

SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS

White House – US Buddhist Leadership Conference

“Voices in the Square – Action in the World”

May 14, 2015



William Aiken

William Aiken serves as public affairs director for Soka Gakkai International (SGI) - USA, a socially engaged, lay Buddhist community. He is also the director of the SGI-USA's Washington DC Buddhist Center. Aiken is the co-author (with Clark Strand) of “A Reporters Guide to Buddhism in America” as well as numerous chapters, articles and essays on the topic of socially engaged Buddhism. He has lectured at more than 25 colleges and universities and is cited in numerous news outlets nationwide.



Tatsushi Arai

Tatsushi (Tats) Arai is a Research Associate of the Toda Institute for Global Policy Research, an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization established by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda in 1996. Tats is also a Fellow of the Center for Peacemaking Practice at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) and an Associate Professor of Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation at the School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute. Tats has worked extensively as an independent conflict resolution trainer and mediator and as a consultant to United Nations agencies in diverse conflict-affected societies, especially in Asia (East, South, and Southeast), the Middle East, the African Great Lakes, and the United States.



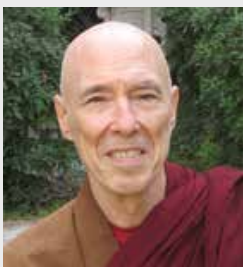
Kristin Barker

Kristin is cofounder and director of One Earth Sangha. She is exploring what it means to practice a Buddhist response to environmental and social injustice. She is dedicated to cultivating broad-scale awakening to authentic earth relationship through meditation, sustainable living and advocacy. Kristin is an active member of the Insight Meditation Community of Washington, DC (IMCW) and board member of the Buddhist Insight Network.



Angela Barranco

Angela Barranco serves as the Associate Director for Public Engagement at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Previously, Angela was at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she served as Deputy Chief of Staff and supported Secretary Donovan's groundbreaking efforts to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of the nation's housing units, and to bring a new approach to rebuilding from Hurricane Sandy that will increase the region's resilience to future climate impacts.



Bhikkhu Bodhi

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi has been a Theravada Buddhist monk since 1972. He is a translator from the Pali Canon and also the founder of Buddhist Global Relief, which provides relief to communities worldwide afflicted by chronic hunger and malnutrition.



Debra Boudreaux

Debra Boudreaux has been a senior Commissioner of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation for more than 25 years. Debra has been actively engaged with Tzu Chi's four major missions: charity, medical, education and humanitarianism. Tzu Chi is a Buddhist faith and social grass root movement foundation that has provided disaster relief in 91 countries and on 5 continents.



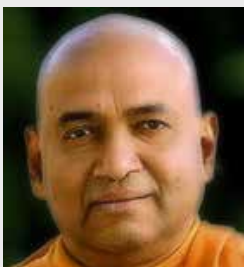
Tara Brach

Tara Brach, Ph.D., is a Buddhist teacher, author, clinical psychologist and founder of the Insight Meditation Community of Washington (IMCW). Tara has been involved in bringing mindfulness practices to DC area schools and prisons, advising and supporting One Earth Sangha, diversity work within IMCW, and in training mental health professionals to integrate meditation into clinical practice.



Shaun Casey

Shaun Casey is the U.S. Special Representative for Religion and Global Affairs. He has written on the ethics of the war in Iraq as well the role of religion in American presidential politics. His book, *The Making of a Catholic President: Kennedy vs. Nixon 1960*, was published by Oxford University Press in January 2009. He is working on two writing projects. He is co-editing the *Oxford Handbook of Political Theology* with Michael Kessler of Georgetown University and he is writing a book on ethics and international politics tentatively titled *Niebuhr's Children*.



Bhante Chao Chu

As the president of the Los Angeles Buddhist Union and executive council member of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, Bhante Chao Chu works with police officers, city council members, and other religious leaders in the local community and abroad.



Bob Doppelt

Bob Doppelt is Executive Director of The Resource Innovation (TRIG), which is affiliated with The Sustainability Institute at Willamette University, where he is a Senior Fellow. Since 2001 he has also been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Oregon. He coordinates TRIG's Transformational Resilience program and the International Transformational Resilience Coalition. He leads mindfulness programs around the country and coordinated the Dharma Teachers International Collaborative on Climate Change.



