

Love, Chatham County Style

What is this thing called Love? I don't pretend to know much about it, but they did nickname me "Tamilove" in college.

Love is beautiful. Love is painful. Love is complicated. Love is delicious. And love is -- above all -- what we strive for to reach a higher place of awareness. I know that love brings tears to my eyes, lumps to my throat and sometimes pits in my stomach. Love can make one feel fearless, super human, and invincible.

I understand what it's like to love a child, to love a partner, to be in that obsessive state of new exciting love, to love a friend, to love nature, to love this life, and to have passion. We all experience love differently depending on how we were raised, our experiences and our ancestors. Love is a reflection, a projection and sometimes a rejection.

Abundance NC examines and celebrates grief at [Death Faire](#) in November every year. We bring in experts to share their wisdom. With meaningful speakers, unique vendors, musicians, storytellers, and interactive art, we examine death and grief in our culture.

The last few years have taught me that grief is directly proportional to love. This inspired Abundance NC to shake things up!

This spring, we're hosting an event focused on affection, appreciation, devotion, tenderness, fondness, friendship, infatuation, lust, passion, respect, attachment and non-attachment, acceptance, enchantment, emotion, and basic adoration.

[Think Again: Love](#) will take place on April 19th and 20th in Pittsboro NC at The Plant, home of the newly formed [Chatham Beverage District](#). Abundance NC

events bring together commerce, education, entertainment, community, poetry, singing, local food, local spirits, connection, and magic.

As our second event in the Think Again Series -- this festival-conference hybrid will be a little edgy and lots of fun. We sense a need as a community to explore these different aspects of love, as a way of healing ourselves. We believe this greater understanding of love will ripple out to the community, mend divides between all people, mend this earth. Topics include how to talk to your children, how to speak to each other, sexual empowerment, gender exploration, the history of burlesque, consent, self-love, and we'll celebrate the coming of spring, of life and LOVE.

We are thrilled to bring to town, [Vanessa Jackson](#), a soul doula to keynote: *Conjuring a Love Revolution: Everyday Acts of Love to Transform Our Communities*. The evening before will be an Amuse Bouche (taste of the event) and will feature community leaders discussing what it's going to look like to reach our goals of a loving community. A community that supports each other no matter how different we are, a community that helps each other in times of crisis. A community that is healthy and protects our environment as we go through all the changes. An equitable and fair community. The root of the problem is talking about the hard subjects with each other, pushing through our fear and beliefs. We will visualize this together.

Join us. In the words of Mary Oliver, "And I say to my heart, rave on."

For more information and tickets, check out our website:

www.abundancenc.org

-- *Tami Schwerin*

Executive Director, Abundance NC