Edinburgh International Festival of

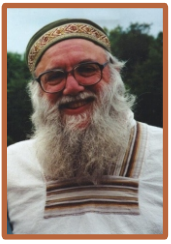
MESP

Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace 2005





Abuna
Elias Chacour



Rabbi
Arthur Waskow



Rabbi
Phyllis Berman

14 February - 6 March 2005

FESTIVAL WELCOME

From Monday 14 February - Sunday 6 March 2005 the 2nd Annual Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace will bring together artists, scholars, grassroots spiritual activists, and speakers from the Sufi, Druze, Baha'i, Ismaili, Zoroastrian and other lesser known spiritual traditions, in addition to representatives of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. More generally, all of the principal faith and spiritual traditions of Scotland are being invited to participate in this spiritual, cultural, and educational festival of peace and understanding. The Festival is jointly organized by the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, and with the support of many other organizations.

FESTIVAL ETHOS

The Festival positively affirms the diversity contained within the religious and spiritual traditions of the Middle East, as well as those here in Scotland, in justice and equality. The Festival takes no fixed position on any political, ethical or cultural question. We intend rather to create a forum in which we can listen to one another more deeply and learn with a more open mind and heart. The emphasis of the Festival is on spirituality, and on spiritual, cultural, and educational approaches to peace and understanding.

The Festival will bring together at least three different kinds of presentations. First, we hope to learn from each other about our shared traditions, as well as those that form the unique voice of any one of us. Second, we will hear from those who have been active in peacemaking on a spiritual basis on the ground in the Middle East. Third, we invite participants to share in the musical and devotional spiritual practice presented, in order to gain an experiential view of the traditions we discuss. Simply knowing facts (or presumed facts) about another does not become real meeting without such an experience.

FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

The Festival organisers would like to acknowledge and thank those organisations and individuals who have offered financial and in-kind support to this Festival.

Financial support towards the Festival, or to specific events within the Festival, has come from the Oneness Project, the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace, the UK Network for the Dances of Universal Peace, the Shalem Institute, the Kalliopeia Foundation, One Scotland. Many Cultures, the Scottish Arts Council, the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS, the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, The UNA Edinburgh, the City of Edinburgh Council Culture and Leisure Department Celebrating Communities, and Sir Tom Farmer.

Further support has come from organisations who we have worked with to organize specific Festival events. These numerous organizations are listed beside the specific events which they have been involved with. Further in-kind support has come from a wide range of hosting and supporting organizations.

The two organizations who organize this Festival, namely, the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, have contributed major in-kind support for this Festival, and without their major networking, planning, management, and coordinating role this Festival would not have been possible. The Festival is a joint initiative of these two organizations, among their projects and initiatives, and is co-directed by Neill Walker, on behalf of EICWS, and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz, on behalf of EIAL. Victor Spence and Neill Walker jointly prepared the Festival Brochure.

Event: Dances of Universal Peace.

Friday 18 February

Facilitator: Alice Fateah Saunders.
Venue: Salisbury Centre, 2 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.
Time: 7.30pm-9.30pm.
Event Description:
Chants, meditative movements and prayers from the world's spiritual traditions.
Cost: £5 (£3.50 concession).
Contact: 0131 664 6206, alicefatah@onetel.com

Event: Shabbat Service, Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community.

Saturday 19 February

Venue: For venue details use the contact below.
Time: 11am.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this service at Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community.
Cost: Admission Free. Festival guests are welcome to attend.
Contact: 07891 439646, sukkatshalom@xemaps.com

Event: One World Concert.

Saturday 19 February

Venue: St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Doors open at 5.45pm. Middle Eastern Snacks by Jordan Valley Foods, 5.45pm-6.30pm. Concert, 6.30pm-10pm.
Event Description:
Jointly organised and sponsored by the EICWS and the UNA Edinburgh. This concert celebrates the unity in diversity of spiritual and cultural traditions in Scotland. Line up: SEDENKA is a gathering of women for the purpose of sharing songs and dances from around the world, in a nurturing and harmonious environment; "Hidden Words" combines a short selection from Baha'u'llah's poetic verses, 'The Hidden Words', set with music for viola composed by Carolyn Sparey-Fox; Love Among The Ruins A Dance/Drama about the quest for love and the power to change our lives. Presented by The Elements and Dance Ihayami. Writer/Director: Lee Gershuny; Choreographer: Priya Sreekumar; Composer/Musician: Niroshini Thambar; Devised and Presented by Suzanne Dance, Merav Israel, Indira Kemp and Charan Pradhan; Songs for Peace by the St Peter's Primary School Choir; Drumming to a New Beat with the Scottish Interfaith Youth Group; Gabrielle Roth's 5 Rhythms Dance with Iona Kelli Sellars; East meets West: a Celebration of Chant in Early Christian Traditions; Hebrew Songs for Peace led by Rebekah Gronowski, Musical Director of Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community; Spiritual Dance with BK Myriam; Chris Dooks presents a Buddhist-themed laptop performance composed especially for the evening and The City of Edinburgh, entitled: "The Jewel in the Lothian."
Cost: First come, first served, no tickets in advance. £6/£4 (concessions). Two for one offer, bring a friend for free!
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com; Paul Boast - 0131 229 9594, pboast2001@yahoo.co.uk

Event: Divine Liturgy at the Edinburgh Orthodox Community of St Andrew.

Sunday 20 February

Venue: Edinburgh Orthodox Community of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh.
Time: 10.30am.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this service at the Edinburgh Orthodox Community.
Cost: Admission Free.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Service at St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Kirkcaldy, Fife. — Sunday 20 February

Venue: St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife.
Time: 10.30am - 12.30am.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this service at the St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Kirkcaldy, Fife. There will be a free lunch after the liturgy. Please contact Father Mark Aziz in advance to attend.
Cost: Admission Free.
Contact: Father Mark Aziz, 01592 643333, fathermark@blueyonder.co.uk

Event: Spirituality, Health, and Healing in the Sufi Tradition. — Monday 21 February

Speaker: Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.
Venue: 21 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-9pm.
Event Description:
A short talk with spiritual practice and time for reflection and conversation. This event is organised in association with the Scientific and Medical Network.
Cost: Admission Free. To attend:
Contact: Graham Dunstan Martin, 0131 667 8160.

