

# From Sustainability to Climate Justice

## A Conference

### The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

May 20 – 25, 2018



Expand your understanding of climate change and its connection to environmental and social justice. The conference includes:

- Information, inspiration and challenge for the work of climate justice
- Skills for working with others, including those with different perspectives
- Processes to convert informed anxiety into effective action
- Opportunities to nurture your body, mind and spirit

#### PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS

Before Breakfast – Yoga on The Mountain

After Breakfast – Time for Reflections

Morning Sessions: Giving Light for Climate Activism– two-hour sessions with Rev. Fred Small, who will invite us into meditation, reflection, conversation, and song, strengthening our spirits and deepening our resolve in the struggle for climate justice. The program supports personal engagement through five themes:

- Gratitude
- Grief
- Renewal
- Resolve
- Going Forth

After Lunch – Workshops

- What's Up with the Climate?
- Buckminster Fuller's "World Game" (Distribution and Consumption of World Resources)
- Mushrooms Can Help Save the World
- Building an Energy-Efficient Home
- Awakening the Dreamer and Moments of Truth
- Music Changes the World
- Climate Justice or Injustice
- Building a Fossil-Free World
- The Food Forest Project and Tips for Homegrown/Foraged Food
- Sustainability Practices at The Mountain - Sharing Insights
- Low-Ropes Challenge Course -- Risk-Taking and Team-Building
- Guided Walk of the Outdoor Labyrinth

Social Hour and Dinner – Each evening spend informal time before dinner on the deck and the Commons at the Dining Hall. Bring your instruments and music to share during social hour.

Evening Sessions – Concerts, movie and storytelling and a guided trust walk behind a nearby waterfall.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND SESSIONS

**Rev. Fred Small** <http://www.uua.org/offices/people/fred-small>

*There are those who are trying to set fire to the world.  
We are in danger.  
There is time only to move slowly.  
There is no time not to love. --Deena Metzger*

Rev. Small is a Unitarian Universalist minister who began his career as an environmental lawyer. He currently focuses his ministry on climate justice issues. Rev. Small was listed in Grist magazine as one of the 15 most influential Green Religious Leaders worldwide. Fred is also a notable singer and songwriter, once hailed by Pete Seeger as one of the best in America.

### Giving Light for Climate Activism

As we come to understand the gravity of climate disruption, it's easy to become disheartened. How do we convert informed anxiety into effective action in our congregation, community, state, nation, and world? In this interactive workshop, Fred will conduct two-hour sessions each morning focusing on: Gratitude, Grief, Renewal, Resolve, and Going Forth.

Fred will also offer the welcome gathering with Freeman Owle and an evening concert.

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### **Freeman Owle**

Freeman is a Cherokee Elder, storyteller, craftsperson and educator from the Qualla boundary. Freeman brings the Native American perspective of honoring the Earth and considering the long-term impact of actions, the 7<sup>th</sup> generation approach. The Mountain exists on property that was previously Cherokee land.

Freeman will join in the welcoming gathering on Sunday evening. With Lee Knight, he will also present an evening storytelling session -- Our Cherokee Heritage.

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**Lee Knight** <http://www.leeknightmusic.com>

Lee currently works as a folk singer, storyteller and outdoor leader, performing at concerts, workshops, Elderhostels, festivals, camps and schools. He plays various instruments, including the five-string banjo, various guitars, the Appalachian dulcimer, the mouth bow, the Cherokee flute and the Cherokee rattle, as well as the Native American drum. Lee has shared stories and songs at The Mountain since it first opened in 1978.

With Freeman Owle, Lee will present an evening storytelling session – Our Cherokee Heritage.

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**Friction Farm: Aiden Quinn and Christine Stay** <http://www.frictionfarm.com>

*“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economy growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortage, global health, food security, and women’s empowerment.” Ban Ki-moon*

Aidan and Christine combine storytelling, social commentary and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations. From ballads to anthems, each song is filled with harmony, hope, and inspiring people to do good in the world. This modern-folk duo performs internationally and throughout the US. They recently built their own energy-efficient home and apply principles of sustainability in their daily lives.

### Building an Energy-Efficient Home

Aiden and Christine have just finished (almost) building an energy-efficient home. They will share what they learned along the way in energy efficiency, local sourcing, recycling, and more that can be applied to any sized project. Even simple things like asking the right questions and stating your priorities clearly, can make a huge impact in the sustainability of your building or remodeling project. They also installed solar panels and will share the nuts, bolts, and numbers.

