



TEAR DOWN PRISONS.  
GROW SOMETHING NEW.

dec**AR**cerate

This conference remains  
dedicated to all of our loved ones  
behind bars struggling for justice,  
liberation, and freedom.

# AGENDA

Saturday, September 16, 2023

10:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Time	Event
9:00-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:15	Welcome
10:15-10:45	<b>Michael Saavedra</b>
10:45-11:15	<b>Rev. Janelle Bruce</b> <i>From Thirteenth to Article 2 Section 27 &amp; The Impact of 21st Century Enslavement</i>
11:15-11:45	<b>Anna Stitt and DeMarco Raynor</b> <i>Failure to Obey: Inside/Outside Reporting on Solitary in Arkansas</i>
11:45-12:00	Break
12:00-12:45	Panel with first four speakers
12:45-2:00	Lunch

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
2:00-2:30	<b>Linda Evans</b> <i>Ban the Box: Formerly-incarcerated People  Discover Our Political Power.</i>
2:30-3:00	<b>Rev. Janet Wolf</b>
3:00-3:30	<b>Omavi Shakur</b> <i>Reimagining and Realizing Safety</i>
3:30-3:40	Break
3:40-4:30	Panel with second three speakers
4:30-4:45	Closing and Ways to Get Involved





@RealAnikaWhit

## REV. DR. ANIKA WHITFIELD

**Pronouns:** *she/her*

Anika Whitfield is a licensed podiatrist, an ordained Baptist preacher, an activist, community organizer, caregiver and a volunteer in public schools. She is a part of The Church Without Walls organized by Rev. Janelle Bruce in Rainier, MD. She is a native of Little Rock, AR, where she currently resides. Anika serves as co-chair of Grassroots Arkansas. Rev. Anika loves gardening with/in her community. As a local podiatrist, Dr. Whitfield enjoys assisting homebound patients with their foot care needs in their homes. Anika is grateful to be able to assist her mom in providing care for her dad in their home.



# KALEEM NAZEEM

**Pronouns:** *he/him*

Kaleem Nazeem was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole at the age of seventeen and served twenty-eight years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections before being released in 2018 by way of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama*, which allowed for the re-sentencing of individuals sentenced to life as juveniles. Despite being told he would die in prison by the State of Arkansas, Nazeem refused to let his spirit of freedom be daunted, giving himself permission to develop into a healthy man who lives a principle-driven life.

Nazeem works as a Movement Builder with decARcerate. Additionally, he volunteers with youth incarcerated at the Jonesboro Juvenile Detention Center, is an active member of ICAN (Incarcerated Children Advocacy Network) and Arkansas Poor People's Campaign, and serves as a board member for Compassion Works For All (CWFA).



@Michael38064673

# MICHAEL SAAVEDRA

**Pronouns:** *he/him*

Michael Saavedra was released from prison in 2017 after being inside for over 19 years. He was kept in solitary confinement for over 15 years.

During that time, he helped organize, lead, and participate in all three separate California prisoner hunger strikes against solitary confinement between 2011 and 2013. Saavedra educated himself in solitary and was able to utilize the law to successfully sue the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation several times and assisted others in doing the same. He graduated as a Pathway to Law School student at Riverside City College and recently earned his bachelor's degree from UCLA, majoring in American Indian Studies with a minor in Chicana and Central American Studies. He works with various local and national organizations to help abolish mass incarceration, solitary confinement, over-policing, and advocates for directly impacted people of color in his community.

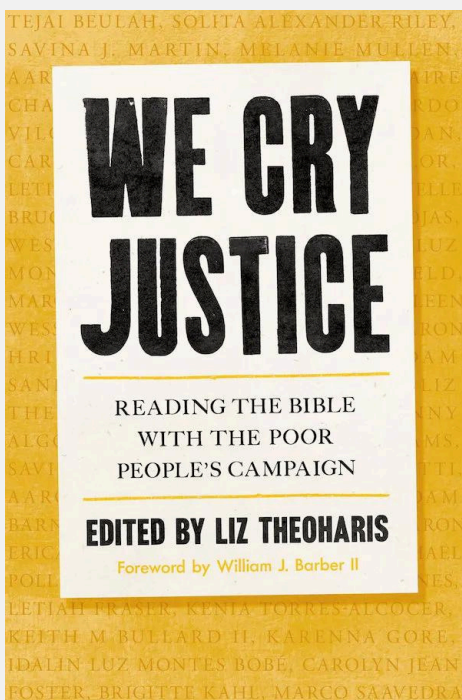


## REV. JANELLE BRUCE

**Pronouns:** *she/her*

Rev. Bruce is the owner of The Law Office of J. Bruce, LLC, and a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland Bar Associations. Her activism and legal background also afforded her the opportunity to defend voting rights and advance social justice movements as a National Organizer for Repairers of the Breach and The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival in states across the country including Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington, DC.

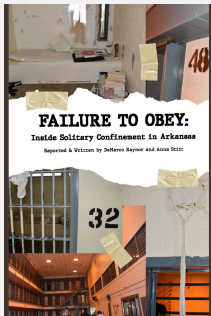
She is the Founder of the Church Without Walls, Global Reach. Her background in ministry enhances her client care, creative solutions, and ability to unite people during mediation and challenging matters.