Event: A Celebratory Party of the Diversity of Middle Eastern Cultures. — Monday 21 February

(Organised and Hosted by The Edinburgh Refugee Centre with a client focus).
Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: finalised details from the contact below.
Event Description:
A celebratory party of the diversity of Middle Eastern cultures.
Contact: 0131 226 1499, andrzej@cyrenians.org.uk

Event: Reflections in Music. — Tuesday 22 February

Venue: Forest Café, Upstairs Hall, 3 Bristo Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 7.30pm onwards.
Event Description:
A chance to unwind and draw upon the spiritual and creative forces that lie within each of us and to connect with others through the medium of song and music. Please feel free to bring along religious scripture or inspirational literature, or indeed a musical instrument or songs to share.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Serene, 0131 557 6689, 07729977416; David, 0131 333 2170.

Event: Walk for Peace - a Workshop at the Edinburgh Labyrinth. — Wednesday 23 February

Facilitator: Rev Di Williams,
A trained labyrinth facilitator and currently Chaplain to the University of Edinburgh.
Venue: The University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy, Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh.
Time: 3pm-5pm.
Event Description:
'Walking Together - on the Edinburgh Labyrinth'. See: www.labyrinth.ed.ac.uk
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Interspirituality Gathering: Jewish Renewal Spirituality.

Wednesday 23 February

Speakers: Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Phyllis Berman
In conversation with Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.
Venue: Union Yoga Centre, 25 Rodney Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-9pm.
Event Description:
Jewish renewal is a worldwide, transdenominational movement grounded in Judaism's prophetic and mystical traditions. Both Rabbis Waskow and Berman are close students and colleagues of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement worldwide. With thanks to the Union Yoga Centre.
Cost: Admission Free. Donations Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Workshop: The Alphabet of the Trees.

Thursday 24 February

Facilitator: Christian McEwan.
Venue: Exhibition Hall, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
Time: 10am-4pm.
Event Description:
Join renowned poet and writer Christian McEwan for this workshop to explore poetry, drawing, and creative journaling using the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as your source and inspiration. The workshop is intended for interested adults as well as rangers and environmental professionals and will include readings, wandering, exploring haiku poetry and blind contour drawing. In association with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
Cost: £50 including lunch.
Contact: 0131 248 2937 to book.

Event: Young People Debate on Peace Education and Citizenship.

Thursday 24 February

Venue: The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh.
Time: 10.30am-3pm.
Event Description:
This is an invitation only event for young people from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Fife, and Dumfries and Galloway, organised in association with the Scottish Parliament Outreach Services and the local Education Authorities.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, or Jenni Campbell, 0131 348 5384.

Event: A Storytelling Welcome.

Thursday 24 February

Hosts: Hosted by the Scottish Storytelling Centre and the Middle East Festival.
Venue: St Cecilia's Hall, Niddry Street, Cowgate, Edinburgh.
Time: from 7.30pm onwards.
Event Description:
Scottish and Middle Eastern storytellers salute the Festival, with stories that cross boundaries, celebrate differences and build understanding. This Scotland-Middle East Storytelling Project event is Scottish Arts Council funded.
Cost: Tickets priced £6/4 concessions are available from:
Contact: The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, 0131 556 9579, scottishstorytellingcentre@uk.uumail.com, or on the door.

Event: Tranquillity Space.

Thursday 24 February

Venue: The University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh.
Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm.
Event Description: An evening of tranquillity with the University of Edinburgh Baha'i Society.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: David, 0131 333 2170, edinburghsec@mail.com

Event: Workshop: Where's the Power? Overcoming Obstacles to Peace.

Friday 25 February

Facilitator: Lee Gershuny, Ph.D., founder/Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre Company.
Venue: Balcony, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Tea, 9.30am-10am. Lunch, 1pm-2pm. Workshop, 10am-4pm.
Event Description:
The purpose of this workshop is to explore different ways of dealing with obstacles to peace. Demonstrations, interactive exercises and role play in small and large groups will enable us to practice three principles of peacemaking, namely, Not Knowing; Bearing Witness; Loving Action/Compassion. Lunch will be purchased from caterers at the venue. Lee Gershuny, Ph.D., award-winning scholar and playwright, is founder/Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre Co., based in Edinburgh.
Cost: £10/£5 to register. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Multi Faith and Spiritual Forum: Science, Spirituality, and Civilization.

Friday 25 February

Chair: Elizabeth Templeton, theologian.
Speakers and Topics:
Rev Dr Michael Fuller, Pantonian Professor at the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church; Title: Science: the conscience of a society?
Prof Aziz Sheikh, Professor of Primary Care Research and Development, the University of Edinburgh; Chair, the Research and Documentation Committee, the Muslim Council of Britain; Title: Islamic Medical Ethics in the 21st Century: Principles and Application.
Dr Donald Bruce, Director, Society, Religion, and Technology Project, the Church of Scotland; Title: Globalised Technology and Religious Values - What do Mobile Phones, GM Patents and Climate Change have in common?
Professor Neil Spurway, Editor of ESSSAT News, the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology; Title: Evolution in the eye of Faith.
Venue: Martin Hall, New College, the Mound, the University of Edinburgh.
Time: 6.30pm-9.45pm.
Event Description:
This event, consisting of 4 talks, 4 simultaneous workshops and a plenary, will offer perspectives on issues at the Science, Spirituality, and Civilization interface. It is jointly organised by the EICWS and the HCA in Scotland, and hosted by New College, the University of Edinburgh.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com;
Dr Andrew Morton, 0131 332 6592, morton@ootbox.com

Event: Service at the Edinburgh Synagogue.

Saturday 26 February

Venue: Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.
Time: contact below for details.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this service at the Edinburgh Synagogue. Please phone Jackie Taylor to confirm attendance and to get the finalised details.
Cost: Admission Free.
Contact: Jackie Taylor, 01324 612 126.

Event: Workshop: NVC: Nonviolent Communication: Awakening the Heart of Compassion in Daily Life.

