

3rd Annual International Conference on "Engaging The Other:"The Power of Compassion

September 4-7, 2008 San Mateo, California USA



COMMON BOND INSTITUTE

www.cbiworld.org

2008 ETO Program

Thursday, September 4th

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

ETO CONFERENCE OPENING and EVENTS

Greeting, Conference Mission, Announcements, and Introductions: Steve Olwean, MA

Brief Welcome: Bill Lockyer

Presentation of Expressive Arts Interpretation of the Conference: Deborah Koff-Chapin, BFA

Keynote: Huston Smith, PhD

Keynote: Marianne Williamson

All-Conference Interactive Dialogue Experience: Len and Libby Traubman

Friday, September 5th

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

Workshops and Roundtables Morning 9:00 – 10:30 am

A 1: "FACE-TO-FACE: Perception of the Other"

This experiential workshop will explore how engaging with another person can affect our self-perception. Through simple art making, dialogue and writing participants will learn how engagement with creative materials enhances our ability to connect and see another person as both unique and deeply connected to ourselves. No previous art experience is necessary and the skills taught in this workshop are transferable to any situation in which a deeper engagement is desired.

Pat Allen, Ph.D., A.T.R., (*Experiential, Discussion*)

A 2: "Being Able to Influence the World "

It is tempting for grassroots groups to feel powerless to influence or change things, whatever they do. Based on the pioneering work of peacemaker Jean Paul Lederach, this workshop focuses on the power within the web of relationships among small groups of people and the influence these groups can wield to do good when they tune into that power

Sally Mahe, MEd, MA, Sarah Talcott (*Experiential, Demonstration, Discussion*)

A 3: "The Power of Active Nonviolence in Social Transformation"

Powerlessness is a major problem facing our country today. People see themselves as subjects rather than creators of history. There are many examples of powerful nonviolent movements toward major social change - Gandhi in India, the civil rights movement in the US, the peaceful transformation in South Africa, Solidarity and nonviolent social transformation in eastern Europe, the nonviolent overthrow of Pinochet in Chile and Milosovic in Yugoslavia, the nonviolent resurrection after fraudulent elections in the Ukraine, etc. What can we learn from these movements and what is the power of active nonviolence, and how can we harness it to work for peace, justice and an environmentally sustainable world?

David Hartsough (*Experiential, Discussion*)

A 4: "The Art of Peace - Embodying Compassion to Deepen Dialogue"

This session is an experiential exploration of ways to generate compassionate presence for deeply sourced dialogue. For forty years, Chris Thorsen and Richard Moon have combined The Art of Dialogue with the principles and slow motion practices of Aikido, The Art of Peace, for deeply inspired inquiry. Their pioneering work is based in servant leadership development applications in international policy circles, high tech start up companies and large scale corporate transformations. Participants will engage in dialogue while practicing embodiment exercises that will increase their sensitivity to their own feelings while deepening their ability to open compassionately to others views and feelings.

Chris Thorsen, Richard Moon (*Experiential, Movement, Dialogue*)

A 5: "Intergenerational Inheritance of Trauma: Fueling Future Violence" *ROUNDTABLE*

-What is the effect of unresolved individual and communal trauma on the ethos of a society and culture and the development of victim identity, and how can this set the stage for future polarization, violence and war?

-What happens to a society-short and long term-when the energy of fear, victimization, and revenge become systemic, and at times manipulated?

-How can we recognize these dynamics, and what kinds of interventions can positively influence them?

Stanley Krippner, PhD., Benina Gould, PhD, Skip Robertson, PhD, Kirk Schneider, PhD, Ahmad Hijazi, MA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS **B**

FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

(Conference-wide break-out groups)

Morning 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

(All participants self-select one of several themed dialogue groups)

One of 4 opportunities over the days of the conference for all participants to engage in open agenda dialogues to share learning, explore concepts and related issues, process experiences, network, and brainstorm practical applications and collaboration. Each group is framed around a different general theme woven throughout the program, and dialogue occurs within the general context of that theme. Themes are repeated and participants can choose to follow one theme or different themes in each time period. In addition to facilitators, scribes in each group record content highlights. Information is compiled and posted daily to CBI's web blog, allowing participants an evolving overview of what is brewing in the community from day to day to promote deeper dialogue as the conference progresses. The information is also included in conference proceedings and outcomes, and utilized for future planning.

