

# Collective Practitioners

## Margarita Alcantara, M.S.Ac., L.Ac.



### Focus:

Margarita's specialty is emotional disorders, pain management (acute and chronic), and internal diseases. She enjoys meeting various patients from all walks of life. But, she especially enjoys working with creative, artistic women (including, but not exclusive to, writers, artists, performers, mothers, entrepreneurs, and other women who value creativity in their lives), who are interested in empowering themselves, becoming more in touch with their inner feminine, making a difference, embracing change in their lives, and are proactive in making it happen.

Having been a writer/editor of *Bamboo Girl Zine*, her own self-published magazine exploring identity, race, and gender, for 10 years, published in various books related to race, gender, and pop culture, a current speaker at college campuses on issues of identity and empowerment, classically trained in opera, ballet, and Filipino Weapon Fighting, and with a background as a community organizer, Margarita is aware of the unique needs of creative women. Because of this, Margarita offers not only her knowledge and experience of Chinese Medicine and reiki, but a compassion towards others who are working to better their lives, as well as a concrete approach to wellness that encompasses the whole self. Margarita believes that establishing a great connection and understanding with the patient is tantamount, since physical healing is closely related to that of the spirit.

### Background:

Margarita Alcantara, M.S.Ac., L.Ac. is a licensed acupuncturist in the states of New York and Connecticut, and a reiki practitioner. Her private practice is based in New York City. She donates her acupuncture and reiki services to Restore NYC, a non-profit organization that restores freedom, safety and hope to foreign-born survivors of sex trafficking by providing long-term, holistic aftercare services, as well as The Audre Lorde Project's 3rd Space Support Program's Health and Wellness Collective, a group of professional healers who provide health care for people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Trans, Gender Non Conforming people of color, HIV+, low income (im)migrant and/or people living with a disability. She has also worked at St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR), where she performed auricular (NADA) and full-body acupuncture on populations recovering from addiction.

She is a diplomate in acupuncture certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), and is certified in Clean Needle Technique by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). She is a contributing writer to the Acupuncture section of the website, All Things Healing.

Margarita graduated with a Masters of Science in Acupuncture from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in New York City. This comprehensive four-year program included Chinese acupuncture, oriental medicine theory, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, and the study of Western diseases. She has also collectively completed 600 hours of training at Pacific College Acupuncture Clinic and Grand Meridian community clinic in Chinatown.

Margarita was initially drawn to acupuncture through the healing of her own health issues, particularly that of emotional rebalancing, as well as her general interest in medicine. With a Western doctor as a father, she quickly became familiar

with the strengths of Western medicine, and wanted to learn how Eastern and Western modalities could work together to create wellness.

Prior to her graduate studies, she received her Bachelor of Arts at New York University, with an emphasis in Communications.

*Margarita is a member of the Acupuncture Society of New York (ASNY).*

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# Allisonjoy



**allisonjoy** is an internationally certified Reiki Master Practitioner, and has been committed to healing through Usui Shiki Ryoho Reiki since 2004. She comes from a family of medical doctors and nurses, and has found her calling in a different form of health care. She firmly believes in the benefits that holistic wellness can provide on physical, emotional, and spiritual levels, and sees both western and holistic modalities as truly complementary forms. allisonjoy understands the necessity of creating sustainable and accessible ways to offer and integrate holistic health into people's daily practice, and focuses on serving women of color, social justice workers, and the LGBT community. In addition, she administers treatments to beloved pets- our cherished companions, and has worked in partnership with *Sit Stay Play!* and *The Paw Pad* dog training centers. A frequent visitor to Chicago, allisonjoy has worked with [Rape Victim Advocates](#), [The LGBT Center on Halsted](#), and has administered free Reiki treatments to survivors during Sexual Assault Awareness Month sponsored by [DePaul University's Women's & Gender Studies Department](#). Based in the New York/New Jersey area, she has collaborated with the [New York LGBT Center's Lesbian Cancer Initiative](#), [Queens Pride House](#), [Casa Atabex Ache](#), [APICHA \(Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS\)](#), and the [Audre Lorde Project](#). allisonjoy has offered her care all across the United States, and as far away as the Philippines.

