

BIOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOTS OF PRESENTERS

EVENING WORSHIP, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 – 7:30 PM

Rev. Dr. Donna Lawrence Jones currently serves as founding pastor of the Cookman Beloved Community Baptist Church in North Philadelphia. She previously served as United Methodist Clergy for 20 years, 18 as Senior Pastor of Cookman United Methodist Church, also in North Philadelphia. With Rev. Jones the church has developed, through its 501(c)(3) non-profit, Emerging Ministries Corporation, many personal and community empowerment ministries, including an alternative high diploma program for youth 14 to 20 years old who have experienced truancy, a youth and young-adult led entrepreneurial and leadership development initiative, a unique program of family group decision making to enable families and their young people to avoid court and other punitive sanctions, various workforce development and adult education programs.

In addition Rev. Jones has been a public policy advocate in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., on issues related to welfare reform, livable wage, and restorative practices for juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, as well as juvenile survivors of crime. She also serves as a special consultant and “Junior Elder” for the Veteran’s of Hope, Ambassadors of Hope project, an initiative of spiritual and democratic renewal founded by the late Dr. Vincent Harding and his late wife Rosemarie. She has taught Urban Youth Ministry as an adjunct professor at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver.

Rev. Jones currently serves as an advisory committee member for the William Penn Community Development Coalition, Chair of the Philadelphia Faith-Based Reentry Coalition, and as a member of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

Rev. Jones holds a Doctor of Ministry in Renewal of the Church for Mission from Palmer (formally Eastern Baptist) Theological Seminary, a M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary, and a B.A. in Biology from Temple University. Before entering full-time ministry, Rev. Jones was a manager for DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company in various capacities.

Rev. Jones truly enjoys her vocation, family, church and community, and knows that “a work is being done in [our] day that [we] wouldn’t believe even if [we] were told” (Habakkuk).

Rev. Mary Wade, Ph.D., is a poet, public speaker, community peacebuilder, and minister in Philadelphia. She currently serves as Associate Minister at Wayland Temple Baptist Church in Philadelphia. She earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Dayton, a Master’s Degree in International Relations from Boston University European Division, and her Ph.D. from George Mason University Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution in 2005. She wrote her dissertation on Spirituality and Conflict Resolution: A Study of the Life and Teachings of Dr. Howard Thurman. Formerly the Quaker United Nations Human Rights Representative of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Mary focused on South Africa (emphasizing apartheid), Central America, and the UN Human Rights Covenants. While working at the UN, Mary founded the African-American Committee on the United Nations, bringing African Americans from around the nation to UN conferences, to meeting UN delegates and staff, media, and NGO’s. Mary serves on AFSC’s Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Committee. A community activist, Mary has founded for organizations, the Family Unity Organization in Philadelphia and Dayton, Ohio; Light Messenger; Building Respect in Community (BRIC); and The Thurman Group. BRIC sponsors an annual North Philadelphia Youth Peace Olympics combining sports and training in non-violence. She received the Pennsylvania Human Services Award (1978) and the George Mason University Distinguished Alumni Award (2011). She has written seven books of poetry, two study guides, and numerous articles. She is also a retreat leader, counselor, and coach. Mary’s motto is, “With God, all things are possible.” “To God be the glory.”

Jasiri X is a new millennium leader leveraging the transformative power of Hip-Hop, Social Media and Technology into a new brand of social change. Jasiri performs nationally and internationally, delivers keynote addresses, and speaks on scholarly panels. Jasiri has worked in underserved communities as a mentor, educator and community leader. He is a founding member of the anti-violence community organization, 1Hood. After garnering over 1.5 million YouTube views for his conscious elevating Hip-Hop, Jasiri felt that it was imperative to provide training for young people in new forms of digital media, empowering them to change their own communities and to tell their own, often maligned and marginalized stories. In 2011, Jasiri founded 1Hood Media Academy in Pittsburgh, where he leads a team of educators and artists in teaching young people media literacy, photography, videography, music production, creative lyricism, entrepreneurship, journalism and other 21st century skills. Jasiri X is a new millennium Civil Rights Activist working closely with his mentor, Harry Belafonte to address social ills of today's society. Jasiri is poised to lead a global generation in changing Hip Hop's bad rap (rep) by staying true to his artistic intention – FREEING MINDS ONE RHYME AT A TIME.

