Greetings. Welcome to today's podcast. My name is (Lyn Howell) and I am the chair of the GP Solo Programs Board and I am kicking off today's program. Today's program is a sneak peek of what we have coming up for you at the Women’s Initiative Network Presentation and Powerful Speaker Series as well as a wine and cheese reception (starting the) ABA 2019 Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas. So we encourage you to listen today and know that we have plenty more planned for you.

Today's program is "How American Women Can Change the World". From how we see things to how we do things, American women are transforming American society. We are owning our own voices and owning our own power as never before, bringing to the forefront unique possibilities for healing and repair.

Marianne Williamson, our presenter today, discusses both the internal and external aspects of female power and contributions. Just a touch of housekeeping, at 45 minutes into our presentation, our operator will come back and give you instructions on how to ask a question. Our executive director of the (Solo Law) Firm division, (Kim Coshan), will be leading that part.

At this point, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Melanie Bragg, who is our chair of GPSolo and she will then introduce our main presenter today, Marianne Williamson.
Melanie, the floor is yours.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. Hi, everybody. I am very, very excited to welcome Marianne Williamson to today's brown-bag presentation. Marianne is someone who I have admired for many years. She is a best-selling author. She is – an acclaimed lecturer, activist and author of four New York Times best selling books. She is one of America's most well-known public voices for more than three decades. She has been just one of the women's leaders and someone that has a lot of great information.

But other than that, she is a native of Houston, Texas, where I am from, so I just love that. Marianne let’s just jump in to the – let’s jump in feet first today. And let’s talk about what happened last night. Did we get some new women into the Congress? In the House?

Marianne Williamson: Yes, absolutely. We not only got I think over a hundred women. But the diversity that they represent is truly extraordinary and promises to be a fundamental break in a kind of particular mindset. You know it’s not just a matter of "old boy's club"; it’s old boy's thinking.

And sometimes women are the "old boy" thinkers, too. It’s not necessarily women thinking one way and men thinking another way. But it’s a kind of mindset that was stuck in the 20th century and needs to be at this point left behind.

So for me, having more women in Congress just like having more women in every other area of our lives creates the opportunity to let one kind of paradigm dissolve and another one really to be born. That is what we are, we are midwives. You know, even our bodies can give birth to children and the whole idea of mothering life is way beyond biological, you know, the womb of consciousness. We conceive an idea and we midwife a new chapter in our civilization.

So I think bringing these more feminine perspectives in carries with it the opportunity to bring in really a more feminine way of perceiving. The question becomes less if do you know how to run anything and more do you
know how to plant anything, nurture anything, be wise about anything, tend to
anything.

Just even the language changes. And as the language changes, the synapses in
our brain follow suit. So I think this is an extraordinarily pregnant moment,
once again, a word that we can speak to. Whether your body gives birth to
children or not, it’s almost irrelevant. It’s the feminine or female
temperament that has its own – its own take on the world and experience of
the world.

Melanie Bragg: And, yet, there is going to be so many other women who have not been
included in our process like you talked about diversity. One of our federal
judges here, (Vanessa Gilmore), just posted a picture this morning on
Facebook. There are 19 new African-American female voices. So that is a
new voice, there a lot of diversity.

And then the age, look at the young girl, I guess I think she is in New York.
So it’s not just white women. It’s women of color, too.

Marianne Williamson: Yes. And we want all of the diversity including though I think
maybe I have a special feeling about this because I myself am 66 years old,
but I think we want to avoid ageism. So I think some of the age diversity that
we need, it’s not like older women have been included. Women have not
been included, period.

So I always feel about younger women, they have something I don’t have
anymore. But I have something they don’t have yet. And I think that is to
have age, period. I think the younger you are, the more you know some
things. The older you are, the more you know other things. So I think we
want age diversity just like we want diversity in every other area.

Melanie Bragg: Oh, yes, that is definitely – I am 61, so I feel you on that one, Marianne. So
what is female power though?

Marianne Williamson: Well, first of all, there is no specific. I mean any woman who is
female expresses her power however she wants. But I think that what we are
talking about in this larger conversation about ushering in the feminine has to
do with our recognizing that there is a temptation when we gain a seat of – you know at the table – of power; that there is a way of being co-opted. Wow, I get to have a seat at the table now. And there is a temptation if we are not careful because of the social pressure and pressure on every other level to basically mimic a more patriarchal or masculine way of doing things which has profound implications for the society.

For instance, we find ourselves asking how much more money will that make this quarter rather than is that healthy for children.

I think for myself ushering in a time of genuine feminine power means more than anything else a recognition that no species survives and thrives that doesn’t take care of its young. And we have an economic system that ever since the last two decades of the 20th century has basically posited that market forces for all intents and purposes should be the governing principle of our society.

