

The ideal of the School of Metaphysics.....To aid any individual, willing to put forth the effort, to become a whole functioning Self, not dependent on any person, place or thing for peace, contentment and security.

The purpose of the School of Metaphysics....To accelerate the evolution of humanity by ushering in Intuitive, Spiritual Man.

The activity of the School of Metaphysics is Teaching Teachers.

Vibrations



Special Issue

The 6th Parliament of the World's Religions October 2015



In October of 2015, I had the honor of leading the largest delegation of Metaphysicians to Salt Lake City, Utah, to attend, to serve and to give our teachings to those in attendance at the Parliament of the World's Religions.

As the School of Metaphysics, we have attended the past 4 Parliaments. In 1993 we attended and presented in Chicago, Illinois, In 1999 we attended and gave the gift of the Peace Covenant in South Africa, In 2009 we attended and Presented in Australia, which brings us to the last Parliament in 2015.

We had 37 of us that made out journey to Utah to give our love and light.....Dr. Sheila Benjamin

Front Row: Dr. Laurel Clark, Hezekiah Condrón, Christopher Stohrer, Aurelia Burkett, Dr. Sheila Benjamin, Rashard Garrett, Larry Hudson

Row two : Walter Hrycaj, Dr. Barbara O'Guinn Condrón, Emily Ashley, Alexandra Madar, Sydney Kasner, Dr. Pamela Blosser, Aneta Baranek, Susan Kerlin, Debbie Hudson, Dr. Daniel Condrón, Rev. Karen Mosby

Row three: Terrence Bellows, Jeff Everett, Matt Valois, Leah Morris, Brian Kraichely, Golbahar Dadyan, Rev. Tad Messenger, Brenton Harris, Dr. Damian Nordmann, Joe Pecaut, Linda Pecaut, Keri Everett, Scott Hilburn

As has been the tradition at each Parliament attended by School of Metaphysics faculty and students, member of the SOM delegation, have volunteered their time in the cause of Parliament needs. Serving at the time this picture was taken include Doug Bannister, Diana Kenney, Christine Spretnjak, Cindy Ussery and Jonathan Duerbeck.

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Peace Pilgrimage Journal from the 2015 of the Parliament of the World's Religions

by Dr. Karen Mosby



Today I had a woman come to lay a stone in **The WINDOW to the WORLD**. She said that she was glad that she got to lay the green stone because it symbolized healing and love. She told me she was from Jerusalem and wanted to help her country heal. She told me that her thought of peace was "Peace, before it is too late." My heart went out to her because I can't imagine living in a city where there is so much unrest and conflict and fear of death.

I told her that she needed to send a stone to be placed in the Healing Wall. I shared with her the vision of the Healing Wall as a place where we were collecting stones from every country so that we would unite the consciousness of the world in a place dedicated to peace. Every stone has a consciousness and brings the essence of the place they come from to the Healing Wall, a place dedicated to peace and healing. I told her that the Healing Wall was located on the opposite side of the the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and represented peace, kind of like a balancing point of healing for the pain and suffering experienced in Jerusalem. She started crying and I encouraged her to send us a stone from her city. She was so grateful that she could do something that could aid her country. I was grateful that I could share what the School of Metaphysics has to offer others. We are so rich in resources we can offer to the world.



The WINDOW to the WORLD has become a place where we are talking and teaching about peace. I had a mother and her daughter come to lay a stone. The mother, a minister, laid her stone and wrote down her thought of peace. When the mother asked her daughter if she would like to lay a stone, the daughter declined. She said that someone else asked her to write something about peace and she said it took her a long time. I told her that at first I had a difficult time trying to come up with thoughts of peace because it seemed that everyone talked about what peace wasn't: wasn't war, wasn't abuse, etc. I handed her a Peace Covenant and invited her to read it when she had time. I shared that the teachers and students of the School of Metaphysics were stimulated to contemplate the meaning of peace after the 1993 Parliament for the World's Religions *Global Ethics Declaration* defined peace with notes. After a year of contemplation, research, and experience they put their ideas down on paper and it is now called the Universal Peace Covenant. I invited her to come back when she knew what she wanted to write down.

Over and over again I hear the thankfulness and gratitude from individuals who are creating something together. They come skeptical but willing. Then I show them all the thoughts of peace represented by the stones already laid. They leave in awe of what the people at the Parliament of the World's Religions are creating together. It gave us time to talk about peace, hand out Peace Covenants, and learn about each other. •



A B U N D A N C E

The INVITATION on a World Stage

by Leah Morris, Sydney Kasner, Golbahar Dadyan

ALFRED NOBEL and BENEFACTORS

When we were creating the playbill, we wanted to educate people about how the prizes came into being. Because Alfred awakened to a twinge of guilt that his family had made their fortune from explosives which had resulted in many deaths, he decided to leave most of his fortune to fund monetary awards for outstanding people in the areas of chemistry, literature, physics, and medicine. The peace prize was the final category Nobel added.

However Nobel was in a position to become a benefactor, his choice to highlight peace among other highly regarded endeavors of humankind set an example for others to follow. By giving **The INVITATION** in the Peace Dome and now at the Parliament of the World's Religions, we are highlighting the value of benefactors.

This is in the seed idea, that **The INVITATION** would bring prosperity and abundance to everyone involved in it, from the actors to the audience to the producers (benefactors) who afford the place and means for the imperience. We know we will be meeting benefactors in Salt Lake City.



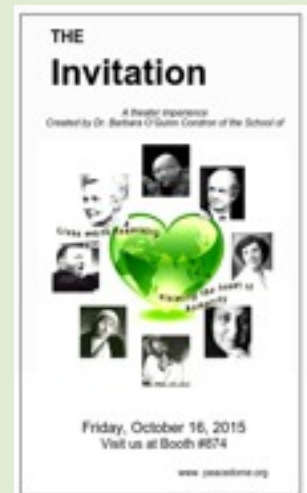
"To hold such a world server in my mind and heart through this play has been humbling and inspiring."
-Brenton Harris, Age 30, Columbia, MO

We built the playbill on earlier versions of programs used in Chicago and at Cardinal Ritter in St. Louis. We used quotes from the cast that connect us with laureates and give an idea of how portraying the laureate has influenced us as individuals. We want people to know the influence that these laureates are having in our lives, upon the way that we are representing ourselves. We're bringing **The INVITATION** a most evolved SOM laboratory to Parliament. We're giving part of our experience as a student and how our consciousness has changed. We're bringing the consciousness that is the School of Metaphysics to the world.

*I see inviting people to perform **The INVITATION** in their own hometown as a way for the seed thought to spread, to be shared, to initiate the Law of Relativity so people begin to experience deeper understanding.*

*I loved creating this playbill because we put more thought into bringing it home with you. It is an invitation, and it's called **The INVITATION**. I don't know how I would define this. We perform, and there is always something next. We're leaving this space open for any seed to be planted in it. The back of the playbill says "Bring **The INVITATION** Home" and it describes how the play "will find a natural home in the theaters of colleges and high schools around the world." When we created that part of the playbill, it was a real desire to see it all over the world.*

*With only a few days to spare, the program for **THE INVITATION** remained in the third level of Mind. It was up to three of the cast members to unify their cardinal-fixed-mutable energies into an outstanding manifestation of love and light!*



The Thrill of Group Creation

*"I experienced co-creation. There was an elevation because of the consciousness of **THE INVITATION**."*
- Sydney Kasner

"Cooperation and surrender yield an ability to produce great results very quickly and easily." - Leah Morris

"I experienced a heightened sense of humility, friendship, and divine love in order to create for a higher purpose." - Golbahar Dadyan

The YOUTHFUL ELEMENT - Sydney

Part of the Parliament's goals this year is to reach the youth. We learned the history of how the music entered into the play. A woman in Australia suggested it to Dr. Barbara Condron as a way to reach the young people. The first cast was in Melbourne in 2009 for that Parliament and the play was given at Unity Church. Our desire for youth to adopt this play, to take it on and perform it locally in communities ALL OVER THE WORLD is a major contribution to Salt Lake City's Parliament. The addition of our own "Peace is Real" is perfection. We love it! •

The INVITATION *at Parliament*

by Barbara O'Guinn Condron

"The Second Cast" brought THE INVITATION to the 2015 Parliament. As we have been visualizing for years, many secondary and collegiate teachers saw the play and want to bring it to their part of the world!

said. Her eyes gleamed as we talked more about the subject matter of THE INVITATION. I knew I would see her at the play.

Mary Jo was the first to reveal how this play will move through the world as a result of being afforded, quickly literally, a global stage.

As the cast rehearsed on Thursday, dozens of people kept coming to the room thinking another program was being offered. The cast and delegation members took turns explaining the change in schedule and inviting them to the play. I spoke with a middle school teacher who knew the play "will be perfect for my kids", and a priest from Newark who will bring it to his Catholic college. And this all BEFORE they saw the play.

"My name is Barbara," I said as I introduced myself to the woman sharing our shuttle to the hotel.

"I'm Mary Jo," she replied.

As it turns out Mary Jo Honiotes is a senior minister at the Center for Spiritual Living in the Denver area.

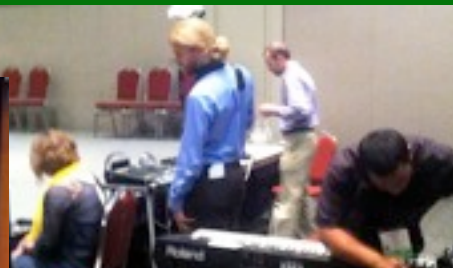
As we talked I told her about the play our group would perform on Friday. "It's called THE INVITATION," I said.

Mary Jo said: **"I have it marked."**

From that moment, I knew THE INVITATION was assured a great reception.

As we continued to talk, Mary Jo revealed her love of theater. "I think acting is one of the best ways to help people be in the moment," she

BEHIND THE SCENES all the people who supported the cast



Every delegate offered their hands and hearts to making the play a success. From sound engineering by Matt Valois and Jonathan Duerbeck to filming by Scott Hilburn to set decoration by Aurelia Burkett, each greeter made all the difference.



The INVITATION Performance

Parliament of the World's Religions 2015

By Leah Morris



So many factors had led us up to that time and space. We sat on the plane together; Walter, Golbahar, Sydney, Brenton, Matt and I. We held Emily, Hezekiah, Dr. Barbara, and Terrence in our

hearts knowing they were flying through the air on a different trajectory to the same destination. The relativity of the thought form is infinite. **The INVITATION** was written in 2003, yet the lives of the laureates extend as far into the past as their influence does into the future.

As the plane engine roared in my ears, I closed my eyes. I thought of all of the lifetimes each of the laureates had lived that brought them to the exact time and

place where they could make the greatest impact. Oh, how they each arose to the occasion. When we embody them, we are embodying all of it; every choice, every challenge, every rejoice, every expression of Love and Truth. We are receiving their consciousness into our beings and for a moment, it is ours to share. Across the aisle, Golbahar, Brenton, and Sydney nuzzled



together in their row laughing, talking, engaging. They looked so happy. I could tell that they knew each other deeply. Walter and Matt were next to me, still, quiet, content. My heart glowed with peace. Everything in the moment is Right. With gratitude, I thought of all of the lifetimes I had lived, and the choices that I had made that brought me to this exact time and space with each of these wonderful souls.

"We are performing **The INVITATION** at the Parliament of the World's Religions," I thought. The play itself had made itself known in many forms prior to this one. Each individual in the audience with each performance, has added substance to the thought form as the Law of Relativity continues to carry its potential forward.

