

# Y-WE Career Day



## Y-WE Career Day 2018: *Presenter Biographies*

**Saturday, April 21, 2018 (10am-5pm)**  
**Cascadia College/UW Bothell, Mobius Hall**  
*(18428 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011)*



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## Keynote Speaker: Michele Storms *Deputy Director, ACLU Washington*



### **Keynote Title – *Never Give Up***

**About** – Michele Storms started her legal career as a staff attorney at Evergreen Legal Services in 1988, focusing on family law, custody and domestic violence. Michele later served as a faculty member at the University of Washington School of Law in the clinical law program where she founded the Child Advocacy Clinic. She then worked as a statewide advocacy coordinator at both the Northwest Justice Project and Columbia Legal Services where she coordinated civil legal aid advocacy in the areas of family law, youth and education, housing, elder law, Native American and right to counsel issues.

Before joining the ACLU-WA in 2016 as Deputy Director, Michele was Assistant Dean for Public Service and Executive Director of the William H. Gates Public Service Law program at the University of Washington School of Law. In addition to her service on numerous boards and guilds locally and nationally, Michele served on the Washington State Access to Justice Board for six years and is currently a Management Information Exchange board member.

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## Shelmina Abji

*Empowerment Speaker, Former IBM Vice President*

**Workshop Title** – *Create Your Personal Brand*

**About** – Former Y-WE board member and Vice-President of IBM, and global empowerment speaker, Shelmina Abji is returning to Career Day after her debut presentation in 2012. Originally from Tanzania, Shelmina has resided in Seattle for over twenty years working to give girls and women success by sharing her insights from her career and personal life. Presenting, “Create Your Brand,” Shelmina will speak on how to build your current and aspirational brand. Join her as she presents tools and guidance on your career and relationships.



## Nadia Alzamami and the Teen Education Council

*Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands*

**Workshop Title** – *Reproductive Rights*

**About** – Teen Council is Planned Parenthood’s award-winning peer education program that inspires and trains teens to become effective and passionate sexuality educators and advocates. Research shows that peer educators make a lasting impact in their communities. When students see a peer presenting about social situations and pressures with confidence and knowledge, they listen.



## Jordan Blaine

*Brand Ambassador/Writer/Miss Bellevue*

**Workshop Title** – *Beauty is More than Skip Deep!*

**About** – Originally from Spokane, Jordan graduated from Carroll College in 2016 to pursue her dreams of becoming a television host. Working as a part-time nanny, part-time staff writer, and part-time publisher’s assistant, as well as being Miss Bellevue, Jordan will show an exclusive vlog for Career Day viewers of her personal journey trying to establish herself in her career and personal life. She hopes to open the floor to other young ladies and their struggles and successes of growing into the woman and career you choose.



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## Hilary Bowker

**Workshop Title** – *Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence*

**About** – Hilary Bowker is a Social Worker, activist and educator who teaches youth and adults about intimate partner violence and healthy relationships by using an intersectional, social justice framework. For the past five years, Hilary has worked at New Beginnings, a Seattle-based domestic violence organization, both as an Advocate and as Prevention Educator. Prior to New Beginnings, Hilary worked with folks experiencing homelessness and youth in foster care. Hilary holds a Masters of Social Work Policy and Administration from the University of Washington.



## Senait Brown

**Workshop Title** – *Juvenile Injustice*

**About** – Senait Brown has spent her career fighting against racial injustice. She's co-chair of Ending the Prison Industrial Complex (EPIC), political action chair for the Seattle-King County NAACP and community coordinator for the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative. Most recently, she's been a leading voice against the proposed new King County Children and Family Justice Center (colloquially known as the youth jail), organizing protests, shutting down City Council meetings, and confronting Mayor Ed Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine over their support of the jail.



