



2022 Annual Review

Seed Rural Justice
End Rural Racism



JUBILEE JUSTICE

Land. Race. Money. Spirit.

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person with dark skin and short hair, wearing a blue t-shirt. They are focused on a black plastic seedling tray filled with young rice plants. The person's hands are visible, carefully tending to the seedlings. The setting appears to be outdoors, with natural light and some foliage visible in the background.

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Jubilee Justice Declaration of Interdependence

We believe everything is interconnected.
We believe we must make decisions that place life at
the center.

Only then can there be systemic change based on
love, justice, and repair.

Only then can we be whole and live in balance.

Only then can we create a truly regenerative
society.

We, at Jubilee Justice, hold these truths to be self-
evident.

Welcome to Jubilee Justice!!



Letter from the President

Our work is informed by these principles of interconnectedness. The roots of the plants that we grow in the soil our hands touch everyday are connected to the roots of our ancestors who also worked the soil and were fed by these same plants. Our work serves as an agent for healing both the land and the people who steward the land.

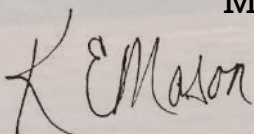
The four pillars that guide our work: Land, Race, Money & Spirit are the hard places where American systems of oppression live. With an open heart and mind, we move directly into the center of these challenges, bringing innovation, persistence and hope.

Our Black farmers rice program is addressing the systemic racial disenfranchisement that rural Black farmers and communities have faced since the founding of this country while simultaneously bringing balance back to the soil upon which all life depends.

Our Journeys program steps boldly into our ancestral past, linking our personal family histories with our future liberation. We work from the knowledge that white supremacy culture must be dismantled in order to free us all from the painful myth of separation and the world it creates; and instead build a just regenerative society made whole and living in balance.

In spite of the fractured nature of our country, 2022 has been a good year for JJ. This year's report highlights our wins and our challenges. Fortunately, we are fortified for the road ahead with access to information, moral support and financial partnership from many of you. The road we have chosen to walk isn't an easy one. But as we continue to travel this path, we grow and find ourselves more connected than ever to a community of nonprofit leaders, funders, activists, scientists, farmers and the like, who understand that together we can and must create a society based on love, justice and healthy soil.

May you and your loved ones be healthy and well.



Konda Mason

Founder, Jubilee Justice



Jubilee Justice Farm Headquarters


Area	0.25ac
0.25ac	
0.25ac	
3-5ac	
acre seedlings	
de: 5/11	
0.1	
waiting...	
?	
0.03ac	
0.25ac	
~0.25ac	
?	
?	



The JJ Farm

In 2022, Jubilee Justice moved its experimental farm from one acre to five acres on Inglewood farm. Farm infrastructure was built including a greenhouse, an office, a well and irrigation system, complimenting the existing seed room with refrigeration and tool room. We also acquired affordable farm equipment that allowed us to mechanize production and begin the transition to a no-till, organic farming operation.





We divided the new land into three plots.

1. **Experimental Plot:** The first plot is set up with raised beds and drip irrigation allowing us to undertake careful research on smaller plots, including variety testing and spacing trials.
2. **Systems Research Plot:** The second plot is used to integrate successful research results from the last two years into a multi-year cropping system that is no-till and regenerative. Growing a balanced soil biology, informed by Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web and science, in support of healthy crop production is the ultimate goal we work towards. We use methods such as biological compost, activated biochar, organic matter additions through cover cropping and mulching.
3. **Production Plot:** The third plot has been prepared this year with cover crops and organic amendments to become rice production in 2023. We will integrate all best practices from plot one and two. These best practices are shared with our farmer cohort, through exchange visits and direct technical assistance from the JJ farm team.