Saturday 26 February

Facilitator: Liz Kingsnorth.
Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 9.30am-4pm.
Event Description:
Imagine being able to stay connected to the human spirit within each person and within yourself in any situation, no matter how tough. Imagine transforming blame, criticism and conflict into respectful, constructive communication. NVC enables people to communicate with empathy, power, honesty and compassion with the aim that each person's needs be met peacefully. Please bring some vegetarian food to share for lunch. Tea will be provided. Liz is an accredited trainer with the Centre for Nonviolent Communication.
Cost: £10/£5. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Arabian Night.

Saturday 26 February

Venue: St Bride's Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-Midnight.
Event Description:
The evening will include the following: Babylon Arabic Band playing songs with Mohammed from throughout the Middle East and Turkey; Kurdish songs; belly dancers performing group and solo dances with live Arabic music; a special Iraqi public group dance (Choby); Arabic romantic poems of Palestinian poet Gazi Hussein; Arabic food (a selection of special buffet from the Middle East); an opportunity for everyone to dance with the live Arabic songs and music.
Cost: Tickets: £20/£10 (children 5-12), price includes food.
Contact: Mohammed, 0131 467 1981, 07989330763.

Event: Langar Community Meal.

Sunday 27 February

Venue: Sikh Temple, 1 Mill Lane, Leith, Edinburgh.
Time: 2pm-3pm.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara. Thanks to the Sikh community for kindly hosting this event.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Workshop: Explorations of the Common Ground of Religious and Spiritual Traditions.

Sunday 27 February

Facilitators: Prof Patrice Brodeur, Amalia Dickie, Alicia and Solihin Thom.
Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 12-5pm.
Event Description:
This workshop will provide time to experience one's relationship to God, the Great Life Force, in a way that seeks to enhance the similarities that human beings share across their respective religious and/or spiritual roots. Patrice Brodeur is developing a curriculum for inter religious dialogue and conflict resolution for young people. Amalia Dickie has represented the World Subud Association, including Susila Dharma International, at the UN ECOSOC and UNICEF (since 1992), and at the Millenium Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders - (New York 2000). Solihin and Alicia Thom are co-founders of Ad Humanitas, an organization dedicated to furthering humanity within each of us as one global community.
Cost: £10/£5. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Services for Peace at Churches and Cathedrals across Edinburgh. Sunday 27 February

Venue: across Edinburgh.
Time: throughout the day.
Event Description:
Churches and Cathedrals across Edinburgh are asked to be mindful of the Middle East Festival during their services on this day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Multi Faith and Spiritual Forum:
Spiritual Perspectives on the Headscarf Debate in a Changing Europe. Sunday 27 February

Chair: Rev Di Williams, Chaplain of the University of Edinburgh.
Speakers to include:
Aaliya Rajah-Carrim, the Edinburgh Central Mosque;
Margaret Clark and Sally Beaumont, Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women;
Ishrat Hussnain, Edinburgh Shia Muslim community;
Prof Richard Roberts, Honorary Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Stirling, and Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Lancaster University.
Venue: Augustine United Church, 41-43 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.
Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm.
Event Description:
This event will explore multi faith and spiritual perspectives on issues associated with the Headscarf Debate in Europe, and its implications for the individuals and the spiritual communities concerned. Thanks to the Augustine United Church for kindly hosting this event.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Three Perspective of Faith: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. Sunday 27 February

Venue: Nicolson Square Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh.
Time: 6.30pm onwards.
Event Description:
Perspectives on faith from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim perspectives.
Cost: Admission Free: Just come along on the day.
Contact: Peter Clark, Methodist Minister-Chaplain, 0131 667 1465.

Event: Workshop: Women, Spirituality, and Peace. Monday 28 February

Facilitators: Sara Trevelyan (Boyle) and Hephzibah Kolban.
Venue: Hall/Library, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.
Time: 10am-4.30pm.
Event Description:
We will be offering a safe and supportive space to explore inner and outer aspects of peace making. Using meditation, creative expression, relaxation and ritual. Please bring some vegetarian food to share for lunch. Tea will be provided. Sara Trevelyan (Boyle): I am a counsellor and psychotherapist. My spirituality is nourished by daily meditation and by my relationships. Hephzibah Kolban: I am a counsellor and Rosen Bodywork therapist in Edinburgh. Thanks to the Quaker Meeting House for kindly hosting this event.
Cost: £10/£5. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Youth Workshop:
Peace and Love without Conflict: A Youth Dialogue.

Monday 28 February

Facilitator: Prof Patrice Brodeur.
Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 9.30am-4pm.
Event Description:
Through visuals, role play games, and the arts, young people will personally explore how our different identities (age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, class, education level, sexual orientation, etc.) work within and around us, sometimes promoting peace and love, sometimes resulting in conflict and violence. Please bring some vegetarian food to share for lunch. Tea will be provided. Patrice Brodeur is developing a curriculum for inter religious dialogue and conflict resolution for young people from different international religious youth organizations.
Cost: £10/£5. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Spiritual Approaches to Middle East Peace.

Monday 28 February

Speakers: An Open Roundtable moderated by Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti
(Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz), including Rabbi Arthur Waskow, and members of the Middle East delegation.
Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.
Time: 6.30pm-10pm.
Event Description:
This open roundtable event will be moderated by Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz), including Rabbi Arthur Waskow, and members of the Middle East delegation. Thanks to the Quaker Meeting House for kindly hosting this event.
Cost: Admission Free, Donations Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Workshop: Paths to Peace: Deep Listening as Spiritual Practice.

Tuesday 1 March

Facilitators: Kate Atchley and Tami Yaari.
Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 9.30am-4pm.
Event Description:
An experiential workshop in which participants will explore deep listening as a sacred art, a practice which reveals our own inner wisdom: of mind, body and spirit. Please bring some vegetarian food to share for lunch. Tea will be provided. The workshop is led by Kate Atchley from Edinburgh - a lay ordainee in the Sangha of Zen master, Thich Nhat Hanh, and the Interfaith Seminary - and Tami Yaari from Jerusalem - a healer, an artist, and a peace maker.
Cost: £10/£5. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Multi Faith and Spiritual Forum:
The Re-emergence of the Divine Feminine.

