



UNA-USA Westchester Chapter: Annual Meeting and Earth Day celebration *“Global Goals and Local Roots: Food Security in Westchester”*

May 3, 2026, Manhattanville University, West Room, Reid Castle,
2900 Purchase St, Purchase, NY 10577

Speaker bios

Special guest speakers in keynote dialogue:



Shaza Moghraby is a Spokesperson leading communications & advocacy for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in New York since 2017. She joined WFP in May 2014 as Spokesperson for the Syria Refugee Crisis Response and then Head of Communications for WFP Jordan with eight years’ experience in media relations and strategic communications. Prior to joining WFP, she worked as a Communications Analyst and Senior Media Relations Officer at the Media & Communication Office of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. With 12 years of experience as a spokesperson and advocacy

specialist for one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, Shaza is committed to mobilizing global efforts that address major crises through dialogue and storytelling, ensuring that people remain at the heart of global policy-making discussions.



Hugh Locke's work for the past 15 years has been shaped by the extraordinary and largely untold story of how hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers around the world came to be marginalized, abandoned and made functionally invisible, but who could soon be leading an agricultural revolution with the power to alter the course of life on our planet. He believes regenerative agriculture is now making the transition from aspirational methodology to a new global strategy for climate-smart food production, with smallholders throughout the Global South at the forefront of this new green revolution.

His considerable contributions to this effort include serving as: Co-founder and President of [Futura](#), an organization that orchestrates regenerative agriculture and agroforestry programs and research; senior editor of the groundbreaking [Regenerative Agriculture Global Reports](#), sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation; Co-founder and President of the [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) in Haiti; and a board member of the global reforestation group [One Tree Planted](#).

Panel of local Practitioners

Moderator:



Ruby Olisemeka is a community land steward, environmental educator, and founder of Khalipha, an organization advancing environmental stewardship, food sovereignty, and community-led land restoration in Mount Vernon, NY and the surrounding region. Her work bridges urban agriculture, watershed restoration, and youth environmental education, with a focus on building local capacity and long-term stewardship in historically underserved communities.

Ruby has supported the development of over 20 school and community gardens and has engaged more than 1,500 students and families across New York City and Westchester County. She collaborates with regional partners to advance climate resilience, urban forestry, and equitable access to green space. Her approach is rooted in scientific knowledge and a deeper ethic of care, connection, and responsibility to land and community.

Panelists:



Michael Capers, Sweet Freedom Farm, grew up in a food desert and only understood food as a tool for survival. Over time, Michael started to see food for what it truly is, a tool to heal and resist. Through his work as a farmer, activist and community bridge builder at Sweet Freedom Farm, he seeks to give marginalized people, including those incarcerated, agency in defining their own health through education, opportunity, and access. Michael became active in the food justice movement while he was serving his 14-year prison sentence. He doubled down on his efforts immediately on his release in February 2022.

Michelle Lynn Hughes is the Director of Regional Food Programs at the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, where she leads initiatives that center farmers in efforts to address food insecurity, food apartheid, and community health challenges. Her work draws on more than 25 years of experience at the intersection of agriculture, racial equity, and food justice. Prior to her current role, she co-founded and co-directed Rolling Grocer 19, a food justice initiative and full-line grocery store that uses a tiered pricing model to expand access to fresh, high-quality food for food-insecure households. She has also served as Director of Investments and Partnerships at the National Young Farmers Coalition and led GrowNYC's New Farmer Development Project and FARMroots programs, supporting 20 immigrant families to establish independent farm businesses that now steward more than 400 acres collectively. Michelle earned a B.S. in Conservation Ecology with a concentration in Agroecology from Rutgers University and, with her husband, co-owns and stewards 12 acres in Germantown, NY, where they grow medicinal herbs as Reclamation Herb Farm.





Millie Magraw, Program Coordinator (Water Quality & Planning), Westchester County Planning Department, manages Planting Westchester, a program to encourage and empower those who live and work in Westchester County to help promote climate solutions, restoration of natural systems, and local food security through growing *and maintaining* healthy trees and/or other plants. She came to the Planning Department in the Environmental Division in 2018 and oversees Westchester-based water quality projects in the East of Hudson New York City Watershed.

Millie received a BA from Washington University, an MBA from Columbia University, and had a 15-year career as a hospital administrator prior to joining the County. Millie has been an active volunteer with her municipal environmental committees for over 15 years, prompting her to channel her experience and passion to environmental planning at the county level.

Rebecca Snyder has built her career at the intersection of human rights, global health, and community impact. She has worked with refugee communities in Hong Kong and conducted malaria outbreak research during her graduate internship with the United Nations Special Envoy for Malaria. She currently serves as Director of Corporate Partnerships at Feeding Westchester, where she leads strategic corporate engagement to drive funding, expand access to nutritious food, and support innovative hunger-relief programs.



Her early work also includes independent research in Thailand examining the social and economic impacts of globalization on women. Rebecca's work reflects a long-standing commitment to advancing human dignity, health equity, and food security. She brings a results-driven approach to philanthropy, grounded in strategic partnerships and a deep belief in the power of collective action to create meaningful change.

Honoree:



Sara Kaye is a Council Member representing District 5 in the City of New Rochelle. She has been a leading voice on sustainability and resilience, helping advance the City's GreeNR Climate Action Plan, Community Forest Management Plan, and a range of initiatives focused on green infrastructure, urban forestry, and environmental equity.

Sara's work emphasizes translating long-term climate planning into visible, community-driven action, from tree planting in neighborhoods most impacted by heat to expanding access to parks and nature-based solutions. She is committed to building a more resilient, sustainable city through thoughtful policy, strong partnerships, and community engagement.