



THE TEAM



CONTACT INFO:

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PEOPLE WE ARE COLLABORATING WITH





DIANE MONROE



ANDREW DRELLES



ZACH MULLINGS



ETHAN FEIN



SOARA-JOYE ROSS







SALLY SOSLER PHOTOGRAPHER/ PROJECT COORDINATOR



ERIN FREEMAN MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER/ MARKETING



PROJECT LINKS

Old Bones Odyssey is being developed as an interactive research project performed at concert venues, museums, educational spaces and cultural centers as well as theatrical pieces with original music and a multimedia format.

The OBO Home page: oldbonesodyssey.com

• Where our music, research and stories reside.

The OBO Story page: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-story

The OBO Journey page: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-journey

Our OBO Music page: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-music

- Song Stories: oldbonesodyssey.com/song-stories
 - The virtual album with music, lyrics and images:
- The Album Streaming: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-album
- The Digital Booklet: oldbonesodyssey.com/digital-booklet
- In The Studio: oldbonesodyssey.com/in-the-studio

The OBO Podcast series: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-podcast

The OBO Blog: oldbonesodyssey.com/the-blog

OBO Instagram: @oldbonesodyssey
OBO Facebook: @OldBonesOdyssey

ELLEN C KAYE Website: ellenckaye.com

Ellen C Kaye Bio: ellenckaye.com/ellen-c-kaye Ethan Fein Bio: ellenckaye.com/ethan-fein

Alan Joseph Bio: oldbonesodyssey.com/people-behind-old-bones-odyssey

2023 UPDATE

Before the Covid pandemic, we were scheduled to perform live in Carolina, New York City and upstate New York. Those plans were put on hiatus.

We are now resuming our original plan and booking live performances, having most recently performed *Old Bones Odyssey* at Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, New York.

During the pandemic we worked continuously, writing and then recording 23 original songs. Those songs are now our new album, *Old Bones Odyssey* oldbonesodyssey.com/the-music

We are beginning to record our first episodes of Old Bones Odyssey, the podcast.

COME CELEBRATE THE LIVE SHOW AND PREMIERE OF OUR NEW ALBUM OLD BONES ODYSSEY.

OLD BONES ODYSSEY

ELLEN C KAYE

WITH ETHAN FEIN & GUEST ARTISTS

LYRICS BY ELLEN C KAYE | MUSIC BY ETHAN FEIN



ALBUM PREMIERE & LIVE SHOW



"Seams of gold, tell the story you know, passed down from hand to hand, from life to life, home to home"

Repair with Gold

Lyrics by Ellen C Kaye | Music by Ethan Fein

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC ON OLDBONESODYSSEY.COM/THEMUSIC



SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 8 PM

TICKETS: \$25 ADVANCE \$30 AT THE DOOR

To Purchase: scan the QR code or visit howlandculturalcenter.org

Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon, NY | 845-831-4988



THE LIVE SHOW

Video and Stills from our Old Bones Odyssey Perfomance at The Howland Cultural Center in May 2023





INTRODUCTION

We're telling a new story resting on the bones of a lot of very old ones. We're embarking on an odyssey and setting sail for parts unknown.

Like Ellen C Kaye's Puritan ancestors who arrived in the colonies in 1635 on the ship The Planter.

Like her Russian Jewish grandparents who came through Ellis Island in the late nineteenth century.

Like her African-American brother-in-law whose ancestors suffered the middle passage crossing over the Atlantic.

Like her South American extended family who came to America searching for a better life.

Like her Chinese-American family who came across the Pacific to seek their fortune.

Like her eighth great-grandmother, a member of The Lenape Tribal Nation.

We're creating a different kind of family tree: a philosophical one, made of ideas, thoughts and beliefs; of love found, simmering hatreds, adoration, ancient feuds, hidden desires, religious wars, long buried resentments, deep seated enmities, loyalty, transcendence, harsh disappointment, disillusionment and hope.

