

Great March For Climate Action - Kickoff & Rally

Saturday, March 1, 2014

SPEAKERS AND PERFORMER/BIOS



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ed Begley, Jr. – Actor, Environmentalist

As environmental issues become more pressing, there are two possible responses: forget it and hope that government and corporations will figure it out, or take action yourself. In the “take action yourself” camp, a few individuals are leading the way. One such person in California is Ed Begley, Jr. Turning up at Hollywood events on his bicycle, Ed has been considered an environmental leader in the Hollywood community for many years. He serves on the boards of The Coalition For Clean Air, The Thoreau Institute, and the advisory board of the Union Of Concerned Scientists, among many others. His work in the environmental community has earned him a number of awards from some of the most prestigious environmental groups in the nation, including the California League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Coalition for Clean Air, Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Baykeeper, and the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation. He currently lives near Los Angeles in a self-sufficient home powered by solar energy. He has his own website at www.edbegley.com



Matt Petersen

Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Los Angeles

Matt Petersen served for nineteen years as President and CEO of Global Green, one of the country's leading environmental organizations, and the only one headquartered in Los Angeles. A climate crisis veteran, he is best known for his successfully-realized vision of the green rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, beginning with its schools. He also created the Solar for Sandy initiative that is bringing grid-tied, back-up solar systems to community centers in New York and New Jersey. In 2013, he was named by Mayor Eric Garcetti as the first Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Los Angeles, where he is focused on helping Mayor Garcetti create 20,000 green jobs in LA, create a more sustainable and livable city and neighborhoods, and hold every city department responsible for cleaner air and water.



Ed Fallon

Founder & Director, Great March For Climate Action

Ed served as a state legislator for fourteen years before running unsuccessfully for Governor in 2006 and U.S. Congress in 2008. For the past four years, he has hosted a talk show called the Fallon Forum. Ed got his start in working for a better world while coordinating the Iowa section of the Great Peace March in 1986.



Paul Koretz

Los Angeles City Councilmember - 5th District

Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz is in his second term representing the 5th Council District. He has taken leadership roles on such climate change-related issues as, championing the City's ground-breaking Feed-In Tariff Solar Program, moving the City off coal power by 2025 (and hopefully sooner), overhauling the City's commercial waste-hauling system in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and aim for zero waste, closing down the leaking San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, and is the co-author of a motion calling for a moratorium on fracking within the City. Councilmember Koretz is also known for banning plastic bags, protecting honey bee populations, expanding the use of drought-tolerant native plants along the Expo Line, Phase Two, from 3% to 90%, and for calling for a GMO-Free Growing Zone in Los Angeles. He represents the City as Mayor Garcetti's appointee to the Metropolitan Water District Board.



Joe Buscaino

Los Angeles City Councilmember - 15th District

Joe Buscaino is a member of the Los Angeles City Council, elected on January 17, 2012 to fill the vacancy left by Janice Hahn, following her successful bid for US Congress. He was re-elected to his first full four-year term on March 5, 2013. Councilman Buscaino quickly won the respect of his City Council colleagues, and was appointed by the Council President to serve as Chairman of the powerful Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee. As Chair, Buscaino is tasked with oversight of the City's gang reduction efforts, and the Department of Public Works. Public Works is the City's third largest department and is comprised of a staff of more than 5,000 employees who are responsible for the construction, renovation, and operation of City facilities and infrastructure. The Department builds the City's streets, installs its sewers, and

constructs storm drains as well as public buildings, rights-of-way, and service facilities. Councilman Buscaino's other committee assignments include Public Safety, Trade, Commerce & Tourism, Housing, and Arts, Parks, Health, Aging & River. In addition, he serves as the Mayor's appointee to the South Coast Air Quality Management District.



Paolo Montenegro

Registered Nurse at UCLA Medical Center, California Nurses Association

Paolo Montenegro is a UCLA Neuro Trauma and ICU nurse and a member of the California Nurses Association. This past December, Paolo deployed to the Philippines with a dedicated team of RNs as part of the Registered Nurse Response Network to engage in ongoing relief efforts following super typhoon Yolanda, one of the worst storms on record. Hailing from the Philippines, Paolo felt a strong sense of duty and urgency to return to his country of origin to advocate for patients whose lives were shaken by this most recent super storm. Paolo moved to the United States from the Philippines when he was 2 years old. Returning to the Philippines for this deployment, Paolo worked primarily on the island of Panay, an area hard-hit by the Typhoon. In the city of Estancia, Paolo treated countless patients injured both by direct storm damage and suffering from the effects of a devastating oil spill connected to the storm that left the air thick with toxic fumes. Paolo has witnessed firsthand the deadly effects of climate change and environmental degradation.