## Commissioner Bonnie Canada-Thurston

**Workshop Title** – *Lawyers as Leaders*

**About** – Bonnie Canada-Thurston has been a Family Law Commissioner in King County Superior Court for 23 years. Her breath of experience has covered every Family Law Calendar such as, Domestic Violence, Divorce, Child Support, Mental Health and the Dependency Calendar. She served 3 rotations on the BECCA Calendar for King County Superior Court out of her abiding love of children. Prior to serving as a Commissioner, Bonnie Canada-Thurston was a Senior Deputy Prosecutor in the Family Support Section during the administration of Norm Maleng, for 14 years. Her duties included establishing parentage for children born out wedlock, collecting child support on behalf of children, acting as lead to over 10 attorneys and multiple staff as well as trying numerous drug and welfare fraud cases.



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She has been an invited speaker for many organizations including the King County Bar Association, addressing topics ranging from domestic violence to a “View from the Bench.” She gave the congratulatory speech to the Seattle University School of Law’s African American Law Students in 2007, and in the same year she was honored by the National Black Prosecutors Association with the *Trail Blazer’s Award*. Commissioner Canada-Thurston was one of the recipients of the Washington Women Lawyers, Betty B. Fletcher Judge of the Year Award for 2011. In the community Bonnie has been a guest speaker for both teachers and students, in public schools on topics ranging from, explaining the branches of government, to what do you want to be when you grow up. One of her greatest joys was being a Sunday school teacher to preschoolers for 15 years at the Mount Zion Baptist Church.

## Dr. Samantha Chin, DAHM, LAc

**Workshop Title** – *Holistic Healthcare - East Asian Medicine*

**About** – Dr. Samantha Chin, DAHM, LAc grew up in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Garfield High School as valedictorian (2008) and from Bowdoin College with an Asian Studies major and Biology minor with the honors of Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa (2012). Dr. Chin always used her time to volunteer in the community and was committed from a young age to pursuing a career in medicine that would allow her to help others. Dr. Chin obtained her Master’s and Doctorate degree from the Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine (SIEAM). She loves treating patients and appreciates how the medicine she practices allows her to get to know her patients and approaches health care from a holistic standpoint. She currently works as the Director of Admissions and Student Services (SIEAM) and is the owner and proprietor of Lumos Acupuncture in downtown Seattle.



## Eleanor Cohen

*Israeli Participant, Creativity for Peace*

**Workshop Title** – *You Can be a Peacemaker, Inspiration from Young Palestinian and Israeli Women*

**About** – Eleanor is 21. She was born in South Carolina to Israeli parents and moved to Israel when she was 13. She has participated in Model U.N., volunteered with Arab and Jewish youth, and first came to Creativity for Peace in 2013. She recently completed her military service as a medic and hopes to study government, diplomacy, and strategy.



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## Bianca Davis-Lovelace

### **Workshop Title** – *Juvenile Injustice*

**About** – Bianca R. Davis-Lovelace is an ordained United Church of Christ Pastor and Executive Director of Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH). Also, she currently serves as the Washington State Tri-Chair for the Poor People's Campaign. Bianca earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech from Jackson State University and a Master of Arts Management degree with a focus in Nonprofit Management from Columbia College Chicago in 2010. Later, she received her Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary in May of 2013. In 2015, she was chosen as Princeton Theological Seminary's Black Theology and Leadership Fellow and one of Union Theological Seminary's top 50 Millennial Leaders for the Millennial Leaders Project. Also, in 2015 she was awarded the honor of Chicago's 40 Under 40 for the Young Women Professionals League. In 2017, she served as Organizing for Action's Community Organizing Fellow for Spring 2017.



## Cecilia Deng

### *Software Development Engineer, Amazon*

### **Workshop Title** – *Debunking the Myths – Women in Technology!*

**About** – Cecilia Deng is a software development engineer turned manager at Amazon Web Services, delivering services powered by the cloud that support some of the biggest online companies today, including Netflix, Spotify, and Pinterest. This session aims to break down some common barriers to this field by demystifying the fundamentals of how computers and the internet works, why you don't need straight A's or be a natural genius in math to have a successful career in computer science, and give participants a chance to ask their top technology questions in a "no question too stupid" environment.



