

Mending Our Relations with the Natural World

The First Annual Conference of the Earth Medicine Alliance

November 6-7th, 2010
San Francisco, CA



Featured Presenters Include:



Whitney Dotson

Public health professional,
Board East Bay Reg. Parks



Charlene Sul

Councilwoman,
Ohlone Nation



Kaleo Ching

Healer, artist, and
teacher



Jan Edl Stein

Psychotherapist and
shamanic healer

*The **Earth Medicine Alliance** is a network of individuals and communities who share a deep love of this Earth and the many beings here. We believe that efforts to mend our relationships with the rest of the natural world can also bring together people of diverse ancestries, spiritual traditions, and ways of life for healing and celebration. We are a tax-exempt 501(c)3 religious non-profit in California.*

For more info visit www.earthmedicine.org or contact info@earthmedicine.org

Conference Program for Mending Our Relations with the Natural World

On Saturday we'll gather in spirit of interfaith dialogue and community at the Unitarian Universalist Center of San Francisco. On Sunday smaller breakout groups will offer co-created earth healing ceremonies on public lands in and around San Francisco. Pre-registration is \$50 and \$65 at the door.

Saturday, Nov. 6th

Day One of the conference will be an interactive day of teaching, ceremony, and interfaith dialogue. Attendees are welcome to arrive as early as 7:30am to help set up for our day together. If possible, please arrive by 8:15am to settle in for the opening ceremony and keynote address. This is our program:

	Starr King Room	Fireside Room	Murdock Room	Kincaid Room
8:30-9:45am	Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address (in Starr King Room)			
10-11:30am	Native California Cultures & Lifeways	African Diaspora Orisha Traditions	European Earth-Honoring Paths	Buddhism as Earth Spirituality
11:30-1pm	Lunch Break			
1-2:30pm	Earth Spirituality Interfaith Dialogue	Sacred Mountains of the S.F. Bay Area	Chi, Creativity, and the Cosmos	Sacred Song and Earth Spirituality
3-4:30pm	Visioning for Sunday Circles on the Land	Sustaining a Life of Earth Activism	Bringing Earth Reverence into Everyday Life	Clinical Mental Health and Earth Spirituality
4:45-5:00pm	Day One Completion Circle (in Starr King Room)			
5:30pm-on	Evening Circles, Informal Gatherings			

Practical considerations: Sessions will begin and end on time. Please arrive with cell phones silenced. Feel welcome to bring your lunch to eat on site. We need to be out of the space by 5:30pm and welcome support with that transition after our completion circle. Over dinner, participants are encouraged to enjoy dialogue and relaxed community time together. There will be sign-up sheets out on day one for informal dinner gatherings.

Sunday, Nov. 7th

Day Two of the conference will be from 10am-3pm in one of three locations around San Francisco. These concurrent rituals aim to put into practice the conference theme of mending our relations with the natural world:

- **Ocean Honoring Ceremony.** *Sharp Park Beach*
- **Awán for Babalú-Ayé.** *Heron's Head*
- **Salmon Welcoming Ceremony.** *Muir Beach*

Conference participants are encouraged to choose by Saturday mid-afternoon which ceremony they will likely attend as this allows for participation in the late afternoon preparation session. It's also fine to participate in one of the other panels or presentations in the late afternoon on Saturday and then just arrive Sunday morning at one of the three ceremonies.

Saturday, Nov 6th Program

Opening Ceremony, 8:30-9:00am. Starr King Room

In the interfaith spirit of our conference, the opening ritual will be a collaboration of conference presenters from diverse traditions and lineages. Co-leaders will offer song and prayer to the ancestors, the spirits of the land here, and Mystery/Spirit. Participant attendance is strongly encouraged as we weave together a ceremonial vessel for our gathering. We will begin promptly at 8:30am.

Keynote Address: Mending Our Relations with the Natural World, 9:00-9:45am. Starr King Room

Earth-honoring religions, spiritual traditions, and ways of life tend to operate from a stance of inter-relatedness that recognizes humans as only one source of meaningful relationship, as only one kind of person or relative. Some of our other relations include animal and plant spirits, ancestors, spirits of place, elemental energies, deities, and stars. What are the implications of experiencing these others as relatives, as family rather than as objects? What does accountability look like in these other kinds of relationships? There will be time for questions and dialogue. Presenter: **Daniel Foor**.

