

6th Annual Liberation-Based Healing Conference

Agenda: Day 1

Friday, October 21, 2011

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Ritual

Moderator: Rhea Almeida

Opening Ritual: Cliff Matias, Redhawk Native American Arts Council

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

“But That Happened Years ago”: Exploring the Impact of Historical Trauma on Families and Communities.

In an effort to move forward in life, individuals, families and communities are asked to “own” their experiences and take responsibility for their problems. Often times these requests are made without a careful examination of the underlying historical contexts impacting contemporary experiences. This opening dialogue will explore the CURRENT impact of historical trauma on families and communities and how addressing or neglecting these experiences influences treatment, healing and justice.

Moderator: Andraé L. Brown

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Life Affirming Paths: The Struggle for Sexual Affirmations and Human Rights.

What does it mean to be human? Under what conditions and within which contexts are we granted full citizenship of humanity? This panel will explore the process of human citizenship from an integrated perspective. We will critically examine the emotional, physical, spiritual, sexual and racial aspects of becoming whole and embracing our humanity.

Panelists: Rhea Almeida [Moderator], Rhea Combs, Susan Chorley, Andraé L. Brown.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Continued on reverse

Agenda Day 1 Continued

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Cultural Competency or Cultural Equity: Intersectionality, Culture and Context as the Foundation of Clinical Work.

Will the social mores and cultural values about gender and race be in line with the majority minority nation of 2042? Over the last thirty years, cultural competency has been the “mot de jour” (word of the day). Helping professionals across disciplines struggle to understand and become culturally competent with this all-encompassing yet limited stance, this panel will share some contemporary ideas around these important ideas as they relate to practice and policy and argue that there is a huge lag between the lived experiences of families and communities and the academic discourse that informs cultural competency and social justice.

Panelists: Sayde Logan [Moderator], Lisa Werkmeister-Rozas, Rhea Almeida, Rebecca Chaisson, Judith Lewis.

3:00- 4:30 p.m.

Decolonizing Practices: Implementing Social Justice Into Curriculums and Praxis of Education, Mental and Physical Health.

This panel will examine discourses of decolonizing practices across disciplines of mental health and education. Recent graduates and students will reflect on their past and current learning and training experiences.

Panelists: Mabel Quinones [Moderator], Marisol Garcia Westberg, Teresa McDowell, Mayida Zaal, Diana Melinda, Jose Cruz, Ohlaysha Gonzales.

4:30-5:00 p.m.

Reflections and Closing Ritual

Moderator: Mabel Quinones

Closing Ritual: Reverend Susan Chorley

6th Annual Liberation-Based Healing Conference

Agenda: Day 2

Saturday, October 22, 2011

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Ritual

Moderator: Lisa Dressner

Opening Ritual: Brittany Rhodie

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Youth Will Lead: Youth Empowerment and Development.

Adult-run institutions either offer spaces of nurturing and support, or perpetuate climates of fear and oppression. Too often, child and adolescent programs succumb to the demands of funders to focus on controlling children's behavior, missing critical opportunities to embrace young people as partners in righting the wrongs of society and building their creative future. Join us in this inspiring snapshot into how youth lead the way toward collective liberation.

Panelists: Lisa Dressner [Moderator], Mayida Zaal, Milagros Harris, Amir Billups; Nadir Jones, Kamiyah Allen, Vivian Tinsley, Teneya Harmon, Kiona Josey, Kyle Chalmers; youth participants from YPAR at Central High School's Social Justice Academy, Newark NJ; Affinity Youth Leadership Academy YFit Program at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA; and the Alliance for Racial & Social Justice Youth.

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Men's Work: Domestic Violence is More Than a Woman's Problem.

This panel will address domestic violence within a social and global context. Violence against women is a matter of human rights and more importantly a "man's problem". Panelists will examine strategies to engage men and boys, develop systems of accountability, and empower women, families and communities

Panelists: William Harrison [Moderator], Quentin Walcott, Kevin Boyd Sr., Rev. Cliff Chappell, Edwin Nieves.