Tuesday 1 March

Chair: Liz Kingsnorth.
Speakers to include:
Rev Ali Newell, the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow; Title: Birthing God.
Rebekah Gronowski, Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community; Title: The Feminine Divine Within Us: Looking at the Dual Aspect of Our Humanity as Reflected in the Image of Our Creator.
MaryCatherine Burgess, Intern Chaplain, the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre; Title: Coming Home to All Our Relations.
Rev Prof Frank Whaling, Professor Emeritus of the Study of Religion, the University of Edinburgh; Title: Anandamayi Ma and the Divine Feminine.
Ian Mundell, devotee of Amma; Title: Amma: Embodiment of Universal Motherhood.
Venue: Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-10pm.
Event Description: This multi faith and spiritual forum event will offer perspectives on the re-emergence of the divine feminine, and the implications of this re-emergence for spiritual approaches to peace.
Cost: Admission Free. Donations Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Meet the Storytellers.

Wednesday 2 March

Hosts: Hosted by the Scottish Storytelling Centre and the Middle East Festival.
Venue: Auditorium, the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh.
Time: 2pm-4.30pm.
Event Description:
Come along and meet the Middle Eastern and Scottish storytellers. This Scotland-Middle East Storytelling Project event is Scottish Arts Council funded.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Festival Hospitality Evening Hosted by the Subud Community.

Wednesday 2 March

Venue: The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-10pm.
Event Description:
This invitation only event is for conference delegates, workshop facilitators, Festival volunteers and guests to thank everyone for their support of the Festival.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: A Day of Meditation, Prayer, and Reflection for World Peace:
Sharing Spiritual Practice for Peace - closing with an Interspiritual Peace Ceremony
And a Middle East themed World Peace Flag Ceremony.

Thursday 3 March

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 9.15am-5pm, with registration from 8.30am-9.15am.
Event Description:
Participants will share experiences of spiritual practices, chanting, meditation, prayer, music, dance and movement, storytelling and readings for peace. This will contribute towards the 2-day International Conference which follows. In memory of the late Br Wayne Teasdale, pioneer of interspirituality.
Cost: £30/£20 per day. Advanced registration is highly recommended to ensure a place. To be emailed a registration form and for a detailed schedule:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Arabic Coffee Evening. Thursday 3 March

Venue: The National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.
Time: 6pm - 8pm.
Event Description: Come along for an evening of music, arts activities, and, of course, coffee!
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone welcome.
Contact: Carol Stobie, 0131 226 4531, c.stobie@nls.uk

Event: The Festival Lecture by Abuna Elias Chacour: Spiritual Approaches to Middle East Peace. Thursday 3 March

Chair: Rev Prof Frank Whaling.
Hosts: The Middle East Festival and the University of Edinburgh.
Venue: McEwan Hall, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-9pm. Doors open at 6pm.
Event Description: Abuna Elias Chacour is a three times Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and the winner of numerous international peace prizes and awards. This evening will consist of a one-hour talk followed by an hour of questions and discussion. In keeping with the emphasis of the Festival on spirituality, and on spiritual, cultural, and educational approaches to peace, please bring questions to this public talk.
Cost: £8/£5 (concessions) (stbf). For tickets contact Tickets Scotland below.
Contact: Tickets Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am - 6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am - 6pm Sundays.

Event: 2-Day International Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. Friday 4 March

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Registration, 8.45am-9.30am; Conference, 9.30am-5.30pm.
Event Description:
Following on from the Day of Sharing Spiritual Practice for Peace, this two-day International Conference will have talks, workshops, readings, plenaries, and music and storytelling from Baha'i, Christian, Ismaili, Jewish, Muslim, Subud, Sufi, and Zoroastrian traditions, as well as from the Middle East delegation, and from spiritual practices such as Dances of Universal Peace. There will be some 24 workshops and 14 talks to choose from.
Cost: £50/£30 per day. Advanced registration is highly recommended to ensure a conference place. To be emailed a registration form and for a detailed schedule:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Festival Hospitality Evening Hosted by the Subud Community. Friday 4 March

Venue: The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.
Time: 6pm-9pm.
Event Description: This invitation only event is for conference delegates, workshop facilitators, Festival volunteers and guests to thank everyone for their support of the Festival.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Erev Shabbat Service, Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community. Friday 4 March

Venue: For venue details use the contact below.
Time: 7pm.
Event Description: Guests are welcome at attend this Erev Shabbat Service, which will be followed by a family supper, at Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community.
Cost: Admission Free. Festival guests are welcome to attend.
Contact: 07891 439646, sukkatshalom@xemaps.com

Event: 2-Day International Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace.

Saturday 5 March

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Registration: 8.30am-9am; Conference: 9am-5.30pm.
Event Description: As above.
Cost: £50/£30 per day. Advanced registration is highly recommended to ensure a conference place. To be emailed a registration form and for a detailed schedule:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Festival Networking and Social Gathering.

Saturday 5 March

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-11pm.
Event Description:
Following the concert and the book launch there will be an opportunity to network among the Conference and Festival delegates. Guests are welcome to attend. This evening is principally for Conference delegates and guests.
7pm-8pm: a Concert of Islamic Nasheeds with Hassen Rasool;
8pm-8.30pm: a Book Launch of The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish by Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz, Saadi Shakur Chishti;
8.45pm-9.45pm: 2 facilitated networking themes - Supporting the Sulha Process; Supporting the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace;
10pm-11pm: Open Networking.
Cost: Admission free for Conference delegates and guests.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Mindful Peace Walk led by Sangha of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Sunday 6 March

Facilitator: The Scottish Sangha of Thich Nhat Hanh.
Venue: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
Time: 10am-11am, meet at the West Gate at 9.30am.
Event Description:
This silent walking meditation is an open event, led by followers of Thich Nhat Hanh and other Buddhists from the local community. The walk begins and concludes at the West Gate of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Before the walk begins there will be a brief introduction to 'mindful walking' as a meditation practice. This is not a protest or campaigning event, so please do not use any banners. Children are welcome accompanied by adults.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Four Workshops on Middle Eastern Dance.

Sunday 6 March

Venue: Dance Base, National Centre for Dance, 14-16 Grassmarket, Edinburgh.
Time: 12-4pm
Event Description:
Dance Base is delighted to offer four afternoon workshops as part of the Festival. These four taster sessions offer you the opportunity to celebrate peace and explore spirituality through the rich, vibrant dances of the Middle East. The Mystical Spiral with David Bellak; Egyptian Belly Dance with Hilary Thacker; Dances of Universal Peace Dance from the Sufi tradition with Dr Neil Douglas Klotz; and Palestinian Dance with Fatima Helow.
Cost: £15 (12). Experience: none. Footwear: Bare feet. To book:
Contact: Dance Base: 0131 225 5525.