Now the problem with that among other things including the fact that it’s simply undemocratic, is that children don’t work. Therefore, they have no financial leverage. So if you have this undue influence of money on our government in the sense that unlimited corporate funds can influence our decision-making on domestic and international policies so much more than let’s say the welfare of children. And you have a situation in which your basic governing principle has to do with short-term economic gain and profitability as opposed to long-term viability and health and vibrancy for children, which means the adults of the future and the economy of the future. Then who is going to interrupt that pattern if not women?

And in every advanced mammalian species that survives and thrives, a common anthropological characteristic is the fierce behavior of the adult female of the species when she senses that there is a threat to her cubs. You see this in the lion and the tiger and bear. As a matter of fact, among the hyenas, the adult female hyenas encircle the babies and will not let them get anywhere near the food until – will not let the adult males I mean get anywhere near the food until the cubs have been fed.
And I always feel like surely the women of American could do better than the hyenas.

Melanie Bragg: Oh, yes.

Marianne Williamson: But a hyena – and a hyena and a bear and a tiger are following their instinctive ways of nature. And you and I we have free will. And part of the society and the civilization on Earth that humanity has created is one in which we are trained from a very early age particularly as women to think and act in a way that deviates from our own internal nature.

So where as it is the natural impulse of the adult female of any species to take care of her young, we are drawn away from that natural assignment. And even though I certainly consider myself a feminist, I think that there are ways in which a kind of flawed strain of feminism led us over the last few decades to perhaps minimize the role of a mother and basically the significance of the mothering impulse inside us all.

Once again, whether someone is a biological mother or has an adopted child or foster child is irrelevant. It has to do with all of us assuming the role of the adult female in any healthy society so that we see taking care of the younger generation as paramount.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. And Marianne, it is really uplifting for me to hear you say that because I always say about we need to celebrate mother energy. I am not a mother of children. But I do exhibit a lot of mother energy in my life over the people that I love, the children that I represent. And of course I do as a long-time children's lawyer that children's law is the least prestigious, the least paid, the least recognized and the least thought of when I think it’s the most important thing. And that is why I see those cases for one-third of my normal fee just because it’s important to me. So I really applaud for saying that. So basically, are you sort of looking at this like rather than moving from an economic bottom line to a humanitarian bottom line? Is that something that you feel fits in with our dream of democracy?

Marianne Williamson: Well, absolutely, I am. But I don’t want to rush past what you just said too quickly, because I think what you just said is so important. That is
exactly the kind of change. When you said that as a lawyer that in the law that is now practiced, children's advocacy is the least prestigious. That is it right there. This is where we have a problem because it’s not – you know, it’s not making huge amounts of money for some multinational corporate matrix and that is exactly what I meant by women being co-opted. And our taking a stand around that, that is feminine power. That has to do more with more than just female body parts. That has to do with feminine consciousness.

So first of all, congratulations to you that you are part of that change. But also I don’t want to quickly run by that because that’s it right there. Those are the conversations that we need to be having.

Now then you asked, does that mean a change from an economic to a humanitarian bottom line? Absolutely. What we are talking about here is a change from an economic to a humanitarian bottom line. But I think it bears noting that that is also the way to cultivate long-term economic vibrancy. We now know how much happens within the brain of a child in the first eight years of life. So every time we withdraw or withhold resources to education or any other stimulus that would cultivate long-term health and happiness in a child, we are withholding from our long-term prospects, economically, socially and in every other way.

So I think that one of the ways that women have been co-opted and women have been oppressed in a way is that this idea that, oh, you know, it’s so nice that you care about children. And it’s so sweet that you have such a bleeding heart. But we who understand economics, you know, we are the serious grown-ups in the room and we invite you to be part of our brilliant…, you know whatever, when the truth of the matter is if a child has not – can’t read by eight, the chances of them graduating from high school decreases. The chances of them being incarcerated are increased. And from an economic perspective, the chance that they will ever be part of a vibrant consumer base is almost obliterated.

Melanie Bragg: Yes.
Marianne Williamson: So I think that these are exactly the conversations that women should be having, not because we don’t understand the bigger issues of what makes a society sustainable, but because we do understand the bigger issues of what makes a society sustainable.

Melanie Bragg: Right. I agree a hundred percent. So really, what we need is we need a transformation of thinking about all of this, because like you said there is an economic connection between education and children. And it doesn’t have to be an economic bottom line.

Marianne Williamson: Well, not only that. But I think that we should see some of this historically. It was only in 1980. It was only starting in 1980 that we ushered in this idea, this trickle down economic theory, that giving market forces whatever they need is the way to economically order a society.

And at this point so many people have been born since then and so many people have been ensconced in that since then that not enough of us are stepping back and going, "That doesn’t work." That has created the largest wealth inequality since 1929 and bringing with that – that is not just a statistical reality. That is a soul-crushing human reality. You have 40 percent of all Americans – we can talk all we want to about the economy is doing well.

