

# Our Lives Are a Sun Dance

Taking a Stand Against the Ongoing Roll-Out of War Crimes Against Humanity

Friday, October 6th, 2023

7 to 11 p.m.

Riverside Church, NYC



Photo of Riverside Church by Malcolm Garret

Riverside Church South Hall, enter at 490 Riverside Drive

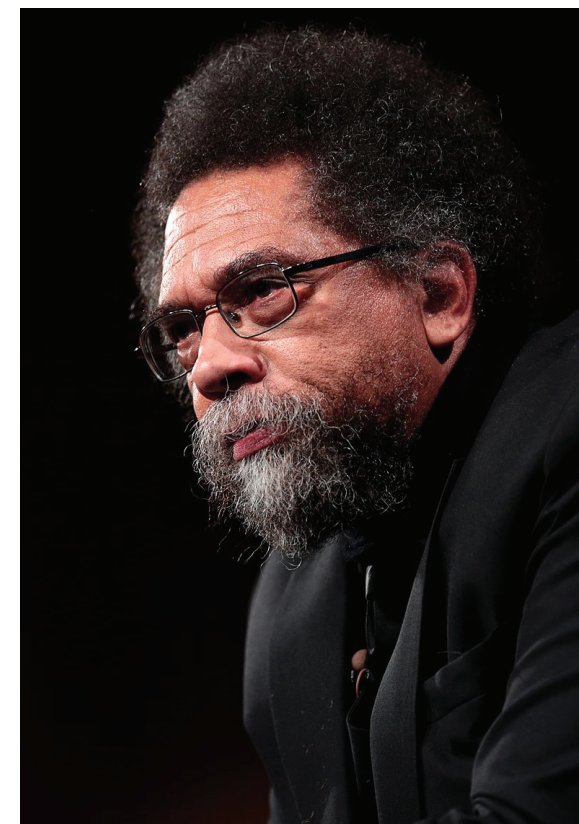
Produced by Mia Feroletto and New Observations Magazine

*"Patriotism at the expense of another nation is as wicked as racism at the expense of another race. Let us resolve to be patriots always, nationalists never. Let us love our country, but pledge allegiance to the earth and to the flora and fauna and human life that it supports—one planet indivisible, with clean air, soil and water; with liberty, justice and peace for all."*

—Reverend William Sloan Coffin,  
Former Pastor of Riverside Church

**Dr. Cornel West** will lead this stellar group of speakers on discussions covering the topics of genocide and war crimes against humanity that continue to this day. All of our speakers will stand in the spot where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the war in Vietnam and the war on poverty before his planned march on Washington. We cannot allow another presidential election cycle to go on without mobilizing against the continuation of sacred artifacts and remains in the hands of the oppressor. We cannot allow the prison system to continue in its current state with the mass incarceration of people of color and the brutal jailing of our Indigenous Elders and Black Political Prisoners. We cannot allow the ignorance to continue in America, white-washing the over 600 massacres that make up the true history of our country. We cannot allow the theft of tribal and sacred land and resources and the environment as we watch the desecration of the Earth. We cannot allow the mass incarceration of People of Color to be used as free labor. We cannot allow the current conditions on the reservation and in the ghetto to continue. It is time to build new structures for the advancement of all people on the planet. Nothing less will do.

We are launching a new petition to Free Leonard Peltier with a goal of collecting one million signatures from Indigenous People. Voter registration cards will be handed out at the same time with the goal of creating, for the first time, a voting block made up of Indigenous People who will no longer remain silent.



Cornel West

*"I am running for truth and justice as a presidential candidate for the Green Party to reintroduce America to the best of itself—fighting to end poverty, mass incarceration, ending wars and ecological collapse, guaranteeing housing, health care, education and living wages for all!"*

Dr. Cornel West (born June 2, 1953) is an American philosopher, political activist, social critic, actor, and public intellectual. The grandson of a Baptist minister, West's primary philosophy focuses on the roles of race, gender, and class struggle in American society. A socialist, West draws intellectual contributions from multiple traditions, including Christianity, the Black church, democratic socialism, left-wing populism, neopragmatism, and transcendentalism. Among his most influential books are *Race Matters* (1993) and *Democracy Matters* (2004).