~ Lunch ~

12:15 - 1:30 pm

ALL-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Gathering of all conference participants to check in as an interactive learning community.

1:30 - 2:00 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS **C**

Workshops and Roundtables Afternoon 2:00 - 3:30 pm

C 1: " Psychology at the Large Scale: the Design and Transformation of Whole Societies"

This presentation will feature Spiral Dynamics, a biopsychosocial and value system driven framework and illustrate its role in diagnosing and defusing "us -vs- them" polarity. It will identify eight different types or variations of worldviews, and will uncover the "DNA-like" Master Code that shapes cultural emergence, conflict, transitions, and transformation. It will describe the conditions for large scale societal change which will guide decision-makers to know what to do, when, in what manner, with which resources. Finally, It will address the critical issues with regard to nation-states, large cultural and global movements with a focus on a major Nation Building design and application in Palestine..

Don Edward Beck, PhD., Elza Maalouf, JD. (*Workshop, Discussion*)

C 2: "The Tibetan NonViolent Action Movement"

Over the last 50 years under the leadership of HH the Dalai Lama, and with recent events in particular, the Tibetan freedom movement has been a movement of nonviolent action, requiring wisdom, compassion, focus, networking and, most importantly, unity. This session explores the beliefs, perspective, and skills necessary to address these challenges. It also demonstrates the necessity for such a movement, with members trained in nonviolence and a deep clarity of purpose, and for raising awareness of central issues, objectives, and requirements by highlighting it in the media to bring constructive international pressure for a positive resolution. Based on the belief that Nonviolence is the only way to resolve any kind of conflict, and with the continued leadership of HH the Dalai Lama, this approach will be shown to be the most viable path to success in resolving the Tibet issue and leading to a new, more compassionate world.

Geshe Gendun Gyatso, Tashi Wangdu (*Experiential, Lecture, Discussion*)

C 3: "Tools for Cross Cultural Understanding"

Because we live in an increasingly interdependent world, intercultural awareness and effective cross cultural communication skills are critical for personal and professional relationships. Understanding and appreciating intercultural differences ultimately promotes clearer communication, breaks down barriers, builds trust, strengthens relationships, opens horizons and yields tangible results. In this interactive session we will explore some key tools and practices for working with people different from us, whether different cultures, religious groups, ideological perspectives, etc.

Kimberly Weichel, Devi Gursahaney (*Experiential, Discussion*)

C 4: "Media Images of The Other: Framing Our Selves" *ROUNDTABLE*

How do we portray each to the other, and what is the power of these images? This roundtable explores how images of The Other are depicted in various media, both currently and historically, and the effect they can have - consciously and unconsciously - on the individual and society in shaping how we relate to each other. Modes considered are TV, movies, radio, print, photos, art, plays, songs, folk stories, jokes, the Internet, etc.. Roundtable members have diverse backgrounds both in terms of media focus and culture

Maha ElGenaidi, Emmanuel Vaughan Lee, Michael Wolfe

Moderator: Fred Luskin

C 5: "Challenging Dialogues: Personal Journeys of Engaging the Other and Inventing the New Future" *ROUNDTABLE*

An exchange of experience among individuals actively engaged with bi-community dialogues between Arab Muslims and Christians, and Israeli and other Jews, to co-create bridges of unprecedented understanding and social outcomes. Roundtable members share their personal stories - initiatives, difficulties, successes, lessons learned, hope, and unique rewards of cultivating personal relationships with The Other.

Len Traubman, Melek Totah, Eryn Kalish, MC, Leah Green, MA

Moderator: Libby Traubman

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D
FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS
(Conference-wide break-out groups)

Afternoon 3:45 - 5:15 pm

(All participants self-select one of several themed dialogue groups)
(* See complete description in SESSION B)

~ Dinner ~
5:15 - 6:45 pm

EVENING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: 7:00 - 8:45 pm

"The Development of Identity: Our Personal and Historical Relationship with The Other"

- What is the role of The Other in the process of establishing our personal and communal identities, and belief systems related to these?
- How can this role take on negative characteristics, and how can it be transformed from negative to positive?

