

# Gross National Happiness USA



*"Is this beautiful weather, or what?"*

Gross National Happiness USA envisions a sustainable future, based on the use of a comprehensive set of social progress indicators that reflects our American values and truly supports life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



## The Vermont Conference

**June 1-3 • Champlain College • Burlington, Vermont**

**GNH 2010: Changing What We Measure from Wealth to Well-Being**

- The pursuit of happiness
- Explore social progress indicators – the power of data
- Meet Vermonters and International experts involved in the new social progress indicator/GNH movement
- Vermont's social progress and sustainability stories and successes
- Leave with practical tools and ideas for applying GNH locally
- Special one-day focused GNH Ambassador Training June 4

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY ONE – Tuesday, June 1



## MORNING

7:30 Registration Hauke Conference Room/Jasmine's Cafe  
Continental Breakfast available

8:30 Welcome and Keynote Introduction Hauke Conference Room  
*Linda Wheatley, President, GNHUSA*  
Keynote Address: Making Happiness the Centerpiece of National Policy  
*Karma Tshiteem, Secretary of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission*

BREAK – 10:00 with Refreshments

10:20 International Panel: What are Progress Indicators, and How are they  
Being Used Around the World to Enhance Well-Being Hauke Conference Room  
*Susan Andrews, Founder, Future Vision Institute, Brazil*  
*Ron Colman, Executive Director, GPI Atlantic, Canada*  
*Robert Costanza, Director, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont*  
*Karma Tshiteem, Secretary of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission*  
*Moderator: Dot Maver, Executive Director, National Peace Academy*

## LUNCH – 12:15

IDX Student Life Center Cafeteria

1:30 Workshop Set 1 (These will be repeated at 3:30)

A Sustainable Environment and Development S.D. Ireland 112  
*Susan Andrews, Future Vision Institute*  
*Karma Tshiteem, Secretary, Bhutan GNH Commission*

B Good Governance The Boardroom  
*Susan Clark, Vermont author and community organizer*  
*Eric Zencey, Empire State College*

C Time Use Hauke 203  
*John deGraaf, National Coordinator, Take Back Your Time*  
*Vicki Robin, co-author of "Your Money or Your Life," co-founder of Voluntary Simplicity*

D Youth and Education S.D. Ireland 114  
*Dahlia Colman, GNH Ambassador and GPIAtlantic Youth Programs*  
*Ron Colman, Executive Director, GPIAtlantic*  
*With Vermont Intercultural Semesters' Ladahk Program Students*

E Business and Community Vitality Hauke 204  
*Delia Clark, Confluence Associates*  
*Jeffrey Hollender, President and Chief Inspired Protagonist, Seventh Generation*

Our friendly staff would be happy to help you with any of your conference needs.  
Staff can be identified by their GREEN name tags.

## DAY ONE CONTINUED

AFTERNOON BREAK – 3:00 with Refreshments

S.D. Ireland lobby, first floor

3:30 Workshop Set 2 (See 1:30 for Workshop List and Locations)

5:00 Lokum, traditional Hungarian string band

Courtyard

5:30 Reception

Hauke Conference Room

*International Guests and conference participants*

DINNER – 6:30

IDX Student Life Center Cafeteria

EVENING PROGRAM – 7:30

*Fast-paced and fascinating presentations and discussions:*

Hauke Conference Room



Ron Colman - “Transforming Education through a GNH Lens”



Documentary Clip: Bhutan: Taking the Middle Road to Happiness



Dot Maver – Founder, the National Peace Academy; bringing a focus on peace-building to the USA.



Talita Greyling, University of Johannesburg, “Subjective Well-Being of Refugees in Urban Johannesburg”



Moshe Adler, Columbia University and Empire State College, “Economics for the Rest of Us”

## DAY TWO – Wednesday, June 2



### MORNING

6:30 Yoga

Fitness Studio in the Fitness Center - downstairs in the IDX Student Family Center

7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

Hauke Conference Room/Jasmine’s Café

8:30 Opening Comments and Keynote Introduction

Hauke Conference Room

*Tom Barefoot, Vice President, GNHUSA*

Keynote Address: What is Happiness, and What are the Conditions that Support its Pursuit?