"We're all made up of philosophical family trees with ideas dangling off the branches. Call it a Thought Tree, an Idea Tree, a Dreams Lost And Found Tree. The beliefs of my ancestors are intriguing to me. The good ideas. The bad ideas. How they lived and what traces are left in the family I knew growing up. What vestiges of these ideas are still running through the laws and minds of our country creating the context of our current version of America."

Ellen C Kaye

Ellen's ancestors and her family have been witness to both sides of the roots of the partisan divide which afflicts America today. *Old Bones Odyssey*, the show, is the musical telling of this American story. The historical, cultural, and social issues which preceded our current struggles as a nation, and now have collided and engulfed us, are woven throughout our project.

We all come from fascinating jumbles of people. Each life is a map that leads us to the world in which we live today. We're avid map lovers. It's a passion. With this project we're creating a way back in time. Our aim is to discover, to find a deeper understanding of our world and our country right now.

We are ready for the next evolution and are looking forward to all the challenges that will bring our story into a new place, a new iteration, a new world with a new audience.

THE STORY

We are sharing and discovering American history through a small portal, Ellen C Kaye's ancestral and philosophical family tree.

Ellen comes from a real mixed bag of people. She is a descendant of some of the first Puritan settlers in America who came across the Atlantic during the Great Migration on the ship, *The Planter*, in 1635; soldiers in the American Revolution, the War Of 1812, the Confederacy and most of the wars since; slave holders, Russian Jewish immigrants, and a fledgling Bolshevik.

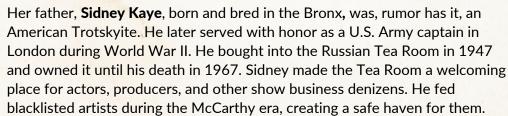
Ellen's family history in Dutchess County goes back three hundred eighty-five years. After migrating from England to Massachusetts in 1635, her ancestors resettled in Dutchess County, then made their way to New Jersey and North Carolina.

Ellen's fourth great-grandfather, Zachariah Burwell, was born in the Catskill Mountains, in New York, in 1745. He married Katie, possibly a sister of General Joseph Warren of Bunker Hill fame. Zachariah served in the Revolutionary War and signed the Articles of Association in Dutchess County, in June and July, 1775. His son, Zachariah Burwell Jr., was also a soldier in the revolution. Great-grandfather Zachariah was a member of the troops sent by George Washington to end the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794.

Ellen's third great-grandfather, Benjamin Eli Burwell, was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1780.



Ellen's third great-grandfather, **Andrew Hull Tuttle**, was a Yankee peddler who left Bristol, Connecticut in the 1800's with his partner, Benedict Bristol, selling goods from their wagon down the east coast. Among the items they sold were Bristol clocks made by Bristol's family. They would make several trips from **Connecticut** to **North Carolina** before finally settling in **Lenoir**, **North Carolina** (then Burke County and later Caldwell County), **becoming businessmen and trailblazers helping develop the area.**



Sidney's cousin, **Isaac Chertok-Chertoff**, a Russian citizen, helped build the Trans-Siberian Railroad and was the architect of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo before he fled Stalin's purges.

Jan Peerce, born on the Lower East Side, who married Sidney's sister Alice, was a star of the Metropolitan Opera and Arturo Toscanini's favorite tenor. His recording of "Bluebird of Happiness" was Number 1 on the Hit Parade of 1943. In 1944, under the direction of Toscanini, he sang "The Hymn of Nations" with 600 singers at Madison Square Garden at the Red Cross Benefit concert.

Jan, his cantorial background serving him well, became the first American Jew to sing in a synagogue behind the Iron Curtain, and is credited with inspiring the launching of the Soviet Jewry Movement. His son, Larry Peerce, directed his father's documentary, hosted by Isaac Stern.



Alice Kalmanowitz Peerce, Jan's wife and manager, was one of the top fundraisers for Israel Bonds. She produced *The Megilla of Itzik Manger* on Broadway at the John Golden Theater in 1968. Alice's intellect guided Jan in business and helped her brother Sidney through the complexities of the restaurant business. She and Jan loaned Sidney money in the early years of the operation of the Russian Tea Room to help him through the doldrums of summer. Alice and Jan were interviewed by many famous journalists around the world, including Edward R. Murrow in their New Rochelle living room.

