

Biographies of Contributors

(listed in order of writings in this book)

Fania E. Davis, a leading national voice on race and restorative justice, is a lifelong social justice activist, a civil rights trial attorney and author with a PhD in Indigenous Knowledge. The murder of two close childhood friends in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing crystallized within Fania a passionate commitment to social transformation. Co-founder and formerly Director of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, her numerous honors include the Maloney Award for excellence in Youth Restorative Justice, the Tikkun (Repair the World) Award, the Ella Jo Baker Human Rights Award, and the Ebony POWER 100 award. The Los Angeles Times named her a New Civil Rights Leader of the 21st Century. Fania's latest publication is *The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice: Black Lives, Healing and U.S. Social Transformation*.

Carl Stauffer, PhD., is Associate Professor of Justice at the Center for Justice & Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. He also serves as Co-Director of the Zehr Institute for RJ, and Academic Director of the Caux Scholars Program in Switzerland. Carl earned his PhD from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa. During his 16 years there, Carl provided RJ services for the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and co-founded two peacebuilding institutes in Zambia and Burundi. He has conducted RJ training and consultation in 37 countries on six continents. Carl's research focuses on RJ as a social movement, and the use of indigenous and community justice practices as alternatives to mainstream transitional

justice.

Sonya Shah initiated The Ahimsa Collective in 2016. The Ahimsa Collective works to respond to harm in ways that foster wholeness for everyone. She is also an associate professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Central to her core values are nurturing community and collectivity, healing and compassion, love and transforming harm. She is a Buddhist, a first generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India and feels most at home in nature. She has two amazing children who remind her what it means to be in love all of the time, and currently resides in northern California.

Rose Elizondo brings healing, relationship building, accountability, and transformation to the restorative justice movement. As an organizer, she informs, inspires and incubates communities to create alternatives to punitive legal systems by facilitating inquiry into the indigenous roots of justice. As a 2017 Soros Fellow, she revitalized healing practices of peacemaking with Navajo community leaders. In 2005, with men in San Quentin prison, Rose co-founded the Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable to practice accountability and responsibility. She co-founded the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council, which supports survivors of crime and implements grassroots community restorative justice. Her intergenerational trauma work with Native and Indigenous communities uses truth, reconciliation and reparations processes. Rose incorporates healing, art, murals, dance and gardening to envision community values and create cultural shifts.

Jovida Ross, the eldest daughter of a solo mom, has always known that the personal is political.

Her hope for change led her to work with groups like The Women's Building of San Francisco and Community United Against Violence. Jovida benefited from multiple healing modalities to work with intergenerational trauma, including restorative justice, yoga, and somatic experiencing; she now teaches yoga. As Director of Programs at Movement Strategy Center she co-founded The Transitions Initiative which gathers movement leaders to explore how embodied wisdom can generate untapped possibility, potential, and power in their work toward social, economic, and ecological justice. Jovida now works with Real Food Real Stories, drawing on food and stories as practices for seeding cultures towards a caring, regenerative, and just tomorrow.

Mika Dashman is an attorney, mediator and a zealous advocate for restorative justice. She is the Founding Director of Restorative Justice Initiative, a citywide, multi-sector network of practitioners, advocates and community members seeking to increase support for, and access to, restorative justice approaches for all New Yorkers. Her restorative justice teachers include: Lauren Abramson, Kay Pranis, Dominic Barter, Eric Butler, Ray Deal and Sara Whitehorse. Prior to beginning her work in alternative dispute resolution, Mika spent more than six years providing direct legal services to indigent individuals at several New York City non profits, including Housing Works, Inc., where she also worked on all aspects of the agency's civil rights impact docket. Mika received her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law in 2005 and her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College.

David Dean is a writer and educator who offers activists tools for building powerful, multiracial

solidarity and supports white folks to understand how their well-being is tied to the freedom of people of color. He has served as an advocate for restorative school discipline, researched truth and reconciliation processes for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, guided men's groups to overcome hyper-masculine social expectations, and led youth programs that combined basketball with a social justice-centered education. David was shaped most by his parents' love and his upbringing in Quaker communities. He loves facilitating others' discovery of their own inherent goodness and power to create social change. To read more of his writing and explore how his offerings could support your community, visit davidbfdean.com.

