

BARBARA WOOLLEY is a 1975 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, a program long noted for its commitment to social justice platforms with an emphasis on the deleterious impact of racism, particularly institutional racism. In 1992 she received a certificate of completion from the Family Institute of Philadelphia, an intensive three-year post-master's family therapy training program. Her studies have included the usual psychotherapeutic offerings, including certifications in hypnosis, Thought Field Therapy and EMDR.

She has studied with teachers from many spiritual traditions, with particular focus on Native American and Buddhist teachings. A Reiki Master, she was also trained in Ama Deus, an over 6000-year-old healing practice, by Alberto Aguas, Brazilian Master Teacher for this method. In 1999 she became an Ordained Minister through the Universal Brotherhood Movement. UBM is a spiritual ministry, non-denominational in its orientation, unaffiliated with any church. This suits her “go-beyond-religion” approach which recognizes that a Supreme Presence permeates everything. This Presence is not tethered to religious constructs of what God is or is not. God IS. We are all emanations human from the One that sources all of creation. Her memoir, *Out of the Box: A Soul's Surprising Journey* (All Things That Matter Press, 2011) provides insight into the path for the awakening soul - specifically the inner work required to be completed for the soul to progress.

Barbara is retired from a thirty-year career in clinical social work. The final years of clinical practice were reflective of the inner shifting that came with her own spiritual awakening. That process began in 1985. Responding to the urgent call of her soul, she closed her clinical practice in 1999 after selling her home. For ten years she traveled throughout the United States and to sacred sites around the world. This was a time of deep spiritual expansion and learning.

In 2009 her travels came to an end. She wrote her book, then grounded in one location while working in home health-care primarily as a hospice social worker for six years. During the winter of 2018 her soul raised another

urgent call to “get going!” During October 2018 she hiked the Camino Frances in response to that call; it is a pilgrimage trail that crosses over the Pyrenees in France and culminates at the Cathedral Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Laughingly, she concedes that she is traveling an extended version of the Camino ever since, having walked out of home and career (again) upon her return to the United States. A second book is underway that continues the conversation about soul, global community, Mother Earth, and our responsibility to show up, to stand up for the highest good of each.

Barbara is devoted to transformational healing and social justice concerns. She is a member of The Salaam Network, was in fact present as it took form in 2016 at a time when the Islamic community was forced to find ways to cope with dramatically heightened anti-Muslim vitriol. She continues to support TSN’s important educational mission. She is also a member of the Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion, an organization whose mission is one of teaching compassion and going beyond religion per the Dalai Lama’s vision. Currently she is developing, with the assistance of Robin White, National Park Superintendent for the Little Rock Central High School site, a platform of presentations that address the ongoing, pandemic issues of racism.