

# National RISE Program for Villages

## PARTNERSHIP

A national version of the [Retirees In Service to the Environment \(RISE\) Program](#) is being offered by the Village to Village Network in partnership with Mather and the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA). The series will be held *virtually* for participants at Villages, meeting via Zoom **every Thursday, 2-4pm EST, from May 11<sup>th</sup> through June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

RISE is an evidence-based environmental education and leadership training program for older adults created by CITRA at Cornell University. The goal of the RISE Program is to create a new pool of environmental leaders who will play an active role in addressing environmental issues in their own communities. For more information, visit: <https://citra-rise.human.cornell.edu>.

## REGISTRATION

Older adults affiliated with Villages from the Village to Village Network can register by emailing [sboots@mather.com](mailto:sboots@mather.com) (send your name, Village, email address). Ideally, local Villages will have multiple participants who go through the program together, thereby maximizing its impact in communities. When registering, let us know if you can be a “Coordinator” at your local Village, assisting with recruiting other participants, planning additional local meetings as needed, and possibly assisting with a group project. **Individuals who are unable to recruit others are still encouraged to participate.** Participants are expected to attend the 8 sessions, but videos will be made available to those who miss sessions.

## SCHEDULE

The series will run weekly for 8 consecutive weeks, including the following sessions:

- **May 11<sup>th</sup>—Introductory Meeting**—Rhoda Meador, PhD, and Karl Pillemer, PhD, Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging
- **May 18<sup>th</sup>—Confronting Climate Change Using the Foods We Love and Need**—Mike Hoffman, PhD, Cornell University School of Agriculture
- **May 25<sup>th</sup>—Health and the Environment**—Nancy Wells, PhD, Cornell University Design and Environmental Analysis
- **June 1<sup>st</sup>—Water Issues and Climate Change Adaptation**—Rewa Phansalkar, MS, and Kristen Hychka, MS, New York State Water Resource Institute
- **June 8<sup>th</sup>—Energy Use**—John Moore, JD, National Resource Defense Center
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>—Composting**—Jean Bonhotal, MS, Cornell University Waste Management Institute
- **June 22<sup>nd</sup>—Climate Change/Taking Action**—Mick Smyer, PhD, Growing Greener
- **June 29<sup>th</sup>—Capstone Project Planning**—Rhoda Meador, PhD, Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging



## **SPEAKER BIOS**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>—Introductory Meeting**—Rhoda Meador, PhD, and Karl Pillemer, PhD, Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging



**Rhoda Meador**, PhD, is the Associate Director of the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA). In fulfillment of this role, she leads efforts among Cornell University staff and faculty to integrate aging issues into research and community practice. Her research focuses on building the capacity of health and social service practitioners to better serve the needs of older adults, and her research interests include workplace learning, caregiver support, and the role of partnerships in health care and social service settings.



**Karl Pillemer**, PhD, is the Director of the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA). Dr. Pillemer is also the Hazel E. Reed Professor in Cornell's Department of Human Development and Professor of Gerontology in Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College. His research interests center on human development over the life course, with a special emphasis on family and social relationships in middle age and beyond. Dr. Pillemer has created and tested many intervention programs, particularly in long-term care and active aging.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>—Confronting Climate Change Using the Foods We Love and Need**—Mike Hoffman, PhD, Cornell University School of Agriculture



**Mike Hoffmann**, PhD, is Professor Emeritus College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. His career encompassed being a member of the faculty but also holding multiple leadership roles including Associate Dean and Director of the Cornell University Agriculture Experiment Station. Addressing the greatest challenge of our time — climate change — has been his focus for many years. He tells the climate change story with passion, a little humor, and without doom and gloom. It's a science-based message about what is happening and what we all can do about it. He is the lead author of *Our Changing Menu: Climate Change and the Foods We Love and Need* (Cornell University Press, 2021) and associated website – Our Changing Menu.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>—Health and the Environment**—Nancy Wells, PhD, Cornell University Design and Environmental Analysis



**Nancy Wells**, PhD, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in the Cornell University College of Human Ecology, is an environmental psychologist who studies people's relationship to the built and natural environment through the life course. Research led by Dr. Wells has examined topics such as the effects of housing quality on mental health; the influence of neighborhood design on physical activity; and the effects of nature access on cognitive functioning, psychological well-being, and resilience.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>—Water Issues and Climate Change Adaptation**—Rewa Phansalkar, MS, and Kristen Hychka, MS, New York State Water Resource Institute



**Rewa Phansalkar, MS**, is an urban planner, architect, and researcher at the New York State Water Research Institute. Her work integrates sustainable urban design, climate adaptation planning, policy and governance planning for community resilience. She focuses on designing and planning for coastal communities and cultural landscapes in the wake of climate change.



**Kristen Hychka, MS**, is a Research and Outreach Specialist at the New York State Water Research Institute. Her research and outreach work is focused on watershed issues, particularly flood resiliency and the management of wetland and riparian systems. She works in partnership with the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center and the Hudson River Estuary Program to promote assistance to individuals and organizations regarding these issues.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>—Energy Use**—John Moore, JD, National Resource Defense Center



**John Moore, JD**, Director of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), focuses on developing a modern, flexible, and efficient high-power electrical grid that will help accelerate renewable and clean energy use. He advocates on behalf of the Sustainable FERC Project and other environmental groups before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional transmission organizations. Prior to joining NRDC, Moore was a senior attorney at the Environmental Law & Policy Center in Chicago where he coordinated clean transmission initiatives and managed ELPC's clean energy development program. Moore is based in Chicago, IL.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>—Composting**—Jean Bonhotal, MS, Cornell University Waste Management Institute



**Jean Bonhotal, MS**, Senior Extension Associate and Waste Management Specialist, is the Director of the Cornell Waste Management Institute in Soil and Crop Sciences. Jean has spent over 25 years in education of composting food, manure, animal carcasses, and compost quality/use. Jean's research includes the degradation of pharmaceuticals in mortality and manure and characterizing and developing beneficial uses for organic residuals. She has worked on composting feedstock from food to manure to animal carcasses. Her research and education effort is spent building compost infrastructure to divert more organic residuals from the waste stream and developing beneficial uses for organic residuals and managing routine and catastrophic livestock mortality.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>—Climate Change/Taking Action**—Mick Smyer, PhD, Growing Greener



**Michael "Mick" Smyer, PhD**, is the former Provost and an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Bucknell University. He is also a Senior Fellow in Social Innovation at Babson College. Mick the founder and CEO of Growing Greener: Climate Action for a Warming World. With support from Stanford's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, Mick taps expertise in gerontology, communication strategies, and

human-centered design to move people from anxiety to action to habit on climate change. Growing Greener views people not solely as potential victims of climate change, but also as potential leaders of climate action.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>—Capstone Project Planning**—Rhoda Meador, PhD, Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging

*See Rhoda Meador's bio above.*

