



Barbara Gilday

I was born and raised in Ontario, Canada, the oldest child, with 2 younger brothers. I was fortunate to have 2 grandmothers and a great aunt who lived on a farm where I spent the summers. These women were very formative in my life. I studied English and Psychology in University, and spent 2 years teaching English at Konongo-Odumasi Secondary School in Ghana after graduating. Upon my return to Canada, I married and raised a son and a daughter.

At the age of 50, I studied for a Masters in Divinity, specializing in Pastoral Care and

have served 3 churches in Washington State and in British Columbia. I also served as a chaplain in 2 hospitals for a total of 5½ years. Now I earn my living preaching, counseling, and officiating at weddings and funerals.

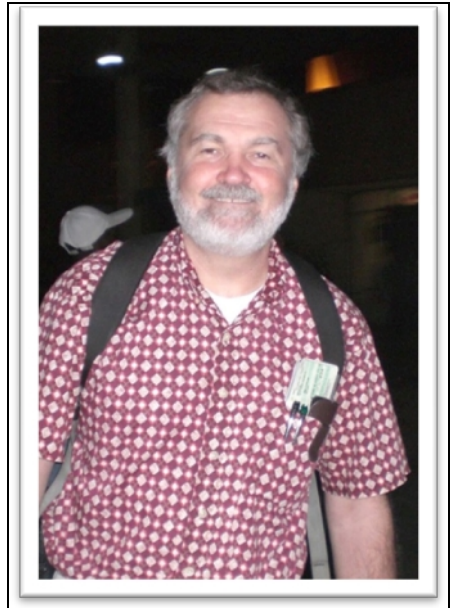
Last year I went to Nigeria with Global Citizen Journey and helped to build a library and engage in citizen diplomacy. Afterward, I visited my old school in Ghana, and some former students. I met James and Justine Kainyiah, and decided to participate in the journey to Axim this year.

In my spare time, I enjoy my granddaughter Ally, kayaking, gardening, and singing.

Dennis Gaither

Because of my father's military career, my family moved extensively as I was growing up. I became very adaptable and fond of travel and exploring. I also lived on my grandparent's farm in Missouri periodically and appreciated living close to the earth, walking in the fields and forests and acquired a sense of groundedness.

In university, I studied physics and psychology before going to medical school. I worked 9 years in general practice and emergency room work on an Indian reservation in Wyoming and Alaska, then moved to San Francisco to do a residency in Psychiatry, my current occupation.



As a physician and psychiatrist I have worked in varied settings. Currently I work in a mental health center and private practice in Mt. Vernon and teach workshops in Hakomi (mindfulness based therapy), *A Course in Miracles*, and the healing power of forgiveness.

Last year I was part of the first Global Citizen Journey project building a library in Nigeria- an exciting and deeply moving experience. I am eager to meet my new Ghanaian friends!

I enjoy hiking and camping in the mountains, fishing by the sea and joking with my two sons, Ryan 23, and Aric 20. I also have a wonderful daughter-in-law, Brittany, and delightful granddaughter, Ava, now 8 months old.

Diana Lilla

Diana Lilla, an independent consultant and educator, has over 30 years experience as a senior manager, project manager, and consultant. She left a financial services and investment management 20 year career, leaped off a 160 feet cliff over the Pecos River in New Mexico trusting God, and earned a



master's degree in organizational behavior to holistically engage with organizations. Her consulting took her to Lagos Nigeria four years ago with an American company, then Bulgaria. The positive experience with workforce in Lagos highly influenced her with desire to return to Africa, hence, GCJ Ghana project. Diana specializes in a combination of 'Project Management, Organizational Leadership, and Organizational Change with a systemic approach.' Diana synthesizes information, work, systems and cultures with visions for the greater good.

Born in Spokane, Washington as the youngest of 4 children, Diana has lived in numerous states, and in Seattle for the last 14 years. She is an avid traveler and music lover.

You can often find her reading on a variety of topics in the local coffee shop with latte in hand. A favorite spot in nature includes tall trees representing ancestral spirits and water that helps give new life.

