



**Center for
Earth Ethics**

Spirit of Place

A HUDSON VALLEY CLIMATE TRAINING

PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS

Friday, June 13 – Saturday, June 14, 2025

The Ashokan Center

477 Beaverkill Road

Olivebridge, NY 12461

Rev. Kathryn Beilke



Kathryn Beilke, M.Div., is the development manager at Beyond Plastics. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and served for a decade as pastor of a progressive congregation, but the moral and spiritual urgency of our current ecological crises prompted her to leave the pulpit and dedicate herself to effective environmental solutions. Believing that state and local action can spark meaningful change, Rev. Beilke worked with municipalities navigating New York State's Climate Smart Communities initiative before coming to Beyond Plastics. While she is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she believes in centering a diversity of traditions and Indigenous perspectives in her work. She enjoys gardening, camping, hiking, biking and paddle boarding with her family.

Olivia “Liv” Watyana’li:yo Bigtree



Olivia “Liv” Watyana’li:yo Bigtree, a fellow at Center for Earth Ethics, is Onyota’a:ka (People of the Standing Stone), Turtle Clan. She grew up in Onondaga, where she was raised by primarily strong Onkwehón:we (Original Being) women. Mindful of those that came before her and those that are to come, she is an empowered member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy who strives to live a life authentically rooted in the Original Instructions of her people.

In 2023, Liv moved to Ioskóhare to rematriate the land and contribute to Skywoman's Forever Farm. She worked as communications director for the Waterfall Unity Alliance, on whose board she now serves. Liv is in the class of 2026 for the Kanien’kéha (Mohawk Language) Ratiwennahní:rats Adult Language Immersion Program in Kahnawà:ke (a Kanien’kehá:ka Reserve in Quebec, CA). For the 2024-26 educational years, Liv will be a full-time student, devoting her time, energy and focus into embodying Onkwehonwenéha (Original Language/Instructions).

Dr. Susan Bodnar



Susan Bodnar, Ph.D., is adjunct associate professor of counseling and psychology at Teachers College and principal investigator at the Development, Ecopsychology and Wellness (DEW) Lab at Teachers College. She has worked in New York City as a child and adult clinician for over twenty years, focusing on applying Clinical Behavioral Therapy and Dynamic therapy to a bio-psycho-social model of development. In addition to teaching child psychopathology and psychology, and child development and climate change at Teachers College, she is an associate editor for *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, and sits on the editorial board of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*. She writes broadly about culture, diversity, origin stories and the environment for academic and non-academic audiences. At a time when there is much change in the environmental world, Bodnar looks to the consistencies of human nature to help us better understand ourselves and the planet that gives us life.

Jon Bowermaster



A writer, filmmaker and adventurer, Jon Bowermaster is a six-time grantee of the National Geographic Expeditions Council. One of the Society's 'Ocean Heroes,' his first assignment for National Geographic magazine in 1989 was to document a dog-sled expedition that crossed Antarctica for 221 days.

He is the founder of Oceans 8 Films and the One Ocean Media Foundation, making films about climate at home in the Hudson Valley and around the world. His podcast, "The Green Radio Hour with Jon Bowermaster" has recorded over 150 episodes with environmental activists, community leaders and friends from his vast rolodex of travels.

Sister Carol DeAngelo, SC



Carol De Angelo, a Sister of Charity of New York, is director of the Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation for her congregation, where she collaborates with sisters, associates, colleagues and others in raising awareness and advocating for peace, justice and Creation Care issues that impact those in need and our common home, Earth. She is a steering committee member of the Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement (a chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement), and a member of ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River), the NYS Social Justice Promoters of Women Religious Congregations, and the NYS NETWORK Social Justice Advocacy Team.

Carol's ministry has been in parish, health care and family-based services, congregation and mission leadership, eco-spirituality and mentoring. Her life experiences and faith have been greatly influenced by the people with whom she has journeyed, calling her to a deep faith and a growing appreciation of the 13.8-billion-year ongoing Universe, organizational development and systemic change. Even before Laudato Si', Sr. Carol has been inspired and moved to respond to Pope Francis' call to listen to the song of Creation, the cries of the Earth and its people, and to respond in hope!

Carol has a master's degree in social work from Yeshiva University and a Master of Divinity from Seton Hall University, New Jersey. Carol is a GreenFaith fellow and Sisters of Charity Federation NGO Liaison.