The INVITATION was performed during the PreParliament event in Chicago in 2008, and at a Unity Church in Melbourne, Australia while the Parliament gathered there in 2009. The next step? To give the consciousness of peace to the great leaders of the world at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 2015.



"**The INVITATION** will inspire them to carry their work into the world. It will be a breath of fresh air, an image to move into," I thought. What a wonderful gift to give hundreds of world servers who need to know how important they are.

We landed in Phoenix to catch our connecting flight to Salt Lake City and frolicked through the the airport terminal. Within a few minutes, we found Terrence and said, "Dr. King, what a surprise!" He happened to be booked on the connecting flight to Salt Lake City along with us.

When we landed in Salt Lake City, Sydney stood up and said, "Is anyone here going to Parliament?" A few men raised their hands. She pulled a personally designed ticket out of her pocket and said,

"We are part of a play about peace that is performing this Friday. We would love for you to be there." Her pure, genuine, generosity shined in her smile, and her eyes as they happily agreed to attend the performance.





The thought-form continued to attract like minds as it moved into manifestation. During our rehearsal on the stage, many people came to the door of the auditorium looking for

another class that had been scheduled and then canceled. We were able to connect with them and invite them to the performance.

An hour before the performance, the cast sat together in a circle in full dress, calmly chanting and connecting our hearts to the consciousness we were about to bring. In oneness, we arose and walked in silence through the halls of the convention center, passing hundreds of people. Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama were given much respect and attention as we crossed paths with people.

I felt such reverence and honor for being able to bring The INVITATION to them.

We decided to strategically place each laureate in the audience, in silence, candles



burning before the play began. The newly created "Lives Worth Examining" film, with updated images and narrated, by each of our own voices, brought each laureates life story to the audience.

I sat in the audience, my candle lit and my heart pounding. People were filling the seats around us, careful not to disturb the silence of our reverence. This performance had such depth of meaning to me. Matt Valois brought his keyboard all of the way from Missouri to perform his solos adding a profound and heartfelt message.

We delivered the INVITATION to the world that day. Each time I perform, I can feel the attention of the audience. Usually, some people are engaged while others not. Some people are alert, yet the meaning passes them by. Some people receive deeply and are moved. I was surprised when, at the end of Betty Williams' speech, the crowd began to applaud. I remained still and took my seat next to Linus Pauling on stage. Our receptive audience full of religious leaders, lay people, activists, environmentalists and many people from various faiths and backgrounds became more engaged as we continued to give the play.



As Matt began to sing, "We Shall Overcome," a song from the civil rights movement, people began to sing with him. At the end of the experience, the audience sat silently in reverence for a few minutes. I could feel the

movement within them. The entire cast lined up outside in the hallway to receive the people and their gratitude.

Many people gave each of us genuine hugs and appreciation. I was able to connect with 2 people deeply after the performance. The first was a man from Northern Ireland who remembered how his life changed when the 3 children were killed and Betty Williams and Mairead Maguire started the Peace Movement. He was grateful to hear her story and be inspired again by her words and choices. He even thought I was from Ireland! It was a great

opportunity to explain how I had embodied her consciousness through concentration, meditation, and visualization. An other man came to me and hugged me with tears in his eyes. He said, "Thank you. That was very powerful." He later visited the School of Metaphysics booth, connected with more of our delegates and laid a gem in



The WINDOW to the WORLD.

The INVITATION

"I had many people bowing before me and recognizing that I brought His Holiness to the Parliament of the World's Religions because he was not physically present. Two gentlemen from India who spent much time with the Dalai Lama asked how I was able to imitate him so well. Many of his words and actions were exactly as they have seen. They remarked how beautifully I was able to portray him.

I shared with them the many years it took and the practice of embodying more than just words and mannerisms. I have learned to sink into a state of consciousness that the Dalai Lama may hold for himself as well as all people. In my mind the image of the words are so clear, that the Dalai Lama comes forth as if I was presenting to the consciousness of the planet, just like he would do. This world stage and the two men from India gave me feedback that who I was portraying was indeed who I wanted to embody. The experience was humbling and it



Walter Hrycaj, Dalai Lama



"Portraying Shirin Ebadi in The INVITATION was humbling and brought forth my connection to God. At the end of the play, a woman in the front row looked at me and cried. She put her hands together in prayer form, with tears in her eyes she said, "Thank you." She then bowed her head. I knew she was bowing her head because of the grace she experienced by connecting with the thought that, "Peace is an Idea whose time has come."- **Golbahar Dadyan, Shirin Ebadi**

We express sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who helped make this performance possible by supporting our \$10,000 fundraising goal! Your hearts and minds were and are with us in All Ways. With Love, The INVITATION Cast

"Attending the Parliament of the World's Religions was an incredible experience that I will never forget. *The Invitation* is Honor, Service, Peace. Every time I perform, I awaken those qualities within my Self. Service is what I carried with me throughout my entire Parliament experience, and what I held in my mind during the performance. I felt honored to walk through the hallway embodying such a powerful and intelligent woman whose lifetime has aided mine profoundly, Alva Myrdal. Walking through the hallway together as a group, already embodying these



laureates, was one of the highlights of the Parliament of the World's Religions for me."- **Sydney Kasner, Alva Myrdal**



His Holiness, the Dalai Lama has since 1993 blessed those that have attended the Parliament of the World's Religions with his presence and wisdom. He was present in Chicago, Spain, South Africa and in Australia.

Days before the Parliament was to begin, word was sent out that his Holiness was given direction from Doctors at Mayo Clinic to return to his home in India. His health was being compromised by his travel and he was in great need of rest.

Walter Hrycai who portrays the Dalai Lama in *THE INVITATION*, was able to bring the Spirit of His Holiness to the People in Salt Lake City

Embodying the Spirit of the Dalai Lama

by Walter Hrycai

The Parliament of the World's Religions was an amazing opportunity and probably one of the best times of my life. We came to give the Invitation, and there was also so much to receive.

My Ideal for the Parliament was to be a supporting presence. My main goal was to be centered in my core throughout this entire experience. I felt like the only time I was swayed completely off center was when I was walking to the ballroom with the other cast members dressed as the Dalai Lama. I never received so much personal attention before that day in the way I am about to describe. I had people (monks, nuns, Sufis, Sikhs, holy men and woman) putting their hands together in prayer pose and bowing toward me. I would bow back of course; however, it felt very funny to me because I wasn't an actual Buddhist monk, yet the robe said otherwise.

Eventually, I embraced the role and wondered if this is how the Dalai Lama feels yet on a much grander scale. Either way presence still existed and *THE INVITATION* was well received. However, I noticed when I took off the robe the bows stopped and my attention was free to be myself. Although the robe was off I was still me and the presence never changed; it was always there.

I was thinking that maybe wearing a robe or being a Buddhist monk would possibly keep me locked into a specific identity. It sure harnessed my attention and showed me who connects with whom. I was thinking, robe or no robe couldn't we all behave this way to one another, of course.

Yes, there were many workshops and plenaries to attend. I also received much praise for the embodiment of the Dalai Lama. I also opened myself up to many concepts, ideas and beliefs I probably would have never considered. There were also many things I wanted to see and do. However, what I gained the most from this adventure was more of a sense of who I am, what I am about, and what I am living for.

"Remember who you are" was physically said to me many times throughout this event and I believe that what solidified during this event is more of how I want to move in the world, and how I want my practice of ministry to transpire.

I have come to the conclusion that it's important to me to reach our youth with specific practices and teachings of the world's religions. Watching the children at this year's Parliament was an inspiration to me. I began to imagine what our world would be like if every child on this planet was educated in all the religions and practices from all over the world.

I wondered what it would be like to be raised without prejudice and if that is even possible on this planet. I do believe teaching adults is important, I also believe it's time for our youth of today to be educated in these matters and to take an active role in the leadership of our communities.

I believe the Dalai Lama exists within us all. •

Universal Connection

by Brenton Harris



Marianne Williamson (above center) is the author of many books including **A Return to Love** which has widely been used in Course of Miracle study group circles.

At the first plenary, I was blown away by Marianne Williamson and her ability to elevate and inspire. I told myself, "I'm going to invite her to *The INVITATION!*" I created a clear image of connecting with her alone, either in this session or later in the conference. When the session ended, music began playing and dancers filled the aisles. I followed Emily's intuition and headed to the front by the stage with Leah and Dr. Damian close behind. As Emily talked to one of the presenters, Leah

wondered aloud how we would find her. I looked up, and there she was, standing alone by the stage and dancing to the music. "There she is!" I said, making a bee-line for her.

As I shook her hand and introduced myself, I thanked her for her incredible work and inspiration. "I know you are incredibly busy," I said, "but I would love it if you could come to our play!" With Dr. Damian's, Emily's, and Leah's help, we told her about the play and its origins.

"I don't make my schedule, but if I'm free I'd love to come," she said.

"That's okay--I just wanted to put this in your hand." It was true--whether or not she came was far less important to me. Meeting her and placing a part of The Invitation in her hands was a powerful energetic act.

Despite the noise and the low lighting, my last question was met with a smile and a yes: "Do you take selfies?"

The play had a full house, even though Marianne wasn't in the audience (she was on a panel at the same time). However, a few days later Leah excitedly came up to me with unexpected news. "Did you know Marianne Williamson came to our booth and laid a gemstone in the window to the world?!"

Sure enough, her friend brought her through, and she added her piece of peace to our mandala. And to bring things full circle, her thought form was "No more war!"--the name of the speech and book written by Linus Pauling, from which many of his lines were assembled for The Invitation.

Such a beautiful, connected universe!

O Brenton



My Golden Parliament Gift The Beauty of Service

by Diana Kenney

My golden Parliament gift. A request by Dr. Barbara Condrón set into motion an easy, light-filled manifestation. The emotional energy of the creation was different than I normally experience. It was a constant feeling of light, peace, and quiet joy. This is my golden gift that I took home with me to explore and use as I will. Absent was any feeling of doubt, fear or other limitation. I simply focused on the goal with a simple expectancy that I would accomplish it.

On Thursday afternoon, I stopped by the School's booth. Dr. Barbara came up and gave me a hug and asked if I would take the lead in obtaining a table for *THE INVITATION* cast to use for their performance in the Invitation the next day.

I said, "Yes." A thought went through my head of buying a table, but I let it go and decided I wanted to receive the table a different way. I started walking around the Salt Palace Conference Center looking to see what was available. As I walked around I was filled with and surrounded by the feelings of love that permeated the air at the Parliament. The best description I have for the feeling is: beauty and light. The Navajo have a saying: "to walk in beauty," and this is the best description I have for my experience.

The conference center is huge and was filled with many, many people. And yet I seemed to know exactly where to go and who to approach to move towards my goal. I found myself connecting with the people at the Rotary Exhibit in a room called "The Gathering". They were the first people I asked, and they knew to direct me to JB Design. Eventually, I received the name and physical description of Jana Scott, the woman who could give me permission to use the tables.

I left JB Design to find Jana and found myself drawn to ask a woman if she was Jana Scott, even though, if my description was accurate, she was clearly not. As it turned out, she had just met Jana Scott and had been puzzled why Jana had given her phone number to her. As she voiced this out loud, her friend said, "you were given Jana's number to give to this lady." (me!)

We all smiled as I gratefully received the number and shortly thereafter received permission to use the table. This effort took about two hours.