Jackie Jamison

My name is Jackie Jamison and I am a teacher in Federal Way, Washington. I teach at a secondary school called Todd Beamer High School and my current subjects are World History and Current World Problems. Federal Way is a diverse, urban community, and most of my students have little experience with the larger world around them. This is part of the reason that I decided to join up with Global Citizen Journey. I wanted to be able to



see a part of the world that I had previously only read about in books, and I wanted to be able to share this experience with my students.

I have a passion for service as well as education. After earning my degrees from the University of Puget Sound, I served for a year in AmeriCorps, which is basically like a domestic Peace Corps. It was in this organization that I learned that my actions in this world can truly make a difference in this world, and it is this message that I take daily into my classroom. Currently, my goal in education is to provide authentic learning experiences that engage my students in

their community. It is through this lens that we explore history and current events. I am hoping that this journey will provide both my students and myself with a better understanding of the world around us as well as our place in that world. For me, this is the experience of a lifetime.

Jeanie Birchall

I was born and raised in a very small town. I was the oldest of four children. I am the first and only to ever receive any college education. I feel very fortunate here. My parents were poor but one of my Aunts enrolled the assistance of a local politician's wife to help me enroll and pay for my first quarter of college. She even canvassed women's groups for scholarships, grants and clothing for me! It changed my life.

I earned my Nursing in Most of the since then I worked at St Hospital. I been in the Room since

My daughter 39. She an outpatient center as a technologist. bought her

house! She is a beautiful blue eyed, blonde, bright and conscientious woman. I am very happy and proud of her.



BSN in 1981. years have Joseph's have Operating 1994.

is now works in surgery surgical She just first

I have a few other credentials. I am a Certified Rolfer, which is a specialized form of bodywork that is in the massage family of practices. I am also a Certified DFA (Duggan French Approach) practitioner. DFA is another form of bodywork

Other things I enjoy are bird watching, hiking, bicycling, gardening, knitting, and soap, salve and lotion making.

And so I come to Ghana--to explore the world beyond my borders; to meet new people and friends to be.



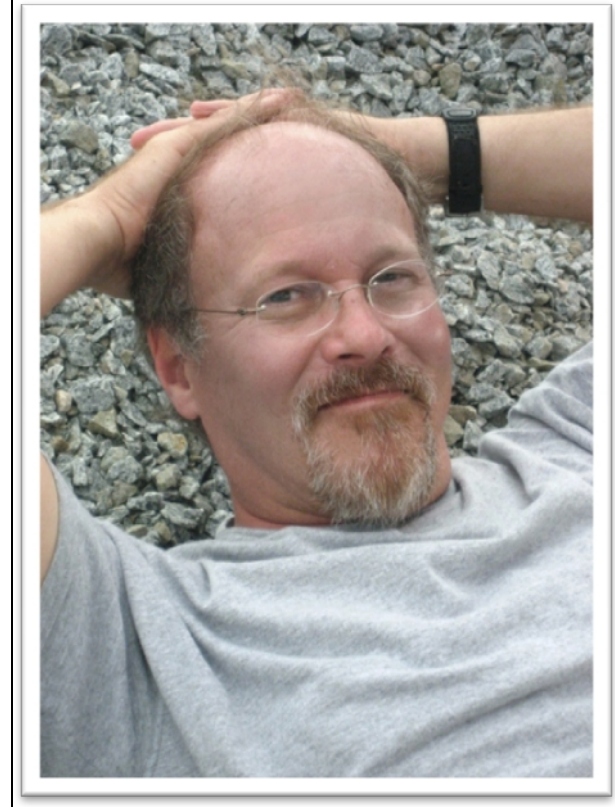
Jerome Chandler

I am a 74 old retiree with 45 years experience in education. I have a BSc in Physics from St. Edward University and MSc in Physics from Notre Dame University. I was a Brother of Holy Cross for 25 years and for nine of those years (1958-1967) I was stationed at St. John's School, Sekondi, where I was Headmaster for five years. I have been married for 31 years and have a grown son and daughter who were with me in a visit to Ghana in 2004. My

interests include carpentry and wood working, kayaking, helping in a local first grade classroom, sports, reading, volunteering for construction and repair projects and performing on stage in theater and musicals.

