



## **2012-2013 GREENPEACE INC. BOARD MEMBER BIOS**

### **Karen Topakian, Chair**

After serving for 16 years on the Greenpeace Fund board of directors, the Greenpeace Inc board of directors elected Karen Topakian as their board chair. Karen started her career at Greenpeace in San Francisco in 1987, when she joined the newly created Nuclear Free Seas campaign. This international campaign worked to rid the world of naval nuclear weapons and to end below ground nuclear weapons testing. Karen simultaneously served on the Pacific campaign.

Karen's entire professional life embraces activism and advocacy. Prior to working at Greenpeace, Karen worked as a community organizer at P.A.C.E. in Providence, Rhode Island, managed a food coop in Wakefield, Rhode Island and directed the University of Rhode Island's Women's Center. After working at Greenpeace, she served for 16 years as the executive director of the Agape Foundation - Fund for Nonviolent Social Change. In 2010, she founded Topakian Communications, a freelance writing and communications consulting business.

Karen's prior board service includes the Western States Legal Foundation and the Women's AIDS Network. In her role as a foundation director, Karen co-chaired San Francisco's Fundraising Day, served on the event committee for San Francisco's National Philanthropy Day and on the fundraising and organizing committee for the Raising Change Social Justice Fundraising Conference. She frequently spoke on panels with other social justice grant makers and nonprofit executive directors.

Starting in 1982, in New York City, at the largest anti-nuclear demonstration, Karen began a life-long practice of participating in non-violent direct actions for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. During the early 1980s, she organized with the Berrigan brothers through the Plowshares Movement.

Karen earned her Bachelor's degree from Clark University and her Master's of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute.

### **Daniel Rudie**

Dan graduated from college in 1990 with a degree in philosophy and the desire to affect social and environmental change. He landed in Seattle and soon thereafter found himself with a clipboard in his hands as part of the Greenpeace door-to-door canvass. His work in the canvass led to his involvement in a variety of activities with the organization, including campaign work, direct action, action training, helping at the warehouse, etc. before winding up in Washington, DC in 1996 as an actions coordinator. In that role, Dan oversaw many of the peaceful protests that are the signature of the organization and became one of Greenpeace's lead trainers both in

the US and globally. In 2006, Dan left Greenpeace after sixteen years of service. He currently runs his own business as a general contractor.

### **David Naguib Pellow**

David Pellow is a Professor and the Martindale Chair of Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Since he was a teenager, David has been involved in non-violent social change work, beginning with his volunteering for groups like US Out of South Africa (USOSA) and later founding Students for a Better Environment and an animal rights group at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the early 1990s.

David worked for People for Community Recovery (PCR), an African American environmental justice organization in Chicago's South Side. While at PCR, David edited the organization's newsletter and represented the group at the Chicago Brownfields Task Force, the USEPA's Common Sense Initiative, and the President's Council on Sustainable Development. David was also a key member of teams of activists who initiated Good Neighbor campaigns with Clark Oil company and the Ford Motor Company to push them toward clean production.

After PCR, David worked with the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition and helped launch the International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICTR), and has been a member of the planning committee since 2002. The ICRT is an international solidarity network that promotes corporate and government accountability in the global electronics industry. ICT's first book, *Challenging the Chip: Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry*, was published by Temple University Press in June 2006. David is one of the editors and contributors to this volume.

David also helped coordinate the first meeting of the Transatlantic Initiative on Environmental Justice, a U.S./Central and Eastern Europe coalition of environmental justice and human rights activists, attorneys, and scholars, who are linking environmental justice advocacy and research efforts across the Atlantic.

More recently, as director of the Minnesota Global Justice Project, he helped produce a guide for communities confronting predatory mining companies, called *Protecting Your Community Against Mining Companies and Other Extractive Industries*.

### **Bryony Schwan**

Bryony Schwan is the co-founder and Executive Director of The Biomimicry Institute. She is also an affiliate faculty member in the Environmental Studies Department at the University of Montana. Bryony's activism started in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. In the early 1980s, she was a member of HERE local 34 and participated in the largest strike of women workers in the United States. Since the 1980s, she has been active in several local and regional forest, wildlife and wilderness groups, as both a staff person and volunteer. She has served on numerous boards.

