

THE



SUBVERSIVE

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## LORETTA ROSS: 14TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURER



The Anne Braden Institute is excited to announce Dr. Loretta Ross as the 14th annual Anne Braden Memorial lecturer. Dr. Ross will deliver a virtual lecture, "Calling In the Call Out Culture" on November 11, 2020, at 5:30 pm. As always, the lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Ross' work comes at a pivotal moment. After a summer of tragedy and unrest, many are returning to classrooms, faculty meetings, advisory boards, and neighborhood associations wondering what comes next.

How can we create atmospheres where people press into the hard work of self-reflection and daily change-making? How do we end taboos surrounding speaking about racism and systems of injustice, challenging one another to do better while leaving room for inevitable mistakes?

Currently a Visiting Professor at Smith College, Dr. Ross teaches courses on white supremacy, reproductive justice, and calling in practices. She has spent more than forty-five years committed to antiracist and feminist activism, including founding the National Center for Human Rights Education, and work with the National Anti-Klan Network and National Organization for Women. Her work with rape and trauma survivors in the 1970s helped launch the movement to end violence against women.

Dr. Ross's lecture will draw on her forthcoming book, *Calling In the Call Out Culture: Detoxing Our Movement*. The author of three other books, her writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and elsewhere. She has also trained educators and social justice advocates nationwide to conduct empathetic, forthright conversations confronting injustice. Her timely lecture helps us move from a necessary season of anger and protest into the daily grind of justice work.

Please spread the word about this exciting event! Stay tuned for information on our 8th Annual Research Meets Activism event on November 12, as Dr. Ross responds to questions about reproductive justice. For promotional materials or details on attending, please contact the ABI at 502-852-6142 or visit [www.louisville.edu/braden](http://www.louisville.edu/braden).

## FALL 2020 events calendar

### OCT 7 You Can't Be Neutral: White Anti-Racism Past and Present\*

MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER, 12 PM

Panelists include: Carla Wallace, Shameka Parrish-Wright, Hannah White & Cate Fosl.

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ljd538>

### OCT 8 Pride Keynote: LGBTQ Leaders in the Movement for Black Lives Panel\*

UOFL LGBT CENTER, 7 PM

LGBTQ leaders in the Movement for Black Lives, including: Hannah Drake, Keturah Herron, Talesha Wilson & Phelix Crittenden. #TeamStrangeFruit moderating.

Registration details TBA. More info:

<https://louisville.edu/lgbt/programs-1/pride-week-1>

### OCT 22 Pride Keynote: Black Trans Lives Matter Panel\*

UOFL LGBT CENTER, 6PM

Calls to make immediate changes in healthcare delivery to provide better services for Black Trans Lives.

Registration: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJEqf-ivrj4uHt1d3lPxs-Q5C5q3UMZCTKuK>

### NOV 11 Anne Braden Memorial Lecture

ABI, 5:30 PM

Join us as Dr. Ross delivers "Calling In the Call Out Culture" Registration Details TBA. More info: [louisville.edu/braden](http://louisville.edu/braden) or [bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com)

### NOV 12 Illuminating the Intersections: Reproductive Justice is Racial Justice

ABI, 9 AM

Local activists and scholars panel on reproductive justice, with comments by Dr. Ross

Registration Details TBA. More info: [louisville.edu/braden](http://louisville.edu/braden) or [bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com)

\*Indicates a co-sponsored event

All events are virtual due to Covid-19 's continuing impact

# 2 Louisville Women File For Marriage License

By JOHN FINLEY  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

In the name of Gay Liberation—equal rights for practicing homosexuals—two Louisville women have filed application in the Jefferson County Clerk's office for a marriage certificate.

Miss Tracy Knight, 25, listed herself as the groom-to-be, and Mrs. Marjorie Ruth Jones, 39, listed herself as the bride-to-be.

This apparent "first" in Kentucky marriage license history drew considerable confusion and a crowd of curious on-lookers yesterday afternoon as Miss Knight and Miss Jones appeared in the clerk's office to apply for a license.

But County Clerk James P. Hallahan allowed the application to be made because a three-day waiting period must elapse before a certificate is issued. In the meantime, County Atty. J. Bruce

Miller will take a look at the legality of the situation.

"There's nothing on the face of the statutes that prohibits it," Miller said yesterday. But he added that officials could "look into the intent of the legislature in adopting the state's marriage laws."

"I doubt," he continued, "that the legislature intended for the laws to permit women to marry women—or men to marry men."

