

Online workshop June 18, 2023 by Clear Grace Dayananda



Clear Grace Dayananda (she/they)

Theme: Nonviolence in myself and nonviolence in the world,
(Bodhisattva Samantabhadra, Great Action)

Online Workshop: Fearless and Courageous Deep Looking

By cultivating our capacity to suffer differently we re-generate the volition needed to be the change we wish to see. Together we investigate our individual and collective seeds of violence in order to transform blocks of suffering and come home to the courageous and powerful practitioners

that we already are. Discourses, meditation, poetry and reconciliation practices will be the nutriment that supports our collective aspiration for great action and universal goodness.

Bio: Venerable is a Queer Buddhist Monk (of Mexican, Irish and African-American ancestry) who received novice ordination in 2018 as Sister True Moon of Clear Grace in the Plum Village Zen tradition of Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. In 2020, she received higher ordination and carries forward both the Theravada and Mahayana lineages of her preceptor, Venerable Dr. Pannavati Karuna of whom she was transmitted the name Dayananda.

The Dharma has been her greatest source of insight and transformation to heal from injustice and suffering of all kinds. She shares these learned truths, integrative skills, understandings, wisdom traditions and worldviews to help alleviate suffering for self and all beings.

Clear Grace Dayananda advises the cultivation of wisdom and compassionate action. "It is fine to sit in temples and meditate and pray when things are good; when they are not, we are compelled to get off our pillows to embody our cultivated practice. Let our actions line up with our intentions."

Living and traveling in the "The Great Aspiration" – a mobile monastery, Clear Grace brings the experience of the Dharma into our inner cities, neglected and impoverished towns, our camps, our borders and wherever the call is heard. They aspire to serve all beings with a focus on marginalized communities offering Buddhadharma, meditation, mindfulness, consultations, retreats and energetic presence and continues to share the Dharma at sangha's around the country, encouraging practitioners and retreatants to embody and engage in the Dharma to help ALL living beings through compassionate action.

<https://travelingnunk.org/>

Online workshop June 18, 2023 by J Phoenix Smith



J Phoenix Smith (she/they/we)

Theme: Mindful decolonization, (Bodhisattva Manjushri, Great Wisdom)

Online Workshop: From the Anthropocene to the Humilicene: Cultural Humility in Service of the Earth

We will explore how the Earth is calling out to us to move in and with Humility. Through the mythical story of the Afro-Cuban Oricha Babalwaiye, known as the Oricha of the Hot Earth, of Infectious Diseases and of Healing we will explore through meditation, story, and sharing where in our lives we might drop into Humility to be in better service to the Earth.

Bio: J. Phoenix Smith is an Initiated Elder in the Afro-Cuban Lineage of Lucumi, a branch of the African Traditional Religion of the Yoruba. She has been serving as an Elder Oricha Priest to the Deity of Nature, specifically the Volcano known as Aganyu for the past 15 years where she serves as a diviner, guide, counselor, and ceremonialist and leads her own Ile/Spiritual Community. She has been a meditator and has attended several mindfulness retreats over the past 20 years. She has served as a leader, community organizer, and social worker in the fields of Public Health in the United States where she works full time for the Centers for Disease Control and as an Ecotherapist at the same time. Since 2011 her Ecotherapy work has moved forward to integrate Social Justice, Cultural Humility, love and healing to Everyone to Experience Ecotherapy for Peace & Justice and in 2020 created the Alliance for Ecotherapy & Social Justice. The Alliance for Ecotherapy & Social Justice is a small grassroots non-profit that serves to host dialogues around nature, healing, and social justice with diverse communities, and provide teaching and courses in her model called Liberation Ecotherapy. *She respectfully acknowledges that the land on which I work, live, and practice is the traditional unceded territory of the Piscataway, Nanticoke & Susquehannock Nations.*

Alliance for Ecotherapy & Social Justice <https://theaejs.com>
J Phoenix Smith <https://www.ecosoulwisdom.org/>

Online Workshop June 21 by Maíra Fernandes de Melo and Giselle Sato



Maíra Fernandes de Melo, PhD (she/it) and **Giselle Sato** (she/her)

Theme: Embodied practice of the Earth, (Bodhisattva Dharanimdhara, Earth Holder)¹

Online Workshop: Compassionate Revolution—being Earth

In this workshop, we'll practice breathing with Bodhisattva Gaia (Mother Earth) and Dharanimdhara, the Earth Holder Bodhisattva who Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh encourages us to embody.

Let's prepare ourselves to hear and voice our ancestors, to sing and play with gravity through light and smooth movements [inclusive practice], to release suffering and generate moments of joy through mindful shaking, to flow with water, as a conductor of Life, and to feel the Earth elements pulsing throughout our bodies. We'll end with some tea meditation and some open mic to questions, answerings, and sharing freely.

* If you want to (optional), you can also prepare yourself to get your hands dirty, since we are planning some earthly crafts and writings to connect us to the here and now: bring any object you consider related to the Earth: grains, flowers, leaves, fruits, clay, soil, paper, glue, pen and pencils, pigments, scissors, sticks, stones, sand, water, feathers, fur and whatever else your imagination can make manifest.