Dr. Kathleen Deignan



Kathleen Noone Deignan, CND, Ph.D., is a sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame and Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Iona University where she taught from 1980 to 2021. She is founding director of the Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit. A GreenFaith fellow since 2008, Dr. Deignan is an alumna of Fordham University where she studied with her mentor Thomas Berry, earning a master's degree in the history of christian spirituality and a doctorate in historical theology.

Sister Kathleen is president emerita of the International Thomas Merton Society, founder of The Merton Contemplative Initiative, and co-convener of The Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue. She serves on the boards of The Berry Foundation and the American Teilhard Association.

Her publications include *ChristSpirit: The Pneumatological Eschatology of Shaker Christianity*, *When the Trees Say Nothing: Thomas Merton's Writings on Nature*, *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours*, *Teilhard de Chardin: A Book of Hours* *Thomas Berry: A Book of Hours* (forthcoming).

Sister Kathleen is co-founder of Schola Ministries, a project in service to the contemplative and liturgical arts which has produced a dozen compact discs of her original sacred songs.

Joanna Dickey



Joanna Dickey is a visual artist who joined Strawtown Studio as summer staff in 2003, and has been co-teaching programs ever since. Starting in 2013, she has been co-leading the organizational development of Strawtown since she and Founder Laurie Seeman formed the non-profit. Joanna has a studio art degree with concentrations in painting and printmaking, and has worked with children for over 20 years in a variety of settings. As an artist and naturalist she loves guiding youth to explore the natural world in creative ways. She is trained in botanical study and excels in teaching art skills related to nature.

Joanna has 20 years of experience curating and installing local and regional art exhibitions. She has collaborated on many community art projects, including murals, printmaking and environmental art. Her artwork has been shown in many exhibitions, locally, in New York City, and as far as Bucharest, Romania. In 2008, Joanna co-founded and served as secretary of the Garner Arts Creekside Plant Committee, which formed to ensure sustainable restoration of the banks of the Minisceongo Creek that runs through the Garner complex. Since 2010, she has trained in aquatic science monitoring and has co-led citizen science projects on local waterways with youth and community members.

Tory Field



Tory is raised and shaped by the fierceness of her love for ocean, plants, open sky, and family of all contours. She is grateful to have spent more than 25 years working for social justice organizations—particularly around food sovereignty and racial justice—farming, writing, and being taught by the land.

She currently works at the Center for Earth Ethics as a research and teaching associate and recently completed a master's of divinity program at Union Theological Seminary with a focus on the intersections of ecology and spirituality.

In previous years, Tory was a research and education coordinator for Other Worlds, a community organizer with Arise for Social Justice, and co-founder of a CSA vegetable farm called Next Barn Over. Tory is the author, with Beverly Bell, of "Harvesting Justice: Transforming Food, Land, and Agricultural Systems in the Americas" (2013) and has contributed to the news and analysis websites Toward Freedom, Common Dreams and Truthout, among others.

Amy Gillingham



Amy believes the natural world is the best teacher and has used that as a philosophy for living. She has demonstrated this while mentoring nearly 40 interns and homeschooling her two children over the past 25 years. She is passionate about continuing to learn from the wild by observing, listening, foraging and exploring. Amy is drawn to improving soil and food systems by nurturing microbial life and all that we cannot see on the land. While she loves to learn about and envision sustainable agricultural practices, she knows that the place we live shapes us. In her efforts to domesticate and plant on their small farm, the land slowly uncultivated her and taught her to be more wild. This affects how she grows food, herbal medicines, saves seeds, and tends to sheep, cows, ducks and chickens.

Wes Gillingham



Wes is the board president of the Northeast Organic farming Association of New York and the co-founder of Catskill Mountainkeeper. He has lived off the electric grid for 40 years. He and his wife Amy coordinated a 150-family CSA vegetable operation for ten years. As an NOFA-NY board member, he works on New York State and national farm policy. Earlier in his career as acting director of field programs for the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute, he taught graduate and undergraduate environmental education throughout North America. Leading backpacking and canoe trips in wild North America made him realize how special the Catskills are and how rare his connection to this place is.

