

**Susan O'Connell, MTP, MTP, REACE**  
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### Professional Interests

- *Creative expression & process: multi-modal expressive arts*
- *Earth human relations: Sacred Ecology, EcoSpirituality, Ecopsychology*
- *Teaching, Mentoring, Guiding*
- *Consultation, collaboration, and peace building*
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My vision is to enliven other's inherent creative energy while inviting awareness of our living Earth in a way that furthers heart based, sustainable, and respectful relations with the natural world and all beings.

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### Education

- Master of Transpersonal Psychology (MATP); Institute of Transpersonal Psychology now [Sofia University](#)
    - Concentration: Creativity and Innovation with Ecopsychology and EcoSpirituality
  - Ordained Multi-Cultural Minister (MTP), Center of Sacred Studies
  - Bachelor of Arts in Geography from [The University of California, Santa Barbara](#)
    - Focus: Earth and atmospheric science
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### Professional Certificates and awards

2014	Registered Expressive Arts Consultant / Educator (REACE) <a href="#">The International Expressive Arts Therapy Association</a>
2011	InterSpiritual Meditation, <a href="#">The Spiritual Paths Institute</a>
2009	Transpersonal Psychology Certificate, Institute of Transpersonal Psychology which is now <a href="#">Sofia University</a>
2008	Non Profit Leadership Certificate, Ventura County Community Foundation and Cal Lutheran
2000	Interact Certificate; Ventura County Human Resources (communication and mentoring)
1996	Leadership and Mentoring Certificate, University of California, Santa Barbara

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### Employment History

8/2012-Present	<b>Faculty:</b> Sophia University, 1069 Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA. (formerly The Institute of Transpersonal Psychology-ITP). <i>Responsibilities:</i> Teach, Mentor, Advise (academic, career, creativity). Instructor in a) Creative Expression and Transformation, b) Inquiry into Creative and Innovative Process, c) Capstone Final Research Paper, and d) Eco-Psychology, master's program research capstone paper and other psychology courses. Chair of the Advising Committed (2014-2015). Provide administrative consultation, strategic planning and collaboration, interviewing master's candidates for admission, curriculum development for a series of courses in the Creativity and Innovation Master's degree focus and Eco-psychology.
10/2015-6/2017	<b>Creative Expression Certificate Director,</b> Sofia University, 1069 Meadow Cr., Palo Alto, CA. Develop, direct and administer Sofia University's Creative Expression Certificate. Develop curriculum across Sofia University programs to support the certificate, liaison with multiple department chairs. Advisor for students enrolled in the certificate program; approving authority for their completion. Provide orientation seminars, webinars or conferences.
2010- 2012	<b>Faculty Mentor:</b> Institute Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA. <i>Responsibilities:</i> Teach, mentor, and advise first and second year students in the Master's Degree program in the Creativity Focus including; (a) Creative Expression and Transformation, (b) Inquiry into Creative and Innovative Process, (c) Ways of Knowing, (d) Professional Specialization Practicum, (e) Showcase e-portfolio, (f) Transpersonal Discipline and Practice, (g) Transpersonal Integration Paper, (h) Spiritual Perspectives, (i) Spiritual Dimensions across the Human Lifespan, (j) Transpersonal Approaches to Creative Expressions.
2010-2012	<b>Program and curriculum development:</b> Spiritual Paths: <a href="http://www.spiritualpaths.net/home/">http://www.spiritualpaths.net/home/</a> Supported development of programs and teacher training. (Intermittent paid and volunteer) Student Services: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA.