Attorney Stuart Lyon, who accompanied the two women to the clerk's office, said that it "will be a very interesting case" if the marriage license is denied.

Miss Knight said she is interested in the cause of Gay Liberation but concerned about the effects of the publicity that a lawsuit might bring.

She agreed to an interview only on the

condition that her address, where she is living with Mrs. Jones, not be used in the story.

"Nobody cares what I lose in this," Miss Knight said. "But if the homosexuals in this town would really stand behind me, I wouldn't care" about the publicity and possible criticism.

Others have a peace cause or a civil rights cause, "and I have a sexual cause," she said.

She is applying for a marriage license, Miss Knight continued, "to show that I can love a woman on my own terms, and a man can love a woman on his own terms, and I won't be pointed to as a weirdo or a freak."

Miss Knight said she is a dancer in a "well-known" Louisville club six nights a week, and she runs a massage parlor during the days.

She showed color photographs of her-

self to prove her nighttime occupation, and indeed, they showed that she is a dancer—an attractive and scantily attired one at that.

Declaring "there are more homosexuals in this town than anyone can imagine," Miss Knight said she hopes to see homosexuality "legalized instead of pushed aside into a corner . . . like it was a freak thing. All of these weird ideas about orgies and dirtiness . . . is what the public sees."

She explained that she wants to see marriage rights extended to practicing homosexuals so that they can enjoy the security and the tax benefits that are enjoyed by heterosexual couples.

Mrs. Jones, a blonde with a bouffant hairdo, has three children by two marriages. Miss Knight, dressed in hippie attire which she said she normally chooses because of its neutral connota-

tions, said she of Mrs. Jones' problem if they were to marry.

Mrs. Jones' daughter who hasn't yet had a relationship, believes that the circumstances already have

They have of their own "I don't think a child in a

In the Mrs. Jones' in a Gay that took

Miss Knight honor at nuptials.

The first lesbian marriage case in U.S. history originated in Louisville in July 1970, spurring the formation of the first openly gay rights organization in Kentucky—Louisville Gay Liberation Front. LGLF was established in a gathering at 420 Belgravia Ct. with a vision of gay liberation as central to ending racism, war, and poverty.

## Meet Our 2020-2021 Student Team!



Azariah Bryant is a second-year student worker at the Anne Braden Institute. She's working toward a bachelor's in Business CIS, and plans to graduate in May 2023. She is a member of the Air Force ROTC, and is working toward a career as a software developer.

Tiffany Adams is a second-year student worker who will complete her BA in Social Work in May 2021. She plans to return to UofL for her Master's Degree, specializing in mental health therapy.



Jessica Young is a first-year Graduate Assistant with the ABI and a doctoral student in Louisville's Pan-African Studies Department. Jessica's research is on black intellectual histories in the Americas.



Megen Farrow Boyett is a doctoral candidate in Rhetoric and Composition and a first-year GA with the ABI. Her current work uses a transnational feminist lens to ask how community program organizers listen to and interpret the perspectives of immigrant and refugee women as they build literacy programs.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE KY LGBTQ CONTEXT NARRATIVE

There is a deepening recognition that the injustices faced by Black, queer, and otherwise marginalized communities are not new, just better documented. Likewise, those of us in activist work recognize that any successes we can claim have been built on the oft-unseen work of those who have fought injustice before us. Bringing untold stories to light is powerful because it rewrites what we know of our pasts, our places, and ourselves.

Just before the publication of *The Subversive* last fall, The ABI received the 2019 southern regional W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Award for developing, in partnership with the Fairness Campaign (FC), the first statewide historic queer [context narrative](#) in the nation. The narrative gives a broad historical overview of LGBTQ people and places in Kentucky history and identifies sites that deserve public recognition as such. The full narrative can be found on the FC website. It offers an introductory but intersectional history of queer people, places, and events in Kentucky, to celebrate what has come before, and laying groundwork for what comes next.

Right now, we find ourselves in the midst of the work. Part of the plan for the Kellogg award money is to establish Louisville's first LGBTQ historic marker, and ABI and FC, led by Pam McMichael, convened a local community-based queer history committee this past summer to determine top priority sites. Aletha Fields, Jaison Gardner, Micky Nelson, David Williams, and Dawn Wilson worked closely with Pam, in consultation with Cate Fosl (ABI) & Chris Hartman (FC).

The leading site they chose was the birthplace of the Louisville Gay Liberation Front (in 1970) at 420 Belgravia Court in Old Louisville. We expect this marker to happen soon, though the KY historic marker program is currently on hold amid the pandemic. With help from our new grad assistant, Jessica Young, we are also planning new research into Kentucky's Black queer history, new publications to circulate stories from the context narrative, and possibly new ways to reach youth through K-12 curriculum development.