West is an outspoken voice in left-wing politics in the United States. During his career, he has held professorships and fellowships at Harvard University, Yale University, Union Theological Seminary, Princeton University, Dartmouth College, Pepperdine University, and the University of Paris. He is a frequent commentator on politics and social questions in many media outlets.

From 2010 through 2013, West co-hosted the radio program *Smiley and West* with Tavis Smiley. He has been featured in several documentaries, and made appearances in Hollywood films such as *The Matrix Reloaded* and *The Matrix Revolutions* as well as providing commentary for both films. West has also made several spoken word and hip-hop albums, and due to this work, has been named MTV's Artist of the Week. West co-hosts a podcast entitled, *The Tight Rope* with Tricia Rose. He is a frequent conversation partner with his friend Robert P. George, a prominent conservative intellectual, with the two often speaking together at colleges and universities on the meaning of liberal arts education, free speech, and civil dialogue. In 2020, he was listed by *Prospect Magazine* as the fourth-greatest thinker for the COVID-19 era.

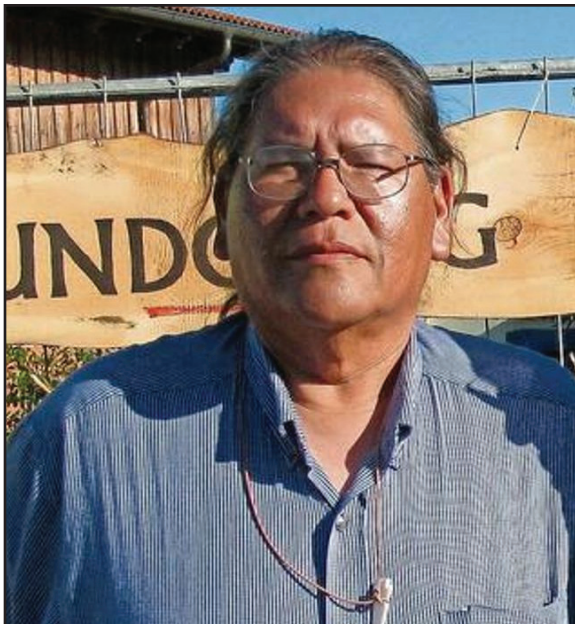
West is a third party candidate in the 2024 presidential election. After declaring his run with the People's Party, he later announced he also was seeking the nomination of the Green Party.



**JOANN ARMENTA** is the Founder and CEO of the Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation (PFAL) a 501(c)(3). PFAL was registered in 2008 in the State of Arizona and on in 2012 on the Navajo Nation. The PFAL goal is to: advance and implement community-based experiential educational programs and projects that empower people with the knowledge and skills required to meet the demand of the emerging clean-energy economy, create green workforce capacities and support small business entrepreneurship opportunities in markets that advance and apply the different applications of Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy technologies, Solar, Wind, Resource and Water and Waste Management, and growing and harvesting healthy locally grown foods that ensure Food Security.