City Love is a conscious, soulful acoustic duo comprised of **Dwight Dunston/Sterling Duns** and **Brian (Caselli) Jordan**, with harmonies, hip hop, mandolin, cajon and guitar. From the heart. They write music that inspires, challenges, and lifts people up, and hold workshops that aim to help encourage students to use their creativity for positive social change. They are based out of Philadelphia, PA. More information about City Love can be found on their website, www.muchcitylove.com.

Dwight Dunston/Sterling Duns has been involved in prison reform and educating others about the prison system and helped organize a month long prison reform series with Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, worked alongside groups such as the Coalition Against Mass Incarceration, and also helped to raise money for Decarcerate, PA through a fundraising concert. He is currently the Assistant Director of Admission and the Co-Clerk of the Diversity Board at Friends' Central School, acts as an adviser to seniors at FCS for their senior project, and sits on the Board of Trustees at Haddonfield Friends' School. He is a member of Merion Meeting.

Brian (Caselli) Jordan has been an educator for the last 10 years and is currently a Kindergarten teacher at the Philadelphia School. He has been involved with food justice and food access work since 2009, and is actively involved in diversity work in curriculum, hiring, and admissions at his school. He uses music to distill his studies of social issues into concise, engaging, and accessible songs that will both move and challenge listeners.

Michael Hassell is a young activist from St. Louis, who has been active with #BlackLivesMatter. He was the young man who recorded the shooting death of Kajieme Powell by two St Louis Metropolitan Police Officers. He has been advocating and protesting for the young men and women who have lost their lives to senseless violence. He started his own organization to gain recognition for, and to help the mothers and fathers in their pain. He has been speaking out and giving interviews around the country about police treatment of people of color – which he has directly witnessed and recorded.

Ebony Williams is a native of St. Louis, MO. After graduating from Tennessee State University with her Bachelors Degree in Accounting and returning home to St. Louis, MO, Ebony began to learn about the plight of African Americans in the United States, in the areas of politics, economics, education and health. This knowledge birthed a desire within her to change the society she and future generations will live in. Ebony is an activist with #BlackLivesMatter in Ferguson.

FIRST PLENARY, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 - 9:30 AM

Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar. In recent years, she has taught at a number of universities, including Stanford Law School, where she was an associate professor of law and directed the Civil Rights Clinics. In 2005, she won a Soros Justice Fellowship, which supported the writing of *The New Jim Crow*, and that same year she accepted a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. *The New Jim Crow* has received rave reviews, become a *New York Times* bestseller, and has been featured in national radio and television media outlets, including NPR, The Bill Moyers Journal, the Tavis Smiley Show, MSNBC, C-Span Washington Journal, among others. The book won the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best non-fiction.

Prior to entering academia, Alexander served as the Director of the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Northern California, where she coordinated the Project's media advocacy, grassroots organizing, coalition-building, and litigation. The Project's priority areas were educational equity and criminal justice reform, and it was during those years that she launched a major campaign against racial profiling by law enforcement, known as the "DWB Campaign" or "Driving While Black or Brown Campaign."

In addition to her non-profit advocacy experience, Alexander has worked as a litigator at private law firms, including at Saperstein, Goldstein, Demchak & Baller, in Oakland, California, where she specialized in plaintiff-side class action lawsuits alleging race and gender discrimination.

Alexander is a graduate of Stanford Law School and Vanderbilt University. Following law school, she clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun on the United States Supreme Court, and for Chief Judge Abner Mikva on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She currently devotes her time to freelance writing, consulting with advocacy organizations committed to building racial justice movements, and, most importantly, raising her three young children -- the most challenging and rewarding job of all.

