

Wynne Leon (00:01)  
Hi Kim.

Kym Gordon Moore (00:02)  
Hello Wynne How are you?

Wynne Leon (00:05)  
I'm so happy to talk to you because you know we've corresponded it for many years, but this is the first time that we're talking in person or you know, on video. And it's just wonderful to see your positive energy and just feel you.

Kym Gordon Moore (00:15)  
Absolutely.

~ girl, listen, I I'm feeling you too, honey. Yes I am.

Wynne Leon (00:25)  
And I love your book, Hennie and Her Poetry Eggs. I'm gonna hold up the bag of it right now. ~ I'm gonna read a little bit of the description from Amazon. a storytale of courage and purpose catalyzes conversation, it helps young people embrace their differences and learn how to be compassionate towards others from diverse cultures.

Kym Gordon Moore (00:31)  
Thank you so much.

Wynne Leon (00:48)  
Who may experience bullying and social rejection. While this story serves as a purpose-driven teaching tool to help identify and eliminate the intimidation of bullying, the lessons in this book are strong enough for adults, but are intended for young people. What a strong statement. It's amazing. this this story that you have described as a

Kym Gordon Moore (01:05)  
Yes, yes, yes.

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon (01:13)  
~

purpose driving teaching tool about courage. Can can you tell us about why this story is so important to have with kids, this conversation with kids and adults?

Kym Gordon Moore (01:24)

Absolutely. I think that we are not blind to the fact that we're living in a fractured culture. We're living in a fractured family, fractured career, fractured world, you know, everything. It's just kinda like teetering on

What do we do now? And so I think that this was timely to happen because I was a little disturbed as many people are, by so many things that are

remnants of injustice that we've seen before but we see reappearing again. there is such an attack right now on cultures and whether it's religions or races or whatever the situation is, that we see a lot of attacks happening right now on the adult side. But we also see a spilling over in the children. They're like sponges, you know, they they they latch on to everything

That we say whether we realize they're doing it or not. And so I think that a lot of the dialogue that's coming from the children is coming from what's at home, or the adults that they are around, because the type of language that we hear coming from a lot of children is not the linguistics of what a child would probably say or how they would think. And so I said that this was timely.

Wynne Leon (02:42)  
Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (02:44)  
like I said it's no secret. I think people are hopeless or they feel a little hopeless because they look at, why even bother right now? Because everything looks like it's going against us. You know, we see so many things going on as we spoke earlier about, you know, even with the oil prices, with the gasoline prices, with what's going on in the grocery stores and markets, and people really don't have a lot of extra income in order to do something whether it's to go on a vacation.

Wynne Leon (02:53)  
Right.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (03:12)  
or whether it is to get the essentials that their family needs. So I just think that this is timely right now because we have lost the fabric of our compassion and our empathy and our love and just embracing people where they are.

Wynne Leon (03:13)  
Right.

Mm, mm hmm, mm-hmm. ~

Right. Mm-hmm.

I love that you say that. Lost the fabric of our compassion. And the hope that gets driven out when we're really feeling locked down and fear based, right?

Kym Gordon Moore (03:37)

Right.

Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely. And fear is the opposite of faith. I think it may have been Hebrews probably where it says faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. And I think that what has happened is our faith has wavered a little bit because we see so much going on all around us until we just wonder, you know, should I bother?

How do I tell my children you have to be positive? How do I tell my children this is the way you treat other people who may or may not even look like you? So it's it was just a timely, message that was simmering for a while

Wynne Leon (04:07)

Right. Yes.

Yeah.

Right.

yeah. And I love what you say about how you know, how do we tell our kids this message when things feel really hard for us? One of the quotes that you include with this book is No one can see your visions and dreams as clearly as you can. Purpose is the key to creation manifested through vision. tell us more about how respecting our differences

Kym Gordon Moore (04:37)

Yes.

Yes.

Wynne Leon (04:48)

could create a world where we can be our best.

Kym Gordon Moore (04:53)

Well, you know, I think everyone has a vision, okay? Everyone has one. we all have a purpose. That's just a divinely ordained thing in every one of us.

The vision comes in because each one of us has one. Like, say, for example, with your podcast, it was a vision. Why did you do it? There was something that you wanted to define through this channel, through this medium, in order to reach other people, to inspire, to encourage. So what happens is that our visions and our dreams may be different from others.

So everyone has one. We just have to tap into it according to the way we do it and not the way someone else does it. Because what's good for them may not be the best for us and may not be the best advice that we need to take at the time. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (05:36)

Right.

Right. Right. Right. And

we can't borrow somebody else's vision or purpose.