Event: Tour to Rosslyn Chapel: Chapel of Peace.

Sunday 6 March

Facilitator: Jackie Queally, www.celtictrails.co.uk
Collection: Outside St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Noon-4pm. Leave at 12 from St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Event Description:
Very ornately carved both inside and out, Rosslyn's carvings refer to a wide range of belief systems spanning many times and places. Jackie is an experienced and knowledgeable guide who will attempt to impart the spiritual significance of this sacred site.
Cost: £18 includes the transportation, talk in two parts, entrance fee of £5 and notes sent upon booking. Please book in advance in order that transport arrangements can be ensured.
Contact: jac@celtictrails.co.uk or ring +44 131 477 5416

Event: Langar Community Meal.

Sunday 6 March

Venue: Sikh Temple, 1 Mill Lane, Leith, Edinburgh.
Time: 2pm-3pm.
Event Description:
Guests are welcome at attend this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara. Thanks to the Sikh community for kindly hosting this event.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Festival Closing Concert with Latif Bolat: Healing Sounds of Ancient Turkey: Turkish Mystic Music, Poetry, and Images.

Sunday 6 March

Venue: Union Yoga Centre, 25 Rodney Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-9pm.
Event Description:
Latif Bolat is a native of the Turkish Mediterranean town of Mersin. He moved to the US in 1984 and he has been the main Turkish musician and scholar of Turkish folklore in North America. Thanks to the Union Yoga Centre for kindly hosting this event. See: www.latifbolat.com
Cost: Tickets £6.
Contact: 0131 558 3334, bookings@unionyoga.co.uk

Exhibitions and Displays

Event: Spirituality through the Visual Arts - Teaching Religious Education with Pupils with Special Needs.

Venue: Dance Base, National Centre for Dance, 14-16 Grassmarket, Edinburgh.
Dates/Times: Monday 14th February - Sunday 6th March 2005, Weekdays and Saturdays 10am-5pm.
Event description:
The Arts and Learning Unit of City of Edinburgh Council Education Department presents innovative work in the teaching of spirituality to pupils with barriers to learning which is being tried and tested at St Nicholas Special School. This exhibition contains artworks from young people who are thinking about the Big Questions of life, but who find the topics both difficult and challenging. They are also not sufficiently confident or literate to discuss these issues verbally, but are very able to put them into other languages such as that of the painter or sculptor.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Mary Walters, Mary.Walters@educ.edin.gov.uk

Event: FLASH! - festival of faces:
A photographic exhibition celebrating the Edinburgh Middle Eastern community.
Venue: Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh.
Viewing times: Monday 21 February - Friday 4 March 2005, 10am-4pm, weekdays only.
Event Description: A selection of photos celebrating the Edinburgh Middle Eastern community.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: 0131 650 2595, Elizabeth.Forrester@ed.ac.uk, www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk

Event: A World of Books Display at the National Library of Scotland.
Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.
Dates: Thursday 24 February - Sunday 6 March 2005.
Event Description: A display from the Library's collections linked to the Festival theme.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Laura Murphy, 0131 226 4531, l.murphy@nls.uk

Event: The Baha'i Faith Exhibition.
Venue: St. George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Dates/Times: Saturday 19 February - Sunday 6 March 2005 (Access times may vary, call St. George's West Church on 0131 225 7001).
Event Description: Created originally for the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, this exhibition explains the universal message of the faith and takes a snapshot of the diverse Scottish Baha'i community.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: David, 0131 333 2170, edinburghsec@mail.com

Event: Susila Dharma Exhibition - Guided from within to take action in the world.
Venue: The Sanctuary, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France.
Dates: Saturday 19 February - Sunday 6 March 2005.
Event Description: Susila Dharma (Britain) is the social and humanitarian wing in Britain of the World Subud Association and supports a range of projects in many different countries. The intention behind Susila Dharma is to support people to live and work in harmony in their quest for a just and sustainable society. The focus of Susila Dharma is on people and relationships, and a belief in the ability of people to reach their potential - socially, economically, and spiritually.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Sjarifah Roberts, 01224 791373, Sjarifah@sjarifah.freeserve.co.uk

Event: The Zoroastrian Faith Display.
Venue: St. George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Dates/Times: Thursday 3 March - Saturday 5 March 2005.
Event Description: Information on the Zoroastrian faith, with CDs to purchase.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Event: Discover Islam Exhibition and Tour of the Edinburgh Central Mosque.
Venue: Edinburgh Central Mosque, 50 Potterrow, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 February 2005, 12-5pm.
Event Description: You are warmly welcome to visit the Edinburgh Central Mosque this weekend to see the Discover Islam Exhibition, to Tour the Mosque, and to meet members of the local Muslim community. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone welcome.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: 0131 667 1777, info@icet.org.uk, http://www.discover-islam.com/

National Library of Scotland Events: The National Library of Scotland is celebrating the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace with a host of events and activities for all of the city's diverse communities.

Event: Explore the World! Schools' Workshops.

Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.
Dates: Thursday 24 February - Sunday 6 March 2005.
Event Description: The National Library is offering free cultural diversity workshops for schools which support the 5-14 Environmental Studies National Guidelines. Participants can explore Middle Eastern culture and faith through traditional music and crafts.
Contact: To book a place: Laura Murphy, 0131 226 4531, l.murphy@nls.uk

National Galleries of Scotland Events

During the week beginning Monday 28th February 2005, the National Gallery of Scotland at the Mound will be running a programme of events to include guided tours and workshops for school groups, lunchtime talks, formal drawing classes, and a musical performance. Religious paintings from the permanent collection will provide a starting point and all activities will take place in Clore Education Centre at the Weston Link. A detailed programme will be published in the National Galleries of Scotland Bulletin available from early January 2005. For further information please contact Linda McClelland, Playfair Education Co-ordinator on 0131 624 6534 or lmcclelland@nationalgalleries.org

PeacePower Workshops for Young People

Event: A Series of 5 PeacePower Workshops for Young People.