Monic Uriarte

Community Health Promoter, Esperanza Community Housing



Monic Uriarte has been a community health promoter with Esperanza Community Housing Corporation for the last sixteen years. She has been outspoken about health complaints associated with Allenco Energy Inc. who had increased production 400% from an oil field about half a mile north of the USC campus, surrounded by affordable housing projects and schools, including the Doheny Campus of Mount St. Mary's College. Monic is a certified State Lead Abatement health promoter with extensive community education experience in lead poisoning prevention outreach, and a pioneer advocate of the Los Angeles Healthy Homes project. Direct contact

with community members has given her the knowledge of struggles and insights to the needs of the neighborhood she lives and serves in. She is an adamant fighter for social justice in her day-to-day life and is committed to health and human rights in her work in environmental justice.

Art Cisneros, "Earth Man with a Good Heart"

Chumash Elder and Firekeeper of the Barbareno Chumash Council

Art Cisneros is a Chumash Elder and firekeeper. The Chumash People are the original native peoples of the central California Coast. Art holds the sacred space for their annual Tomol crossing to Limu on the Channel Islands. His spiritual name means "Earth Man with a Good Heart" and he truly embodies these virtues. Art also speaks throughout the US for the indigenous voice and for those who have no voice. He works to unite humanity in caring for "our Mom": planet Earth. Striving to live up to his Chumash name, he holds fire ceremonies and tells about our need to heal our relationships with ourselves, the Earth, and each other. Lately, he has undertaken a series of ceremonies focused on healing humanity's relationship with the climate, responding to the ongoing drought and extreme weather, prayers that he would like to share with the people at the Great March for Climate Action LA Launch. He serves on the boards of the Sacred Earth Foundation and the Tribal Trust Foundation, where he opens each meeting with prayer, thanking the Creator for bringing the board together.



Alicia Rivera

Community Organizer, Communities for a Better Environment



Alicia fled the civil war in El Salvador in 1980. Trying to cross the border, she and her siblings were deported several times to Mexico and, after being mistreated by INS agents, they were deported back to El Salvador. After they finally made it to the US, Alicia became involved in educating Americans about the human rights abuses by the government of El Salvador and to end the US military aid. Despite her "illegal" status she debated the then INS director, and then US Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams. She appeared in numerous media outlets including 60 Minutes with Mike Wallace. She was co-founder and director of El Rescate, the first social and legal aid program for Central American refugees in Los Angeles. Alicia transitioned into environmental organizing in the campaign to make Texaco accountable for their pollution in Wilmington CA and in the Ecuador

rainforest. Her work at CBE since 1995 has included successfully organizing against "La Montana" as well as several other campaigns and opening the first CBE pilot office in Huntington Park. More recently, she was featured in a column by Steve Lopez of the LA Times as well as in its Spanish Hoy edition for her work on Prop 23. She currently works in the Clean Up Green Up campaign to address the cumulative impact of multiple sources of pollution in Wilmington, CA. Alicia got a BA in interdisciplinary studies from Cal State Dominguez Hills. She has three children.

Jasmine Kavezade

UC Riverside Undergrad / Sustainable UCR and Sierra Club, My Generation Campaign

Jasmine is a student leader at UC Riverside for sustainable initiatives, including being the Co-president of Sustainable UCR the largest environmental organization on campus, active in the UC-Wide fossil fuel divestment campaign with folks from the California Student Sustainability Coalition and 350.org. Jasmine also volunteers with the Sierra Clubs My generation campaign, advocating for local affordable renewable energy sources for all, recently the my generation campaign is trying to fight against multi-billion dollar interest towards the expansion of natural gas refineries in California, which are being proposed by big utilities compensate for their loss due to the San Onofre plant Shutdown. She looks forward to one day have an energy grid that prevents travesties such as war, conflict, environmental degradation, and promotes affordability, decentralization, clean and efficient technologies. She would also like to see environmental reforms happen in Iran where her parents immigrated from.



Opamago (OH-pa-MA-go) Agyemang

The Sierra Club My generation Campaign

Opamago Agyemang has been an activist for seven years. He moved to Riverside two years ago from Ithaca, N.Y., and has a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in philosophy. He works with Kavezade and Sierra Club organizer Allen Hernandez on My Generation, the Sierra Club's Southern California campaign promoting rooftop solar power and other clean energy strategies.