Dr. Joshua Ginsberg



Joshua Ginsberg, Ph.D., is the president of the Hudson Valley's Cary Institute of Ecological Studies. His career in conservation and science spans 40 years and several continents, including Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Previously, he worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society for 18 years as senior vice president of the Global Conservation Program. He has taught and mentored students at Columbia University since the late 1990s and has held full-time faculty positions at the Zoological Society of London, University College London and Oxford University. Dr. Ginsberg has sat on a dozen non-profit boards, and currently serves as chair of the Ocean Foundation, and trustee of the Open Space Institute and the Northeast Community Center. He is a member of the advisory council of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, Yale University's Institute for Biospheric Studies, and the Science, Climate and Stewardship Committee of Scenic Hudson. Joshua got into this work because he loves watching animals and repairing Landrovers, something he does far too little of these days.

Karenn Gore



Karenn Gore is the founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics and visiting professor of practice of earth ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Karenn formed CEE in 2015 to address the moral and spiritual dimensions of the climate crisis. Working at the intersection of faith, ethics, and ecology, she guides the Center's public programs, educational initiatives, and movement-building. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Columbia Climate School.

Previously, she served as director of Union Forum at Union Theological Seminary, director of community affairs for the Association to Benefit Children, and was an associate with the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. She also worked at the legal center of Sanctuary for Families. Karenn is the author of "Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America" (2006), and has written for numerous publications, including Slate, El Pais (Spain) and the New York Times. She serves on the boards of the Association to Benefit Children and Riverkeeper. A graduate of Harvard College, Karenn earned her law degree from Columbia Law School and a master's in social ethics from Union Theological Seminary.

Tim Guinee



Tim Guinee is the president of Climate Action Now and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Commission on Accelerating Climate Solutions. A Climate Reality Leader, he has given Climate Reality presentations all over the US, Canada and North Africa. He enjoys giving talks to underserved and oppositional audiences, including such diverse groups as conservative fire departments, Houston oil industry executives and maximum-security inmates. He is the founder of The Climate Actors, serves on the advisory council of Riverkeeper, the advisory board of the Center for Earth Ethics, the executive committee of the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and the board of directors at the Ashokan Center (New York's oldest outdoor environmental education center). He is the official climate change liaison for the town of Marbletown, NY with Climate Mayors, and serves as the New York legislative-action director for The Climate Reality Project New York State Chapter Coalition. In 2020, he was awarded the prestigious Alfredo Sirkis Memorial Green Ring Award by former US Vice President Al Gore.

Poppy Jones



Poppy Jones is a phytotherapist in service to sharing and transmitting the health and wealth, wisdom and intelligence inherent in Nature. Grateful for his forest life, he grew up in the (Onteoras) Catskills mountains, fishing, hunting and growing gardens—leading a life close to nature. With over 16 years of experience in plant medicine and foraging, Poppy connects with the forest by quietly listening to subtle communication through flora, fungi, ferns and trees. Poppy now teaches and mentors students, friends, and family in herbal medicine at resorts, camps, spiritual centers, reservations and universities.

Lisa Levart



Lisa Levart's book of photographs "Goddess on Earth" won the GOLD Nautilus Book Award and was named one of the 100 best New Women's Spirituality Books by the California Institute of Integral Studies. Her photographs have appeared in numerous publications and been featured in exhibitions worldwide including The Kiek de Kok Photography Museum, Tallin, Estonia; Gallery Verita, Tokyo, Japan; The Alternative Museum, The Burden Gallery and Art in General, of New York City. She is the recipient of the Rockland County Executive Art Award, the Larry Salley Photography Award and the Brigit Award from the Association for the Study of Women and Mythology. Her second publication "Goddess on Earth ORACLE" was released in 2021.

Victoria Loorz



Victoria Loorz, MDiv, is a wild church pastor, an eco-spiritual director and co-founder of several transformation-focused organizations focused on the integration of nature and spirituality. She feels most alive when collaborating with Mystery and kindred spirits to create opportunities for people to re-member themselves back into intimate, sacred relationship with the rest of the living world.

After twenty years as a pastor of indoor churches, she launched the first Church of the Wild, in Ojai, California and began to meet others with the same sense of call to leave building and expand the Beloved Community beyond our own species. She then co-founded the ecumenical Wild Church Network.