Regenerative Crop Production Research



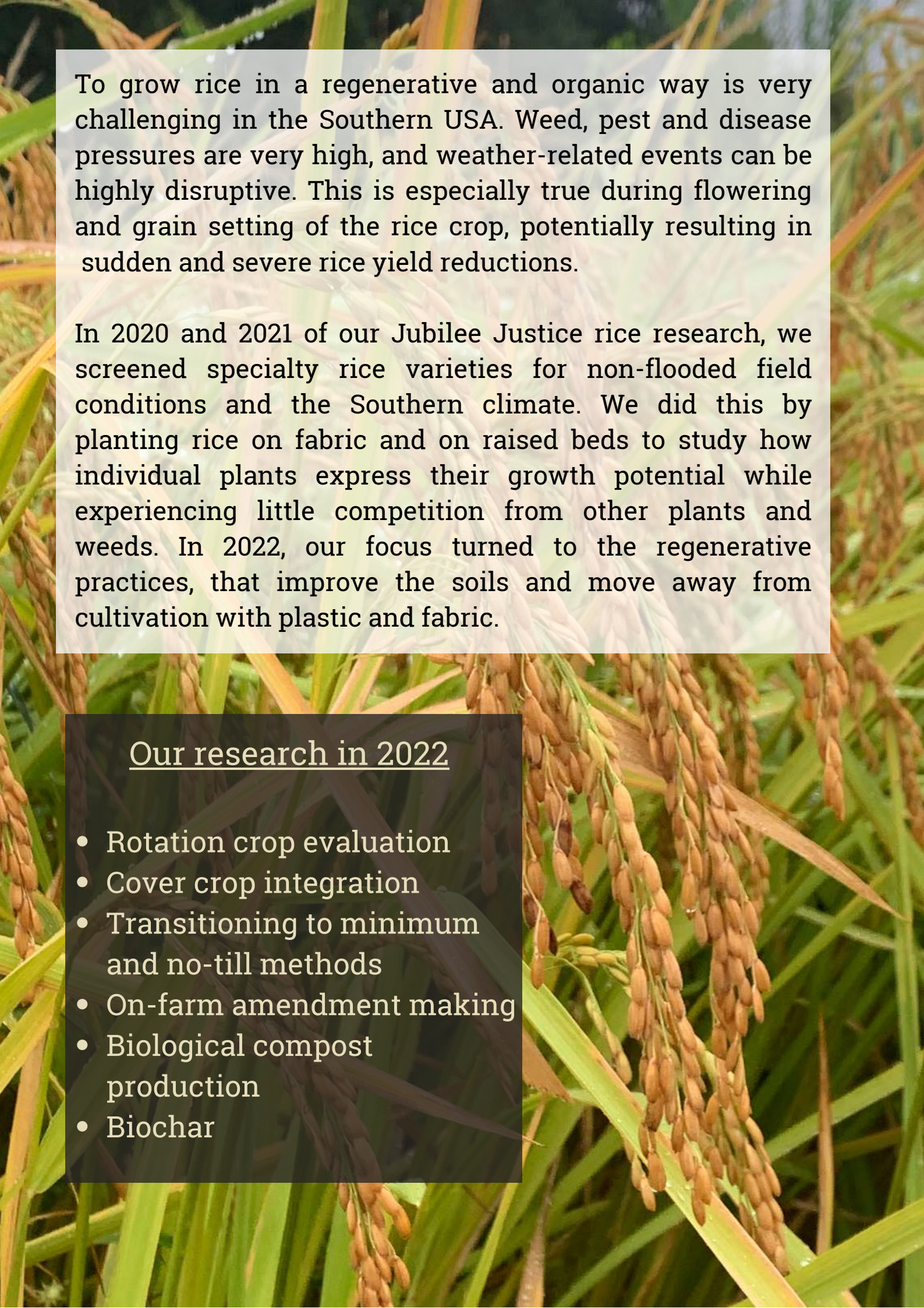
Soil First! Regenerative Rice

recognizes that every aspect of producing healthy, nutritious and organic food starts with a healthy soil!

Our question in 2022:

How can we build and protect our soil, nurture soil biology in support of plant health and productivity, and keep weeds and diseases in balance with biological processes?





To grow rice in a regenerative and organic way is very challenging in the Southern USA. Weed, pest and disease pressures are very high, and weather-related events can be highly disruptive. This is especially true during flowering and grain setting of the rice crop, potentially resulting in sudden and severe rice yield reductions.

In 2020 and 2021 of our Jubilee Justice rice research, we screened specialty rice varieties for non-flooded field conditions and the Southern climate. We did this by planting rice on fabric and on raised beds to study how individual plants express their growth potential while experiencing little competition from other plants and weeds. In 2022, our focus turned to the regenerative practices, that improve the soils and move away from cultivation with plastic and fabric.

Our research in 2022

- Rotation crop evaluation
- Cover crop integration
- Transitioning to minimum and no-till methods
- On-farm amendment making
- Biological compost production
- Biochar

SoilFirst! Research

Rotation Crops

A healthy rotation for rice includes legumes and broadleaves. This year, we planted cowpeas and sesame, crops that can be processed in the JJ mill.

We screened 35 rice varieties, 12 cowpea varieties and tested different SRI plant spacing and plant establishing methods with all three crops. This included direct seeding, transplanting, and inoculating seeds with beneficial microbes to improve crop stands.



Cover crops, mulching, no-till

Keeping soils covered and not disturbed is essential for soil health and weed suppressions. This year we planted rice into hay mulch without tilling in a collaborative project with Campti Field of Dreams and NRCS No-Till Organic Market Garden Project.

