



“Let’s talk it over at Mohonk”

Mohonk Consultations is an independent nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for the meaningful and productive exchange of ideas at the historic Mohonk Mountain House. Please consider a donation in support of these efforts to bring together people of diverse perspectives and create paths for positive change.

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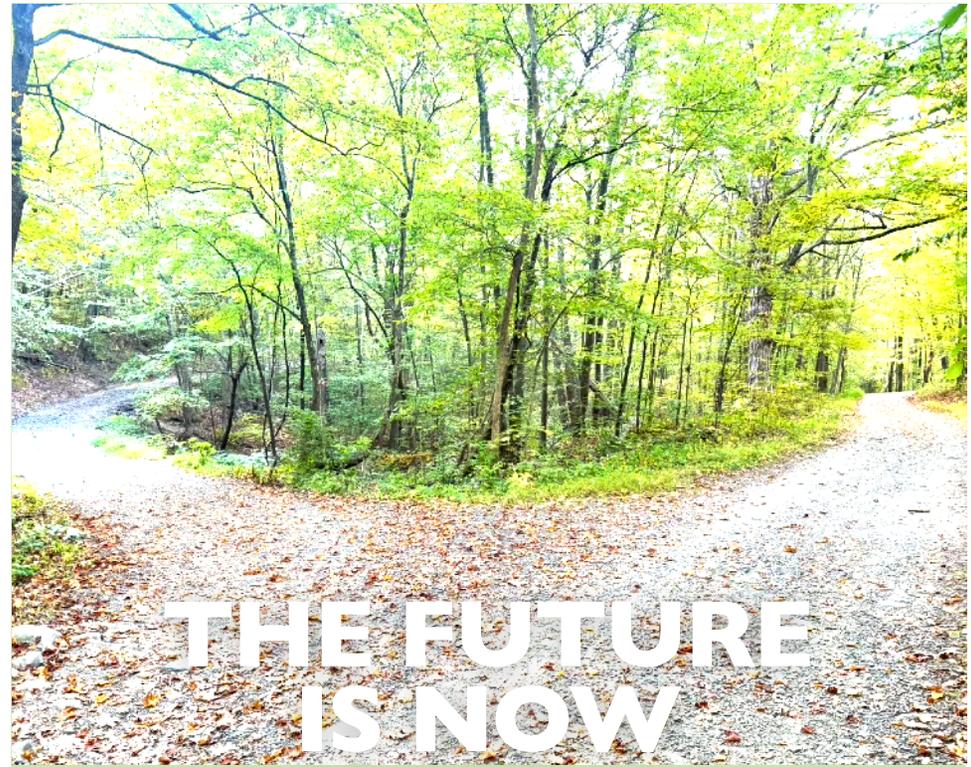
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Mohonk Mountain House

Mohonk Consultations acknowledges, with respect and gratitude, that we are living in and sustained by Lenapehoking, homeland of the Lenape peoples. The first peoples who lived here were the Esopus and Minisink peoples of the Lenni Lenape nations. Wars and Indian Removal policies forced most of the Lenape westward. Many of their descendants continue to live here; others live throughout North America. We honor all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—as we seek to create a safe space for all.



THE FUTURE IS NOW

Leadership in a Critical Time

NOVEMBER 9, 2025



THE FUTURE IS NOW

Leadership in a Critical Time

Presented by Mohonk Consultations

November 09 2025

Mohonk Mountain House Conference House, New Paltz, NY

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

- 9:00 Coffee and Registration**
- 9:30 Song of Convening: “Only Remembered”**
- Sarah Underhill, Mohonk Consultations
- 9:35 Mohonk Consultations Welcome**
- Louisa Finn, Mohonk Consultations
- 9:40 Mohonk Mountain House Welcome**
- Eric Gullickson, Mohonk Mountain House
- 9:45 Introduction**
- Brad Berg, Mohonk Consultations
- 9:50 Keynote: “Leadership at a Crossroads”**
- Deirdre d’Albertis, Bard College
- 10:20 Panel Discussion/Q&A: “Will the Real New Leaders Please Stand Up?”**
- Limina Grace Harmon, New Connexions United Methodist Church/Ulster County Legislature
- Sarah Urech, Omega Institute
- Esi Lewis, Margaret Wade Lewis Center
- 11:10 Break**
- 11:20 Panel Discussion/Q&A: “What Gets in the Way of Leaders?”**
- Abe Uchitelle, Ulster County Legislature
- Andrew O’Grady, Mental Health America of Dutchess County
- Dave Toman, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