Leif Pederson

I was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs. I received my BS degree from University of Illinois and my MS degree from University of California at Berkeley both in Electrical



Engineering and initially worked for AT&T Bell Labs in Denver doing advanced development work in computer networking and telephony applications. In 1988 I joined Microsoft in the Seattle area and managed a large part of the software design and development for what is now Windows XP. Later, I had an opportunity to live and work in Sweden running the engineering group for a company we acquired in Stockholm and was involved with product development of applications for wireless phones and devices. During that time abroad my eyes, mind and heart opened to have a more world view.

I retired from Microsoft three years ago and have been pursuing other

interests in international travel, digital photography and computer movie-making, world music, African drumming, and ethnic cooking. Recently I've been getting involved with humanitarian projects that allow me to pursue some of these interests and also give back some of the gifts I've been blessed with. It's a wonderful win-win situation! The humanitarian projects I've participated in include travelling to Nigeria to help build a small clinic and water well in a rural village and later to Cambodia to build an internet café providing a means for disadvantaged people to make a living.

Louise Wilkinson

Louise was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, the second of three daughters. She grew up in a wooded neighborhood and learned to love the outdoors. She majored in English Literature at a small liberal arts college, and attended graduate school in English literature at the University of Chicago. She spent a year teaching at the University of Hawaii, where she learned about Asian cultures and made lifelong friends.



Louise married in Hawaii and moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where she taught film and literature at the University of Virginia and had two children. In Washington, D.C., she began a career as a video writer, director and producer. Her marriage ended, and she married Tom Castor four years later. The family moved to Seattle to be close to Louise's extended family. Louise became a video producer at The Boeing Company.

After losing her nephew and sister to cancer, she returned to school for a doctorate in Educational Leadership. During this time, her children gave her five of her six grandchildren.

Louise teaches intercultural understanding in The Boeing Company and for the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication. She has a certificate in developmental coaching.

She loves to spend time with her family at the ocean. She enjoys kayaking and rollerblading.

Mahara Brenna

I was born in Vancouver, Canada, in a playground of ocean, forests and mountains to an English mother and a Scottish father both of whom were strong influences in my life. My love of mother earth prompted me to begin my travels as soon as I graduated, a theme that has woven through my studies and career.

I'm currently single and have not had children as of yet. Although I am still open to that miracle, and a miracle it would have to be! I love animals and children and am blessed to be surrounded by many who call me 'Auntie Hara.' Four of my favourite adventures in life centre around extraordinary encounters with large animals.

For 30 years I have worked in the area of Holistic Health, specializing in emotional and spiritual healing. Other branches of my 'career tree' include: Couple's mediator, large group community building, and facilitator of workshops in the areas of healing, creativity, and women's empowerment. I am also in a improvisation theatre troupe called "Playback Theatre." My long time love has been dance and I have explore many different forms. In 1989, my African-American partner, Dido and I, came to Ghana to study at the African Academy of Music in Accra. It was a glorious 2 months of drumming and dancing and I am so looking forward to returning to Ghana once again.



Maryanne Ward

I grew up on a farm in rural South Dakota. I graduated from college in 1964 and worked as a teacher. I got a master's degree in education and continued to teach. I spent a summer in South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1968, and have had a goal to return to Africa someday. I married Richard in 1969 and before long we had two children, Nathan and Christina. We moved to Washington State, where I began working in libraries and earned a master's degree in library science. I worked as a librarian and technical documentation manager in a global corporation for many years. I enjoyed being a team leader, which required extensive interaction with fellow workers from other countries and cultures. I retired in 2003, and have been working as a consultant since then. I really enjoy singing, computers, being with my family, reading, camping, and traveling. Rich and I have traveled together in Europe and Mexico. I have a strong interest in other cultures and in the Ghanaian culture in particular, based on friendships in Ghana.