Facilitated and Directed by Lee Gershuny.
Venue: Forest Café/Edinburgh University Settlement Upstairs Studio/2 Bristo Place, Edinburgh.
Dates/Times: Mondays, 21 and 28 February, 7, 14, and 21 March 2005, 7-9pm.
Please register by 14 February 2005. Registration forms are available from The Forest Cafe, on the back of workshop flyers, or from lee@the-elements.org.uk
PeacePower Cabaret with Rap, Music, Poetry, Dance and Drama.
Saturday, 26th March, 9pm to Midnight, Forest Café/2 Bristo Place, Edinburgh.
The purpose of this series of free workshops is to explore creative, non-violent ways of dealing with obstacles to peace. With financial assistance from the City of Edinburgh Council Culture and Leisure Department Celebrating Communities. Lee Gershuny, Ph.D., award-winning scholar and playwright, is founder/Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre Company.

Holy Fool Workshop

Event: Holy Fool Workshop.

Facilitator: Angela Knowles.
Venue: Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February 2005, 10am-6pm.
Event Description:
Engaging with the fool in ourselves brings lightness, acceptance, authenticity and presence in the here and now. This delightful mix of clown, theatre, relaxation movement and meditation work reveals the gift of each person and creates community. Angela Knowles, trained in Theatre, Clown, Voice, and with Master Storytellers. She has performed and led courses internationally for 16 years. For 6 of these, living in a contemplative monastic community, she was Creative Director for a nationwide storytelling initiative.
Cost: £80/60.
Contact: Angela Knowles, 07989 352151, angelaknowles@bigfoot.com

Awakening to Peace: Scotland - Middle East Peacemaker Exchange

The Festival is delighted to welcome Middle Eastern peacemakers. They will be sharing experiences in schools and other venues. For further information:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Routes and Connections: Scotland - Middle East Storytelling Exchange

For centuries stories have been bridges of understanding. The Festival is delighted to welcome two Middle Eastern storytellers, Shai Schwartz from Neve Shalom and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari from Jerusalem. They will be working together with Scottish storytellers and sharing storytelling tradition in schools and other venues. This project is in partnership with the Scottish Storytelling Centre and is supported by The Scottish Arts Council. For further information: Contact: 0131 557 5724, scottishstorytellingcentre@uk.uumail.com

Festival Events in Fife

Schools in Fife will invite guests from the Middle Eastern indigenous traditions to share with them some of the cultural practices from the Middle East, particularly that of the storytelling tradition. In the morning the guests will visit two primary schools in Dunfermline and speak with 10-11 year old pupils about how storytelling can be used in reparation and making amends. The visit will culminate with an event in Woodmill High School where they will view an art exhibition by Fife pupils on a theme of peace and hear S3 pupils sing two of the songs written by the pupils for the visit of His Holiness the IV Dalai Lama. Classes from SI will have the opportunity to question the visitors on a number of issues relating to the Middle Eastern traditions. For full details:
Contact: Gordon Lennox, 01592 414632, gordon.lennox@fife.gov.uk

Spiritual Practice

Event: A Series of 9 Spiritual Practice Sessions from 24 February 2005 onwards.

Facilitators: Various facilitators from across spiritual traditions.
Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Time: 8am-9am.
Event Description:
These will take place on February 24, 25, 26, and 28, and March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Come along and participate in these morning spiritual practice sessions.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day. For detailed information:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Middle East Films

Event: Women of the Middle East Film Series.
Venue: The Filmhouse Cinema, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.
Time: Check with the Filmhouse for final details.
Event Description:
Between the 14th and the 18th of February 2005 there will be a short season of films from the Middle East. Further details on this season can be obtained from James McKenzie at the Filmhouse, 0131 623 8020, or by consulting the Filmhouse website at www.filmhousecinema.com.
Contact: The Filmhouse, 0131 623 8020, http://www.filmhousecinema.com/

Festival Mural

A Festival Mural will be created at St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, inspired by the spirit of the Festival. For further information:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Festival Pre Event

On Saturday 8th January 2005 during the day there will be a guided tour of some of the places where 'Abdu'l-Baha, son of the founder of the Baha'i faith, spoke at or visited in Edinburgh in 1913. Allow two hours for the tour which includes an international arts café, a visit to the Georgian House, the Camera Obscura and St Giles Cathedral. Tickets £8/£6. Booking is essential.
Contact: 0131 333 2170, mospleen@hotmail.com

Saturday night highlight of the Open Weekend is a Baha'i arts concert with a ceilidh band. 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange. For tickets or information:
Contact: 0131 333 2170, mospleen@hotmail.com.

The weekend's events will finish on Sunday morning on the 9th with an inspiring devotional and multi media artistic presentation on the visit of 'Abdu'l-Baha.

Festival Post Event

Event: Middle East Festival Post-Festival Reflection Meeting.
Venue: Edinburgh Brahma Kumaris Centre, 20 Polwarth Crescent, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: Thursday 17 March 2005, 2pm-4pm.
Event Description:
An opportunity to reflect back upon the Festival and to share learnings.
Cost: Admission Free. To attend and participate:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Seasons of Renewal: A Retreat in Jewish and Sufi Spirituality

Event: Seasons of Renewal: A Retreat in Jewish and Sufi Spirituality.
Facilitators: Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Phyllis Berman, and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz).
Venue: Wiston Lodge, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: 24-27 February 2005 (Thursday evening - Sunday lunch).
Event Description:
This retreat will use ritual, chant, meditation and sacred movement, including Dances of Universal Peace, to explore the shared resources in Jewish and Sufi spirituality for renewing our lives in harmony with the seasons of nature. In both the mystical traditions of Judaism and Islam, nature expresses the beautiful face of the One being, rather than a flawed, lesser reality. Listening to the rhythms of nature allows us to take time for renewal, healing and rededication to the joy of life. During the retreat we will share spiritual practices that help us appreciate this blessing as well as better understand the shared heritage of the "Tent of Abraham."

Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman are the authors of many books, including the recent A Time For Every Purpose Under Heaven (Farrar Straus Giroux 2003), which is the first that integrates the newer ceremonies created during the last half-century (brit for baby girls, weaning, bat mitzvah, menarche and menopause, egalitarian and gay weddings, mid-life transformation and retirement) into the whole life-path of Jewish ceremony, expanding on and renewing the classic and ancient ceremonies. Both Rabbis Waskow and Berman are close students of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement worldwide. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti is the co-founder of the Dances of Universal Peace Network and a senior spiritual director in the Sufi Ruhaniat International. He is the author of several books, including The Sufi Book of Life (March 2005), Genesis Meditations: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims (2003) and The Hidden Gospel (1999).
Contact: Registration details: Narada Ian Ramsey, narada@abwoon.com, 01290 661 082, or at the Abwoon Study Circle website: www.abwoon.com

Day of Sharing Spiritual Practice for Peace

Event: A Day of Meditation, Prayer, and Reflection for World Peace:
Honouring Our Traditions: Sharing Spiritual Practice for Peace - closing with an Interspiritual Peace Ceremony and a Middle East themed World Peace Flag Ceremony (experiences of spiritual practices, chanting, meditation, prayer, reflection, music, dance and movement, storytelling and readings for peace). This day is in memory of the late Br Wayne Teasdale, pioneer of interspirituality.
Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 9.15am-5pm, with registration from 8.30am-9.15am.
Event Description:
Participants will share experiences of spiritual practices, chanting, meditation, prayer, music, dance and movement, storytelling and readings for peace. This will contribute towards the 2-day International Conference which follows.
Cost: £30/£20 per day. Advanced registration is highly recommended to ensure a place. To be emailed a registration form and for a detailed schedule:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

Contributions to the day are expected from the following traditions:

Baha'i, Buddhist, Celtic, Christian, Hindu, Ismaili, Jewish, Jewish/Sufi Zikr, the Middle East delegation, Muslim, Sikh, Subud, Sufi, and Zoroastrian. In addition, there will be an Interspiritual Ceremony for Peace, Dances of Universal Peace, and closing with a Middle East themed World Peace Flag Ceremony.

The Festival Lecture

Abuna Elias Chacour

Title: Spiritual Approaches to Middle East Peace



Chair: Rev Prof Frank Whaling.
Hosts: The Middle East Festival and the University of Edinburgh.
Venue: McEwan Hall, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh.
Time: 7pm-9pm. Doors open at 6pm.
Event Description:
Abuna Elias Chacour is a three times Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and the winner of numerous international peace prizes and awards. This evening will consist of a one-hour talk followed by an hour of questions and discussion. In keeping with the emphasis of the Festival on spirituality, and on spiritual, cultural, and educational approaches to peace, please bring questions to this public talk.
Cost: £8/£5 (concessions) (stbf). For tickets contact Tickets Scotland below.
Contact: Tickets Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am - 6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am - 6pm Sundays.

Abuna Elias Chacour was born in the village of Biram in the Upper Galilee in the Arab Palestine, to a Palestinian Christian family, members of the Melkite Catholic Church, an Eastern Byzantine Church in communion with Rome. In 1958 he was sent by his Church to Paris, where he graduated with a Degree in Theology and Bible Studies from Saint Sulpice, the Sorbonne (the University of Paris) in 1965. In September 1967 he was sent by his Church to the Hebrew University, where he received a Master's Degree in Bible and Talmudic Studies in 1968. He was the first Arab student to study the Bible and the Talmud there. In 1970 he was appointed Assistant Lecturer at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Bossey, Switzerland. In 1971 he obtained a Ph.D. in Ecumenical Theology at the University of Geneva.

1982: He opened Prophet Elias High School in Ibillin. Since then the school has been developed into Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI). As of November 2002, MEEI has 4,000 students enrolled. 1984: Launch of his first book: Blood Brothers. 1990: Launch of his second book: We Belong to the Land. 1994: He received the prestigious World Methodist Peace Award that has been presented in the past to such pilgrims for peace as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the late Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat. 1996: He opened the Centre for Religious Pluralism at Mar Elias College. 1999: He was awarded Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by the President of France. 2000: He received the Marcel Rudloff Peace and Tolerance Award at Strasbourg. 2001: He received the 18th Niwano Peace Prize, Tokyo-Japan; Nominated for Man of the Year award in Israel. 2002: Launch of his 3rd book: J'ai foi en nous; He was appointed Bishop-Elect of Jerusalem, Melkite Catholic Church, Israel; He received the Dante Aleghieri Peace and Human Rights award from the district of Comune di Castelnuovo Magra Provincia della Spezia in Italy. 2003: He was appointed Consultant to the Holy See Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews; He received Lion's International award: Man of the Year, Israel; He received the prestigious 2002 Peacemaker in Action Award from Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, New York. 2004: Currently continuing development of campus facilities and curricula of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI). It is Father Chacour's hope and vision to expand the facilities to accommodate 5,000 students from all over Israel, and eventually from other countries as well. MEEI is the only private campus in the history of Galilee where Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze can live together, learn together, and establish a common future together.

Israel's Man of the Year 2001 speaks from the heart on Arab-Christian-Jewish relations. A Palestinian Christian, Father Chacour founded the Mar Elias Educational Institutions with students from Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Druze faiths. He is the President of Israel's first Christian-Arab-Israeli University. Reconciliation begins with bridges. Father Chacour has built them in a time and place where no one thought it possible.

2-Day International Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace.

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Time: Friday 4 March: Registration, 8.45am-9.30am; Conference, 9.30am-5.30pm.
Saturday 5 March: Registration: 8.30am-9am; Conference: 9am-5.30pm.
Event Description: Following on from the Day of Sharing Spiritual Practice for Peace, this two-day International Conference will have talks, workshops, readings, plenaries, and music and storytelling from Baha'i, Buddhist/Middle East, Christian, Ismaili, Jewish, the Middle East delegation, Muslim, Subud, Sufi, and Zoroastrian traditions, and from spiritual practices such as Dances of Universal Peace. There will be some 24 workshops and 14 talks to choose from.
Cost: £50/£30 per day. Advanced registration is highly recommended to ensure a conference place. To be emailed a registration form and for a detailed schedule:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk3001@hotmail.com

By subject area, conference speakers and workshop facilitators are expected to include, among others:

Baha'i
Dr Moojan Momen: renowned scholar who has a special interest in the study of the Baha'i Faith and Shi`i Islam.
Dr John Parris: member of the nine-person National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of UK.

Buddhist/Middle East
Rev Dr Ruwan Palapathwala: Director, Centre for Social Inquiry, Religion and Interfaith Dialogue, Melbourne.