*Susan Andrews, Future Vision Institute, Brazil*

9:45 Open Space Technology Invitation

Later in the day, conference participants will volunteer a relevant topic and offer to host a small group conversation, posting the topics on large poster paper - this is done over the course of this morning and early afternoon. The remaining participants are the conversation “marketplace”... deciding which topic(s) interest them, they sign up and they bring their passion to that conversation. This is an opportunity for you to engage in conversations that are meaningful to YOU!

## DAY TWO CONTINUED

BREAK – 10:00 with Refreshments Hauke Conference Room

10:15 Morning Panel – Perspectives on Happiness Hauke Conference Room

*Susan Andrews, Founder, Future Vision Institute, Brazil*

*Gwen Hallsmith, Planning Division, City of Montpelier, Vermont*

*Venerable Amy Miller, Executive Director, Milarepa Center, Barnet, Vermont*

*Moderator: Joni Zweig, President, AMURTEL North & Central Americas*

LUNCH – 11:45 IDX Student Life Center Cafeteria

12:45 Plenary Session: Going Beyond GDP? Hauke Conference Room

*Introduction: Chris Wood, GNHUSA Board Member*

*Speaker: Eric Zencey, Professor of Historical and Political Studies, Empire State College, Saratoga Springs, New York*

1:30 University of Vermont Students Deconstruct GDP  
*Gary Flomenhoft, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont*

1:45 Afternoon Panel - What Do Indicators Tell Us and How Do We Use Them? Hauke Conference Room

*Ron Colman, Executive Director, GPI Atlantic*

*Con Hogan, former Secretary of the Agency of Human Services for Vermont*

*Steve Posner, Natural Resource Economist, World Resources Institute, graduate of Gund Institute for Ecological Economics*

*Karma Tshiteem, Secretary of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission*

*Moderator: Eric Zencey, Empire State College*

AFTERNOON BREAK – 3:15 with Explanation of Open Space Technology Hauke Conference Room

3:30 Open Space Technology begins Location determined by process


5:15 Sambatucada - Brazilian percussion street band Courtyard

5:30 Reception Hauke Conference Room


DINNER – 6:30 IDX Student Life Center Cafeteria

## EVENING PROGRAM – 7:30

*More fast-paced and fascinating presentations and discussions:* Hauke Conference Room

 John deGraaf, Take Back Your Time, “What’s the Economy For, Anyway?” (film)

 Karen Mintz, Sandokai Productions, “Gross National Happiness” (documentary trailer)

 Chris Danforth and Peter Dodds, UVM Math Department, “Measuring Happiness with Twitter”

Thank you to Champlain College for the wonderful facilities and view! And more thanks to all the food and beverage suppliers for keeping our bellies happy!

## DAY THREE – Thursday, June 3



### MORNING

6:30 Yoga Fitness Studio in the Fitness Center, downstairs in the IDX Student Family Center  
7:30 Registration Hauke Conference Room/Jasmine's Cafe  
Continental Breakfast available

8:30 Opening Comments and Keynote Introduction Hauke Conference Room  
*Ginny Sassaman, co-founder, GNHUSA*  
Keynote Address: Building a Movement  
*Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, author and scholar in residence at Middlebury College*

BREAK – 10:00 with Refreshments

10:20 Panel - How Can Vermont Measure Success and Progress? Hauke Conference Room  
*Stuart Comstock-Gay, Executive Director, Vermont Community Foundation*  
*Nancy Lynch, Executive Director, Peace & Justice Center*  
*Martha Maksym, Director of Community Investments, United Way of Chittenden County*  
*Lisa Ventriss, Director, Vermont Business Roundtable*  
Moderator: *Vince Bolduc, Professor of Sociology, St. Michael's College*

LUNCH – 12:00 IDX Student Life Center Cafeteria

1:00 Plenary Session: "Enough"  
*Introduction: Paula Francis, GNHUSA Conference Planning Committee Member*  
*Speaker: Vicki Robin, co-author of "Your Money or Your Life," co-founder of Voluntary Simplicity*

AFTERNOON BREAK – 2:30 with Refreshments Hauke Conference Room

2:45 GNH Cafe: Structured, facilitated process for summarizing, distilling, and developing  
action steps for bringing this back to your community. Hauke Conference Room  
*Facilitator: Delia Clark*

4:15 Closing Comments  
4:30 Program concludes - Thank you!