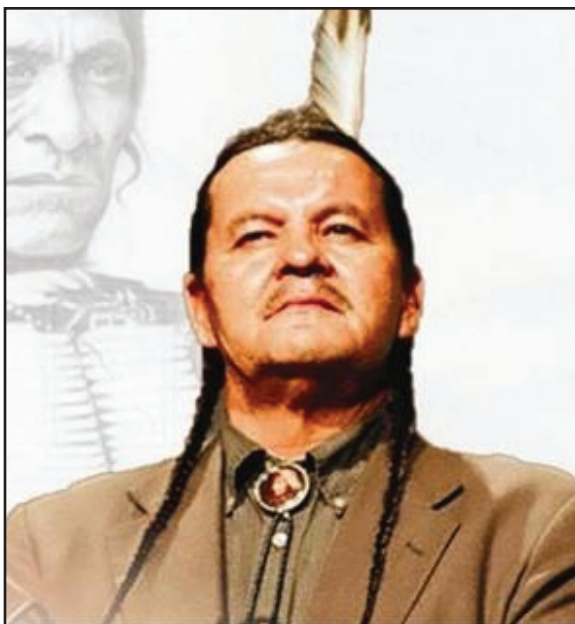
**JENIPHER JONES ESQ.** is a civil movement and human rights attorney. Jenipher is a Partner at A People's Law Firm, LLC, a movement law firm based in Denver, Boulder, and South Dakota. She is also the Assistant Director for Community Initiatives at the Animal Activist Legal Defense Project (AALDP) at the Sturm College of Law. Jenipher began her career in the New Orleans office of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the New Orleans Office of the Independent Police Monitor. Her work challenging the system of mass incarceration has resulted in binding affirmative federal law regarding the constitutional rights of prisoners in the U.S. Jenipher litigates complex civil litigation cases involving the rights of political prisoners and incarcerated activists. Jenipher also Chairs the National Lawyers Guild Mass Defense Committee, helps to lead the NLG's Mass Incarceration Committee, and has been recognized as one of Denver's 2023 40 Under 40 young professionals. Jenipher R. Jones, Esq. (She/Her/Hers)  
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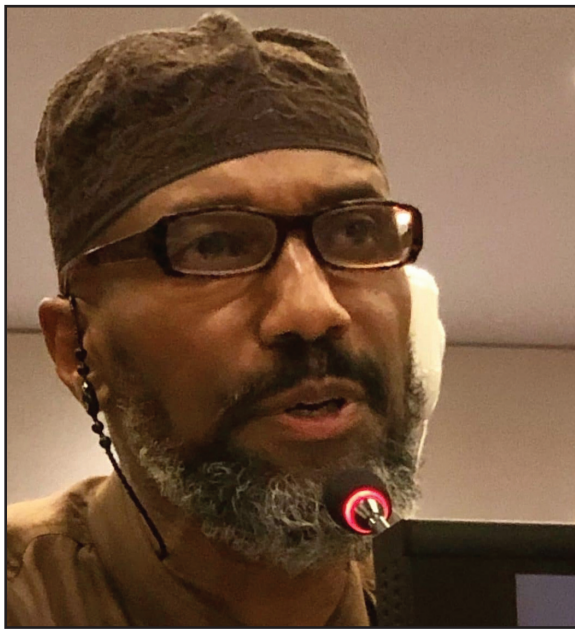
**WENDELL YELLOW BULL** is the great-great-grandson of Lakota legend Chief Red Cloud. On the other side of his family, he is the great-great-grandson of Joseph Horn Cloud, who survived the Wounded Knee Massacre as a 17-year-old man and went on to build the Wounded Knee Memorial which still stands today. In addition, Wendell is the pipe carrier of the sacred chanupa of Chief Red Cloud. He is currently one of the leaders in the return of the artifacts and remains from the Wounded Knee Massacre that have been housed in a small museum/library in Massachusetts for the past 130 years. Highly educated, Wendell has served as the Chief of the Tribal Police on the Pine Ridge Reservation as well as Executive Director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Currently, he is organizing the stories of all the survivor families of the Wounded Knee Massacre.



**LEONARD PELTIER** is an imprisoned Native American considered by Amnesty International, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Congress of American Indians, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Jesse Jackson, among many others, to be a political prisoner who should be immediately released. A selection of paintings by Leonard Peltier will be on view at this event.



**CHIEF HENRY RED CLOUD** is the direct 5th generation descendant of Chief Red Cloud, one of the last Lakota war chiefs and one of the most famous Native Americans in history. Henry was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, home of the Oglala Lakota Nation, where living conditions are extremely difficult. Henry has devoted himself to developing his expertise with renewable energy applications that are environmentally sound, economically beneficial, and culturally appropriate. Henry is a twenty-first century Lakota Warrior, bringing green technology and employment to Native American communities. He reminds tribes that they can live sustainably and shows them that by embracing clean, renewable energy applications there is a way to get back to a traditional relationship with Mother Earth. As Henry says, "This is a new way to honor the old ways."



