

Soils: The Living Fabric of Health

Symbiogenesis Bios



Name, Affiliation

Dorion Sagan is a writer, theorist, and independent scholar

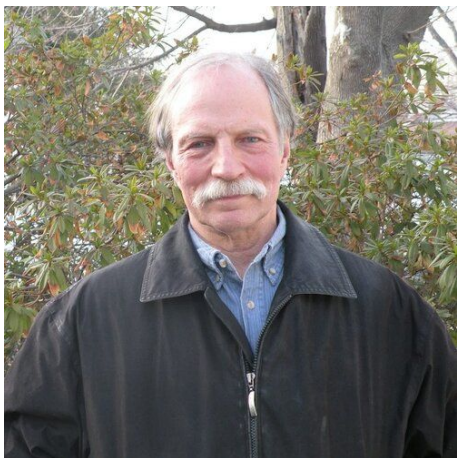
Bio

Writer, theorist, and independent scholar Dorion Sagan is author or coauthor of twenty-five books translated into fifteen languages, including several with biologist Lynn Margulis on planetary biology and evolution by symbiosis. He has also collaborated with Eric D.

Schneider on the thermodynamics of life, and theoretical biologist Josh Mitteldorf on the evolution of aging. With his parents Carl Sagan and Lynn Margulis, he is first author of the entries for both “Life” and “Extraterrestrial Life” in the Encyclopædia Britannica. His current work includes a move from science writing to experiments in science and literature. <https://dorionsagan.wordpress.com/>

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis

Presentation Title: Symbiogenesis, or, Beetlemania has not Bitten the Dust



Name, Affiliation

Paul Mankiewicz, PhD | Co-Founder USI,

Bio

Paul Mankiewicz, PhD | Co-Founder USI, explores through research, development, design and education the interrelationship between human communities and natural systems. Dr. Mankiewicz’s philosophy, which provides the foundation on which the Gaia Institute is based, holds that human communities and natural systems can coexist to mutual benefit. This rests on the hypothesis that where the flow of ‘waste’ materials from human activities can be cleaned and utilized to create

habitat, human industry can be coupled with conserving and creating landscapes that

provide an abode for life. Such material cycles can enhance environmental quality, where ecological productivity and diversity become goals of human activity.

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis

Presentation Title:



Name, Affiliation

Cindy Qiao (b. China) is a visual artist

Bio

Cindy Qiao (b. China) is a visual artist who explores the human-nature relations through photography. Her images are close observations of nature in urban environments where reality verges into abstraction as they become objects for contemplation. Her works have been exhibited in Boston and New York. She has a BA in Philosophy and lives and works in Long Island City, New York.

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis

Presentation Title: Our Land: a photo series



Name, Affiliation

Marietta Jones Tanner

Bio

Marietta Tanner, Taught and was administrator at intermediate schools in NYC, Columnist, Amsterdam News. Community Activist. Wrote "Children are the Barometers" about Bronx JHS students and drug wars, and "Driving in Second," about 1954 Supreme Court Desegregation decision and Black struggles to overcome continuous racism. She will talk about the importance of integrating soils, and ecology-hands on experience into NYC schools

Marietta Jones Tanner

Marietta Jones Tanner is the youngest of six children born to Mary Dickens and George H. Jones in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Her father, the founder of the Crestmont Improvement Association, was a dedicated community activist. So, as little children Marietta and her siblings carried flyers urging action for paved streets, for street lights or went door to door helping to get out the vote. In the

segregated town of Crestmont, good people sheltered children, giving of their meager earnings to have Sunday school outings and holding cake sales to pay for cultural events. This spirit of community-building deeply impressed Marietta and has permeated her professional and social life.

Marietta graduated from Abington High School in 1945 and began working at the 30th Street Post office and attending classes at Temple University. To escape a stern father and have an adventure with her new-found friends, she enrolled in West Virginia State College, graduating with honors in 1949. That summer, she visited her former roommate in New York City, and stayed there for 42 years enjoying the classical music and jazz scene. She married Cyrus S. Tanner and became the mother of two children, David and Stephanie. (She is the grandmother of four.) She continued her activism after marriage, taking her children on environmental exploration junkets through the estuaries of New York City and helping to clean up the Hudson. An early environmentalist, she organized programs at her school to revitalize the Bronx River with the N.Y. Botanical Gardens that won her a Riverkeeper Award.

