

# SANDHYA JHA

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## EXPERIENCE

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2020- Without Fear Consulting Oakland, CA  
*Founder*

- Provide coaching, consulting and trainings for organizations seeking to deepen their commitment to Diversity/Equity/Inclusion or anti-oppression; also strategic planning and org development.
- Additional work in public speaking and writing

2012-2020 Oakland Peace Center Oakland, CA  
*Founder/Director*

- Re-purposed 40,000 sq. ft. building as office and event space for peace and justice organizations
- Built up network of 40 Bay Area organizations
- Resource and connect organizations towards shared strategies

2016-2019 Leadership Institute at Allen Temple Oakland, CA  
*Faith-Rooted Organizer*

- Help design and teach two-year certificate course for Emerging Leaders Program, two courses per semester.
- (continued teaching through 2023)

2015-2017 Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity California  
*Faith-Rooted Economics trainer*

- Offered trainings across Bay Area for faith communities engaging in economic justice work. Sponsored by The San Francisco Foundation

2012-2016 East Bay Housing Organizations Oakland, CA  
*Director of Interfaith Programs*

- Engaged faith community in two counties around advocating for low-income affordable housing
- Connect policy staff with faith communities around local campaigns and policy initiatives

Prior employment: Office of Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer (1997-1998), Religious Outreach Coordinator at The Interfaith Alliance (1998-2001), Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church of N. CA-NV (2005-2012), Senior Pastor at First Christian Church of Oakland (2006-2013)

## EDUCATION

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2023- University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA

- PhD student, School of Social Policy and Practice
- Research assistant, SAFELab
- Presidential Fellow

2001-2005      University of Chicago      Chicago, IL

- Masters of Divinity and Masters of Public Policy
- McCormick Scholar at Harris School of Public Policy and Dean's Fellowship
- Disciples House Scholar at the Divinity School and co-founder of the annual Ministry Conference

1994-1998      Johns Hopkins University      Baltimore, MD

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (minors in German and Writing)
- Graduated a semester early while working on the staff of Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer

#### ADDITIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Graduate, Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, Urban Habitat

Board member, Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality

Member, Alliance of South Asians Taking Action

#### PUBLICATIONS

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*Rebels, Despots and Saints: The Ancestors Who Free Us and the Ancestors We Need to Free*, Chalice Press, 2023.

*Transforming Communities: How People Like You are Healing Their Neighborhoods*, Chalice Press, 2017.

*Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines*, Chalice Press, 2015.  
(One of the top five books on religion and race in 2015 by Publishers Weekly)

*Room at the Table: The Struggle for Unity and Dignity in the Disciples of Christ*, Chalice Press, 2009.

*Liberating Love: A Daily Devotional*, Chalice Press, 2020.

"Jesus Christ for President," *Preaching as Resistance*, Chalice Press, 2018.

"Reluctant Prophets," *The Living Pulpit*, Christian Board of Publication, 2018.

"It's Harder to Be Us: The Gospel of Forgiveness for People on the Margins," *Justice Calls: Sermons of Welcome and Affirmation*, Cascade Books, 2016.

"The Process of Welcoming LGBTQ people into the church," *Disruptive Faith, Inclusive Communities: Church and Homophobia*, ISPCCK (India), 2015.

"The Matter of Power: Organizing as Women of Faith of Color," co-author with Mollie Costello, *Women, Religion, & Revolution*, Feminist Studies in Religion, 2016.

## TEACHING

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Former adjunct faculty with United Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, MN: "Social Enterprise."

Former Adjunct faculty with Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. "Social Justice and Theology: Theory and Praxis."

Adjunct Faculty with Pacific School of Religion, praxis course on Social Change.

Co-facilitator of the Living Justice practicum series for anti-racism scholar-practitioner-activists to deepen their critical and theological analysis regarding anti-oppression work in their local contexts, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago

Online courses with Thresholds of the Soul:

- Radical Self-care for Do Gooders (with BK Woodson)
- Reading the Bible for Liberation (with Riana Shaw Robinson)
- Rise Up for Racial Justice: Tools and Storytelling
- Transforming Communities
- Faith Rooted Organizing (with Deb Lee)
- Ancestors: Journey Toward Wholeness (with Katy Valentine)

## AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS

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Alumna citation, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2018

Pastoral Study Grant, Louisville Institute, 2019

Show Us Your Spines artist in residence with Radar Productions and the Hormel LGBTQ Archives at the San Francisco Library, 2021

Archival Creator Fellow, South Asian American Digital Archives, 2021-2022

Distinguished alumna, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2022

Shero Award, Urban University, Oakland, CA, 2022