Kym Gordon Moore (05:46)

You know what, I'ma

tell you when I tried doing that when I started with my poetry. And I went to poet poetry readings and I said, my God, this stuff is just like about the boring stuff. I have to write boring poems. You know what I mean? I have to kinda like sound like hither or thither and all that stuff. And when I looked at it, I said, but what they did isn't what I ha

Wynne Leon (05:59)

Ha ha ha ha

Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (06:08)

to do. You know, this is not my voice. That's their voice. You know, this is not my vision of either a book or either art or either some other literary, you know, accomplishment. It's it's it's very different.

But what happens is that we get so standardized until we get caught up and trapped into what people say, well this is what you're supposed to do. This is how you're supposed to do it. This is the A B C method and it doesn't work out that way. Not all the time. Yeah. So you have to find what's best for you.

Wynne Leon (06:33)

Right.

Right. Right. Right.

Absolutely. And one of the things I like about the story is that Hennie's talent, it's always present throughout the story. It's it's but it's through the help of others that she learns to see it differently. So what do you hope that kids learn about seeing their own talents through this story?

Kym Gordon Moore (06:51)

Mm-hmm.

Right. Right.

I think that with Hennie she got

depressed and I wanted to bring that element to it that she felt down, she felt depressed, she felt left out, she felt alone because everyone else was a certain way. Hence the hens. The hens were just in one little conglomerate and they were challenging because of the way she looked, you know, you're a loser, you know, you were a mistake, you know, you don't belong with us. You don't look like us. You're not a part of us. And I think

Wynne Leon (07:19)

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Mm.

Kym Gordon Moore (07:37)

I think it made her sink into a depression. And when Farmer Elijah came to her after the rainstorm, where there were the three rainbows, she was really shocked that he could talk to her. And that was one of his talents and his gifts that people teased him about when he was younger. So I wanted it to be where, even with the kids coming in ~ at the beginning of the story on the field trip, that they were different.

Wynne Leon (07:46)

Mm.

Kym Gordon Moore (08:07)

some who could see and some who couldn't, some who could walk and some who couldn't. And Farmer Elijah was trying to give them a teachable moment at that time that you all are different. So you don't have to worry about being like the other kid who's next to you. But I wanted to use the orphanage as a also to another gateway into where differences occur but then sometimes we end up throwing shade at those who look different from us.

And so he had to explain to the children why she looked different. And then in his conversation with her, she ended up finding, okay, well, you know, maybe perhaps I might not be that bad. Then she goes to the river, and then she's there, well, by the lake, and that's when the pig, Betty the pig, comes and she's talking with her. And she said, Look, honey, they teased me all the time too. Let me tell you what they said about me. And she was kind of alarmed because she said, Well, how in the world can you

Wynne Leon (08:54)

Mm.

Okay. Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (09:05)

just be so calm about this, you know, with them teasing you that way. Didn't that depress you? And she said, Honey, that's their problem. It's not mine. So I think that Hennie learned lessons. It wasn't just an overnight sensation where she said, I found my purpose. No, she had to learn what that purpose was and then really embrace who she was in order to make that happen.

Wynne Leon (09:27)

Yeah.

Well and I love that you bring up all the different characters because, you know, you've set this story about intolerance and bullying on a farm when they're and and that's so relatable for all the different characters that you have there, you know, and kids love farms, you know, whether they've been to one or not.

Kym Gordon Moore (09:41)

Mm-hmm.

Absolutely, absolutely. I think that adults love farms too, even though we may not want to necessarily say it. You know, sometimes we think we've arrived at a certain place and we forget about that curiosity. And I wanted to do it with the farm because the farm imbues a lot of diversity with the animals, with the crops, you know, what's going on with the farm equipment. There are so many different things that have a meaning and have a purpose. They serve that in order to make the farm be as successful.

Wynne Leon (10:07)

Right.

Kym Gordon Moore (10:15)

As it is. And so with that, what better place? You know, we are part of the earth, you know? and and and I think that that just gives a real authentic flavor to to what we're trying to say, not only just in this story, but just in life in general.

Wynne Leon (10:20)

Yeah. Right.

Yeah.

Yeah. And I love I mean and the metaphor for growing is so apt for a farm, right? to grow we need you know, we need to to have the right soil and the right fertilizer and and and all the

Kym Gordon Moore (10:36)

There you go.