Place "fierce" + "kind" in the same sentence & you'll probably find allisonjoy. Her continuous work is a demonstration of her passionate commitment to social justice, whether it was as National Recruiter for *ACORN*, Co-Founder of NYC-based media justice coalition *R.E.A.C.Hip-Hop*, organizer for former *Gabriela Network NY/NJ*, National Organizer & touring member of *We Got Issues!*, or as an ever-growing positive reinforcement dog trainer. She has organized, created events, facilitated leadership & empowerment trainings and anti-oppression workshops with youth, women, & people of color all about North America. allisonjoy has recently stepped into the world of philanthropy as a Program Associate with the Criminal Justice Fund at Open Society Foundations, and is currently Road Manager and touring member of Mango Tribe, the country's first & only APIA women & genderqueer interdisciplinary social justice performance ensemble. This queer pinay-amerikan believes in the strength in all of us, the importance of collective self-care, community healing & building, responsible pet ownership, art as activism, grassroots organizing, thinking critically, loving honestly, linking arms with all oppressed peoples, and manifesting visions of liberation!

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## Elizabeth Bishop



**Elizabeth Bishop** holds a Masters in Acupuncture from Tri-State College of Acupuncture, where she studied Japanese Acupuncture in the style of Kiiko Matsumoto, as well as Traditional Chinese Medicine and trigger point therapy. She loves acupuncture because it works so well, and because it supports people in hearing, knowing, and living their own stories as part of the healing process. She believes that healing is an integral part of building community and practicing self determination, and seeks to use acupuncture in the service of this work. She continually brings herself back to center through practicing yoga, cooking, and loving her girlfriend and cat. She celebrates each season as life transforms in Brooklyn.

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## Bran Fenner



**Bran Fenner** is a Registered Nurse born and raised in Brooklyn who has been part of groups like FIERCE and The Audre Lorde Project for over a decade. He came to understand the role of healing while seeing the effects of trauma, interpersonal and institutional, on our community of LGBTSTGNCQ people of color and decided to shift gears a bit and start a new path as an RN. Bran hopes to eventually bring somatic therapy or dealing with the ways our bodies manifest trauma to more community spaces. Bran believes we all deserve access to competent and compassionate health care and truly believes in our ability to define our bodies and the care we receive.

Hi, My name is Bran Fenner I am a black trans queer man and Registered Nurse. Born and raised in Brooklyn I have over a decade of experience with non-profits and social justice organizing and movement building. I can offer the following:

- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Temperature, breathing and pulse rate (if you are not feeling well)
- Creating physical and emotional wellness plans
- Health Care Proxy and Advance Directive Reviews
- Referrals (LGBT sensitive or potentially specialized care)
- If you let me know a head of time-I can talk through a medical procedure you may be about to go through

In a group setting I have a lot of experience talking about healthy dating and relationships and advocating for yourself as a patient with regard to being in a doctor's office or the hospital-this is with a particular focus on transphobia/homophobia and the stigma's associated with different medical diagnosis. The role of nurse's is to focus on the patient/client/person as a whole instead of just the diagnosis. As nurses our role is to fit care into your current lifestyle and give you all the information you need to make informed decisions about your own wellness.

## Telesh Pascual Lopez



**Telesh** is a Queer Kanjobal, Maya from Guatemala and comes from a family that has been practicing healing work for generations. Her commitment to health justice is reflected in her work with organizations that focus on the needs of women, LGBTIQQ community, and with individual activists and organizers. She has offered session at: Sexual Assault Yearly Speak Out; Hunter College School of Social Work; The Revolutionary Path: Healing, Transformation & the Work of Movement-Building with stone circles/The Stone House; St. John's Church, Brooklyn; Community Health Fair; Audre Lorde Project (Leadership Roundtable retreat and Volunteer Appreciation Day) and GAPIMNY-Gay Asian and Pacific Islander Men of New York. More recently Telesh was a practitioner at the Healing Justice Space at the U.S Social Forum in Detroit in 2010 and was part of the Coordinating Committee for the Healing Justice space at the Allied Media Conference in Detroit in 2011 which brought over 25 practitioners from around the country to volunteer their modalities at the conference for the full weekend. Her training includes: traditional and intuitive energy healing practices from her family's native family lineage, Advanced Reiki Practitioner, Healing Touch, from other healers and Basic Massage for relaxation.

Telesh's commitment to the social justice movement is based on eight years of experience with organizations working on issues that directly impact underserved communities in New York City and Central America. The following areas are some of her areas of focus: international workers rights, philanthropy and organizing. She has worked with the following organizations: Jobs with Justice, New World Foundation, Guatemala Solidarity Center, Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, National Domestic Workers Alliance and Domestic Workers United.

