FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Donors, Funders, Supporters, Believers in the Truth School,

THE TRUTH SCHOOL IS FIVE YEARS OLD THIS YEAR! Can you tell from the bold upper-case letters that I am excited? We are all so excited! A dream, an idea, a hope...then a plan, a structure, and a school. Five years. Created in the wake of Trump winning the presidency, the Truth School was once a reaction to the extremely disturbing news and the gut-wrenching sense of what would lie ahead in the coming four years. But the School is now so much more than a reaction to Trump—we are a vibrant and inspiring school-network-community connecting seasoned and budding activists with experts in movement-building strategies and we are helping to make change from the ground up. A frequent class participant called our School "my church," and others have referred to the classes as "my lifeline." Massachusetts State Senator Jo Comerford (a founding Truth School board member) calls the Truth School "...a very necessary miracle."

We burst on the scene in January 2017 and here are some milestones and accomplishments since our inception:

- The Truth School has offered over 400 FREE TOTALLY FREE movement-building classes over the last five years.

- Since beginning five years ago, the Truth School has raised nearly $500,000 to pay our trainers, our staff, and all administrative and overhead expenses.

- In 2019, the School’s Board of Directors voted unanimously that all of our trainers would be people of color or biracial pairs, and that has changed the Truth School in countless positive and important ways.

- The Truth School made a difficult but successful pivot to all online courses on Zoom when COVID hit, not missing a beat, and continuing with strength, creativity, and pluck.

- Because of COVID, the School’s Zoom presence has meant that we have had class participants signing on from 31 states (and counting) and a dozen foreign countries, and trainers from all over the country.

- In 2021, the Truth School hired our first Operations Manager, Amihan Matias, who has brought a new level of professionalism, administrative savvy, and organizational
wizardry to our work—not to mention her enormous heart, and remarkable network of colleagues and friends old and young.

- My mantra for so long has been that the Truth School is spunky, scrappy, and successful. I am adding new words but there is no alliteration this time. The school is still those three things, but I would say we are now also nimble, stable, and thriving. We are solid, and we are here to stay! This little gem of a School is going strong.

- The Truth School has a remarkable staff; a team of dedicated, talented, and seemingly tireless volunteers; loyal and generous donors; and a growing list of grateful class participants. We also have foundations supporting us consistently, businesses giving ongoing financial contributions, and faith partners who have been with us since day one.

- Our Board of Directors is diverse, active, engaged, inquisitive, proud, and pushes the Truth School to lead with courage and take risks with classes.

- Thank you for being part of the extended Truth School family. Your notes of encouragement matter, your financial gifts keep us afloat, your participation in classes is what we are all about, and your ongoing individual work for justice, peace and environmental sustainability is making a difference in this beautiful but broken world. Keep up the good work.

Thank you for believing in the Truth School. See you in a Truth School class soon!

Ever onward and with enormous gratitude,

Andrea
WHAT PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT THE TRUTH SCHOOL:

“Our beloved TS is a small and mighty force! A classic community school, it is breaking down imagined socially conditioned boundaries, opening hearts and minds, and creating spaces that build authentic solidarity and allyship for transformative social change.” – Dr. Rose Sackey-Milligan, Truth School Board of Directors and Trainer

“Anyone who has ever worked “behind the scenes,” on any project, gets a broader view of an organization, particularly its philosophy and the ways in which it fosters—or doesn’t—its people and fulfills its mission; I am fortunate to know both the front and rear of the TS “house.” I have seen/heard/felt TS leadership live into its mission to train leaders to not only respect and affirm those who come to TS, but to respect and affirm themselves by bringing their whole/authentic selves into the work they do here.” – Ivy Tillman, Truth School Trainer and Host

“The Truth School offers practical, inspirational, and provocative classes led by fascinating, skilled, and warm facilitators. Most people are not famous, they are our neighbors, community leaders, and colleagues. The Truth School uplifts the wisdom that thrives all around us and weaves us together into a stronger diverse community. I am proud to be a supporter.” – Dr. Jennifer Ladd, Truth School Advisory Board and Trainer

“Since its founding, the Truth School has become a powerful force for social good in our communities—the range and breadth of classes it provides covers almost every social justice issue imaginable. With its superlative trainings and trainers, the Truth School is fast becoming an indispensable asset to the western Massachusetts community and beyond.” – Mehlaqa Samdani, Truth School Board of Directors and Trainer
ACTIVATING SOCIAL CHANGE

2021

700 Participants
39 states
12 countries

102 Trainers

92 Classes Offered

Keeping Your Light Bright: A Writing Workshop for a Community With Something to Say With Susan Garrett

October 13, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Raising Anti-Bias Children

March 7th, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM EST

With Zoe Agama and Tiffiny Szwietz

FREE! Register at https://truthschool.org/events/

Calling In the Call Out Culture

With Loretta Ross

February 1, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Take a Walk in Sojourner Truth’s Shoes

September 22, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Mentoring Young People of Color

With Steven Hernandez

October 23, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST

Bringing Head, Heart, Hands and Spirit to Social Change Work

With Thelma Davis and Rev. Sheri Butcher

November 12, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Kamala Harris: The New Narrative of Women's Leadership

With Janice Pannell and Shirel Pannell

February 27, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Building Community Power for Racial and Health Equity

With Aditi Vaidya and Shelley Ahmed Hamad

October 18, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Taking on White Supremacy: Black and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Solidarity

With Andrae Jennifer Harris and Tubalina Arnot

October 17, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Sociocultural Truth School for Social Change Leadership

Decolonizing Mental Health

For Professionals and Others Supporting Activists

Erica Selbert and Elise Powers

September 25, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

Black Suffragists’ Role in the Suffrage Movement

With Dr. Ashley Bullock

September 30, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/

LET’S TALK ABOUT CLASS: THE TOPIC WE AVOID, THE ISSUE WE NEED TO EXPLORE

With DJ Skinner

November 11, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm EST

FREE! Register here: https://truthschool.org/events/
Since 2017

4000 Participants

Over 400 Classes Offered

Close to $500,000 raised
OUR ESTEEMED TRUTH SCHOOL TRAINERS
Fueled by Committed Staff and Generous Volunteers

Founder and Director
Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian

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Julie Kurose, Registrar and Catalog Editor
Renee Moss, Donor Manager
Shelley Abend Zimbalist, Development Consultant

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Michael DeLuca, Website Manager
Phyllis Labanowski, Graphic Messenger
Ella Zimbalist, Social Media/Communications Coordinator
MJ Adams and Chris Mohn, Co-coordinators, Host Program
Sue Carbin, School Courier
Marcie Sclove and Eric Broadbent, Technical Advisors

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INCOME $130,610

- Individual Donations: $60,000 (46%)
- Foundation Grants: $67,275 (51%)
- Partnerships: $3,335 (3%)

EXPENSES $58,541

- Staff, Trainers
- Office/Program Costs
- Technology
- Marketing
- Rent
- Other