



2025 Coming To The Table National Gathering Speakers

About the film *A Binding Truth*

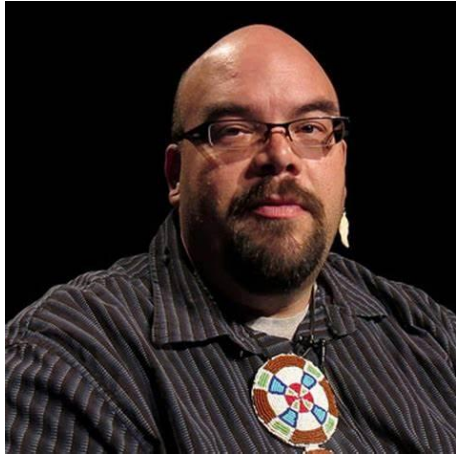
On Friday, June 13, we'll be showing an extraordinary film that uncovers a long-buried history and explores the lasting impact of America's racial divide:

They were high school classmates in 1965, one Black and one white. Jimmie transferred to an affluent Charlotte high school, becoming their first Black football star. His presence on the team ignited racial tensions, thrusting him into the center of one of North Carolina's most volatile civil rights cases. Fellow classmate De watched that case unfold and wrote about it in his college essay application. He said it got him into Harvard. Decades later, these two men reconnect. A shocking discovery found in church records changes their lives. What unfolds is a deeply personal yet profoundly American story — one that reveals the legacy of slavery, the complexities of race and privilege, and, ultimately, the power of truth in the journey toward healing.

Filmmaker Louise Woehrle, along with Jimmie and De Kirkpatrick, will join us in person for a post-screening discussion and Q&A. This is an opportunity to witness a moving story of racial reckoning, and to engage in a conversation that challenges, inspires, and offers a path forward. Don't miss this unforgettable experience!



About Jim Bear Jacobs



Born in St. Paul, he is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served various churches as youth minister, adult Christian educator, and director of Men's Ministries. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is founder/convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," an initiative dedicated to creating events of dialogue, education, and healing, particularly within faith communities. He is currently a Co-Director of Racial

Justice for the Minnesota Council of Churches.

About Dr. Yohuru Williams



Dr. Yohuru Williams is the Distinguished University Chair and Professor of History and Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas. He received his Ph.D. from Howard University in 1998. Dr. Williams is the author, co-author, and editor of eleven books, including *Call Him Jack: The Story of Jackie Robinson*, *Black Freedom Fighter* and *More Than A Dream: The Radical March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award in Young People's Literature. Dr. Williams has appeared on a variety of local and national television and radio programs, including the History Channel, CNN, Fox Business News, NPR, BET, and ABC. His scholarly articles have been published in the American Bar Association's *Insights on Law and Society* and the *Journal of Civil and Human Rights*.

About Wendy Roberson



Wendy Roberson brings over three decades of professional experience in higher education, having worked at both public and private institutions. Her extensive background includes roles in residence life, student life, leadership development, orientation and first-year experiences, academic advising, and multicultural affairs. Additionally, Wendy has served as adjunct faculty, teaching courses on leadership, organizational development, student development, and equity and inclusion.

Currently, as the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Wendy provides strategic direction for college-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She spearheaded the development of the institution's Anti-Racist, Trauma-Informed Institution Plan (ARTII) and oversees Human Resources, Student Conduct, Title IX, and Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Wendy's career has been dedicated to creating and maintaining safe spaces for the growth and success of students, faculty and staff. She is a certified Green Dot Bystander Intervention Trainer, a Bout That Life Bystander Intervention for Communities of Color Trainer, a Strengths Educator, an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualified Administrator, and a Mental Health First Aid Trainer.

Originally from Flint, Michigan, Wendy holds a B.S. in Psychology from Grand Valley State University and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Hamline University.

About Lissa Jones-Lofgren



Lissa Jones-Lofgren is a distinguished executive leader, Fractional CEO, and Organizational Behaviorist specializing in guiding organizations through complex transformations and fostering cultures of equity and inclusion. She is the host of the acclaimed podcast *Black Market Reads*, amplifying the voices of Black authors for the Givens Foundation for African American Literature. Known for her expertise in governance, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement, Lissa is a sought-after speaker, facilitator, and coach who empowers organizations to align their missions with impactful, sustainable goals.

About Anthony Cohen



Anthony Cohen is a historian, author, and explorer of the American past. An early purveyor of experiential history, he launched his career in the spring of 1996, embarking on a two-month journey to explore the Underground Railroad, the secret network that thousands of enslaved Americans traveled to attain their freedom. Cohen is founder and president of The Menare Foundation, Inc., a national nonprofit organization dedicated to “Preserving the Legacy of the

Underground Railroad,” and operates the Button Farm Living History Center, a 40-acre farm that depicts 1850s plantation life in Maryland. He has served as a consultant to the National Parks Conservation Association, Maryland Public Television, and NASA, among others, and trained Oprah Winfrey for her role as Sethe in the 1998 motion picture *Beloved*.