Victoria is co-founder and director of Seminary of the Wild, which is focused on a deep-dive yearlong Eco-Ministry Certificate program for all those who feel called by Earth and Spirit to "restore the great conversation." (Thomas Berry)

Allegra Lovejoy



Allegra Lovejoy is a project manager for events and programs at the Center for Earth Ethics. She is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and Yale School of the Environment, where she studied environmental ethics and the impacts of climate change on forests and agricultural lands. She has worked with faith-based and environmental organizations including the Interfaith Center of New York, D&R Greenway Land Trust, The Food Project, and Govardhan Eco-Village, and has been a contributing author for the UN Interfaith Rainforest Initiative and other publications. She was a delegate to COP29 (2024) with The Episcopal Church focusing on climate finance.

Allegra first began learning about interfaith and environmental work during her AB in International Affairs and Public Policy at Princeton University, where her research focused on religion and conflict in South Asia.

Allegra lives in the Hudson River estuary (Brooklyn) where she enjoys painting, choral music, and volunteering in her community garden. She is also an adjunct faculty member in Religious Studies at St Joseph's University and a member of the Brooklyn Zen Center and All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Dr. Erin Lothes



Erin Lothes, Ph.D., is executive director of the Bethany Center, a center for ecological education, reflection and leadership development. An ecological theologian, Dr. Lothes is the author of *Inspired Sustainability: Planting Seeds for Action* (Orbis 2016), as well as many articles on faith-based environmentalism, divestment and energy ethics. She holds an AB in English from Princeton University, an MA in theology from Boston College, a Ph.D. in contemporary systematic theology from Fordham University, and a postdoctorate in sustainability studies from Columbia University's Earth Institute.

She has been a long-time collaborator and activist with many faith-based environmental coalitions including the Catholic Climate Covenant, GreenFaith and the Forum on Religion and Ecology. She is a visiting scholar at the the Center for Earth Ethics and an Ecclesial Affiliate at the Laudato Si Research Institute at the University of Oxford. Previously, she served as an associate professor of theology at St. Elizabeth's University, and as a senior manager with the Laudato Si Movement.

Dr. Sarah Nahar



Sarah Nahar, M.Div., Ph.D., is a nonviolent action trainer and interspiritual theologian. An emerging expert of Excreta Infrastructure Technologies, her doctoral work centered on ecological regeneration, community cultivation and discard studies. Previously, Sarah was a 2019 Rotary Peace Fellow and worked at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been the executive director of Community Peacemaker Teams, an organization committed to building partnerships to transform violence and oppression worldwide. She attended Spelman College, majoring in Comparative Women's Studies and International Studies, minoring in Spanish. She has a Master of Divinity from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in her hometown of Elkhart, Indiana. She will teach at the University of Michigan's Program in the Environment beginning August 2025.

Rachel Marco-Havens



Rachel Marco-Havens is a multi-disciplinary "solutionary" artist. Her primary medium—communication—ignites collaborative conversations, which often lead motivated people to take inspired, regenerative action in their own communities. A lifetime of deliberate personal expansion, including immersion in Tibetan Buddhist studies, provide the foundation for Rachel's art, advocacy and activation. She continuously invites people to recognize the interconnectivity among social, environmental and spiritual justice movements.

Imam Adé Mendes



Imam Adéyinká Muhammad Mendes is a spiritual teacher with the International Sufi School of Peace and Service. He draws from Islamic, West African and Indigenous American wisdom traditions to guide healing, justice and spiritual transformation. In addition to working as an imam and resident scholar, he teaches internationally and interprets sacred texts. He is based in Houston, Texas, where he lives with his wife and seven children.

Del Orloske



Del Orloske is an outdoor educator at the Ashokan Center, where he has been teaching as an on-call instructor since 2015. He received his graduate degree in sustainability and land planning at the Conway School in Massachusetts, and an undergraduate degree in science and mathematics. For 12 years he has worked as a consultant for landscape architects, wetland scientists and engineers in New York and Connecticut with a focus on mitigation, restoration and storm-water management. A licensed New York State D.E.C. outdoor guide, Del shares his love for the natural world with everyone he meets. His deep sensitivity and commitment to sustainability and the health of both the environment and the community guide his work at the Ashokan Center. Del was born in Ithaca, NY, grew up in New England and now lives in the Woodstock area.