J. Jondhi Harrell is the Founder and Executive Director of The Center for Returning Citizens (TCRC) in Philadelphia, which offers comprehensive services for formerly incarcerated individuals. Upon his release in 2009 after 25 years in federal custody, he completed his B.S. in Human Service Management and is currently enrolled in Temple University's Masters of Social Work program. Mr. Harrell is Co-Clerk of the Germantown Friends Peace & Social Justice Committee, serves on the National Committee of Alternatives to Violence Re-Entry Program, is an organizer for the Formerly Incarcerated and Families Working Group/Decarcerate PA. He also serves on the Executive Committee of Coalition against Mass Incarceration (CAMI Philly) and is co-founder of the BLOC Party (Build Lobby Organize Campaign), the movement to forge returning citizens of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania into a cultural, social, political, and economic coalition. More information about Jondhi Harrell can be found in an interview conducted with AFSC, "[Quakerism mandates leadership: J.Jondhi Harrell on mass incarceration.](#)" More information about TCRC can be found at tcrcphilly.org.

Daniel Hunter is an organizer and strategist with Training for Change, an activist training organization. He's sought all over the globe for his expertise in organizing and direct action, having trained tens of thousands of activists in over a dozen countries. He is the author of *Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow: an organizing guide*. Previously, he wrote a compelling narrative bringing to life the vibrancy of direct action campaigning in *Strategy and Soul*. He is also a contributor to the books *Beautiful Trouble* and *We Have Not Been Moved: Resisting Racism and Militarism in 21st Century America*. More information about Daniel Hunter can be found on his website, www.danielhunter.org.

Matt Pillischer is an organizer, educator, attorney, artist, and independent filmmaker. He is the director/producer of the acclaimed documentary, *Broken On All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S.* (See brokenonallsides.com). Matt also runs the *Broken On All Sides Educational Campaign*, through which he tours the movie, organizes panel discussions, and speaks with audiences to raise awareness about issues surrounding criminal justice, systemic racism, and economic injustice. With the help of interns and colleagues across the U.S., Matt focuses on linking pockets of organizing in various cities and towns into regional networks in the movement against mass incarceration. (See defeatmassincarceration.com)

Matt is a member of the Board of Directors of *The Center for Returning Citizens* in Philadelphia and a member of the Board of Directors of *Incarcerated Nation Campaign* in New York City. Matt has been a consultant to the City of Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program on their extensive Mass Incarceration project, and to Pendle Hill for the Ending Mass Incarceration & the New Jim Crow 5-day conference.

By day, Matt works as an Attorney/Mediator for a divorce mediation firm. Matt also provides video services to organizations, companies, and friends, and has completed a feature horror film, *A Dark Souvenir*, with his wife, Karen Meshkov.

Previously, Matt worked as a staff attorney at Community Legal Services representing low-income Philadelphians who were having employment problems due to their criminal records. Matt majored in filmmaking at Bennington College in 2000, became an activist in 2003, which eventually led him to obtain a JD in 2010 from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 - 1:30 PM

Heather Ann Thompson, Ph.D., is Professor of History at in the departments of African American Studies and History at Temple University (University of Michigan, Fall 2015). Thompson writes about the history as well as current crises of mass incarceration for numerous popular and scholarly publications. Her work can be found in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *Huffington Post*, and *Dissent*, and she has appeared as well on NPR, Sirius Radio, and various television news programs here and abroad. Several of Thompson's scholarly pieces, including "Why Mass Incarceration Matters," have won best article awards, and her popular piece in *The Atlantic*, "How Prisons Change the Balance of Power in America," was named a finalist for the Best Media Award given by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Thompson is a Soros Justice Fellow, sits on the board of the Prison Policy Initiative, and recently served as well on a National Academy of Sciences blue-ribbon panel to study causes and consequences of incarceration in the United States. Her books include [Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Rebellion of 1971 and its Legacy](#) (Pantheon Books, forthcoming), [Whose Detroit: Politics, Labor and Race in a Modern American City](#), and the edited collection, [Speaking Out: Protest and Activism in the 1960s and 1970s](#). Thompson was also named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 – 4:15 PM

Lewis Webb, Jr. is the Program Coordinator of the Healing and Transformative Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in New York City, where he advocates for a shift from a paradigm of punishment to one of healing in America's criminal justice system. His primary focus is addressing mass incarceration and the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow.