The middle of the work can feel slow and chaotic, all at once. But being able to dig deeper into untold queer histories, to circulate some of the stories we've uncovered to wider publics, and to stand in the spots where real LGBTQ lives made historical contributions remind us that we're making possible new work and new forms of affirmation and recognition.

# FACULTY FELLOWS PROFILES

**Dr. Melanie Jones Gast** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Her research agenda contributes to contemporary debates on the construction and maintenance of racial, ethnic, and class hierarchies in education and community programs in the U.S. Her new project, funded by the Engaged Scholarship Consortium, works with JCPs students and faculty to support and facilitate a peer-mentoring program for diverse, low-income youth of color from immigrant families. Currently, this project is focused on developing an online version of the peer-mentoring program during COVID-19, to combat the material and social difficulties that English Language Learner students face with online education. Dr. Gast notes, “Our work develops opportunities for social bonding and empowerment among bilingual/multilingual students of color, and material access through pre-paid Wi-Fi hotspots to equalize digital access and fill unmet needs.”



**Mary P. Sheridan** is a Professor in Rhetoric and Composition whose work addresses structural inequities through local action. A feminist and community literacy scholar, she says she’s “long been engaged in building bridges between research and action, often through projects that connect the university and community.” Dr. Sheridan founded the Digital Media Academy, a free camp for rising 6th grade girls in JCPs schools led by a rotating group of UofL grad students. During DMA, participants analyzed popular messages about them and their communities and created digitally mediated responses to help re-shape those conversations. Joining research and action, instructors developed culturally sustaining pedagogies and assembled community-engaged academic resources, requiring their attention to the issues the girls cared about and the community resources participants tapped into. Dr. Sheridan says “projects like DMA highlight the importance of the ABI, an institutional space devoted to social and racial justice that supports people who believe in cultivating academic and community partnerships that foster both research and action.”



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



It is very hard to step away from someone or something that you love. But for me, entering my final school year as ABI director, it's nearing that time. Since 2006-07, building the Anne Braden Institute has been my passion, and it has been my honor every step of the way.

I can look around our reading room and remember when its walls and shelves—now filled with thousands of inspiring books and memorabilia—were literally not there. I can reflect on the few staff members and dozens of graduate students who have passed through here, and then remained immersed in justice work locally and around the nation.

I won't wax too nostalgic about the past when the present is so needful—when the urgency of justice for Breonna Taylor weighs heavy on our hearts, when the future looks so fraught yet so full of possibility as long-sought anti-racist changes burst out among us, even amid a pandemic.

But please allow me two reflections in this brief space. One is pictured below this note: the 2007 opening of our reading room, overseen by then-dean, Dr. Blaine Hudson, and the inauguration of the Braden lecture, now a centerpiece of UofL's programming, delivered by the indomitable Julian Bond. We've since lost these luminaries, both close friends of Anne Braden. In particular, Blaine Hudson's impact on this community and university is both inestimable and under-recognized, and we are proud to be among his “brainchildren.”

—(cont'd on back page)

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE (cont'd)

Recently I was reminded of another highlight experience—the 2011-12 Healing History Academy. This study group of 25 Louisvillians from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods met for 6 months to immerse themselves in Louisville's racial history and put that knowledge into action. A subset of the group recently reunited amid the uprisings. We've now held two gatherings, and hearing what members are up to underscores the power of this work—and of Anne Braden's legacy.

Fifteen years have flown by—in early 2006 we were nothing and now we are something. We've produced both a driving tour of local civil rights history and Louisville's Fair Housing Action Plan, including a history of structural racism in housing. With the Fairness Campaign, we pioneered the first-ever statewide LGBTQ public history narrative, with plans to put up the city's first LGBTQ historic marker.

We never set out to be only about Anne Braden, and of course more changes will come once her biographer no longer directs. My objective this year is to try my best to ensure those changes are positive. Our new faculty fellows and an expanded, reinvigorated group of faculty affiliates working with our phenomenal Community Advisory Council are one avenue. Stay tuned for more!

—Cate Fosl



April 4, 2007: Former UofL Arts & Sciences Dean and ABI co-founder J. Blaine Hudson announces grand opening of Anne Braden Institute in Ekstrom Library (left). Inaugural Anne Braden Memorial Lecturer Julian Bond, then Chairman of the NAACP, cuts the ribbon to open the ABI (right).

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SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

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