Native California Cultures & Lifeways,* 10:00-11:30am. Starr King Room

Two local, Native Californians will guide an interactive discussion on sacred places and the need for support in our efforts to preserve open space. Some Native California history will be shared and discussed in the context of present day environmental challenges and ceremonial practices. For those interested in how their own ceremonial practices integrate with or challenge local Native practices, please bring your questions or concerns. The presenters are interested in a mutual exchange about current projects in a way that leads to focused community prayer dedicated to positive outcomes for all. Presenters: **Gregg Castro** and **Charlene Sul**.

*The **Earth Medicine Alliance** recognizes that our conference is being held in traditional Ohlone and Coast Miwok territory (our Sunday circle at Muir Beach). We encourage all participants to become familiar with the human history of this land and the challenges facing contemporary Ohlone, Coast Miwok, and other Native peoples. The Alliance supports Ohlone efforts to obtain federal tribal recognition as well as the rights of Bay Area Native peoples to steward sites of cultural importance here (e.g., burial sites, shellmounds, former village sites). For more info see: www.ohlonenation.org, www.ohloneprofiles.org, and www.indiancanyon.org.

Babalú-Ayé: Healing Self and Earth in African Diaspora Orisha Tradition, 10:00-11:30am. Fireside Room

Lucumí Santería and other Yoruba-based religions bring together a deep veneration for ancestors and for the Earth. After a brief introduction to this living wisdom tradition, participants in this experiential workshop will engage with Babalú-Ayé, the ancestral Oricha (deity) of the Earth, who also rules disease and healing. Using ceremonies, stories, reflection and sharing to enter into a relationship with this deity, participants will explore their own brokenness and invoke healing into their own lives. The following day at Heron's Head Eco-Center in San Francisco we will perform an *awán* ceremony for Babalú-Ayé to purify ourselves and the land around us. Presenters: **Michael Mason** and **Phoenix Smith**.

European Earth-Honoring Paths, 10:00-11:30am. Murdock Room

A broad variety of earth-honoring traditions source from European folk-ways, and these diverse and ancient folk-ways have been passed down, rediscovered, and/or reimagined over the years as rich living traditions for many of us practicing earth honoring spiritual paths here in the United States. Join us for a lively discussion of several different European-based, earth-honoring paths and how these practitioners have found meaningful ways to connect with Spirit and honor the earth. There will be time for Q&A and discussion. Presenters: **Bari Mandelbaum** and **Rabbit Matthews**.

Buddhism as Earth Spirituality, 10:00-11:30am. Kincaid Room

In this session we will explore the essence of Buddhism as earth spirituality using the example of Buddha's quest, awakening, and teaching in the forest, a guided meditation for cultivating embodied awareness, and the koan, "The whole earth is medicine." Buddhism has always retained shamanic elements of the cultures in which it flourished -- in India, the Vedas; in China, Taoism; in Tibet, Bon Shamanism. Buddhism's shamanic roots also show in Buddhist practices honoring the Four Directions and the Three Worlds. Presenters: **Carolyn Clebsch** and **Chris Wilson**.

Break for Lunch from 11:30-1:00pm

Earth Spirituality Interfaith Dialogue, 1:00-2:30pm. Starr King Room

There are many ways to love and honor the Earth. Participants from morning sessions will be invited to briefly share in circle. Co-moderators **Daniel Foor** and **Maria Owl Gutierrez**, will then invite group dialogue. Examples of questions that may be considered include:

- How do our respective traditions guide us to approach the spirits of the natural world?
- What is the importance of blood ancestry and ancestor work in our lives and traditions?
- How can we support one another and stay in constructive dialogue?

Sacred Mountains of the San Francisco Bay Area, 1:00-2:30pm. Fireside Room

The sacred mountains and rivers of the San Francisco Bay Area form a very powerful energy field that many of us call home. The Bay is a meeting place of many waters and also rests over the fault lines of the North American and Pacific plates. We'll explore this energy field in our time together through storytelling, dialogue, and direct visioning with the mountains. We'll journey to receive specific gifts from the mountains and also create offerings for them. Presenters: **Ginny Anderson** and **Meg Beeler**.