Rev. Janelle Bruce is a contributor to the book *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible With the Poor People's Campaign* edited by Liz Theoharis.



@annastitt\_



Physical copies of *Failure to Obey: Inside Solitary Confinement in Arkansas*, co-authored by Anna Stitt and DeMarco Raynor are available at the decARcerate table.

A digital version is available at the QR code below.



# ANNA STITT

**Pronouns:** *she/her*

Anna Stitt is an award-winning journalist and longtime community organizer. She's spent the last several years workshopping various approaches to building power through storytelling. Her work includes a participatory oral history project on multiracial gender-based organizing in Arkansas and an audio documentary and companion print piece on anti-racist skinheads. She has reported on prison history and practices in several states but has a special interest in Arkansas since she grew up with family and close friends in and out of the state's prisons and jails. She met DeMarco Raynor while working on a radio series on medical neglect. Stitt and Raynor co-reported the upcoming Failure to Obey: Inside Solitary Confinement in Arkansas.

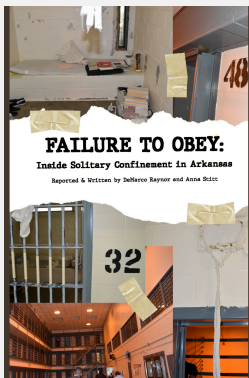




# DEMARCO RAYNOR

**Pronouns:** *he/him*

DeMarco Raynor is a social/criminal justice activist serving life in prison for a crime that occurred before he reached the age of 21. DeMarco is originally from Allport, Arkansas and attended highschool in the nearby Humnoke. DeMarco has a vision of helping implement programs inside of the Arkansas Department of Corrections that actually reverse recidivism. In 2018 DeMarco founded an organization called "DeMarco Raynor's Forgiveness, Reform, and Freedom Movement" with an aim to bridge the gap between victim and offender and bring about reconciliation. DeMarco enjoys discussing sports, politics, religion, history and all areas of learning. DeMarco is best known for his ability to bring individuals together inside of the prison as well as society.



Physical copies of *Failure to Obey: Inside Solitary Confinement in Arkansas*, co-authored by Anna Stitt and DeMarco Raynor are available at the decARcerate table.

A digital version is available at the QR code below.



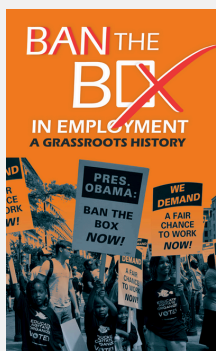
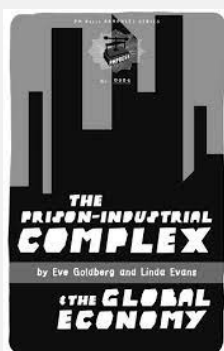
Raynor co-reported the upcoming *Failure to Obey: Inside Solitary Confinement in Arkansas* with Anna Stitt.



# LINDA EVANS

**Pronouns:** *she/her*

Linda Evans was an anti-imperialist political prisoner for 16 years, released from federal prison in 2001. She is a co-founder of All of Us or None, a grassroots civil rights organization of formerly incarcerated people and their families. Linda currently volunteers with California Coalition for Women Prisoners, the DROP LWOP Coalition, and the Immigrant Defense Taskforce of North Bay Organizing Project in Santa Rosa.



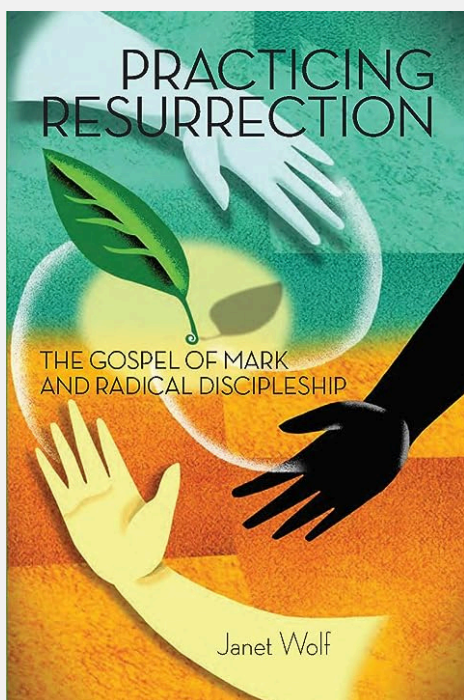
A limited number of *The Prison-Industrial Complex and the Global Economy in the "Post-Racial" Era*, co-authored by Linda Evans and Eve Goldberg are available at the DecARcerate table.

Ban the Box in Employment: A Grassroots History is available to read at the following QR code.





@wolfhaley



Rev. Janet Wolf is the author of *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*.

## REV. JANET WOLF

**Pronouns:** *she/her*

Janet Wolf has worked as a poverty rights organizer, United Methodist pastor with urban and rural congregations, college and seminary professor, community mediator, and learner, teacher, animator with think tanks and circles inside prisons.