In this time I clearly experienced the Universal Law of Relativity, the Universal Law of Attraction as well as the Universal Law of Manifestation, as I kept the vision of what I wanted firmly in mind along with the delicious, beautiful feeling of light and love as I applied what is described in Lesson 3 as "unceasing and continuous determined actions accompanied by a purposeful desire, until the ideal is achieved."

The feeling that accompanied the manifestation is my golden gift. We know that emotion moves our visualized creations out into the physical world. The beauty and light that was generated by the thousands of people at Parliament all connected in a common ideal of love and world peace helped me "manifest" the table we used for *THE INVITATION* with a feeling of beauty, light and ease. This experience is moving me into adulthood with intentional manifestation.♦

With Gratitude

by Brian Kraichely



Salt Lake City was my first Parliament of the World's Religions and I was very excited to be a part of it. I have been part of several other delegations to various conferences and I am always meeting new people, representing the SOM and sharing what we do.

Our booth was amazing! Thanks to Karen and all the people who designed it. It was different from previous booths in that we did not sell any of our books. We gave people an experience. We invited them to be a part of a worldwide peace movement! People from all backgrounds, faiths and locations recorded a thought of peace in our journal and held it in mind as they placed a gem stone into our window. We also received pledges from people to send stones from their homelands to Windyville for our healing wall. A young woman from Germany was thrilled to be the first from her country to pledge to send a stone and had her boyfriend take her picture as she placed the light pin into the map. I experienced several people visibly light up and raise their vibration as they aligned with something awesome and greater than themselves. I was thrilled to be able to aid people to have such an experience.

We performed *THE INVITATION* to a packed house and it was awesome to have so many people receive it so well. People were hugging us and crying afterwards. I felt very fulfilled. It was exciting to hear several people say that they want to bring *THE INVITATION* to their groups and congregations. I see peace moving across the face of the earth!

THE INVITATION cast created a video thank you card for Dr. Barbara describing how our lives have been changed by our participation in the play. It was humbling to remember where I was when I first said yes and how I have grown in consciousness through my participation. That choice opened the door for me to have so many experiences around the country. It is amazing to realize how many people's lives have been forever expanded through seeing or being a part of *THE INVITATION*. Thank you Dr. Barbara for all the wonderful creations you have given the world.

We created a thank you song for Dr. Sheila that is really cool. It was a fun creative process to write and perform music together. We performed it for her at the booth the next morning and it brought tears to us and her. Thank you Dr. Sheila for all you do!

I had met some Hindus the day before, and they had invited me to a Sri Yantra group meditation. I knew that I should go. As the meditation began, I focused on my heart. I was breathing through my heart when I began to feel a vibration in me. That turned into a more powerful convulsion and I saw in a flash the Divine Mother smiling at me. I began to weep as I prostrated myself in my mind before her. I received waves of Shaktipat into me that at times I was not sure I could handle. It lasted for about 5 minutes. I surrendered to God and gave my life completely to whatever my destiny is. I felt so blissful that I would have been fine to never open my eyes again. That experience faded into a more tranquil peace and as it ended, I realized that I had been in full lotus quite comfortably for 90 minutes. It was the second most incredible meditation of my life, and I know it is the result of all the exercises and meditations I have done that prepared me to receive this.

The Parliament of the World's Religions is incredible! So many spiritual people from all over the world coming together in one place. It was announced that Parliament will be every two years from now on. I know that I will be there representing the SOM and helping peace and love to spread across the face of the Earth. •

The Global Ethic and the *Universal Peace Covenant*

Dr. Pam Blosser and Terrence Bellows

As I surveyed the list of close to 40 choices of workshops for Saturday afternoon, I noticed a session about the Global Ethic. My heart jumped when I saw it because The Global Ethic had been such a large part of the 1993 Parliament, and the stimulus for writing the *Universal Peace Covenant*. I knew we needed to be a presence at that workshop, take copies of the *Universal Peace Covenant*, and share them with the participants. I texted Dr. Barbara, and she asked if I would go and let the cast members of "The Invitation" know about it as well. I spread the word, and it was Terrence who went with me to Room 255 EF where the workshop was to be held.

The major presenters told about the history and the creation of the *Global Ethic* in the early 1990s and the concern that its presence in the world "had become a whisper." We were then invited to come together in a circle for questions and to discuss a possible future for it. It was at this point that I presented the *Universal Peace Covenant*, that we in the School of Metaphysics had been stimulated to write because of the *Global Ethic*, and how it was very much alive through presentations, vigils and daily readings. I was met by a comment by one of the presenters, Professor Dean Chatterjee, "We can talk about motherhood and apple pie..." At that moment I felt like a mother bear protecting her cub (as described by Marianne Williamson a few days before). I knew this man knew nothing about the Peace Covenant and was making unfounded comments about it. I picked up a copy of the Peace Covenant and carried it to him saying, "I think you should read it before you start making comments about it." I handed it to him and he laid it on the empty chair beside him and refused to continue. There was a low muttering among some of the participants.

The moderator of the session announced she had been a grad student in a class with Dr. Leonard Swidler, co-founder of the movement for a global ethic with Professor Hans Kung of the University of Tübingen, Germany and also present for this session. She explained that during the time of the writing of the Global Ethic, her class had been asked to write a treatise of their own, much like we had done with the *Universal Peace Covenant*.

Near the end of the workshop, Dr. Swidler said he and Hans Kung had agreed that their best hope was that small groups would take what had been written and write their own documents. I thought, "That's what we did. That's what the writers of the Global Ethic hoped would happen, and we did it!" Many attendees wanted copies, and we passed them around. Then Dr. Swidler said, "Let's get a picture with those people who also wrote their own documents. We happily grouped together for a picture. • Dr. Pamela Blosser



Being a presenter for the Parliament of the World's Religions was an honor that I cannot express enough gratitude for. I thought I would have a great time and learn a lot but I had no idea of the immense love that would be present. The sharing of the love was at times overwhelming. I found direction in stilling my mind and listening. Listening to the voices that sang and to the ones that spoke. To the hearts that sang and to my own song. I often feel a heat deep within my Heart and Solar Plexus when I have something within that needs to be expressed more fully. When Dr. Pam Blosser shared her heart song with me about the Global Ethic workshop, I felt the fire. I knew that I should be there. There would be something I would need to give. I felt confident of that.

The time came and we walked into the room, prepared for some 200 people. Only around 30 came. Those who have authority with it spoke on the history of the Global Ethic and I felt certain that what they were wanting for the document was what the School of Metaphysics had given the Peace Covenant. How to communicate what I was seeing was not yet clear to me. The energy in the room shifted when one of the presenters suggested that we form a circle and become a physically closer so that our group discussion could be more of shared experience. This is when I began to sense that I would have my opportunity. I stilled my mind. And listened. Leonard Swidler, an original author of the Global Ethic as well as two of the Trustees on the Parliament board were in attendance. Dr. Swidler led the group discussion. The first person to speak after him stated that we should have someone read the document at this very Parliament to give a greater awareness to those who did not know of it. This meant that it would have a chance to live again. If it was heard by people who were unaware of it and also those who had known and forgotten about it. This whole time I am realizing my vision is rooted in the fact that the *Peace Covenant* has ties to the Global Ethic and one of the main differences is that the *Peace Covenant* is respected and kept alive by the care that is expressed for it daily. With a feeling fire deep within my solar plexus, I seized the opportunity to speak. I let everyone know that we love the Peace Covenant and use it and that our small group is the example of the founding fathers of our nation that small groups doing great things are the backbone of our society. We (SOM) are proof of that. • Terrence LaMont Bellows

A Bridge to the other Shore

by Barbara O'Guinn Condron

For me, the threads of this Parliament are held in the fingers of the Goddess of Mercy and Compassion, Kuan Yin. She has been present from the time Christine Madar asked me if her eldest daughter Alexandra could accompany me to Salt Lake City. After thought and some deliberation with members of the delegation, the answer was "Yes!" The 11 year old (going on 20) was everyone's daughter this week, reminding us that life regenerates itself, generation after generation.



One of the events we attended was a session about the Kuan Yin. Hezekiah joined us for this surprising offering. It was a dual session, shared by two entirely different presenters. The first half, "Part of a Whole", is presented by 11 lovely young ladies, ages nine to 18, mostly Oriental yet from five countries. They presented about their lives and schooling at a Buddhist monastery in California.

The CA students learn and practice eight virtues: *Respect, Citizenship, Fairness, Kindness, Filial piety, Integrity, Trustworthiness, and Humility*. Their application of learning how to live together as sisters is sacred geometry in motion. Stargate work.



As each speaks eloquently of her life and learning, I think of all the children I have known thus far in life. Hundreds whose parents studied metaphysics, and of those dozens who came to live at the College of Metaphysics in the summer during kids' camp. As I listen to these young women talk about "limited use of technology, volunteering/community service, recycling, Buddhist texts, and moral education", I think of how the COM has provided the two young people sitting with me a unique, multidimensional education.

Meeting these students reminded me of our search in 1999 for the Maker's Dozen - 13 organizations, mostly schools, exceptional for the quality of their education. I am glad we are continuing to make our education available for individuals of all ages. It is a fitting reflection of Kuan Yin as She is the goddess people pray to when they desire children in their lives.



The second half of the session is a play called *Kwan Yin and the Dragon*. The story focuses on a dragon who in troll-like fashion terrorizes a village until Kuan Yin responds to the cries of the villagers. "Each of us has within ourselves a dragon and Kwan Yin. The dragon is not to be destroyed, rather it is to be brought into relationship with the internal self and the world around us. Compassion is the mode to accomplish this task." It is a symbolic tale of how a change in the identity, the ego, can calm the emotions and open avenues for harmony

and prosperity. How this play came to PWR is a living example of how to build bridges.

The playwright tells us he wanted to come to Parliament and so he made a proposal. His friend said, "What should we do?" They decided on this story. But they needed more people to play the different characters so they made friends at the Parliament who helped them. I think of students I know – Dr. Jonathan Duerbeck is one – who are sufficiently enterprising to do such things! The mostly improvised play is entertaining and illuminating. It plants a seed that germinates in my consciousness during the night.

I marvel at how easy it is these days for one to become two, 2 to become 3, 3- 4, and 4 to be 7 as we teach in the lessons. All endeavoring to become One again. Whole, with understanding. Again the sacred geometry of existence lives within us!

The universe continually reflects Kuan Yin, the feminine principle in creation, receiving, returning to the Source. Women and youth are celebrated at this Parliament. The Spirit of Kuan Yin is everywhere, even in my dream the next morning.

I have been incubating dreams throughout the Parliament in response to a call by Golbahar Dadyan who is at the Parliament to bring Shirin Ebadi to life in THE INVITATION. Golbahar has recently completed her thesis for her Doctorate of Divinity. The topic is a Global Lucid Dreaming Experiment on the effect of spiritual disciplines on soul progression awareness. She has asked that the SOM delegates record their dreams while at Parliament.

