



Jews of Color Initiative

This is a list of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultants who work on racial equity. This list includes Jews of Color, white Jews, and People of Color who are not Jewish.

Updated on 2/2/21

Jews of Color

Imani Chapman

imani@imanistratgies.com

Location: New York, New York

Imani Romney-Rosa Chapman, Founder of Imani Strategies, LLC, has more than 25 years of experience developing curriculum, organizing, and educating for social justice. Whatever the modality, Mrs. Chapman co-creates brave and inclusive environments for learning, growth and justice. Her work with stakeholders in religious communities, secular communities, schools and non-profit organizations has helped root their efforts for sustained change. Mrs. Chapman received her undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, her Masters from Middlebury College, Madrid, Spain and is enrolled in the doctoral studies program for Interfaith Clinical Education for Pastoral Ministry at HUC-JIR. Her writing appears in the following publications: "Letters" in *UnCommon Bonds: Women Reflect on Race and Friendship* (Peter Lang, 2018); "The JOC Community Landscape Report" (commissioned, 2020) "Unetaneh Tokef for Black Lives" in *Lilith* (Summer 2020); "Converting to What?" in *The CCAR Journal* (Summer 2020); and "Black Girl at the Playground" in the forthcoming book *Teaching Brilliant Beautiful Black Girls* (Corwin, 2020). Mrs. Chapman works for an equitable world in which her children and the young people in your lives can live wholly and safely into their full humanity and where race is not a major determinant in health, wealth, legal, and educational outcomes.

Eddie Chavez Calderon

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Location: Arizona

Since he was a teenager, Eddie Chavez Calderon has been deeply involved in social justice work. From the trenches to the coasts and everywhere in between, Eddie fights for a progressive movement that works towards a more inclusive, diverse America. Despite having many obstacles in his way, nothing has deterred Eddie from continuing to fight for the Latino community as well as LGBTQ+ acceptance and inclusion, woman's rights, economic justice, workers' rights, citizenship and civic engagement, voter equality, and much more! He is excited to be a part of an interfaith coalition to continue to advocate for the dignity of every person no matter their creed or national origin.

Sivan Battat

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Location: New York, New York; New England

Sivan Battat (she/they) is an Iraqi-Jewish educator, facilitator, theatre director and cultural worker. Sivan has led ancestral storytelling workshops within various queer, Jewish, and SWANA communities, taught Mizrahi Feminist history, and designed and facilitated prejudice reduction curriculum for middle schoolers. Sivan is an educator and board member with Amud: The Jews of Color Torah Academy in NYC, designing language curriculums and developing organizational vision. Sivan has worked with NYC-based Jews for Racial and Economic Justice in numerous capacities, particularly organizing Mizrahi & Sephardi Jews and recently artistic coordinating the first ever JFREJ Mimouna. Sivan recently curated a queer Arab salon called Salon Al-Mahjar *صالون المهجر*, focusing on queer Jewish voices from the SWANA region, and has worked at numerous theatres regionally, off-Broadway and internationally. She is a member of Tzedek Lab: a Jewish Justice Lab and the Roundabout Directors' Group, and recently completed the Dorot Fellowship, where they studied Mizrahi Feminisms and Arabic and organized for justice in Israel-Palestine.

Deitra Reiser

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Location: Washington DC; Baltimore area

Deitra Reiser is a school psychologist and educator with more than 20 years of professional experience. Deitra is the owner of Transform for Equity, an antiracist repair group that supports organizations and leaders in building the capacity for diversity, racial equity and belonging. She is skilled at creating space for the exploration of race and racism. Using the lens of intersectionality, Deitra fosters greater understanding among individuals and within institutions, and supports their continued growth through antiracist thoughts and actions. Her focus is on driving the internal work necessary in order to achieve transformational and lasting change. In addition to her experience as an educator and facilitator, Dr. Reiser has been engaged by numerous national organizations as a speaker on antiracism, race in the United States, and belonging in Jewish community. Previous clients include the Union for Reform Judaism, the Religious Action Center and Nick Cannon's Class. Dr. Reiser is the author of a curriculum, Building Racial Stamina in Jewish Community, that has been used to further the underlying principles of diversity, equity, and belonging in Jewish spaces. Dr. Reiser is an alumna of Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Program and holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology from The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tamara Fish

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[LinkedIn profile](#)

Tamara Fish (*Harvard U., AB; Union Theo. Sem., MA; Columbia U., MPhil, ABD*) is the past president of the Jewish Multiracial Network (JMN), a past president of Congregation Tehillah, Riverdale, NY, and former Assistant Director of the Office of the University Chaplain at Columbia University. She enjoys

assisting Jewish communities in actively including Jews of Color and investigating internal race relations constructively.