Exactly, exactly,

exactly. even when you're finding or looking for your purpose and searching for it, that ~ you know it's gonna take time to develop. So you think about

When we are born and then we go to elementary school and then we go to high school and college, there is a graduation of learning. And then you don't forget necessarily what you learned, but it's just a part of the process. And so as we take a look at the root of something, the root is gonna probably start and develop from a seed, right? And then it's gonna go into a sprout, and then it's gonna go into either a flower or either a tree. So they are just various levels of growth.

Wynne Leon (11:05)

Mm, mm.

Yeah. Right.

Kym Gordon Moore (11:28)

that goes along with ~ with the opportunity of of of just being better than you were before. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (11:28)

Right.

Mm.

Mhm. Well, I know your message is not to judge a book by a cover, but you I'm I'm gonna hold up the the whole package of your book here. R your book comes in this beautiful sack with this darling pen that my kids have already tried to co op. And and then and then the book and you know, you you just have created such a beautiful package

Kym Gordon Moore (11:43)

Okay.

my gosh.

Wynne Leon (12:02)

And it reminds me a little bit of Hennie. she's a Lamborghini chicken, right? Did I say that right? And what I love about it is that in that type of chicken, it's the female that have the colorful flower feathers. I mean, and you can see the picture of a a chicken behind you.

Kym Gordon Moore (12:08)

Yes.

Mm-hmm.

Well, actually, you know what the interesting thing about that? The Lamborghini chicken is a real chicken. So the female and the male, okay, you have the rooster and the hen, are both in Indonesia, that they are both black, all black. Hennie was it was morphed, so she's fictional. Okay.

Wynne Leon (12:21)

Yeah.

Yeah.

okay, okay. Thank you. Right.

Kym Gordon Moore (12:38)

Yes, she's fictional. But what I

wanted to do was with a black chicken, usually nobody sees it or knows about it. it's a very valuable chicken, you know, the insides are you it's edible, it's just like a regular chicken. It's just a hyper pigmentation of that chicken is is what

Wynne Leon (12:44)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Mm.

Kym Gordon Moore (12:59)

makes it black all over. Now it doesn't lay a black egg. I think it's like a cream color egg that it does. But what I wanted to do was to take something that was real and that a lot of

people never heard of a Lamborghini chicken. But what I wanted to do was Ghini was what I took.

Wynne Leon (13:06)

Mm.

Kym Gordon Moore (13:15)

at the end of Lamborghini to call Hennie the Gini so that she would be so different and stand out so much that the colors would just absolutely floor whoever saw it whether it were the animals whether there were the people who came to visit Farmer Elijah's farm so there is just a a a s a backstory to to Hennie and then how she develops into who she is now.

Wynne Leon (13:39)

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (13:44)

What she is now. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (13:45)

It and it's a great backstory because, you know, we a as you and I were talking before we hit record, some we don't like to stand out. Like that it it it's it's vulnerable.

Kym Gordon Moore (13:56)

Yes, yes, it does. And it leaves you it's almost like target practice where, you know, you ha you're a big huge target there and then all of a sudden you have people who are like, Okay, what's they're gonna start picking and they're gonna start really kinda like throwing darts for the most part, you know, at you. And I think we have we have I I think fallen into that

Wynne Leon (14:01)

Yeah.

I mean.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (14:19)

I guess you would say like that sinkhole or either that quicksand of being like everyone else. So that when we just take a look at it, we're all the same hues, you know, we still act the same way, we eat the same food, we walk the same way, we speak the same way. And then when there's an interruption in the conversation, if there's an interruption in what someone is wearing, you know, even as far as a bright color is concerned, there are people who look, you know, you

Wynne Leon (14:47)

Right.

Kym Gordon Moore (14:49)

Get stares, you get looks, you may even get admirations that they may not even tell you that you know they admire that. It some people will and then some people won't. I just think that like you said again, sometimes we have the comfortability of just blending in so that we just don't stand out too much, especially in a crowd, you know? Yep.

Wynne Leon (14:53)

Yeah.

Right. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

But it's hard to define your purpose and vision when you when you're playing small. Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (15:16)

It really is. That's and just

like you said and mentioned earlier, you end up kind of like adapting what someone else does.

And so if let's say for example, your son wants to be a rocket scientist. And you're saying, well, okay, well, we don't have rocket scientists in our family. But let's say if he wanted to and his friends wanted to be athletes, and they say, man, why would you want to be like a rocket scientist? You know, I mean that's just so boring and that's just so nerdy, and then he would probably be second guessing himself.

Wynne Leon (15:30)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (15:48)

Like, well, yeah, maybe why should I do it? But I think that he has a support system. that's just enough in order to nudge him and say, continue to keep studying, continue to keep doing this. We're going to go ahead and we're going to visit this observatory. I want you to just kind of like touch different fabrics of where your journey is going to lead you to make your dream come true, you know? So

Wynne Leon (16:04)

Mm-hmm.

