



My journey as a human being on this planet began in 1950 in Cheverly, Maryland. Born to parents who remained married for only six years after my birth, I, none-the-less, was blessed with an attentive and loving mother for those important six years. However, following my parents' divorce, my mother became very ill and unable to care for me. Consequently, I grew up in foster homes and travelled all over the United States, landing in Mt. Vernon, Washington, for my four years of high school.

Inspired by a loving and literate English teacher, I found a way to attend college through scholarships, grants and many part time jobs. After four years, beginning at the University of South Florida and continuing on at the University of Washington and finishing at Washington State University, I earned a double major in English/Education and a minor in Sociology.

After a year of teaching middle school in English in Oak Harbor, Washington, I returned to Washington State University to earn a Master's Degree in Counseling and then spent the next 30 years as an English teacher and Debate Coach at Mark Morris High School and an English and speech instructor at Lower Columbia College in Longview, WA. Two of those years were spent as a guidance counselor. During that time, I applied to be a Registered Counselor and maintained a private practice in counseling in the evenings. These years provided me valuable experience in understanding and working with adolescents and their families, and what I learned informs my application of family therapy skills today.

During the first ten years of these thirty, I became interested in issues facing women in domestic violence situations, so I sought intensive training in this field, spending several years as a therapist and domestic violence interventionist and advocate at some of the first battered women's shelters in the United States in both Longview, WA, and Roseburg, OR.

In 1980, I met, on a peace walk across the United States, two people who have influenced my life profoundly: Donna and Joseph Bradley. At that time, they were at the start of an amazing life journey of adopting and fostering sexually and physically abused or neglected children. By 1983, we decided to join forces on 450 acres of land near Glendale, Oregon, to raise in excess of twenty foster and adopted children. I took a year's leave of absence to become the Head Director of the school where we educated the children on site in the tradition of Summerhill, an alternative school in England.



(<http://www.summerhillschool.co>.) In addition, we established innovative and successful experimental weekend residential programs to train parents in parenting skills. Here, we addressed the challenges introduced by families struggling with generations of an array of unhealthy coping strategies, including attachment disorders, PTSD, alcohol and drug addictions, oppositional defiance disorder, anger

management challenges and the like. This year was profoundly rewarding for me and has been the most formative in my fundamental therapeutic approach that there are no mistakes and that what might seem like impossible crises in our lives are actually precious opportunities to grow and to fall in love with ourselves and others.

After retiring from teaching in 2006, I opened my practice to many more hours, upgraded from Registered Counselor to Licensed Mental Health Therapist, and accepted a part time position as a Mental Health Therapist at Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services. Here I received training as a Child Therapy Specialist and also became certified in EMDR and Clinical Hypnosis as I became more and more interested in working with trauma victims. This work led me to the discovery that a number of my clients had developed Dissociative Identity Disorder or DD, NOS as their coping strategy. Further training through ISST-D has strengthened both my interest and skills in working with this population. Meanwhile, clients who came to me in private practice were often couples and families, hungry for communication skills that would save their relationships. As a result, I became certified in Non-Violent Communication (I prefer to call it Compassionate Communication) and use this as my primary tool in working with individuals, couples and families with an assortment of diagnoses.

In October of 2009, I rejoined my friends, Dona and Joseph, in Maui to work for a time at the Radiance Healing Center (<http://www.radiancecenter.org>). Having fallen in love with both my home in Washington and, now, Maui, I have decided to seek a license to practice in Hawaii. Currently, I am an intern in private practice in Hawaii and travel back and forth between my offices, having clients in both places.

