

Mirabai Bush, Executive Director

As Director of the Center, Mirabai brings a unique background of organizational management, teaching, and spiritual practice. She has over 30 years of experience organizing, facilitating and teaching workshops, retreats, and courses on contemplative practice.

A founding board member of the Seva Foundation, an international public health organization, she directed the Seva Guatemala Project, which supports sustainable agriculture and integrated community development. Also at Seva, she co-developed *Sustaining Compassion, Sustaining the Earth*, a series of retreats and events for grassroots environmental activists on the interconnection of spirit and action. She is co-author, with Ram Dass, of *Compassion in Action: Setting Out on the Path of Service*, published by Random House. Mirabai has organized, facilitated, and taught workshops, weekends, and courses on spirit and action for more than 20 years at institutions including Omega Institute, Naropa Institute, Findhorne, Zen Mountain Monastery, University of Massachusetts, San Francisco Zen Center, Buddhist Study Center at Barre, MA, Insight Meditation Society, and the Lama Foundation. She has a special interest in the uncovering and recovery of women's spiritual wisdom to inform work for social change. She has taught women's groups with Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Sharon Salzberg, Joan Halifax, Margo Adler, Starhawk, Jean Shinoda Bolen, Vicky Noble, and other leaders.

Her spiritual studies include meditation study at the Burmese Vihara in Bodh Gaya, India, with Shri S.N. Goenka and Anagarika Munindra; bhakti yoga with Hindu teacher Neemkaroli Baba; and studies with Tibetan lamas Kalu Rinpoche, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Kyabje Gehlek Rinpoche, Tsoknyi Rinpoche, and others. She also did five years of intensive practice in Iyengar yoga and five years of Aikido with Kanai Sensei. Her earlier religious study included 20 years of Catholic schooling, ending with Georgetown University graduate study in medieval literature. She holds an ABD in American literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Before entering the foundation world, Mirabai was the first professional woman to work on the Saturn-Apollo moon flight at Cape Canaveral and later co-founded and directed Illuminations, Inc., from 1973 to 1985 in Cambridge, MA. Her innovative business approaches, based on mindfulness practice, were reported in *Newsweek, Inc., Fortune*, and *the Boston Business Journal*. She has also worked on educational programs with inner-city youth of color.

Arthur Zajonc, Ph.D., Academic Program Director

Arthur is a professor of physics at Amherst College, where he has taught since 1978. In 1997 he served as scientific coordinator for the Mind and Life dialogue with H.H. the Dalai Lama published as *The New Physics and Cosmology: Dialogues with the Dalai Lama* (Oxford 2004). He again organized the 2002 dialogue with the Dalai Lama, "The Nature of Matter, the Nature of Life," and acted as moderator at MIT for the "Investigating the Mind" dialogue in 2003. He has also been General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America (1994-2002), president of the Lindisfarne Association, and a senior program director at the Fetzer Institute.

He has been visiting professor and research scientist at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, and the universities of Rochester and Hannover. He has been Fulbright professor at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. He is author of the book: *Catching the Light*, co-author of *The Quantum Challenge*, and co-editor of *Goethe's Way of Science*.