Mm. Mm-hmm.

Kym Gordon Moore (16:14)

So

I was talking to my brother, my youngest brother and I had to write down something that he said to me when after he finished reading the book. And I said, Really? You read the book? But he told me he said, What we have to do is to build a bridge that will make people feel that they have a bridge to cross when they don't have a bridge at all and are faced with a ditch. So

So

how do you build that bridge? And I think that this is what I wanted to do We see all of the issues that's going on all around us. We can only do our part. you could only maybe tell your children and teach them this is the

the nicer or kinder or gentler way of doing things.

What can we do where we are with what we have in order to make a difference, to make a change? And so someone, my mother used to tell me about our character, and she said, What is the content of your character? I know Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. mentioned that, but she said, What is it? What will people see when they see you?

Wynne Leon (16:59)

Right.

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (17:19)

What goes beyond that? What substance do you have? 'Cause she always would tell me, Junk in, junk out, you know. So, you know, if you keep getting all this stuff and and you are just wallowing in toxicity, how is it that you're going to

Wynne Leon (17:25)

Yeah, right.

Kym Gordon Moore (17:35)

be able to influence someone to do something that's kinder or something that's going to be better for humanity overall. We got to put human back in humanity because somehow it has been just erased and it's disturbing. But I know I still have hope. So I still have hope. Yep.

Wynne Leon (17:50)

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Obviously.

I mean and this book is a hope and as your brother said, it's it's a way to build a bridge over and let people know that there's there's a way forward. But I'm I'm curious, how did you come to find your purpose as a a writer and educational advocate?

Kym Gordon Moore (18:03)

Yes.

That was not intentional. I don't know how that happened. My sister, my mother, my cousins, they were educators on so many different levels in school. I was not that one. I was the kid who talked too much in school and had to be reprimanded for doing that. So ~ but what I think disturbed me the most, I was doing, I think, with my last book, We Are Poetry, I was doing some research and I saw where our illiteracy rate

Wynne Leon (18:18)

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (18:39)

was so extremely high for this country when we have so many educational establishments, we have so many colleges and universities and trade schools And I said, how in the world is it that we have the illiteracy rate, especially with adults, as high as it is? And I couldn't figure it out.

And I know that a lot of times marginalization plays a big part in it. But

Something else disturbed me throughout the years and I think this is how this evolved with the purpose of being the advocate that we were talking about. there was an event called World Book Night. It only lasted three years in the United States. And when I saw it, they said if you want to sign up and if you want to be considered for giving away a book, we're gonna send you twenty books and if you're selected, then we'll give it to you. And for those three years,

I put my name in the pool, got those, you know, free books, and started giving them out to different people. Now, the first person and the first time I got the book, I went to a literary council. I offered the book to them. And when I offered this particular book, I won't say which literary council it was, and I won't say which book it was, but the book was a book that I read. And when I offered it to the executive director, she told me.

Told

me she said, ~ that's that's on an eighth-grade reading level. These are this is adults. Now we're talking about the Adult Literacy Council. And I said, okay. And she said, but my our people read on a fifth grade reading level. And I said, okay. So she said, so we can't use the book.

I said, but you can use it even if it's an eighth grade read on an eighth grade reading level, that will give them the encouragement to read it. Now, the book was not hard. It was it was not like something for a first grader, even though a first grader probably could. And I said, Well, is there something offensive for something in the book? And she said, No. She said that our people read at a fifth grade level, and your book is at an eighth grade level. And so

Wynne Leon (20:27)

Yeah. Yeah.

Ha ha ha. ~

Kym Gordon Moore (20:46)

She said, I wish you a lot of luck and give you know giving the book to someone else. And at that particular point, I think that all the blood just rushed to my face and my head, and I was just like to the part I was just like to that point of s of of saying something that I probably would not have been be able to redact, right? And I said, How in the world is it? And I think I mentioned it in my book that when people put a level

Wynne Leon (21:04)

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (21:14)

That you can't go over, or they don't want you to go over for whatever reasons it may be. You have to decide for yourself if you're gonna go beyond that. And so I think that that's where my purpose came in with being an advocate for education. Whether or not you go to college, whether or not you go to a trade school, it does not matter, whatever kind of education, whatever type of learning you get, then you continue to keep doing it, you continue to keep going on.

Wynne Leon (21:25)

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (21:44)

On with it. And so that's the reason why I think that however I can just insert some type of educational value in what I do. that's where my direction has gone now.