- 2007- 2009 Supported curriculum development and implementation of an e-portfolio software.  
**Project Manager** (Principal) & Trainer (distance), Ventura Co., 800 Victoria, Ventura, CA. 93009  
*Responsibilities:* Project manager in development and implementation of new software inclusive of procedures, workflow, processes. Utilize collaborative techniques to widen perspectives, build consensus and promote creativity. Provide oversight and accountability to stakeholders ensuring transparency and timeliness. Train the trainers for future leadership roles. Strategic decision making and negotiation. Design, development, training, integration, and completion of the new system.
- 2003-2007 **Chief Deputy Assessor**, Ventura County, 800 S. Victoria, Ventura, CA. 93009  
*Responsibilities:* Division head with full responsibility for management and administration of public service serving countywide, the residential appraisal, legal and workflow sections. Designed, developed and oversaw training modules recognizing diverse learning styles, cultural diversity, and varied education skill levels resulting in successful and holistic employee development, and excellent public service. Provided a humanistic leadership style incorporating clear communication, respect, honesty, and collaboration. Interviewed, counseled, mentored, trained, and advised staff, the board of supervisors, the elected official and the public. Participated in strategic planning, budget preparation, program development, personnel restructuring and career ladder guidelines. Liaison in public relations, state correspondences, media interviews, outside stakeholder relations, and interdepartmental relations. Disaster liaison / coordinator for the office, which required rapid fluid response, clarity of communication, and innovation during natural disasters such as wildfires, floods and earthquakes.
- 1991-2003 **Management:** Ventura County Federal Credit Union, 800 S. Victoria, Ventura, CA 93009  
*Responsibilities:* Manage 10-16 professional staff; develop and deliver training and mentoring program. Guide, advise, mentor, train, counsel employee development. Extensive public service, problem solving and collaboration.

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## Professional Presentations, workshops and publications

2018

**Published:**

- O’Connell, S. (2018). The Sacred Tree, In Scholz, E. (2018). *Anxiety Warrior II* (pp. 104-120). Bracebridge, Ontario: Artist’s Reply.

2016

- **Published:** *Listening and Contemplation*; in Abbey of the Arts, Monk of the World Series (5/2016)
- **Presenter:** Creativity and Transformation teaching workshops: Sofia University seminar titled: *Innovative Trends in Transpersonal Teaching and Learning*. Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park, Ca
- **Published** *Walnut in orange Sky* original photograph, June 2015, *Presence Journal* [Spiritual Directors International](#)

2015

- **Published:** Original photograph: Banner photograph for the [Center of Sacred Studies Facebook](#) page 2015
- **Presenter/Leader:** Contemplative Walking in Nature: Sofia University seminar.
- **Presenter:** [Surrendering to the mystery of beauty](#). Sofia University seminar with Nancy Rowe, PhD. Seminar title: Embracing Mystery: Surrendering to the present moment, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.
- **Co-Presenter:** [Journey into the heart of beauty](#). Sofia University seminar with Nancy Rowe, Ph.D. Seminar title: Embracing Mystery: Surrendering to the present moment, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.

2014

- **Co-Presenter:** *The language of Imagination-Authentic movement of Self and Earth*. Seminar Title: Embodying our Dreams: Giving voice to our stories and shaping our visions.

2012

- **Seminar Co-Facilitator:** Sofia University weeklong seminar titled, *Beauty: Pilgrimage to the Soul*. I contributed to seminar planning, preparation, and organization; and facilitated communication, student orientation and guidance. I provided oversight and problem solving in a dynamic venue that called for intuition, creativity, guidance, listening skills and intelligence.
- **Presenter:** *Journey into the Heart of Beauty*: Susan O’Connell with Nancy Rowe. Seminar Title: [Beauty: Pilgrimage to the Soul](#).
- **Co-Presenter:** *Beauty and the Cosmic Soul*: Nancy Rowe with Susan O’Connell: Seminar Title: [Beauty: Pilgrimage to the Soul](#).

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## Curriculum Writing, Revision and Development

- Rowe, N., & O'Connell, S. (2015) Revised Course: *Creative Expression and Transformation*.
- O'Connell, S., Rowe, N., Wood, R. (2013-2015) Revised Course: *Ecopsychology: Remembering out place in the natural world*.
- Rowe, N., & Netzer, D. (with O'Connell, S). (2009). *Showcase Electronic Portfolio Guidelines*.
- Rowe, N., & Judy, R., Meyer, D. (with O'Connell, S). (2013). *Transpersonal Integration Paper* (Capstone Thesis)

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## Professional Enhancement

### 2019

- *The Game Changer Intensive*: [Pachamama Alliance](#) (8 weeks)
- *Sacred Relationships*: Mark Brady, Ph.D. Ongoing Bi-weekly webinar spiritual guidance and training.
- [Transpersonal Alliance Webinars](#): quarterly