(<http://nationinside.org/campaign/campaign-to-end-the-new-jim-crow>) Before joining the AFSC, Lewis served as a prosecutor in Brooklyn and has taught criminal justice and criminal law at various colleges and universities. Lewis earned his BS and MA in Philosophy from New York University and his JD from Brooklyn Law School.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 – 5:00 PM

Farajii Muhammad is serving as the Youth Empowerment Program Director in the Baltimore office of the American Friends Service Committee. He has been working in the youth development field since 1999. As co-founder, president, and spokesman for the youth-governed organization, New Light Leadership Coalition (now New Learning Leadership Center), Farajii worked to develop young leaders, connect youth to resources, and bridge the gap between youth and local government. As a social entrepreneur, he has used his passion for young people to stand as a voice for youth, advocate for their concerns, and an example of a leader and community servant. For the past ten years, Farajii has been using his radio show "Listen Up!" (airing on public radio 88.9 WEAA FM at Morgan State University), as a medium to empower, inform, and uplift the consciousness of the next generation of leaders. Since joining the AFSC team in 2014, Farajii has been using his experiences, skills, and resources to develop the Young Leaders for Peace (YLP) Coalition. YLP will serve as a means and platform that will encourage the mobilizing and organizing of young leaders to strategically address pressing social justice issues facing them, their peers, and their communities.

For Jasiri X, Ebony Williams, and Mike Hassell, see EVENING WORSHIP, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 above.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 – 7:15 PM

Lucy Duncan serves as Director of Friends Relations for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). She has been a storyteller for 20 years and has worked with Quaker meetings on telling stories for racial justice and of spiritual experience. Before working for AFSC, she was Director of Communications at Friends General Conference (FGC), managed QuakerBooks of FGC, and owned and managed her own children's bookstore in Omaha, The Story Monkey. She attends Green Street Friends Meeting (PhYM) and lives with her son and partner in a Quaker cemetery.

For Daniel Hunter, see FIRST PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, above.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 9:30 AM

Tyrone Werts is co-founder and chief executive officer of The End Crime Project, a consultant at the Philadelphia Public Defenders Association, and serves as a public relations consultant to the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Temple University. He is founder and director of The Lifers Public Safety Initiative (PSI), he serves on the Mayor's Commission on African American Males, and is a Soros Justice Fellow, 2013. In 1975 Werts was convicted as an accomplice to a second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. He spent the next 36 years of his life committed to improving himself and helping those around him discover their potential. His sentence was commuted.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 11:00 AM

Tot Metz, also known as **Yellow**, is a community youth activist in Philadelphia. She was one of the leaders of Youth Arts & Self-Empowerment Project, a project that conducts art, poetry, music, and empowerment workshops at Philadelphia correctional facilities with young people under age 18 being tried as adults, educates youth about the school-to-prison pipeline, helps youths released from adult prison, and advocates for repeal of the Pennsylvania law that mandates trying some youthful offenders as adults. Tot/Yellow has run many workshops in the Philadelphia schools and inside the Philadelphia county jails. In 2013, Tot won a Mashed Media Award from the Philadelphia Youth Media Collective for the film *Stolen Dreams II*, a compelling documentary with interviews and powerful poems from young men and women inside adult jails, showing the many reasons why locking up young people isn't a real solution to crime and violence. Tot/Yellow herself was locked up and tried as an adult at the age of 17.