You know, we're not really learning the way we have in the past. Like what you and I, we're used to a certain level where we cursive write. You know what I mean? We our handwriting is like this. We do more reading perhaps with a physical book, which I prefer, than I do with

a book that is an ebook because I like to have something where I can put the dog ears down.

Wynne Leon (22:00)  
mm hmm.

Yeah. Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (22:18)  
I just think that looking at where our literacy rate is right now and looking at where other parts of the world are so far ahead of our country that it is disturbing. The educational system is disturbing. And so it's like what do we do? So if this is just a little nugget that's inside of

Wynne Leon (22:22)  
Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

Kym Gordon Moore (22:41)  
The big cuisine of delicacies, but then we will go with that, you know. But this was something that I felt, okay, I need to address this. I am not a teacher, but I do get with teachers and librarians to discuss what's happening right now that we see going educationally-wise. And it's not just with the illiteracy, we have alliteracy, those who can read but refuse to read. You know, they don't want to.

Wynne Leon (22:45)  
Yeah.

Well, it's f

Kym Gordon Moore (23:05)  
Great.

Wynne Leon (23:06)  
I saw that word on your website and I I had to look it up. I was like, What is a alliteracy. So yes, review.

Kym Gordon Moore (23:10)  
You honey,

let me tell you, that's what I said when I was going through researching the illiteracy levels in our country. I just said alliteracy, what is that? And that led me to again learning, and I

said, wow, this is what we're seeing right now. We're seeing that we are going on Google or Bing or whatever, and we're actually witnessing

Kym (23:37)

right now that there's so many people, not just the kids, who are constantly on

Wynne Leon (23:42)

Yeah.

Kym (23:43)

their their phones, you know. we don't look up things the way we used to anymore. It's like let's go to Google. Let's just try to put something in, and then you'll have AI overview and then that will tell you what it is that you know what it is that that you're searching for. and that's one of the things I wanted to put it in book form. Now I do have it in an ebook form, but I wanted it in book form and the kids who I know that have been given

Wynne Leon (23:51)

Yeah.

Kym (24:07)

this book, they actually read it. It makes them stop, it makes them step away from their digital devices, whether it's an iPad or the iPhone or whatever it is that they may have, you know. it just makes them sit down and just kinda get absorbed in it. And that's the reason why I put discussion questions at the end of the book so that it just gives them a prompt, you know, to think about the story and think about the message that the story's trying to convey. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (24:30)

Mm-hmm. Right.

Yeah.

Yeah. It's so good. And I I just love what you're trying to do to make the world a better place, to, you know, spread this message of tolerance and support of others, your point about leveling up, to help people see that there is a a higher level that they can reach and by building the bridge. so Kim I

Kym (24:51)

Yeah.

Yes, yes, yes.

Wynne Leon (24:59)

Love it. It's so good. Thank you so much.

Kym (25:00)

Well, thank you so much. Thank you so

much. just listening to the kids who have already read the book. ~ I have ~ one of my dear friends, one of her grand well, two of her grandsons, they had a meet a couple of weeks ago and they didn't do well at the track meet. And so they were really kind of bummed out about it. But when they got home the book was there for them, and then it was like the poem and the

Wynne Leon (25:16)

Mm. Mm. ~

Kym (25:27)

You know, and the pens and stuff, and they instantly just started bawling. They were like, my god, I cannot believe this. And it just put them, it got them away from the bad thing that happened, but it also gave them, well, listen, don't worry about it. You got the next time. You know, you have the next time. And I think that we kind of get bummed out when we fail at something, we get bummed out when we don't accomplish something. But that's not the problem. The problem is

Wynne Leon (25:34)

Yeah.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Kym (25:57)

our patience level on how we get to it because we're not gonna sprint we're gonna go through this journey and we're gonna take our time doing that. Yes ma'am that's it thank you when I appreciate it

Wynne Leon (26:09)

Yeah. Great story. Great. Thank you, Kim. W

have a great day. So fun talking to you.

Kym (26:15)

I appreciate it so much. And like I said again, I just thank you for your

your platform and giving so many people an opportunity to just talk because sometimes that's what people need. We don't talk like we used to. Everybody just kind of passed in the fleeting moment and there you go. You know, kit and caboodle. There you go. Asta La

Vista, you know. So I just appreciate your platform. I appreciate you taking the time. I thank you for inviting me here. This has been just absolutely a joy.

Wynne Leon (26:26)  
Yeah.

Right. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Kym (26:42)  
to the blog space that that we follow each other. So yeah, I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Wynne Leon (26:44)  
Yeah. Yeah. So good. So good.