

The Circle Presents

# AN EVENING WITH NATIVE AMERICAN AUTHORS BRENDA CHILD & DAVID TREUER

FEBRUARY 20, 2012  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

## Black Bear Crossings on the Lake

Como Lakeside Pavilion  
1360 North Lexington Pkwy, St. Paul  
Suggested donation: \$15-25

*The Circle* presents an evening with nationally known Ojibwe writers **David Treuer** and **Brenda Child**. Join us for an engaging evening of fascinating Native books, wonderful conversation, and delicious hors d'oeuvres.



In her latest book *HOLDING OUR WORLD TOGETHER: Ojibwe Women And The Survival of Community*, (Viking; February, 2012.) Brenda J. Child explores the remarkable role of women in sustaining Native American communities through the hardest years of the last two centuries.

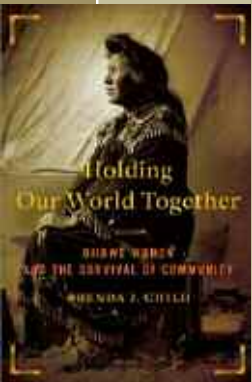
Child, a member of the Red Lake Ojibwe herself, is a leading scholar in this area, and here she brings readers a fascinating interpretation of Native Americans. The subject of women is vastly under reported in literature on American Indians, even though women themselves often held significant power within Indian communities from their importance in the fur trade and reservation eras, and their labor of harvesting wild foods, farming and maintaining and developing new spiritual traditions.

Child's gift for storytelling sheds light on the lives of such Ojibwe women as Madeleine Cadotte, Ne Zet (a.k.a. Bear Woman), Julia Warren Spears, and Emily Peake. The story of Madeleine Cadotte exemplifies how Europeans' success in the fur trade depended deeply on Ojibwe women. Cadotte

married a European fur trader and was part of a family where women often acted as an important intermediary between the fur traders and her indigenous relatives. Ne Zet became known as Bear Woman after embarking on a vision quest and an important naming ceremony surrounding the physical transition adolescents undergo, during which young women would seclude themselves and fast until a vision came to them. Bear Woman would become an integral part of her community and was remembered as a valiant figure defending her children from an attack by the Dakota.

Countless tales of strong-willed and inspiring Ojibwe women fill *HOLDING OUR WORLD TOGETHER*, a powerful corrective to the commonly held notion of Indian male dominance, and a tribute to the many courageous women who held their tribes together during some of their darkest hours.

Child is associate professor of American Studies at the University of Minnesota and author of "Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940". She is consulting editor for the Penguin Library of American Indian History.



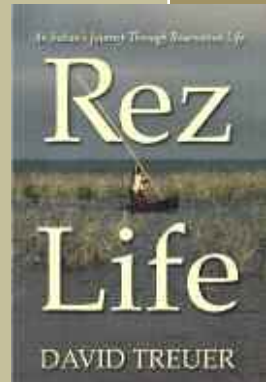
David Treuer will read from his latest book, the critically acclaimed "REZ LIFE: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life" (Atlantic Monthly Press; February 2012), part memoir, part journalistic exploration of life on America's Indian reservations.

"To understand American Indians is to understand America. This is the story of the paradoxically least and most American place in the twenty-first century. Welcome to the Rez." This is how celebrated Treuer begins "REZ LIFE, an intimate, insider's exploration of the history of Native American reservations and contemporary life on the "Rez."

In *REZ LIFE*, Treuer traces the history of reservations from their founding with the Indian Appropriations Act of 1851 and shows how many of the policies and laws enacted by the United States since have had far-reaching effects on the lives of his people today. With authoritative research and reportage, Treuer tackles misunderstood contemporary issues of sovereignty, treaty rights, and natural resource conservation and exposes the tension that has marked the historical relationship between the U.S. government and the Native American population.

Treuer, the son of an Ojibwe judge and an Austrian Holocaust survivor, grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota. With an insider's eye, he weaves his own story, and that of his tribe, family and friends together to explore contemporary conceptions (and many misconceptions) of reservations, both as places of poverty, substance abuse and violence, but also home to the famed casinos and their perceived tribal benefits.

Treuer is the author of three novels: "Little," "The Hiawatha," and "The Translation of Dr. Appeles." And author of "Native American Fiction: A User's Manual," a book of essays. He divides his time between Los Angeles and Leech Lake in Minnesota.



Sponsored by Black Bear Crossings. No reservations necessary. For more info, call The Circle at 612-722-3686.