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Music Performance

Musical Guests: Let's Roll Entertainment

Continued on reverse

Agenda Day 2 Continued

1:30-3:00 p.m.

The Next Big Thing: Family Therapy and Innovative Approaches in Community Activism, Education and Health Reform.

Our future depends on sharing power and knowledge among all stakeholders including parents, service providers, activists, consumers, healers and community members. This is critical to developing healing communities where both empowerment and accountability are the central focus. Through the use of education for critical consciousness, building progressive coalitions, inviting progressive allies from dominant groups, and inserting social action strategies, we envision transformative change.

Panelists: Judith Lockard [Moderator], Alliance for Racial and Social Justice, United for Social Justice, local community members, Milagros Harris, Rebecca Chaisson, Judith Lewis.

3:00- 4:00 p.m.

Reflections and Closing Ritual

Moderator: Andraé L. Brown

Closing Ritual: TBD

Presenter Biographies

Rhea V. Almeida, LCSW, Ph.D.

Rhea V. Almeida, founder of Institute for Family Services, is a family therapist, Columbia Graduate and creator of the Cultural Context Model, a Liberation Based Healing Perspective. Dr. Almeida is internationally and nationally acknowledged for her work on Intersectionality, which addresses the matrix of power, privilege and oppression in therapeutic and policy practices. In 2005 she received the American Family Therapy Academy Distinguished Award for Innovative Contributions to Family Therapy. For her cutting edge work in Liberation Based Healing, Dr. Almeida has been invited to expand scholarship in Ecuador, Jamaica, India, Sweden, South Africa and the United States. She has provided consultation and training to educational institutions, human service agencies and businesses. She has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, CNBC, National Public Radio, USA Today, and Pure Oxygen. She serves on the Council on Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity (CRECD) at Council on Social Work Education and is the author of numerous journal articles and three books: *Expansions of Feminist Theory Through Diversity*, *Transformations in Gender and Race: Family and Developmental Perspectives*, and co-author of *Transformative Family Therapy: Just Families in a Just Society*.

Amir Bilal Billups

Amir Bilal Billups is a Social Studies teacher at Central High School in Newark, New Jersey and one of the creators of the school's new Social Justice Academy. An experienced Participatory Action Research researcher, Mr. Billups is a member of the Youth Participatory Action Research in Classroom Curriculum Project, and was on the planning team for the 2011 Critical PAR, Youth and Schooling Institute hosted by the Public Science Project at CUNY. Mr. Billups began his work as a youth activist while attending Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey where he co-founded Messengers of Black Cultural Awareness. He then became involved in the Echoes of Brown Project with other youth and adult researchers. His involvement in this PAR project played a major role in motivating him to attend college and earn his Bachelor's degree. He attended Saint Peter's College where he completed a degree in History and began his career as an educator with Teach for America in Newark. He has mentored many young men and women and worked with the Chill Town Researchers in Jersey City and served as a mentor for the Urban Youth Research Initiative. Mr. Billups has co-written several articles and book chapters including a book chapter titled "Participatory Action Research in the Contact Zone" which appeared in *Revolutionizing Education* by Cammarota & Fine.

Kevin Boyd, Sr.

Kevin Boyd is originally from Norristown, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Bucks County with his wife and two sons. Kevin has been a sponsor in the men's community at Institute for Family Services since 1998. He discovered a love for working with and helping children since becoming a father, and has served for eight years as president of the Parent Teacher Organization at his son's elementary school and on numerous committees within the district including the global initiative and Superintendent/Parent Liaison Committee. Kevin has also enjoyed coaching his son's team for the last three years in Odyssey of the Mind (OM), which is the world's largest creative problem solving competition. The OM teams have placed as high as third place in Pennsylvania state finals, two of the last three years. Kevin is self-employed as both a Realtor and floor-covering subcontractor.