Koach Baruch Frazier

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Koach is an audiologist, musician, co-convenor of the Tzedek Lab, a Reconstructionist Rabbinical student, and a queer, trans Jew. A collaborative and spiritual leader, KB travels the nation, striving to dismantle racism and actualize liberation, and was on the boards of the Missouri GSA Network and Central Reform Congregation. Common to these roles is KB's commitment to healing and transforming lives. He spends his days helping people reconnect with the world around them through better hearing and providing love and support through revolutionary listening. Koach's heart beats to the rhythm of tikvah, t'shuvah and tzedek.

Jared Jackson

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Jared Jackson is the founder and Executive Director of Jews in All Hues (JIAH). JIAH has been on the cutting edge of Jewish community programming and Jewish diversity. In 2008 he received the Schusterman Family Foundation's Charlie Award for excellence in communal service and was recently named one (at #1) of "Ten Young Jews [Who] Will Change the World" by Maariv News. Jared also teaches music/Jazz improvisation/saxophone and Hebrew lessons. He is based in Philadelphia, PA.

Yavilah McCoy

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Yavilah McCoy is the CEO of [Dimensions Educational Consulting](#) in Boston. She has spent the past 20 years working extensively in multi-faith communities and partnering specifically with the Jewish community to engage issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Yavilah is an educator, activist and spiritual teacher. She is a Jewish woman and a person of color and has designed numerous tools and methods that enable students and educators to be better citizens of the world through exploring differences and reaching for tangible solutions in allied engagement. Yavilah brings a wealth of wisdom and experience in DEI consulting, non-profit management, philanthropy and engagement to this project and has worked with numerous partners to build strong, healthy organizations with measurable commitments to racial justice, equity and anti-oppression strategies. Yavilah is a certified trainer for ADL's World of Difference Institute, National Conference for Community and Justice, and the National Coalition Building Institute. She is a certified coach for the Auburn Theological Seminary Pastoral Training program and is a renowned speaker, educator, and spiritual practitioner.

Yehudah Webster

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Location: New York, New York

Community organizer and political activist Yehudah Webster works to ensure the Jewish community remains committed to the fight for racial justice and collective liberation. As a board member and now JOC Organizer for Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, Yehudah supports the police reform campaign and

the Jews of Color Caucus, organizing and leading meaningful political actions infused with Jewish ritual and moral grounding. He is also a resident of Moishe House in Park Slope, Brooklyn, organizing 7 events a month for Jews in their 20s and 30s. Yehudah works primarily as the director of B'nai Mitzvah Campaign, an innovative bar/bat mitzvah tutoring company that provides meaningful learning experiences to students on their journey to Jewish adulthood.

Megan Madison

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Location: New York, New York

From her [LinkedIn page](#): I believe that it is possible for all of our society's children and families to thrive. Toward that vision, my personal mission is to work at the intersections of scholarship, activism, and practice to build comprehensive early childhood systems that are both high-quality and equitable.

April Baskin

Contact her here <http://www.aprilbaskin.com>

April N. Baskin is the principal of Joyous Justice Consulting and also serves as the Racial Justice Director of the [Jewish Social Justice Roundtable](#). She is the [Union for Reform Judaism's](#) immediate past Vice President of [Audacious Hospitality](#), and conceived of and is currently hosting the first season of their latest podcast, Wholly Jewish (which can be found on [iTunes](#) or [here](#)). Before founding and developing the URJ's exciting leading edge department, she served as the National Director of Resources and Training at [InterfaithFamily](#). Dedicated to building a stronger, more inclusive Jewish community committed to social justice, April has spent over 15 years advocating for Jewish diversity inclusion throughout North America in a variety of ways, including facilitating LGBTQ educational trainings through Keshet and writing a thesis about the experiences and identities of Jews of Color in American Judaism. April is currently based in Dakar, Senegal, but flies to the United States and other destinations as necessary for her work and other important commitments.