## DAY Four – Ambassador Training

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 8:30 -3:30; separate registration required

On Friday June 4, there will be a GNHUSA AMBASSADOR TRAINING — a focused training on framing and discussing happiness indicators with non-technical groups in schools, families and the community.

**Interactive, fun, challenging!** What is Gross National Happiness (and other indicators of well-being) and why do you care? Going Beyond GDP – what you measure is what you get? What is enough? How do we pursue happiness? Dynamic, fast-paced focused program with multiple instructors from the conference including Ron Colman, Dahlia Colman, Tom Barefoot, Karma Tshiteem, Vicki Robin, Eric Zencey, and Paula Francis. Plus small group practice on concepts and skills.

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**SUSAN ANDREWS**, Founder Future Vision Ecological Park, Brazil. Susan graduated from Harvard University in Literature and Anthropology, with a Masters degree in Sociology from Ateneo de Manila. She has lectured and held seminars in 42 countries, and during her extensive travels she learned 10 languages including Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, and Sanskrit. The author of 12 books and educational manuals, several of which have been translated in 15 languages. Susan has been living in Brazil since the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, when she founded (and is presently coordinating) the Future Vision Ecological Park in Tatuí in the state of São Paulo, a 100-acre environmental center developed with the help of SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency. The Ecological Park is an "ecovillage" or rural development center based on a new humanistic vision of maximum utilization of human and natural resources, cooperation and harmony with nature.

**KARMA TSHITEEM**, Secretary of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan. The GNH commission is responsible for strategic GNH planning, administration of surveys and studies, 5 year plans, and long term planning. The GNHC shall ensure that GNH is mainstreamed into the planning, policy making and implementation process by evaluating their relevance to the GNH framework of 1) developing a dynamic economy as the foundation for a vibrant democracy; 2) Harmonious Living – in harmony with tradition and nature; 3) effective and good governance; and 4) Our people: investing in the nation's greatest asset.



**DR. RONALD COLMAN** is founder and Executive Director of GPIAtlantic. Previously, Dr. Colman taught for 20 years at the university level and was a researcher and speech-writer at the United Nations. He has researched and written many reports on indicators of population health, community wellbeing, natural resource health, and environmental quality. Ron advises governments and communities both in Canada and internationally on indicator work, and regularly speaks on the subject to interested groups.

**VICKI ROBIN** is coauthor with Joe Dominguez of the national best-seller, "Your Money Or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship With Money & Achieving Financial Independence." Robin is President of the Seattle-based New Road Map Foundation, an educational and charitable foundation teaching people tools for sustainable living. Vickie Robin has lectured widely and appeared on hundreds of radio and television shows, including "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "Good Morning America" and NPR's "Weekend Edition"; she has also been featured in People Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Mirabella, Woman's Day, Newsweek, Utne Reader and the New York Times. Vickie is co-founder of the internationally popular Conversation Cafes (drop-in public conversations), and of Let's Talk America, healing political polarization, one conversation at a time.



**DR. ROBERT COSTANZA** is the Gund Professor of Ecological Economics and Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont. He is co-founder and past-president of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) and was chief editor of the Society's journal. He currently serves on the editorial board of eight other international academic journals. Dr. Costanza's research has focused on the interface between ecological and economic systems. His work has been cited in more than 3,000 scientific articles since 1987 and more than 80 interviews and reports on his work have appeared in various media, including *Newsweek*, *US News and World Report*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Science*, *Nature*, *National Geographic*, and *National Public Radio*.

**JEFFREY HOLLENDER** is a Vermonter and President and "Chief Inspired Protagonist" of Seventh Generation. He is a well-respected leader in the socially and environmentally responsible communities. He frequently addresses social and environmental responsibility at regional, national and international venues. Jeffrey is also the author of several books, including *What Matters Most* and *Naturally Clean*. He is a member and former Director of the Social Venture Network, a group of socially-conscious business executives. He co-founded and was a Director of Community Capital Bank and an Advisor to The Council on Economic Priorities best-selling guide book, *Shopping for a Better World*. Jeffrey served as President of The Rainforest Foundation USA and as a Board member and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.



