



## **NDI SUMMIT 2017 Panelist and Presenter Bios**

### **Thomas Anderson**

Thomas Anderson is currently in his 4th year as the Superintendent of the Randolph Public School system in Randolph, MA, one of the most diverse communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to arriving in Randolph, he was an Assistant Superintendent in the DC Public Schools, and before that Mr. Anderson was an educator in Maryland's Montgomery County Public School system, where he taught high school English and was a head track and field/cross-country coach. Mr. Anderson has been featured numerous times in local media for his leadership, and he currently serves as the chair for the South Shore Educational Collaborative and sits on the board for the Randolph Community Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce. His most recent accomplishment, a few weeks ago, was leading the Randolph Public School System out of Underperforming Level 4 status after 10 years with this designation by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Anderson lives in Needham with his wife, 12-year old daughter and twin 16-year old boys.

### **Asma Bawla**

Asma is a senior at Shaker High School in Albany, NY. She is an Indian Muslim woman, and she is the president of her Muslim Student Association. Asma is also a runner and the captain of her cross country team. She is a student leader and an advocate for social justice.

### **Chakira Haddock-Lazala**

Chakira is a Puertorican scholar-activist, mental health clinician and artist based out of Bronx, NY. Her scholarly and artistic work explores the vicissitudes of identity, language and psychic life in a context of oppression and colonization. As a poet and activist, she is best known for constructing what she calls "free speech zones"- healing and expressive spaces in which community members can come together to learn about the art and history of spoken word performance.

### **Kemp Harris**

Kemp Harris is a composer, musician, children's author, actor and teacher. Born in North Carolina, Kemp taught himself piano and was writing songs at age 14.

Kemp has performed as a storyteller and musician at festivals, schools and libraries across the country. Kemp's program includes developmentally appropriate stories that incorporate music and audience participation. He enjoys keeping the oral tradition of "telling" alive. Stories range from traditional tales, African folk tales and original stories. Each session will run approximately 60 minutes. This performance incorporates a wide range of ages.

Kemp taught Kindergarten and 1st grade in the Newton Public School system for the past 38 years. He wrote the children's book/song, "Snow". He has since retired and looks forward to continuing to work in all aspects of his artistic interests.

Kemp will lead off the Summit with songs in the key of social justice!

### **Joanna Herrera**

Joanna Herrera is an attorney who practiced litigation, labor and employment law before having her three boys, ages 13, 12 and 7. Now a stay-at-home mom who has been living in Needham for nine years, Joanna is the face behind the "Hate Has No Home Here" signs all over town. Herrera was given the idea to bring the signs to Needham from a friend of hers living in Chicago, who saw them first pop up in the Windy City area. With the help of a GoFundMe page and community donations, she has been able to spread the anti-hate message throughout the town.

### **Catie Scudera**

The Reverend Catie Scudera began her ministry at First Parish in Needham, Unitarian Universalist, in August 2014. While in training, she served as a student minister at Arlington Street Church in downtown Boston; the Winchester Unitarian Society in Winchester, Massachusetts; and, at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. Before responding to her call to ministry, Rev. Catie co-founded the A. Margaret Barr Children's Village in Meghalaya, India, with the Unitarian Union of Northeast India, and served as a full-time tutor at Match High School in Boston. In these contexts and through her ministerial training, Rev. Catie strengthened her dedication to economic and educational justice, anti-racism and anti-oppression, and creating beloved community. Rev. Catie was born in New York City, but grew up in northern Virginia just west of Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and Harvard Divinity School, where she was involved in LGBTQIA+ organizations. Rev. Catie has lived in Greater Boston for nearly a decade, and currently lives in Needham Heights with her spouse and their dog.

### **Heather Yountz**

Heather Yountz is an immigration attorney at Demissie & Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Most of her practice is spent protecting her clients from deportation through litigating cases and appeals in state, federal and immigration court. Heather was on the front lines in the

airport and in federal court in Boston when Trump's first travel ban took effect. Through the efforts of Heather and the rest of the legal team, Boston issued one of the first temporary orders blocking the ban. She was a named recipient of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) New England Chapter Pro Bono Champion Award, accepting the award on behalf of the Logan Airport & Litigation Team. She has also received the Persistence Award from Progressive Needham for her role in the airport litigation. After graduating from Northeastern University School of Law in 2007, Heather clerked for Justice Kafker in the Massachusetts Court of Appeals, then worked in the Immigration Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services before moving to private practice. Heather lives in Needham with her husband Marcus and their three children.