2008 Event Topics *subject to change

Become a Pioneer of the Future, Not a Prisoner of the Past ~ The term “authentic leader” shows up in much of the business media these days. The idea is, if you don’t have it, you’re missing out. But what does it really mean, being authentic? In this exciting opening session, you will learn how to speak your authentic voice in any situation by opening up your self-awareness. You will discover a decision you made early in life that engaged self-limiting behavior affecting your leadership today, and until now has probably been unconscious. It shows up when you feel challenged. In this highly interaction session, you will awaken your awareness of these unconscious choices, and then identify new ways to manage your reactions to it. We describe it as, “a life by design rather than a life by default”.

Authenticity is not about spewing our anger onto someone or holding hands and singing Kumbayah under the guise of saying this is who I am. It’s about figuring out what’s going on in us and then acknowledging that as we get into discussions. Those become discussions that matter, and people are pulled to those like magnets. Come to learn about the challenge of leadership and authenticity. Learn how to be a pioneer of the future, speaking your voice in a spirit of partnership and curiosity, especially in the face of different points of views and competing objectives.

Personal Mission Statements: Why personal reflection about what we do and why is a critical part of leadership building for women ~ This interactive and discussion-based presentation will focus on how and why personal mission statements change and evolve as you 1) gain insights into yourself and 2) determine your hopes and dreams for each part of your life.

Communicating with Character ~ Discover the vital ingredient to every skill or technique you have ever learned in working with people. Learn how to consciously step through walls of resistance and implement key principles to effectively communicate (with character) in any relationship - employees, clients, significant others, etc.

Graduation Celebration: When the going gets tough – put on fresh lipstick ~ This presentation will explore tips and strategies for networking and succeeding in the world of work as a woman and graduate of Montana State University.

Hindsight’s 20/20 ~ There are those moments in our lives we wish we could do-over and there are also times you knew you made the right decision at a critical juncture. This interactive panel-based presentation led by successful business women will offer insight into how they got where they are today by taking a look back at where they’ve been and the decisions they made along the way.

Entrepreneurial Spirit ~ Thinking about starting your own business? Learn what it takes from women who have started their own successful companies through this interactive panel-based presentation where they’ll discuss the challenges and rewards of running your own company.
**Your Encore Career ~** Are you starting to consider working less? Perhaps you want to retire within the next few years. Boomers like us may want to, but retire to what? Do we even want to really retire? An inspiring new group of role models for "engaged retirement" is emerging. Unwilling to stuff envelopes or go off quietly to the sidelines, they want their next chapter, or encore, to include a “purpose-driven job.” These change-makers are taking matters into their own hands and fashioning a new vision of the second half of life, one in which the expertise and talent of a lifetime is refocused on finding solutions to challenges in our communities, healthcare, education and social services.

This break-out session will explore what it means to redefine the second half of your life as a source of social and individual renewal. Aging does not equal stagnation and decline. Perhaps you are a social entrepreneur who wants to start a new organization. Perhaps your innovative approaches to leadership can transform an existing organization. Perhaps your grassroots activism can play a leadership role in improving community or advancing a cause. Later life can be a time of innovation, productivity, and creativity as rich as the younger years. Come to this break-out session and break out a new encore career idea.

**Generation Gaps ~** People are recognizing more and more a generation gap between the 20-something and 40- and 50-something age group. Differences in attitudes, values, work ethics and even vocabulary can contribute to misunderstandings and generational clashes, which can lead to unproductive and unhappy environments. Perry will explore ways to manage and blend generational differences in everyday life in order to improve understanding between generations and help foster creativity and innovation.

**How to Use Your Strengths to Negotiate What You Deserve: An Interactive Workshop ~** Many women dislike negotiating because they do not realize they already have the skills necessary to manage conflicts. This highly interactive workshop led by two trained mediators will help you recognize your skills and strengths and will enable you to become a more confident and successful negotiator.

**Improvisation for the Spirit: Using Improv in Everyday Life (Keynote Address) ~**
If you're willing to make a fool of yourself, you're on your way to being yourself. Our egos, monsters that they are, are desperately afraid that people won't accept our authentic selves. That's why we fear speaking in public. And making a toast. And telling someone that we love them. And putting our creativity on display. And wearing that. We're afraid that when we put ourselves out there, we won't be worthy, loveable, understood, or good enough. We're afraid to be authentic because we're so worried about being authenticated, as in validated, like a piece of art that some expert is going to pass judgment on.

Have you ever thought of applying the skills of improv comedy to everyday life? These skills include trusting yourself, being present, opening your mind. When you look at life, and the many challenges you may face in a day, learning to approach living through 'laughter' colored glasses may just end up better than Rose could have ever imagined.