But none of us should be superficial in our thinking that we wouldn’t be asking ourselves who for exactly, when you have 40 percent of Americans who are having a very difficult time making ends meet – transportation costs, healthcare costs, food costs, rent costs. When you have American children living in poverty in the richest country in the world, one in five American children. When you have as many American children who go to school in schools where they don’t even have functioning toilets much less the minimum school supplies that they need. That’s outrageous.

You know we are the only country in the world where we base our education's funding on property taxes. So that means that if my parents don’t have money then I don’t go to a high quality school. And once again, what is the trajectory that that child is on for the rest of their lives?
These are fundamental underlying forces that must be challenged. And I think that women are – even hormonally – now, some people would disagree with me on that – but our very bodies are hardwired for a tendency I think. It’s interesting, I was reading a study. We all grew up being told that a human's response to stress is to fight or flee. And I was reading that we now know that those tests were always just done on men. And whereas a man's primary response to stress is to flight or flee, a woman's primary response to stress is to tend and mend.

Now obviously these are generalizations even if the studies – you know even if there is statistical evidence. But it’s certainly something to think about. And it all goes back to the kinds of social and economic changes that we need to make in this society that will not make themselves. And if women are gaining more power in professional fields, in the law, in politics and so forth but we don’t see ourselves as there in part to make those changes, then, that is a tragedy for our society and I think the tragedy for our world.

Melanie Bragg: Right. And you touched on the most important thing. Once a woman does get there she is sitting there in the room, she doesn’t want to rock the boat so to speak. She wants to go along to get along because it took so much to get there. You know what do you say to those that do get in? How should they start exercising their power? I mean women lawyers, I am sure we got young women lawyer just starting their practices here who are like, "Gee whiz. I got a seat at the table. Now what do I do?"

Marianne Williamson: Well, in the kindest most respectful way possible I would say, get over yourself. The law, my father used to say, laws are weapons. You did not get a law degree to get along and go along. By definition, by definition, the law is a radical tool. Our constitution is radical. The idea of justice is radical. The idea that all men are created equal, that all men are given by God the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that is a radical idea. It was radical 200 years ago and it’s radical today.

But – and we have seen this in our politics clearly – what happens is if individuals don’t tend to those principles and keep them alive, then, they might still be on a document or on a marble wall. But they no longer have
vital force. And that is how – that is how the devil gets you. It never – you know your ego mind is never – it doesn’t come up and say, "Hi. I am your self-hated." It comes up and says, "Hi. I am your self-love." With lines like it took me so long to get here.

Yes. Every woman should say, "Yes. It took me long to get here. And now I am going to kick ass now that I’m here." And that doesn’t mean in an unkind way or in a disrespectful way. But we are here – we are here to give birth to a new world. That is what every generation has to do. Stagnancy creates – it leads to death.

And if a woman with a law degree is not using her law degree to try to foster the energies of justice and renewal and repair and constitution and everything that matters, what are you doing? And that is what we have to respectfully say to one another when we see women selling out like that. What are you doing? It’s tragedy. This is not what – this is not what our former mothers fought for.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. Yes. Marianne that is amazing. So basically you would say it’s time to stop whispering.

Marianne Williamson: I would definitely say it’s time to stop whispering and that hatred is speaking so loud. And multinational corporate forces and financial institutions because of the amount of money they have are able to express with such force. But when it comes to advocacy for our children, advocacy for humanity, advocacy for justice, advocacy for the Earth, we have – as Martin Luther King said we have a power within us more powerful than the power of bullets. We have to be, from our hearts we have to speak for those forces that an economic bottom line would by definition peripheralize.

And, as I said before, these are not statistical issues. These are deep human issues that have to do with destructiveness of people's dreams, of people's hearts even with people's bodies and of the Earth itself. This is a very serious time we are living in.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. Tell us a little bit more about that.
Marianne Williamson: Well, we are living at a time where – let’s take something like our Environmental Protection Agency, set up by a Republican president, Richard Nixon. And the purpose of the EPA is to protect the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency. But the head of our EPA is not a world-class environmentalist. The head of our EPA is a former lobbyist for the fossil fuel industry.

And so, instead of advocacy for the Earth to be a guard against overreach by any corporate forces that would hurt the Earth, the EPA is more than anything else an advocate for those forces, advocate for those corporate forces. And we all know this.

And I know that the average American wants clean water and probably doesn’t realize that the Clean Water Act has been gutted. I know that the average American wants clean air and probably doesn’t realize that the Clean Air Act has been gutted. I think the average American would be appalled to realize that a ban on pesticides that is known to harm a child's developing brain, that in the former presidential administration every single EPA scientist had recommended be permanently be banned for that reason, that the ban has been overturned. Once again, I don’t think the average American realizes it because the propaganda is such that they don’t and they are not paying enough attention.