White Jews

Cherie Brown

National Coalition Building Institute (Washington, DC)

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Cherie Brown has had a lifetime commitment to doing social justice work. She founded NCBI in 1984, with a goal of training activists and leaders all over the world in the coalition building skills necessary to end the divisions that separate people. Ms. Brown has an M. Ed in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University and over the last thirty-four years, in partnership with many NCBI Leaders, has built NCBI into one of the leading diversity training and grassroots leadership organizations with chapters or Affiliate teams in over 40 communities worldwide.

Ms. Brown's work has been featured on ABC Evening News, National Public Radio (NPR), Christian Science Monitor World News; and in The Washington Post, Los Angeles Time's Sunday Magazine, Washington Times, New York Times, USA Today, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, and Fortune Magazine. In 1999, the work of NCBI was designated a "best practice for racial reconciliation" by President Clinton's Initiative on Race. The U.S. Department of Education chose NCBI's work on race and gender issues on college campuses as one of only five organizations to receive a designation of "best practice".

In addition to her work with NCBI, Ms. Brown is an adjunct faculty at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. From 2014-the present, she has been leading workshops at numerous college campuses following incidents of anti-Semitism on those campuses: Brown University, Vassar University, Connecticut College. She is also the author of several publications, including:

- Leading Diverse Communities: How-A How-To Guide for Moving from Healing into Action, 1997
- Racism on Campus: Confronting Racial Bias through Peer Intervention, Winter 1991
- Conflict Resolution in the Classroom: Training Elementary School Children to be Prejudice Reduction Leaders, 1986
- Working it Out: Blacks and Jews on the College Campus, produced by the American Jewish Committee, 1985
- The Art of Coalition Building: A Guide for Community Leaders, published by the American Jewish Committee,

Dove Kent

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Based in North Carolina, Dove has over 15 years of experience in grassroots organizing, political education, and movement building. As the outgoing executive director of Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (2011 through 2016), Dove supported the organization to triple in size and win game-changing legislative victories for police accountability and worker's rights through powerful local coalitions. Under Dove's tenure, JFREJ grew into one of the strongest and most effective progressive Jewish organizations in the country, creating significant culture shifts within the Jewish community, New York and nationally. She has been published in What We Do Now: Standing Up for Your Values in Trump's America (2017), Towards the "Other America": Anti-racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives

Matter (2015), in the Guardian, Ha'aretz, Tikkun, and the Forward, among many other media outlets. Dove teaches throughout the country on the intersections of anti-Semitism and racism, historical trauma, and the roles of Jews in the movement for justice. She has led trainings for JSJR members National Council of Jewish Women, Bend the Arc, Repair the World, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, JOIN for Justice, and New Israel Fund, and T'ruah.

Pippi Kessler

<https://www.pippikessler.org/>, based in NYC

As a nationally recognized facilitator, trainer, and coach, she creates innovative workshops for nonprofits, universities, schools, and activist groups. She is the cofounder of MovementMatch.org, a project that matches people with progressive activist organizations, the former director of Rowe Young People's Camp for 8-13-year-olds, and received her M.A. in Social-Organizational Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Suzanne Feinspan

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Based in Washington, DC, Suzanne Feinspan www.suzannefeinspanconsulting.com is an independent consultant specializing in facilitation, organizational development and strategy. She is a highly experienced trainer on racial justice within Jewish contexts, having specialized in this area for over a decade. Suzanne's approach to issues of racial justice uniquely blends an understanding of how Jewish wisdom can inform our understanding of racism, expertise in the dynamics of implicit bias, and awareness of the intersections of racism and anti-Semitism. When facilitating groups on issues of racial justice, Suzanne plays the role of "compassionate catalyst" – challenging participants to deepen their understanding while ensuring that they feel valued and supported. She brings over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit social change sector to her consulting practice supporting individuals and organizations in doing their most effective work. During her eight years working for AVODAH, she served within all levels and functions of the organization, including serving as the Acting Executive Director for 8 months during the organization's executive transition in 2014. Suzanne was selected for the inaugural cohort of the Schusterman Fellowship, a prestigious fellowship focused on strengthening the leadership skills high-potential leaders in the Jewish community. Suzanne also recently completed a graduate certificate in facilitation through Georgetown University. Suzanne has written extensively on issues of racial justice, poverty and service learning and had writing published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Zeek, Kveller, eJewishPhilanthropy, and Raising Race Conscious Children.