Andraé L. Brown, Ph.D.

Andraé Brown is an assistant professor at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling, co-director of Affinity Counseling Group (New Jersey), and a research fellow for the Council on Contemporary Families. Dr. Brown's research agenda focuses on the development of treatment models that use the supportive structures of families, schools and communities to address trauma, violence and substance abuse. His research and clinical interests also include resilience in street-life-oriented Black men, the psychosocial development of adolescents living in the urban context, liberation psychology and cultural equity in service provision. Dr. Brown holds several grants to develop and implement re-entry and restorative justice services for youth and families involved in the justice system. In addition to teaching and training, Dr. Brown's work includes engaging community members and advocates, mental health providers and various institutions to utilize the resilience that exist within individuals, families and communities to bolster their mental health and wellness. Such efforts include community talks, lectures, organizational trainings, and Participatory Action Research.

Rebecca Chaisson, Ph.D.

Rebecca Chaisson is an assistant professor at Tulane University School of Social Work. Dr. Chaisson has extensive experience as an educator, supervisor and administrator in both the private and public sectors. She has taught courses in social work practice, diversity, oppression and social justice, and has conducted psychoeducational and other community seminars and workshops. She has experience as a clinician with individuals, families, and groups. Her current interests include social justice from the micro to macro levels of practice, diversity, health and mental health, and social work education. Recently, she developed a course using the "Cultural Context Model" (CCM) in an undergraduate social work service-learning course and is demonstrating the use of an adapted CCM to engage social work students in activism. Further, she is integrating aspects of the CCM in graduate level social work courses.

Cliff Chappell, M.Div.

Pastor Cliff Chappell is a civil engineer and has been in ministry for 34 years, 24 of those as Senior Pastor. He has served as the pastor of the St. Johns All Nations Church of God In Christ in Portland, Oregon since 2002. He is intentional about growing a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic church, and has a passion for racial reconciliation, stamping out domestic and sexual violence, and seeing broken hearts healed through the love of Jesus Christ. He serves as Co-Director of L.E.A.P. of Faith and is an Advisory Council Member to The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine New Wineskins. Pastor Chappell lives in Vancouver, Washington with his wife Diana of 36 years; they have three children and four grandchildren.

Susan Chorley, M.Div., M.A .

Since 2005 Reverend Susan Chorley has served as the Director of Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter in Roxbury, Massachusetts and a program of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. Reverend Chorley received her B.A. from Wake Forest University and an M.Div./M.A. in Feminist Theology at the American Baptist Seminary of the West/Graduate Theological Union. Prior to coming to Renewal House, Susan served as a minister at an American Baptist church in Beverly, Massachusetts where she was ordained in 2004. Susan has been active in the work of reproductive justice by serving on the Board of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Massachusetts and as a co-founder of Exhale, a pro-choice talkline for people who have chosen abortion and for their friends, allies and relatives. In Boston, Susan serves on the GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition,

on the Board of Community Works and has started “Partners in Faith” a quarterly roundtable for individuals, organizations and congregations who are doing faith based organizing in the domestic violence world. Susan and her 9-year-old son live in Jamaica Plain, MA.

Rhea L. Combs, Ph.D.

Rhea L. Combs has worked in higher education, arts administration, and as a freelance curator, writer and consultant. She has taught classes in visual culture, film history, and African American Cinema. Her publications have appeared in the *Journal of American Folklife* (University of Illinois Press, 2008), exhibition catalogues and anthologies such as, *What Your Mama Never Told You: True Stories About Sex and Love* (Graphia, 2007). She has also presented work on film, art, culture, gender, and sexuality to colleges, museums, and cultural centers throughout the country. In 2009 Dr. Combs completed her Ph.D. in American Studies with concentrations in Film History, African American Studies and Gender from Emory University. She completed her Masters degree from Cornell University in African American Studies and her B.A. from Howard University in Radio-Television-Film. Dr. Combs is the recipient of several national awards and is currently an advisory board member for the Portland Housing Center. She previously held board positions with Global Action Project (New York, 2006 - 2009), an international youth media arts organization committed to teaching young people how to use media as a tool for social justice; the Illinois State Council for the Arts (1999-2000); and the New York State Council for the Arts (2005 – 2007).

