

# WELCOME TO BIONEERS

## Fellow Bioneers, thank you for joining us!

Greetings, and a warm welcome.

We are enormously grateful for your participation. We often hear from those who speak here that the best talks of their lives pour forth at Bioneers - because of you! There is no other audience like you, in part because you're not an "audience." Instead, you're a community of brilliant, innovative folks actively engaged in the urgent work of spreading breakthrough solutions for people and planet. We come together to learn, network, inspire and expand our vision and impacts.

A warm and welcoming shout out to those joining us via Beaming Bioneers locally-based satellite conferences across the US. Thanks for your great work taking care of your place while strengthening your community. We are also honored to welcome and connect with our first global Beaming Bioneers partner in Europe, at the Findhorn Foundation and Ecovillage in Scotland at the end of October. We hope to see you there.

As filmmaker Tom Shadyac puts it, "The shift is about to hit the fan." While it's chillingly clear the world is entering a state of permanent emergency from here on, a profound long-term process of creative transformation is also well underway. That's why we gather - to share the stories of what's working, identify the greatest strategic opportunities, and find ways we can support each other, work together and spread the word. Let's fan the shift!



The upside of the downside is that there is an unprecedented receptivity today to innovative ways of thinking and acting. Many of the kinds of ideas and practices we've been highlighting and incubating at Bioneers for over 20 years are ready for prime time and starting to go mainstream.

The next five years are crucial. Although Bioneers is still best known for our annual conference and media like our award-winning annual radio series, over the past five years we've been diversifying our programs to address key strategic areas for social change. For the next five years, we've prioritized six areas, and at the conference we'll be talking about our emerging future as an organization with a pivotal role in transforming culture to shift our collective course.

This year's conference features key elements from some of our most dynamic and emergent areas. In light of the growing movement for re-localization, don't miss Peter Warshall's plenary and workshop about Dreaming New Mexico's transformational Age of Local Foodsheds work. The leadership role of higher education is also front and center, and we're delighted to host Dr. Anthony Cortese, one of the most effective and truly visionary innovators in higher education. With the leadership of women emerging globally as a pivotally hopeful trend with cascading benefits to all of life, we're thrilled to feature remarkable women leaders including Dr. Jane Goodall, Mallika Dutt, Mary Gonzales and Gloria Feldt, among others. As the receptivity grows for the ancient wisdom and Traditional Ecological Knowledge of First Peoples, we're also deeply honored to host the Indigenous Forum again this year with our partners from The Cultural Conservancy and Indigenous Environmental Network, which will include a special sunrise Water Ceremony and a specially made canoe representing "The Original Instructions" made by Maori and Native American master canoe builders.

This year, we are webcasting many of the plenary sessions, so please tell your friends who can't come to the conference! We're also introducing "Backstage at Bioneers," daily webcast segments with dynamic behind-the-scenes interviews anchored by Terrence McNally of KPFFK, with guests such as the great muckrakers at Mother Jones.

So, we thank you so deeply for choosing to be here, for all you already do to shift how we live on Earth and with each other, and for your generous support of Bioneers. At this make-it-or-break-it moment in the human experiment, we need your contributions and support more than ever.

We hope you have a powerful experience during these precious days we spend together, rich with connections, breakthroughs and inspiration. As the shift hits the fan, it's a joy and an honor to embark together on this sacred journey, navigating by the North Star of community.

With love, respect and gratitude,

Kenny Ausubel

Co-CEO & Founder

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