

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select only pages 2 and 3.
2. Select as many half as many copies as there are expected audience members.
3. Set to print double-sided.
4. Print on standard legal-sized paper.
5. Once printed, cut each page in half, long-ways.
6. Each page should provide two double-sided to-do lists. Distribute to audience in advance of program.

Complicated Courtesies

Written and performed by Kimberly
Dark

To Do List



- ❑ 1 . Live Big. Love Big. Take courage from the boldness of others.
- ❑ 2 . Remember “The fact that millions of people take part in a delusion doesn’t make it sane.” (Erich Fromm said that.)
- ❑ 3 . The next time someone is rude, or acts like you don’t belong, treat them with courtesy and respect. Persist in being beautiful (not sarcastic). See what happens.
- ❑ 4 . Practice loving ALL aspects of yourself – especially the parts that aren’t so popular. As June Jordan said “I am a feminist... I am Black: it means that I must undertake to love myself and to respect myself as though my very life depends upon self-love and self-respect... I must everlastingly seek to cleanse myself of the hatred and contempt that surrounds and permeates my identity...” Trust, as she did that your dignity can help heal the world.
- ❑ 5 . Pleasure is a sign that things are going right. Enjoy yourself.
- ❑ 6 . Leave nothing out – be all of you that there is to be! As Henry David Thoreau said “I left the woods for the same reason I went there. Perhaps it seemed to me that I had several more lives to live, and could not spare any more time for that one.”
- ❑ 7 . Let your different selves know each other. Throw a party and invite all of you – along with everyone who loves all of you. As Audre Lorde said “we all are made up of so many different parts. But when those selves war within me, I am immobilized, and when they move in harmony, or allowance, I am enriched, made strong... there will always be someone seeking to use one part of your selves, and at the same time urging you to forget or destroy all of the other selves... When the desire for definition, self or otherwise, comes out of a desire for limitation rather than a desire for expansion, no true face can emerge.”

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☐ 8 . Use your frontal lobe! The human brain can project into the future, so think about new options. The next time you want to oppose something, propose something instead. State your opposition simply and then move on to what you would like to see in the world. The options you offer are far more interesting than your complaints and they remind others to create options too. Let the thing you oppose become obsolete because something better takes its place.

☐ 9 . Remember, your power is real. It may be smaller at times, larger at others, but it's yours to use. Audre Lorde (again!) said, "Change did not begin with you and it will not end with you, but what you do with your life is an absolutely vital piece of that chain. The testimony of your daily living is the missing remnant in the fabric of our future."

☐ 10 . Go to www.kimberlydark.com and find out more about Kimberly's work. Look for her on Facebook , and sign up for the quarterly newsletter. Stay in touch. She'd like to hear from you...

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The performance runs 75 minutes, without an intermission.

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Kimberly Dark is a courteous chimera – she's part performance artist, part raconteur, part teacher, sociologist, queer-positive, body-positive writer, mother and cultural creator. She tours and teaches internationally.

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