Farm-made soil amendements

We are researching how to make soil amendements from local and farm-based resources

- Making biological compost with invasive water hyacinth plants from the bayou and on-farm pecan shells
- Growing indigenous microorganisms (IMOs) for inoculation
- Activating Biochar with microbes
- Fermenting plant juices for foliar sprays



NRCS No-Till Organic Market

Garden Project.

Jubilee Justice was selected to participate in a NRCS project where 20 farmers from across Louisiana dedicate 0.25 acres of their land for three years to produce organic crops with no-till, regenerative practices.

We delimited the 0.25 acre in Plot 2, our "Systems Research Plot". As this was the first year working on this land, we knew little about it except that it was a compacted, silt loam with poor aggregate stability and a very low organic matter content of 1%. The land was under a grassy, weedy fallow.

To prepare the land for the crops, we mowed the area, applied vermicompost and covered the land with a thick layer of hay mulch. We divided the plot in eight subplots: in five subplots, we transplanted our top rice varieties: Arborio, IITA, Jasmine, HB-1 and Gopher. The other three subplots were planted with cowpeas, sesame, and with sesame and cowpeas intercropped.

What worked well

- The use of a heavy mulch saved time and labor. This plot was only weeded once in the beginning of the season compared to all other plots where weeding was consistently needed.
- In comparing plant development in the no-till plot versus our tilled variety trial plot, we witnessed
 - Significantly reduced panicle diseases in our no-till plot and fuller grains
 - A shorter crop cycle--Though planted two weeks later than the variety trial plot, the no-till planted rice matured roughly two weeks faster on average
 - Significantly less irrigation needed over other plots
 - An average of 91% higher yields compared to the variety trials

What didn't work so well

- The rice plants developed fewer tillers under no-till. We hypothesize this was due to a combination of soil compaction, poor water drainage, and physical suppression from the thick, heavy mulch.
- The plot was quickly waterlogged with each heavy rainfall. The cowpeas and sesame did not tolerate this, resulting in poor germination and productivity.

Outlook

By continuously adding organic matter and mulch, planting deep rooted cover crops, and not disturbing the soil, we look forward to observing how the crop performances will change as the soil regenerates.



Farm Mechanization

Transplanting Rice

When rice is transplanted at 10 days of age, it establishes quickly in the field, with good root growth and higher chance to outcompete the weeds.

We acquired a vegetable planting machine - A FIRST with RICE! to be able to transplant SRI rice at the large scale!



Harvesting Rice

Rice is ready for harvest at >20% grain moisture. The plants are cut, the seeds are separated from the seed heads by threshing, and the grain is dried down to 14% moisture. Next, the grain is cleaned of chaff and foreign matter and stored in bags as paddy rice. When ready for consumption, the paddy rice is milled, separating the rice kernel we all like to eat from the hardy hull. All in all a lengthy and delicate process!

Jubilee Justice obtained a small and versatile rice combine, that can efficiently harvest and thresh the rice crop. It allows us to harvest small, specialty rice plots and serve our farmers in their harvest much more efficiently.



Rice Varieties for the Jubilee Justice Specialty Market

A main focus of our experimental work in the past three years has been the identification of rice varieties that i) produce well in a non-flooded, organic SRI production system, ii) grow well in the southeastern US , and iii) are of high value in a specialty rice market.

We have evaluated 30 plus varieties for three years at Inglewood, LA, and a subset of 10 varieties at New Communities, in Albany, GA, and with our farmers in NC, SC, GA, MS and LA.

The Jubilee Justice varieties we plan to produce and test market include:

Jasmine 85 (Fragrant rice)
HB1 (Black sticky rice)
IITA 119 (Red rice)
Arborio (Risotto rice)
Dragon Eyeball 100 (Black rice)
Dellmati (Basmati-like rice)
Santee Gold (Brown rice)



Black Farmer Cohort



Black Farmer Cohort

We worked with 13 farmers in NC, SC, GA, MS, and LA this year with three objectives:

- Experiment with farmers regenerative rice planting methods
- Test transplanting and harvesting equipment at farmers' scale
- Produce rice for the JJ mill!



Our focus in 2022

We work with each farmer individually to design a rice trial or production plot according to his or her interest and abilities.

Methods tested in 2022:

- Transplanting seedlings vs direct seeding
- Wheat straw and pine straw mulching compared to plastic covered beds and mechanical cultivation
- Raised beds compared to planting on flat land
- Drip irrigation, furrow irrigation and no irrigation
- Use of the transplanting machine vs hand planting
- Combine harvesting vs hand harvesting





Large-scale SRI Rice production:

- WE GOT RICE! We took what we learned in 2020 and 2021 and worked with Mr Sanders in Mississippi to scale our best practices to 2.5 acres ! A first big test for us! We used our new transplanter with two of our best producing varieties, the Black rice variety HB1, and a Jasmine rice. We also used our new combine harvester with big success! We got rice - and next year - we will take it to a different level!