Jo Kent Katz

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Based in Massachusetts. Bio: Jo(anna) Kent Katz is a social justice educator, Drama Therapist, Theater of the Oppressed practitioner, Kohenet student, and Restorative Justice worker. For over a decade, Jo has been creating and facilitating dynamic and liberatory trainings around the country, supporting Jewish young-adult leaders to strengthen themselves as agents of social change. Jo focuses on the examination of personal, collective, ancestral and institutional expressions of oppression while centering practices for healing, allyship and action. She is known for her capacity to invite in and invigorate participants who

are just beginning to question--or explore more deeply--the roles that we play in maintaining systems of oppression; creating a space that is fierce, vulnerable and deeply compassionate.

Miriam Messinger

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Miriam has devoted much of her professional life to working to ensure that communities are healthy – with resources, a sense of connectedness, and engaged residents driving community development. Miriam works at Interaction Institute for Social Change where she supports strategy and consults with organizations focused on health equity and network development. Prior, she served as an independent consultant helping foundations and other non-profits work towards realization of their visions by addressing challenges with attention to passion, excellence, and stakeholder inclusion. Her early work was focused on youth leadership and community engagement. Miriam loved the work she did mentoring, learning, and building organizational capacity as executive director of The City School, a youth and social justice organization. Her professional experience also includes organizational change, research and capacity building on issues of youth, public health and workplace health. Woven throughout is a deep commitment to including multiple voices, authentic and collaborative leadership and structures that help us to live our values. Outside of work, Miriam is engaged with building ritual and community. She is leading the work of diversity and equity at her synagogue, Hillel Bnai Torah in Boston. Miriam believes deeply in humanity's ability to envision and create more equitable and loving ways of living together. She lives in Boston. She devotes as much love and energy as she possibly can to her two children and tries to parent in ways that bring more goodness into the world.

Diane Goodman

<http://www.dianegoodman.com/>

Trainer, consultant, professor, speaker, author, and activist, Diane Goodman has been addressing issues of diversity and social justice for over 30 years. As a trainer and consultant, Diane and her associates have worked with a wide range of organizations, community groups, schools, and universities on diversity and social justice issues. Using a participatory approach, she helps people increase their awareness, knowledge and skills to foster equity and inclusion.

Courageous Change Consulting's mission is to build capacity among white people of diverse backgrounds to discuss, understand, identify, and tackle racism.

SERVICES FOR YOUTH & ADULTS INCLUDE:

- Curriculum and facilitation for white members of a community or formalized white affinity/caucus groups
- White affinity/caucus group facilitator training
- Implicit bias training (co-facilitated with person of color for mixed race groups)
- Strategic planning for engaging white community members in racial justice work
- Parent and educator support: talking about race/racism with white youth, starting in early childhood
- Using **Curriculum Mapping** as a tool for integrating themes of racial justice throughout an entire curriculum

People of Color (not Jewish)

Desiree Adaway, [The Adaway Group](#), based in NYC

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I'm a consultant, trainer, coach and speaker building resilient, equitable, and inclusive organizations. **I hold a vision for people's lives, workplaces and communities until they can hold it for themselves.**

I have over 20 years experience creating, leading and managing international, multicultural teams through major organizational changes in over 40 countries. I've designed and administered more than 150 global programs and led one of the largest Humanitarian Grants programs in the country. From this experience I know that if you want to create real and lasting change in the world you can't expect to get something better if you're doing the things you've always done.

The Adaway Group can help you do something different, something transformational for you, your team, and your clients.

Career Highlights:

- Senior Director of Volunteer Mobilization for Habitat for Humanity International.
- At Rotary International, served as the director of their largest Humanitarian Grants program.
- Crafted and administered partnerships that secured over \$10.5 million in funding from a variety of private and corporate resources.
- Helped design and administer more than 150 global programs that directly engaged 500,000 people into action and almost one million people indirectly through the creation of global strategies.

I believe that to create work of depth and meaning, leaders need to fully engage both their creativity and their intellect. I ensure that the Adaway Group helps organizations make full use of both abilities to create strong narratives that showcase not just the data, but the story behind the data.