Chi, Creativity, and the Cosmos, 1:00-2:30pm. Murdock Room

We are children of heaven and earth. Our physical origins are in the stuff of stars. Our personal Chi resonates with the Chi of the cosmos. In this workshop, you will learn self-help acupuncture points and breathing techniques to nourish your vital organs and their meridians of Chi. You will learn Tiger's Breath Chi Kung to connect to heaven, environment, and earth, activate the Macrocosmic Orbit, cleanse your body, harvest fresh Chi, and replenish your Chi reserves. Presenter: **Kaleo Ching**.

Sacred Song and Earth Spirituality, 1:00-2:30pm. Kincaid Room

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." -Maya Angelou

This session will focus on the power of song to nurture healing, connectedness, and sacredness in daily practice. Songs from Ifa/Lucumi/Orisha tradition, Babaylan shamanic healing traditions, and other earth-centered paths will be emphasized. Participants will be invited to learn songs that they can then sing and share with others. We will sing collectively as part of this experience, and those who are shy about voice or who prefer not to sing are also warmly welcome. Presenters: **Iya Ayodele** and **Evelie Delfino Sales Posch**.

Break from 2:30-3:00pm

Visioning and Preparation for Sunday Circles on the Land, 3:00-4:30pm. Starr King Room

We will begin and end in a large group; however, most of this session will be spent in three smaller working groups, preparing for the rituals on Sunday. Co-leaders for the following day's ceremonies will guide the smaller groups. All participants, especially those attending on Sunday, are invited to join us in this community preparation session for our circles on the land. Moderator: **Daniel Foor**.

Sustaining a Life of Earth Activism, 3:00-4:30pm. Fireside Room

Anyone who has actively worked for political and systemic change is likely to know how challenging it can be to sustain a campaign or cause over many years. Each of our three panelists has helped to successfully catalyze protection of specific natural areas in the S.F. Bay Area (Breuner Marsh, Ulistac Natural Area, and San Bruno Mountain). Combined they bring at least 90 years of experience organizing for social and environmental justice. They will share personal stories and wisdom on what helps to sustain and inspire them in their service and then open the space for questions and dialogue. Presenters: **Whitney Dotson, Jeanne-Michele Salander, and David Schooley.**

Bringing Earth Reverence into Everyday Life, 3:00-4:30pm. Murdock Room

How can we take “reverence” beyond a mental concept and begin to place it at the core of our daily lives? Through stories, philosophy, and fun interactive exercises, we will explore practical ways to gain intimacy with ‘nature’ in body, mind, and spirit. Aspects include expanding our animal senses and animistic sensibilities, creating personal rituals and magical retreats that can restore our souls, and deliberately fostering intimate and reciprocally beneficial relationships with more-than-human relatives and the Sacred Web of Life. We’ll let sensual awareness, intellectual understanding, imagination, and gratitude guide our hearts and minds toward everyday respect and celebration. Presenters: **Tina Fields and Maria Owl Gutierrez.**

Clinical Mental Health and Earth Spirituality, 3:00-4:30pm. Kincaid Room

A conscious, embodied connection to the natural world is the foundation for restoring balance in the psyche and healing emotional wounding. This presentation will explore the value of earth-based spirituality in mental health and the emerging field of eco-psychology. We will discuss nature-based techniques of healing, nature as a mirror to the soul, and the impact that the environment has on the human psyche. We will also look at how this approach can support healing for the earth as humans awaken and reconnect with the natural world. There will be brief experiential illustrations of these practices. Presenters: **Craig Chalquist and Jan Edl Stein.**

Completion Circle from 4:45-5:00pm. Starr King Room

All participants are invited to gather for this completion for the first day of the conference. We will offer up any closing prayers, and review the plan for Sunday circles on the land. After we close, we’ll clear out of the conference space together. Everyone is welcome to join one of the smaller evening breakout groups for dinner, Moderator: **Daniel Foor.**

Sunday, Nov 7th Program



All conference participants are encouraged to join one of the three ceremonies on the land on day two. Circles will begin at 10am on Sunday and complete by no later than 3pm.

Please arrive on time and plan to stay for the duration if at all possible. There is sufficient parking at each site, and carpooling is great. We'll share lunch together on the land, so bring whatever you need for that.

Make sure to dress for the weather; we'll still meet if it's raining. Please see the description of the gathering below about preparations or offerings that might be good to bring.

If you don't attend the preparation session in the late afternoon on Saturday, you are still welcome on Sunday morning at any one of the three ceremonies.