If lawyers are not on this, if citizens are not on this, what are we doing? What are we doing? We are destroying our grandchildren.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. And I frankly Marianne have not heard one word about children, education, nothing in the media about what we are doing about mental health. These are just so many social issues that I am not hearing about that I am hoping that these women who just got elected will at least start taking some stands and maybe bringing that back to the conversation. That is part of I think what they’re about.


Melanie Bragg: The mental health underlying the people that are getting these. It’s not about the guns as much as it’s the mental health of our…
Marianne Williamson: Well, I am not sure I would agree with that, Melanie. But, number one, every society has its unstable mentally ill people.

Melanie Bragg: Right.

Marianne Williamson: But not every society makes big guns so easily accessible to them.

Melanie Bragg: Right.

Marianne Williamson: Not all of us would agree that it’s not about the guns. It’s about mental health. It’s also about the guns.

Melanie Bragg: Yes.

Marianne Williamson: One of the first things that this administration did – in fact it’s the very first thing it did – was overturn a ban that had been put in place against people who were known to be mentally ill getting a hold of these guns. So I will not go along when somebody says, oh, it’s not about the guns. It’s about the guns, too. And it’s also for the same reason.

Melanie Bragg: Yes.

Marianne Williamson: And that has to do for the corporate bottom line in that case for the NRA. And if women are not going to stand up on this, what are we protecting? Why are we protecting – it’s not even about protecting the Second Amendment. I support the Second Amendment. I agree with the conservative view that the reason The Founders put the Second Amendment in there was because they did not want government to be the only, you know, entity that could have guns.

I am all for the Second Amendment. But I am also for the fact that you can drive a car, that doesn’t mean you go on the speed limit. It doesn’t mean you can drive anywhere you want or it doesn’t mean you don’t have to drive on your side of the road. There are rules and regulations for anything that is a power source.
So not only that when we talk about mental health, mental illness, I think we have to ask, "Why are so many people mentally unstable in America?" And it’s a multidimensional problem. But when you have among other things so much rampant despair, so much rampant hopelessness, so much rampant personal dysfunction. So it’s not really a question of do we need a cultural change or a political change, we need all of it.

Martin Luther King said we need a quantitative shift in our circumstances and a qualitative shift in our souls. But, no, saying it’s not about the guns. It’s about the guns and it’s about other things as well.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. Right.

Marianne Williamson: And once again, why are we working so hard to protect the multimillion dollar profits of gun manufacturers? Why? Why are the multimillion dollar profits of gun manufacturers more important to us than the safety of our children? What does that say about us? If you want to talk about a mental health issue, that to me is a mental health issue.

Melanie Bragg: Exactly.

Marianne Williamson: That is crazy.

Melanie Bragg: I know. That is definitely is. And basically what I meant was that we were not talking about the mental health aspect. I am not for the gun thing at all myself. I misspoke that a little bit, you know….

Marianne Williamson: Even the mental health aspect. Yes. But once again…

Melanie Bragg: The thing is the children are afraid to go school now.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you very much.

Melanie Bragg: And then sometimes they say, Mommy – they say, Mommy, am I going to be OK today in school? You know?

Marianne Williamson: That is right. And if women are not…
Melanie Bragg: And then they lock the doors and – I don't know – it’s just scary.

Marianne Williamson: So if women are not going to stand up for this, who are we? Who are we? Are American women just going to take this? So that is why when you asked question like the women who feels that she worked so hard to get here. Yes, you worked so hard to get here. And now we need to take – use the power that getting here has given us and do something extraordinary for our children and our children's children.

Melanie Bragg: Yes.

Marianne Williamson: And that is what I hope that those women in Congress will do. And that is what I hope that each and every one of us will do.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. And it’s just important for us all to take a stand in our ways and our own lives however we can do it.

Marianne Williamson: Well, I think also we are not porcelain dolls. We are not these precious little porcelain dolls. So even when we say things however you can do it, I think we as American women have to realize the extraordinary power that we have compared to other women in the world. First of all, some women who don’t even live in democracies where they have the kind of power that we have. And beyond that simply by virtue of the fact that the United States is so big and so wealthy, our power matters so much.

So I think we have a huge responsibility, not just rights. We also have profound responsibilities. And so, when you say, in whatever way we can, there are so many ways that we can.

Melanie Bragg: Right. And so, A Politics of Love, what do you mean? Your new book that is coming out, you are going to be talking about politics of love. How did you come up with that?

Marianne Williamson: Well, what has happened in America is that fear and hatred and bigotry and racism and some of the darker, darker demons of nature have been harnessed for political purposes. And now we have to harness dignity and decency and compassion and love for political force. And in every area, it’s
like when I was talking before, are you going to put all your money and your governmental power behind forces that hurt the Earth? That would be a politics of fear. Or you are going to put your money and resources behind things that repair and sustain and regenerate the Earth? That is a politics of love.

Melanie Bragg: Right.

Marianne Williamson: Are you going to withdraw resources from children? That's the politics of fear.