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# Emmet Phipps



**Emmet Phipps** is a queer and trans identified registered nurse and herbalist-in-training who comes to Third Space Healing as a white ally provider and organizer. Emmet worked as an RN at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center alongside people living with HIV and diabetes for close to 3 years, has been a transgender health advocate and activist for many years and practices as a nurse using harm reduction approach that integrates Western medicine with other healing modalities. Emmet has done their most recent community work in collaboration with The Rock Dove Collective and the Allied Media Conference. Emmet is a person living with type 1 diabetes, a printmaker and is currently in school to become a Nurse Practitioner.

About my practice:

Emmet Phipps, RN, ACRN

As a registered nurse, I specialize in supporting queer and trans people living with HIV/AIDS, basic nutritional counseling, diabetes education, and mental health as it relates to living with chronic illness. In my nursing practice I draw upon my experience living with diabetes and my awareness of racism, classism and individualized blame and shame surrounding these chronic illnesses to create a comfortable, non-judgmental, collaborative space for those seeking my assistance. At 3rd Space Healing, I will be offering counseling sessions lasting 30+ minutes that may include, depending on your interest:

- Blood pressure check/screening with appropriate referrals
- Diabetes screening – will be small finger prick –with appropriate referrals
- Care plan for yourself or others living with pre-diabetes, diabetes and/or HIV/AIDS
  - Food
  - Exercise
  - Community and family support
  - Finding a provider
  - Taking medication
- Referrals to health care facilities or other healing practices like Reiki, acupuncture, and herbal medicine.
- Preventing diabetes
- Questions about living with HIV or diabetes-lab tests, what happens in your body, etc

I will be at the ALP 3d Space Support Wellness Days in November and December, please come to see me then. Do you have a non-diabetes/HIV related question/s? Please ask! I can answer your question or connect you to someone who can answer it. I look forward to working with those who are interested.

## Eva Yaa Asantewaa



**Eva Yaa Asantewaa** is a native New Yorker of African-Caribbean lineage. She is a spiritworker, maintaining a private practice that includes Tarot-based psychic counseling, sacred symbolism, meditation coaching, dreamwork, and other healing and transformative modalities. Eva is an ordained minister (ULC, Modesto, CA) and legally registered with the City of New York as a marriage officiant.

While studying at Fordham University (B.A., Communications, 1974), Eva was influenced by Jungian psychology and the "mind games" techniques created by Robert Masters and Jean Houston. She also studied Community Health Education at Hunter College School of Health Sciences and received the Hunter College President's Award for HIV/AIDS Creative and Scholarly Work, First Prize, 1992.

Through Radical Magick (which she founded in 1992), Eva has produced and facilitated workshops and special events sponsored by over fifty health and social service, spiritual, feminist, people of color, and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender organizations in the New York metropolitan area. Among these are the New York Open Center's Womanspirit Journey program, New York Theosophical Society, College of New Rochelle, Healing Works, New York State Conference on Women's Health, Riverside Church Wellness Center, Women's Health Education Project, and Women's Rites Center.

Eva's poetry appears in *The Zenith of Desire: Contemporary Lesbian Poems about Sex* (ed., Gerry Gomez Pearlberg, Crown, 1996), *Does Your Mama Know? An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories* (ed., Lisa C. Moore, RedBone Press, 1997), and other publications. Since 1976, Eva has published dance journalism appearing in *Dance Magazine*, *Soho News*, *The Village Voice*, *Gay City News* and *The New York Times*, among other print and online publications. She has interviewed performing artists, choreographers, and artistic directors and evaluated dance organizations for the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other arts funding organizations. As a WBAI radio broadcaster (1987-89), she worked with the Women's Radio Collective and the Gay and Lesbian Independent Broadcasters Collective (OUTLOOKS), and co-hosted the Tuesday Afternoon Arts Magazine with Jennifer Bernet as well as producing her own specials. From January 2001 to January 2005, Eva published *DancingWorld*, a monthly email newsletter devoted to Tarot, psychic and spiritual development, and creativity. She was a contributing writer for *Gay City News* from December 2005-February 2007, specializing in dance criticism.

Currently, she is teaching Introduction to the Art of Dance at Queensborough Community College. She has taught Writing on Dance courses for New York Live Arts (formerly, Dance Theater Workshop). She blogs on dance at InfiniteBody (<http://infinitebody.blogspot.com>).

For More information: <http://mysite.verizon.net/magickaleva>