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 1:30 PM

Lynn M. Burke is the oldest and only daughter of five children born to Frederick and Mary Burke. Her father is an attorney and her mother was a nurse. She is a 1981 graduate of Science Hill High School, in Johnson City Tennessee. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from North Carolina State University in 2006, a Paralegal Certification from Meredith College in 2007, and a Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2010. She passed both the North Carolina and District of Columbia Bars, and in 2012 was admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Unfortunately, Lynn is also a two time convicted felon who served almost two years in prison after she was convicted of false pretense. After the death of her mother in 1987, Lynn was left alone to raise her four children. She was 22 years old. With no support, she was soon arrested for false pretense and eventually pled guilty. In 1988, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Two years later, on February 9, 1990, Lynn was released from prison and was reunited with her four children. Eventually, all four of her children graduated from high school and then college.

In 2003, Lynn returned to college and gradually found her self-esteem that was taken from her in prison. After her graduation from law school, Lynn has dedicated her time and efforts to tell her story so that others might find the courage to try and follow their dreams too. Lynn will always say that her greatest achievement is the success of her four children, and her five grandchildren because without their unconditional love she never would have had the courage to get up and try.

Petrena A. Young, MS, is, along with Renaya Furtick Wheelan, PhD, a co-founder of I'm FREE (Females Reentering Empowering Each Other). Ms. Young has taken her passion for women and 20 years' experience in nonprofit management to create a gender-responsive, trauma-informed, woman centered organization. She co-facilitates Transforming One Woman at a Time: Reintegration Support, a 6-week cognitive behavioral development and transformation training for women reentering society from the Philadelphia Prison System. She is trained to administer the Women's Risk/Needs Assessment (WRNA) for adult women offenders, which allows services to be targeted to a woman's specific needs. Ms. Young holds an MS in nonprofit management from Eastern University and a BA in English Literature with a minor in Women's Studies from the College of Saint Elizabeth. She serves on the board of several nonprofits and embodies the Maya Angelou quote, "When you learn, teach, when you get, give." For more information about the work of I'm FREE, visit <http://imfreeonline.org/>.

For Tot Metz/Yellow please see SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION, above.

FIRST CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 3:00 PM

The Funnel of Injustice

Keith B. Harvey is the Regional Director for the Northeast Region of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a position he has held since 1992. The American Friends Service committee is a Quaker Peace and Social Justice multi issue organization, working on Peace, Economic justice, Immigrant rights and Healing/Criminal Justice issues in the US and over sea. Keith has used popular education methodologies to facilitate many workshops on non- violence trainings (Help Increase the Peace program) Criminal Justice history, and on International Debt and the IMF/World Bank. Before coming to AFSC, he was involved for nine years in low and moderate income property development and management. Keith currently sits on the Cambridge Friends School Board, recently chaired the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Board of Directors, and sits on the Philadelphia Planning committee for the US Social Forum.

Legal Challenges to Conditions of Confinement

David A. Love is a writer and human rights activist based in Philadelphia. He is a contributor to [theGrio](#), CNN, [The Guardian](#), and [the Progressive Media Project](#), and is the Executive Editor of [BlackCommentator.com](#). Love is also the former Executive Director of [Witness to Innocence](#), a national death penalty abolition organization. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he holds a certificate in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. His blog is [davidalove.com](#).

David Rudovsky, one of the nation's leading civil rights and criminal defense attorneys, practices public interest law with the firm of Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg. A Senior Fellow at Penn Law since 1988, he teaches courses in Criminal Law, Constitutional Criminal Procedure, and Evidence. He is co-author (with Michael Avery and Karen Blum) of *Police Misconduct: Law and Litigation* (West, 2012, 3rd ed.) and *The Law of Arrest, Search, and Seizure in Pennsylvania* (6th ed. 2011, PBI Press). David has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and Award for Accomplishments in Civil Rights Law and Criminal Justice, the ACLU Civil Liberties Award, and most recently his fifth Harvey Levin Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Law School.

