

Twelve Steps To My Recovery [from racism}
by Carol Maicki

1. **Discovery**.... *Where did they all come from?*
2. **Denial**... *I didn't do it. I'm a good person.*
3. **Rainbow**... *Blue, purple, doesn't matter all same*
4. **Instant Expert**... *Romanticize, Know-it-all*
5. **Some of my best**... *Generalize from new friends*
6. **Wanna Be**... *Nuisance, impose myself, sun dances etc.*
7. **Who Am I?**... *Curious re ancestors, spirituality*
8. **Guilty, Guilty**... *Oh no, what did we do?*
9. **Begin to Learn**... *Alienate family, set boundaries*
10. **Genuine Respect**... *Identify advantages for me*
11. **Ally Time**... *Commit to be accountable to "others"*
12. **Challenge**... *Accept responsibility. Work to change own group.*

Carol was a well-known, respected and loved ally of Native people. She was a powerful advocate to end violence against women, sexism and racism. Carol once served as a South Dakota legislator (no easy feat for a woman in SD!). Many Native women continue to count her as a relative. Carol was an authentic, compassionate trailblazer. Carol understood the intersectionality of oppressions. Her life was dedicated to using her voice, resources and privilege to create social change ending disenfranchisement and promoting safety and equity.

Once she stood on the steps of the capitol of South Dakota in Pierre and declared (paraphrased) "all white people in America are racist. I'm racist. It's not about shame or guilt. It's in the air, it's ingrained in society. But we must hold ourselves accountable and engage in the life-long process of undoing it."