



# SPEAKERS

## “The Hard Work of Reconciliation” Celebrating the Legacy of Nelson R. Mandela

Monday, April 28 | 2-6pm | International House Auditorium, UC Berkeley

*This public event is to honor to legacy of Nelson Rolihlabla Mandela on the 20th Anniversary of his election in April 1994. Well known for birthing the new democratic South Africa, Madiba set the moral and political tone of bringing together all South Africans into a new social contract based on justice and compassion.*

*Justice Albie Sachs*



Justice Albie Sachs began his career in human rights activism as a young lawyer defending people charged under South Africa's racist apartheid laws which led to his arrest and placement into solitary confinement. Upon release, Sachs went to Mozambique where he worked for the ANC in exile. In 1988 in Maputo Albie's car was bombed by South African government agents and he lost an arm and sight in one eye. After the bombing, Sachs devoted himself to his recovery and that of the new democratic South Africa. Albie Sachs helped write the new constitution for South Africa and he served as Constitutional Court Justice. Albie is also a prolific writer of lyrical books that are classics, most especially his *The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter* which has gone into many editions. Albie will speak on “The Soft Vengeance of Radical Hope.”

*Linda Biehl*



Linda Biehl is a highly sought after speaker and advocate for reconciliation and restorative justice. Following the 1993 death of their daughter, Amy, at the hands of a South African anti-apartheid mob, she and her late husband, Peter, founded the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust (ABFT) in Cape Town, South Africa to deliver life-enhancing programs to the youth of impoverished townships. For the past 15 years, since their release from prison, Linda has worked side by side with Ntobeko Peni and Easy Nofemela, two of the young men convicted of Amy's death. Ntobeko and Easy help direct and implement many ABFT after school programs. Now, as the reins of leadership are being passed to others, Linda, through ABFT, has chosen to focus on domestic issues relating to forgiveness, reconciliation, and restorative justice.

*Ntobeko Peni*



Born in 1973 in Gugulethu Township on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa, Ntobeko Peni was exposed to the brutalities of Apartheid during elementary school. As he grew older and increasingly disillusioned by daily police imposed violence against his community, he sought support and training from the Pan African Student Organization, the student arm of the militant Pan African Congress. Ntobeko achieved leadership roles in the organization, which eventually led to the 1993 fatal attack on Amy Biehl. Following his conviction, incarceration, and eventual amnesty via the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Peni sought out and developed a relationship with Amy's parents, Peter and Linda Biehl.

*Manfred Jacobs*



Manfred Jacobs is the Communications and Club Manager and Sr. Correctional Officer of Drakenstein Correctional Services, Western Cape, South Africa. Following certification in Professional Development, Computer Science, Correctional Service Management, and Meditation, Manfred began employment with the Department of Correctional Services in 1995. From his 1974 birth in a small fishing village near the world famous Hermanus, to his current position, Manfred has distinguished himself in numerous ways. He is grateful to have personally known President Mandela and is "gratified that people today still believe in the message of hope, still hunger for the good in life, and still appreciate the unselfish efforts that Madiba made in order to create a better life for all."

*Davi Kopenawa Yanomami*



Davi Kopenawna Yanomami is a shaman and spokesman for the Yanomami people. He led the long running international campaign to secure Yanomami land rights in Brazil for which he gained recognition nationally and internationally. Davi has just published the first book by an Amazonian shaman, *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman* in which he recounts his early childhood when he witnessed the first devastating contacts with outsiders, his initiation as a shaman, and his first trips to Europe and the USA to advocate for his people's rights.

*Ventura Pérez*



Dr. Ventura Pérez is an Associate Professor of Bioarchaeology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the Tribal Anthropologist for the Brothertown Indian Nation of Wisconsin and is assisting the tribe with their petition for federal acknowledgment. He is also conducting research on Narco violence (mutilations and beheadings) along the US-Mexico border; and is working in Zacatecas, Mexico at the site of La Quemada (AD 900). He will speak about the repatriation of Yaqui Indian human remains as restorative justice in Sonora, Mexico and Arizona.

*Nancy Scheper-Hughes*



Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Professor of Anthropology at UC Berkeley, began to organize this event with Linda Biehl, Ntobeko Peni and Manfred Jacobs in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2013, anticipating the death of Nelson R. Mandela. In 1999, following Ntobeko Peni's freedom from prison via the Truth and Reconciliation process, Scheper-Hughes invited Linda and Peter Biehl to meet with Ntobeko Peni and Easy Nofemela in their homes in Gugulethu Township, resulting in an extraordinary act of reconciliation between two worlds of suffering, one personal, the other political. For the last 15 years Mrs. Biehl and Mr. Peni have worked together to reach thousands of township children with afterschool programs in the arts, traditional dance, health, sports, critical thinking, civil rights, and social justice.