Mikhail Lyubansky is a teaching associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where among other courses, he teaches Psychology of Race and Ethnicity and courses on restorative justice. Since 2009, Mikhail has been bringing his almost two decades of experience in teaching and writing about racial justice to studying conflict and restorative responses to conflict, especially Restorative Circles, a restorative practice developed in Brazil. In addition to multiple book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, Mikhail is the co-author of *Building a Diaspora: Russian Jews in Israel, Germany, and the USA*, and recently co-edited *Toward a Socially Responsible Psychology for a Global Age*. He also regularly explores racial justice and restorative justice themes in his Psychology Today blog [Between the Lines](#).

Anna Lemler is a nonprofit manager and racial equity professional with a background in youth development, community organizing, restorative justice, and program and policy design. Anna is currently the Network Manager for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), an

initiative through Race Forward to advance racial equity utilizing a national network. Prior, Anna worked as the Racial Equity Analyst for Washtenaw County, MI and in leadership with Trail Blazers Camps and iMentor. Anna is a restorative justice practitioner and currently manages the Michigan Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Board, a group of young people impacted by the criminal justice system to leverage their voices in policy-making. Anna is an organizer with The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and earned her MSW from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Julie Shackford-Bradley is the co-founder and Coordinator for the Restorative Justice Center at UC Berkeley. She has 15-years of experience teaching in Global Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies, with a research focus on traditional and community-based justice in international and local contexts. She is a trained mediator and RJ practitioner. With the RJ Center, she conducts trainings and circles on campus and in the local community, supervises research projects regarding campus and community-based issues pertaining to conflict, justice and reconciliation, and facilitates internship programs and other collaborations with San Francisco Bay Area Restorative Justice organizations. Her specific RJ interests include applications of restorative processes for SVSH (Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment), equity and inclusion and racial healing.

Katherine (Kat) Culberg (RN, PHN), a Euro-American woman, is a registered nurse who quickly developed a passion for public health and social justice with a focus on urban adolescent

girls and boys. She has been active in developing and managing school-based health centers in Oakland as well as providing direct service to youth as a school nurse. After years of feeling that traditional models were limited, she embraced restorative justice work in prisons and jails, which led to a position with Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth as Programs Director. She is co-founder of Circles for Social Change, an organization that consults, trains and provides individuals and organizations in restorative justice processes, particularly in relation to racial justice and healing through insight, accountability and action of other white people.

Jill Strauss, PhD, teaches Conflict Resolution and Communications in the Speech, Communications and Theater Arts Department at Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY). Her research involves Restorative Practices and the visual interpretation of narrative and difficult histories. She completed her PhD at Ulster University in Northern Ireland in 2010, where she designed an innovative fieldwork project integrating storytelling and visual art for empathy and validation as one way to address a history of mutual humiliation and historical conflict. Jill is co-editor of *Slavery's Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation* (Rutgers University Press, 2019) along with other articles and book chapters.

Daniel Rhodes is director of the undergraduate Social Work program at UNC-Greensboro. He received his PhD in Cultural Studies with a graduate certificate in Women and Gender Studies from the UNC-Greensboro in 2008. Before this he obtained his master's in Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1996 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Daniel has been engaged in

community-based work for over 20 years, working in mental health, therapeutic foster care, working with immigrant and refugee populations and has been a clinical supervisor. He is trained in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) a form of cognitive-behavioral therapy that uses mindfulness to deal with issues related to trauma. Daniel is also a restorative justice practitioner and engages and trains students and communities in Peacemaking Circles.

Kathy Evans is Associate Professor of Education at Eastern Mennonite University, teaching courses in educational psychology, special education, and restorative justice in education. With a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from The University of Tennessee, her teaching and scholarship focus on ways in which educators participate in creating more just and equitable educational opportunities for all students, including those with disability labels, those who exhibit challenging behavior, and those who are marginalized for a variety of reasons, including race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, and gender identity. She is the co-author of *The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education* and has published articles and book chapters related to restorative justice and school discipline practices, focusing on the ways in which restorative justice is applied to educational contexts.

Brenda Morrison is Simon Fraser University's Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice, and an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology. She is a social psychologist with teaching, research and field experience in outdoor education, governance and justice. She completed her PhD at the Australian National University, where she also worked as a Post-Doc at the Centre for Restorative Justice. Internationally, Brenda has presented papers at the House of Lords and UNESCO. Nationally, she is a research partner with PREVNet (Promoting

Relationships Eliminating Violence Network), Children's Rights Academic Network and serves on the Board of Smart Justice Canada. In British Columbia, she has served on working group summits for a Justice System for the 21st Century. In her home community, she is an active board member for the North Shore Restorative Justice Society.