Ravyn Whitewolf

I was born in Aurora, Colorado but raised primarily in New York State. I have two brothers, one older, one younger. At twelve years old, my family was divided when my parents divorced and my mother and I moved to



California. My father is a doctor and my mother was a teacher until she died at age 45. I have done many different types of jobs, ranging from teachers aid, retail store manager to engineer. I am currently the Engineering Manager for the City of Bellingham. My hobbies include kayaking, walking, reading, swimming, making music and spending time with my four-legged children (two dogs and two cats). While not a religious person, I am highly spiritual, with my deepest connection through music and nature. Two years ago I was chosen

as one of two City representatives to travel to Tateyama Japan as part of the Sister City staff exchange program. This experience peaked my interest in traveling and experiencing other cultures in a meaningful, service-orientated way. I look forward to this upcoming journey to Africa where I hope to use my skills as an engineer to help another culture, build community connections and help to heal a divided planet.

Richard Ward

I grew up on the east coast of the U.S. in the Newark-New York City metropolitan area. I graduated from college in 1965 and then went to a theological seminary in Virginia, taking a year's internship, after my second year, working in a church-based anti-poverty program in New York City. After graduation, I returned to New York City to work in an urban church for two years as a minister but decided not to continue in professional religious work. I moved with my wife to Ohio where I worked for five years as a social case worker – adult and children's services - and as a residential supervisor and counselor in a shelter for teenage runaways. I then went to graduate school and got a master's degree in corrections (criminology – prisons, probation, etc.) and thereafter moved to Washington State where we raised our family and I worked as a probation officer and probation director for 25 years until 2000 after which I worked part time. In my retirement since 2003, I currently serve on the board of a professional counseling organization. I remain active in the Christian church and enjoy English language tutoring, music, reading, and travel.



Susan Hirst

My name is Susan Hirst. I am 63 years old and live in Bellingham, Washington, with my husband, Eric. We have two daughters, both married, and two grandsons. I also have a 95-year old mother.

I grew up in Minnesota, where the snow is deep in the winter and we sometimes tunneled to school. I went to college and graduate school, earning a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees. After marriage, we



lived in Tennessee. My husband and I agreed that I would stay home with the children when they were small, and so I began my job as a middle school guidance counselor 13 years after I was married. I loved working with the students and stayed in that job for 20 years.

My husband and I are now retired and have moved to be close to our daughters and grandchildren. I spend my time reading, gardening and teaching HIV/AIDS classes.

I became interested in HIV/AIDS shortly after the epidemic started in the United States. I have taken many courses and worked with people with AIDS, some of whom were friends of mine. I now teach HIV/AIDS classes for the Red Cross.



Susan Partnow

I'm Susan Partnow, from Seattle, born and raised in Los Angeles. For the past 20 years, I've been working to create grassroots networks that work collaboratively, inclusively and with a commitment to nonviolence, justice and sustainability, from the founding of Families for Peace to the co-creation of Conversation Cafes and Let's Talk America. I've been dreaming of birthing Global Citizen Journey for many years. I was a citizen diplomat on delegations to Israel/Palestine in 1992 and Vietnam in 1996. In my professional life, I'm an organizational development and training consultant as well as a certified mediator. I love working with clients to transform conflict to

foster creative change and helping large groups of diverse people enter into meaningful conversation. I'm on the steering committee of the National Coalition on Dialogue and Deliberation. I've been a teacher and speech pathologist and received my M.A. in Communication Disorders from Northwestern University, BA from University of California at Berkeley. My proudest moments come as MO2 (mother of two): Jessica (25) and Tyler (21) are great compassionate listeners and citizen diplomats.



Tom Castor

I was born in 1939, in Reading Pennsylvania, and remember parts of living through the latter years of World War II. A few years after my father returned from the service we moved further east onto small farm where my three brothers and I helped with the farming chores for some years.

I went to an Engineering school after high school, but dropped out and joined the Navy. I enjoyed the Navy and traveled quite a bit, but left it to return to a liberal arts college in the midwest, where I majored in psychology. I proceeded to graduate school, but left that and moved to the west coast. I worked for a major aerospace company teaching people how to use computers, and analyzing data processing equipment.

I joined a small management consulting company that specialized in criminal justice systems, and over the next 30 years worked with client requirements and designing systems.

In 1977 in Washington D.C., I met Louise and married her a few years later. We raised two children and now enjoy our 6 grandchildren in the Seattle WA area. I love to travel, cook, and am becoming accustomed to working in retirement.