the Measure of Our Wisdom, and What It Really Means to Be an Artist," Brainpickings. February 25, 2020.

Baking (Bread)

Cho, Jasmin. "How I Use Cookies to Teach History." TEDx Pittsburgh, June 2019.

Mote, Donna Susan. "Making Biscuits." Chapter Six, Film Three. "Ancestors in the Laying-By Time: Revival of the Living and the Dead at Shingleroof Camp Meeting." PhD dissertation, Emory University, 2012.

Pollan, Michael. "Air: The Education of an Amateur Baker." In Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation. New York: Penguin Books, 2014.

– – –. "Air." Episode Three, Cooked. Documentary. 2016.

VanDerWerff, Emily. "How to Bake Bread: On the existential comforts of coaxing yeast out of air, kneading, proofing, baking, and sharing." The Highlight by Vox, May 19, 2020.

Object Lessons – Pause matters.

As a program of Wildacres Retreat, the Friday Fellowship balances deep engagement with intentional rest and pause. Fellows come to the program from busy walks of life, and the fellowship provides tools and techniques to reclaim the sanctity of time and breath. Fellows will spend time in structured and unstructured silence, picking up, making, shaping, and fashioning themselves – and the things that matter.

Bucklelew, Sarah F. and Margaret W. Lewis. Object Lessons on the Human Body: A Transcript of Lessons Given in the Primary Department of School No. 49, New York City. The Project Gutenberg eBook, 2005.

Hamilton, William L. "Object Lessons: The New Museum Explores Why We Keep Things," *New York Times*, July 14, 2016.

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. "Reclaiming the Honorable Harvest: Indigenous Knowledge for a Sustainable Future," TEDx Sitka, August 18, 2012.

Object Lessons. An Essay and Book Series. The Atlantic and Bloomsbury Press.

Stranger with a Camera – Power matters.

The fellowship's relational approach requires heart-led analyses of power relations and dynamics. An understanding of how power works—on and through bodies and systems— undergirds the fellowship's design. The intentional collaborative design of this fellowship interrupts systems that privilege some voices, bodies, and lives over others. The fellowship invites the naming of inherited systems and stories that provide Fellows with different kinds of tools to navigate life and livelihood. As they learn together, Fellows will examine where and how they wield power in their individual lives and in communities. The cohort will consider its role in dismantling systems of oppression that perpetuate inequities across the state.

Diane Price, Diane, Ruth Ellen Blakeney, Donovan Cain, Erica S. Collins, Amanda Deal, Kelly H. Elliott, Kristina Marie Heiks, Patricia Lyn Kilby, Laurie Lea Lyda, Jeannie C. Parker, Scott J. Sebok and Jinny Turman "A Camera is a Gun: A Discussion of 'Stranger with a Camera,'" *Appalachian Journal*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (SUMMER 2000), pp. 406-417.

Trillin, Calvin. "U.S. Journal: Jeremiah, KY. A Stranger With a Camera." *The New Yorker*, April 5, 1969.

Stranger with a Camera. Appalshop Films, 2000.

Growing Shared Values. What Matters? To Whom? And Why?

Initial list of "P" keywords and core values.

People matter.	Performance matters.
Place matters.	Pacing matters.
Presence matters.	Pandemic(s) matter(s).
Power matters.	Politics matters.
Positionality matters.	Process matters.
Purpose matters.	Poets matter.
Participation matters.	Prophets matter.
Pause matters.	Praxis matters.

Values and keywords added by the current cohort.

Pretext matters.	Pleasure matters.
Patience matters.	Potential matters.
Prayer matters.	Practice matters.
Possibility matters.	Play matters.
Perspective matters.	Peace matters.
Pranayama matters.	Pondering matters.
Pain matters.	Pushing matters.
Passion matters.	Postage matters.
Patterns matter.	Position matters.
Permission matters.	Remembrance matters.

Reading Pasts, Remembering Futures – What is WLI reading now?

Hunter Corn, WLI Director

Marsh, Charles, Shea Tuttle, and Daniel Rhodes, eds. *Can I Get a Witness? Thirteen Peacemakers, Community Builders, and Agitators for Faith and Justice.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing.

Meredith Doster, WLI Deputy Director and Lead Faculty

Bateson, Nora. *Small Arcs of Larger Circles: framing through other patterns.* Cornwall: Triarchy Press, 2016.

Gumbs, Alexis Pauline. *Dub: Finding Ceremony.* Durham: Duke University Press, 2020.

Hyde, Lewis. *A Primer for Forgetting: Getting Past the Past.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019.

Darin Waters, 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship Faculty Fellow

Gopnik, Adam. *A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism.* New York: Basic Books, 2019.

Rieff, David. *In Praise of Forgetting: Historical Memory and Its Ironies.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016.

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