Clarence Patton

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Clarence is the Founder, Developer and Director of the [Pipeline Project](#) and is most responsible for the Project's funder relations, organizational change work, and 21st Century Fellows Program. From November 2005 through January 2008, Mr. Patton was the Executive Director of both of the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, and Acting Executive Director of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. During his tenure, he successfully leveraged \$750,000 for LGBTQ domestic violence services and programming at the Anti-Violence Project and 13 other agencies across New York State and also oversaw almost all steps of the now-completed merger of the Anti-Violence Project with its national coalition. Before assuming these dual roles, Mr. Patton was Director of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy at the Anti-Violence Project. In this role, he was responsible for creating the department and ultimately expanded staffing to five FTE, and acted as secondary and often primary spokesperson for organization to media and community. He also managed and expanded numerous government and private foundation resources including writing and managing all solicitations to elected

officials for member item funds and held creative oversight and managed distribution of an ongoing public service advertising campaign and coordinated all public relations and external communication efforts. He created the first-ever statewide LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network in New York and developed and implemented comprehensive strategies to improve agency outreach to, work with and staff recruitment in people of color and transgender communities. Mr. Patton was also instrumental in developing and implementing a new agency focus on developing public policy initiative efforts, and oversaw, executed and/or initiated programming that included: significantly enhanced and improved volunteer recruitment, retention, and education initiatives; the creation of a new Youth Anti-Violence Initiative; the development of Anti-LGBT violence in the workplace trainings, curricula, presentations and employee protections analyses. From August 1996 through December 1998 he was the Anti-Violence Project's Director of Development. During that time he oversaw and/or executed all aspects of the organization's fundraising activities and supported the growth of the organization's operating \$850,000 to almost \$1.2 million. Mr. Patton also created the organization's direct mail and membership program. Before arriving at the Anti-Violence Project, he was Program Coordinator at the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York State's lesbian and gay lobbying group and political action committee. As Program Coordinator, he was the organization's primary contact for people of color communities in New York City and all community groups in Upstate New York, where he traveled extensively working on the Pride Agenda's efforts to organize the state's lesbian and gay community around political and legislative issues. For three years, Mr. Patton was Chair of the Board of People of Color in Crisis (POCC), an advocacy and service agency in Brooklyn primarily serving men of African descent living with or at risk for HIV and AIDS, and he currently serves on the Boards of Gay Men's Health Crisis and Willoughby Walk Cooperative Apartments. At Cornell University where he studied Urban and Regional Studies, he was active both in community work in the City of Ithaca as well as the Cornell Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Coalition. While at Cornell, he was also the head of Gays, Bisexuals and Lesbians of Color (GBLOC). Mr. Patton resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Dushaw Hockett

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Dushaw Hockett is the founder and Executive Director of Safe Places for the Advancement of Community and Equity (SPACES), a Washington, DC-based leadership development and community building organization dedicated to bridging the gap between what people imagine and what they achieve. Dushaw has over 20 years of facilitation, training and organizational development experience. He's the former Director of Special Initiatives for the Center for Community Change (CCC), a 40-plus year old national social justice organization founded in the memory of the late Robert F. Kennedy.

He's also a former aide to Representative Nydia M. Velazquez (NY), the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Dushaw has written several publications focused on citizen engagement and conflict transformation. They include Not Part of the Plan, Crossing Borders and A Hope Unseen. He has served on the boards of numerous local and national organizations including the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). He currently serves as a senior advisor to the Perception Institute (www.perception.org).

Aba Taylor

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Based in Boston. Bio: Aba Taylor is a Black queer Buddhist who has spent the last two decades working for social justice as an educator, facilitator, community organizer, consultant and nonprofit executive . Having ranged from working internationally at the United Nations in South Asia, to conducting civil rights trainings all over the United States, to working with local grassroots social justice organizations, Aba has committed herself to the holistic liberation of brown and black folk, especially those most impacted by intersectional oppressions, such as LGBTQI people and women of color. Aba has trained with People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, Race Forward, VISIONS, United for a Fair Economy and a host of other institutions, and has most recently designed and facilitated racial justice trainings for the the Boston Latin School, YWCA Boston, and the New England Alliance for Nonprofit Management, as well as numerous antiracist and anti-oppression trainings for myriad groups throughout Greater Boston.

Aba holds a bachelors degree from Columbia University, a Masters Degree the School of International Training, is a Rockwood Leadership Institute Alumni and certified trainer with Quabbin Mediation. In addition to social justice, Aba is passionate about creativity and the arts - especially as a champion of African Diasporic arts and culture, as well as spiritual practices and radical parenting.