## TraeAnna Holiday

### **Workshop Title** – *Gentrification & Displacement*

**About** – TraeAnna is a true Seattleite who has watched her city change in many ways. Studying Urban Studies in college, lead to a deeper understanding of why those changes exist. Through studying abroad and being displaced by gentrification, she's now fueled to tell her neighborhood's story through film and education.



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## Lu Hong

*Software Engineer, Amazon*

**Workshop Title** – *Debunking the Myths – Women in Technology!*

**About** – Lu Hong is an experienced software engineer at Amazon. She has a M.S in Computer Science from University of Michigan. She joined Amazon 5 years ago after graduation. As a software engineer, she has participated in designing, developing and managing of several product launches at Amazon.



## Dottie Indyke

*Executive Director, Creativity for Peace*

**Workshop Title** – *You Can be a Peacemaker, Inspiration from Young Palestinian and Israeli Women*

**About** – Serving as the executive director of Creativity for Peace, an organization that trains the next generation of women leaders and peacemakers in Israel and Palestine. With a background in journalism, marketing, and public relations, Dottie also co-founded a children's radio drama production that was also featured on the Today Show, and in People magazine. With Dottie are three young women from Israel and Palestine willing to share their experiences and stories that will inspire you to be activists and change-makers.

## Jasmine Jones

*Business Development Specialist, Seattle Credit Union*

**Workshop Title** – *You've Got This! The Importance of Personal Finance*

**About** – Jasmine spends her time as a Business Development Specialist on the go meeting people, building relationships, learning about the needs of communities, and strategizing on how to meet those needs. She organizes and facilitates financial literacy workshops and classes for members, builds unique promotions for our business partners that help their employees achieve a financial advantage, and above all, strives every day to advocate on behalf of our communities so that they may truly prosper. In an industry rife with competition, complexity, and impersonality, Jasmine weaves uncommon authenticity into every interaction she has. Authenticity that not only allows members to trust Jasmine with their dreams, but empowers them to turn those dreams into reality. Jasmine knows that prosperity is only sustainable when built upon financial stability. She also knows that anyone can learn financial independence. That's why she works tirelessly every day to equip members with the tools and knowledge they need to achieve financial freedom. While Jasmine never predicted a career like this, it's clear she's found her niche. One that aligns her passion for community advocacy with her steadfast endeavors to empower others.



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## Sonia Joseph

**Workshop Title** – *Juvenile Injustice*

**About** – Sonia Joseph is a massage therapist, activist with Not This Time, and mentor within the community. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family. She is the mother of two boys and also has two stepchildren; her family is her number one priority. When she has time, she enjoys meditation, music and dancing. She also has a passion for continuing education and personal growth. Her goals are to share her expertise, be positive, healthy and humble.



## Zofia Kierner

**Workshop Title** – *Young People Can Make a BIG Impact*

**About** – Born in Poland, and moving from Finland, Zofia is currently at a freshman at one of the most rigorous high schools around, Tesla STEM. Joining Y-WE three years ago, Zofia is a young woman with a mission. Creating and directing her own charity, she collects English language children's books for underprivileged children in Poland. "We, as girls and women, have so much power in us. Either when working together or alone, we can make a huge impact. Women are great leaders because of their social sensitivity and kindness. Let's use that to create change in our society!" Join Zofia as she shares her travels and transitions as a young woman making a change in the community around her.



## Jen Krohn-McKelvey

**Workshop Title** – *Flying into an Engineering Career in Aviation*

**About** – With a strong background in Mechanical Engineering, Jen has spent her career in various roles at Boeing. Ranging from working with hydraulic power systems to flights controls to now being a Program Integration Manager. Come and listen to Jen help you understand various forms of a career in engineering and the steps you should be taking to get there!