Christian
Dr Sebastian Brock: formerly Reader in Syriac Studies, the University of Oxford.
Prof Andrew Louth: Priest of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Diocese of Sourozh and Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies, the University of Durham.
Rev Prof Frank Whaling: formerly Professor of the Study of World Religions, the University of Edinburgh.
Father Mark Aziz: Priest of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Scotland.
Revd Jeremy Clines: York St John, Arab Christianity (Interfaith Values Project).

Ismaili
Dr Arzina Lalani: Research Associate at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.

Jewish
Rabbi Arthur Waskow: representative of the Jewish Renewal Movement in USA.
Rodef Shalom Eliyahu McLean: Orthodox Jew from Jerusalem; ordained as 'Rodef Shalom', 'Peace Pursuer' by Reb Zalman Schachter.

Middle East Delegation

Muslim
Abdul Aziz Ahmed: Islamic teacher and scholar.
Hassen Rasool: a leading singer of Islamic Nasheeds in the UK.

Subud
Sharif István Horthy: formerly Chair of the World Subud Association.
Amalia Dickie: Initiator and Moderator of the Subud Peace Forum.

Sufi
Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz: internationally-known scholar of religious studies and psychology.
Latif Bolat: the main Turkish musician and scholar of Turkish folklore in North America.
David Bellak: Sheikh of the Mevlivi Order and an initiate of the Helvet-Jeriahi Order of Dervishes.

Zoroastrian
Malcolm Deboo: Librarian and Information Officer at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, London.

Dances of Universal Peace
Alice Fateah Saunders: teacher of the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace.

FACES FROM MESP ‘04 and MESP ‘05













Festival Brochure

Further copies of this Festival Brochure can be sent on request.

Festival Web Site

The Festival web site is as follows: www.eial.org

Festival Media Opportunities

For media opportunities, interviews, photo opportunities, articles, and press releases please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival Volunteers

Please get in contact if you would like to volunteer during some Festival events.

Festival Sponsorship Opportunities

Please get in contact if you would like to discuss Festival sponsorship.

Access

If you have specific access needs, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Disclaimer

All events were as correct as could be ascertained at the time of going to press. The Festival organisers will not be held responsible for any errors in the listings in this guide or changes to any advertised programme.

Festival Directors and Contacts

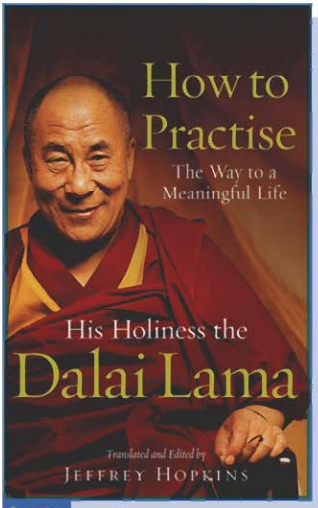
Festival and Conference Directors:
Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities,
EICWS, Scottish Charity, SC030155,
4, William Black Place, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9PZ.
T: 0131 331 4469, M: 07813 262549, E: njwalk3001@hotmail.com

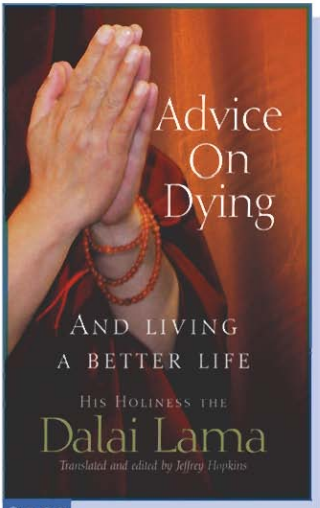
EICWS Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities

Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL,
7, East Champanyie, Edinburgh, EH9 3EL, Scotland, UK.
M: 44-(0) 7005-802-580, F: 44-(0) 7005-802-581,
E: ndk@eial.org, W: www.eial.org

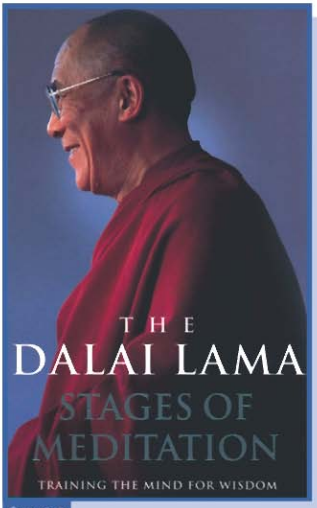
The Path to Peace



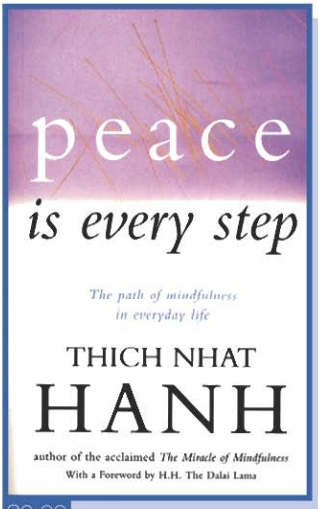
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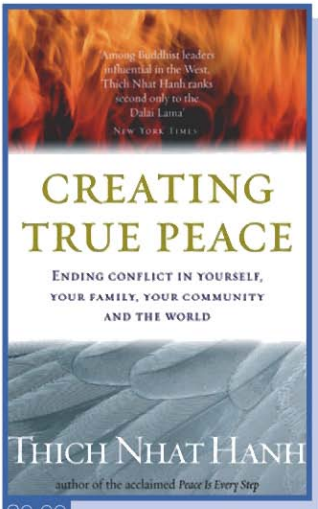
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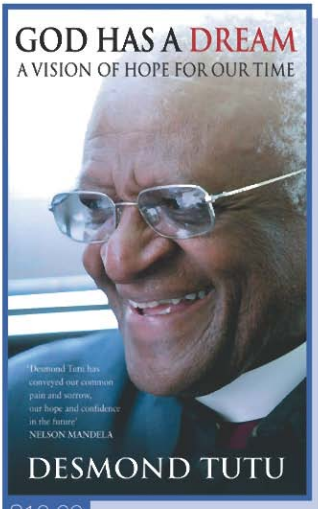
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