

# The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Redwood Men's Conference: *The Next Step – Finding Wholeness in a Broken World*

May 24-27, Memorial Day Weekend, Mendocino Woodlands Camp



These days we hear the word “broken” everywhere – *broken hearts, broken promises, broken treaties, broken vows and broken rules*. We know what it means to be *breaking up, breaking down or breaking out*. We lament that the political system, democracy itself, even the environment is broken beyond repair. In this wealthy nation many are too *broke* to afford a roof over their heads.

We ask each man, young, middle and older aged: *How are you broken? How do you hide your brokenness? How has your brokenness helped you? How have you broken through?*

Each generation is challenged to confront, perhaps facilitate, the breakdown of old systems that no longer serve, to find or create something new and more relevant. In doing so, we speak of breaking through; *breaking the curse; breaking the spell; and breaking the silence*.

*There's a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.* – Leonard Cohen

[www.redwoodmen.org](http://www.redwoodmen.org)

Men are now called to acknowledge that “going it alone” no longer works and that our narratives of heroic isolation have led directly to our broken condition. Indigenous wisdom offers some comfort in realizing that we've been here before. Consider the Ojibwey chant:

*Grandfathers, Grandmothers: look at our brokenness.*

This is not only an urge to be seen but also a sign of our willingness, as Greg Kimura says, to:

*Sit with the pain in your heart. Hold it there like a sacred wine in a golden cup.*

## Conference Leaders:

**Gregory Guss:** LCSW, Psychotherapist and Community Organizer

**Jay Jackson:** mountain biker, solar guru, drummer, artist, father.

**Conrad Larkin:** LCSW, Psychotherapist for Elders and their families

**Hari Meyers:** Author, Teacher, Storyteller, and Literary-Mentor

**Richard Naegle:** Therapist, teacher, leader of the Noah Project

**Gordon Pugh:** Craftsman, Improv Artist and Life Coach

**Barry Spector:** Author, member of Rumi's Caravan