Ocean Honoring Ceremony. *Sharp Park Beach*

Tule reeds gathered in a sacred manner will be used in ceremony to create a craft that we'll fill with our offerings and prayers before being launched into the ocean, honoring the sacredness of the water and the lives it supports. Tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) once lined San Francisco Bay, cleansing the water's impurities, providing material for clothing, boats, homes, containers, and personal decoration. We'll sing traditional chants and songs from Ohlone and other earth-honoring traditions. Participants are encouraged to bring flowers, herbs, or other biodegradable offerings from your home to place in the tule boat. Co-led by **Charlene Sul** and **Ginny Anderson**.

Awán for Babalú-Ayé. *Heron's Head*

To heal ourselves and the Earth, we will honor Babalú-Ayé with a traditional awán ceremony. We use traditional Lucumí songs and gestures to purify our bodies and our spirits. Casting negativity into a collective basket, we will humble ourselves before the Earth, make simple offerings, and ask for the traditional blessings of health, strengthen, and spiritual evolution. Participants are invited to bring symbols of things they would like to release and cast into the basket. Co-led by **Michael Mason** and **Phoenix Smith**. Limit of 25 participants.

Salmon Welcoming Ceremony. *Muir Beach*

From the slopes of Mount Tamalpais, Redwood Creek enters the Pacific at Muir Beach. The creek supports steelhead trout and a critically endangered lineage of Coho salmon. We will gather at this meeting place of fresh and salt water to welcome the silver salmon who wish to return this rainy season to their spawning grounds in Redwood Creek. Participants are encouraged to bring songs, personal medicines, drums and rattles, and simple, natural offerings (e.g., flowers, honey, cornmeal). Co-led by **Daniel Foor** and **Bari Mandelbaum**. Limit of 25 participants.

Invitation: We are asking two participants at each circle to serve as storytellers/scribes for their respective gatherings. Each pair will co-create a story in the weeks after the conference. These three stories will then be compiled and shared with participants in early 2011. If you are drawn to this role, talk with the ones leading the ceremony that you plan to attend.

Presenter Biographies

Ginny Anderson is an eco-psychologist, licensed therapist, practitioner of shamanism and feminist spirituality, and leader of rituals of personal and community transformation. An elder deeply involved with transformation of consciousness, she weaves diverse threads of influence from Andean shamanism, Stanford University, Buddhist meditation, and story-telling traditions. Her book, *Circling San Francisco Bay: A Pilgrimage to Wild and Sacred Places*, provides a template for exploring places of power and expanding perceptual awareness. Ginny guides journeys to sacred sites, leads workshops in earth spirituality, speaks to groups and organizations, and offers shamanic healing services. See: www.eco-psychology.com

Iya Ayodele is a priest of Oshun in the Ifa/Orisha tradition. She is a member of Ile Orunmila Oshun, a spiritual house in Oakland, CA. Ayodele has been singing for the Orisha for over ten years, using song as part of healing ceremonies and community rituals. Contact: ayodele@ileorunmilaoshun.org

Meg Beeler is a heart-centered healer and shamanic practitioner. She explores fields of consciousness through shamanic journey, sound and light healing, energetic transmissions, and a deep relationship with nature. Meg carries the lineage traditions of Inca/Q'ero cosmology and Medicine for the Earth. She leads experiential workshops and an apprenticeship program, offers Munay-Ki transmissions, and writes a monthly blog on shifting consciousness. She is the founder of Earth Caretakers, has been a Wiccan priestess for 25 years, and has practiced shamanic healing for 10 years. See: www.earthcaretakers.net

Gregg Castro, *t'rowt'raahl* Salinan/*rumsien* Ohlone, is a writer and activist within the California indigenous community who has been involved in the preservation of his culture for nearly two decades. He is a founding member of the contemporary Salinan Nation Tribal Council and their non-profit organization, Salinan Layhem. He serves on the Native American Programs Committee of the Society for California Archaeology and is involved with the California Indian Storytelling Association. Gregg is also a Native American representative on the archaeology committee of the State Historical Resources Commission.

