

International Conference on
"Engaging The Other": The Power of Compassion

October 26-29, 2006 Kalamazoo, Michigan USA ~ Radisson Plaza Hotel

Program Sessions and Events

Thursday, October 26

Social Hour 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm:



CONFERENCE OPENING and EVENTS 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Greetings, Mission, & Announcements: Steve Olweean
Welcome by Invited Speakers: Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm
US Congressman John Conyers

Keynote: Maureen O'Hara 7:45 - 8:15 pm
Keynote: Archbishop Elias Chacour 8:15 - 8:45 pm

Community Building Event:
Gemma Bulos 8:45 - 9:15 pm

Performances: ~ Children of Abraham 9:15 - 10:30 pm
~ LaRon Williams

Friday, October 27



CONCURRENT SESSION A

Early Morning 9:00 am - 10:20 am

A 1: "Encounters Between Groups in Conflict: The Approach of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al Salaam"

Neve Shalom /Wahat Al Salaam is a village in Israel jointly established in 1972 by Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship, and is engaged in educational work for peace, equality and understanding between the two peoples. Being dissatisfied with previously existing methods, this unique community developed it's own new approach to dialogue - one that places the Conflict at the center of the group experience. This session presents the approach developed at the NSWAS School for Peace through 25 years of experience with encounters between Jews and Palestinians.

Ahmad Hijazi, MA and Ohad Bar Shalom, MSW (Lecture, Discussion)

A 2: "The American War Veteran as Other: Implications for Coping with PTSD"

U.S. combat veterans are usually welcomed home as heroes but typically are reluctant to discuss their combat experiences. As a result, they often feel themselves as "Others" who live in an alternate reality. This condition especially impacts veterans coping with posttraumatic stress disorder.

Stanley Krippner, PhD (Lecture, Discussion)

A 3: "Killer Meaning in a Healing Cosmos"

Both the structure of meaning systems and the velocity with which ideas are transmitted can accelerate a clash of beliefs and threaten peace and security. In ways that have surprised many, we live in more polarized times where a higher evolutionary synthesis is gestating but has not reached critical mass. We live in an era when objectification of nature has resulted in a perilous threat to our sustainability and when the objectification of belief threatens to draw us into brutal cycles of terror and counter-terror. How do emerging ideas in cosmology and consciousness give us hope that we will be supported in our quest for global healing? James will articulate a coherent vision of a more universally peaceful and compassionate human emerging out of evolution's irreversible cauldron.

James O'Dea, PhD (Lecture, Discussion)

A 4: "Reuniting the Children of Abraham....Being The Other"

A unique response to breaking down fear, hate, and intolerance, and a demonstration of possibilities for deeper understanding between the world's children utilizing creative arts for social healing. This project brings to life the process of how enemies become allies when they are willing to step into the other's shoes and create something new together. Objectives are: recognizing the destructiveness of prejudice and discrimination, transcending tolerance and creating acceptance and empathy, dramatizing behavior leading to stereotyping and fear of the Other, enhancing understanding of each others feelings through mutual role playing, and experiencing the power of creating something new together...a song...an expression of peace.

Brenda Naomi Rosenberg and Josh White Jr. *(Multimedia, Lecture, Discussion)*

A 5: "Revisiting the International Peace Work of Carl Rogers"

JOINT DIALOGUE

Members of the international dialogue team that worked with Carl Rogers in the 1980's to facilitate group dialogue experiences between parties in violent conflict revisit the mission and efforts of this project, and consider implications/applications for 2006. Among the regions that the Rogers team conducted landmark engaged dialogue groups in were Costa Rica, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Russia, and the RUST Conference in Austria.

Sen. John Vasconcellos, Gay Leah Barfield, PhD., Lic. MFT, Abdul Aziz Said, PhD, Marvelene Hughes, PhD, Silvia Dubovoy, Maureen O'Hara, PhD

A 6: "Building a Movement for Peace and Justice Through Interfaith Dialogue"

CONCURRENT PANEL

This panel's focus is on presenting experiences and models of engaged dialogue between diverse religious/spiritual communities to increase understanding and compassion that helps correct stereotypes, acknowledge commonalities that can allow for mutual support and cooperation, appreciate diversity in faith and world view, improve social conditions, and increase capacity for building peace and justice.