**JIHAD ABDULMUMIT** is a former Black Panther/Black Liberation Army political prisoner held in the federal system for 23 years. He is presently the National Chairperson for the Jericho Movement ([www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com)); a representative of the Jamaat of the Shehu Uthman dan Fodio; and sits on the Coordinating Committee of the Spirit of Mandela's 2021 International Tribunal which successfully charged the United States government and its States with the crime of genocide against Black, Brown, and Indigenous people ([www.spiritofmandela.org](http://www.spiritofmandela.org)). Jihad is a playwright and has written and produced dozens of original plays. He is also an adjunct professor in the African American Studies Department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Jihad is married to Magdalene Moonsamy, a jurist and human rights and criminal defense attorney in South Africa. Finally, he works as a Senior Community Case Manager at Health Brigade, a community health clinic ([www.healthbrigade.org](http://www.healthbrigade.org)), servicing the needs of HIV positive individuals being released from incarceration. He has a master's in business and a minor in Public Health.



**JALIL A. MUNTAQIM** was released from prison to parole on October 6, 2020, after being confined for almost 5 decades. Jalil is a veteran member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, the co-founder (along with deceased Comrade Sister Safiya Bukhari (d. 2003) and Baba Herman Ferguson, (d. 2014) of the National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners. Founding Jericho in 1998 was just one of Jalil's many significant achievements. During his time in prison, Jalil received certifications in Office Management and Architectural Drafting, and college degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He mentored other prisoners and resolved numerous prison beefs. He stood by his principles and maintained the highest level of discipline, integrity and self-respect and respect for others. Jalil's activism never ceased and is unquestionable. He has consistently provided movement leadership and guidance under the worst of conditions behind concrete and steel bars. Jalil is the author of "We Are Our Own Liberators," "Escaping the Prism - Fade to Black," and his essays have been published in several books, magazines and newspapers.



**MIKE AFRICA JR.**

I was born in a jail cell.  
 My parents were sentenced to 200 years in prison for a crime they did not commit.  
 I grew up in the hood in West Philly.  
 I lived through the crack epidemic that took many of my friends to prison and early graves.  
 At age 6 the police dropped a bomb on my family.  
 I saw the smoke and fire that killed 11 of my people.  
 At age 13 I started working to free my parents. It was #hardwork. But I never gave up.



**MIA FEROLETO** is a well-known art advisor, activist and artist who divides her time between Vermont and South Dakota. She was the creator of A SHELTER FROM THE STORM: ARTISTS FOR THE HOMELESS OF NEW YORK and ARTWALK NY, an annual event for Coalition for the Homeless that has been copied all around the country since beginning in 1995. Feroletto has organized numerous benefit auctions and large-scale special events at major auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's, the Women's Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Harvard Club in New York City. Feroletto has served on the board of directors of such organizations as Dance Theater Workshop and Sculpture Center. More performing artists who went on to receive a Genius Award from the MacArthur Foundation got their start at Dance Theater Workshop than any other organization in America. She served on the board of directors of the Tatanka Ska Institute, the Indigenous school being founded by Paula Looking Horse, wife of Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the keeper of the sacred White Buffalo Calf Woman Pipe. As an authorize representative of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Feroletto negotiated the return of 131 artifacts stolen from the dead at the Wounded Knee Massacre back to the Lakota people in November of 2022. She is the publisher of New Observations Magazine, the producer/creator of HEMP NY CITY, a partner in the founding of the Thunderheart Center for the Arts in Wasta, South Dakota and the creator and producer of the Consciousness and Contact conferences that have received world-wide recognition. Mia Feroletto is the host of the New Observations podcast on Unknown Country, the channel for all things Whitley Strieber. She is a committed animal rights and animal welfare activist. She is determined to maximize visibility for the arts and our cultural world and is currently developing the Adopt an Artist Program to send artists to destinations around the globe in order to create and develop their art. She can be reached at [mia.feroletto@gmail.com](mailto:mia.feroletto@gmail.com)

Tickets are on sale for purchase at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-lives-are-a-sun-dance-tickets-719861764917?aff=oddtcreator>

The event will be streamed live at a cost of \$15 each. To attend this event the cost is \$40 per ticket.

For additional information, please contact Mia Feroletto at 802-952-6217 or by email at [mia.feroletto@gmail.com](mailto:mia.feroletto@gmail.com)

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**Please Join Us!**