



GLASTONBURY MLK  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE

# Community Conversation

*April 8, 2019*

## Climate Change: Exploring the Intersection of Racial, Economic and Environmental Justice

*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter”*

*This evening’s Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.*

[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)

## **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative**

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. Since then, the GMLKCI has sponsored up to three Community Conversations per year. GMLKCI works to increase Glastonbury residents' knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

A goal of GMLKCI is to bring people together to discuss social justice issues which are as important to us today both as individuals and as members of our community as they were to Dr. King. As Dr. King noted, "**...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evenings Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles.

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)

## **Program**

**Reception** - Meet the Panelists

**Welcome** -

**Introduction to the Program** - John Humphries

**Panelist Presentations**

**Larry Williams Jr.**

Sierra Club Labor Program

**Shubhada Kambli**

Hartford Sustainability Coordinator

**Orlando Velazco**

Director, Office of Health Equity, CT DPH

**Conversation—Questions and Answers**

**Closing Remarks — John Humphries**

**Thank you—**

**Please visit the advocacy tables—the work these organizations do is important to our communities.**

**Please complete and return the program evaluation feedback form. Your opinions are important to our programming and fundraising efforts.**



## Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

The **Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs** builds alliances among diverse constituencies to combat climate change and promote racial, economic and environmental justice. Launched in 2012, CRCJ seeks to build a worker-oriented environmental movement committed to securing a fair and just transition that protects not only the environment but also the livelihoods of workers and their communities. We embrace our diversity as a source of power, recognizing that our shared interests in a sustainable climate and a just economy are stronger than any specific issues that may tend to divide us.

We believe the climate crisis presents an opportunity to build thriving local economies that are not only more sustainable but also more just and equitable.

### John Humphries

**John Humphries** is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs and has more than two decades of experience in nonprofit management, community organizing, and advocacy, and he has served as organizer for the Roundtable since its establishment in 2012. His organizing experience encompasses local, state, regional and national campaigns, working with: people in rural Appalachian communities affected by coal mining; a coalition of labor, religious and community organizations in the Naugatuck Valley in CT; diverse youth opposing military recruitment in schools; diverse people of faith opposing war in Iraq and the use of torture by the U.S. government; and a coalition of parents, educators and community activists working to expand access to quality, integrated education in the Hartford region. With training in water resources engineering and economics, his early professional career was in international irrigation management. John represents the Roundtable on the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3). He lives in Hartford and is active in the Hartford Friends Meeting (Quakers).

## **Larry Williams, Jr.**

**Larry Williams Jr.** is the Labor Coordinator for Sierra Club's Labor and Economic Justice program.

He is President Emeritus and founder of Progressive Workers Union (PWU). PWU is a powerful union for non-profit employees that recently signed a transformative landmark five-year contract with the Sierra Club, America's largest environmental organization. Former President Williams is also Founder of UnionBase.org, the first secure social networking and education platform for unions and union workers. UnionBase is regarded as the leading platform for a new generation of union workers.

## **Shubhada Kambi**

**Shubhada Kambli** is Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Hartford. For the past ten years, Ms. Kambli has led results-driven climate change and neighborhood revitalization programs at the local, state federal levels. Shubhada is a CT native, and has built multiple successful, data-driven environmental and educational initiatives in New England, the Midwest, and the Southern United States. Educated at Wesleyan, Tufts, and Harvard, Shubhada has advanced academic training in environmental health, design, and policy.

## **Orlando Velazco**

**Orlando Velazco** is the Director of the Office of Health Equity (OHE) at the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). His responsibilities include measuring health equity impact, language access planning and implementation, and advancing awareness and understanding of health equity via training and technical assistance to DPH's employees, its partners, and local health and social service agencies. Mr. Velazco worked as a Community Organizer and then a Community Researcher for 10 years in the field of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse CT, PA and GA. Prior to his service for the State of Connecticut, Mr. Velazco served as an Epidemiologist for the City of Hartford from 2012 through early 2018.

**Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission** is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury. For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Human Resources Department, (860) 652-7501.



**Thank you for attending today's program.** Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. We must each play our part.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.

**Please consider supporting the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative through the Amazon Smiles program.**

*The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible*



Glastonbury Rotary Club



Hartford Foundation  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

[www.glastonburymkci.org](http://www.glastonburymkci.org)