Are you going to put more resources towards children? That's a politics of love. Are you going to base all of your security modality on the idea of brute force such as greater military spending when we know that any enemies to our Homeland are not coming so much by earth or by sea, or by air but by the internet. Or you're going to shore up your capacity to wage peace, as well as our obvious necessity to be able to wage war if that's necessary.

We know what would wage peace, we know what would create peace, and that has to do with an expansion of economic opportunities for women and then expansion for educational opportunities for children, that's here true domestically and internationally. That is a politics of love.

Are you going to pretend that this whole immigration thing which is completely, completely made up, in fact our immigration situation is as it has been, if anything undocumented and illegal entry is lower, and by the way, these troops to the border is going to – it's estimated that will cost us $22 million. That's a politics of fear.

Melanie Bragg: And you know I am devastated about the children being taken away, that the numbers, but I've actually run into young people who say, well, their children shouldn’t have broken the law. In other words like OK so we are going to punish them for the rest of their life, keep them away from their families forever because their mom tried to get into the States?

Marianne Williamson: I don't know. I don't know. Yes. Well, I don't know who those young people think their ancestors were.
Melanie Bragg: I know. That's what I am saying but they are hearing some message that it's completely different and I look at their mothers who are sitting there next to them and go, how did this happen, you know, I mean, really? But those children may not ever see their parents again and nobody really, I mean, the ACLU is down here, but how are we going to – they didn't even bother to get a phone number. So that upsets people like me who has been children's lawyer for years, you know.

And, you know, the ABA is doing as much as they can about it but it's kind of like the government just thrown it over to ACLU. We made the mess, you all just clean it up.

Marianne Williamson: It's so wrong as to be criminal. It's really a violation, it's a crime against humanity is what it’s. I mean it's not an accident that the United States is not in the international criminal court. It's so beyond horrifying and I find it very disappointing how many Americans did not wish to vote against those policies last night.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. It’s. It’s. So basically there's a little bit of gloom and doom but at the same time there's a lot of hopeful things going out. So what would you – what would you tell the young lawyers that are listening to this and saying, gee whiz, am I giving enough, am I making enough of a difference, how can I just start today and start using my power?

Marianne Williamson: Well, I think each of us has an internal guidance system through prayer, through meditation, through mindfulness, through reflection. I think we need to find our wisdom and there are different ways that we do that. But whatever your way is to pray to be wise and to seek to be wise, and to make yourself available.

I think when we make ourselves available to a higher power, a higher power uses us. I don't think you can kind of figure out the way you can serve best so much as you can make yourself available to love. And when you have those kinds of changes in your thinking and in your heart opportunities arise that maybe would have arisen before but you wouldn't have noticed in the same way.
Situations unfold that you just see from a higher perspective ways to serve, ways to be part of the great revolutionary change of our times are all around us. It's just that when our minds are not attuned in a certain way we don't notice them.

Melanie Bragg: Right.

Marianne Williamson: So I think anybody who is taking in this conversation at a deeper level, you don't have to so much do anything, it's just in your own heart and in your own way pray use me and amazing things will begin to happen.

Melanie Bragg: Oh, yes, it definitely does, Marianne. I just, I think that you are going to be like a breath of fresh air to a lot of women at our meeting in January 25th, 2019 in Las Vegas. And, you know, women lawyers have so much power and ability to make a difference every day, so we're really blessed to have that ability.

And then just like you said doing a little practice of mindfulness, I know as I see a lot of female lawyers they are trying to be the perfect mother, the perfect wife, the perfect lawyer, the perfect everything and the one person they are forgetting mostly about is themselves very often.

Do you have any words of wisdom to those women who don't make themselves the priority?

Marianne Williamson: Well, I think that any practice of prayer, meditation, mindfulness, yoga and so forth is the ultimate in self care, the effect that we know that this has on the body and the effect that we know that this has on the mind. And I think that it’s the most powerful form of self-care because it aligns us, body, mind and spirit with that which is true and healthy. And clear.

Stress is a killer. And not only does stress cause disease but stress causes us to make mistakes. It causes us to be less than what we want to be in our intimate relationships with men, with women, with children and with the society. So cultivating a quieter space is so important even if it's only five minutes in the morning.
Blaise Pascal the French philosopher said, "all of the problems of the world can be traced to man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone."

I know sometimes when I think of the stupidest things I've ever done and I look back and I go, what were you thinking? And I think we all have those things.

Well, you were moving too fast, you were moving too fast, you were confused, you didn't talk to the people you should have talked to, you didn't take your time, you didn't reflect about it, you didn't pray about it and that's where the society is. We are reckless, we are irresponsible. We are doing things that run counter to who we are and counter to that which would cultivate long-term success, viability and health.

And the whole mind, the whole way that civilization is unfolding is a reflection of that mindset and that's why we need to interrupt it first of all by cultivating a different one within ourselves. And when you do cultivate a different mindset it happens automatically that you develop within yourself a devotion, not only to appreciating a new mindset but to really giving everything you can in your life to being part of the interruptive force-field on the planet which is midwifing that and bringing it forth.