### Music Changes the World

Music can change the world because it changes us. This workshop will explore music as an effective external tool for communicating ideas, bridging divides, building unity and more. Christine and Aiden will also discuss how music can function as an internal tool for physical, emotional and spiritual self-care.

Aidan and Christine will perform an evening concert.

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**Richard Crume** *Environmental Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, R. Crume (editor) <https://www.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOGreenwood/product.aspx?pc=A5045C>

*“One dimension of climate justice is the disproportionate impact of the changing climate on communities of color and low income communities around the world. In this sense, climate justice is actually climate injustice!”* -- Richard Crume

Recently retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Richard directed program planning and execution for the nation’s air quality program. His office was responsible for developing the Clean Power Plan in President Obama’s second term. Richard has taught classes in air pollution, climate change, and renewable energy at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is a feature writer for green energy magazines and gives presentations on environmental protection and green buildings.

### What’s Up with the Climate?

Are you a believer or a skeptic ... or a little of both? Richard Crume will review the science of climate change, implications for human health, and the viability of various technological solutions. Come prepared to share your opinions, knowledge, and experience.

### Climate Justice or Injustice?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth ... whatever remains of it. Richard Crume will discuss the concepts of climate and environmental justice with some real-life examples. Come prepared to share your outrage and propose solutions to this growing problem.

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**David Novak** <http://www.david-novak.com>

*“Make the world work, for 100% of humanity, in the shortest possible time, through spontaneous cooperation, without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone.”*  
– R. Buckminster Fuller

David is an exceptional speaker with a background in theatre arts. He is an A+ Fellow with North Carolina Arts Council, offering professional development in Arts Integrated Curriculum, a veteran of the National Storytelling Festival, and an internationally touring storyteller and speaker. He has keynoted for the Sydney International Storytelling Conference, American Alliance for Theatre In Education, Mid-Atlantic Storyteller’s conference, and numerous library and educational conferences. His aesthetic education programs find audiences across the country from the Lincoln Center Institute to the Los Angeles Music Center.

Buckminster Fuller’s “World Game” (Distribution and Consumption of World Resources)

As a remarkable “insight-enabler,” David will facilitate a process of understanding the availability of and use of resources around the world. This understanding will be linked to climate change and the impact for the most vulnerable peoples of the world. Knowledge of world resources is a critical piece of understanding climate justice.

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**Pam and Charley Rogers**      <https://www.momentsoftruth.info>

Pam and Charley are deeply committed to the environment and social justice. For the past five years, they have devoted their time to volunteer with the Charter for Compassion International (CCI), an organization founded on the Golden Rule, whose mission is to bring compassion to life through practical action in everyday life. Pam partnered in a public relations firm for 25 years, concentrating on the non-profit and political sectors. Charley enjoyed a 27-year career with IBM, followed by nine years as a business consultant. Both have served as members of the Board of Directors of the Henderson County Community Foundation.

Awakening the Dreamer - Environmental Sustainability, Social Justice, and Spiritual Fulfillment & Moments of Truth -- Compassionate Listening, Transformative Language, and Authentic Connections for Working with Others

Awakening the Dreamer engages participants in the most urgent and necessary questions of this age: **Where Are We?** – looking at the environmental, social and spiritual condition of the human family; **How Did We Get Here?** – finding the root causes of our modern malaise; **What is Possible Now?** – examining the alternative scenarios for our future; and **Where Do We Go From Here?** – finding a role to play in creating the future

A healthy community needs to find space where people can build trust across all lines of division. Moments of Truth creates that space, from which people can cooperate with each other to strengthen their communities, make their schools better, serve their religious congregations, coach teams and build businesses. Pam and Charley will facilitate a three-hour session combining these two workshops.

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**Representative from 350.org**      [www.350.org](http://www.350.org)

350.org is a collaboration of organizers, community groups, and regular people who are working together for clean energy. The organization uses online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions to oppose new coal, oil and gas projects, take money out of the companies that are heating up the planet, and build 100% clean energy solutions that work for all. 350's network extends to 188 countries.

Building a Fossil-Free World

The workshop will provide information about the many ways to reduce use of fossil fuels, to protect the planet in our personal lives, communities and professional lives, all working toward reducing climate injustice.