In 1994, Bryony founded Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE), now a national women's toxics and environmental justice organization. In 2001, she co-founded Coming Clean, one of the most effective toxics coalitions, comprising over 100 local, state and national groups. Other coalitions in which she has been involved include the Global Anti-Incineration Alliance, Health Care Without Harm and the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment. In 2003, Bryony received Montana's Jeannette Rankin Peace Award for her peace and political work in that state.

While her work has been focused on environmental and social justice issues, Bryony has been deeply interested in, read and written about what makes change happen, why movements succeed or fail and what makes it so difficult for movements on the political left to work together. She is also extremely interested in the intersection between poverty and environmental degradation and between the reproductive rights movement (especially as defined by women of color) and the toxics movement. Bryony has worked on a number of political campaigns and ran for the Montana State Senate.

### **Valerie Denney**

Valerie Denney established Valerie Denney Communications (VDC) in 1989 to offer professional public relations services to organizations and individuals working for positive social change.

Valerie works with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector to develop communications strategies for complex issues such as the environment, affordable housing, community development, education, community finance, and solutions to poverty. Valerie's current work includes projects with The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development, The Chicago Community Trust, the Joyce Foundation, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Public Schools, and Housing Illinois.

Valerie brings a broad experience base to her work at Valerie Denney Communications. Prior to establishing her firm, Valerie served in Mayor Harold Washington's press office, worked for U.S. Steel, served as a union representative and teacher, and participated in numerous electoral and community-based campaigns.

Valerie conducts media trainings for a wide variety of organizations including National Community Capital Association, National Legal Aid and Defenders Association, and the Chicago-based Community Media Workshop. Valerie has a Master's degree in English from Indiana University.

### **Jigar Shah**

A renowned visionary, Jigar Shah is committed to renewable energy and sustainable solutions that enable prosperity beyond the carbon economy. As CEO of the Carbon War Room, Jigar is dedicated to identifying business-as-usual practices and replacing them with low-carbon solutions. Prior to the Carbon War Room, Jigar founded SunEdison in 2003. Under his leadership, SunEdison revolutionized the solar industry by introducing a business model to sell

solar as a service. The transformation to solar power service agreements is responsible for turning solar services into a multi-billion dollar industry.

Prior to founding SunEdison, Jigar worked in corporate strategy and sales, specializing in national commercial accounts, for solar industry giant BP Solar. In addition to working for the Department of Energy on alternative vehicle and fuel cell programs, Jigar worked in an engineering capacity for both AstroPower, the largest publicly traded pure-play PV solar company, and Atlantic Orient Corporation, a leader in the medium-sized wind turbine market.

Jigar is also an expert on energy project finance, changing energy policy, working with entrenched stakeholders, and convincing individuals to embrace energy technology. He works closely with entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors around the world to develop, incubate, and implement sustainable solutions.

Jigar has a MBA from the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In its early days, SunEdison worked out of the Greenpeace DC office, and has since worked closely with Greenpeace US on energy issues.

### **Tom Newmark**

Tom Newmark is Vice Chairman of the Board of New Chapter, Inc. of Brattleboro, Vermont and a co-owner of Luna Nueva Farm in Costa Rica. Both New Chapter and Luna Nueva are certified organic to NOP standards, and Luna Nueva also holds the distinction of being a Demeter-certified Biodynamic® spice estate. It is at Luna Nueva that New Chapter has perfected the cultivation of organic turmeric and ginger, which are prized components of many of New Chapter's formulations.

Tom is a committed environmentalist. He is a founder of *Semillas Sagradas*, the Sacred Seeds Sanctuary, in Costa Rica dedicated to protecting endangered medicinal plants of the neotropics. This sanctuary is one of the New World's largest and most comprehensive sanctuaries for endangered plant species. He is co-founder, president and chairman of the Sacred Seeds, a 501(c)(3) public charity creating a network of Sacred Seeds Sanctuaries in the United States and throughout the world. Such sanctuaries now exist in India, Madagascar, Peru, Costa Rica, and in several locations in the United States. Tom is on the board of the Monteverde Conservation League – US, and he has helped expand and protect the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Monteverde, Costa Rica. He is also on the board of the William L. Brown Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden, which is one of the world's premier ethnobotanical research organizations. Tom has recently been selected as a member of the Board of Greenpeace, USA.