Maureen O'Hara, PhD, Don Edward Beck, PhD, Michael Nagler, PhD, Sal Nunez, PhD

Moderators: Aftab Omer, PhD, and Steve Olweean, MA

EVENING EVENTS (concurrent options): 9:00 - 10:30 pm

- 1) Interactive Theatre Image Workshop: Mukti Khanna PhD, and Shellee Davis**
- 2) "Encounter Point" - Film and interactive dialogue: Irene Nasser, MA Just Vision**

Saturday, September 6th

MORNING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: 9:00 - 10:45 am

"Interfaith Harmony and Peace: The Abrahamic Journey to Peace"

What are the most practical, effective, and direct ways for Christianity, Islam, and Judaism to create harmony for each other on this planet?

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, Rita Semel, BA, Reverend Paul Chaffee

Moderators: James O'Dea, Ph.D, and Louise Diamond, Ph.D

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

Workshops and Roundtables Morning 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

E 1: "Only A World Away"

As a new world of different cultures enters into the workforce, what is needed to begin this journey together? How does one come to appreciate all the myriad of new perceptions and insights, resources and skills? Where does one begin? How does one avoid making mistakes or saying something offensive? And as we move into a global economy, what now needs to be understood and respected? How does one come to appreciate and make use of all of the differences in language, customs, and beliefs? Discover the tools and mindsets needed to sustain this new relationship and partnership. Learn how to listen and to respond cross-culturally, so that each person feels valued and appreciated, supported and acknowledged. For in reality, we are really, only a world away.

Lee Mun Wah, MA, MS (*Experiential, Demonstration, Discussion*)

E 2: "Compassionate Listening: Rehumanizing the "Other" in Conflict"

In every human interaction, whether as mentor, friend, family member, co-worker, leader or social activist, the practice of Compassionate Listening supports us to speak and listen from our hearts- rehumanizing the "other" even when we are hurt, angry, scared or shut down. In this experiential session, we will explore core practices of Compassionate Listening and see how they serve us in heated conflict and polarization.

Leah Green, MA (*Experiential, Discussion*)

E 3: "Wisdom Pathways to Compassion: Walking An Ethical And Moral Life" ROUNDTABLE

- What common resources are present in spiritual and philosophical traditions that nurture compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and love, to cultivate a consciousness of peace and can result in a common code of ethics and moral principles of conduct in our relationship with others.
- How can these traditions best cooperate in being vehicles for establishing universal standards of basic human worth and goodness, and universal standards of behavior toward each other that directly reflect this.

Geshe Gendun Gyatso, Imam Zaid Shakir, Melissa Nelson, PhD, Eleanor Williams-Curry

Moderator: Sandra Friedman, MS

E 4: "Environmental Sustainability: When the Earth is Our Partner " ROUNDTABLE

- How does seeing the Earth as 'the Other' impact our world, and what can we do about it?

Marc Pilisuk, PhD, Luisah Teish, Lorin Troderman, Osprey Orielle Lake, *Moderator: Alvaro Cedeno, JD*

~ Lunch ~
12:30 - 2:00 pm

ALL-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2:00 - 2:30 pm

Gathering of all conference participants to check in as an interactive learning community.

BI-PLENARY ROUNDTABLES F

2:45 pm - 5:00 pm (*Combined 2-part session*)

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm: Roundtable:

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm: Follow-Up Dialogue Groups Immediately After *

F 1: "Looking for The Enemy Within: Society and Paranoia"

Exploring dynamics of fear-based public paranoia and generalized hyper-vigilance arising from perceived "outside" threat, such as war and terrorism, that can lead to marginalizing and oppressing targeted groups within a society. Included is the role of overt and covert manipulation of fear to galvanize a society. Although these dynamics are universal, the US example will be explored. Panel members represent the Japanese-American internment experience during WW II, and also the current experiences of the Arab/Muslim-American and Hispanic-American communities (as well as non-Western-looking ethnic-American communities in general), that has similarities with early stages of the WW II dynamics in the US.

Andy Noguchi, PhD, Ihsan Alkhatib, Esq., MA, James Hernandez

Moderators: Fred Luskin, PhD and Sandra Friedman, MS

F 2: "Good Governance....Of The People, By The People, For The People"

- How can we practice democracy in ways that transcend polarization and foster inclusion and mutual understanding?