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**Ben Galindo and Joey Kyle**      <http://themountainrlc.org/many-hands-peace-farm/>

*“The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.” — Masanobu Fukuoka, The One-Straw Revolution*

Ben and Joey met and became friends at Southwestern University in Texas where they worked together coordinating for their school’s community garden and environmental activism club. After graduation, Ben

went on to work for an organic farm in Barnardsville, NC that had 1,000 shiitake mushroom logs and produce. Joey taught Spanish in Texas and English in Taiwan, then became a farm apprentice at The Mountain under Bill Hagemann. Joey and Ben are now co-managers of The Mountain's Many Hands Peace Farm. Joey is certified to source wild mushrooms to restaurants, and Ben has received a Permaculture Design Certificate from Starhawk.

#### How Mushrooms Can Save the World

Joey and Ben will provide a tour of the mushroom beds and help participants learn about various methods of growing gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. This session includes a history of mushroom culture, information about the nutritional and health benefits of mushrooms, how mushrooms support sustainable waste management, and possibilities for meals with mushrooms. A special mushroom treat will be prepared for the evening meal.

#### Food Forest Tour and Tips for Homegrown/Foraged Foods

Many Hands Peace Farm has recently started a food forest in a black locust grove. This involves planting fruit and nut trees as well as berry bushes throughout the grove. Participants will learn about the benefits of a food forest, as well as how to successfully grow food at home. This session will include information on identifying some common edible plants in the area. Supplementing our food supply is one of many ways to minimize negative impacts on our earth. Produce will be gathered/foraged to prepare a dish for the evening meal.

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### **MORE SESSION LEADERS**

#### **Rachel Kinback**, Guest Services at The Mountain

Rachel will facilitate the Yoga sessions before breakfast, stretching and centering, with a view of an amazing environment.

#### **Justin Perry**, Mountain Program Intern

Justin will facilitate the Low Ropes Challenge Course to develop skills related to risk-taking, communication in a challenging situation, reaching out to others for support, and team-building as the group works together toward a common goal.

#### **Laurel Amabile**, Mountain Development Director

Laurel will lead the Trust Walk at Dry Falls. This is done after dark, with participants placing their hand on the person in front of them to give signals to and support one another single file, as they silently walk to and behind the falls.

#### **Julia Jamison**, Guest Services at The Mountain

Julia will offer an outdoor Labyrinth Walk at the base of The Mountain. She will share how the labyrinth is symbolic as a pilgrimage; people can walk the path, ascending toward enlightenment. One loses track of direction and of the outside world, and thus quiets the mind. The labyrinth can serve as a metaphor for dealing difficult situations, such as climate justice.

**Alyssa Fuller**, Mountain Communications

Alyssa will coordinate Hikes from The Mountain, tailored to the level of interest and degree of difficulty preferred by hikers. She majored in biology, with a specialty in spiders, and has much information to share about the local flora and fauna.

**Ted Wisniewski**, Executive Director and **Russell Hunnewell**, Facilities Director of The Mountain

Ted and Russell will meet with participants during a working lunch on Thursday to gather Insights for The Mountain. The Mountain Staff and Board are working to promote sustainability and energy efficiency. We welcome the ideas and suggestions from participants to promote climate justice on The Mountain.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Although it will not be feasible to participate in all workshops and activities, there will be opportunities to meet and interact with all presenters and conference participants.

Conference participants are encouraged to bring a thumb drive or device to download conference materials and resources so we practice our sustainability by providing digital copies of materials.

We look forward to a conference filled with knowledge, inspiration, challenge, personal growth, nurturing friendships, resolved to continue the critical work of climate justice.

In addition to planned activities, you can take advantage of other opportunities at The Mountain including spending time on Meditation Rock, the Memorial Garden, and using the nearby hiking trails, onsite library, volleyball court, and outdoor decks.

## REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration Fees includes

- Lodging
- Meals
- Use of assigned facilities
- Participation in program activities

6 Days / 5 Nights Package

- Adult: \$560.00 per person, double occupancy
- Adult: \$735.00 per person, single occupancy
- Adult: \$350.00 per person, commuter rate (includes program and meals)

For more information, go to <http://themountainrlc.org/event/from-sustainability-to-climate-justice/>

## CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

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