Jose A. Cruz, LCSW, M.B.A.

Jose A. Cruz is currently a Ph.D. student in Public Health at the School of Public Health, University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey, and is doing postgraduate work at the Institute for Family Services. Jose has a wide range of experience in providing access to health and mental health services for schools and families. With a crossover in business and public health education, he is deeply engaged in replicating models of healing that are sustainable and just.

Lisa Dressner, LCSW

Lisa Dressner founded Affinity Counseling Group, a private community-based mental health center, in March 2000, and replicated the Cultural Context Model to work with families impacted by incarceration. She has developed clinical programs for professionals and institutions in the areas of liberation based healing and community organizing, including the Zakee Bowser Foundation and the Raritan Bay YMCA. She has joined Dr. Almeida in presenting nationally and internationally on domestic and community violence, creating therapeutic healing communities, juvenile justice clinical practice and reform, and presented at the national White Privilege Conference. She is committed to training students and professionals in the mental health field in the areas of cultural equity, including the study of white privilege and integrating social justice in clinical practice.

Marisol Garcia Westberg, M.F.T., Ph.D.

Marisol Garcia Westberg is a family therapist practicing in Connecticut and earned her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Garcia Westberg's research agenda focuses on enslavement and liberation emphasizing postcolonial and poststructuralist applications. She is currently finishing her first book, “The Liberatory Praxis of Pleasure”, is researcher for Partners in Social Research and an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark College.

Milagros Harris

Milagros (Millie) Harris teaches Facing History and Ourselves and AP United States History at Central High School in Newark, New Jersey. A former business owner, Ms. Harris embarked on a life-changing journey when she entered Essex County College as a forty-three year old freshman. She went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Montclair State University with a Bachelor's in History and certification to fulfill her goal of teaching in the city where she grew up. Her professional goal is to create a learning environment for inner city students that promotes critical analysis of how past events have shaped their present, with a focus on knowledge as the basis for change. Currently, Ms. Harris is working on a project that uses Youth Participatory Action Research in a three-phased examination of the social and economic ramifications of inner city communities' disproportionately high rate of incarceration. This is a course of empowerment through research, problem solving and use of media and art as vehicles of agency and change.

William A. Harrison, Ph.D.

William A. Harrison is a licensed psychologist currently working at Abbott House, a New York-based, nonprofit agency that provides various services to abused, neglected and abandoned children and their families. Dr. Harrison earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University and specializes in child and adolescent psychology. Apart from clinical instruction at the university, Dr. Harrison has also received training in psychotherapy, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and conducted research at various hospitals and community mental health centers in the New York and New Jersey area. Some of his previous training sites include the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, the Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health, North Shore University Hospital, the Bronx VA Medical Center, and the VA New Jersey Health Care System hospitals (East Orange and Lyons VA). Dr. Harrison has worked as a clinician in various settings including outpatient, partial-hospitalization, and residential care programs. He has also conducted trainings on team building, social justice, and cultural competence. Dr. Harrison's areas of interest include: diversity issues within the field of child psychology; the impact of trauma on child development and family functioning; stress in homes with both biological and foster children; and the impact of fathers' attachments (childhood and present-day) on their development into fathers.

Ohlaysha Hick, M.S.

Ohlaysha Hicks has a Master's Degree from Capella University in Human Services with a specialization in couple and family therapy and is completing her postgraduate training at the Institute for Family Services. She has also served as an educator in the South Brunswick School District in New Jersey since 2002. Her work as an educator and her current training as a family therapist inform her efforts to promote healthy development in families through the collective engagement of larger systems and community-based therapy.