Craig Chalquist is a core faculty member in the Department of Consciousness & Transformative Studies at John F. Kennedy University and an adjunct research instructor for the California Institute of Integral Studies. He has worked as a family therapist, conflict resolution facilitator, lecturer, and group facilitator. Some of his extensive publications include: *Terrapsychology: Reengaging the Soul of Place, Deep California*, and *The Folly of Repetition and the Wisdom of Remembrance: 30 Crucial Neglected Lessons of History*. Craig is also a Certified Master Gardener through the University of California Cooperative Extension with certificates in Sustainable Landscaping and Permaculture Design. See: www.chalquist.com

Kaleo Ching, MA, CAMT, CCHT, is an exhibiting artist, who teaches Hawaiian Lomilomi Massage and Chi Kung at the Acupressure Institute in Berkeley. His private practice is in Walnut Creek. Kaleo and his wife Elise also co-teach "art as transformation" classes at John F. Kennedy University, the California Institute of Integral Studies, and Wisdom University. They have co-authored *Faces of Your Soul: Rituals in Art, Maskmaking, and Guided Imagery with Ancestors, Spirit Guides, and Totem Animals* and *Chi and Creativity: Vital Energy and Your Inner Artist*, and *Sharing the Maskmaking Journey: A Faces of Your Soul Teacher's Manual*. See: www.kaleoching.com

Carolyn Clebsch has practiced Zen and Tibetan Buddhism for over 35 years and was ordained as a Zen priest in 2007 by Roshi Joan Halifax. Carolyn is a fifth-generation S.F. Bay Area native with a deep love for the natural world as a vessel for waking up to our True Nature. She is the founder of Valley Moon Zen Sangha in Menlo Park and for ten years has led groups in meditation and contemplative practices for dying. As a wife, mother, grandmother, award-winning photojournalist, and garden designer, she is dedicated to weaving practice into everyday life.

Evelie Delfino Sales Posch is a sacred song singer-writer, drummer, dancer, choral director, recording artist, music educator, magical activist, Pranic Healer and Certified Sound Therapist, whose work is rooted in both the Babaylan tradition and the progressive edge of ceremony, world music, and dance. She performs with 11 ensembles including Mahal, Kismat-Mahal Kirtan Ensemble, Revels Chorus, Ya Elah, and the Spiral Dance Chorus and Band. Whether leading sacred ceremonies, performing, or teaching, Evelie is passionate about bringing all Beings to a timeless world of music and art as ancient as it is fresh today. Contact: Evelie511@gmail.com

Whitney Dotson is a board member of East Bay Regional Parks District, a life-long Richmond resident, and an accomplished social justice, public health, and environmental advocate. Dotson's father, the late Reverend Richard Daniel Dotson, was one of the early settlers in Parchester Village in 1950. Across the tracks from Parchester Village is Breuner Marsh on the North Richmond Shoreline where Whitney played as a child. As an adult, he has worked to restore Breuner Marsh, organized opposition to stop development of the property, and encouraged East Bay Regional Park District to take steps to acquire the land for restoration. See: www.whitneydotson.org

Jan Edl Stein, MFT, is a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco and Marin County offering clinical consultation and psychotherapy which includes nature-based therapy and shamanic psychotherapy. She is also the director of Holos Institute, an ecopsychology training and counseling center (www.holosinstitute.net). She has a deep interest in the healing power of spiritual practice and earth-based wisdom traditions. Jan leads workshops and retreats that interweave meditation, depth psychology, and shamanic journeying with nature-based practices. She has taught and presented at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, Sonoma State University, Grof Transpersonal Training, and numerous private venues.

Tina Fields, Ph.D. with a specialization in ecopsychology, has taught at Dominican University, New College, and Audubon Expedition Institute (AEI), where she lived outdoors for five years with traveling intentional learning communities. She combines ecopsychology, indigenous Celtic wisdom, bioregional understanding, and storytelling to help restore an animistic respect for the more-than-human world. Tina is co-editor of *“So What? Now What? The Anthropology of Consciousness Responds to a World In Crisis.”* She is also an artist, contra dance and song leader, practitioner of shamanism, pagan minister, and wilderness guide. Tina works with groups and individuals by appointment. See: indigenize.wordpress.com

Daniel Foor is the founder and executive director of the Earth Medicine Alliance. He has studied world religion for 15 years with an emphasis on Islamic spirituality, Mahayana Buddhism, and diverse forms of shamanism and indigenous wisdom including the earth-honoring traditions of his Northern European ancestors. Daniel leads ceremonial circles and trainings focused on learning to relate with our ancestors, the natural world, and spirits of place. He is passionate about embodying earth-honoring wisdom in heart-centered and practical ways that emphasize our unique gifts, our capacity for service, and our innate joy. See: www.earthmedicine.org