### 2018

- *Awakening the Dreamer*: [Pachamama Alliance](#) (4 weeks)
- *Living the questions: Henry Nouwen and Spiritual companionship*. 4 week webinar through Spiritual Directors Internation.
- *Creative Dreamwork*: Wilka Roig, MFA, MATP. 8 week training.
- *Sacred Relationships*: Mark Brady, Ph.D. Ongoing Bi-weekly webinar spiritual guidance and training.
- [Transpersonal Alliance Webinars](#): quarterly

### 2017

- *Whole Heartedness*: Mark Brady, Ph.D. Ongoing weekly webinar spiritual guidance and training.
- *Transformational Resilience Training webinar*: [The Resource Innovation Group](#) 4 week webinar
- *Indigenous Roots of Expressive Arts Therapy: Transformation, Social Justice and Social Change-Globally and Locally*, The International Expressive Arts Therapy Association, Oct 4-8, 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- *Enchantivism: Changing the World with Story, Myth, and Inspiration*, Pacifica Graduate Institute, Craig Chalquist, Ph.D (4 weeks)
- *Soul Companionship*. Center Quest. March 2017 (4 weeks)
- [Transpersonal Alliance Webinars](#): quarterly

### 2016

- *Whole Heartedness*: Mark Brady, Ph.D. Ongoing weekly webinar spiritual guidance and training.
- *Ecopsychology Network gathering* of Southern CA. at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara
- *EcoTherapy: Nature Reconnection as a powerful, transformational healing practice*. Pacific Graduate Institute 3 day workshop with Linda Buzzell, MA, LMFT, PDC.
- *The gift of the embodied shadow: Identifying and integrating our shadow parts*. American Dance Therapy Association webinar.

### 2015

- *Ancient Sacred Formation Training*: 6 sessions, [Waymatea Ellis through Center for Sacred Studies](#)
- *EcoSattva Training*: [learthsangha.org](#)—8 sessions (Joanna Macy, Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams *Adam* Lobel and others).
- Sofia University seminar titled: *Innovative Trends in Transpersonal Teaching and Learning*. Dr. Pier Luigi Lattuada. Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park, Ca. (participant and instructor)
- *John Muir: Spirituality and Environment-going out is going in-nature as a spiritual experience*. Conference at [La Casa De Maria](#) Santa Barbara, CA.
- *Embracing Mystery: Surrendering to the present moment, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary*. Sofia University week long seminar. (participant, presenter, instructor)
- *Heart Initiation: Developing Contemplative Soul Presence*, New York Open Center, Robert Sardello PhD (webinar)
- *Shamanic Journeying for Guidance and Healing*, Sandra Ingerman, MA, Shift Network (7 weeks)

### 2008-2014

- *Learning the life force*: Jeanne Denny, MA, (4 part webinar)
- *Therapy and Imagination*: New York Open Center, Leonard George PhD (webinar)