Shadia Kanaan, MA, Paul Clements, PhD, Mushtaq Luqmani, PhD, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, MA , Joseph Montville, PhD,

Moderated by Alvaro Cedeno, JD



CONCURRENT SESSION B

Late Morning 10:35 am - 12:00 pm

B 1: "The Muslim as Other: Stories from the Borderlands"

In our contemporary global landscape, Muslims have been configured into a global Other. This session applies the cultural dynamics that engender and maintain a scapegoated Other to the situation of Muslims at this historical moment. We will explore the political-economic and psychological factors that contribute to the present circumstances as well as consider what creative responses at both the local and global level would bring about social healing and cultural transformation.

Aftab Omer, PhD *(Lecture, Experiential, Discussion)*

B 2: "Deepening the Dialogue: Using Creative Expression to Experience The Other"

This expressive arts experience integrates touch drawing, image theatre and person centered psychology to explore perceptions of the Other. This workshop is of relevance to anyone interested in integrating creative arts and transpersonal languages in dialogue and mediation.

Deborah Koff-Chapin, BFA and Mukti Khanna, PhD *(Lecture, Multimedia, Demonstration, Experiential, Movement, Discussion)*

B 3: "Self and Other: A Third-Eye (Bi-Cultural) Worldview"

Definitions of Other. Exploration of our motives for engaging Others. Review how worldviews (assumptions that cohere psyche) shape reactions to external reality. Examination of self-definition shaping interaction with Others holding different worldviews. Understanding one's own worldview to better understand and authentically engage the Other.

Paul Von Ward MSc, MPA and Ilham Al-Sarraf PhD, MFT *(Lecture, Multimedia, Discussion)*

B 4: "Mindfully Resolving Conflicts: Conflict Resolution for Diversity Issues"

Addressing issues such as racism, stereotyping and cultural differences experientially--using role-play, training vignettes and discussion--participants practice observation, intervention and facilitation skills. They learn conflict resolution, replacing adversarial/defensive statements with culturally receptive responses, and nuances of multicultural communication--through mindful listening and inquiry.

Lee Mun Wah, MS, MA (Lecture, Experiential, Discussion) (CEC)

B 5: "Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: Embracing Self and Liberating All"

CONCURRENT PANEL

A panel and discussion about gender identity and sexual orientation. In the process of "coming out" as a lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender person, there are often experiences of connecting with "The Other" within. When integrating who we are internally into our outer lives, difficulties arise when society defines the norm in a binary way in relation to gender and affection.

Kate Runyon, et al

B 6: "Dialogue as Lived Experience"

CONCURRENT PANEL

A panel presenting models of engaged encounters and co-existence in Israel/Palestine, the Basque Country, Spain, and the US. Panel members share unique experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in cross-cultural engagement, building social justice, challenging prejudice and stereotypes, and transforming perceptions to increase capacity for mutual esteem, trust, and positive relationships.

David Schoem, PhD, Ahmad Hijazi, MA, MS, Ohad Bar Shalom, MSW, Gorka Espaiu, Sharon Lowe, M.A., Lewis Gover, M.A., Diane Perlman, PhD

Moderated by Robert Oppenheimer, PsyD



BI-PLenary SESSION C

Afternoon 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm

C 1: "Waking Up to The Energy Of Fear in Our Relationship With The Other"

BI-PLenary PANEL

Some topics explored include (but not limited to):

- Dynamics of the energy of fear and exclusive group identity in formulating devaluing stereotypes that allow "good" people to do "bad" things to others by objectifying entire groups to the point of justifying inhumane treatment.
- What happens to a society - short and long term - when the energy of fear, revenge, and victimization become systemic and are manipulated to galvanize a process of demonizing and dehumanizing a perceived Other as justification for oppression, inhumane treatment, and violence?
- What are effects of direct person to person contact on innate fear of the unknown and mysterious, and are there practical methods for experiencing this quality of contact in a global community?

Eyad El Sarraj, MD, Ruchama Marton, MD, Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D., Satsuki Ina, PhD, Mohammed Abu-Nimer, PhD, Marvelene Hughes, PhD,

Moderated by Maureen O'Hara, PhD

C 2: "Media Images Of The Other"

BI-PLenary PANEL

How do we portray each to the other, and what is the power of these images?