At the crossroad of mass incarceration and immigration detention

Alix Nguetack is the Detention Project Coordinator. Her responsibilities include organizing families and individuals facing immigration detention and deportation around immigration policies and advocacy. Before coming to AFSC, Alix worked with the International Institute of New Jersey where she served as the program coordinator for the Survivor of Torture Program. A graduate of the New School with an MA in International Affairs, Alix also holds a Master of Law from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon. Alix recently graduated from NYU Law School.

Ravi Ragbir is a New York City immigrant rights activist with the New Sanctuary Movement. He works directly with those who are facing deportation to educate them about their cases and to empower them to struggle against their deportation. He has trained numerous advocates from various immigrant and allied organizations on the impact of immigration policies. Mr. Ragbir has organized Know Your Rights and community forums to educate and empower communities to advocate for the individual, and for fair and humane immigration policies. Mr. Ragbir has first-hand knowledge of these proceedings, as he is facing deportation. He is fighting to remain here with his family, friends, and supporters.

SECOND CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 4:15

A Spirit-Led Organizing Model Based on Accompaniment

Greg Elliott serves as the Friends Relations Associate for the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, PA. Born and raised in rural Northeastern Pennsylvania, Greg grew up attending North Branch Friends Meeting at the Curtis family farm in the Poconos. Over the last ten years, he has facilitated numerous workshops for activists and Friends on a variety of topics, including anti-oppression activism, empire, and the "Inquirer's Weekend" at Pendle Hill with Trayce Peterson. Greg currently lives in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia and attends Greene Street Friends Meeting.

For Lucy Duncan, please see FIFTH PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, above.

Challenging Death Sentence(s)

For David Love and David Rudovsky, see FIRST CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION, above.

Engaging Beyond the Choir

Gail and John Fletcher live in Norman, Oklahoma, their home for the past 45 years. They consider their richest and most challenging life experiences to be: raising four daughters, helping to pioneer Norman Friends Meeting, Gail's community service work, and John's teaching and research career at the University of Oklahoma. At present they are gaining great satisfaction in working with other Quakers, American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation to end mass incarceration.

NINTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 – 7:30 PM

Laura Magnani is Program Director for Healing Justice in the San Francisco office of the American Friends Service Committee. Most of her work, going back to the 1970s, has been in the area of criminal justice. She is author of *America's First Penitentiary: A Two Hundred Year Old Failure* (2000), and co-author with the late Harmon Wray of *Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System* (2006, Augsburg/Fortress Press). The book analyzes the racial, social, and economic underpinnings of the criminal justice system and explores new models of justice. Laura has a BA in Ethnic Studies from the University of California (1971), and an MA in Religion and Society from the Pacific School of Religion (1982). A Quaker, she is a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting in Berkeley, CA.

Rev. Laura Markle Downton serves as the Director of U.S. Prisons Policy & Program for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). She worked previously as National Organizer for the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, building networks among communities of faith engaged in the promotion of restorative justice. Laura has worked with diverse faith communities and legal advocates for employment and housing justice in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, PA. She serves on the Board of Directors for Grassroots Leadership, and is a Provisional Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. She holds a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and is a Midwest Academy trained organizer. Laura also holds certification from the Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) Program of Eastern Mennonite University.

Five Mualimm-ak is a prison reform activist. He served almost 12 years in New York's prison system and was held in solitary confinement during that time for a total of five years, a punishment which often followed small violations of prison rules. As a dedicated anti-prison and anti-solitary confinement human rights activist, he works closely with a number of anti-prison organization in New York and across the country, including The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, a project of Riverside Church, and Think Outside the Box, a campaign for alternatives to isolated confinement in New York's prisons and jails. He is the Director of Incarcerated Nation Campaign, an organization that provides direct services to those currently and previously incarcerated or under correctional control and their families, and works to end mass incarceration and the use of extreme isolation.