Tom is the co-author of the books *Beyond Aspirin* (2000 Holm Press) and *The Life Bridge* (Herbal Free Press 2002). He and New Chapter's founder Paul Schulick are proud parents of Zyflamend®, one of the world's most respected herbal formulations, and Tom has been awarded multiple patents for innovative herbal formulations. Tom's memberships include the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organic Center, American Botanical Council's Director's Circle, William L Brown Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden (board member), and the American Herbal

Products Association (AHPA) (board member). He is also a founding board member of the Biodynamic Trade Association.

In Tom's distant past life he was a trial attorney, but even way back when, his clients reflected his commitment to progressive causes. He represented the Animal Legal Defense Fund (representing the river otters of Missouri in an attempt to prohibit underwater trapping), the Natural Law Party of the United States (attempting to obtain the inclusion of its presidential candidate in the 1996 presidential debates), and the Enlightened Sentencing Project (supporting the right of Missouri judges to sentence youthful drug offenders to meditation as an alternative to incarceration).

### **Betsy Taylor**

Betsy Taylor is President of Breakthrough Strategies & Solutions, a small consulting firm offering strategic services to philanthropic, business and non-profit clients. Her consulting practice focuses on high-impact, catalytic initiatives to address climate change and promote a sustainable culture and economy. She is co-founder and board president of 1Sky ([www.1sky.org](http://www.1sky.org)) a campaign launched in late 2007 to achieve bold federal climate and energy policy in the United States. 1Sky merged with 350.org in March, 2011, bringing with it 500 allied organizations, 4,000 volunteer congressional precinct organizers, over twenty state-based organizers and an online action network of 200,000 individual activists and supporters. Taylor currently chairs the 350 Action Fund board.

Ms. Taylor has spent over thirty years as a leader in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors, serving as executive director of the Nuclear Information & Resource Service during the Three Mile Island accident, international representative of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, deputy director of the leading disarmament PAC in the 80s, Freeze Vote, U.S. representative to the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Campaign, founder and President of the Center for a New American Dream, co-founder and President of 1Sky, and executive director of the Ottinger Foundation, Stern Family Fund, and Merck Family Fund. She wrote What Kids Want that Money Can't Buy and co-edited Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She played a catalytic role in the launch of the Environmental Grantmakers Association, Funders for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Iraq Peace Fund, National Voice, and State Voices, all initiatives to move the nation in a fundamentally more just, peaceful and sustainable direction.

Betsy believes deeply in the human capacity for love and courage and in the wisdom that can emerge from groups. She specializes in helping leadership groups tackle complex problems in search of results-oriented strategies. She has studied leadership with Ron Heifetz at Harvard, Robert Gass with Rockwood Leadership, and Reverend Gordon Cosby of the Servant Leadership School.

She received her BA from Duke University and MPA from Harvard University. She is an avid gardener, outdoor enthusiast, and sits on the boards or advisory boards of Center for a New American Dream, 350.org, Garrison Institute, Moms Rising, Ottinger Foundation and Town Creek Foundation. She is a member of Adelphi Friends Meeting.

### **Anthia Williams**

Antha Williams is Senior Vice President at Corridor Partners, a firm that advises donors on advocacy and electoral strategies to support climate action. Antha has deep experience with public policy campaigns and the individual and institutional donors that support them. Antha worked as Advocacy Executive at Atlantic Philanthropies in New York, where she managed the largest-ever advocacy grant to support Health Care for America Now, the successful health care reform legislative campaign, as well as election-related funding. As Program Officer at Beldon Fund, Antha built support for environmental issues by policymakers through grassroots organizing at the state level. Outside of philanthropy, Antha has worked as a campaigner and organizer, directing large-scale voter protection efforts and working as an Organizing Director with Green Corps, a training program for aspiring environmental advocates. Antha serves on the Boards of Rock the Vote Action Fund and Greenpeace. She graduated from Dartmouth College and lives in New York.