

# Creation Care: *How Do Our Faith Traditions Guide Us?*

Presented by Ventura County Interfaith Community  
Hosted by Padre Serra Parish

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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## Program

- **Welcome & Acknowledgements** – Teri Helton, President VCIC
  - **Introduction and Program Opening** – Tim Helton, Ph.D, - Moderator
  - **Creation Care Presentation** – Mahri Mendenhall
  - **Interfaith Panel Offers Faith Perspectives & Responses**
    - Brajarani Dasi
    - Rabbi Michael Lotker
    - Imam Mohammed Mehtar
    - Joe Zuback
  - **Audience Q&A with Interfaith Respondents**
  - **Voices of the Future of Climate Care**
    - Josephine Connolly
    - Nina Deng
    - Danica Backes Jedrzejek
    - Jonah Kim
  - **Round Table Discussion** (Audience, Students, and Interfaith Respondents)
  - **Final Thanks and Announcements** – Teri Helton
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## 🎤 Speakers & Interfaith Respondents' Biographies 🎤

### **Mahri Mendenhall**

Mahri's work in environmental justice is rooted in the interdependence of life, with a focus on spiritual and societal impacts. She serves on the Bishop's Commission on Climate Change for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and currently works with the World Community of Christian Meditation on the U.S. Earth Forum. Professionally, Mahri specialized in Environmental Interior Architectural Design and has worked in education and legislative fields. She has served as a governmental representative and held leadership roles in national design qualification boards.

### **Brajarani Dasi**

Brajarani's environmental advocacy is rooted in ancient Vedic teachings, emphasizing harmony with nature and conscious living. After joining the Bhaktivedanta Manor Ashram in London in the 1980s, she has spent over 40 years sharing teachings on spiritual ecology.

## **Rabbi Michael Lotker**

Rabbi Lotker is a physicist turned rabbi with a career in alternative energy before his ordination. He serves as Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Ner Ami and is affiliated with Jewish community organizations across Ventura County, bringing a unique blend of science and spirituality to environmental conversations.

## **Imam Muhammed Shoayb**

An imam and scholar, Muhammed Shoayb holds degrees in Islamic Jurisprudence and Communication. He advocates for environmental stewardship through contemporary Islamic teachings and interfaith dialogue, and is a strong voice on social and ecological reform.

## **Joe Zuback**

A retired environmental technology executive, Joe brings five decades of experience in water and waste-to-energy technologies. He has served as Chief Technology Officer at Siemens Water Technologies and founded Global Water Advisors, advising on sustainable technology commercialization.

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## **🌿 Student Contributors: Voices of the Future 🌿**

Students from Westlake High School Environmental Science Program

**Josephine Connolly** – Aspiring architect focused on sustainable design. Plans to study at Cal Poly SLO.

**Nina Deng** – Interested in chemistry and materials science. Aims to develop sustainable alternatives.

**Danica Backes Jedrzejek** – Future environmental science and policy student, passionate about awareness and action.

**Jonah Kim** – Plans to study mechanical engineering at UCLA, with a focus on biomechanical research and sustainability.

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**Thank you for joining us in celebrating Earth Day and our shared responsibility to care for creation.**



# Climate Action Venn Diagram

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top circle is labeled "What brings you joy?" with the subtext "sources of satisfaction and delight". The bottom-left circle is labeled "What are you good at?" with the subtext "skills, resources, and networks". The bottom-right circle is labeled "What work needs doing?" with the subtext "climate and justice solutions". The central intersection of all three circles is shaded blue and contains the text "YOUR CLIMATE ACTION". A dashed blue arrow points from the bottom of this central area towards the "CLIMATE ACTION:" text box on the right.

**CLIMATE ACTION:**

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