- *Embodying our Dreams: Giving voice to our stories and shaping our visions*, Sofia University (4 days) (participant and instructor).
- *Mindfulness Awareness Practices II*, UCLA Semel Institute (MARC) (6 weeks).
- *Active Hope*, Joanna Macy, New York Open Center.
- *Poetry and Self Discovery*, Bill E. Goldberg, MFT at La Casa De Maria, Santa Barbara, CA.
- *Mindfulness Practice for Daily Living I*, UCLA Semel Institute (MARC) (6 weeks).
- *Practicing Shamanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Sandra Ingerman, M.A. New York Open Center (2 weeks).
- *The Wisdom of the Mystics: Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart and Julian of Norwich*: Matthew Fox, PhD. New York Open Center.
- *Earth as Soul Care Matrix: The Wild Heart of Ministry*. Abbey of the Arts: Soul Care Institute (6 weeks).
- *The Mystic Heart: The Divine, Earth and Humanity – An Exploration of Eco-spirituality, Eco-Awareness*. One Spirit Seminary, New York (4 weeks).
- *Gratitude: Opening Our Hearts to the Sacred Seminar*, [Sofia University](#) (4 days). (participant, presenter, instructor)
- *Live it to Give it*: Abbey of the Arts: Soul Care Institute (6 weeks).
- *Celtic Spirituality: As it was, as it is*. Fionntulach; Teacher and head of the Order of Ceile De. Sponsored by La Casa De Maria, Santa Barbara, CA. (3 days).
- *The Wisdom of the Thirteen Grandmothers: To light the way forward*: Shift Network (7 week course).
- *InterSpiritual Meditation Teacher Training*: Ed Bastian, PhD. Spiritual Paths Institute (2 days).
- *Beauty: Pilgrimage to the Soul Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (5 days). (participant, presenter, instructor)
- *Way of the Monk, Path of the Artist*: Abbey of the Arts (12 weeks).
- *Attention, Intention-Awakening to Joy & Aliveness Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (3 days).
- *The Four Elements: An Amplification of the Symbolic Process*: Jungian Institute of Los Angeles (4 weeks).
- *Embodying the Dream: Imagination, Intuition, and Direct Knowing Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (3 days).
- *Inter-Spiritual Meditation: A seven part process from the world's spiritual tradition*: Ed Bastian, PhD. Spiritual Paths Institute (8 weeks).
- *Transpersonal theory, practices and application Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (3 days).
- *Collage: Doorway to Self*: Jungian Institute of Los Angeles
- *The work that re-connects*: Joanna Macy at the Ojai Foundation
- *Sacred Art of Dying Module 3*: Sacred Art of Living-Center for Spiritual Formation (2 days).
- *Transpersonal Psychology: Maturing practices and applications Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (5 days).
- *Earth, creativity and the awakening Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (5 days).
- *Transpersonal education and wisdom Psychologies, embodiment, advancement and application Seminar*: Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (5 days).

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## Organizations & Professional Affiliations

- [International Expressive Arts Therapy Association](#)
  - REACE Professional Designation
  - Co-Chair Professional Standards Committee-Registered Expressive Arts Consultant Educator (Reace) March 2015- present
- [Spiritual Directors International](#) – Member and Published Artwork, June 2015, *Presence Journal*
- [ITP Alliance](#) – Affiliate
- [National Resource Defense Council](#) – member
- [Land Conservancy San Luis Obispo](#), CA - member

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## Career and Education Summary: Core competencies

- **Teaching, online teaching**: Multi-cultural, Inter-generational and group dynamic awareness and sensitivity. I aim to contribute to student success, personal & professional growth, and well-being. I guide transformational and human spiritual development across the lifespan.
- **Creative Expression and Process**: Professional and personal creative expression and process experience with focus in multi modal expressive arts for health, healing, growth and transformation.
- **Leadership and Communication**: Demonstrated innovative leadership, incorporating humanistic principles modeling integrity, communication skills, creativity and innovation, and consensus building. Strong organizational, motivational and visioning skills. Budgeting, hiring, counseling, short and long term strategic

planning, grant writing, contract and project management. Collaborative communication style with background in public service leadership, academia, training, mentoring and spiritual guidance with understanding of diversity in expression and learning styles and multi-cultural and intergenerational communication. Experience in deep listening practice, negotiation, and conflict resolution and group collaboration facilitation. Program development and instruction at the master's level and Committee leadership and membership.

- **Ordained Minister**; an earth based multi-cultural ministry. Educated with experiential strength in; earth and atmospheric sciences, ecopsychology, and ecospirituality.

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### **Volunteer**

- 2015-present: Co-Chair of REACE Professional Standards Committee; International Expressive Arts Therapy Association.
- 2015-2017: Sponsorship Committee Member for the IEATA Winnipeg Conference Oct 4-8, 2017.
- 2011-2014 Spiritual Paths Institute: Support ongoing visioning and program development
- 2010-2014 Creative Expression in an aging community center

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### **References** (Contact information upon request)

Dorit Netzer, PhD, LCAT

Kat McGiver, PhD, REAT.

Grace Wood Wills, MTP

Mark Brady, Ph.D

Nancy Rowe, PhD REAT, CAT