Maria Owl Gutierrez has been serving her community as a spiritual counselor and teacher for over fifteen years, drawing on her own indigenous identity as well as traditions she was initiated into. Maria received her B.A. from New College in Sustainable Community and Group Process and her M.A. from the California Institute of Integral Studies in Integral Counseling Psychology. Maria leads wilderness fasts and retreats, offers trainings in Healing Trauma, Leadership, and Conscious Awakening, and serves on the board of directors of the Earth Medicine Alliance. Maria sees individuals by appointment for healing and spiritual counseling. See: www.soul-centeredhealing.com

Bari Mandelbaum is a tree-hugging pagan, Heathen, and Santería practitioner. She was initiated with Waxing Muse Coven and has been a practicing Priestess since 1996. Bari has been a student of healing traditions, energy work, and the occult for over 27 years. She is employed as a holistic nutritionist, herbalist, somatics practitioner, medical intuitive, and teacher. She leads monthly meditative hikes and rituals to get people connected to the land where they live. For more information about Bari's healing work, see: www.foodfairie.com.

Michael Atwood Mason was initiated by traditional Lucumí elders in Havana in 1992. He has long apprenticeships with famed Obá Ernesto Pichardo of the Church of the Lukumí Babalú-Ayé and the leading Babalú-Ayé priest in Cuba, Pedro Abreu. Beginning in 1996, Michael initiated the first four Oricha priests in Washington, DC and later performed the first legally recognized marriage by an Oricha priest in the world. He is also the author of *Living Santería: Rituals and Experiences in an Afro-Cuban Religion* and the blog *Baba Who? Babalú*. See: baba-who-babalu-santeria.blogspot.com

Rabbit Matthews is the founding priestess of the Wildflower Tradition and the Come as You Are Coven (www.cayacoven.org). She serves as an oracle, ritualist, and herbalist, and her practice includes tarot, plant medicine and lore, stones and crystals, mythology and storytelling, shamanic practices, singing, drumming, and alchemy. Her store, The Sacred Well (www.sacredwell.com), serves the material needs of esoteric practitioners, ecstatic wanderers, and all those drawn to the mystical arts in the sunny San Francisco Bay Area. Above all else, Rabbit is deeply grateful for the Goddess and the many blessings She generously gives.

Jeanne-Michele Salander was instrumental through her work with Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society in the 1996 establishment of the 40-acre Ulistac Natural Area along the Lower Guadalupe River in the City of Santa Clara. Over the past 15 years she has assumed an increasingly active role in the protection and stewardship of Ulistac through her coordination of native plant restoration and her leadership with Santa Clara University's Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project (www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac). Jeanne-Michele is also an accomplished textile artist and long-time practitioner of earth-honoring spiritual traditions.

David Schooley is and a life-long social justice and environmental activist. Founder and president of San Bruno Mountain Watch (www.mountainwatch.org), he has worked for over three decades through legal, political, educational, and artistic pathways to protect the natural and cultural treasure that is San Bruno Mountain. David is featured in the recent documentary on the struggle to protect and endangered species on San Bruno Mountain (www.butterfliesandbulldozers.com).

J. Phoenix Smith was initiated in 2008 as a Priest of the Orisha Aganyu known as the lord of the volcano, the wilderness, and the ferryman. As a practitioner of the Lucumi and Ifa Afro-Cuban and African Orisha traditions for the past 10 years she has experienced great healing from the tradition. She is currently an apprentice of Michael Mason and is grateful to all of the Elders who initiated her and who continue to teach and guide her on her path. She is the founder of EcoSoul, a healing arts organization that utilizes the wisdom of the ancestors, spirits of nature and mindfulness practices for peace and well being. See: www.ecosoulwisdom.org

Charlene Sul was born and raised in San Jose, CA, and members of her family have lived in this 50-mile radius for hundreds of years. She is founder of the Confederation of Ohlone People (www.ohlonation.org) whose mission is to organize Ohlone people and their supporters, and she also co-leads the 1000 Hummingbirds gatherings, now entering their fourth year (www.1000hummingbirds.concarino.org). She is an accomplished textile artist and acrylic painter and also serves as CEO for Sul and Associates. Charlene is interested in empowering others to serve their own communities, thus creating a better society.