Corinne McLaughlin, PhD, Louise Diamond, PhD, Alvaro Cedeno, JD

Moderators: Sen. John Vasconcellos and Gay Barfield, PhD..

FOLLOW-UP DIALOGUE GROUPS *

(immediately following each roundtable in the same rooms)

Following each of these two bi-plenary roundtables, participants remain in the same rooms to break-up into small group dialogues for more focused processing of roundtable content and to explore practical applications

~ Dinner ~

5:00 - 6:30 pm

ALL-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Gathering of all conference participants to check in as an interactive learning community.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

(Conference-wide break-out groups)

7:00 - 8:30 pm

(All participants self-select one of several themed dialogue groups)

(* See complete description in SESSION B)

EVENING EVENTS (concurrent options): 8:30 - 10:00 pm

- 1) "Bali Institute for Global Renewal" an evening of music, storytelling, poetry, and surprise performances. Luisah Teish, Lyla Johnston, Balinese performers, and other surprise guests
- 2) Our Earth We Share: Transforming our Relationship to Diverse Cultures and Nature. Osprey Orielle Lake
- 3) ETO Open Mic Performances : Sharing Music, Song, and Fun

Sunday, September 7th

CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

FINAL FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

Conference-wide break-out groups

Morning 9:00 am - 10:30 am

(All participants self-select one of several themed dialogue groups)

(See complete description in SESSION B)

* This last session of dialogue groups is intended to promote action planning, collaboration, and products to carry from this gathering into our communities, and to facilitate continuing the dialogue process beyond the conference.

ALL-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Reporting in from each Dialogue Group to Full Conference and pulling together the conference experience

10:45 am - 12:30 pm

CONFERENCE CLOSING

Summary, Outcomes, Collaboration, Action Plans, and Where We Go From Here.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

(Closing Lunch Follows)

~ Closing Lunch ~

1:30 - 2:30 pm

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Dialogue Group Facilitation and Mediation Team Members (not listed above)

Jean Marc Randin, PhD

Katherine Oweegon

Lynda Smith

Ken Homer

Ryan Feinstien

Sigal Shoham

John Glaser, EdD

Carol Glaser, MA

Special Features of the 2008 ETO Conference

IN-PROCESS EXPERIENCES

- ❖ **Evolving Expressive Arts Interpretation of the Conference**
Deborah Koff-Chapman, BFA
- ❖ **Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandala Ritual** - a fascinating spiritual, cultural, and artistic event.
Geshe Gendun Gyato and Tibetan Buddhist monks from Nyanang Phegyling Monastery in Swayanbhu, Katmandu Nepal: Topten Lama, Chhiring Dorje Sherpa, Nayduk Gurung, Ram Bahadur Tamang Lama

MEDIA / ART EXHIBITS

- ❖ **Touch Drawings** (an evolving exhibit of interpretive drawings by Deborah Koff-Chapman, created during the conference inspired by activities and events as they emerge)
- ❖ **Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandala**
- ❖ **See Us From Your Heart: An Exhibition of Children's Paintings from the Tulkarem Refugee camp and from Israel.** ~ Raising awareness, promoting hope, and inspiring active cooperation for change ~ An art exhibit of paintings created in June of 2008 by 25 Palestinian refugee children from Tulkarem in the West Bank and 25 Jewish and Arab children from Wahat al Salam - Neve Shalom (WAS-NS) during an overnight art workshop at the Oasis of Peace Primary School in the WAS-NS village. The village is home to 54 Jewish and Arab families in Israel who have lived, worked, and raised their children together since 1976, In a shared quest to promote equality, mutual respect, and cooperation within the community and beyond.

AND....

- ❖ **Evening Social-Cultural Events, Experiences, And Community Activities**
- ❖ **Internet Conference Blog** In-Process Internet Blog To Post Dialogue Group Proceedings.
- ❖ **Rich Networking**
- ❖ **Intentional Cross-Cultural Community**
- ❖ **On-Site Mediation Service**
- ❖ **Conference Recording Of Sessions (Hungry Mind Recordings)**
- ❖ **On-Site Bookstore (Kepler's Bookstore)**
- ❖ **Professional Book Exhibit (Library Of Social Science)**
- ❖ **Displays And Exhibits** (*Additional Exhibit Space Available)



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