Judith Lewis, LCSW-BACS, M.S.W., Ph.D.

Judith S. Lewis is an associate professor and received her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Maryland and her M.S.W. from Syracuse University. She has been Director of Field Education, and Student Affairs at Tulane School of Social Work and was Project Director and PI of the Leanne Knot Violence Prevention Project, a DOJ Education and Training grant in consortium with Southern University and the University of New Orleans. Her publications reflect her research interests in resilience in older adults, advocacy and organizing, natural helping networks, and social work field education as it relates to cultural diversity. She is a licensed clinician in the state of Louisiana and has

provided pro bono service in the community as a group work specialist.

Judith Lockard, LCSW, CAC

Judith Lockard is a postgraduate trained family therapist and addictions specialist. She maintained a private family therapy practice in the Princeton area for 15 years and has been on the faculty since 1996. Her expertise is in the intersection of addictions and domestic violence. Since 2001 she has facilitated the Alliance for Racial and Economic Justice. Judith has done extensive training over a 20-year period in the areas of domestic violence, addiction, and family life cycle issues, and has published on these topics in journals and book chapters.

Sadye M.L. Logan, Ph.D.

Sadye M. L. Logan is Professor and Director of the Isaiah DeQuincey Newman Institute for Peace and Social Justice in the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina, Columbia campus. Her teaching and research interest focuses on advancing culturally responsive theories and practice for effective social work with women, children and families. Her work has advanced scholarship into areas that impact the overall quality of individual and family life of people of African decent. Her most recent work includes: *The spirit of an activist: The life and work of I. DeQuincey Newman* (in press), *Mental health care in the African American community* (2008), *Reconceptualizing the strengths and common heritage of black families: practice, research and policy issues* (2004), and *The black family: strength, self help and positive change* (2001, 2nd ed.). Dr. Logan has served on several social work editorial boards and is currently serving on the corporate board of Affilia. She is member of the Council on Social Work Education Commission for Diversity and Economic Justice and recent Chair of the Council on Social Work Education Council on Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity.

Cliff Matias

Cliff Matias is a Native American (Taino/Kichwa) performing artist, educator and world-renowned photographer. Cliff is also a former Golden Glove champion, a nationally ranked professional triathlete and bicycle racer. He has served as a Cultural Director of the title 9 Native American Education program of NYC and was a cultural interpreter for the National Museum of the American Indian. Cliff was also a former co-host of WBAI Circle of Red Nations radio program. He currently serves as Director of Redhawk Native American Arts Council. As a photojournalist his works have appeared in publications such as the NY Times magazine, Time Out NY, USA Today, Native Peoples and Indian Country Today. As a performing artist he has appeared live on Regis and Kelly, Good Day New York, Good Morning America and has toured throughout the world as a featured Hoop dancer and educator. As a photographer, his works have been on exhibition in top galleries and museums. His current project, Native in New York, has been receiving rave reviews all around and can be found at www.cliffmatiasphotography.com.

Teresa McDowell, Ed.D.

Teresa McDowell is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Counseling Psychology in the Graduate School of Education and Counseling at Lewis & Clark College. Teresa has spent much of her career working to revise marriage and family therapy education in ways that better support social equity and cultural democracy. Her scholarship has focused on race/racism in family therapy practice and education, critical multicultural family research, research on social class, and internationalizing family therapy programs. Recently her research agenda has included expanding critical multiculturalism in family therapy to include an international, decolonizing focus that addresses disparity and promotes global citizenship.