Dorothy Vaandering, PhD, is an associate professor at the Faculty of Education, Memorial University, Newfoundland, and in Labrador was a K-6 educator for 20 years. She draws on life, teaching, and research experience to explore the implementation and sustainability of restorative justice in education. She works to connect theory and practice in her current role as researcher and teacher-educator developing innovative, transformative professional learning grounded in the principles of restorative justice. Most recently she is gripped by the realities of colonization past and present, working to understand reconciliation as a settler-Canadian. She is the (co) author of a variety of publications including *The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education*. Dorothy is the Director of Relationships First: Restorative Justice Education Research & Resource Consortium in NL.

Jonathan Stith is the National Organizer with Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity (BOLD) where he trains Black organizers in innovative organizing and transformative leadership practices. As former National Director of the Alliance for Educational Justice, he led the Alliance's efforts to shift federal education policy away from discriminatory discipline and guided the launch of AEJ's National Police Free School Campaign to challenge police presence after the #AssaultAtSpringValley. He has over 20 years of experience organizing with youth and community organizations for education justice. Jonathan is a father of three children, an avid

soccer player, gardener and Cabralista.

Valerie Luna Serrels is a graduate of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding and is currently working on the edges between spirituality and nature, sacred ecology, human development and expansion, and restorative justice. She loves exploring the connections between the human soul and the soul of the earth, the liberation of human potential and of the planet, awakening to the interconnections between all of nature, including humans, and the cosmic story of a transforming and animate universe. She is a co-founder of the Wild Church Network, the founder and guide of Shenandoah Valley Church of the Wild and of Hagia Sophia (hagsophia.com), is a Reiki and energy practitioner, and a graduate of Earth & Soul, a Celtic school led by John Philip Newell. She lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her husband and cats and honors the brilliance of her five grown children and grandchild.

ethan ucker is an organizer, restorative justice practitioner, and popular educator. He has worked extensively in prisons, detention centers, high schools, and group homes across Chicago to hold space for creativity and accountability. Through this work, ethan has built multigenerational webs of responsibility, trust, collaboration, and critique with criminalized young people, elders, formerly incarcerated adults, and with other organizers, youth workers, and educators. He co-organizes alongside those whose privileged identities overlap with his own to devise cooperative strategies to address racial and gender-based harms. ethan is the co-founder of Circles

& Ciphers, a restorative justice and prison abolitionist organization led by and for young people of color who are impacted by violence. He is also the co-director of Stick Talk.

Mulanda Jimmy Juma is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a holder of a doctoral degree in Politics, Human Rights and Sustainability from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy. He also holds a Master degree in Peace Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and another Master in Electoral Policy and Administration from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy. Dr Juma is a Research Fellow, Department of Systematic Theology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. He is the former Coordinator of Peace Studies and Senior Lecturer in Applied Ethics at St. Augustine College of South Africa, Johannesburg. Currently, Dr Juma is the Country Director of the Mennonite Central Committee in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

Mark Umbreit, PhD, is a professor and founding director of the Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota, the first academic-based center for restorative justice. He is an internationally recognized practitioner and scholar with more than 40 of experience as a dialogue facilitator, circle keeper, trainer, teacher, researcher, and author of 11 books and more than 200 other publications in the fields of restorative justice, peacebuilding, dialogue, spirituality, and forgiveness. Since 1990 Mark has provided consultations and conducted training seminars in 29 countries worldwide, and nearly every state in the U.S. He has been recognized as among the 50 most notable and influential social workers in American history, based on his global impact as a practitioner and scholar.

Ted Lewis is a Restorative Justice trainer and consultant with the Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking, University of Minnesota, which is now based in Duluth. Ted was introduced to restorative justice on Pine Ridge Reservation in the early 1990s through Mennonite Central Committee workers. Since then he has worked in the fields of restorative justice and conflict resolution as a practitioner, trainer, program manager, director, teacher, writer, and consultant. His area of specialty is designing resources and trainings for restorative conferencing for harming and harmed people. He also teaches restorative justice courses at a college level. Since 2004, Ted has led workshops and reconciliation services for faith communities, and recently founded the Restorative Church project and website. Living near Lake Superior, he is continually grateful for the gifts offered by this amazing Lake through all seasons of the year.