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I am a registered nurse with over 20 years of experience, an author and a practitioner of tribal medicine among Bantu people of central Africa. My education as a healer and a nurse, in and out of schooling, has been rigorous and eclectic. When my father died in 1977 I followed my mother's lead in engaging as a volunteer in the burgeoning hospice movement. (Adelina Ortiz de Hill was a medical social worker). For three years I worked with the terminally ill and their families in Hospice of Santa Cruz, California.

Education:

Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA
Associate's degree in Nursing
May 1986

Addiction studies
Pierce College, Woodland Hills, California
Addiction and the Family
Addiction and Dual Diagnosis
May. June 2008

Continuing education in trans-cultural nursing
AIDS care
Medical Spanish

Experience:

1996-2005
Founded and ran the not-for-profit Nganga Project, making alliances between the traditional African healer Mandaza Kandemwa, western medical practitioners and Native American shamans. The Nganga Project has also been involved in famine relief in Zimbabwe

2001 to current I have been a consultant for *everyday gandhis* , an NGO that works with grassroots peacemakers in Liberia.

Accompanied Dr. Ed Tick and a small group of Vietnam era veterans to Vietnam for peacemaking, healing and reconciliation. Published an essay on this trip in the *everyday gandhis* newsletter and Counterpunch magazine.

2009 Ordained as minister, International Assembly of Spiritual Healers and Earth Stewards, by Reverend Imakhu Shekemet

UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Feb 1994-Nov 2003

Float nurse in oncology, cardiac, telemetry, neurology, neurological rehabilitation, geriatrics, ocular care, liver-heart-bone marrow transplant care. Also served as adjunct in ICU and ER

Self-employed

Dec 1991-Feb 1994

Shift work, home care with a teenage boy with muscular dystrophy

Self-employed

Nov 1987-Nov 1991

ICU homecare for a patient with multiple sclerosis

Community Hospital of Santa Cruz, CA

Aug 1986-Sep 1987

Medical-surgical nursing

Earthquake relief in San Salvador, El Salvador

Worked with earthquake victims under the auspices of *Ejercito de Salvacion* assessing patients and translating.

Teaching experience:

Title of course: The Craft of Compassion

Teaching inner city youth from the text of Conspiracy of Kindness without the emphasis on the caretaking of the ill. Spring semester from 2005 to 2008 taught writing at Crenshaw High under the auspices of a writing in the schools grant awarded Red Hen Press.

Location: Crenshaw High School. Los Angeles, Ca

Month/ Year: 03/08 – 05/08

Title: The Craft of Compassion in the Care of the Dying

Description: A talk to the graduate school nursing students on death and dying

Location: Mount St Mary College, Los Angeles, Ca

Month/Year: 10/07

Title: Multiple Sclerosis and African Medicine

Description: An honorarium lecture in a conference titled Imagination and Medicine: Healing in an Age of Neuroscience. The talk was about multiple sclerosis, mercury toxicity and the African understanding of how illness can teach the healer about the practice of medicine. This talk is anthologized by Spring Publications in a book on the conference.

Location: Pacific Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara. Ca

Month/Year: 05/07

Title: African Medicine and the Origins of African-American Culture.

Description: Tour/ lectures under the auspices of the NGO Nganga Project introducing participants to the *ngoma* tradition that was seminal to the formation of African-American culture.

Location: Bulawayo. Zimbabwe.

Month/Year: 11/97, 08-09/01

Compassion as a Spiritual Practice. A continuing education course for health care providers. Mount Madonna Retreat Center, Watsonville, California. October 15-20, 2008. The California Board of Registered nursing has allowed thirty continuing education credits for RNs and LVNs for completion of this course.

Books:

I'm the author of seven books.

--- Dreaming the End of the World: Apocalypse as a Rite of Passage (Spring Publications 1994, 2006) is a study of the patterns of apocalyptic dreams revealing their archetypal resemblance to traditional rites of passage.

---Overcoming Terrorism: A Twelve Step Approach (Hand to Hand Press 2004) is a reflection on peacemaking in a time of terror.

--- Gathering in the Names: A Journey to the Land of African Gods. With Augustine Kandemwa. (Spring Audio and Journal 2002) is a parallel memoir of "ritual twins." Mr Kandemwa is a *nganga* (medicine man) who initiated me into Bantu medicine through "sacred illness".

---Twin of Another Tribe: The Story of Two Shamanic Healers in Africa and North America (Quest Books 2007) is an expanded new edition of "Gathering."

--- Sacred Illness, Sacred Medicine. With Deena Metzger. (Elik Press 2003) A reframing of the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis as sacred illness inclusive of Metzgers keynote address to the American Holistic Medical Association.

--- Meeting Sacred Illness also with Deena Metzger (Elik Press 2006) is an intimate story of the fierce and generous rite of passage exacted by MS.

--- The Village of the Water Spirits: The Dreams of African-Americans (Spring Publications 2006) with Mandaza Augustine Kandemwa is an exploration of the African patterns in the dreams of black Americans about white people.

Also relevant would be the upcoming A Conspiracy of Kindness: the Craft of Compassion at the Bedside of the Ill. Conspiracy is intended as a teaching text about the “craft of compassion” alongside the ill and dying. It is anecdotal and is framed by interviews with nurses, doctors, hospice volunteers, a rabbi, a Muslim, a Catholic and a secular psychiatrist. Quest books has expressed interest in Conspiracy.

I have published numerous articles on African medicine, the archetypal foundation of race and racism, apocalyptic dreams, peacemaking and other topics in Spring Journal, Psychological Perspectives, Coevolutionary Quarterly, The Los Angeles Times Magazine, Counterpunch, Whole Life Times as well as poetry in The Sun: A Magazine of Ideas and Anima.

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