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I am a connector and a gatherer. I am also a serial social entrepreneur having started three nonprofits and a program: Operation Understanding DC in Washington, DC, and Cultural Leadership and HOME WORKS! The Teacher Home Visit Program in St. Louis. The program was Books and Badges in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. And am starting a fourth nonprofit in Seattle, Washington.

I lived in Washington, DC for 27 years, Chicago for five years, Cambridge, Massachusetts for two years, St. Louis 42 years, and moved to Seattle in July, 2022, to be near water and mountains and live in a blue city in an almost all blue state.

I taught school in DC before becoming the consumer and investigative reporter for CBS-TV and ABC-TV in Chicago, and then was the Washington, DC reporter/producer for Entertainment Tonight. In 1987, I started Kalish Communications to teach clients how to talk to the media without putting their foot in their mouth and how to write and give dynamic, interesting speeches and presentations.

A bit about the nonprofits. In 1994 in Washington I started *Operation Understanding DC (OUDC)*, a year-long leadership program for Black and Jewish high school students that teaches them about their own and each other's race, religion, culture, and history. It's still going strong.

In 2001 I returned to St. Louis (after 34 years), where I worked on education transformation and establishing a level playing field for communities of color. That's where I started:

- *HOME WORKS! The Teacher Home Visit Program (HW!)* that trains, supports and pays teachers in low-performing schools to go to the homes of their struggling students to get their families engaged in their children's education. It, too, is still going strong.
- *Books and Badges* partnered St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department recruits with struggling St. Louis Public Schools elementary students to improve relationships and reading and language skills. (2002-2020)
- *Cultural Leadership* (similar to OUDC) is a year-long educational leadership program for high school students who want to learn about civil rights, social justice, and DEI, and how to be activists, advocates, and change agents to rid America of all forms of discrimination.

I got a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2000 (at age 54!) and spent a second year there taking a full load of classes in the African American, leadership, and nonprofit departments. (I was so proud of my degree from Harvard that I enlarged it into wallpaper for my office bathroom wall!)

I have written three publications: [How to Give a Terrific Presentation](#), [Dealing Effectively with the Media](#), and [I'll See You On The Radio](#).

In Seattle I give fundraisers for progressive, liberal, and/or Democratic candidates, issues, and nonprofits; supported a pilot in a Seattle Public Elementary School to show the power of parental engagement and involvement, am writing my memoir, and relaunching a Jewish newspaper in the Puget Sound – The Jewish Sound. I have met over 500 people in my three+ years here and say yes to everything. 5/21/2026