She continues to focus on public theology, transformative justice and nonviolent direct action organizing to disrupt and dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline through leadership by and partnership with those who are now or have been caged. She is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the National Council of Elders and on the Board of the James Lawson Institute for the Research and Study of Nonviolent Movements.

She is the author of *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*. Janet and her husband, Bill Haley, have 5 sons and 7 grandchildren.





Scan to read *The Criminalization of Black Resistance to Capture and Policing* by Omavi Shakur.



# OMAVI SHAKUR

**Pronouns:** *he/him*

Omavi Shukur is a research scholar at Columbia Law and an adjunct professor at NYU Law, where he teaches critical race theory. His research explores the hidden dimensions of laws criminalizing resistance to state violence. Before entering the legal academy, Omavi represented victims of police violence and wrongful convictions in federal courts across the nation. He has also organized alongside formerly incarcerated people in his hometown, Little Rock. His legal career began as a public defender in New Orleans. He currently serves on the board of the Little Rock Freedom Fund.

# Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice

Seeking to promote  
peaceful and just relationships  
among all.



[www.arpeaceandjustice.org](http://www.arpeaceandjustice.org)

**Mission:** Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice (ACPJ) is a coalition of individuals and organizations who work to promote peaceful and just relationships through education, dialogue, and action.

**Vision:** We envision a culture and society of peace and nonviolence, social justice, and environmental stewardship.

Peacemakers wanted! Please join us.



## Arkansas Peace Week

Make Peace Our "Natural" State!

September 17-24, 2023

[www.arkansaspeaceweek.com](http://www.arkansaspeaceweek.com)

**Our Mission:** Arkansas Peace Week is a program of activities with a mission to educate and promote peacemaking in our society and raise awareness of organizations working to build a lasting peace in Arkansas.

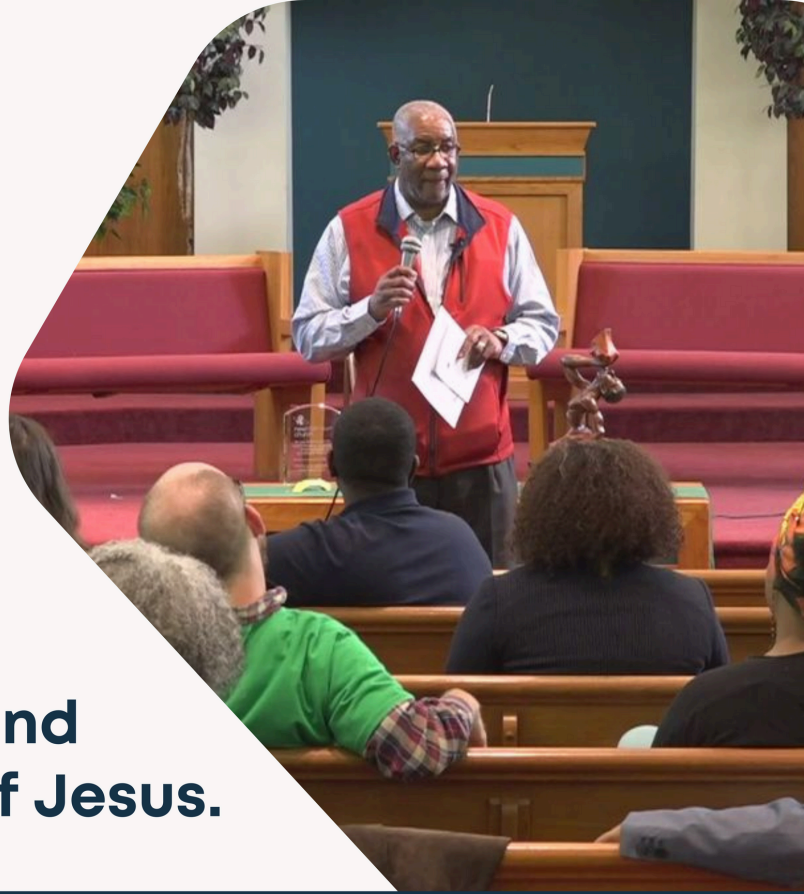
**Who We Are:** Arkansas Peace Week is conducted by a coalition of local, national and international organizations, faith groups and individuals, with a mission to promote peace and justice. Arkansas Peace Week is planned in coordination with the nationwide Campaign Non-Violence Week of Actions.



newmillennium  
church

New Millennium Church is a hopeful community devoted to God and loving others as we follow Jesus in faithful love, trust, acceptance, hope, understanding, compassion, encouragement, fellowship, truth, justice, strength, joy, and peace.

**Inclusive, Welcoming, and  
Progressive Followers of Jesus.**



**+501-562-9244 | 21 Lakeshore Drive**

**PEOPLE**  
**NOT PRISONS**

**ACLU**  
Arkansas

# ARKANSAS JUSTICE REFORM COALITION

## *About Us*

Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition moves forward policies and investments that end mass incarceration led by the voice & power of the individuals and families impacted.

## *Contact Us*

1-479-345-1150  
arkansasjusticereform@gmail.com  
www.arjusticereform.org



# NOTES

































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