Melanie Bragg: So basically you want us more, and I am writing this down, interruptive force-field to…

Marianne Williamson: That would be nice, girls.

Melanie Bragg: I know, and, you know, Marianne, in the last, I've been meditating for a long time, I've been doing a lot of things but in the last two years since I started writing about mindfulness in our GP Solo eReport I've been sort of my own little guinea pig, you know, like I actually was like, whoa, no, I really have to do this stuff because I am writing about it. So it has really, really changed my life in newer and deeper ways in the last two years.

And I am getting so much more enjoyment. It's not like the palpable, you know, thing. Well, there are some bottom-line things that have changed in my
life too that you can see, smell, taste and hear but so much of it’s just what goes on inside, and so, I try to help the women in terms of just when you are putting on your make-up, just when you are in the shower. I mean there's times and places where you can steal those precious moments with yourself to just really regenerate and I really do believe that that will bring us so much more power.

Marianne Williamson: Well, it brings us power that is beyond the power of the mortal mind. And that's what we need now. We need, if you look at the state of our world today we could use a miracle. And those kind of fundamental shifts that break through ancient patterns of fear come about in the presence of love, that come about automatically. But each of us have to pool not only our own intelligence and our own talents but our own love to be part of this invisible force-field.

You know, sometimes we are so involved in our own personal issues that we forget that so much of what we are going through, millions of other people are going through, the things that we are concerned about, millions of people are concerned about, the things that we yearn for and hope for, millions of people yearn for and hope for. So it's very helpful to remember that when you do your part it's not just what one person can do, it's to remember how many millions of other people are also seeking to bring forth in the 21st century a new way of being, and when we do that we up our game. And that's where so many of us are.

We are doing pretty good. I just think for everyone I meet and this includes myself, you are doing really good, just step it up.

Melanie Bragg: Right. I think last night the women came forth and said no more and let's support them and help them achieve what their goals are.

Marianne Williamson: Well, they did it in the House. Yes. We still have, I think that we saw last night that President Trump's strength and support is in some ways deeper than we thought, but I think we also saw that those who would like to see a more positive, creative and loving way forward, our powers might, is greater than we might have thought as well.
So the race is on. It's not just one election. It's the contest for, as Bobby Kennedy would say, the soul of America.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. And that is true. Well, tell us about your new book that's coming out because we are going to, well, hopefully, we are going to have a bunch of copies we are going to be able to sell those before, you know, when people register and then have one for you to sign at our event. But it's coming out right about the same time, right, in January, right?


And my new one that will be coming out is called the Politics of Love, a Handbook for a New American Revolution. And the New American Revolution is a revolution in consciousness.

John F. Kennedy said those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable. And we need a revolution in consciousness, basically a spiritual awakening I think on the part of the American people and globally. This is what's happening in the world today, both in terms of the more fearsome forces, as well as the more hopeful forces, are not generated or present in any one particular place in the world or any one ethnicity, or anything like that. It's something coming up from the bottom of things.

And I think we all want to rise to the occasion, answer to the call of the future of our own great-grandchildren that is happening inside all of us, and then wherever we are and whatever we do.

For instance if you have a law degree that's how you do it. You know, if you are a scientist that's how you do it, if you are an artist that's how you do it. The issue is for us to answer to the opportunities and answer the invitations of history wherever we are and whatever we are involved, just step it up.

Melanie Bragg: Yes. That would be a good one. We are definitely getting the women of the American Bar Association (Solos) Law Firm and general practice division and the women of the law practice division, the women rainmakers and the women of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, and the
litigation women, and the young lawyers women and the (TIPS) young
women, and the business and government sector, all of them have co-
sponsored this event that we are doing, Marianne, and I think all of the women
of the ABA just appreciate you, appreciate your time, appreciate your passion.
Where did you get your passion?

Marianne Williamson: Well, I would say I am a Texan. I was born and raised in Houston.
My father was an extraordinary person, an immigration lawyer actually.

But, you know, I don't think I have more passion than anybody else but I do
think this, I think that I was fortunate to grow up at a time and in a family and
in a state I have to say where it was permitted, it was invited. I felt, had felt in
my life permission to say what I think, to do what I do. I think we all as
women have a lot of internal obstructions, not so much external obstructions
in our society compared to those that women experience in other places. But
so many of us have internal obstruction, who am I to speak and so forth.

I think that while I have experienced some of those who-do-you-think-you-are
all of that kind of negativity and de-minimizing that this society gives to any
woman. I think I have also been blessed by so many friends and family
members, lovers and so forth who have said you go girl. And that's why
sisterhood is so important.

