

**Ruby Nell Sales** is a highly trained, experienced, and deeply committed social activist, scholar, administrator, manager, and educator in the areas of Civil, Gender, and other Human Rights. She is an excellent public speaker with a proven track record in conflict resolution and consensus building. Ms. Sales has preached around the country on race, class, gender, and reconciliation, and she has done ground-breaking work on community and nonviolence formation.

Throughout her career, Ms Sales has mentored young people and provided support and venues for performing artists. Currently, Ms. Sales is the Director of SpiritHouse, which she founded in 2000 for the purpose of building a just and non-violent voice on peace and justice issues. SpiritHouse houses the Jonathan Daniels and Samuel Younger Institute for Justice, which trains a new generation of activists.

Growing up in Alabama during the tumultuous days of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, Sales participated in the Selma to Montgomery marches of 1965. She was arrested for her actions, and released after six days. While purchasing refreshments at a store in Fort Deposit, Alabama, her life was threatened by a shotgun-wielding construction worker, Tom Coleman. Sales' fellow marcher, white Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Myrick Daniels, pushed her out of the way and took the bullet meant for her, dying instantly. Sales was so traumatized by Daniels' shooting that she was unable to properly speak for the next seven months. Despite death threats made to her and her family, she resolved to testify at Tom Coleman's trial. He was acquitted by a jury of 12 white men, but the outcome of the trial led to reform of the segregated procedures that were used to pick juries in Alabama.

Sales went on to attend and earn degrees from Tuskegee Institute, Manhattanville College, and Princeton University. In 1998, Ms. Sales received a Masters of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she specialized in Feminist, African-American, and Liberation Theologies, with an emphasis on race, class, and gender issues. She was the Absalom Jones Scholar at EDS, and she received the Social Justice Award upon graduation.

While in Divinity School, she served on a city-wide Ecumenical Task Force on Prison Reform, in Boston, Massachusetts; Steering Committee on Wheelock College's national conference, *Race and Racism in the 90's: Teaching and Living Social Justice*; and Brookline Race Relations Council and student representative to the Board of Trustees Committee.

As a social activist, Ms. Sales has served on many committees to further the work of reconciliation, education, and awareness. She has served on the Steering Committee, People's Coalition, Washington, D.C.; the President's Committee On Race, University of Maryland; and the Coalition on Violence Against Women, Amnesty International, Washington, D.C. She was a founding member of *Sage Magazine: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women*. Ms. Sales received a Certificate of Gratitude for her work on *Eyes on the Prize*. Additionally, she is part of the Veterans of Hope documentary series and was featured in *Broken Ground: A Film on Race Relations in the South*, by Broken Ground

Productions. In 2000, Dan Rather spotlighted Ms. Sales on his American Dream Segment. In 1999, Selma, Alabama gave Ms. Sales the key to the city to honor her contributions there.

From 1991-1994, Ms. Sales also founded and directed the national nonprofit organization Women of All Colors, dedicated to improving the overall quality of life for women, their families, and the communities in which they live. Women of All Colors organized a week-long *SisterSpeak* that brought more than eighty Black women together to set a national agenda.