Adam Scow

California Director, Food & Water Watch

Adam Scow is the California Director for Food & Water Watch, a public-interest non-profit organization that is helping lead the fight against fracking in California and throughout the nation. Adam is a co-founder of Californians Against Fracking, the statewide coalition with the support of nearly 200,000 Californians and 160 organizations that are working to protect California from fracking. Adam has helped win several local and statewide campaigns to protect California's water as a public resource and a human right.



Arnie Saiki

Coordinator, Moana Nui Action Alliance

Moana Nui means "Vast Ocean" throughout Polynesia. We are an affiliation of cross-Pacific partners, building solidarity and providing advocacy that is rooted among the peoples of the Pacific, supporting self-determination, demilitarization, ecological and trade justice against resource, land and ocean grabs. Moana Nui formed in Honolulu during the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, a 21-nation economic cooperation where Obama announced his rebalancing strategy called the "Pacific Pivot." Working in cooperation with the International Forum on Globalization, Moana Nui was an international gathering that brought leading campaigners together to discuss trade, militarization, resource depletion, indigenous rights and globalization on the doorstep of leaders from the Asia Pacific region.

Skip Haynes

Director, CLAW (Citizens For Los Angeles Wildlife)

Skip Haynes, originally from Chicago has lived in Laurel Canyon for over twenty-five years. A music composer, author, graphic designer and animal rights and political activist. He was a founding member of the Chicago based classic rock group Aliotta Haynes Jeremiah and composer of the midwest hit Lake Shore Drive. He owns the Laurel Canyon Animal Company - the only record label in the world that creates music about, for and with animals. Skip has worked with dogs, cats, parrots, Koko the gorilla, mountain lions and the pink dolphins of the Amazon river basin. Skip tracked, trapped and rehabilitated a coyote named Rosie in his Laurel Canyon neighborhood in late 2009 which inspired him to become an advocate for the wildlife of the urban interface. He often speaks to HOAs and other groups to educate people on living with the animals of their neighborhoods. He and his record company have worked with many animal rights groups from Best Friends to the International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest to the Gorilla Foundation.



Melanie Winter

Founder & Director, The River Project

Melanie Winter is the founder and director of The River Project, a non-profit dedicated to watershed-based planning in Los Angeles. She has been involved in water and land-use policy efforts for nearly two decades, securing hundreds of millions in funding for and bringing national attention to the LA River. She spearheaded a coalition whose success led to its first State Park - Rio de Los Angeles. The River Project developed the Tujunga/Pacoima Watershed Management Plan, which received the American Planning Association's "Innovation in Green Community Planning" award. They are currently partnered with the LADWP, City of Los Angeles and the state Coastal Conservancy to implement the projects identified in that plan, including the just-opened Woodman Avenue Median Retrofit and the innovative urban acupuncture program, Water LA. The River Project is committed to elevating public awareness about the value of protecting local water resources, helping agencies and electeds understand the relationship between land use and water, and engaging individuals in action.



James Waterhouse

Co-founder, Pasadena Foothills Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby Climate Reality Speaker



As a high-school drama teacher, James Waterhouse brings a passion and dramatic flair to his work. He became interested in climate science in 1988, when he first heard about the work of climate scientist, James Hansen and the shocking disregard and outright censorship with which his work was greeted in Washington. Since that time James developed an interest in the field nurtured by friendships with scientists from Cal Tech and JPL. James has become an active member of the Climate Awareness and Action Movement during the past six years. He has helped to organize groups and events with Tar Sands Action-Southern California, 350.Org, and the Southern California

Climate Action Coalition. James co-founded the Pasadena Foothills Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby with fellow presenter, Robert Haw. Wife, Michelle and children, Bailey and Tristen provide the motivation, support and passion to restore our planet to the full beauty and grandeur of its' former state.

Giselle Juarez

5th grader, Union Ave. Elementary Beyond Carbon Science Club

Topic: Solutions and what children want for their future.