You know, I was, you know, part of the wave of feminism in the 1970s and
we understood that feminism is more than the belief that women should be
able to do whatever they want to do. It was understood that the power and the
importance of sisterhood, it was understood that none of us would get there
unless all of us got there. So I think now it’s extremely important that we
remember our significance to each other because I think one of the things that
keep us from going forward are psychological and emotional issues. Along
the line of what you said earlier, you know, I work so hard, I want to go along
to get along and so forth, what are they going to say about me.

You know, I was reading a study once where let's say a woman speaks up in a
meeting at your law firm or whatever, and people think what you just said was
silly or irrelevant or why are we talking about the children, or whatever. But I
was reading this study that said if even one other person in the room will speak up and say I agree with her then the entire psychological trajectory of the meeting will change, the entire system will change.

So sometimes it's not just where you speak up or whether you are willing to proactively support another woman when she speaks up.

I remember years ago when I would go through things and I would be out on a limb and some woman would say to me later I agreed with you. And I would think why didn't you say so? Why didn't you say so? So we have to be proactive now in our willingness…

Melanie Bragg: Yes.

Marianne Williamson: To be unpopular. So be unpopular. They are not going to burn us at the stake like they did hundreds of years ago. But just as, you know, they don't, we don't have slavery in this country anymore but we still have racism. And we don't burn women at the stake but we have not yet routed out of our consciousness this projection of suspicion onto powerful women who speak their minds.

Melanie Bragg: I know. I know.

Marianne Williamson: And that's why women have to – you know, we have to stand up to that. You know, whether you agree with Nancy Pelosi's politics or not, whether you agree with Hilary Clinton's politics or not, some of the misogynistic projection onto these women is not really about their politics, it's something deeper, it's how dare she speaks. And women have to look at and support, support these women, whether you support them politically or not, at the very least refuse to join into what is ultimately a misogynistic tendency to punish any woman who dares to say what she thinks without asking permission first.

(Kim): Marianne, that's very powerful. This is (Kim Coshan), I am so sorry to interrupt but we are at the point in the presentation for questions and answers. Is it OK if we see if there are any audience questions?
Melanie Bragg: Sure.

Operator: Attention, the question and answer session is now open. I would like to remind everyone in order to ask a question please press star one on your telephone keypad. Again, that is star one on your telephone keypad. We'll pause for a moment to compile the Q and A roster.

Melanie Bragg: In the meantime…

Operator: Again.

Melanie Bragg: Sorry, (Martha).

Operator: It's OK.

Melanie Bragg: While we have to pause, Marianne, if it's OK I would like to ask a quick question. And I am not sure if this was actually discussed but just how social media is playing into the sisterhood and the movement, how do you feel about that?

Marianne Williamson: Social media like everything about the internet is positive or negative depending on the purposes ascribed to it by the mind. The negative potential there is obvious, everything from building bombs to creating a temptation based on too easy availability of the capacity to say whatever we think the moment we think it.

The social media is very positive in that it gives us extraordinary opportunities for connectivity, extraordinary opportunities for organization. And it's amazing, the positive things that can be done with it. But the negative things that can be done with it's everybody thinks that they are shouting their opinion in any given moment at some higher good, you know. If you are angry in that moment you say, well, that's how I authentically feel. But your anger is not really the authentic you, the love is the authentic you, so social media is at the moment being used to foster some of the worst that we are capable of, and some of the best that we are capable of.
That's why this whole thing at the deepest level is spiritual in nature. It has to do with what aspect of ourself we choose to bring forth, the love or the fear. And that's simply being played out on a cultural and societal basis.

The same thing is happening in politics as in our hearts because all that a nation is, is a collection of individuals. So who are you going to go for, who are you going to vote for, the person who speaks the mind of your fear or the person who speaks the mind of your love and your higher aspirations for what's possible. That's an existential crisis that our country is going through and clearly social media is one of the main platforms, not just in terms of material platform but ideational platforms on which this is all being played out.

Melanie Bragg: Thank you. Do we have any questions?

Operator: Yes, we do. Your first question comes from the line of Ms. (Katy Goshtasbi). Ms. (Goshtasbi), your line is now open.

(Katy Goshtasbi): Thank you. So my name is (Katy Goshtasbi). And Melanie and I started working on this (secret) series about three years ago and Melanie has a brilliant idea and she brought it to me, and so, I am her counterpart. I chair the ABA Law Practice Division.

So we are thrilled to have you, Marianne.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you.

(Katy Goshtasbi): And I think, you know, thank you. I have been a student of the Course in Miracles for many, many years and I will always be a student because I think those of us who are students know it's a never-ending process.

And I think your book A Return to Love has really summarized the course so well for me. It's a book that I read regularly.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you.

(Katy Goshtasbi): Because certain parts of the quotes really stick with me. You are welcome and thank you for putting it out there.
So to your point about women not being silent and supporting one another, I find wherever I lead and in particularly within the ABA that it's very difficult for us as women to speak up, especially being chair of one of the divisions like Melanie is right now. I speak up because I am the Chair but I find a lot of other women who are my colleagues and we may have had the same conversation with me stay silent. And then the men just kind of carries the conversation and I am left mediating, and I get very frustrated.