Samrat Pathania



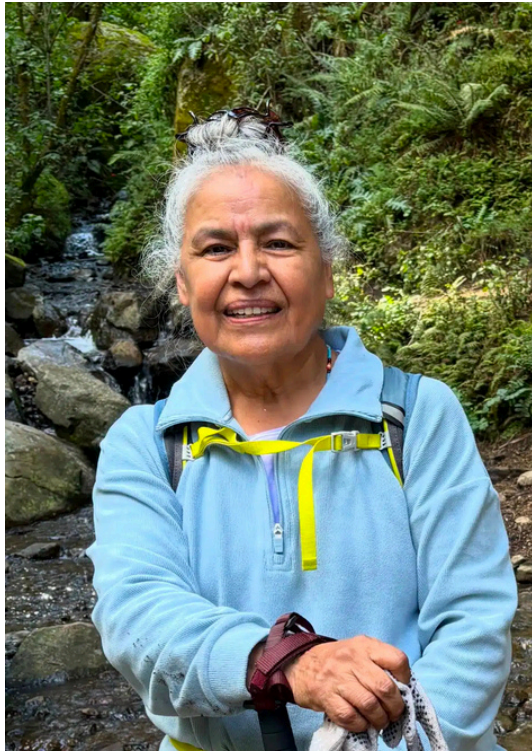
Samrat Pathania grew up in Hindu family in India where his childhood love for science and mathematics culminated in a degree in mechanical engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur (India). After working for several years as a software engineer with various multinational corporations, Samrat became a teacher and currently teaches physics, computer science and environmental science at Wallkill High School. He is a New York State master teacher emeritus and co-founder of the Educator Collective for Environmental Justice. Samrat is former co-chair of the Hudson Valley and Catskills chapter of the Climate Reality Project and currently a clean energy coach with New Yorkers for Clean Power. He is also the program manager for Science and Sustainability at the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center at SUNY New Paltz. Samrat considers Swami Vivekananda's teachings as the biggest spiritual influence during his formative years and has been studying Advaita Vedanta with India's most followed Advaita teacher and social reformer—Acharya Prashant.

Kenny Perkins



Kenny Perkins, a Kaniekehaka Mohawk of the Hotinonshonni Confederacy, is the founder of the Akwesasne Seed Hub. He leads efforts to rematriate 480 acres of Indigenous land in Schodack Landing, New York—ancestral Mohican territory—to serve as a central hub for food security and cultural exchange. This will be one part of a larger corridor of Indigenous and non-Indigenous food hubs, including Hudson Valley Farm Hub, Sky Woman Forever Farm, Pan Yan and the Cayuga Nation. By rematriating this land, they will be able to protect the integrity of their traditional seeds, grow out, process and store traditional varieties of white corn, beans and squash for distribution, and continue traditional practices like hunting, fishing and medicine gathering. The property will also be a central meeting place for eco mapping, conferencing and retreats for wellness and healing.

Veronica Raya



Veronica Raya is a senior fellow at the Center for Earth Ethics. An Indigenous elder from Central Mexico, Veronica identifies as a Mesoamerican native of Mexica and Purepecha-Otomi peoples. She supports CEE's local community relations and ceremonial work as well as other aspects of CEE's founding cornerstone commitment to Indigenous Values, Wisdom and Rights.

Veronica is a spiritual leader who carries forward practices rooted in her lineage. She is a long-standing member of Cetiliztli Nauhcampa Quetzalcoatl in Ixachitlan (Group of the Four Directions on the East of the Continent), an Indigenous collective that has been practicing Mexica/Aztec traditions through ceremonial songs, drumming and dance in the New York area for more than 25 years.

Veronica's work embodies the interconnectedness of nature, community and spirituality through prayer and action. Her dedication to preserving and sharing these traditions is an expression of her commitment to foster harmony between humanity and the natural world.

Rev. Thia Reggio



Thia Reggio, M.Div., is the pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in New York City. A graduate of Union Seminary, Thia earned both her Master of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Theology. At Union, Thia was a fellow with the Poverty Initiative (now Kairos Center) and was involved from its inception with the Center for Earth Ethics, serving as co-chair of its advisory board, on which she still serves today. She also worked with Presbyterian Welcome (now Parity) in its efforts to secure ordination and marriage equality for LGBTQ Presbyterians, and with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in its response to Superstorm Sandy. Thia also served on the Presbytery of New York City's Covid-19 Discernment Team and is a part of the presbytery's Dismantling White Supremacy Task Force. Prior to seminary and the call to ministry, Thia had a lengthy career as a simplification specialist, taming complex interactions in the financial, healthcare, insurance, and not-for-profit world for the lay person to understand.