My dreams have been meager. Short hours, sensory overload, and constant reaching to assimilate during the day have affected dream recall. Yet, no effort is wasted nor unrewarded. So many experiences these days culminate in the following dream. •

A DREAM

*Monday, October
18, 2015
The TREE of LIFE*

*I am above a
constant ocean of
clouds, blue sky
above me. At first
I think I am in an airplane but only my body is. I
am outside the plane, looking back seeing
Barbara sitting next to Kiah and Alexandra. I
turn my body away from the vehicle and walk, or
float, on the clouds. The clouds become thinner
and I can begin to see the earth below.
Mountains give rise to rivers streaming in
patterns toward an ocean all around. In the
center is the NuWa-Fu Hsi tree with its roots in
Heaven. I recognize this tree. I have seen it
before in dreams, both waking and sleeping.*

*Instantaneously, I am sitting on a high branch of
the tree. Or more leviating on it. I don't touch
the tree, just occupy a space. I look to my right
and Babaji is there eating an octahedron yellow
fruit. He holds it out to me and I can see it is
gradient in color - yellow to purple. The center
space is clear, and that is where the essence is.
"Clear light." I think.*

*Babaji stops. He has heard me. I slide into the
tree absorbing it in layers, or the circles. I am the
tree through its ages. EOD*

WAKING THOUGHTS

It seems I awake with a clearer perspective of the Avalo/Kuan Yin allegory as a means to navigate the waters of consciousness it Self. So fitting that we, the collective Self of a human race, would use water as a symbol of consciousness all these millennia. I understand more the bridge, the connector between one land and another. Bridges are relatively new creations after all. They are always our point of view - 'what we think we have to put our selves through', hmm?

Well, I am anew this morning. I am carving away at my former identity it seems. From the feminine, mother is the best word I can use to describe the feeling. Always open to all, even to sometimes feeling neglectful with a son I bore passage into this world;— all of that has shifted, the landscape has changed.

What was two points connected by a wave, is now more a series of points of light, photons, connecting an arbitrary here and there. I saw it so clearly as Parliament was created in the Salt Palace: the beginning, the set up and gathering; the transition, the many experiences; the tear down, the restoration to the original structure. As if nothing had transpired.

That is earth.

It remains. Most of it hidden from view.

Yet all the while - evidence of things unseen - it sustains and supports all life.

That is the feminine, Kuan Yin represents, that I now sink into moment by moment. Just Being. Now I am the waters that flow to its deepest level. I am the fire that purifies land, sea, and air. I am the air that initiates every creation as a God word.

I grow increasingly still to this world of my making these past 40 years of meditative living through this vehicle we call the School of Metaphysics. I stepped off that bridge last Sunday when a funny gentleman just had a fancy to do something at Parliament. That something was *Kuan Yin and the Dragon*. And I became as the woman in another's dream who withstood a war in heaven all for the sake of new earth. •



Ancient Wisdom

by Rev. Tad Messenger

On Saturday, October 17, 2015 I chose to go to a program schedule entitled Peacemaking Among the Six Nations Iroquois. It was to be led by Oren Lyons, Chief of the Iroquois Nation. I had met him in Melbourne in 2009. He had described the Iroquois as the Peace Makers of the planet. I was very impressed with his talk and wrote about him in the book Dreamtime Down Under. I had given him The PeaceMaking book that Dr. Barbara Condron had written and told him that we were

peace makers also. At the time he said he would take the book to Council and get back with me. I did not know how that would happen. However, three months later he came to me in a dream and I realized that that was how he would respond. This led to my work with the crystalline grids at the COM. I was going to share with Chief Lyons my experience and give him the book of Dreamtime Down Under.

I also wanted to hear the Hopi elders at the conference because I have considered them one of the most highly advanced indigenous people on the planet. When it came time to go to the talk, Alexandra asked to go with me. This was a special treat because I regard her as a dear friend and enjoy watching her as she progresses. Many times I will follow her lead and cherish her stillness. When we went to the talk, we became engaged with a Navajo woman who was sitting in front of us. Then we realized people were leaving, the time was 15 minutes past due and no one had come to present. Then a woman approached and said that Grandmother Mona Polacca, a Hopi Elder would speak with us. I was disappointed that Oren Lyons would not be there (he was called away to a Climate Conference in Paris). However, I was delighted to hear a Hopi Elder.

She began very simply stating that part of healing the planet was to be grateful for the four elements - water, air, fire, and earth. She asked us to recall our time before being born into this lifetime. We existed within our mother's womb in water. As we came forth the first thing we did was gasp for breath, air. As we adjusted to the new world we were taken outside to receive the sunlight, fire. Then we learned to stand up and walk our journey in life upon the earth. We can honor these elements with gratitude each day by waking up, having a glass of water, taking a deep breath of air, stretching and walking outside to feel the fire of the sunlight, and walking upon the earth.

She told many stories during her talk and let us know that she had been in the Yucatan where the keepers of the Mayan Calendar fire had been during the end of the time, December 21, 2012. She said that a male had kept the sacred fire all the time. However, when midnight came on December 21, 2012, he gave the sacred fire to be kept by a woman. This was the marking of the end of one era and the beginning of another. She took this thought back to her Hopi land and decided that this was the time to bring Peace to the Earth. This thought pervaded her talk.

As Alexandra and I left her presence we walked around looking at the art gallery, and then she asked me if I wanted to walk the labyrinth that was set up at the Parliament. I said "I would be delighted." I walked a few steps behind her slowly, quietly, in reverence. As we proceeded there became five of us walking along a few steps behind each other in silence. There was a joyful, colorful woman in the front, a young tall girl about 16 behind her, then Alexandra, myself, and an older woman. As we approached the end, the lady in the front stopped. We all stopped. she turned and saluted us in prayer and bowing, then left. The young girl went to the opening, stopped, turned, and bowed to us. We each did this until we were all away from the labyrinth. This was a silent, sacred, moment that was the highlight of my Parliament experience- receiving the stillness and reverence with my friend and the people within the labyrinth. •

How can I Serve?

by Golbahar Dadyan

My experience at the Parliament of the World's Religions was one of inspiration, bliss and alignment. I had many spiritual experiences with many enlightened people. The first day at the Women's Conference I was able to go to a talk about inspiring women in religion. It was a panel of women. One of the women was Malcolm X's daughter, and she spoke about God and her connection to him. She said that her strength came from allowing herself to get down on two knees and pray. She spoke about how she was able to do that because she saw her mother find her strength in this way. She spoke about her mother's ability to stay strong and core centered during the challenging times of their lives. After that Deepak Chopra's daughter spoke. For me, she really set the theme of the Parliament. She spoke about connecting with I AM. She had us think about the question, "How can I serve?" As I thought about this question I realized that my service was in giving love to every person I interact with at the Parliament.

I think that is why I was so drawn to the Sikhs. The Sikhs believe in sacred service and unity for all. For 6 days they served lunch as a form of service to the people attending the Parliament. They called this Langar, a term used in the Sikh religion for common kitchen/canteen where food is served in a Gurdwara to all the visitors (without distinction of background) for free. They served with a glad heart. I ended up going to one of the Panels in which some of the Panelist where Sikhs. One of them said, "People keep asking us how can we afford to feed all these people. And my answer to them is that it is blessed by God and our faith." This sentence was very profound for me as it reminded me of the the power of sacred service and how in Sacred Service everyone is fed, and there is always plenty of abundance to be had. I also thought of the story in the Bible with Jesus and the fish and loaves of bread. There was more than enough fish and bread to feed the people because the source of the food was from God. As Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but from the breath of God."



That same day I ended by walking with one of the Sikhs and I asked him what does he do when he is confused and needs an answer. He said, "I directly ask God." Tears streamed down my eyes as I knew that his words where true. I looked at him and said, "I just want to be able to serve God." He said, "Come with me. Today you will serve at Langar with us." I served that day, and I felt God's love pour into me as I connected with every person I served. I was able to give my love to them, and I felt cleansed and purified in all ways.

As I listened to the many speakers during the Plenaries I noticed that they said a few things in common. They all spoke of being the change they wished to see in the world, to live a disciplined life and to serve others like our brothers and sisters. That is what I plan on doing in my life in all ways. How can I serve? That is the question I will keeping asking in everything that I do.

This has been a wonderful delegation to take part in and I look forward to more delegations in the years to come. As my mother use to say to me, "Golbahar it is wise to eat and sit with people who worship and want to know God."

Love, Peace and Devotion,

Golbahar Dadyan

10,000 PEOPLE. 80 NATIONS. 50 FAITHS

The Circle of Love at

by Barbara Condon

2015
PARLIAMENT
OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS
SALT LAKE • OCT 15-19

Reclaiming The Heart Of Our Humanity
Reclaiming The Heart Of Our Humanity



"I love you just because you are...."

Teachers and Students of the School of Metaphysics brought the Circle of Love to Parliament. As delegation leader Dr. Sheila Benjamin led the heart-centering exercise, I stood at attendance, observing, from the SOM booth just ten feet away.

We reclaimed "the heart of our humanity" in the same way we come together at the end of each class. People were drawn to the vortex of Love and Light generated by 28 delegates. Some would stop and listen. One man rushed past, head turned away. Most slowed their walking, watching

what was happening here.

The response of passersby gave me a glimpse of a future time when SOM representatives at a Parliament-type event would be practicing a Circle of Love every hour. We could invite any who desired to participate. Just imagine how that circle could grow over a several days!

Practicing what we teach introduced us to people from all over the world! This led to a connection that Tad Messenger brought to light.

While the Circle was active a woman named Maria stopped to chat. When I told her about the Healing Wall she immediately promised to send us a stone from her native Guadalajara. Silvia Galvan came to my mind, because we were going to receive a stone from Mexico!

Later Tad would remind me that this Parliament had been supposed to be in either Dallas, Brussels or *Guadalajara*! If someone from Belgium would promise a stone, we would connect the Salt Lake City Parliament with the earlier thought forms that did not yet meet the CPWR standards. These kinds of connections reflect Superconscious Mind work done in the highest realms of SOM study.

In all (by press time), we collected forty pledges including ones from Bosnia, Taiwan, Russia, and Brazil. Watch for more reports on the progress of THE HEALING WALL!²



Also during our circle, a young volunteer from Utah stopped to lay a gem in the Window to the World. Her thought of peace: FAITH IN UNITY, a fitting sentiment as we reclaimed our hearts!

Dr. Daniel R.
Condron speaks
at his third
Parliament.



The 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah

by Daniel Condron

I was pleased to speak at the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions. There were 10,000 people in attendance at the Parliament. The title of my teaching was: Raising a child according to the True Nature of Reality that is connectedness, the Truths in all Holy Scripture and Divine Love. I think love was what this Parliament needed the most as does the world.

The favorite event I attended was people of the Sikh religion feeding everyone at no charge. They gave of their time, service, and money, freely. They served traditional Indian food, that was delicious. The Sikhs were always friendly and helpful. They seemed to genuinely enjoy giving service to all.

Everyone seemed to be friendly and caring. I noticed I was different, perhaps completely different than the other Parliaments, I had attended and spoke at 1993-Chicago and 2009-Melbourne, Australia. I noticed there were more booths that had as their subject matter the combining of the best of all religions. This seemed to be akin to the Holy Books I have interpreted and explained. It seems this is the way the energies of the world are now working or moving toward. Light is now stronger than darkness; connectedness than separation. Therefore, religions and particularly Holy Books, instead of being a source or point of separation (i.e.-wars), can now be a source or point of connectedness. May love and joy be yours. •

A WISDOM LIBRARY



Parliament stories

by Dr. Laurel Clark



This Parliament features many art, dance and music expressions of the Divine. One woman paints stunning images of Jesus. I was drawn to a life-size (6 foot) painting of Jesus radiating light, with beautiful eyes. She said that she intentionally painted all of the colors in his eyes so that anyone can see their own eyes in his. She showed me the brown, green, blue, and even purple. As we spoke, she told me that she had twin daughters, one of whom was ill from birth and never able to speak, walk, or feed herself. She passed away at the age of nine. She has come to Kendra (the artist) in dreams and told her how she perceives Jesus on “the other side,” which is

part of Kendra’s inspiration for her paintings. I gave her a copy of the book *Intuitive Dreaming*, spoke with her about my own visitation dreams and some of the stories in the book about how dreams inspire artists. She was moved ... both of us shed some tears as we spoke and she said she would certainly explore her dreams more in depth.