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## McKain Lakey

*Musician, Audio Engineer*

**Workshop Title** – *Sound Engineering*

**About** – McKain Lakey is a musician whose work investigates themes of oppression and empowerment through the richness of American folk traditions. An instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter, McKain performs as a solo artist, as part of the duo Woolly Breeches, and with other bands by invitation. She is an educator and facilitator who works with groups of all ages and backgrounds to deepen their understanding of the historical and technical foundations of music and to encourage personal exploration of voice and creative power. She holds a degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. McKain is also an experienced audio engineer who has produced countless live music events, as a front-of-house engineer, monitor engineer, and stage/production manager, in addition to her work as a studio engineer/producer. Recent projects include international tours with acclaimed band MarchFourth of Portland, OR, and mixing work on “The Gods Are Made of Mud”, the latest studio album by Hot Damn Scandal (Bellingham, WA).



## Mathilda Li

*Software Engineer, Amazon*

**Workshop Title** – *Debunking the Myths – Women in Technology!*

**About** – Mathilda a software engineer at Amazon Web Services for the past year and a half. She holds a computer science degree from the California Institute of Technology, and she loves math! In her spare time she enjoys playing music and making art.



## Arlene Martinez

**Workshop Title** – *One Step at a Time: Building a Career in the Arts*

**About** – Arlene Martínez-Vázquez is a director, educator, and arts administrator currently serving as Education Director for Seattle Repertory Theatre. Arlene holds a BA in Theatre, Hispano American Literature, and Foreign Languages from the University of Puerto Rico; and an MFA in Theatre Directing from Middlesex University, London. While in London, she studied Meyerhold & Biomechanics at GITIS Academy in Moscow and Theatre of the East at the Indonesian Arts Institute in Bali. She also collaborated with CASA Latin American Theatre Festival during its first two years, and was a visiting lecturer



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Since moving to Seattle in 2009, she has worked with renowned arts organizations such as Book-It Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Cornish College of the Arts and Seattle Children's Theatre. When not at her full-time job with Seattle Rep, she can be found bringing the arts and Latinx community together through her own company, Thriving Artists.

## Adan Masri

*Palestinian Participant (living in Israel), Creativity for Peace*

**Workshop Title** – *You Can be a Peacemaker, Inspiration from Young Palestinian and Israeli Women*

**About** – Adan is 18 from an Arab city in Israel. She has been interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since she was in the ninth grade and has participated in Model U.N. Conferences and, since 2016, in Creativity for Peace programs. She won a scholarship to travel to Jerusalem to learn leadership skills and study the conflict and has given a talk at the American Embassy in Israel.



## Lorna Mazoff, LM, CPM

**Workshop Title** – *Social Justice in Community Midwifery*

**About** – Owning her independent home birth practice, Lorna has been practicing midwifery since 2001. Inspired by her great grandmother's career of being a midwife, Lorna graduated the Association of Texas Midwives program and became licensed through the North American Registry. Having a son of her own, Lorna and her son moved from Texas to Alaska for Lorna to work at The Juneau Family Health and Birth Center until opening up her current practice. Join Lorna, Emi, and Farrah as they introduce you to midwifery care as well as create a safe environment for women's health conversations.



## Alexa Noxon

*Embedded Software Engineer, Amazon*

**Workshop Title** – *Debunking the Myths – Women in Technology!*

**About** – Alexa Noxon is an embedded software engineer in the Amazon Web Services Internet of Things group. She works on making it easier to connect small electronics to the cloud. Before joining Amazon, Alexa was at Texas Instruments working on firmware for hardware cryptography accelerators. She graduated from Harvey Mudd College with a degree in General Engineering.



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## Katie Owens

*Adult Flight Nurse at Airlift Northwest*

**Workshop Title** – *Flight Nursing: Airlift Northwest*

**About** – Katie Owens currently works as an adult flight nurse at Airlift Northwest. She completed her prerequisites and Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington. Katie started her nursing career in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way, then transitioned to the Emergency Department at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma where she quickly became part of the trauma team. She relocated to the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at St. Joseph Medical Center for a short stint prior to being hired at Airlift Northwest. Katie joined the Airlift Northwest team in November of 2016 and feels so grateful for this career.