Jan's son, **Larry Peerce**, is a film and TV director who made one of the earliest films of an interracial love story, *One Potato*, *Two Potato*, starring Barbara Barrie and Bernie Hamilton. He also directed many other films and episodes of numerous TV series, including the films *Goodbye*, *Columbus*, based on the collection of short fiction by Philip Roth and *The Incident*, featuring an all-star ensemble cast, about two thugs terrorizing the passengers in a New York City subway car.

Ellen's mother, **Faith Stewart-Gordon**, born in South Carolina, an actor when she first came to New York, understudied on Broadway, and then successfully ran the Russian Tea Room for 29 years (1967-1996). She was also a published author and accomplished artist whose paintings have been displayed throughout New York and Connecticut. She was LGBTQ.

Ellen's brother-in-the-law was **Lloyd Williams**. Lloyd was African-American and LGBTQ. He was born in New Orleans, served in the Korean War, and became a successful ready-to-wear designer in the 1970's, whose designs were often displayed in his own departments at Bloomingdales, Macy's and Lord & Taylor's. He was instrumental in raising and caring for Ellen in her teen years and beyond. Later, Lloyd was immensely helpful in raising Ellen's son, **lan Tsang**.

Ellen's late husband was **Kim Tsang**, who was born on Long Island. Kim's father came from China. Kim served in the US Navy. Ellen's and Kim's son, **Ian**, is part Irish-American and Native American on his mother's side.

Cruz Alejandrina Defanti was a major influence in Ellen's life. Cruz was hired to take care of Ellen when she was six months old. Her love and extraordinary care instilled in Ellen a respect for humanity. Cruz and her husband, Lyro Defanti, emigrated from Chile and Brazil respectively, and built a successful life for their family. They kept Ellen close and made her a part of their family life.

These people and their stories comprise the philosophical ancestors we are following on our journey.

THEATER PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our project, Old Bones Odyssey, is a theater piece in development with an original musical score. It can be performed as two forty-five minute sets with an intermission, or a single seventy- or ninety-minute set.

We have workshopped it in New York, including at the former Metropolitan Room in New York City as a one woman show with a live band, and upstate New York at co|LAB.

Most recently we performed our show in May 2023 at Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, New York.

Our team is Ellen C Kaye, Alan Joseph, Andrew Horvits and Kendra Parmerter, with special guest artist, Tom Dempsey. Please see our attached and online bios for detailed information about us.

We are currently creating *Old Bones Odyssey*, the podcast series, as a companion piece to the show as well as an interactive online family tree to investigate the historical aspects of this story more deeply and to eventually form one multi-dimensional dramatic work.

We are based in Hudson Valley, New York.

THE ARCHIVING TEAM



A FEW OF OUR RESEARCH SOURCES

- Josephine Shaffner Forsberg, with Max Forsberg, provided extensive genealogical information and reports on the Burwell family line.
- Andrew Hull Tuttle (1775-1845) His Ancestry And Descendants, by Joyce Bruner Whitman.
- Record Of The Burwell Family Copied In Part From The Rev. Robert Burwell. Revised 1908 by George H. Burwell, and others.
- The Descendants Of William And Elizabeth Tuttle, Who Came From Old To New England In 1635, And Settled In New Haven In 1639, With Numerous Biographical Notes And Sketches. Published 1883, by George Frederick Tuttle.
- 1635 William Tuttle Of New Haven, An Address, Delivered At The Tuttle Gathering, New Haven Conn., September 3rd, 1873, By Joseph Tuttle.
- 2014 The Letters of Andrew Hull Courtney. Company Front (The Historical Magazine of the Twenty-Sixth North Carolina) Volume 28, Issue 1.

THE ALBUM

Please click here for the album or find it on our website.

(You will have been provided with a password to access the album in the original email sent to you.)



Thanks so much!

Look forward to talking and meeting with you soon,

Ellen, Ethan, Alan, Erin and Sally

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