I learned much about the Sikh religion this Parliament. I had known a little bit about them, but this year I spoke with six or seven Sikh men and attended a morning panel with five Sikh men and one woman who spoke about some of their beliefs and practices. Each day of the Parliament the Sikhs serve Langar, a meal that is free to all who attend. This tradition started from the belief in equality of the Sikhs. In India, where the caste system was institutionalized (and in some cases still ingrained in the consciousness of the people) the idea of everyone being equal was and is revolutionary. One Sikh told me that if the shadow of



Sikhs feed lunch to more than 8000

an untouchable fell across the food of a person from a different caste, that person had to throw the food away and start over. The idea of the Langar, where everyone sits on the floor, is to further the idea that no one person is higher than another. Every Sikh I have met, seen, watched, listened to, or spoken to, seems truly joyous and filled with the spirit of God. They say that serving is one way of being like God and revering the God-self within each of us. The food is delicious. They pray over it before and during its preparation.



At the Golden Temple in India, the Sikhs serve free meals to over 100,000 people a day, so for them to serve nearly 10,000 people lunch at the Parliament is “nothing,” said one. They are extremely organized and clearly this is a well-visualized process which runs well because of the common ideal, leadership, and purposeful service. A group from the United Kingdom came to this Parliament solely for the purpose of serving the Langar, on their own funds without any expectation of reimbursement. All Sikh temples, no matter where they are, serve free meals in this same way with the same consciousness of joyous service.

I also learned that to become a Sikh one makes a conscious choice and goes through an initiation. This is true even for those who are born into a family whose parents practice the religion. Once initiated, Sikhs change their last name so that all men have the last name Singh and all women have the last name Kaur. This is so that all people are equal, without traces of ego, since sometimes the name indicates one’s class or status. Men and women cover their heads, and they never cut their hair. That is because once one cuts the hair, there is more energy that needs to go into growing it. By allowing the hair to grow until it stops (which it eventually does), that energy can be used for spiritual purposes rather than becoming more gross or material.

Women are considered especially divine because they conceive and give birth, which one Sikh man said means that they are the closest to God as Creator. (This struck me because it resonated with something I heard years ago in a past life crossing I had.) He said that it is important for the parents, and especially the mother, to think good thoughts while carrying a child because that infuses the child with those thoughts before and at the time of birth.

One Sikh man lives on the South side of Chicago. Their group bought a house they call the Peace House. It is on a street in-between two gangs. He said that last year there were 40 shootings on those two streets and none on the street where the Sikhs have their Peace House. He said that when they are doing Sikhi programs, the children come out to play because they feel safe, when at all other times they stay inside because it is too dangerous and they might be shot.

His eyes glowed as he spoke, so happy that he could be a part of bringing peace and security to a troubled area of the city. He asked to have a photo taken with Alexandra and Sven, because her joy in throwing Sven in the air stimulated him to come over and find out who we are! (We were in front of the School of Metaphysics exhibit booth.)

Another highlight for me was meeting a woman who was at an exhibit for the Agape Spiritual Center (where Michael Beckwith is a minister.) A large banner that said Spiritual Parenting drew me. This is a magazine that has just come out. I gave her a copy of **How to Raise an Indigo Child** and she said that they include book excerpts and articles in the magazine. When I showed her Hezekiah’s photo on the book cover (he was about four in that photo, maybe younger) and said he is now 20 and here at Parliament, her eyes lit up and she asked if she could meet him. I said that Dr. Barbara, the author of the book, was also here. They did meet later in the day, and they will need to tell you the rest of the story!•



2015 Parliament Moments in Salt Lake City Has Changed My Consciousness

by Doug Bannister

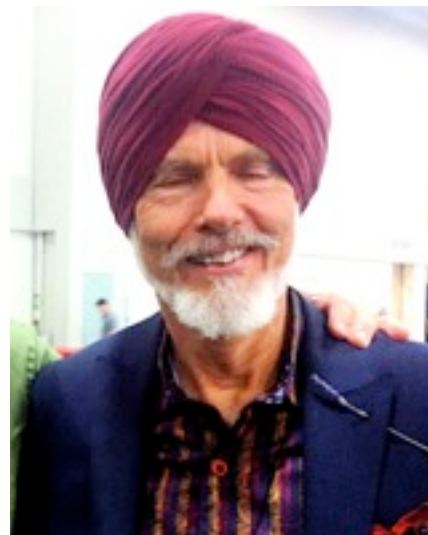


This was my first Parliament of the World's Religions experience. I was a SOM delegate to the International Association for the Study of Dreams in Rolduc, the Netherlands in 2011. That was a very memorable experience, and this was all of that and more. It is an honor and privilege to represent the School of Metaphysics at these prestigious venues.

I say that Parliament was all of Rolduc and more because with several more years of study, my consciousness is more expanded, and I am able to receive and assimilate more quickly. I would describe my present state of consciousness now as pleasantly mellow. I feel changed. I feel more like I imagined my Ideal Self to be one day. I feel different than before I went to Parliament, in that I am more relaxed, more patient and more loving and compassionate. I am savoring this space I find myself in and want to nurture and prolong it

as long as possible. This means to maintain my disciplines and spiritual practice. I am willing to say that I have greater peace than I have ever experienced.

I am certain some of the experiences I had contributed to this elevated state of mind. The experiences with the Sikhs contributed. These included one of the shared sessions where two Sikh women and a man presented their view of the divine masculine and feminine energies operating and ideally cooperating in each of us. The content and state of their presentation, as well as their manner in which they made their presentation, impressed me greatly as the manner in which they presented connected for me the ideal integration of the creative energy. My other experience involved eye contact that I could only describe as intimate connectedness. I had two of these individual incidents



myself, and I witnessed another between Scott Hilburn and a woman from a nearby booth. Each of these intimate events signifies for me the recognition of the divine spirit in one another.



The highlight of Parliament for me though was seeing the hundreds of children from different countries and faiths performing together in the Mormon Tabernacle on Monday evening. The thought of world peace with all peoples respecting and honoring each other inspires me to continue to make this journey of self-discovery, which includes aiding others along the way, to be my lifelong work. •

Meeting New Friends

by Dr. Sheila Benjamin, editor

I arrived in Salt Lake City a few days earlier than the others. I wanted to check out the place before the 35 delegate members arrived. I also had made plans to volunteer before the Parliament of the World's Religions began. On Monday, I made my way to the convention center to serve the Parliament in what ever way was needed. I spent a few hours ironing prayer flags that children from around the world created. These flags would be used to decorate the halls, the railings, and walk ways of the convention center.



As I was serving I met two very charming women who were from Australia. Allison and Adrian. They shared with me that Australia was the first Parliament that they had attended. I came prepared to give the volunteers the book *Dreamtime* as a gift. (This book has parables of the experiences and learning that the SOM delegation had at the 2009 Parliament in Melbourne Australia). I handed both of these ladies a copy of this book. They very graciously received the book. Later, as Parliament started Adrian had told me that she had taken an additional copy to give to a friend in Australia that had also attended that Parliament.

On Wednesday as we were preparing the booth we learned that the Sikhs had provided food for those that wanted it for free. It was almost time to leave when Dr. Pamela and I went to where the food was being given, it was there that I met my new dear friend Mandeep.

Mandeep is a Sikh who is studying for his PhD and is very warm, charming and generous. In that first meeting I told him that I had had the pleasure to visit the Golden Temple. I continued to tell him that what I had learned was that

because within the community of the Golden Temple there was a soup kitchen that was open to all to eat, the physical needs of the people were satisfied. Amritsar India (home of the Golden Temple) was the only place in India where people did not beg. He invited me to come



the next day where he interviewed and filmed me for some youtube videos that he was creating with others to talk about the need for Langar in other communities. I told Dr. Laurel Clark about him and introduced her to him. He also filmed Dr. Laurel. •

I would like to share an email that I have received from Mandeep since the October Parliament of the World's Religions:

Dear Sheila Benjamin,

Hello and how are you my friend? I hope you and your family are well.

We met at Salt Lake City at the Parliament for the World's Religions in the Langar area. Please forgive me for such a delayed e-mail. I went to Harvard University after the Parliament and I came back to the UK after which I became poorly/jetlagged for a couple of weeks. I am hoping to visit Stanford University next month, if my paper is accepted as I missed the submission deadline.

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year 2016. It was a great privilege to have met you at Salt Lake City. You left a positive impression and an angelic impact on me. I am eternally grateful. I had great fun when speaking to you and I learnt a lot about your work. (Perhaps I am being too sensitive as I write this e-mail) but I was quite emotional after we spoke for the last time as it is very rare when you get to meet somebody whose last words are God Bless You amongst other blessings.

This is my e-mail address. I am now in my final year of my PhD and I am praying to the Good Lord to help me complete it by the Summer of 2016.

Please keep in touch and it would be great to hear from you in the near future. I will try to send you the pictures from the Parliament.

With Best Wishes
Mandeep Singh Sehmi, BA (Hons), MA
Coventry University, UK



Our “Betty” Meets “the Real” Mairead

by Leah Morris

My experience at the Parliament of the World's Religions was one of openness, love, respect and connectedness. I was amazed by how many people in the world came together to share themselves, to support one another unconditionally.

Performing *The INVITATION* was incredible. Every time we perform, I feel a profound connection to the audience. This connection is often what moves me to allow the voice and images of Betty Williams to flow through. This group was not only attentive, but they seemed to know, through direct experience, the Truth that we shared. They too were living lives worth examining. Many of them clapped, were moved to tears, sang along, and praised our words aloud. After Matt's beautiful musical solo, they sat in silence. It was amazing to speak with people afterward, one of whom was from Northern Ireland and remembered the day the 3 children were killed. He was very grateful to have been present to receive *The INVITATION*.

A few months before Parliament, I began using Third Cycle exercises to set up conditions that would allow me to cross paths personally with Mairead Maguire, the woman who won the Nobel Peace Prize along side Betty Williams in 1977. Mairead was the aunt of the 3 children who were killed. I had hoped she would be present for *The INVITATION* performance, but could feel her nowhere in reach. The morning after our performance, I walked the convention center hall alone. As I glanced at two women crossing my path, I locked eyes with Mairead Maguire. I knew exactly who she was. She must have felt my attention because she looked at me, looked away, then looked back again as if she knew.

I called out, “Excuse me, ma’am?” as she continued down the hall.

“Yes?” she replied.

“Are you Mairead?” I asked mindfully tempering my exuberance as not to firehose her. “I know that you don't know me. My name is Leah Morris.” Her eyes were a soft and gentle, yet a fierce blue as I shook her hand. I felt her receive me fully. We were still for a moment as we took each other in. “I have been studying your story for the past 4 years,” I said. I portray Betty Williams in a play about peace.” We both smiled ear to ear. She introduced me to her friend Anne and informed me that they had just walked in to the convention center, about 10 minutes prior. I directed her to registration and explained the whereabouts of things. Then, I invited her to the SOM booth.

