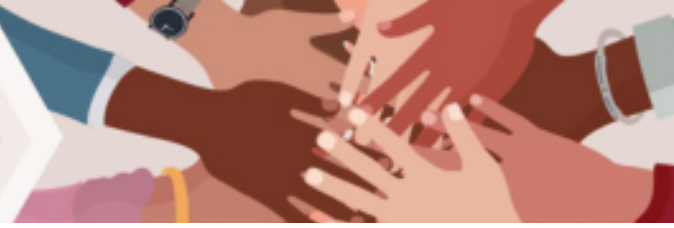


# Healing Across the Divides



## Michelle Cassandra Johnson

Michelle Cassandra Johnson is an author, activist, spiritual teacher and practitioner, racial equity consultant and trainer, and intuitive healer. She approaches her life and work from a place of knowing we are, can, and must heal individually and collectively. Michelle teaches workshops and immersions and leads retreats and transformative experiences nationwide. As a dismantling racism educator, she has worked with large corporations, non-profits, and community groups. Michelle published the first edition of *Skill in Action: Radicalizing Your Yoga Practice to Create a Just World* in 2017; and the 2nd edition of *Skill in Action* in November 2021, published by Shambhala Publications. Her second book, *Finding Refuge: Heart Work for Healing Collective Grief*, was published by Shambhala Publications in

2021. Her newest book, *We Heal Together: Rituals and Practice for Building Community and Connection*, published by Shambhala Publications, explores the deep knowing and truth that we are interconnected; we belong to one another. *We Heal Together* offers rituals and practices meant to dream us into a new way of being to benefit the highest and fullest good. Her latest book, *A Space For Us: A Guide For Leading Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Affinity Groups*, was published by Beacon Press in August 2023. Michelle has a fifth book, *Illuminating Our True Nature: Yogic Practices for Personal and Collective Healing*, published by Shambhala Publications, coming out in June 2024.

Michelle was a Tedx speaker at Wake Forest University in 2019 and has been interviewed on several podcasts in which she explores the premise and foundation of *Skill in Action*, along with embodied approaches to racial equity work, creating ritual in justice spaces, our divine connection with nature and Spirit, and how we as a culture can heal.

Michelle leads courageously from the heart with compassion and a commitment to address the heartbreak dominant culture causes for many because of the harm it creates. She inspires change that allows people to stand in their humanity and wholeness in a world that fragments most of us. She lives in North Carolina with her sweet dog, Jasper, and her honeybees.



## Rabbi Jonathan Biatch

Rabbi Jonathan Biatch, DD, MAHL, MAJCS, BA, has served Temple Beth El of Madison, Wisconsin, for almost 19 years as rabbi.

He has played the accordion throughout most of his life, having been inspired by an early religious school teacher who led his youth choir using the accordion and his Israeli passion. In school, he took up a sensible trade by earning his BA from California State University, Northridge, in radio-television broadcast management and worked at a production facility in Hollywood. He then participated in the World Union of Jewish Students Institute in Israel, where he studied Hebrew and later worked as a

television production assistant. He then earned a master's degree in Jewish communal service from Brandeis University and worked for seven years in the Jewish federation movement. He entered the rabbinical program at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, receiving his master's degree in Hebrew letters in 1991 and rabbinic ordination in 1992.

Rabbi Biatch served Jewish congregations in Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Alexandria, Virginia, and in Glendale, California, before joining his current congregation in 2005.

His spouse, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, is Executive Director of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice. They have two children, Samantha and Joshua, who are proud of their accomplishments as actors and as mentsches. Neither of them plays the accordion.