David Lopez

4th grader, Union Ave. Elementary Beyond Carbon Science Club

Topic: Fossil fuel combustion hurts people

Rev. Dr. Beth A. Johnson

Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, San Diego

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson is the minister of Palomar UU Fellowship in Vista CA and a member of San Diego 350.org. She received her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Claremont School of Theology. Rev. Johnson is an ecofeminist, understanding the intersectionality of the issues facing us. She is involved in numerous social justice issues in San Diego and nationally. She is on the board of Interfaith Center for Worker Justice, Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education, and is the President of Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry. She also is part of a “collaboratory” looking at eco-justice within the Unitarian Universalist Association. Rev. Johnson sees the environment not as an issue among issues, but as the context for all issues. As a “practical mystic,” she is passionately committed to “sacred activism,” linking spirituality and radical social change. In this momentous time she encourages practices that lead to personal, institutional, and systemic transformational change.



Kwazi Nkrumah

Co-coordinator, Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

Kwazi Nkrumah is a labor and community activist. From age 8, Kwazi was active in the civil rights movement, including the March On Washington, Mississippi Freedom Summer, and Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign. After leading student movements in Baltimore and Washington DC., Kwazi moved to LA, where he was a business agent for LA County health-care workers; then, an organizer at UCLA; then the Regional program coordinator for the

American Friends Service Committee; and then, an organizer for the American Federation of Teachers. Most recently, Kwazi campaigned against gentrification in Koreatown, and fought mortgage foreclosures in Echo Park and Silverlake. He was one of the most respected activists within Occupy L.A., -- and is the co-coordinator of the Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles. Kwazi is fighting the imposition of a gang injunction in Echo Park, is serving his second term on his Neighborhood Council, is Chair of the Council's Parks, Public Works and Environmental Committee - and is a proud member of Climate Action Coalition, 350.org.



Gary Mitchell

Director, Planet Rehab

Gary Mitchell is the founder/director of Planet Rehab, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the environment by nurturing the relationship between humanity and nature. Planet Rehab utilizes the magic of nature as they encourage public interaction with the more than 300 animals in their animal sanctuary and is excited to debut their new parakeet encounter on April 19 where live parakeets will fly to and eat out of your hand! Planet rehab also seeks to inspire people through their original music and has had the privilege of performing alongside Jason Mraz at the Long Beach Convention Center, Eco Star Foundation and is in the process of producing their first music video aimed at eliminating bottled water! Planet Rehab provides educational programs that focus on pressing environmental issues. One of

our urgent campaigns for 2014 centers on helping the embattled monarch butterflies whose migratory numbers have decreased alarmingly from 65 million in November 2012 to only 3 million in November 2013. Planet Rehab is partnering with cities, businesses, churches and organizations to plant milkweed - the only plant on which they can lay their eggs. www.planetrehab.org.

Sunrise or Closing Ceremonies

Cal State University Long Beach – Community Drum

Providing sunrise prayer and drums

Semillas Community School (Aztec dancers)

Closing Ceremony

Amy Clarke (Closing Ceremony)

*Independent Singer/Songwriter/Musician, Gaia Grove (Founder), & Member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Governing Board**

An environmentally conscious award-winning singer/songwriter & performing musician, AMY CLARKE crafts alternative pop/rock with lyrical depth & global awareness. She has open for or shared stages with a diverse collection of inspirational artists, projects & festivals including Sarah McLachlan, Poe, Starhawk, Lilith, visionary painter Amanda Sage, Dave Greene (Tom Petty), Occupy Love, Cross Pollinate, Reclaiming, Temple of Visions, Sacred Spaces Village, Burning Man, SXSW, & more, flowing from a cappella voice to acoustic piano, percussion, or mixing syncopated electronic beats and rhythms on her synth keyboard. While primarily a solo musician, Amy enjoys experimenting with other artists, occasionally producing mixed media and educational arts events to benefit sustainably-minded non-profits through her developing initiative GAIA GROVE, focused on healing the earth while improving local communities and the environment. With a degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Amy believes in thinking globally while acting locally, and also serves her community on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. (*for identification purposes only; does not imply endorsement of the SLNC governing board)



Chikwood

Chiks playing music they enjoy and love



There are five of us, we each think the other four are completely amazing, and we like to play music together. Chikwood came together in 2010 for a one off show in WeHo. We had such a good time together that we continued on. Since then we have been creating original material and performing covers that rock our world. Chikwood consist of Laine Proctor-Vocals, Danita Lynne-Drums, Meg Taylor-Bass, Reese Danger-Keys/Trumpet & vocals and former members Fritt Henley-Guitar and Rin Lennon-Bass. At the moment we are pleased to be playing with Esther Kang on lead/rhythm guitar. Hopefully she will decide to be a full time member of the band.