I got to hear her speak on 2 occasions. She was radiant, compelling, and magical. She spoke of the heart. She spoke of compassion. She even told the story of the day her family was slain. I recognized that she was very much still a peace activist in the world. A few months earlier she, alongside Gloria Steinem, and many other female diplomats, had orchestrated a march across the border of North and South Korea in the name of Peace. It was inspiring to see how committed to herself and to the human race these women are. I wrote her a letter and handed her *The INVITATION* playbook, playbill from our performance, and the *Universal Peace Covenant*.

The dissolving of the mandala created by the Buddhist monks also moved my heart. The monks created the sand mandala diligently, with laser focused attention for six days. Each day, I observed the beauty pouring forth from their hands and minds. The moment of the dissolution was sacred and powerful. Six monks stood in ceremonial dress behind the mandala next to a shrine with images of the Dalai Lama. As they chanted through the microphone, my consciousness was purified, emotion poured through. There was such honor in their images, such a sense of neutrality and a knowing that every step in creation, even letting go has a sacred purpose. Their attention was just as pure and focused as the initiation of the creation, their hearts just as objective and detached. The beauty of the mandala was inside each of them. It was a beautiful example of how the understandings produced through creation become a permanent and lasting part of the soul.

I appreciate the opportunity that serving as a School of Metaphysics delegate afforded my heart and soul. It was wonderful to know that I am connected intimately to a group of people who are dedicated to evolving humanity through knowing the self. •



Parliament of the World's Religions Experiences

by Matt Valois

If I were to choose two words to describe how the Parliament of the World's Religions made me feel, they would be “inspired” and “fulfilled.” The moments where I experienced inspiration and fulfillment are varied and numerous – and would most likely fill up a book – however, I'd like to share one experience that stands out to me.

Early Friday morning, Doug Bannister and I transported musical equipment to the convention center to be used later that day during *The INVITATION* performance. As I was placing our audio mixer in the booth space, I heard the song “Happy” by Pharrell Williams. I was curious who was around, as this was early in the morning, so I followed the song. I discovered four people at the “Togetherness” booth singing and dancing joyfully to the song. I immediately walked over to them and started to sing lead vocals, which caused them to turn around with surprise. One woman got her phone out and started to take a video of me. Two of the others got on either side of me, and we continued our boisterous singing and dancing together.

After the song was over, a woman named Andreia asked me, “Oh my gosh! WHO ARE YOU?!?!?” We introduced ourselves and shared why we were at Parliament. I gave them some tickets to see *THE INVITATION* and they let me know of a movie they were premiering on the coming Sunday morning.

That Sunday morning, I went to their film premier, and watched a movie about interfaith. It was created by a Brazilian couple who, on their vacation in an RV across the United States, decided to create a film interviewing spiritual leaders of many faiths across the country. They asked the same questions to each of them: “What is God? How does your faith relate to your health? Are there angels and demons?” etc. I saw the film as an opportunity for interfaith dialogue to open up in the communities that watched it. The film was very well done, easy to understand, and effective in capturing religious thought across a wide spectrum.

The director opened up the floor for discussion about the film itself, the thoughts it portrayed, and any suggestions that anyone might have for future film projects. I asked for the microphone and offered my opinion. “This is a well-done film that I can see opening up interfaith dialogue,” I said. “What I'd like to see in the future is seeing a film that captures peoples of different faiths working together, like this parliament, and education on how to start interfaith communities around the world.”

The director then smiled and said, “Those are really great ideas! Can you please contact me after Parliament? I want to know more of your thoughts and possibly collaborate!” Visions of the director and his wife traveling across the country in an RV again and making a stop at the Peace Dome and Dr. Daniel or Dr. Barbara being interviewed flooded my mind. “Of course I'll contact you! I'm looking forward to this!”

I came to the Parliament visualizing making new friends and potentially setting up future collaborations between the School of Metaphysics and other organizations, particularly someone coming to visit the Peace Dome. The field that was generated at the Parliament was conducive for many wonderful connections to be made, including this one. Who knew that randomly approaching a group of strangers with singing and dancing could have so much potential? Reclaiming the Heart of Humanity, the Parliament's theme this year, starts with the desire to connect out of love. •



The Thirst for Experience

by Hezekiah Condron



After The INVITATION play, when we returned to the condo, I proposed that we create some kind of personal gift to show our appreciation for both Dr. Sheila Benjamin, who headed up our delegation and Dr. Barbara Condron who wrote and directed the play for many years. That night we wrote a song in honor of Dr. Sheila and the next morning we shared it with her, expressing all the reasons we're grateful to have her in our lives.

For Dr. Barbara, Scott Hilburn shot a series of interviews with the cast and crew talking about how The INVITATION helped them lead a better life. I then edited these interviews into a montage video. For our final evening together in Salt Lake City, we invited Dr. Barbara over to our condo for a made-from-scratch dinner and presented the video to her.

We all have different dreams. There are dreams that flash before us when we go to sleep, and there are also dreams we create to fill the empty spaces when we're awake. It is in our day dreams we see what we might make of ourselves and the world around us.

I have a strong drive to explore and discover. Since I probably won't live forever, I want to spend my limited time learning from as many people as I can. I want to discover the dreams of the people I meet and the people I'll never meet— authors, scholars, and prophets whose ideas are still passed down to this day.

This drive, to explore the ideas of others, is what brought me to the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions.

There were many memorable moments at this conference, meeting new people, presenting the play I've had the privilege of directing for the last two years, and listening to amazing speakers such as Mairead Maguire, Dr. Jane Goodall, and Dr. Tariq Ramadan.

Yet, probably the thing which stands out to me the most is the Langar, a Sikh tradition wherein food is given away freely. It was offered every day at the conference.

When I ate lunch with Dr. Stanley Krippner on the second to the last day, he told me about his visit to the Golden Temple in India where the Sikhs feed over 100,000 people per day. I tried to make a rough estimate of how much that would cost. There were close to 10,000 people at this parliament, most of whom chose to eat at the Langar. Even if the Sikhs budgeted so efficiently as to only spend a couple of dollars per person, we were still looking at a minimum of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a day. With this figure in mind, I once again reflected on how much money and labor the Sikhs at the Golden Temple give away to feed 100,000 people on a daily basis!

As the conference progressed, more and more people volunteered to help the Sikhs serve Langar so that by the last day, the Sikh Langar had almost turned into an interfaith gift.

On the last day of the conference, the first person to serve me was a little boy who couldn't have been older than 4 or 5. He barely spoke, but he knew what he was there to do.

It is this level of selflessness that I want to study, to learn from, to emulate. I don't ever expect, or even want to live a life of total piety with no possessions, but I figure if I can spend 95% of my time and energy on building successful businesses, I can spend the other 5% serving others with no expectation of a reward or even a thank you. And I think that as more and more people decide to try doing a few simple acts of kindness, then we'll all start to see more of our greatest day dreams come true.*



REFLECTIONS

Reading about the Previous Parliament

by Joe Pecaut

On my trip to Salt Lake, I started to read **Dream**

Time which contained stories of people and their experiences of the last Parliament in Australia. It got me excited and helped me to learn a little bit more of what to expect at this Parliament. I had been to “Call to Action” which is a liberal Catholic group, and they had a gathering that both my wife and I went to several years ago. Parliament of the World Religions is Call to Action on steroids.

On Thursday morning, we had a meeting where we talked about the purpose of why the School of Metaphysics was here in Salt Lake and why they have been a part of the past Parliaments. We shared our ideal of what we wanted to accomplish and what our reason was for attending Parliament. My purpose for the Parliament was to be open to each person I met. The purpose of this was to learn about them and also accept and understand myself. I wanted to be non-judgmental of every person I met. I wanted to greet everyone with a smile. I enjoyed wearing different ties that people enjoyed. In fact, every day somebody took a picture of my ties.

I was at the booth for the School of Metaphysics, and I wanted to work with the creation of the Peace Mandala. We wanted individuals to infuse their image of peace into different rocks and this Mandala would then be placed outside of the Peace Dome in Windyville, MO. We were asking people to write down their name, country of origin, and what their thought was that they wanted to infuse their stone with. We were also telling people about the school and asking them to send rocks from all across the world to be placed in our Healing Wall map of the world, which is located on the side of the Peace Dome.



While standing outside of our booth on the carpet ready to greet people, a Buddhist monk was coming my way and gave me a big smile. I also gave him a big smile in return. His name was Hsin Tau and was a Dharma Master from the Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society. He was followed by all these paparazzi from Asia. I greeted him, and all these cameras were flashing. I asked him if he would lay a stone in our peace Mandala and he agreed. To see all these paparazzi gathered around him was amazing. He left and I asked if anyone had gotten a picture of him with me. They said that no one thought of it or had done it. I guess my picture will appear in Taiwan in some paper. I had a great time inviting people to help us create our Mandala of peace. So many people wanted to help us; it was simply amazing. It was with great joy that I greeted and spoke with people.

I went to visit some of the booths to see who and what was present. It was fun going up to some of the booths and asking them about their faith. I enjoyed going to this one booth from South Africa. They followed the teachings of Sri Swami Sivananda. They were so enjoyable. They were showing me a packet of four books, and they were in their wrappers. I told them they needed to take them out of the wrappers so people can see them easier. This woman gave me a nod of agreement and said that she had suggested that earlier to her booth mates. They listen to both her and me, and when I went past the booth again they happily showed me that they were out of the wrapper. I told them always listen to the woman first. Of course, my wife was not with me at the time to hear how well I had been trained.

I went to the Plenary where they had the opening remarks. There were many speakers, and it did take a long time. It is amazing- the difference in the belief of peace. For some, it is peace within, and once peace is obtained within, then you can bring peace to the world. For some, it is providing physical relief,

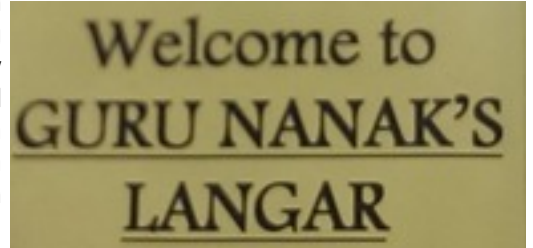


1st meeting of the SOM delegation in Salt Lake City

whether it is food to all people in the world, or aid to refugees who are forced to flee their country. For others, it is bringing peace through force.

The first person I met as I walked into the building was a Buddhist monk, and he again gave me this big smile like he knew me from before. So he and two of his followers came up to me to greet me with a big smile and welcomed me. I know I have an inner connection with Buddhists. I always enjoy being in their presence.

I again worked in the booth inviting people to help us create our Peace Mandala. I was busy inviting people to bless a stone and talk to them about our school. Seeing so many people of faith whom I was always greeted with a smile, I could just feel the energy that was in the building. Every person you met had a different story about being part of the divine or how they had discovered the Creator and how creation was happening within them. Larry Hudson and I had good symmetry in getting people registered and then he would talk to them about the Healing Wall and how we were in need of stones from different parts of the world. We could then register the participants in our booth. It was very exciting and very welcoming to our lives.



After our shift, Larry Hudson and I went to the Langar. This is where the Sikh provided a free lunch for the participants of the Parliament. We had to cover our head when we went into the room to eat. This is done out of respect. The best way it was explained to me was comparing the way we take off our hats for the national anthem; they would place a hat on for it. They always want their head covered in public. Larry and I sat down on the floor, but I was uncomfortable. Because of a pulled leg muscle, I had to get up for a seat at the table. This was a good thing because I was able to talk to other people instead of my friend. It was fun talking to people of different faiths and beliefs. It was amazing to me how all these Sikhs came to Salt Lake City just to serve us, complete strangers, in joyful service. The Langar was the best experience of the Parliament. I decided that when I would come back again I would separate from my current friends and create new friends.

