

PRESS RELEASE

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK & FEMALE: WHAT IS THE REALITY?™ A Celebration and Training Retreat

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, May 2023 - Be Present, Inc.® is thrilled to announce its upcoming retreat weekend, which marks the 40th anniversary celebration of the Black & Female: What is the Reality?™ workshop. The retreat will provide a space for Black women, Black girls, and gender-diverse Black people to connect, grow, and celebrate the realities of their lives. The retreat will be held at Forrest Hills Resort in Dahlonega, Georgia, from Thursday, July 6 to Sunday, July 9.

In 1983, Lillie P. Allen asked, “What do you absolutely adore about yourself?” to a standing-room-only gathering of over 1,000 Black women and girls from all walks of life at the First National Conference on Black Women’s Health Issues held at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. This question was the seed that grew into the Black & Female: What is the Reality?™ workshop, which has been a transformative force for Black women and girls ever since. Now, 40 years later, Be Present invites all those who identify as Black women, Black girls, and gender-diverse Black people to join us in honoring the legacy of this movement and celebrating a vision realized.

The weekend schedule is designed to provide a mix of learning, celebration, and reflection. The agenda includes exploring how using the Be Present Empowerment Model® can affect positive change in work, families, and communities; sharing lessons learned and stories about the impact of the Model on attendees' lives; and attendees celebrating themselves and each other. The retreat will also provide opportunities for attendees to explore what it means to develop intergenerational, multiracial leadership in and across different fields.

Space is limited to 50 participants. The retreat will be led by Lillie P. Allen and other Black women leaders who have been part of the Black & Female: What is the Reality?™ workshop since its inception.

Be Present believes that in order to create peace and justice for all people, it is everyone’s responsibility to critically examine the impact of race, gender, class, and power issues on the effectiveness of the social change movement. It is from this understanding that we build better leadership models and create healthier systems that sustain us. We are, and must recognize ourselves as, an integral part of what is and what must be changed. When we do, we are better able to take responsibility and model a new way to promote peace and work toward justice.

[Learn about and register for the retreat](https://www.bepresent.org), and visit Be Present’s website at www.bepresent.org.

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