Michael Richardson



Michael Richardson is co-facilitator of Third Act Upstate New York which mobilizes elders to advance the rapid buildout of renewable energy generation and stop the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. He is active on the New York Renews steering committee, the force behind the landmark New York State climate act, and is co-chair of the Public Power NY coalition, the force behind the Build Public Renewable Act. Michael is also co-founder of Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith. From a varied cache of experiences—including organic farmer, solar heating contractor, labor economist, county legislator and municipal consultant—Michael is committed to bringing attention to the moral imperative to stop funding climate chaos.

Dr. Shannon Roback



Shannon Roback, Ph.D., is the science director at Riverkeeper. Prior to joining Riverkeeper, she was the associate director of the Water UCI Center at University of California, Irvine and Environmental Health Science Faculty at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her academic work is focused on characterizing sources of pollution, determining environmental health effects, and developing remediation strategies for a variety of water contaminants, particularly contaminants of emerging concern.

Roback has worked with a number of local, state and federal water agencies and tribes to improve water treatment technologies, expand monitoring programs, develop new analytical methods for the measurement of water contaminants, create platforms for data sharing and analysis, determine and adapt to the effects of climate change on water systems and engage under-resourced and under-represented communities.

Roback has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Health Science and Environmental Science and Engineering from University of California, Los Angeles and teaches in the Citizen Science Program at Bard College.

Laurie Seeman



Laurie Seeman is an artist, naturalist and educator known for her pioneering work in the field of place-based art and environmental education. With founding Strawtown Studio in 2002 she combined her 20 years of experience as an artist, curator and creative entrepreneur in NYC with a passion for nature and spending time with children. She draws from her education in communications, experience in filmmaking, and ongoing study of the natural and ecological sciences with regional environmental experts, and time with Indigenous Peoples to work for environmental stewardship and justice.

Through Strawtown Studio, Laurie trains educators today in the methods and principles behind engaging in nature, art and science discovery and mentoring youth outdoors. She hopes more children experience all the joys and self discovery that come from being creative and nature-connected.

Jeanne Shenandoah



Jeanne Shenandoah is an elder of the Onondaga Nation (Eel Clan) whose roles have included being a traditional medicine keeper, herbalist and midwife. She serves on the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson



Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson, M.Div, Ph.D., is a senior fellow at the Center for Earth Ethics, where he brings a unique perspective to environmental justice work informed by deep experience in faith leadership and STEM education. A theologian, scientist, and ordained Presbyterian minister, he has served with the Center since its inception, including as co-chair of its advisory board. His current focus is the intersection of spirituality and science, particularly the impact of rapidly changing technology on environmental justice and faith practices.

He is pastor of Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church in Pearl River, NY, treasurer of the Synod of the Northeast, and chair of the PCUSA Environmental Justice & Climate Change subcommittee. Regionally, he chairs the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance and serves as a trustee of SUNY Ulster. He has served on the boards of Riverkeeper and Hudson River Clearwater, and co-founded the Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition.

Before ministry, he spent over 30 years as a STEM educator and researcher. He holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and graduate theology degrees from Union Theological Seminary. Originally from Glasgow, Scotland, he was awarded the MLK Jr. Award for Environmental Justice Advocacy in 2023.

Grandmother Clara Soaring Hawk



Grandmother Clara Soaring Hawk is an ambassador of the Ramapough Munsee Lenape Nation who formerly served as Deer Clan Chief. She is an elder, ceremonial leader, land steward, water protector and spiritual teacher.

In her words, "In this time of global turmoil, we must be open to a new level of consciousness."

Alexie Torres



Alexie Torres is the co-creator and managing director of Jubilee Gift Galaxy and founder of Soul of the Movement. Born in the South Bronx, she founded Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice in 1994, organizing with young people and community residents around policing, education and environmental justice. A cornerstone of her work was reclaiming the Bronx River which was highly industrialized and inaccessible to her community. She co-founded the Bronx River Alliance, which today continues the work of protecting the river.

Torres has spoken around the world about the sacred work of justice and protecting the most vulnerable. She served the Obama administration as an appointee to the President's Advisory Council for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and was a 2014 Harvard University Loeb Fellow. She has spent the last 15 years in philanthropy, serving as executive director of various family foundations. She founded the Soul of the Movement to support the work of healers and wisdom carriers in social movements.