Patrick Duffy

Born in Montana, actor and director Patrick Duffy has worked consistently for 39 years in television. He has appeared in *Man from Atlantis*, *Dallas* and *Step by Step* and scores of television films and specials. He has been an active practitioner of Nichiren Buddhism with Soka Gakkai International since 1972. He is a founding member of International Committee of Artists for Peace and actively supports local community health and environmental organizations in his home state of Oregon.



Daniel Hall

Daniel Hall is Director of Peace and Community Relations (West Territory) for the Soka Gakkai International-USA Buddhist Association where he directs awareness raising initiatives centered on the U.N. Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, nuclear disarmament, sustainable development, and human rights education. Mr. Hall received a Master of Public Diplomacy from the University of Southern California. He has published book chapters and blog posts on the subject of faith diplomacy.



Susan Hayward

Susan Hayward directs the United States Institute of Peace's efforts to advance conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation projects targeting the religious sector, and she coordinates the Institute's overall programming in Burma/Myanmar. Her research interests include interfaith engagement in the midst of political violence, political Buddhism and the role of religion in hampering and propelling women's work for peace and justice. Hayward studied Buddhism in Nepal and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in theology and religious studies at Georgetown University, focusing on Buddhist and Christian theological responses to authoritarianism and conflict in Burma/Myanmar.



Christopher Ives

Christopher Ives is a professor of Religious Studies at Stonehill College. In his scholarship he focuses on ethics in Zen Buddhism, and currently he is working on Buddhist approaches to nature and environmental issues. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* and is serving as co-chair of the Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group and on the steering committee of the Religion and Ecology Group of the American Academy of Religion.



Acharya Marty Janowitz

Acharya Marty Janowitz is a senior teacher and minister within the Shambhala Buddhist Tibetan Buddhist lineage. Acharya Janowitz has principally striven to serve the vision and commitment of Trungpa Rinpoche towards the realization of enlightened society, human communities that at their core express the heart of goodness in action. Inspired by that vision Marty has long been dedicated to integrating the paths of inner and societal wisdom with particular interest in environmental transformation through what he describes as sacred activism. He has been involved in environmental and sustainability change for more than 25 years in Canada and internationally as both a Buddhist advocate and the leader of the international sustainability and corporate social responsibility practice at Stantec Consulting.



J. Siafa Johnson

J. Siafa Johnson is the Chaplain of Luther Rice Baptist Chaplaincy at George Washington University. He is the former Minister of the Black Church at Yale, Afro-American Cultural Center, and the International Church at Yale (Dwight Chapel).



Kenneth Kraft

Kenneth Kraft is professor emeritus of Buddhist studies at Lehigh University. He is the author of *The Wheel of Engaged Buddhism*, editor of *Inner Peace*, *World Peace*, and coeditor of *Dharma Rain: Sources of Buddhist Environmentalism*.



Sallie King

Sallie B. King is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at James Madison University in the USA. She is the author of *Buddha Nature* (SUNY Press, 1991), *Journey in Search of the Way: The Spiritual Autobiography of Satomi Myodo* (SUNY Press, 1993), *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism* (Hawaii, 2005), and *Socially Engaged Buddhism* (Hawaii, 2009). She is co-editor (with Christopher S. Queen) of *Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia* (SUNY Press, 1996) and (with Paul O. Ingram) of *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues in Honor of Frederick J. Streng* (Curzon Press, 1999). She is a Trustee of the international, interfaith Peace Council and a former President of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies.



Lou Leonard

Lou is an environmentalist and recovering lawyer who has served in government, taught law in Tanzania and practiced environment and energy law in the private sector. Lou currently is Vice President at World Wildlife Fund, where he leads climate & energy work while helping to create One Earth Sangha in his personal capacity. Lou discovered the dharma as part of his search for equanimity while facing the climate crisis.



Katie Loncke

Katie Loncke is Co-Director, with Dawn Haney, of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship: an organization with a 35-year history of socially engaged Buddhism, currently experiencing a surge of interest as a younger generation seeks ways of integrating strong anti-oppression politics with meaningful spiritual practice. Katie herself began practicing in the Theravada / Insight tradition after graduating with honors from Harvard University, sensing that a deeper form of wisdom was missing even from this world-class education. Katie is excited to connect with other Buddhists and faith leaders seeking to foster internal awakening while radically healing the injustices in our world.