This panel 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.. Panel members have diverse backgrounds both in terms of media focus and culture

Jamal Dajani, BA, David Michaelis, Anna Badkhen, Lee Mun Wah, MA, MS,

Moderated by Jeffrey Mishlove, PhD



FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

Late Afternoon 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Conference-wide opportunities for all conference participants to interact in small group dialogues to further engage concepts and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and collated to include in conference proceedings and outcome planning, and drawn on to create topical E-Dialogues and E-Working Groups through CBI's website for continuing the process following the conference.



EVENING PLENARY SESSIONS

Dinner Performance: Josh White Jr. 5:45 - 6:15 pm

Keynote: Sam Keen 6:15 - 7:15 pm

PLENARY PANEL: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

"Spirituality and Religion"

Some topics explored include (but are not limited to):

- The role of an assumption of inherent sin and exclusive religious dogma in requiring the presence and embodiment of innate evil in the world, and vilifying an ever-present Other as it's expression.
- Resources present in spiritual traditions that nurture mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love, to cultivate a consciousness of peace - with ourselves and "The Other."
- Spiritual experiences as a vehicle for establishing universal standards of basic human worth and goodness, and universal standards of behavior that reflect this.

Huston Smith, PhD, Archbishop Elias Chacour, Aisha Gray Henry, MA, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, MA, Geshe Gendun Gyatso

Moderated by Jeffrey Mishlove, PhD

Performances: 9:30 - 11:30 pm ~ **Live At Jacob's Ladder** Robert Small

~ **Cultural Song, Music, and Dance**

Saturday, October 28



CONCURRENT SESSION D

Early Morning 9:00 am - 10:20 am

D 1: "Bridging the Deepest Divides: Cultural Codes, Global Maps, and Human Emergence"

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. The focus will be on eight primary worldviews: how they emerge and why they fight. We will describe Muzafer Sherif's Robber's Cave experiment, the assimilation-contrast effect, and specific applications in South Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Don Edward Beck, PhD, Elza Maalouf, JD, Bruce Gibb, PhD (Multimedia, Lecture, Demonstration, Discussion)

D 2: "Occupied Minds"

The experience of two journalists, a Palestinian-American and an Israeli citizen, who journey to Jerusalem, their mutual birthplace where they grew up just a few miles apart, to explore new solutions and offer unique insights into the divisive Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two are the only Palestinian Israeli team working together in American media, and together they created a film that takes viewers on an emotional, intensely personal odyssey through the streets of one of the world's most volatile regions.

Jamal Dajani, BA and David Michaelis (Multimedia, Lecture, Discussion)

D 3: "The Practice Of Engagement: 12 Steps To Build Inclusivity"

This workshop teaches how to engage The Other in challenging situations. Using the "12 steps of inclusivity" found in Sharif's book, "creating a world that works for all", participants will learn and share "best practices" for using inclusivity in both everyday and global situations.

Sharif Abdullah, JD (*Lecture, Discussion*) (CEC)

D 4: "The US & THEM Workshop Presenter's Manual: A Tool Kit to Continue Work in Engaging the Other"

Participants will be introduced to the US & THEM: Moderating Group Conflict Program, e.g. basic social identity concepts, activities designed to foster self-awareness, other-awareness, and bridge diverse groups. The US & THEM program's second two phases of post-workshop dialogue, and collaborative action will be described briefly.

Stephen Fabick, Ed.D (*Multimedia, Demonstration, Experiential, Discussion*)

D 5: "Walking The Talk: Religion, Conflict, and Peace"

JOINT DIALOGUE

Examining the dual forces within religion, historically and in current times, and the role of individual self-awareness, esteem, and responsibility in experiencing religion as a solution rather than a problem. Examples of inquiry areas are (but are not limited to):

- Common ground among religious traditions in terms of understanding, compassion, and a mission of creating peace, with a particular focus on Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Abrahamic tradition, and how these powerful, fundamental resources can be employed in nurturing the reality of a culture of peace in current global relations.
- Mutual dilemmas of conflicts between spiritual vision and intent and seemingly contradictory text and practices in each religion that creates dissonance within the individual and religious community, and at the same time can trigger denial, defensiveness, and sometimes reactionary extremism in response to criticism or perceived threat from outside.

Archbishop Elias Chacour, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, MA, Imam Hassan Al-Qazwini, Joseph Montville, PhD.