That afternoon, we had *"THE INVITATION"* play. I first went to a session called "The Cosmic Mass" which was led by Matthew Fox. It was interesting how he was interpreting the Catholic mass more modernly, which included a part of the morning and also ended with dance where everyone got up and danced to very loud and energetic music. I left during the dance to help with *THE INVITATION*. It was interesting because right next door "The Cosmic Mass", was a group of Native Americans talking. They were having a hard time with all the noise since they are a more reflective group. The dichotomy of spiritual celebration between the two was quite interesting.

Dr. Barbara had asked me to be outside *The INVITATION* to invite people to come in. I decided I would invite people with a smile and with my voice. Since my dharma is inclusion, I decided that everyone should enjoy the play. I wanted to envision a place where everyone would want to come in and learn about *THE INVITATION*. I began inviting people by letting them know it was a play that had actors playing, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blessed Mother Teresa, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Betty Williams, and others. I was in my element and enjoyed inviting to the play. We had 217 people attend *The INVITATION*. It was great to hear some of the actors get applause when they finished some of their monologue. Everyone was excited of how well it was received.



On Saturday morning, I was excited that Linda was coming in town. I got up and was in the Jacuzzi at the hotel and had a wonderful conversation with a person who was attending the Parliament. He was there with his family and he wanted to expose his son and family to all these different religions. His wife and

son were more fundamentalist Christians and he wanted them to experience other faiths. He believed that Jesus Christ was the savior but was also interested in learning about other faiths.

My wife and I went to the afternoon Plenary and His Holiness the Dali Lama gave a recorded message to the Parliament. Michael Beckwirth talked and was quite inspirational. He talked about compassion and "How can I serve you?" not do it from sympathy (I'm sorry) or from empathy (I feel for

you!). Jim Wallace from Sojourner talked about how girls reading books is a threat to men with weapons. He also talked about how Matthew 25 is a religious test of the oral economy, in which we ask, "How are the marginally treated?" I again volunteered at the booth later that night. It was fun working with Linda. We had a great time since we already had a connection; we did not need to verbally communicate since we knew each one's tendencies. The energy flow in the booth was good.

We went that night to the Plenary where we saw Karen Armstrong. She talked about how society can also be a religion. She talked about religion is "belonging to something greater than yourself." Religion is overlooking short term interest and look at loving your enemies. We can apply the golden rule globally. Mairead Maguire who won the Nobel Peace Prize with Betty Williams talked about how we have to find our souls again, and we are a human family. If you touch one life, you touch all of humanity. We need a cultural change.

My wife and I then visited many booths and talked with many people. We did make purchases. My wife met my friends from South Africa and we made a purchase there and was told that if we ever came to South Africa that they would be happy to pick us up to stay at their place. We then took our purchases back to the hotel and then went over to the Temple Square to get seats for us and some other people. We had a full row of seats saved but had to give them up when the place became extremely crowded. The music was phenomenal from many different cultures. We had music from so many different cultures and a children's choir that was really good. At the end we sang, "Let there be peace on Earth" with everyone singing along. I have now sung with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

We got up on Monday morning and had a meeting where everyone in our group was sharing their experiences. It was great to hear about everyone's ideal and purpose for the trip. It was inspiration how everyone had been positively affected by the Parliament and how we have positively affected the Parliament.

Several of us went to the Langar where we divided up, and again developed new friends. My teacher from the other day was now serving me food. It was great to see him once again. The Sikhs served 8,000 people each day, and when they had extra food they went out and served the hungry in the streets. What an inspiration.

After we left, we saw the angels which at first seemed strange but then when we made eye contact with each other, you could feel the energy that existed between each of us. I even did it with another angel and could again feel the contact between each of us. I learned that they train for this for a period of time before they can be an angel.

We then helped close our booth down taking gentle care of the peace Mandala. I can't wait to see it unveiled and see people come for its dedication. We then went to the closing Plenary where it took so many people who were involved. It was a wonderful ceremony, and I was recording it but my phone ran out of power and Linda's phone ran out of space. We knew we had to just experience it instead of recording it. It was great to see something they had worked on for such a long time as they opening choose to destroy such a beautiful creation. The purpose is not to be attached to what you create and we also learned that when our phones gave out. As we left the building my wife and I met Grandma Rose Pere. I got my picture taken with her, and she was fun. I had on a pull over that had a Native American on it and she told me about it. I took it off and she loved that I had on my Sponge Bob tie. What a great way to walk out of the Parliament of Religions.

Linda and I then went to this Bistro and enjoyed a wonderful meal by ourselves and talked about how the Parliament had affected us in a positive way. I learned that peace is possible; I just have to be a source of peace within myself and give it to others. I will not be limited by what others believe but what I choose to believe. I can be a difference maker. I can affect 3 people who can affect 3 more people who can affect 3 more people, and the difference is being made. I want to greet everyone with compassion and peace. I want to make personal contact with each person I meet. The list for world peace continues to get longer, but it begins with changing me.

I will definitely treasure the experiences with each individual I met. I did not want to go back to reality but instead wanted to live in that beautiful experience. I will carry those joys and thoughts of peace with me for a long period of time. •



Pleasant Memories

by Debbie Hudson

My favorite experiences of Parliament were the individual interactions with people of different faiths cultures and races. There were no boundaries, only Oneness.

I met a woman at *THE INVITATION* that lived in California and was originally from India. Marriage brought her to the states.

She told her story, and I attentively listened because I was very interested. We talked about separation in faiths and why that was even necessary. I gave her the background of *THE INVITATION* and introduced her to Dr. Barbara. I also gave her a copy of *THE INVITATION* book. When *THE INVITATION* was completed this woman gave me the warmest hug and thank you that I know came from our soul connection. There was no difference between us;



we were one. I moved from this place and observed as Dr. Barbara and our laureates talked with people from the audience who were dressed and expressed from their Native Cultures. This was so fulfilling to witness how we all came together as one in the name of peace.

Another very fulfilling experience was in the connection I had with a Native American. He warmly greeted me one day as I entered the Parliament. He spoke of the beautiful weather and that it must be the salt. I laughed as I walked on and then I stopped. I walked back to him and said, "It isn't the salt, it is your presence."

Then I gave him a Peacemaking book. He thanked me as he touched my shoulder and smiled with his soul. It was a touch and a look that I will never forget because it came from the soul!

I had other similar experiences throughout the week and opportunities to apply my psi counseling skills, and I did it quite naturally with pure love. I felt such a oneness with each unique soul connection. We are all truly, "One in the Spirit". I am very grateful for this experience and grateful to all those who made it possible.●



Casting Stones of Peace at the Parliament of World's Religions

by Kimberly Burnham
reporter with the SPOKANE FaVS. Faith, Ethics. Community

Can the energy of peace be carried in a stone, plucked with intention from the soil surrounding your home?

Peace is a common topic at the 2015 Parliament of Religions. How do you achieve peace? What is peace? Who has peace? How do we join the conversation on peace? How do we get our peace message out? How do we create real peace in this world?

Among the many questions and answers there is one organization embedding a wall with stones and shells from around the world. The School of Metaphysics

In 2009, Grandmother SilverStar, a Cherokee-Oglala Lakota-Cheyenne-Cree Elder gave the wall a special Cherokee blessing and a stone from Antarctica. She had been carrying the stone around in the ashtray of her car for two years, said Barbara Condrón telling the story of one stone.

"Now I know what I have been saving it for," commented Grandmother SilverStar when she heard about our Healing Wall," said Condrón, an educator and philosopher at the [College of Metaphysics](#) in Windyville, MO. The school has 450 stones collected since 2003. We broke ground on the Peace Dome and accompanying wall before 9/11, said Condrón, noting that in 2003 people from every continent in the world attended the dedication of the Peace Dome.

Describing a shell for the Healing Wall, Condrón said, "Dr. Daniel Condrón and I were the first intuitive reporter and conductor team from the School of Metaphysics to travel and give reports outside the contiguous United States. Our week-long stay in Alaska was filled with new friends. In May, there are only about four hours when the sky darkens. Midnight is like evening twilight and dawn occurs around four am. It never gets completely dark. I found myself staying awake – conscious – most of the time we were there. It is easy to see how the Inuits and other Arctic peoples can use their external environment to promote inner awareness. We spent one day traveling into the interior and along the fingers that reach into the mainland. There we visited an artist's colony nestled an alcove off Prince William's Sound. It was there we found the shell, near the Arctic Circle."

Another peace stone project involves participants at the [2015 Parliament of Religions](#). "We are inviting Parliament visitors to place a stone in a Stargate Field of Consciousness," said Condrón.

If you want to send a stone or shell for the Healing Wall do it with consciousness and a peaceful intention and send the story. Why is this stone special to you? How are you contributing to peace in the world?

Condrón noted, "Earth has a kind of consciousness. Each place on the planet has a unique vibration, so by combining stones from around the world in one place, the Healing Wall will unify the thoughts and energies of humanity in peace."•



The Essence of
Window to the World

The New Maitreya at Parliament

by Barbara O'Guinn Condron

The final morning of Parliament Dr. Sheila Benjamin calls a gathering for the delegates to share an outstanding experience from the previous five days.

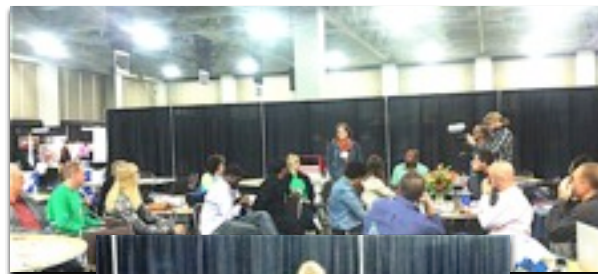
This action is the unification of great minds practiced at the SOM since the first group of students organized a fundraiser toward a down payment on a "home" for their school. Since the early 1970s, students have held "wrap up", "evaluation", "assessment", or "recap" meetings following seminars, feng shui & building improvements, National Dream Hotlines®, Universal Hour of Peace events, and any group endeavor with a common goal in alignment with Ideal and Purpose of SOM.

Today's gathering carries this tradition into the present experience of those who came to Salt Lake City to share the ideal and purpose of our School. These delegations are more than our group joining with other groups. They are opportunities to introduce people to the greatest quest – to know the Self!

SOM delegations go places (Canada, Australia, the Netherlands) where the people organizing an event are invested in the evolution of humanity. Here is where we make friends with people from all over the world. The 1993 Parliament was the first time we did this, and it laid the foundation relationships that led to people on ALL seven continents joining us in dedicating the world's first Peace Dome ten years later.

I reflect upon the foundation we laid in Salt Lake City that will carry us into 2025. I know the answer is in the stories. Sharing individual stories of our new friends expands our common Circle of Love. We *become* the New Maitreya as each individual shares.

I offer to be the living anchor for the SOM booth to free the delegates to meet. I move my attention back and forth between the booth and the tables where everyone has gathered. Watching each member speak of what has changed their life is thrilling. Scott Hilburn films each person talking and, I feel certain, in due time will post parts of these stories so they increase the heart of us all. The recognition of Tad Messenger's ICOM ordination is a moment that enriches us all.



Christine Spretnjak (r), Diana Kenney, Chris Stohrer (above, r) and Cindy Ussey volunteer their time to meet the needs of the Parliament in its last hours.