TENTH PLENARY SESSION, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015 – 9:30 AM

Glenn E. Martin is the Founder and Chief Risk Taker of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA). Glenn is a national leader and criminal justice reform advocate who spent six years in New York State prisons. Prior to founding JLUSA, Glenn served for seven years as Vice President of Development and Public Affairs at The Fortune Society and six years as Co-Director of the National HIRE Network at the Legal Action Center.

Glenn is Co-Founder of the Education from the Inside Out Coalition, a 2014 Echoing Green Black Male Achievement Fellow, a 2012 America's Leaders of Change National Urban Fellow, and a member of the governing boards of the College and Community Fellowship, Prisoners' Legal Services, the Petey Greene Program, the Reset Foundation, the New York Foundation, and California Partnership for Safe Communities.

Glenn also serves on the advisory board of the Vera Institute's Public Health and Mass Incarceration Initiative, the National Network for Safe Communities and the Executive Session on Community Corrections at Harvard Kennedy School. Glenn regularly contributes his expertise to national news outlets such as MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, Al Jazeera and CSPAN on topics such as policing, decarceration, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry issues.

For J. Jondhi Harrell, see FIRST PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, above.

For Tyrone Werts, see SIXTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.

For Lynn Burke, see EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.

ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION, MAY 2, 2015 – 1:15 PM

Gale Muhammad is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Women Who Never Give Up. Based in New Jersey, she is known throughout the Mid-Atlantic region as a mature, passionate, compassionate activist who helps the incarcerated and their families. Many problems arise between the incarcerated and their loved ones, and Gale counsels them all. For over 15 years, she has worked tirelessly, advocating and effectively lobbying for change in the criminal justice system. She is frequently called upon to give testimony on particular issues and legislation by state and national organizations, committees of the New Jersey Legislature, the New Jersey Department of Corrections and the New Jersey State Parole among many others.

Once married to a man who died in prison, Gale has countless years of experience working with both grass roots and grass top organizations throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Among her areas of expertise are sentencing reform, prison health care, treatment of prisoners, parole issues, family reunification, housing and support for families. Her heart lies in giving voice to the voiceless and working with staff to improve prison conditions. She brings a unique perspective that combines the personal and the professional.

Theresa Shoatz (51) has been in and out of the Pennsylvania prison system for thirty years. She is the daughter of political prisoner, Russell Maroon Shoatz (71), who has spent 40 years in the Pennsylvania prison system, nearly 30 of them in solitary confinement.

Ten years ago Theresa's siblings passed her the solitary confinement baton. Theresa prayed, and asked God's assistance in pursuing her dad's release from solitary confinement. She grabbed the baton, and accelerated at a speed that commanded the attention of the Pennsylvania prison department. When her father's health began to fail, Theresa vowed to get him proper medical attention. She visited her state representatives, sometimes sleeping on the capitol steps in Harrisburg, and made several surprise visits to the Governor's office. Her persistent efforts eventually resulted in Russell Maroon Shoatz receiving proper medical attention.

Theresa also supports other families of incarcerated people. For years, she regularly transported 16 families some 14 hours to the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Greene. Prisoners regularly call on her to be present at their families' funerals. An 82-year-old mother of a prisoner appointed Theresa her power of attorney so she could leave her nursing home and visit her imprisoned son, whom she had not seen in 16 years, dying shortly after her visit. And two years ago, Theresa became a foster parent, and as of today has offered a home to 15 youths.

The SCI Graterford Chapter of the NAACP has honored Theresa for her service to her community, prisoners, and their families. Today Russell Maroon Shoatz suffers from prostate cancer, and Theresa is still fighting for her daddy's release from prison.

THIRD CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015 – 2:30 PM

Collateral Consequences of Conviction

For Lewis Webb, Jr., please see THIRD PLENARY SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, above.