D 6: "Programs For Children And Youth Addressing Issues Of Conflict, Prejudice, And Stereotyping"

CONCURRENT PANEL

This panel focuses on working in schools and youth settings on approaches to conflict resolution, countering prejudice and negative stereotyping, and fostering a positive relationship between children of differing cultural backgrounds. Environments in which these youth populations are worked with include communities experiencing inter-group conflict, polarization, marginalization, high stress, and in some cases, trauma due to violence.

Robert Oppenheimer PsyD, LaRon Williams, Elizabeth Barton, PhD, Josh White Jr., Hana Hasan, PhD candidate, Alvaro Cedeno, JD, David Juarez.

Moderated by James Macsary, MA



CONCURRENT SESSION E

Late Morning 10:35 am - 12:00 pm

E 1: "Denial and Forced Existence"

A presentation examining the psychological dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, how this component is reflected in the actions and perceptions of those involved, and exploring possible solutions.

Eyad Al Sarraj, MD and Ruchama Marton, MD (*Lecture, Discussion*)

E 2: "Humanity Ascending: A New Way Through Together"

Barbara will show her film "Humanity Ascending," a breathtaking overview of the evolutionary journey of our species that now finds itself standing at the crossroads of conscious evolution or self destruction. This vision of hope depicts an old world dying and a new world being born. Discussion will follow.

Barbara Marx Hubbard, Rs.D. (*Multimedia, Discussion*)

E 3: " 'Refusing to be Enemies': A Documentary-in-progress by Zeitouna, an Arab-Jewish Women's Group from Ann Arbor, Michigan"

Zeitouna has been in continuous existence since Summer 2002, creatively dealing with the difficult realities of the Palestinian and Israeli conflict and its effects on our respective communities in the diaspora. This presentation will include a 17-minute trailer of our work together. The finished documentary will be an hour in length and include footage of the group's trip together to Palestine and Israel in May of 2006.

Laurie White and other Zeitouna group members *(Multimedia, Discussion)*

E 4: "Navigating the Continuum of Dialogue and Deliberation Practices"

Session participants will utilize an innovative new tool designed collaboratively by the NCDD community to better distinguish between well-known dialogue and deliberation approaches such as Study Circles, World Café, and Sustained Dialogue, and to decide which method is most appropriate for their circumstances.

Sandy Heierbacher, MA *(Lecture, Experiential, Discussion)*

E 5: "Looking for The Enemy Within: Society and Paranoia"

JOINT DIALOGUE

A joint session 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. Presenters represent the Japanese-American internment experience during WW II, and also the current experience of the Arab/Muslim-American community specifically (and non-Western-looking ethnic-American communities in general), that has similarities with early stages of WW II dynamics in the US.

Ihsan Alkhatib, Esq., MA, and Satsuki Ina, PhD

E 6: "Developing Future Leaders for Engaged Dialogue"

CONCURRENT PANEL

A panel exploring what competencies, skills, behaviors and attitudes are necessary to serve individuals, communities and organizations with an 'Engaging the Other' leadership style. Among the dynamics examined are the challenges and what is currently working and being practiced on an individual, group, and community level. Panel members will share research, experiences, hopes and intentions for the future that are derived from current program they are involved in.

Alexander Badkhen MD, Mark Pevzner, MA, Charles Behling, PhD, Wendy Woods, M.Sc, A T Miller, PhD., Jane Dutton, PhD, Margaret Warner, PhD, Anna Rodina, PhD

Moderated by James Macsay, MA



BI-PLenary SESSION F

Afternoon 1:15 pm - 3:00 pm

F 1: "The Politics Of Trust' - Pragmatic Real-World Examples"

We desperately need a whole new politics to succeed our cynical, dysfunctional, divisive current politics - which is fundamentally wrong. The new Politics of Trust is grounded in a faithful vision of our selves, our human nature, and our potential (cf Willis Harman's 'The New Copernican Revolution'). It is also pragmatic in providing a dual agenda (both process and content) - the 16-point 'Expanding Human Agenda.'

Sen. John Vasconcellos *(Lecture, Discussion)*

F 2: "Psychological Concepts of The Other: Embracing The Compass of The Self"

The Other often conjures up images of strange faces, practices, and beliefs, usually in faraway places. At the same time that it challenges our understanding, our sense of normalcy, and sometimes even our sense of security, it is a label we all share. Discord based on conflicting views of each other, and even the essence of human nature, has plagued humankind since its beginnings. This presentation explores this dilemma of human relationships - not as polarized sides, but as a reflection of common, fundamental elements of our individual psychological development, and raises important questions for small group discussions to begin the process of further exploration toward finding viable solutions.

