

CONTRIBUTORS



Dave Reilly is chair of the Political Science Department and Director of International Studies at Niagara University. He is the faculty union (NULTA-AAUP) president, and is a faculty co-advisor for the Center for Justice – a program that fosters student engagement in justice initiatives. These include supporting migrant populations in WNY; student-led initiatives for diversity, equity and inclusion on and off campus; and fighting environmental racism. He has served as faculty advisor for a variety of student organizations including the Black Student Union, the Club for Animal Rights Education and Sustainability, PeaceAction Network, and Model UN. In addition to taking students to Cuba to learn about revolutionary politics, Ireland and Northern Ireland to learn about conflict resolution, and Puerto Rico for disaster relief, he has been responsible for Niagara University's Social Justice Speaker Series, a compilation of activists, educators, and resisters across a spectrum of political and social issues. His research centers on the rise of the surveillance state in the US and activist responses to recent strategies of government repression, and the new space race and coordinated assaults against commons globally and galactically. Outside the academy, Dave is co-founder of the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment, a non-profit that protects and educates about wildlife and habitat, and runs a nature center on Grand Island with his wife and muse Nicole Gerber. He currently serves on the PJSA Board as Co-Liaison to Activists and as Conference Co-Chair.



Bridge Rauch, they/them, has been an Environmental Justice Organizer at the Clean Air Coalition of WNY since 2021, and they have lived on Buffalo's West Side since 2009. They have a master's of Regional Planning from SUNY Albany and have volunteered and worked extensively in Buffalo's non-profit sector, including at The Service Collaborative of WNY, Preservation Buffalo-Niagara, and the Coalition for Economic Justice, where they currently serve as a board member and volunteer for the Buffalo Transit Riders United and Buffalo Mutual Aid Network campaigns.



Tish O'Dell is currently the Consulting Director for CELDF (Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund) and has been working as a Community Organizer since 2011 assisting residents to organize rights based initiatives in their communities in order to help them “make real” the just and sustainable communities they envision for the future. CELDF has assisted hundreds of communities across the country to develop “first in the nation” laws recognizing Rights of Nature and others addressing environmental harms, worker's rights, homeless rights, immigrant rights, fair election rights, including the first in the nation law recognizing the rights of a specific ecosystem, the Lake Erie Bill of Rights in 2019. Tish has conducted workshops, taught CELDF's Democracy School and given talks all over the country, as well as been featured in the documentaries *We the People 2.0*, *Invisible Hand* and appeared on *The Daily Show* and is one of the editors of the 2021 book *Death by Democracy: Protecting Water and Life – Frontline stories from Ohioans fighting corporate and state power*. She has written articles published in the *Ecologist*, *TruthOut*, *Common Dreams*, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Columbus Free Press* and appeared on many podcasts and webinars including *Damages*, *The Julie Rose Show* (NPR), *Living on Earth*, and a 4-part European Parliament webinar “Towards a European Recognition of the Rights of Nature”.

Emma Cook is a Political Science and Environmental Science double major at Niagara University, where she is also pursuing a minor in Law and Jurisprudence. She is active in the Pre-Law Association and with the Mock Trial team, and is a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls in the neighborhood adjacent to Love Canal.



Luella N. Kenny is a 1958 graduate of Niagara University, earning her bachelor's of science degree in Chemistry. After graduation she went to work for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she spent more than 40 years as a research scientist. Luella and her family moved to the Love Canal neighborhood in Niagara Falls in 1969. In 1978 her seven-year-old son Jon Allen died as a result of exposure to chemicals from Love Canal. Luella became a key member of the Love Canal Homeowners Association, the grassroots movement bringing together residents in response to the Love Canal crisis. Drawing on her scientific expertise, Luella helped to design and conduct groundbreaking epidemiological studies showing the prevalence of miscarriages, birth defects, cancers, neurological diseases, and other serious illnesses among residents of Love Canal. In the midst of the Love Canal crisis, Luella went to California to address the shareholders meeting of Occidental Petroleum to deliver a powerful message: "I am determined that no other child will die because of corporate irresponsibility." Teaching about Love Canal and the dangers of environmental harm has become Luella's mission in life. For more than 40 years Luella has informed and inspired millions of people around the world.



Kevin A. Hinkley is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of the Pre-Law Advisement Program at Niagara University. Hinkley serves as Co-Director of Justice House at Niagara University, together with Dr. Dave Reilly and Dr. Chris Lee. Hinkley co-teaches the Justice House learning community's first-year seminar, which has introduced hundreds of students to the story of Love Canal and to Luella Kenny.



Kartika Carr is a proud Niagara Falls native who loves coffee, politics, art, and social theory. Her family has roots in Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and Arizona. She believes in the liberation of her people through collective action, restructuring of systems, and embodying the boldness of her ancestors. Kartika has her Bachelors in Sociology and Marketing from Niagara University. She is currently completing her Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on social theory, policy, and communal impact. Kartika is the co-founder of Black Box Political Consulting Firm, a Black owned political consulting firm that handles government relations, strategic planning, and policy creation. She is a mother to her amazing daughter Khari. Kartika is also a board member for Voice Buffalo, a fundraising specialist, and a strong mental health advocate. She can be found rooting for the Buffalo Bills, NY Knicks, and most importantly the Alabama Crimson Tide teams.



Gabriel Ertsgaard is the Interviews Editor for The Peace Chronicle. He earned his Doctor of Letters from Drew University with a dissertation on environmental themes in a medieval legend. He previously taught university English courses in the United States and China. His criticism, poetry, and fairy tales have appeared in various print and digital publications.