Chris Wilson has practiced Buddhism in the Zen and Tibetan traditions for more than forty years. He has studied shamanism with Joan Halifax and Michael Harner and has worked with many Indigenous American tribes, including the Achuar of the Amazon basin. He is Board President of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. An attorney, he also works to help soldiers with PTSD.

Directions, Public Transit, Parking, and Nearby Restaurants

The conference is located at the First Unitarian Universalist Church and Center, 1187 Franklin Street, S.F., CA 94109. For more information, including online directions, visit: www.uusf.org. For information on public transit in the Bay Area, please visit: www.511.org.

From the East Bay: Take the Bay Bridge (80W) into San Francisco. Follow 101 N towards the Golden Gate Bridge. Take exit 434A to merge onto 101N/Mission Street towards the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn Left onto South Van Ness Ave. Turn Left at Turk Street. Take the first Right onto Franklin. The church will be on the left, between O'Farrell and Geary.

From the South Bay/San Francisco Airport: Take 101N towards San Francisco. Take exit 434A to merge onto 101N/Mission Street towards the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn Left onto South Van Ness Ave. Turn Left at Turk Street Take the first Right onto Franklin. The church will be on the left, between O'Farrell and Geary.

From the North Bay: Take 101S across the Golden Gate Bridge into S.F. Turn Right at Gough. Turn Left at Starr King Way/O'Farrell. Turn Left at Franklin. The church will be on the left, between O'Farrell and Geary.

Parking in San Francisco can be an adventure. Meters are often only good for 2 hours. We recommend finding a secure garage for the day. There are several parking lots in the area (prices vary):

- **1000 Van Ness Garage:** 950 o'farrell st (between Van Ness and Polk), San Francisco
- **Central Parking System:** 1150 Post St (at Van Ness), San Francisco
- **US Parking, Inc.:** 1375 Sutter Street (at Franklin), San Francisco

Restaurants. The following restaurants are within walking distance (less than 1/3 mile) of the Unitarian Church and open during lunch and dinner hours:

- **Tommy's Joynt.** American diner-style. 1101 Geary Boulevard (at Van Ness), (415) 775-4216
- **Maharani's Restaurant.** Indian. 1122 Post Street (at Polk), (415) 775-1988 ↑
- **Kyoto Sushi.** 1233 Van Ness Ave (at Daniel Burnham Court/Hemlock Street), (415) 351-1234
- **Cilantro Mexican Restaurant.** 1035 Geary St (at Van Ness), (415) 931-6065 ↑
- **Alborz.** Middle Eastern. 1245 Van Ness Ave (at Sutter), (415) 440-4321 ↑
- **Village Pizzeria.** 1243 Van Ness Ave (at Sutter), (415) 673-7771 ↑
- **Van Ness Bakery/Café.** Bakery & Sandwiches, 1122 Van Ness Ave (at Geary), (415) 673-5000
- **Wok Shop Café.** Chinese. 1307 Sutter St (at Van Ness), (415) 771-2142 ↑

For more info on the **Earth Medicine Alliance** see: www.earthmedicine.org or contact: info@earthmedicine.org / (650) 248-8917. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit guided by the following mission statement: *The Earth Medicine Alliance invites humans to remember their unity with the living Earth and to nourish alliances with our other-than-human relations. We accomplish this through teaching and supporting earth-honoring religious traditions, spiritual practices, and ways of life.* For more information on becoming a member of the Alliance please see our website or talk with one of us. We also have a monthly e-newsletter and an active Earth Medicine Alliance page on Facebook. We invite you to get involved, and thanks for your support of the conference!

Registration Form

Mending Our Relations with the Natural World:

The First Annual Conference of the Earth Medicine Alliance

Saturday & Sunday, Nov 6-7th, 2010 in San Francisco, CA

Preregistration is \$50 and admission at the door is \$65. This includes both days but does not include meals or parking. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend both full days. If you are not already registered, you can pay by credit card using Paypal through our website at: www.earthmedicine.org/conference or you can complete this page and mail it to us along with your check. All checks are made out to the Earth Medicine Alliance and should be mailed to:

Earth Medicine Alliance

P.O. Box 390791

Mountain View, CA 94039

Conference Registration Information

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

How did you hear about the conference? _____

Anything else? _____

For more info visit www.earthmedicine.org/conference or contact info@earthmedicine.org