



JEDI Tool Shed

one seed at a time

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STITCH

The Speed of Summer in Minnesota

Welcome to the heat of July! Summer is in full swing – county fairs, community parades, swims in the lake, and outdoor music festivals are here.

We are so excited to welcome Ivy, our Community Engagement Coordinator. Welcome, Ivy!!

May and June flew by! Third Space Thursday, June Pride celebrations, community focus groups, and planning for the fall Pride in the Park have kept staff busy. We are so grateful to our Third Space Thursdays co-host, Lisa Ackerman of Lil Fish Studio. Lisa has been so gracious in opening her studio for a variety of social opportunities and creative connections.

In May, attendees shared a skill, and together we learned how to make an origami box as well as how to fold a fitted sheet. In June, The Sowing Room and Wildflower Wisdom co-hosted a Women's Circle where we reflected on scarcity versus abundance mindsets and how those perspectives impact our daily lives. Our June Pride celebration at Whipple Beach included more pizza than we could eat, chalk art, and a hilarious game of Cards Against Humanity (Family Edition).

Through all of this, I have loved seeing friendships grow, social circles come together, and people simply enjoy the company of their fellow neighbors.

Come and sow with us!! There is room for you here, too!

Dawn Espe, Executive Director





Rural Assembly Everywhere July 23rd

Rural leaders, community members, advocates, and allies will gather to imagine new ways of expanding opportunity, sharing resources, and building a more, connected thriving rural America.

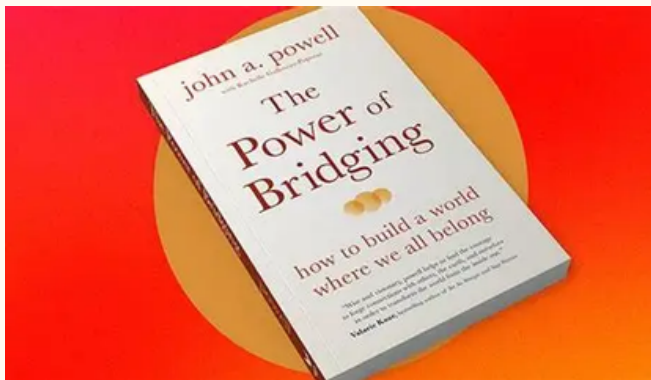
[JOIN THIS VIRTUAL EVENT!](#)



Pride in the Park

Join us September 12th for our annual Pride in the Park celebration. With lots of vendors, food, and more, it's a family-friendly event for everyone! VENDORS ARE INVITED TO SIGN UP NOW!

[LEARN MORE](#)



One-Book Bookclub

THE POWER OF BRIDGING - JOHN A. POWELL

Join us as we host a one-book bookclub, centered around John A. Powell's "The Power of Bridging". Have fun and learn with a small group as we learn about creating connection and bridging differences!

[RSVP](#)



Community Impact Fairs

**WALKER: AUGUST 29
AND CROSBY: SEPTEMBER 19**

These fairs are designed to inspire civic engagement and strengthen democratic participation across rural Minnesota communities. Each fair will feature hands-on action booths, educational presentations, and community dialogue that empower residents to learn, act, and connect around civic life.

[WATCH FOR DETAILS!](#)

In Community

Seeds from Ivy

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Our June Pride Celebration was an outstanding success! We shared ideas for this year's Pride in the Park events, while crafting, discussing interests, and sharing a picnic meal at Whipple Beach.

In May we hosted a skill-share focused Third Space Thursday, where we learned to fold a fitted sheet and make origami boxes.

We also hosted a Third Space Thursday focused on scarcity vs abundance mindsets. At this meeting, we discussed some of our day-to-day stressors, as well as the many assets and connections we have that can lessen the load of these draining parts of our lives.

HELPFUL & RELEVANT WEBSITES AND MEDIA:

- **Movie:** Dog Movie, directed by Henry Hanson [Dog Movie – DEGENERACY NOW!](#)
 - "A passive-aggressive tenderqueer couple sends their household into a quiet tailspin when they adopt an elderly dog with the same name as the unemployed couch surfer they just can't seem to confront."
- **Book:** Power of Bridging by John A. Powell
 - In The Power of Bridging John shares personal stories and reflections on how his life experiences helped shape his journey to becoming a bridge. He outlines practices in the book to help you begin bridging wherever you are, in your community, friendships, family, workplace, and even those with whom you might never have imagined you could find common ground.
- **Website:** [Home | Othering & Belonging Institute](#)



LGBTQ+ Community Needs Focus Group

The Sowing Room is seeking input from the queer community living and working in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties around issues like housing, transportation, health care, workforce and MORE.

[RSVP](#)



Third Space Thursday

JULY AND AUGUST

We will not be hosting Third Space Thursdays for July and August, but don't worry! Lisa will still be hosting Thursday Art Club sessions in her studio from 6-8pm.

[CONNECT WITH LISA](#)

Donations are always welcome- big or small

*Every dollar helps to bring inclusive places
and spaces to rural communities*

- *General Operating Fund
- *Third Space Thursdays
- *Sew and Sow Regional Tour 2026
- *Pride in the Park 2026
- *Care Team



Please indicate which project/program you would like your donation to impact.

Welcome Ivy!!

THE SOWING ROOM'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Ivy Matejcek is a Central Lakes College graduate from Pillager, Minnesota. After receiving their Associate of Arts degree, as well as two program certificates in Honors and Women's Studies, they began an English Education degree through Bemidji State University and worked as a paraprofessional, serving middle school students with learning disabilities and emotional behavioral disorders.

Ivy has since shifted this education focus to encourage others to learn more about minoritized communities and their experiences in our rural areas of Minnesota, through The Sowing Room and personal advocacy within their own community.

Stay connected

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!!

What seeds need planting in your community?

DROP US A LINE!

@thesowingroommn | director@sowingroom.org

WWW.SOWINGROOM.ORG/CALENDAROFEVENTS