- 12:10 Roundtable Discussions**
- 1:00 Buffet Lunch/Networking**
- 2:10 Panel Discussion/Q&A: “How Can We Support You, Emerging Leaders?”**
- Jana Mader, Bard College/Hannah Arendt Center
- Kalha•kú McLester, Oneida Nation
- Aleksander Vitanov, Bard College
- 3:00 Roundtable Discussions**
- 3:45 Wrap-up and Conclusions**
- Limina Grace Harmon, New Connexions United Methodist Church/Ulster County Legislature
- Abe Uchitelle, Ulster County Legislature
- Jana Mader, Bard College/Hannah Arendt Center
- Brad Berg, Mohonk Consultations
- 4:00 Conference Closes**
(Please return feedback forms at registration table)

CONVERSATIONS THAT SPARK COLLABORATION

Mohonk Consultations was founded to carry on the Mohonk legacy of creating opportunities for the meaningful and productive exchange of ideas. Conversation and collaboration are central to that legacy, which is why today’s program provides abundant opportunities for conference participants to interact with speakers, panelists, and one another—through Q & A sessions, facilitated roundtable chats and informal breaks.

Over the course of more than 40 years we have learned that these interactions serve to spark ideas and identify areas of common ground that can serve as a foundation for the development of lasting collaborative solutions. With that in mind, we urge you to keep the conversations going after today’s conference is finished.

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Speakers and Panelists

Louisa Finn, Board Chair, Mohonk Consultations—Louisa is a fourth-generation Smiley family member. She grew up in the Hudson Valley, frequently visiting Mohonk where her grandmother and family lived. Louisa is committed to preserving the land, philosophy, and ideals of her Smiley ancestors. She is a practicing speech and language pathologist, a reading tutor, and a published poet.

Eric Gullickson, President, Mohonk Mountain House—Eric is a fifth-generation member of the Smiley family. After a career in journalism and media relations, Eric followed a strong desire to become more involved in his family's business and studied hospitality at NYU and Cornell. He is now president of Mohonk Mountain House, the historic resort hotel his family has owned and operated since 1869. Eric, his wife Robyn, and their two children live on the grounds at Mohonk.

Brad Berg, Board Vice-Chair, Mohonk Consultations—Brad has been a Mohonk Consultations board member for 16 years. He has organized conferences on peacebuilding, solutions to climate change, finding common ground, and more. Brad has managed various programs in the medical and mental health fields, and resides locally. He has been involved with wholesale natural food cooperatives, as well as personal and global transformation initiatives. Brad is also the author of the 2025 novel *That Resplendent Day*.

Deirdre d'Albertis, Vice President and Dean of the College, Bard College—Deirdre d'Albertis assumed the position of chief academic officer of Bard College in July 2018. She received her BA degree with honors from Barnard College and her MA and PhD from Harvard University. A past President of Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies, she serves as Review Editor currently for the interdisciplinary journal *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*. She is the author of *Dissembling Fictions: Elizabeth Gaskell and the Victorian Social Text* (Palgrave), volume editor of Elizabeth Gaskell's *Ruth* (Pickering & Chatto) and editor with Deborah Denenholz Morse of a forthcoming MLA *Approaches to Teaching Elizabeth Gaskell*. As Professor of English, she teaches in the Literature program as well as Gender and Sexuality Studies, Irish and Celtic Studies, and Victorian Studies.

PANEL: WILL THE REAL NEW LEADERS PLEASE STAND UP?

Limina Grace Harmon, Pastor, New Connexions United Methodist Church/Ulster County Legislature (Moderator)—Limina Grace tries to live by seeking justice, not just us. She has lived in the Village of New Paltz for six years, during which time she has become deeply involved in the life of the community, serving on multiple committees focused on social justice and sustainability. A Methodist clergy person, Limina Grace serves as the

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pastor of both New Paltz UMC and Modena Memorial UMC. Prior to entering ministry and moving to New Paltz, Limina Grace worked for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a media relations officer, legislative research analyst, and Press Secretary for the Legislative Black Caucus. She was also the speech writer for former Philadelphia Mayor John Street and worked on many critical issues for the national office of the American Civil Liberties Union. Limina Grace is the mother of two incredible daughters and has the love and support of her fiancé, Art Brooks. When not engaged in work for the church or the community they enjoy travel, camping, sci-fi and fantasy everything, and making amazing dinners together.

Esi Lewis, Executive Director, Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center—Esi Lewis has a background in law and community leadership. A graduate of Hampton University and Suffolk University Law School, she served as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn and taught Criminal Justice for Ulster BOCES and SUNY Ulster. Lewis is a prominent community leader in Ulster County, serving on the New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Committee and making history as the first Black member of the New Paltz Town Board. In 2023, she was appointed Ulster County's Chief Diversity Officer. In this position, Esi worked to ensure that equity, diversity, and inclusion are at the forefront of

county policies. Esi is currently working full-time in her role as Executive Director of the Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center for History and Culture in New Paltz, a nonprofit Lewis founded in 2021 to preserve the Black experience in the Hudson Valley.