Shelly Clay-Robison, PhD is an assistant professor teaching Negotiations and Conflict Management at the University of Baltimore. As an ethnographer, she relies on her training in conflict analysis and the visual arts to examine how communities use visual culture to make meaning and to create social change during violent conflict and after a mass atrocity. Shelly's current research is in Indonesia where she works with 1965 mass killing survivors, arts-based peacebuilders, artists, and activists who are contributing to environmental, feminist, and other social movements. Before working in higher education, her career focused on international human rights policy and protection of civilians during armed conflict. She is also the lead facilitator for the Women's Leadership Initiative at the University of Delaware.



James Coughlin is a historian and activist who studies the history of racial segregation and housing discrimination, with a focus on Buffalo, NY. He holds a MA in History from the University at Buffalo, and his thesis "City of Distant Neighbors: The Proliferation and Entrenchment of Segregation in Buffalo, New York (1934 to 1961)" was awarded best masters thesis, and has been published as a zine to ensure Buffalo's history of racial segregation is publicly accessible. Previously, James has worked at Burning Books, on several progressive, local Democratic campaigns, and worked as a Legislative Aide to Erie County Legislator April Baskin, where he assisted in the passage of the 2018 Erie County Fair Housing Law. Currently, James works as a Fair Housing Specialist with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), a Western New York based Fair Housing group, founded in 1963 to fight housing discrimination. At HOME, James assists clients with reporting and investigating alleged housing discrimination, providing guidance and advocacy to tenants on their fair housing rights, and speaks on HOME's behalf about the legacy and ongoing consequences of residential segregation and redlining.



Mike Klein, Ed.D. is Associate Professor of Justice and Peace Studies and Department Chair of Justice and Society Studies at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota USA. His teaching, research, and consulting focus on democratizing leadership, critical pedagogy, peacebuilding and the arts, intersectionality, and racial justice. He is a public artist working in sculpture, murals, and photography. Klein is part of the artist collective Art is My Weapon using de-commissioned weapons from community gun buy-backs to creatively address violence. He works to develop personal and collective agency for structural and cultural transformation.



Victoria Ross has a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Tufts University, a Diplome from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva Switzerland, and an MSW from Boston University. She is also a Licensed Master Social Worker and a Qualified Clinical Social Worker. She was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Medaille University, as well as numerous other local awards for her community work. Her spiritual journey and interfaith work has always been important to her. As a social worker, Vicki uses a normative rather than a medical model, helping people to understand the role played by people's "broken alert systems," resulting from trauma, shame (the subtle trauma), and/or stress. As a political activist, she focuses on the interrelatedness of all of our issues, and our solutions, as well as on following the principles and the spirit of Truth and Love, which, as Rev. Dr. King said, "will have the final word in reality." She is currently the Board Chair of the WNY Peace Center, and the Chair of the Public Issues Committee of the Network of Religious Communities. She likes to play jazz (strings, keyboards, and/or percussion), and loves our four-legged and flying siblings, and the Creation.



Saladin Allah is an educator, author, community organizer, and the third-great grandson of underground railroad Freedom Seeker Josiah Henson whom Harriet Beecher Stowe used as the primary narrative for her famous 19th-century novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. Saladin has authored twenty-three books; five of which are part of a Curatorial Activism archive in the British Library. In 2019/2020, Saladin was a featured historian in the IMAX film 'Into America's Wild' narrated by Morgan Freeman and hosted by Ariel Tweto and John Herrington, and a featured historian in the six-part award-winning docuseries 'Enslaved' executive produced by and starring Samuel L. Jackson, and directed by three-time Emmy award-winning journalist Simcha Jacobovici. In 2022/2023, Saladin was globally featured in a United Nations short documentary for the International Day of People of African Descent, a co-host in The Nature of Things CBC documentary 'Secrets Agents of the Underground Railroad', and co-producer of the award-winning Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park documentary 'Two Wars: The Road to Integration'.

Saladin is Director of Community Engagement at the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, Public Art Project Coordinator at the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, and Founder of the Atlantis School For Gifted Youngsters.



Michael Loadenthal, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, and also serves as an Assistant Professor of Research in the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Cincinnati, and the Executive Director of the Prosecution Project. He completed his PhD in 2015 at George Mason University, and previously completed an MLitt at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews in 2010. Dr. Loadenthal has taught courses on political violence, terrorism and sociology at Georgetown University, George Mason University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Malta, Miami University, Jessup Correctional Institution and the DC Jail. Michael has served as the Dean's Fellow for the George Mason's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, a Practitioner-In-Residence for Georgetown's Center for Social Justice, a Research Fellow at Hebrew Union College's Center for the Study of Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems, and a Senior Research Associate with the Better Evidence Project. His work has been published in a variety of venues including Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Critical Studies on Terrorism, Journal for the Study of Radicalism, Perspectives on Terrorism, Journal of Applied Security Research, Journal of Feminist Scholarship, Journal of Radical Criminology, Anarchist Developments in Cultural Studies and other social movement and political theory journals and books.



Derek Seidman is a writer, researcher, and historian living in Buffalo, New York. He worked as a research analyst and then research director for the corporate watchdog group LittleSis from 2017 through 2022. His writings have appeared in In These Times, Jacobin, Truthout, Washington Post, and other outlets, and his research has been referenced in the Guardian, Houston Chronicle, Politico, and other media. Seidman has a PhD in History from Brown University and has taught at Brown, Trinity College, D'Youville College, and Rutgers University. He's currently a contributing writer for LittleSis and a regular contributor to Truthout.



Olivia Sheldon is a junior Political Science major with a minor in Law and Jurisprudence. She is currently in Niagara University's Accelerated 3+3 Pre-Law Program with plans to attend law school in the fall. Her passion for equity and justice have sparked an urge to speak out about the current environmental crisis and climate change from a youth perspective. She looks forward to fulfilling this passion and continuing work within the field of justice studies and activism throughout and after law school.