Marietta received her Master's Degree from the City College of New York and was a teacher, an assistant principal, a director of a Headstart program, and a manager of a NYC Board of Education consortium of five colleges with four public school districts that supervised paraprofessionals studying to become teachers.

Dr. Kenneth Clark was the stimulus who encouraged two other teachers and herself to organize the After-School Study program at Haryou-Act, Adam Clayton Powell's anti-poverty program which Dr. Clark directed. She wrote a column for the Amsterdam News about the people who were striving to build community, ran for political office, held party offices and became a delegate to two Democratic conventions. She was in Chicago at the infamous 1968 convention waving a "No More War" flag, and voting for Julian Bond as the first Black person nominated for U.S. President.

Her major and unending effort is to help children succeed, to know who they are and appreciate their history; it is centered on adolescents. With colleagues at the Willow Grove NAACP, and the help of local legislators, she wrote proposals to fund scholarships and mentoring programs taking teens to cultural and historical events throughout the region. Continuing a practice from her teaching days, she wrote skits for students to explain elements of the struggle to attain equal rights for African Americans in the US. In Philadelphia, at her Unitarian Universalist church, she dedicated her efforts to the ending racism program, writing poetry on the subject and helping returning citizens (formerly incarcerated men and women) build community and find jobs and housing.

Marietta has received awards from the New York Urban League, OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Centers) for whom she was Bronx Chairperson, the Willow Grove NAACP, The U.S. Council of Teachers of English, the NYC Board of Education, and The Unitarian Society of Germantown, PA, among others.

She is a life member of the NAACP; a member of the United Nations Association of Washington, DC, the Schomburg Corporation of NY, The African American Museum in Washington, DC; Rho Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia.

She now resides at Goodwin House (a retirement community) in Falls Church, Virginia. She has written two books: Children are the Barometers (about the survival of teens during the

drug wars in the Bronx, NY) and Driving in Second (about a trip through the racism of the South in 1954, to witness firsthand how Black and white citizens were responding to the Supreme Court Decision to desegregate schools).

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis

Presentation Title: Serengeti is Not Forever



Name, Affiliation

Joshua Harrison

Bio: In addition to his work at Leaf Island, Josh is co-Director of the Center for the Study of the Force Majeure, a research institution based at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The Center was founded by seminal ecological artists Newton and Helen Harrison driven by their over 50 years of experience designing large scale ecologically transformative visions for cities, watersheds and even small countries. We have worked extensively with whole systems approaches to land use, energy management.

Josh's work brings together artists, scientists, engineers, planners and visionaries to design regenerative systems and policies that address issues raised by global temperature rise at the scale that they present. The Center has active projects in the US, Sweden, Scotland and South Korea.

In particular, Josh leads the Living Forests Project, a multidisciplinary group working with the US Forest Service, the State of California, artists, teachers, local communities, business and policy leaders to build a systems approach to the fire and water crises in California. As director of the WUT (Wood Utilization Team) for the Eastern Sierra and Western Nevada, he is overseeing the completion of a 300,000 acre landscape survey of the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Living Forests is currently working to build the planning infrastructure for a wood-based circular economy in the dryland forest regions of the western United States.

Other Relevant projects include:

- Baltimore Promenade; transforming the inner city of Baltimore by created an urban walkway connecting formerly isolated districts
- Breathing Space for the Sava River: Designing a protective nature corridor running the length of the Sava River from its beginnings above Ljubljana to its ending in Beograd
- Spoils Pile Reclamation Project (SPRP): Community project regenerating a 60 acre limestone spoils field in a major part in NY State

- A Vision for the Green Heart of Holland: Redesign of a \$200 billion economic planning requirement for adding 600,000 houses to the largest province of the Netherlands by protecting its largest green reserves. Plan enacted 1998-2005

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis

Presentation Title: In The Time of the Force Majeure



Name, Affiliation

\

Heather McMordie, artist and printmaker

Bio

Heather McMordie is an artist and printmaker currently making prints, puzzles and paper installations informed by soil science. Her work finds balance between artistic and scientific exploration, and seeks to visualize the complex patterns and processes of soil systems. Heather received her MFA in Printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and her BFA from the University of Pennsylvania. Recent projects have been developed through field explorations and collaborations in Rhode Island, USA and Surama Village, Guyana. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums nationally including recent inclusion in exhibits at the RISD Museum, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, and the Schuylkill

Center for Environmental Education.

Symposium Session: Symbiogenesis & Overture

Presentation Title: Marsh Senses