**VENERABLE AMY MILLER** (Ven. Lobsang Chodren) was ordained as a Buddhist nun by the great Tibetan master, Ven. Choden Rinpoche. She has spent a great deal of time engaged in retreats, study, teaching, and Buddhist center management in India, Nepal, and the USA. She managed Tse Chen Ling Center in San Francisco, served as director of Vajrapani Institute, and managed the Lawudo Retreat Fund, which supports the center in which the sacred cave of Kyabje Zopa Rinpoche located in Nepal. Amy has organized international teaching tours for and traveled with the esteemed Tibetan Buddhist master, Ven. Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche. Amy has also had the good fortune to visit Tibet in 1987 and again in 2001 as a pilgrimage leader for the Institute of Noetic Science. She has also led pilgrimages in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim for the Liberation Prison Project. Presently, Amy continues to teach around the world and is the director of Milarepa Center in Barnet, VT.

**CORNELIUS HOGAN**, of Plainfield, VT, who served as Secretary of Human Services under Vermont Governors Richard Snelling and Howard Dean, is an international consultant on children's wellbeing and author of several publications.



**STEVE POSNER** explores systems science and the economic value of ecosystems as an economist with the World Resources Institute and a doctoral student at Dartmouth College. He has conducted research in sustainability indicators and recently estimated the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) for Baltimore, Maryland. Stephen has a BS in astronomy and physics from Haverford College and an MS in natural resources from the University of Vermont, where he studied at the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics.

**GWENDOLYN HALLSMITH**, the founder and ED of Global Community Initiatives (GCI), years of experience working with municipal, regional, and state government in the USA and internationally. She has served as a City Manager, Regional Planning Director, Senior Planner for the Mass. Executive Office of Energy Resources, Deputy Sect. of the VT Agency of Natural Resources, and is an international specialist on sustainable community development. Gwen has worked with the UN Environmental Program and their Development Program, the Institute for Sustainable Communities and many other international organizations including Earth Charter International.



**DELIA CLARK**'s work involves place-based education, community visioning, dialogue, and partnerships. She is a frequent trainer and facilitator in these areas throughout the USA and Central/Eastern Europe. She co-founded Antioch New England Institute of Antioch University and co-founded and served as Executive Director of Vital Communities. Delia is the co-author of *Questing: A Guide to Creating Community Treasure Hunts*, *Community Vision to Action Forums: An Organizers Guide to Participatory Planning*; and *Learning to Make Choices for the Future: Connecting Public Lands, Schools and Communities Through Place-based Learning and Civic Engagement*, which have collectively been translated into six languages.

**ERIC ZENCEY** is a visiting associate professor of historical and political studies in the Graduate Programs and Center for International Programs at Empire State College. An internationally acclaimed and nationally best-selling novelist, he is also a contributing editor to the North American Review and a contributor to the online Encyclopedia of Earth. With degrees in political philosophy, economics, and the history of science, Zencey has lectured widely on various topics related to sustainability. An accomplished practitioner of both literary fiction and literary nonfiction, Zencey's work has been published in 13 foreign languages and his thinking and writing about the intersection of political theory, science, and nature has been supported by several fellowships and foundations. He is author of the novel Panama and a collection of essays about how we think about nature: Virgin Forest.



**DAHLIA COLMAN** has extensive experience working with youth on an international level and will be helping to facilitate discussions with a panel of youth on day one and on day four: the GNH Ambassador's Training

**LISA VENTRISS** hails from Middlebury, shire town of Addison County. She received her post-secondary education at the University of Vermont, earning a B.A. in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration. Lisa currently serves on the boards of Champlain College; Chittenden Bank; Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation; Maine Mutual Group; Mercy Connections; and University of Vermont Regional Advisory Board.



**SUSAN CLARK** is the Middlesex, Vermont town meeting moderator and author of the book, *All Those In Favor: Rediscovering the Secrets of Town meeting and Community*. She believes citizens need to act because we have been losing our collective voice. Susan works to preserve and restore our traditional, face-to-face town meetings to enhance our connections with one another and rebuild community.