## Anusha Rangaswamy

*Director, Customer Experience Engineering, Microsoft*

**Workshop Title** – *7 Common Career Myths that Could be Holding You Back*

**About** – Anusha Rangaswamy, Director- Customer Experience Engineering at Microsoft Corporation, has over 20 years of experience in various professions that include Dietetics, Software programming, Sales, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business Management and Product Management. Her passion for ongoing learning and continuous development has led her to navigate multiple different careers successfully. Join Anusha for, “7 Common Career Myths that could be Holding” You Back, as she helps you debunk some of the career myths that are holding you back and guide you to soar to meet your aspirations.



## Luna Rashid

*Palestinian Participant, Creativity for Peace*

**Workshop Title** – *You Can be a Peacemaker, Inspiration from Young Palestinian and Israeli Women*

**About** – Luna is 17 from Beit Safafa, a Palestinian town. She attended the Hand in Hand bilingual school, one of the few places where Israelis and Palestinians study together, and has learned to bridge divides by playing basketball with Peace Players and training as a peacemaker with Creativity for Peace.



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## Farrah Rivera, MSM, CPM

**Workshop Title** – *Social Justice in Community Midwifery*

**About** – Growing up in Hawaii, Farrah was surrounded by pregnant aunts and newborn babies. Having a passion stemming from childhood, Farrah is now an advocate for women’s health as well as a renowned Midwife and Doula. Featured in the birthing documentary, “Tlakatiliztli” Farrah has her hand in the Seattle and Los Angeles women’s health community. She works hard to advocate for the education and over-all wellbeing of midwives and providers of color. Join Farrah, Emi, and Lorna as they introduce you to midwifery care as well as create a safe environment for women’s health conversations.



## Denaya Shorter

*MA Ed Graduate Candidate, Urban Environmental Education, Antioch University Seattle; Urban Food Systems Educator, City of Seattle Parks & Recreation; Naturalist/Environmentalist, Onyx Light*

**Workshop Title** – *Focused & Fearless: Standing Out and Stepping Up in the Pursuit of What Sets Your Soul on Fire*

**About** – Denaya Shorter is a recent transplant from California; originally from the greater Bay Area, moving most recently from the Central Valley. She received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology from California State University, Fresno and is currently a Master’s candidate in Urban Environmental Education at Antioch University Seattle. Denaya has a variety of career experience including wildlife biology, natural resource management, food systems education and food justice, environmental education and youth development. Throughout her professional career, Denaya has struggled with the lack of diversity and lackluster outreach efforts to marginalized, underserved, and communities of color by environmental organizations and institutions which has led to her current focus in graduate school. She is passionate about education and youth as well as changing the lens in which the environmental field views diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her mission is to advocate for the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion through meaningful action and to encourage and inspire young people and communities of color to make sure their voices are heard. Denaya wants young people to know that it is cool to care about the planet, even if you feel like you’re all alone- “This planet needs us all and we should all have a seat at the table.”



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## Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima

*Assistant Attorney General, Diversity Advisory Committee Co-Chair, Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit, Office of the WA Attorney General*

**Workshop Title** – *Lawyers as Leaders*

**About** – Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima is an Assistant Attorney General in the Washington Attorney General's Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit. Having graduated from University of Washington for both her BA and JD, Challa has been setting our area on fire ever since. Sharing her presentation, "Lawyers and Leaders," Chalia will provide insight into becoming a successful lawyer as well as motivating and inspiring discussions to further your future.



## Jamie Stroble

**Workshop Title** – *Gentrification & Displacement*

**About** – A passionate community development professional, Jamie Stroble works towards increasing community accessibility to city planning and policymaking, particularly for immigrants, refugees, communities of color and low-income communities. She has been active in environmental justice and equitable development, and brings a strong knowledge of environmental health, air quality, sustainability issues and social justice, and background in culturally-relevant community outreach and engagement.