Sarah Urech, Senior Strategist, Omega Women's Leadership Center and Taking Care of Change Initiative—Sarah is a certified coach and master's social worker, specializing in transformative leadership and the practice of listening as an important step in human evolution. At Omega, she designs, coordinates, and leads educational trainings, retreats, and conferences for change leaders seeking to create a caring and just future for everybody. Also a facilitator and performer, Sarah moved to Ulster County in 1994 to study Playback Theatre, a form of improvisational storytelling theater that she has taught and performed in four languages and 20 countries.

PANEL: WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF LEADERS?

Abe Uchitelle, Majority Leader, Ulster County Legislature (Moderator)—Abe is co-founder of MuniCollab, a gov-tech platform specializing in land-use review and transforming how local governments engage with the public. An entrepreneur with deep experience in digital strategy and product development, Uchitelle previously led a cross-disciplinary digital marketing

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agency and directed operations for a regional workforce development nonprofit training the next generation of software engineers. Abe also serves as Majority Leader of the Ulster County Legislature, where he established housing as a county purpose and spearheaded the County's first Housing Action Fund. In his legislative role, he works to build consensus across party lines and bring people together around shared goals. In 2023 Abe was appointed by Governor Hochul to serve on the College Council of his alma mater, SUNY New Paltz.

Andrew O'Grady, CEO, Mental Health America of Dutchess County—With over two decades at the helm of Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Andrew has successfully managed significant service transitions, emphasizing the need to embrace and drive change for effective mental health care delivery. MHA of Dutchess County, his focus on treatment and advocacy in behavioral health and substance use disorder has been the cornerstone of his professional journey. His commitment to mental health extends beyond organizational leadership to a broader stage, where he contributes as a weekly guest on a radio segment, advocating to reduce stigma and educate the public. This dedication is matched by a history of shaping policy through his presidency at the NYS Care Management Coalition, working tirelessly to enhance the

Health Home Care Management system in New York State.

David Toman, Executive Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater—David is the Executive Director for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, an environmental education and advocacy organization working for a healthier river through an engaged community. He came to Clearwater with over 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, most recently as the Vice President of Operations & Chief Financial Officer for the Mohonk Preserve. His career in environmental education & advocacy began at the Delaware Nature Society where he held the position of Associate Director of Business & Finance for 12 years. In his spare time, David enjoys paddling on local waterways, hikes with his dog, skiing, and listening to music with his family. David also helps his wife Wendy with their refill store, Second Nature, helping to decrease single use plastics through changed shopping habits.

PANEL: HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU, EMERGING LEADERS?

Jana Mader, Director of Academic Programs, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics & Humanities, Bard College (Moderator)—Jana Mader is Director of Academic Programs at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College, where she oversees publications, editorial projects,

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and programming. She also teaches Environmental Humanities at Bard as Visiting Assistant Professor in Environmental Studies and the Humanities. She holds an M.A. in German Studies and Anthropology and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, both from the University of Munich. Before joining Bard in 2021, she taught at the University of North Carolina and The Juilliard School. Her teaching and research focus on the history, art, and literature of the Hudson River Valley, particularly in the 19th century. She has authored, co-authored, and edited several books, including a novel, a comparative analysis of 19th-century literature in the Hudson Valley and the Rhine, and *Walk Her Way: A Walking Guide to Women's History* (Hardie Grant, 2025). Born and raised in Germany, she now lives in the Hudson Valley.

Kalha·kú McLester, Oneida Nation —Kalha·kú is a member of the Oneida Nation, Wolf Clan, from Oneida, Wisconsin and was raised in the traditional longhouse community with strong ties to Haudenosaunee culture, ceremonies, and language. Kalha·kú has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Syracuse University's College of Engineering and Computer Science and is pursuing a Masters of Science in Engineering Management. As a student, he has led storytelling events through the Native Student Program and has served as a speaker/facilitator for Orange Dialogue for Skanoh

(Peace and Wellness)—an annual event that encourages community building among undergrad and graduate students while educating students on the Haudenosaunee principles of gratitude, peace, and a good mind. Outside of school, Kalha·kú works hard to share his knowledge with his two boys and is a board member for the non-profit "Whose Land?"—a national project that emphasizes land history and repatriation. In his approach to leadership, Kalha·kú shares his indigenous values to foster trust and understanding. His goal is to help groups coordinate our collective knowledge to solve community problems, all while creating closer relationships with each other and the natural world.

Aleksandar Vitanov, Bard College—Aleks is a research associate at the Center for Strategy and American Statecraft, Hudson Institute. He holds a BA in politics and music from Bard College. In 2024, he won the Schwarzman Scholarship. While at Bard, Mr. Vitanov founded and led the Musical Mentorship Initiative which works to make musical education accessible to all. Today, he continues to be associated with Bard through the Hannah Arendt Center and the Center for Civic Engagement. Mr. Vitanov is originally from Kavadarci, North Macedonia.