Steve Olwean, MA, LLP, MSW *(Lecture, Small Group Exercise and Discussions)*



FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

Late Afternoon 3:15 – 4:30 pm

Conference-wide opportunities for all conference participants to interact in small group dialogues to further engage concepts and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and collated to include in conference proceedings and outcome planning, and drawn on to create topical E-Dialogues and E-Working Groups through CBI's website for continuing the process following the conference.



EVENING PLENARY SESSIONS

Keynote: Huston Smith 6:00 - 6:30 pm

Keynote: Marianne Williamson 6:30 - 7:00 pm

PLENARY PANEL: 7:15 - 9:15 pm

"The Psychology and Anthropology of The Other"

Some topics explored include (but are not limited to):

- The Other - as humankind's oldest and most resilient foe.
- Our historically shared identity as The Other.
- The Unknown And Alien -vs- Evil
- The Other as a fundamental dynamic and part of the development of Self Identity and Community Identity (Us and Them, Me and You)

Sam Keen, PhD, Maureen O'Hara, PhD, Aftab Omer, PhD, Don Edward Beck, PhD, Sharif Abdullah, JD

Moderated by Jeffrey Mishlove, PhD

Performances: 9:15 - 11:30 pm ~ **Live At Jacob's Ladder** Robert Small
~ **Cultural Song, Music, and Dance**

Sunday, October 29



MORNING PLENARY SESSION

PLENARY PANEL: 9:00 - 10:40 am

"Cultural Myths, Ethos, and Belief Systems"

Some topics explored include (but are not limited to):

- The formation, development, and maintenance of belief systems (individual and communal)
- The inter-generational inheritance of unresolved trauma & loss as part of cultural ethos (creating heroes, martyrs, & collateral damage).
- Paradoxical dynamics of (mutual) victim identity, and victim becoming perpetrator.
- Are there cultural myths that trigger reactionary rather than rational, proactive behavior? If so, what is the character of those myths? Conversely, are there myths that serve to connect culture to a deeper sense of the interconnectedness and inherent worth of all life?
- How can we better recognize and consciously transform negative belief systems, both on an individual and cultural level, and, in doing so, transform cultural ethos so as to nurture care and compassion for all life?

James O'Dea, PhD, Barbara Marx Hubbard, RsD, Abdul Aziz Said, PhD, Sen. John Vasconcellos, Marilyn Youngbird, Dan Bar On, PhD.

Moderated by Aftab Omer, PhD



FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

Late Afternoon 10:50 am – 12:00 pm

Conference-wide opportunities for all conference participants to interact in small group dialogues to further engage concepts and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and collated to include in conference proceedings and outcome planning, and drawn on to create topical E-Dialogues and E-Working Groups through CBI's website for continuing the process following the conference.

* This final dialogue session includes added focus on what has emerged from the conference and next steps.



CONFERENCE CLOSING and FAREWELL

(includes lunch)

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Summary, Outcomes, and Where We Go From Here

~~ More on SPECIAL FEATURES ~~

SPEAKERS

Huston Smith, PhD
Sam Keen, PhD
Marianne Williamson
Archbishop Elias Chacour
Maureen O'Hara, PhD

PERFORMANCES

Children Of Abraham (film performance)
Josh White Jr. (musical performance)
LaRon Williams (storytelling)
Live At Jacob's Ladder (theatrical performance)

IN PROCESS EXPERIENCES

Expressive Arts Interpretive Drawings of the conference as it emerges each day.
Deborah Koff-Chapman

EXHIBITS

Children Of Abraham (wall hangings)
Touch Drawings (collection of interpretive drawings by Deborah Koff-Chapman created during the conference inspired by activities and events as they emerge)
Faces Of The Other (photo exhibit)
Various other art and media exhibits

MEDIA ROOM

Documentary Film Clips:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| "Children of The Camps" | "A Silk Cocoon" |
| "Faces of The Enemy" | "Occupied Minds" |
| "Humanity Ascending" | "The Color of Fear" |
| "Zeitouna Movie Project" | "Children Of Abraham" |
| "A Single Drop" | |

EVENING SOCIAL-CULTURAL EVENTS