

# TOBAGO CENTRE

FOR THE STUDY & PRACTICE OF

## INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY



Dear Friends,

“We are in the best of times. We are in the worst of times.” Our individual spiritual and political lives seem to have been shattered and we are all now looking for some collective and personal answers to help us make sense of this current moment. Perhaps we can agree that we are in the throes of a spiritual crisis. Yet while this crisis may epitomize the worst of times, it challenges us to bring the best of ourselves together.

Eight years ago I had a strong vision for creating a Centre, a place where the healing of the human spirit would be linked to the restoration and healing of Land, of Water, of the planet. With that in mind, I invited a group of like-minded people to join me at Spelman College in the fall of 2009 to gather the seeds of what has become the [Tobago Centre for the Study and Practice of Indigenous Spirituality](#). Like a river constantly wending its way to Ocean, we moved to Tobago and found a site nestled in the shade of the rainforest, surrounded by a river.



Photos by Anna Barsan

That river, however, has been polluted by actions that have endangered its life-giving force. Much like the river, our own lives are in danger of being polluted by forces that alienate us from each other and—more importantly—from the spiritual dimensions of who we are. As the Water Protectors at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation have recently re-affirmed,

“Water is Life.” It is time to reconnect Land, Water, and Spirit. It is time to gather together our selves and our communities in a common effort to strengthen our bond to life and its foundations.

*Now is the time to apply the wisdom of our strongest medicine.*

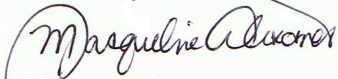
We invite you to join us in our effort to clean this river—a powerful metaphor for cleansing and sweetening our own lives as part of the spiritual journey each of us is being called upon to undertake at this moment of profound challenge. Please [click here](#) to join a community of others who, along with you, have accepted this invitation.

Cleaning the river is our first step. Give now as *your* first step in helping to manifest our ultimate vision of creating long term residencies that teach us how to become guardians of our individual and collective spiritual evolution and growth by being attuned to the interweaving of the sacred in our daily lives.

We are aiming to raise \$150,000 for this initial phase of work, which will help us bring water and environmental experts to work with the river and supply us with clean, safe water for drinking, irrigation for our organic food and medicinal gardens, and general use water for the day-to-day functioning of the Centre. It will open the Centre’s activities and capacities, allowing you to participate in any one of its [residencies](#).

We thank you for accepting this invitation. Please share this call to action with your circle of friends, family and kindred communities. Make your one time or recurring [contribution](#) now.

One in Spirit,



M. Jacqui Alexander  
Founder and Executive Director

### *Supporters*

  
Sharon M. Day  
Angela Y. Davis  
Gloria Wekker  
Chandra Talpade Mohanty

### *Board Members*

*Beverly Guy-Sheftal, Gloria I. Joseph, Sivaraman Nitya Kandath, Patricia Mohammed, M. L. “Papusa” Molina, Darnell L. Moore, Kathleen Phillips-Lewis, Sonjah Stanley-Niaah*