**STUART COMSTOCK-GAY** is President & CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation. Prior to joining the VCF, he served as director of the Democracy Program at Dēmos, a New York-based "think and action tank" devoted to making democracy work for all Americans. Stuart worked for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, as VP for Programs, and later as chief operating officer. He spent 14 years with the ACLU, the last ten as executive director of the Maryland affiliate. He has written for numerous national publications and has been a regular radio commentator. Stuart holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in Political Science from Bucknell University.



**MARTHA MAKSYM**, is the Director of Community Investments at United Way of Chittenden County. She is a graduate of the Snelling Center's Vermont Leadership Institute as well as a graduate of the Creating Healthy Communities national fellowship. Martha chairs the Leadership Champlain Board of Directors, is a member of the Boards of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce Board and the VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and a member of the Champlain Initiative and the Burlington Legacy Project. Martha has a Masters in Public Administration from UVM.

**BILL MCKIBBEN** : an American environmentalist and writer, Bill is the founder of [350.org](http://350.org), an international climate campaign. Time recently called him 'the world's best green journalist.' A former staff writer for the New Yorker Magazine, he has many important books to his credit, including *The End of Nature*, *The Age of Missing Information*, *Deep Ecology: the Wealth of Communities* and the *Durable Future* and many other books and articles. Bill is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College. His newest book, just out is *EAARTH*.



**JOHN de GRAAF** is the national coordinator of TAKE BACK YOUR TIME, an organization challenging time poverty and overwork in the U.S. and Canada (see [www.timeaday.org](http://www.timeaday.org)). John is the co-author of the best-selling *AFFLUENZA: THE ALL-CONSUMING EPIDEMIC*. John has written several other books and numerous magazine articles and has been active in GNH. John has worked for 24 years as a filmmaker with 15 films shown in prime time on PBS. His latest film, *What is an Economy for, Anyway?* will be shown at the GNH 2010 conference.

**NANCY LYNCH** has an extensive background in the for-profit and non-profit sectors. During the past 11 years, she has worked for several non-profits on behalf of important issues such as women's health, drug policy reform and anti-domestic violence, and is now the Executive Director of the Peace and Justice Center (PJC). The PJC's 10<sup>th</sup> Job Gap Study re-examines previous research and will put forth a practical vision for developing a "New Vermont Economy", including the establishment of new measurements and indicators of well-being for all Vermonters.



Welcome to "GNH2010: Changing What We Measure From Wealth To Well-Being," the first Gross National Happiness conference to be held in the United States. We assume that you are here because you share the common human desire for happiness. We also assume that you have an interest and a stake in making happiness and well-being the centerpiece of national policy. Your job is to start a movement - from Vermont across the country - that shifts our country's processes of decision and policy-making from our current and heavy emphasis on economic growth to one with a focus on sustainable human and planetary well-being.

A successful transition to a new economy, in which people and the earth are attributed higher priority than financial gain, will require a restructuring of institutions and governance frameworks; changes in values and behavior; hard decisions; and decisive actions on the part of individuals, communities, civil society, businesses and governments throughout the world. If such a transition is to be successful, it will need to be rooted in robust systemic analysis, new tools and indicators of progress, and the founding of a vast community-based leadership to articulate that vision. This process will require courage and perseverance.

We are a brave, curious and dedicated group of people from around the world. We must keep an open mind and listen as the kind of change you're seeking requires new and wildly creative thinking. Let's re-evaluate, and re-commitment to the United States' Declaration of Independence's promise to its citizens of the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We thank our sponsors, Champlain College, our speakers and other guests. We especially thank you, for stepping up to this challenge. Think big because, as Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

I look forward to changing the world with all of you.

*Linda Wheatley*

Linda Wheatley, President GNHUSA

## Special Thanks

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**Linda Wheatley**, GNHUSA President  
**Tom Barefoot**, GNHUSA Vice President  
**Chris Wood**, GNHUSA Secretary  
**Carrie McDougall**, GNHUSA Ambassador  
**Paula Francis**, GNHUSA Ambassador  
**Ginny Sassaman**, GNHUSA Ambassador  
**Marie Hamilton**, GNHUSA Ambassador

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*This is not an exhaustive list by any means. Many thanks to all the volunteers who moved this conference from its dream stage to a reality.*

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