



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2017**

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**Marjaree Mason Center presents training opportunity with Dr. Valerie Batts, author of  
*Modern Racism: New Melody for the Same Old Tune***

*Local domestic violence agency expands community presence through series of lectures, trainings, and workshops.*

**Fresno, CA (January 9, 2017)** – The Marjaree Mason Center’s Education and Training Department will host a training titled “Enhancing Culturally Responsive Care” featuring renowned author Valerie Batts, Ph.D. The training is generously sponsored by the Isnardi Foundation.

**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017  
**Time:** 9am – 4pm (lunch included)  
**Location:** New Covenant Community Church – 1744 E. Nees Ave, Fresno  
**Registration Fee:** \$100 (\$125 with CEUs) presale or \$150 (\$175 with CEUs) at the door.

At the training, participants can expect to:

- Examine how multiple group identities shape us personally and professionally.
- Explore how barriers to inclusion continue to play out at four interlocking levels
- Identify how these barriers can impact effective service delivery as well as access to services.
- Evaluate the continued impact of power imbalances in our communities.
- Develop a common language for understanding racism, sexism and other barriers to inclusion.
- Formulate skills in having courageous conversations about issues of inclusion.

This event will be the first of a series of trainings offered by the Marjaree Mason Center as part of their mission to educate the community on topics including domestic violence, cultural awareness, healthy relationships, and more.

Dr. Valerie Batts is the Founding Director and Vice President of Consulting for VISIONS, Inc., which is a non-profit training and consulting organization, specializing in diversity and inclusion. She is an expert in the use of a multicultural/inclusion lens on individual and organizational change and author of “Modern Racism: New Melody for the Same Old Tunes” and “Is Reconciliation Possible?” Dr. Batts promotes the importance of understanding the differences between people and says, “In these current times, it is imperative that we as providers and community members enhance our ability to have authentic conversations about inclusion and exclusion, racism and other forms of oppression. As I have lived and work in and around the Central Valley over the past 12 years, I have often been saddened by how difficult this can be. The Marjaree Mason Center is working to change that and I am glad to partner with them in this effort.”

“One of the most impactful ways we can make a difference in our community is through education,” explained Nicole Linder, Executive Director of the Marjaree Mason Center. “The more we know, the more likely we will be to recognize signs of bias as it relates to domestic violence. As a community, we need to speak up to our friends, neighbors, and family to stop the pervasive cycle of abuse.”

Linder sees the need to educate the community on more than just domestic violence alone. “While domestic violence education is a major focus of our training program, we also recognize the importance of covering topics such as healthy relationships and cultural awareness. We are honored to be partnering with Dr. Valerie Batts and we look forward to having her share her expertise with the Central Valley community.”

Pre-registration for this training is required and can be completed at [www.mmc-valeriebatts.eventbrite.com](http://www.mmc-valeriebatts.eventbrite.com). Cost for the training is \$100 per person, or \$125 with Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Licensed Marriage Family Therapists (LMFT) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) only. At the door, pricing increases to \$150 or \$175 with CEUs.

A catered lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Toni Davidson, Education and Training Coordinator, at 559.487.1309 or [toni@mmcenter.org](mailto:toni@mmcenter.org).

To learn about other training opportunities provided by the Marjaree Mason Center, visit <https://www.mmcenter.org/what-we-do/education-and-training>.

### **About Valerie Batts, Ph.D.**

Dr. Batts leads the consultation and training components of VISIONS and is the originator of VISIONS' training model and experiential workshops. She has written and presented extensively on the use of a multicultural/inclusion lens on individual and organizational change, both in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Batts is the author of, *Modern Racism: New Melody for the Same Old Tunes* and *Is Reconciliation Possible*, as well as other articles. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Duke University in 1980. She earned a BA in psychology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2006, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. Since 1976, Dr. Batts has provided multicultural education and change strategies to human service providers, educators, community leaders, youth, young adults and managers in a variety of settings. Working both nationally and internationally, Dr. Batts supports people and organizations in developing and maintaining environments that recognize, understand, respect, appreciate and utilize differences.

### **About Marjaree Mason Center**

For over three decades, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the Center operates the county's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. The Marjaree Mason Center supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of abuse through education and advocacy. To contact MMC, call the business center at 559-237-4706, 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559-233-HELP (4357) or visit online at [mmcenter.org](http://mmcenter.org), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) or [Twitter](#).

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