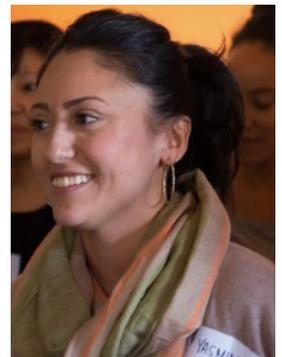


## Yasmin Trudeau

*Legislative Director, Washington State Attorney General's Office*

**Workshop Title** – *Started from the Bottom, Now I am Here...Making Decisions*

**About** – Yasmin Trudeau is the Legislative Director for Attorney General Bob Ferguson. She is also a graduate from Seattle University School of Law and licensed to practice in the State of Washington. She was initially introduced to the Legislature as a Legislative Aide to Washington State Senator (now Congresswoman) Pramila Jayapal. After that and prior to her current role at the Attorney General's Office, she worked as Staff Counsel to the Washington State Senate Democratic Caucus where she worked on Capital Budget, Trade, Economic Development, Agriculture and Water. During law school she was a Legal Extern with the Honorable Justice Mary Yu, during her final months in King County Superior Court, a law clerk with the U.S. Attorney's Office and a policy fellow at the Polaris Project, an organization that takes a comprehensive approach to human trafficking, based in Washington D.C. Currently, Yasmin lives in West Seattle with her husband Nathan and their lazy beagle, Bean. She loves to read, paint and spend time with husband and siblings.



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## Aimee-Josiane Twagirumukiza

**Workshop Title** – *Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence*

**About** – Aimée-Josiane (she/they) is a proud queer Rwandese Black Femme who is passionate about transformational change. Aimée-Josiane is also a Certified Professional Coach, and currently works as a Community Advocate and the Relationship Skills Coordinator at The NW Network. Their goal is to continue loving like Garnet, innovating like Shuri and coloring life like Marsha P. Johnson!



## Kshama Sawant

*City Councilmember*

**Workshop Title** –

**About** – City Councilmember Kshama Sawant was elected by working people in Seattle to be a voice for raising the minimum wage, for affordable housing, and for taxing the rich to fund public transportation and public education. As a City Councilmember, she is using her position to help build, unite, and give political voice to the struggles of low-paid workers, youth, people of color, and all those who are shut out by the political machine tailored to protect the interests of the big corporations and the wealthy elite.



## Mo Vanderpuy

*Adult Flight Nurse at Airlift Northwest*

**Workshop Title** – *Flight Nursing: Airlift Northwest*

**About** – Mo VanDerPuy is a flight nurse for Airlift Northwest. She has worked as a Registered Nurse for 13 years on med-surg floors, in the military as an Army Nurse, in Intensive Care Units and currently in helicopters and airplanes. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, climbing, camping, and playing with her 3lb Yorkie: Lucy!



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## Emi Yamasaki McLaughlin, MSM, LM

**Workshop Title** – *Social Justice in Community Midwifery*

**About** – Emi’s dream is to grow a cohesive community of midwives of color and birth workers committed to social justice and accessible care. She focused her graduate studies on issues concerning women of color and racial and ethnic health inequities. A professional member of Midwives’ Association of Washington, Emi is also a member of the LGBTQ Birth and Family Professionals. Join Emi, Farrah, and Lorna as they introduce you to midwifery care as well as create a safe environment for women’s health conversations.



## Meg Yates

*Inter-faith Chaplain, Community Minister, Teacher, Musician, Artist & Sound Healer*

**Workshop Title** – *Song and Silence: The Life of a Touring Musician*

**About** – “When everyone is given a voice, we have more resources,” says Meghan Yates, an interfaith chaplain, community minister, teacher, musician, artist, and sound healer. Joining us from Bellingham, Meghan cannot wait to share her journey of the road less traveled leading her to her multifaceted career she leads now. Hosting her first session with Y-WE, learn and listen to Meghan as she offers stories of her process discerning her callings and overcoming obstacles.



## Menosh Zalmi-Appi

**Workshop Title** – *Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence*

**About** – Menosh Zalmi-Appi is pursuing a Masters in Social Work in the School of Social Work. She plans to support Syrian, Iraqi, and other refugees and immigrants from Arabic-speaking nations as they arrive in the United States and seek social services to integrate into society. As a refugee herself from Afghanistan, she understands clearly the support and advocacy that refugee populations need and the lack of social workers available who can communicate in Arabic and are able to provide culturally sensitive resources.