Technical Manuals

- The JJ farm team produced a few Technical Manuals for our farmers so they can read up on the steps of producing an SRI crop and understand the science and practice behind it as well as our Soil First principles.

Equipment Sharing

- As we are building up the farmer cooperative that will be in charge of the rice mill, equipment sharing is another important aspect we want our farmers to benefit from. This year, we started with testing our innovative equipment with some of our farmers, especially the transplanter and the rice harvester, with two objectives in mind: allow farmers to grow rice at larger scale, test the equipment for their adaptability to different farmers' conditions.



A white rice mill machine is shown in a workshop setting. The machine has a hopper at the top and a motor. The text "PLR Z-1M" is visible on the side of the hopper. Two people are standing next to the machine, looking at it. The background is a white corrugated metal wall.

PLR Z-1M

Jubilee Justice Rice Mill





Setting Up The Rice Mill

Last year, the Rice Project was gifted a building for our rice mill in an act of reparations.

Over the course of this year, this once tire shop was remodeled into a food safe home for our milling equipment. This equipment is state of the art, including professional dryers, cleaners, dehullers, and a color sorter.



In addition to this grand feat, the mill has been equipped with solar panels making it the first solar powered rice mill in the state in addition to already being the first Black Cooperative Rice Mill in the country.



We expect the mill to be up and running by March of 2023, coinciding with an exciting new rice season.



BEFORE



AFTER



Sharing a meal at Inglewood



Dr Anna McClung and Dr Trevis Huggins, USDA - Our fabulous specialty rice seed providers! AR

Community and Partnerships



Rice project at New Communities, Albany, GA with Ms Shirley Sherrod and MadAg



Adam Chappel's large scale SRI rice field, AR



Brooklyn Brewery and Sankofa Beer Company use JJ rice for beer at Black Brewers Festival, PA



Konda, Iriel, and Myles attend Soul Fire Farm Immersion



Konda travels to the 55th Anniversary of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives



Myles attends the launch of the Agroecology Center at FAMU



Konda, Mark, and Dara Cooper meet at BUGS Conference



Konda, Myles, and Iriel attend BUGS Conference in Atlanta, GA



Iriel participates in National Young Farmers Coalition Land Advocacy Fellowship



Bernard's Camp Power hosts a summer camp for local youth in Alexandria, LA

Our Team

Myles Gaines

Head of Innovation and
Experimentation



Hector Rios

Mechanic and Equipment
Manager

Bernard Winn

Operations Specialist



Juan Manuel Hernandez

Field and Greenhouse
Maintenance Co-manager

Darlene Domino

Field and Greenhouse
Maintenance Co-manager



Our Team

Jose Gonzalez

Head of Farm Production
and Grounds



Konda Mason

Founder and President

Iriel Edwards

Farm Manager



Erika Styger

SRI and Rice Specialist and
Advisor

Mark Fulford

SRI and Equipment
Specialist and Advisor





Jubilee Journeys

Exploring Our Shared Past



Our Ancestral Journey (OAJ) is a two-year program for a cohort of forty people from all backgrounds including descendants of enslaved people and descendants of enslavers. This challenging and beautiful experience is designed to humanize history with compassion and truth telling, take responsibility, and find personal and collective liberation as we begin to heal the damage of our racist systems.



**Below is our theory of change:
Our Ancestral Journey In Seven-Part Harmony**

#1 Trace individual and shared history through personal research of our own genealogy.

#2 Confront internalized white supremacy through vulnerable storytelling and shared truth-telling conversations

#3 Learn American history through the lens of critical race theory to understand the context of where we are today

#4 Heal wounds of the past through the creative embodiment of our ancestors prompting us to feel compassion and create a deeper understanding across race and class

#5 Develop new loving relationships

#6 Create a new vision and lived experience of liberation for self and society

#7 Shift our collective consciousness to create sustainable change

Moving into our second and final year for the current cohort, OAJ is culminating into a joint final creative project that will tell the story of America's past and present and lean into a new future of hope and liberation. Stay tuned....



The J8

The AWESOME Team who designs and delivers the OAJ Program



Luisah Teish

Spiritual Culture Advisor



Marian Moore

Weaver



Briayna Cuffie

Resident Ancestor- Reincarnate



Melisànde Short Colomb

Oral Tradition and Storyteller



David Ragland

Director of Reparations



Diane Houston

Creative Director



Konda Mason

Founder



Bernard Winn

Operations Specialist

Grateful



...to be on this journey
with you!



JUBILEE JUSTICE

Land. Race. Money. Spirit.

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