

Members of the Untold Stories Collective

Ruika Bluford is a 36-year-old writer, therapist, care manager, creator of Growth Edge Clothing, and dreamer. Born and raised in Jersey City, Rukiya utilizes her voice in different outlets to express herself and connect with her community. An Alumni of the Peers Educating Peers program, Rukiya was exposed to multiple facets of healing and creativity. She now incorporates what she has learned to continue to liberate herself and empower others.



Boris Franklin, the author of *The Poetic Side of a Man's Mind*, served 11 years in prison from 2004 to 2015. He is currently a junior at Rutgers University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. He sits on the board of the New Jersey Prison Reentry Program as well as The Mountain View Community Student Advisory Board. He is a visiting fellow at the Global Center for Advance studies, a nonprofit educational and research institution located in Brooklyn, New York.

Crystal Hines is an African American Educator and Storyteller. She enjoys bringing her culture and heritage to those that she comes into connection with through the Harriet Tubman Museum of Cape May. Through guided tours she expands the knowledge of museum visitors, including her students who visited the museum on a field trip. Crystal longed for the opportunity to bridge the gap in education and the passion she has for history, historical sites, and museums around our communities. She seeks to network with those from different backgrounds to push the culture forward in advancement as we learn and celebrate our full understanding.



Steven H. Hobbs graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Afro-American Studies and received the Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1979. Professor Hobbs was a member of the Washington and Lee University law faculty for 16 years before accepting the position of Tom Bevill Chairholder of Law at The University of Alabama School of Law. Both his professional and scholarly interests demonstrate his commitment to the fair distribution of social and legal benefits to individuals. The classes he has taught, the topics of his scholarship on which he has written, and the issues he has addressed at conferences include family law, professional responsibility, constitutional law, entrepreneurship, and social and economic justice.

Ronald Ritzie is a New Jersey native and a self-taught artist, whose compelling work combines relief, reflective overtones, and mixed media to create vibrant acrylic sculptures on canvas. His art has been described as bold and contemporary, with a folk-like flair. His goal is to challenge the viewer to see life from more than one perspective while enjoying the beauty and complexity of the painting.



Clifton Smith is a Motivational Speaker/ Mentor and Owner of Each One Teach One Consultation. He is active in the community and church in New Brunswick.