



The 10th Annual
Metro New York District
UU Anti-Racism Conclave
Saturday, May 30 2009
Community Church of New York

Schedule and Workshop Descriptions

- 8:45-9:15 am** Arrive, register, light breakfast
- 9:15-9:45am** Welcome and Opening Worship
- 9:45-10:45am** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Nicky Sheats

Dr. Nicky Sheats is currently the director of the Center for the Urban Environment of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College where he has defined the primary mission of the Center as providing support for New Jersey's environmental justice community. He has also been a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New Jersey's only statewide environmental organization that focuses solely on environmental justice issues, since its inception in 2003.

Dr. Sheats received a Ph.D. in earth and planetary science from Harvard University in 2000. After graduating, he worked for Environmental Defense as a science and law fellow, at The College of New Jersey as a visiting scholar, and at the Earth Institute of Columbia University as a post-doctoral fellow. Sheats also has an undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. Following graduation from law school he practiced law as a public interest attorney for almost eight years.

11:00am-12:30pm Workshops 1

1A. Opportunities for Environmental Justice Engagement and Action – Ted Carrington

Learn about a number of ongoing environmental justice campaigns in the greater New York area, including advocacy to green the operation of Port Newark, diesel emissions advocacy and public witness, environmental justice litigation, and more. Explore opportunities for yourself and your congregation to become involved.

Ted Carrington is the Environmental Justice Program Director of Green Faith. He directs GreenFaith's programs to address environmental concerns in communities of color and low-income communities. He currently serves as Environmental Justice Committee Chairperson of the NAACP New Jersey State Conference.

1B. The Green Collar Economy: Van Jones' UUA Ware Lecture – Mark deSolla Price and Suzanne Marsh

In this workshop we will screen a portion of the the Ware Lecture given by Van Jones at the 2008 UUA General Assembly. The video will be followed by a discussion of the intersections of anti-racism, anti-oppression and environmental justice as it relates to sustainable economic growth.

Mark deSolla Price is a member of the Community Church of New York Anti-Racism Team. Suzanne Marsh is the Intern Minister at Community Church of New York.

1C. Community Gardens: Places to Heal, Grow and Challenge – Bilen Berhanu, Susan Fields, Jane Hodge and Karen Washington.

There is a long history of urban community greening projects arising during periods of crisis - often serving as antidotes to racial, economic, and environmental illness. Many of today's gardens grew out of the devastating impacts of the 1970's fiscal crisis and have cultivated community leaders as well as crops. What will germinate in our gardens during this new period of crisis? How will we ensure that the renewed interest in community gardening and urban agriculture serves, and is led by, the very communities that need its healing fruits most?

Bilen Berhanu is is the Outreach Coordinator for GreenThumb, a program of the NYC Parks Department and the nation's largest urban gardening program. Susan Fields is the program manager at GreenBridge, the community horticulture program of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Jane Hodge is the City Farms program manager for Just Food, a non-profit organization that works to develop a just and sustainable food system in the New York City region. Karen Washington, a long-time activist and community gardener, is a board member of the New York City Community Garden Coalition as well as the co-founder of La Familia Verde Community Garden Coalition in the Bronx.

1D. Environmental Justice and Community Development in New York City – Gigi Gazón and Dawn Philips

Communities of color and low-income communities in New York City bear an unfair burden of environmental harm from sources such as waste transfer stations, incinerators, and polluting power plants. Since 1993, this innovative program has sought to address these problems through an innovative strategy that offers legal assistance and community organizing resources to environmentally-distressed neighborhoods. The program's goal is to strengthen the ability of communities to assert

their right to a healthy environment and to assist their efforts to promote economic development, affordable housing, social services, and open space.

Genevieve (Gigi) Gazón is the Community Organizer for the Environmental Justice Program of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. Dawn Philips is a staff attorney with NYLPI.

1E. The Taste of Freedom: Food, Culture and the Challenge of a Global Economy- Peggy Clarke

Anti-racism and environmental agendas target the need for sustainable systems that support our planet and all the people who live on it. Access to organic food is currently available only to a select, privileged population. Moreover, the industrial food complex prioritizes consumer consumption over worker's needs, thus supporting a system of labor abuses targeting Latino migrant workers. This workshop will look honestly at how agribusiness can be transformed by the adoption of a local lifestyle that integrates communities and generates interdependence among neighbors.

Peggy Clarke is the founder of Intergenerate, a new agency exploring environmental and social sustainability in Westchester County, NY. She is currently the Intern Minister at the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

12:30-1:30pm Lunch

1:45-3:15pm Workshops 2

2A. The Activist Kitchen: Greening from the Inside Out. – Kristen Domingue

Do we ever stop to consider that we could bring a sense of activism to our personal lives? We can, yes, we can. What we feed our bodies matters greatly to our health! During our time together we will reflect on the many gifts and benefits of sound nutrition on personal wellness. "Greening from the inside out" invites us to examine and consider our food and nutrition choices; food selection, preparation, and storage; and a strong commitment to a healthy practice of nutrition and wellness. Greening is creative soul work that begins within.

Kristen Domingue is a wellness coach and nutritionist. She trained at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. She is also the conclave's cook.

2B. Unnatural Causes: When the Bough Breaks – Suzanne Marsh

In this workshop we will screen the PBS video "When the Bough Breaks" which explores why African American women at every socioeconomic level have higher rates of pre-term birth and infant mortality than white women who haven't finished high school or

Black women who immigrated here from other countries. The video will be followed by a discussion in which we will explore the painful conclusions that the film draws.

Suzanne Marsh is the Intern Minister at Community Church of New York.

2C. Green-Mapping For Environmental Justice – Cynthia Peabody

A Green Map is a locally-made map that highlights the social, cultural, and sustainable resources of a particular geographic area. Learn about the experience of gathering neighborhood religious leaders, community organizers, and student activists to Green Map Harlem for Healthy Living and interact with the Green Map that resulted.

Cynthia Peabody is Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion.

2D. Toxic “Assets:” Environmental Racism in New Jersey – Steve Gold

The toxic legacy of New Jersey’s history does not affect all its citizens equally. In this workshop we will examine how and why this is so and consider how the community might respond.

Steve Gold is director of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic and an assistant professor of law at Rutgers School of Law.

2E. Environmental Justice and Religious Education – Aisha Hauser

Learn about new curricula being developed as part of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Tapestry of Faith project that will address issues of environmental justice. How can we teach our children about these complex concepts in ways that make sense, empower them to make change in our world, and help them see the interconnection of these important justice issues?

Aisha Hauser is the Children and Families Program Director at the UUA.

2F. Environment, Sustainability, and the U.N. Millennium Goals: A Case Study of Ethiopia – Helen Boxwill

Using Ethiopia as an example, this workshop will explore the effects of environmental degradation on water resources, food security, housing, to name a few. Slides will show firsthand how the world’s poorest people are affected by the environment and how they in turn effect the environment. We will delve into the role of government, international communities, and local NGO’s and examine the progress of the U.N. Millennium Goals. We will also investigate various sustainable alternatives and see how we are globally connected.

Helen Boxwill is a UU and President of h²Empower, a not for profit corporation dedicated to education and sustainable development.

3:30-4:00pm

Closing