

**Richard Heinberg, Ph.D.**, Senior Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute, is widely recognized as one of the world's foremost educators on the need to transition society off fossil fuels. Since 2002 he has spoken to hundreds of public, government, and business audiences around the world. His many books include the Quest titles *Memories and Visions of Paradise*, *Celebrate the Solstice*, and *A New Covenant with Nature*. Dr. Heinberg is the recipient of the Atlas Award for Climate Change (2012) and the M. King Award for Excellence in Energy Education (2006).

### **Session 1: *Memories and Visions of Paradise***

The concept of an original Paradise is a mythic theme in world folklore. Nearly all ancient agrarian peoples entertained visions of a Golden Age—a primordial era when human beings believed the cosmos was alive and conscious, when they lived in harmony with nature and respected the elements of nature as living parts of a living whole. Richard Heinberg will explore the many facets of the myth of Paradise and explain its relevance in the reality of today's world, including its implications for our present environmental challenges.

### **Session 2: *A New Covenant with Nature***

All human societies exhibit beliefs and practices that could be called spiritual. However, these beliefs and practices vary widely. There are strong patterns in this variability that seem tied to society's basic economic underpinnings—whether people derive their sustenance from hunting and gathering, horticulture, or agriculture. Among agricultural societies variability seems tied to phases of urban development (“civilization”). Today, have we reached a new and stable stage in societal evolution, or are we on the cusp of a shift as profound as any in human history? What will be the role of spirituality in that shift, and what changes in spirituality are likely to accompany the transition?

A Book Signing will follow Dr. Heinberg's second session.



**Robyn Finseth, M.S., D.C.**, was born with the gift of sensitivity, which helps her see beyond the physical world. A lifelong Theosophist, Dr. Finseth was fortunate to work alongside Harry van Gelder and Dora Kunz during her formative years, which helped mold her into the healing practitioner she is today. She has lectured and taught at Camp Indralaya and the Theosophical Society in Wheaton, Illinois.

***Session 1: Connections between Our Physical and Ethereal Environments: Healing the Earth with Intention***

As we struggle to help our Earth find balance on the physical plane, there is a parallel struggle occurring in the spiritual world. When our physical environment changes, the electromagnetic fields in the ethereal world also shift. If we choose to destroy nature, something else is destroyed on the etheric plane.

The etheric nature of our planet, and the resulting chaos, often mirror our own intentions. Our physical intentions are capable of manifesting themselves in both material and spiritual forms.

In spite of the destruction our physical world is experiencing, the Earth's energy has a quality of renewal. We can tap into this restorative strength and help our planet survive the damage it has suffered. We can help renew the Earth by gaining conscious awareness of how our physical actions are linked with the spiritual world.

***Session 2: Working with the Devas: a Meditation Workshop.***



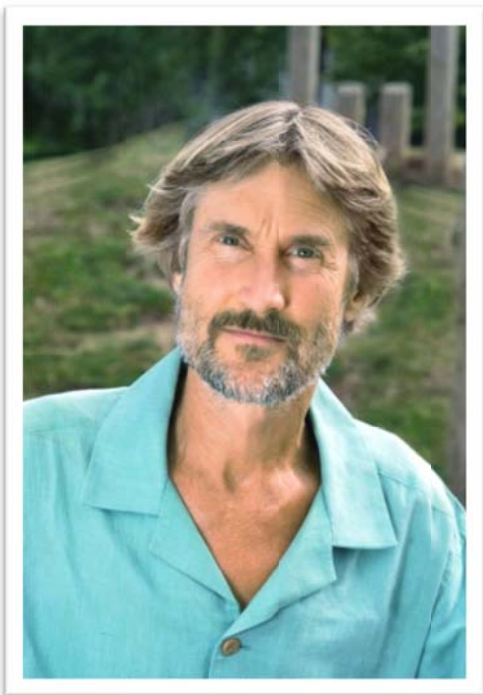
**Will Tuttle, Ph.D.**, is a visionary speaker, educator, author, and musician. A former Zen monk and a vegan since 1980, his writings and presentations focus on compassion, creativity, intuition, and the interconnectedness of such issues as social justice, animal liberation, environmentalism, health, and spirituality. Author of *The World Peace Diet*, he is a recipient of the Courage of Conscience Award and the Empty Cages Award. Dr. Tuttle's Piano Passion concerts feature his original compositions intended to generate inspiration for personal and planetary awakening.

**Lecture title:** *The World Peace Diet*

Food is an intimate and vital connection with the natural world. It is also symbolic of the inner life of our human culture. The choices we make about food often lead to health problems and environmental degradation. In addition, unimaginable cruelty toward our fellow creatures suppresses the impulse of Sophia, the Divine Feminine and nurturer of life. Whole parts of us are in numb denial of these truths because of advertising, indoctrinated family beliefs, and social pressure.

What we eat becomes our precious human vehicle. By ending food practices that cause physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering and by moving to a plant-based diet, we move toward healing. The principles of the World Peace Diet can transform our own consciousness and ultimately transform the world.

Dr. Tuttle will sign copies of his book, *The World Peace Diet*, following the session.



## **Musical Event with Will Tuttle:** *Piano Passion Concert*

Music has long been understood to open inner doorways of insight, healing, compassion, and communion. It is a language of intuition heard by our hearts. Will Tuttle is an accomplished musician whose uplifting, original compositions for piano are intended to generate inspiration for personal and planetary awakening. Will's concerts present music in the ancient way, as a transformational vehicle of consciousness, not merely entertainment.