What is happening between delegation members activates the A-Field drawing people who just stop and listen to the storytellers. One man takes a seat at one of the tables, joining us for over an hour. It is amazing to watch.

At the booth, the attractive field draws a woman from Utah who lays a citrine gem in the **Window to the World**. As we talk, she notices a copy of **How to Raise an Indigo Child** on the table.

"Oh, I love that book," she says sincerely. "It really helped me with my children."

I smile.

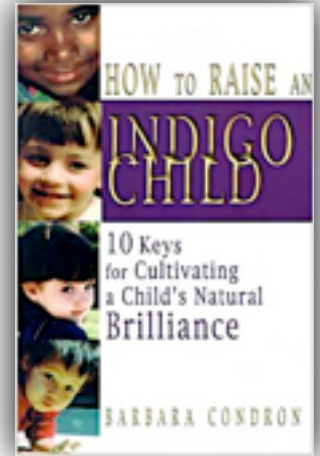
'I have six children, and people would say they were delinquents because they wanted to move around, couldn't stand still. And that book really helped me when no one else would listen. It gave me confidence that everything would be all right.'

At that point I say, 'I wrote it!'

It takes several seconds for the truth to sink into both of us. She starts to cry and we fall into each other's arms in mutual respect and gratitude.

"I can't believe this Parliament!" she says.

I know that feeling of respect.



For her, 'meeting the author' is just another in many universal law moments. What she doesn't realize is that it is as potent for me. The archetypal journey of a writer is to not directly realize the impact of what you give. To be in the presence of the impact what you have written has in someone's life is a great blessing!

We keep talking. Jean was Latter Day Saints. 'With the six kids,' she smiles knowingly. "But they couldn't help me with them - don't get me wrong they are lovely people, they just didn't have what I needed.'

Jean's kids are now grown. One is gone, though she did not say how. She is 71 years old and proud of how she raised her kids and the adults they are. She is a testament to raising an 'indigo child', in the family style of the New Maitreya.



Youth is plentiful this Parliament evidenced by the young Sikh serving Langaar, the midday meal, and the International Children's Choir from SLC.



Our Window to the World is a transmitter between the Peace Dome & the Earth's Unity Consciousness Grid.

The WINDOW to the WORLD

Our Planet's Chakras receive the clear and unbearable lightness of Being - B Condon

Muladhara



LOCATION: the South Pole, Antarctica. The stones corresponding to the Root Chakra are red ruby from India and Sri Lanka and garnet from China. Garnet is a very powerful healing stone that grounds while enhancing creativity. Ruby enhances one's individuality while instilling stamina, vitality and strength.

Keyword: **STABILITY**

Swadhisthana

LOCATION: Gobi Desert. Carnelian from Brazil. In ancient Egypt carnelian was used to protect the living and the dead. It was a symbol of renewal and loyalty and through the centuries has been recognized as a stone of action, aiding one to remain focused and motivated on new paths in life. It helps acceptance of the flow of life and removes the fear of dying.

Keyword: **MOVEMENT**



Manipura

LOCATION: the Sahara Desert.

Citrine from Brazil. From the earliest of times, citrine was called the "sun stone" and the gemstone was thought capable of holding sunlight and useful in the protection from snakebite. Its color was associated with gold and it became known as the merchant's stone. It was thought to improve communication and to attract wealth. Citrine is called the "success stone" because it promotes abundance in all areas. Magnifying and clarifying personal power and energy, citrine dissipates blockages that lead to self-destructive emotional trauma and grief.

Keyword: **ENERGY**

Anahata

LOCATION: Sargasso Sea, known as the Bermuda triangle.

Jade from Thailand promotes deep, enduring peace and strength empowering one to allow, especially during difficult situations.

Peridot from Pakistan. Magnesium rich Peridot supports the lessening of the ego through unconditional love. It encourages interaction with others alleviating jealousy and motivating growthful change thus repairing and maintaining relationships.

Keyword: **BALANCE**



Vishuddha



LOCATION: Heartland of the United States emanating from Southwest Missouri, this Earth chakra set into motion as the Intuitive Chakra in the early 1970s by School of Metaphysics students. The chakra is fed each time people gather in a Circle of Love.

Apatite from Brazil enhances insight through concentration. Agate from Lake Michigan in the United States brings grace and lightheartedness. A soothing stone, it calms the mind, releasing stress. Moonstone from India is called the "visionary's stone". It helps us to see things more clearly and opens the mind to the flash of inspiration arising when we are open and quiet.

Keyword: **COMMUNICATION**

Why do many stones come from Brazil? Dr. Tad Messenger, who is schooled in geology says "most gems found around the world are found in the area of Brazil called "Minas Gerais." What amazing possibilities this opens in awareness of the Earth's destiny.

Summer 2015

Our vision is that those visiting the School of Metaphysics booth will place a single piece of glass in a design that will unfold as the week passes. Hundreds of men, women, and children attending the Parliament of the World's Religions will mindfully do their part to create a design reflecting the theme "The WINDOW to the WORLD". Once completed the stained glass-style creation will be placed in the wrought iron railing on the east side of the Peace Dome on the campus of the College of Metaphysics in the USA. Situated above [The Healing Wall](#), the window will allow the rising sun to pass through the design into the upper chamber of the dome.

How the WINDOW to the WORLD came to be

Design Elements



The Stargate Field of Consciousness design becomes the focal point for the design. Drs. Karen Mosby (above) and Laurie Biswell tool copper outlines of the spheres of life and chakra symbols

that will hold the previous stones. Dr. Tad Messenger and Kerry Keller (below) are among those placing the clear crystal center stones, entraining with the energies flowing through the Peace Dome. These energies are received from the North polestar and resonate with the Earth's crown chakra. Dr. Barbara Condron, places the center mystic topaz stone. The window is ready for transport to Salt Lake City.



Thoughts of Peace

Over 550 thoughts of peace are recorded at the SOM booth in the four days of Parliament. "At first, we had to invite people to participate," said Dr. Mosby. "Soon people who walked by were drawn to the booth and the pace picked up until the time we closed the booth."

One memorable pilgrim from Jerusalem laid a stone with the peace thought that "this not be too late."



Creation Continues

The stones laid during Parliament include five of the spheres emanating from the center. The window is returned to the Peace Dome and awaits the annual Peace Vigil when Peace Ambassadors gather to broadcast the Universal Truths through reciting the *Universal Peace Covenant* with people around the world. Those corresponding to five Earth chakras are completed leaving only the Brow Chakra open. This area remains for SOM Directors to place during the 2016 General Assembly.



The WINDOW to the WORLD design will be positioned within this opening in the wrought iron railing on the East side of the Peace Dome.





The Web of Consciousness by Rev. Karen Mosby

This year at the One Voice Peace Vigil the Peace Ambassadors had the unique opportunity to lay gemstones in the Window to the World. This was a wonderful continuation of

a project that started because of the Parliament of the World's Religions. The original purpose of the Window to the World was to offer people at the Parliament an experience of the Peace Dome. We laid the first stones in the center of the window in the Peace Dome during the National Teacher's Meeting in October 2015. We then took our thoughts of peace to the Parliament. It was a unique experience to attend to people from around the world as they laid stones. For many people it was a sacred and emotional experience.

As I attended Dr. Barbara in laying gemstones in the Window during the Peace Vigil I thought about all the people we had met at the Parliament. We sent out invitations for them to join us in reading the Peace Covenant in their homes this year. I wondered if they were thinking about us. As a beginning student I learned that personal attention to sending letters, handing out fliers, collating books holds the intention of the person who sent it. We leave our sticky stuff, our consciousness, on the things we touch. Being consciously aware of the thoughts we have while we hand out fliers or clean space for Spiritual Focus Sessions, or collate books becomes a powerful way to understand our connection and influence with others

The people from the Parliament were with us because they had taken the time to lay a stone. A web of consciousness radiated from the Window to those people who had laid a stone and they were with us during the Vigil in the Peace Dome.

During General Assembly the directors laid the stones in the last globe of the Emotional Doorway mandala thus completing this area. The Window to the World has come full circle. It will reside in the railing outside the upper chamber of the Peace Dome where the rising sun will radiate through those gemstones igniting those thoughts of peace as the College students read the *Peace Covenant* in the morning.

COUNTRY.....THOUGHTS OF PEACE

- Tibet.....Shambala
 Malaysia.....We can live peacefully although we are different.
 Taiwan.....Global Family
 Bulgaria.....Prayer
 Ireland.....Forgiveness
 Mexico.....Treat others like yourself
 Navajo Nation.....To continue to grow and prosper as a people; to pass on our prayers
 India.....Compassion
 Israel.....All blessings, all beings peaceful, joyful, liberated from all suffering, always.
 The Netherlands....Peace heals the Earth
 Australia.....Peace starts with the individual.
 USA.....May we all find peace in our own unique way.
 USA.....May all people learn that diversity is enriching and unity gives strength for peace.
 Brazil.....Love and friendship
 Slovakia.....Unity
 England.....Justice, truth, peace and reconciliation
 California, USA.....Thank you for this beautiful life.
 14 year old, USA....Reading a good book.
 USA.....As we truly heal within the outward will spontaneously follow.
 China.....No war.
 China.....Individual awareness.
 Nigeria.....May peace prevail. Blessings to all.
 China.....To have tea.
 Syria.....A home without bombs
 New Zealand.....Faith and Divine Grace
 South Africa.....Love conquers all. Forgiveness
 Mumbai.....Peace is ability
 Singapore.....Peace is a Drama. We need to make it a reality.
 Kerala, India.....OM. Shanti. Shanti. Shanti.
 France.....Peace resides with us as inner peace impacts others. OM Shanti.
 Canada.....True assertiveness and unconditional love.
 Tasmania.....Possibility
 United Kingdom....All are one. As humans we need each other.

For the Love of Giving



By Larry Hudson, treasurer

I watched the table of senior citizens as they interacted while browsing the menu at a local restaurant.

I could tell they had just come from church and after they ordered one of the ladies led a prayer in preparation for the upcoming meal.

I caught myself judging them from my past experiences with church and religion from my youth. I wondered how real their interactions were. Was this all just a show for the Sunday morning church crowd?

Then a thought popped into my mind. I could buy them lunch! Where did that thought come from?

I often pay the check of unsuspecting customers at places where I stop to eat. I do this anonymously. I love to give!

That day I felt my heart soften and open as I healed past experiences associated with church and religion. I paid the tab for this unsuspecting group of churchgoers. I reveled in the joy of watching the servers laugh and giggle as they carried out my desire to pay without being found out.

It felt so good to give that day and I often wonder how their day was different. I know I was part of making the world a better place.

You have the same opportunity to make the world a better place. You can make a difference. Share this with your friends and family so they can feel the joy of giving. Open your heart to the possibility of a world full of the joy that comes from giving just because you can! Join me in making the world a better place. Thank you.

THE SOM DELEGATION FUND

The purpose of the SOM Delegation Fund is to initiate the next level of opportunity for our wisdom teachers to reach new audiences and to expand the real time, in person global reach of SOM. The SOM Delegation Fund is being established as an endowment fund that will continue to grow.

Opportunities abound for us to send SOM graduates to conferences all over the world.

The opportunity is now upon us!

The International Association for the Study of Dreams (IASD) is having a conference in the Netherlands June 24-28, 2016. This is the chance to add your support to the School of Metaphysics to send presenters to this conference.

Please help us as we share our wisdom with the rest of the world. You may send a check or money order to World Headquarters to my attention or donate to the SOM Delegation Fund on the som.org website. •