Kamilah Majied, PhD

Dr. Kamilah Majied is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Howard University where for over 10 years she has been teaching students in the graduate program about mental health challenges and effective culturally relevant treatment methods. She is also the principal investigator of the International Sexuality and Mental Health Research Project (ISMHRP). This funded research project spanned several years and identified health and mental health needs of Black LGBTQ people in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and the United States.



TK Nakagaki

Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, D. Min. is a Buddhist priest ordained in the 750-year-old Jodoshinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism. He is the current President of the Buddhist Council of New York (BCNY), an umbrella group for Buddhist organizations in the NYC area. The Buddhist Council organizes several events throughout the year including Vesak Celebration; the Buddhist Forum, which examines ways Buddhists can contribute to social issues such as climate change and domestic violence; and Meditate NYC, which seeks to introduce various meditation traditions to the public. Rev. Nakagaki is also a Vice President of The Interfaith Center of New York and Community Clergy Liaison for the NYC Police Department.



Matthew Regan

Matthew R.G. Regan is co-secretary of the International Buddhist Committee of Washington, DC, an umbrella organization of metropolitan-area Buddhist temples representing numerous lineages, cultures, and traditions. He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in public policy at the University of Maryland, where he focuses on the ethics of international development and its connections with history, culture, and the environment. Later this month, he will present his paper "For the Benefit of All Beings: Using Buddhist Ethics as a Framework for Sustainable Development" at the United Nations Day of Vesak conference in Thailand.



Alan Senauke

Hozan Alan Senauke is a Zen priest and vice-abbot of Berkeley Zen Center in California. As an engaged Buddhist activist Alan works closely with Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the International Network of Engaged Buddhists. He is on the core faculty of Upaya Zen Center's chaplaincy training program. In 2007 he founded Clear View Project, developing Buddhist-based resources for social change in Asia and the U.S.



Melissa Rogers

Melissa Rogers serves as Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Rogers formerly served as Director of the Center for Religion and Public Affairs at Wake Forest University Divinity School and as a nonresident Senior Fellow in the Governance Studies program of The Brookings Institution. Prior to her time with Wake Forest University and Brookings, Rogers was the Executive Director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and General Counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.



Gretchen Rohr

Magistrate Judge Gretchen N. Rohr's first trainings in meditation were in 1994 while working alongside formerly imprisoned activists who developed techniques to free themselves from conditions of solitary confinement. These teachings in interdependent awakening supported her professional life restoring justice within communities in need of healing; they ultimately led to her appointment to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Judge Rohr has lectured extensively across the country on effective jail diversion and prison reentry, leadership development, behavioral health interventions in juvenile/adult justice systems, and trauma-informed police, correctional and judicial crisis responses. In her free time, she supports integration of Vipassana and other contemplative practices while teaching at Georgetown University Law Center, hosting educational exchanges for local restorative justice practitioners and helping facilitate Insight Meditation Community of Washington's People of Color (POC) and Insight on the Inside (incarcerated people's) Sanghas.



Sylvie Sun

Sylvie Sun has been practicing Chinese Chan Buddhism since 1989, as a student and disciple of Master Sheng Yen. She is a board member and fundraising chair of Buddhist Global Relief, an organization that provides relief to the poor and needy around the world regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, gender, or religion.



Mary Evelyn Tucker

Mary Evelyn Tucker directs the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale where she also teaches in a joint MA program between Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Yale Divinity School. She is executive producer and co writer of the Emmy award winning film Journey of the Universe now on Netflix.



Angel Kyodo Williams

Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams Sensei is maverick dharma teacher, author of *Being Black: Zen and the Art of Living with Fearlessness and Grace*, spiritual leader of the newDharma Community and founder of the Center for Transformative Change. Ordained as a Zen priest, she applies wisdom teaching to intractable social issues including climate change, racial and economic justice. She notes, "Without inner change, there can be no outer change. Without collective change, no change matters."



Duncan Williams

Duncan Ryūken Williams is the Acting Chair of the University of Southern California's School of Religion and the Director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and previously held the Shinjo Ito Distinguished Chair of Japanese Buddhism at University of California at Berkeley and Director of Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies. He is the author of a monograph entitled *The Other Side of Zen: A Social History of Sōtō Zen Buddhism in Tokugawa Japan* (Princeton, 2005) and co-editor of a number of volumes including *Issei Buddhism in the Americas* (Illinois, 2010), *American Buddhism* (Routledge, 1998), and *Buddhism and Ecology* (Harvard, 1997).