Diana Meléndez, LMSW

Diana Meléndez is a clinical social worker currently working as a Youth and Family Field Counselor with Esperanza, NY, a non-profit alternative placement program for youth in New York City. Originating from Mexico, Diana currently resides in northeast New Jersey, where her family migrated to when she was 11. Diana is a graduate of the Advanced Standing MSW program at the Silver School of Social Work at NYU, following her dual degree in Social Work and Psychology from Seton Hall University. Diana is currently a member of the Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee of the NSAW-NJ Chapter, and has served on the Board of Directors and several groups within the Chapter as a student and recent graduate, in addition to having spent time with CASA of Essex County as a volunteer child advocate. She is also a member and organizer with the Women of Color Collective in NYC and the Anti-Racist Alliance of northern New Jersey as a graduate of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond "Undoing Racism- Community Organizing" Workshop. Her interests focus on the authentic incorporation of social justice and equity theories and strategies into social work practice, with an emphasis on examining the dynamics of power, privilege and oppression through an intersectionality lens.

Edwin Nieves, M.A.

Edwin Nieves is currently serving his community as the Vice Principal of the Robert N. Wilentz School in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He previously served as the Vice Principal of Perth Amboy High School and has worked as an educator in the Perth Amboy Public Schools District for over 11 years. As a child and family advocate, Edwin has witnessed first-hand the plight of the urban family and its struggle to survive in an environment riddled by hardships such as poverty, illiteracy, disease, naturalization, sexual abuse, physical abuse, substance abuse and violence. Edwin graduated from Rutgers University in 2000 with a B.A. in History and Political Science, and received an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Jersey City University in 2008. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard from 1992-2000. Edwin currently serves as a Community Sponsor in a youth group sponsored by Affinity Youth Leadership Academy and is the proud grandfather of a blessed little boy named Elijah.

Nina Nieves, LSW, LCADC

Nina Nieves has over twenty years experience within the Social Services Community assisting with and supervising a variety of mental health, child welfare, prevention and drug treatment programs. She currently is working with the prevention program that is a joint venture of Affinity Counseling Group and the Raritan Bay Area YMCA. The Families Fit Together program is the first program that provides bilingual therapy services for English and Spanish speaking families concurrently.

Yolanda Padilla, LMSW-AP, Ph.D.

Yolanda C. Padilla is Professor of Social Work and Women's Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. A graduate of the joint program in social work and sociology from the University of Michigan, Dr. Padilla focused her studies on the structure of status and power and poverty in U.S. society. She is involved in several initiatives on ways to connect research and policy to community. She is currently a member of the National Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, which is doing work on closing the gap in the large racial disparities in birth outcomes in the United States. She is also a part of the Latino Research and Policy Alliance, a group of Latino scholars who are discussing ways to bring a Latino perspective to research and policy. Dr. Padilla's research is in racial and ethnic disparities in health, with a focus on the social determinates of health, including poverty and immigration, and the implications for the Latino

population. Dr. Padilla has published extensively on the topics of Latino immigration and social mobility and was principal investigator of a recent study on the impact of immigration and poverty on Mexican American child health and well-being funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Mabel Quinones, Ph.D.

Mabel Quinones is a staff psychologist at the Veterans hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico where she coordinates the Psychology Fellowship Program specialized in Women's Psychology. Dr. Quiñones has presented at numerous conferences on the topic of gender intersectionality and has authored papers on this topic. Dr. Quiñones has been faculty of graduate psychology programs in the U. S including The New School for Social Research in New York City, New York University, Albert Einstein School of Medicine and John Hopkins University. She also directed the Multicultural Child and Family Training program at the psychiatric outpatient services at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Quiñones' areas of expertise include psychology of women, contextual psychotherapy and family therapy, and she maintains a private practice in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Brittany Rhodie

Brittany Rhodie is a dancer, actor, and poet who received her B.F.A. from the illustrious Howard University. She dedicates her performance at this conference to the memory and struggles of Troy Davis, Mumia Abu Jamal, and the countless others who will never be mentioned. Sabali.