And to your point where you said we have found there are tools that support the women in leadership and getting along women to speak up because otherwise I lapse into mindlessness and I disconnect from source and I become so frustrated with that fact that I am not inspiring them to want to speak up and really be heard and not be afraid of being bullied and not listened to. So if you have any tools or any suggestions for how we can stay inspirational and stay grounded and present, and not let ourselves get affected and get dispirited.

Marianne Williamson: Yes, I hear you.

Melanie Bragg: Or in my case, get mad, I get really mad and I turn into a different person, so.

Marianne Williamson: You know, one of the things that I have seen in my life I've noticed sometimes when women have supported me and when I have thought about it I have realized that one of the reasons I think they have supported me is because they have seen me model support for women.

They have seen me, it might not even be a conscious thing, whether I had supported them or supported other women that I seek to proactively display the kind of energy and support of women that I am hoping women will one day support show for me.

And I think the more you create that kind, the more you display that kind of behavior, the more you create that kind of energy through the things you say and the things you do I think a lot of women it's just old programming. And you know it's like an advertising when they say somebody has to see something three times or seven times or whatever it’s, a lot of women are just
waking up to what others obviously see is like the basic principles of feminism 101. But we have to simply realize that it's our job to model the changes that, you know, we want to see. And I think that that's what I've seen among women who have shown up for me is that there was a time when nobody had shown them, nobody had displayed it, nobody had modeled it.

And so, I think sometimes if we will think less about how to get other people to support us and more visible things that we can do that show women what it looks like when a woman supports other women, the chances will increase that others will understand that and pick up on that and show a similar support for us.

(Katy Goshtasbi): Got it. Thank you very much. We look forward to meeting you in Vegas.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you.

(Katy Goshtasbi): Not just someone to speak at our event.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you.

(Lynn Howell): My side. Do we have any other questions?

Operator: Again, if you wish to ask a question please press star one on your telephone keypad and wait for your name to be announced.

(Lynn Howell): We have only a few minutes left before everyone has to wait until January to continue the conversation.

Melanie and Marianne, do you have any last thoughts?

Marianne Williamson: No. I am looking forward to being with you. And I want to thank you, Melanie, and the women that you work with for having me. I think it's really touching that you are willing to expand your conversation within the ABA to include such things as spiritual practice and the importance of mindfulness and so forth.

This is how changes happen, you know, in our own lives. They happen one heart at a time and culturally they happen one new conversation at a time. So
I am just honored to be asked to participate both on the podcast and when I am with you at your conference. I look forward to it.

Melanie Bragg: Marianne, there are so many things that you said today, just the thing about the mother energy or, you know, about that consciousness. And I thought I was the only one who was thinking about that especially on Mother's Day. Mother's Day is the day that I say why don't we celebrate mother energy, not just motherhood, you know, and it's so refreshing to hear your ideas.

We've come up with so many different conversations and I am sure everybody listening is like, oh my gosh we need another couple of hours but you will be with us and we are going to be celebrating you and women and our sisterhood, and taking it a step further and just stating conversations and expanding on them.

Marianne Williamson: I don't know. Are you aware of the original genesis of Mother's Day?

Melanie Bragg: No.

Marianne Williamson: Look it up on Google. It was women who were, mothers who lost sons during the Civil War who were from the north, who got together with women who had lost sons during the Civil War in the South. And they created Mother's Day to be a day when women got together once a year to declare no more war.

And Julia Ward Howe who wrote the Battle Hymn of the Republic wrote the original Mother's Day proclamation and this is a perfect example of how this radical woman message then became co-opted and turned into this Hallmark card take-your-mother-lunch thing. So look that up. I hope all the women will.

Melanie Bragg: I will.

Marianne Williamson: The original Mother's Day proclamation. It's very profound.

Melanie Bragg: Oh, my gosh, thank you so much, Marianne.
Marianne Williamson: Thank you.

(Lynn Howell): And thank you again to Marianne and Melanie and to all of you joining us. You will receive an email in a few days with a direct link to the recording of this podcast. Again, this podcast is a sneak peek of Marianne's presentation at the Women's Initiative Network or WIN, Present and Powerful Speaker Series wine and cheese reception scheduled during the ABA 2019 Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Friday, January 25th, 2019.

This event and the ABA Mid-Year meeting is free, so go to www.ambar.org/midyear for more information.

Thank you all and have a great day.

Melanie Bragg: Thank you, everybody. Good luck.

Marianne Williamson: Thank you. Thank you.


Marianne Williamson: Bye.

Melanie Bragg: Have a nice day. Bye-bye.

Operator: Thank you, presenters and participants who listened in. This concludes today's conference. You may now disconnect. Have a great day. Goodbye.