*"When playing the piano, he works from his Buddha-nature, floating, not trying; beyond mistakes."* — Joseph Campbell

*"The sounds of harmony and peace fill the heart when listening to Will Tuttle's music. He is a master at recreating the deepest vibrations of the soul."* — Michael Toms, cofounder, New Dimensions Radio



**Sr. Gabriele Uhlein, O.S.F., Ph.D.,** is a Franciscan sister deeply influenced by Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and Teilhard de Chardin. She is artist-in-residence and Core Team member at the Christine Center, a natural sanctuary that is open to seekers of all faith traditions and committed to spiritual deepening for global transformation. Known nationally for her practical spiritual perspectives, Sr. Gabriele continues to promote the

profound connection between creation, contemplation, and compassion in everyday life.

### ***Francis: A Saint of Ecology for All Ages and a Pope of Ecology for Our Time***

Saint Francis belongs to the whole world, and now so does Pope Francis. Sister Gabriele, a long-time Franciscan scholar, brings alive the profound ecological mysticism of Saint Francis and introduces the ecological spirituality of Pope Francis. Discover profound ecospiritual practice from the most beloved of all saints, and be inspired by the remarkable newest pope that dares to choose Francis as his name. Sister Gabriele is offering two sessions: the first focused on Saint Francis and the second on Pope Francis. While the sessions resonate with each other sequentially, they can also be enjoyed individually.

### ***Session 1: The Ecomysticism of Saint Francis***

Using some of the last actual writings of Saint Francis—his Canticle of Creation and his Testament—we are invited to experience a mystical Franciscan worldview that is both unitive and healing. Allow Saint Francis, as the “Troubadour of God,” to inspire you and deepen your own ecological understanding of the world and all our kin. We will immerse ourselves in the ineffable beauty of the face of God all around us.

## **Session 2: *The Ecospirituality of Pope Francis***

Discover why many people now call Pope Francis the Catholic “Dalai Lama.” In the amazing vision of *Laudato Si'*, his most controversial and stunning encyclical, we are invited to a fresh understanding of our place in the world as spiritual practitioners. We will explore together a worldview that is truly comprehensive and challenges believers of any tradition to a new moral standard of unitive consciousness and ecological practice. We will let the spiritual genius of this Argentinian Jesuit and quintessential world citizen inspire us.





**Roger S. Gottlieb, Ph.D.**, is professor of philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is known for his work as a leading analyst and exponent of religious environmentalism and for his passionate and moving account of spirituality in an age of environmental crisis. Dr. Gottlieb's many books include *This Sacred Earth*, *A Greener Faith*, and *A Spirituality of Resistance: Finding a Peaceful Heart and Protecting the Earth*. As a speaker, he combines

a personal and humorously engaging style and an inspiring message of personal responsibility, social change, and spiritual vision.

### **Session 1: *The Radical Intelligence of Nature***

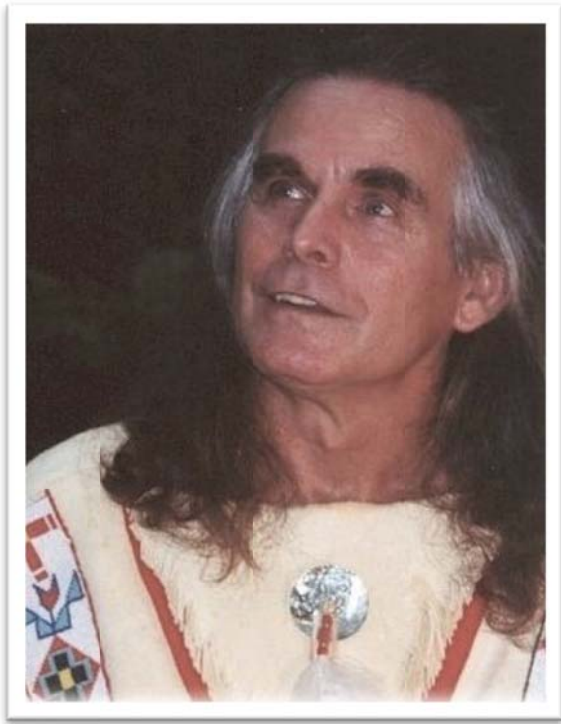
In the face of genetic engineering, cyborg sensibilities, and an encompassing technoculture, how can we encounter, appreciate, and learn from nature? Dr. Gottlieb will explore the resources nature, despite everything, still holds for individual spiritual development, collective sanity, and progressive political change. Nature's radical intelligence teaches both personal tranquility and a profound unease with destructive social structures and global norms of violence and addiction.

### **Session 2, experiential: *The Spiritual Practice of Nature***

After a brief discussion of the role of meditation and other experiential practices in spiritual development, we will directly experience three or four meditational practices centered on the natural world. These will be useful for individual spiritual development and as practices that teachers can share with students.

**Dr. Gottlieb will sign selected copies of his books after the second session.**

## Closing Ceremony



**Quentin Young** has been involved in the Lakota spiritual way of life since the age of six. His mother's grandmother was a full-blood Sicangu Lakota. He has been a Sun Dancer for twenty-one years; he is Lead Helper to the Sun Dance Intercessor and Chief; and he has participated in all of the seven rites of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux). He is keeper of the sacred ceremonial pipe, the *chanunpa*, and he is holder of the Gentle Spider Medicine.

Quentin is the author of *Mystic Visions: Black Elk's Great Vision Clarified*, and has taught at the College of DuPage and lectured at several colleges and universities throughout Illinois. He will draw on the spiritual teachings of the Lakota to offer a blessing to the environment as a closing activity to the conference.

A Book Signing session for *Mystic Visions* will follow the ceremony.