Statewide Organizing to End Mass Incarceration

Bob Rhudy has had a long and distinguished career as an attorney, mediator, consultant, and trainer, with nearly forty years of experience in mediation, legal aid, public interest law, legislative advocacy, strategic planning, and nonprofit consulting in the United States and Canada. Formerly executive director of Maryland Legal Services Corporation (1986-2003) and the Coalition for Legal Services (Washington, D.C., 1983-1985), and a chief attorney to Maryland's Legal Aid Bureau (1978-1983). Before a stint with a private Iowa law firm, Bob was executive director of Iowa Public Interest Research Group. He conducts a private mediation practice in Baltimore, MD.

A Quaker and member of Patapsco Friends Meeting, Bob regularly worships with prisoners at the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown. He currently serves on the boards of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, National Equal Justice Library, and the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR). He has testified on numerous occasions before the Maryland legislature, and his extensive lobbying work with the MAJR will be a substantial part of the workshop. A full biography of Bob Rhudy can be found online at http://www.senior-mediation.org/bios/RobertRhudy_12.pdf.

Eleanor Harris is a representative from Milwaukee (WI) Friends Meeting to the interfaith, interracial social justice organization MICAH (Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope). She is active in the Milwaukee 11x15 Campaign Committee. The 11x15 Campaign (named for the goal to halve the state's prison population to 11,000 by the end of 2015) was launched in 2012 by WISDOM, the state

network of faith-based social justice organizations. Among other shameful statistics, Wisconsin has the highest incarceration rate of African American men in the country with 12.8% (about 1 in 8) incarcerated during the 2010 census. In Milwaukee County, which has the largest population of African Americans in the state, 50% of African American men between the ages of 30 and 40 have been or are incarcerated. The Campaign lobbies and educates tirelessly on many issues including to increase funding for the Treatment and Alternative Diversion state program which provides grants for Drug Courts in WI (won a 300% increase in the last biennium budget; much more is needed). It is lobbying the Department of Corrections for a review of the parole procedures for 2,800 parole-eligible prisoners who were prosecuted before the 2000 "Truth-in-Sentencing" legislation. In the 4+ years of Governor Walker's tenure, virtually none of these prisoners is being given parole. (Walker was the author of Truth in Sentencing while a legislator). It is raising awareness experientially as it lobbies to drastically reduce the amount and length of solitary confinement with a replica cell (with recorded sounds) taken to the state capitol and around the state. Eleanor serves additionally on the Sentencing Committee, one of the 20 the statewide subcommittees whose members are working with friendly legislators from both parties to help promote legislation and lobby the less-friendly to gain favorable changes in sentencing (including moving 17-year olds back into juvenile court and requiring Community Impact Statements for new legislation). The Campaign has achieved substantially increased awareness of the issues resulting in sustained media features and coverage by local newspapers, public radio, and public television. Two Republican legislators in the Milwaukee area asked to meet with us and have become part of a small bipartisan coalition of legislators working to make progress in a very tough legislative environment.

For Laura Markle Downton, see NINTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.

FOURTH CONCURRENT SESSION, MAY 2, 2015 – 3:45 PM

Racial Injustice and Mass Incarceration: Consequences, Policies and a Way Forward

Tila Neguse is the Legislative Associate on Domestic Issues at Friends Committee on National Legislation, the national legislative advocacy group for Friends. She works on federal budget priorities, mass incarceration, military spending, and poverty. From 2010-2012, Tila served as the Executive Director of the Peace Economy Project (PEP). PEP is a St. Louis non-profit established in 1977 that researches and educates about military spending, raising awareness about where our tax dollars are invested and calling for a reinvestment in our communities. While at PEP, Tila sought to build relationships with human needs and racial justice groups in order to incorporate a broader perspective on the issue of military spending. Tila has a BA from Kenyon College.

Organizing from the Inside Out

For Tyrone Werts, see SIXTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.

For Five Mualimm-ak, see NINTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.

For Laura Magnani, see NINTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY, MAY 1, above.