

UlsterCorps Service Summit 2018

SPEAKER BIOS

Grace Bonney, Design*Sponge

Grace Bonney is the founder of Design*Sponge, an online magazine dedicated to the creative community. Grace is passionate about supporting all members of the creative community; she runs an annual scholarship for up-and-coming designers, writes a free business column for creatives, and is the host of a weekly radio show, After the Jump. Her new book, *In the Company of Women*, was named a New York Times Best Seller. She lives in Accord, NY with her wife and their three pets.

Mariel Fiori, La Voz magazine and La Voz at Radio Kingston

Journalist **Mariel Fiori** is a recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the NAACP and Woman of the Year award of the AAUW, and co-founder of La Voz magazine, a monthly Spanish language publication housed at Bard College, serving the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Catskill region. Together with journalist **Antonio Flores-Lobos**, a nationally awarded columnist and the former editor of *Las Noticias*, a weekly Spanish language newspaper that served the Hudson Valley and was published by the Daily Freeman from 2004 to 2013, she hosts La Voz at Radio Kingston, which features information, interviews, music and humor for Kingston's vibrant Hispanic community.

Kerst de Jong, **Andrew Simmons**, **Ben Bruschke**, Camphill Village

On 615 acres of wooded hills, gardens, and pastures in rural upstate New York, adults with special needs and long- and short-term service volunteers live and work together as equals in extended family homes throughout Camphill Village. The founding of Camphill Village in 1961 was part of a transformative movement in the United States to reform how society treats people with special needs. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to our mission of being an integrated community where people with developmental differences are living a life of dignity, equality, and purpose.

Originally from the Netherlands, **Kerst de Jong** studied mechanical engineering. In 1990, after working and traveling in the Middle East and Latin America, Kerst joined Camphill and spent 8 years in Botton Village and Oaklands Park in the UK. In 1998 Kerst and his family moved to Camphill Village USA. For nearly 20 years Kerst has worked in Camphill woodshops and also spent many years involved with Camphill finances. Since 2011 Kerst is the executive director of Camphill Village. Together with his wife he is a house leader in Aspen house. Kerst has two grown children.

Andrew Simmons has served Camphill Village for the past four plus years as their Director of Quality Improvement. His career began as a DSP for the local chapter of NYSARC over 18 years ago and he has had many experiences in a wide variety of positions both administrative and clinical since that time. He holds a master of arts degree in Community Psychology from Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY and currently resides in Hudson NY with his wife and two children.

Ben Bruschke moved to Camphill Village last year. He started his Camphill career as a child in Camphill Special schools in Pennsylvania, then went to Triform Camphill Community where he decided to become a farmer. He presently lives in Argo house next to the farm where he works full time.

John Oles, Marketing and Social Media Manager, Office of Communication & Marketing, SUNY New Paltz

For over a decade, John Oles has worked in higher education as a communicator. He has a wide range of knowledge from working in offices such as admissions, campus ministry and institutional advancement. As Marketing and Social Media Manager, Oles is responsible for content creation, electronic recruitment, branding across networks and creating paid campaigns for social. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Communication from The University of Scranton and a Masters degree in Counseling from Villanova University.