BIOS

Maíra is a human rights journalist, scholar, poet and multi-lingual activist, working on building bridges towards a free existence for all beings – and on burning the ones systemic oppression has built.

Born in the lands of Tupinambás, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she grew up surrounded by the waters of Atlantic Ocean and the mountains of Atlantic Forest. She also lived in Argentina, land of Guaraníes. Living in the Global South, she has witnessed all sorts of social, racial and

¹ About Bodhisattva Earth Holder, quote from Thich Nhat Hanh: <https://earthholder.training/earth-holders-the-origin-of-our-name/>; <https://plumvillage.org/articles/the-earth-holders/>

environmental injustice. Her many interests include ecofeminism, agroecology, art, poetry, water protection and indigenous peoples' rights.

Maíra has Indigenous (Potiguara and Puri) and European (Portuguese and Spanish) human ancestors, and is a daughter of Oxóssi, orisha of the forests in Brazilian candomblé. On the Caretaking Councils of Earth Holder Community (EHC) and Abrazadores de la Tierra, Maíra is an Order of Interbeing (OI) Aspirant with the 5MT name Engaged Serenity of the Heart. She co-founded the Wake Up School Brazil, translated the EHC Handbook to Portuguese and dwells happily in hammocks and *jaboticaba* trees.

Giselle

Giselle Sato studied Fine Arts at college and was a flight attendant until the age of 40, when she became a woman with a disability and an autoimmune disease. In the practice of dharma, she discovered a way to return to living fully with love and joy. In 2016, she began training as a teacher of mindfulness and compassion for health and also founded the Support Community for Women with Pain and Chronic Illnesses -Convivendo com a dor crônica (Living with chronic pain).

In 2020, realizing that social and racial issues were as important as the disease, she and Ellen Lima created the Feeling Beyond Pain, a Sensory Awareness Project - the Charlotte Selver Method for patients with depression, pain and chronic diseases. As the COVID pandemic plays out, Giselle felt the need to include children and families from vulnerable communities. She also volunteers in the Therapeutic Support Group for Listening and Self-Care of families of former prisoners or inmates in partnership with the Institute for Rights and Equality.

She co-authored the program Despertando os Sentidos nas Escolas, mindfulness and environmental education for schools and community groups in Rio de Janeiro. Being part of Comunidade Guardiã da Terra (Earth Holders in Portuguese), linked to the Earth Holder Community, a movement sparked by social activist and Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, is her greatest joy and motivation. From this place, she finds strength and energy to live.

Maíra & Giselle are Co-Founders of Comunidade Guardiã da Terra (Earth Holders in Portuguese)

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Social: [Instagram](#)

View Comunidade Guardiã da Terra facilitation of the EHC Online Sangha [here](#).

Online Workshop June 21 (Western time zones)/June 22 (Asia):

Dev Albao & Chaya Ocampo Go

Theme: Community building & social justice, (Bodhisattva Kshitigarbha, Great Aspiration)

Online Workshop: Sanctuary in the midst of suffering - Embodying earth justice in the Philippines

What does Earth Justice look like in a country like the Philippines, an archipelago ranked as one of the most at risk to climate change and other disasters? Join Dev & Chaya as they engage in a heartfelt conversation on the issues of power and inequity in eco-social work; and how they find, build and embody sanctuary in their home islands. Dev will lead us on a little virtual trip to Danjugan Island, an ecological sanctuary where contemplative practices accompany the work of environmental stewardship. Chaya will also share reflections on embodying love and protection from her experiences working with disaster survivors, and now as a mother. Together we will explore how sanctuaries for the earth can be embodied even in places of suffering.

BIOS:



Dev Albao (they/them) works on natural climate solutions as the Executive Director of the [Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation](#). They care for Danjugan Island, a wildlife sanctuary with environmental education and ecotourism located in Negros, Philippines. Dev was a Professional Fellow on Sustainability in Oregon, USA, a graduate of Swedish Institute Management Programme on Sustainable Business, a Governor's Conservation Achievement Awardee, and a Gen.T Leader of Tomorrow named by Tatler Asia for their work on nature conservancy. Dev enjoys mindfulness with freediving, and advocates for experiential learning in the wild, and of our natural and cultural heritage.



Chaya Ocampo Go, PhD (she/her) has worked with women survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda and other disasters in the Philippines the past decade. She completed her graduate studies in the University of British Columbia and York University as a transnational scholar, and first learned of climate justice through Indigenous-led movements in Canada. Chaya now lives with her young family of two children in Manila; together they are re-learning about native trees and urban ecologies in their home cities. Chaya is an ordained lay member of the Order of Interbeing and currently serves as co-chair in the Earth Holder Community's Care-Taking Council.

www.chayago.com

To learn more or register for the Love is Freedom retreat on mindful earth and social justice, June 17-22, see

<https://plumvillage.org/retreats/info/earth-week-love-is-freedom/>

To learn more about the Earth Holder Community, see [Earth Holder Community](#)