Quentin Walcott

Quentin Walcott is Director of CONNECT's Training Institute and Community Empowerment programs. Quentin also spearheads CONNECT's Male Anti-Violence initiatives, where he creatively develops programs and trainings centered on moving men and boys from bystanders to allies to activists in the anti-violence movement. Quentin also works locally and nationally with individuals, community groups and service providers as a violence prevention activist, educator, group leader, lecturer and program developer. Quentin's collaborations include working with Eve Ensler to create a curriculum design for young men as Part of V-Day's New York Stop the Violence Festival. He also developed, in partnership with Cornell University ILR School, Men and Women as Allies training program for Verizon management and craft from CWA Locals 1106 & 1108, which creates awareness on Domestic violence, Bullying and Workplace Violence. Quentin who was trained, supervised and mentored by Dr. John E. Aponte, began facilitating Batterer's Intervention groups throughout New York City over 15 years ago. Until recently, he chaired/co-chaired the NYC's Coalition on Working with Abusive Partners (CoWAP) for five years.

Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, M.S.W., Ph.D.

Lisa Werkmeister Rozas is an associate professor at the UCONN School of Social Work and a member of the Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies Project. Having received her M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the Smith College School for Social Work, Dr. Werkmeister Rozas was as a post-doctoral fellow at the Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry before accepting her position at UCONN. Her research interests include health care disparities, health and human rights, racial classifications, issues of oppression, discrimination, racism, and their effect on health/mental health and service delivery/access. Similarly, her teaching interests are focused around issues of oppression, power, privilege, culture and stigma. She currently teaches the Human Oppression Course, Health Disparities Course and two Casework courses at UCONN SSW.

Mayida Zaal, Ph.D.

Mayida Zaal is an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching in the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University where she works with pre-service and in-service teachers. She is a researcher/educator committed to creating transformative change in education towards addressing issues of equity and social justice. She has worked with learners 3 to 62 years of age within public and private school settings in the U.S. and abroad. She is the recipient of numerous awards including several National Science Foundation Fellowships and the American Association of University Women's American Fellowship. Dr. Zaal has conducted research with Muslim youth of immigrant origin in the U.S. and the Netherlands, to understand their everyday realities in the context of Islamophobia. She is a member of the Public Science Project, a research collaborative that focuses on Participatory Action Research (PAR) with youth and adults. Dr. Zaal is an Advisory Board Member of the Alliance for Racial and Social Justice based in New Jersey, and was on the planning team for this summer's Critical PAR, Youth and Schooling Institute.

Alliance for Racial & Social Justice

ARSJ is a grassroots community-building organization whose overarching mission is to eliminate racism and white privilege by fostering inter-group and within-group accountability. Founded in 2003 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2006, ARSJ serves to educate individuals about intersecting oppressions (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia, economic inequity, sex role stereotypes and gender oppression), by addressing the interpersonal and social barriers to equity and liberation.

Affinity Youth Leadership Academy

Affinity Youth Leadership Academy provides leadership training to youth and adults who are committed to non-violence and social justice. Activities include: educational and employment support, media training, civic participation projects, community development workshops, Participatory Action Research, and training.

Redhawk Native American Arts Council

The Redhawk Native American Arts Council is a small grassroots not-for-profit organization founded in 1994 and maintained by Native American artists and educators who reside in and around the New York City area. Each year we provide venues for over 200 different First Nations' artists and educators to present and share their art forms with audiences around the world. We are dedicated to breaking stereotypes by presenting the traditions and societal contributions of Native Americans through song, dance, art, film, crafts, foods, and other forms of expression. Redhawk prides itself as organizers of four of the largest pow-wows/ Native festivals in the Northeast. Our events attract over 35,000 supporters of First Nations' art and culture, as well as provide a source of revenue for Native American artists. The Redhawk Native American Arts Council supports artists from over 75 different Nations including those from South America, the Polynesian Islands and the Caribbean Islands.

Let's Roll Entertainment

Let's Roll Entertainment is a movement created by young men who put their life stories into music, using lyrics to express their individual and collective challenges, resilience, and empowerment.