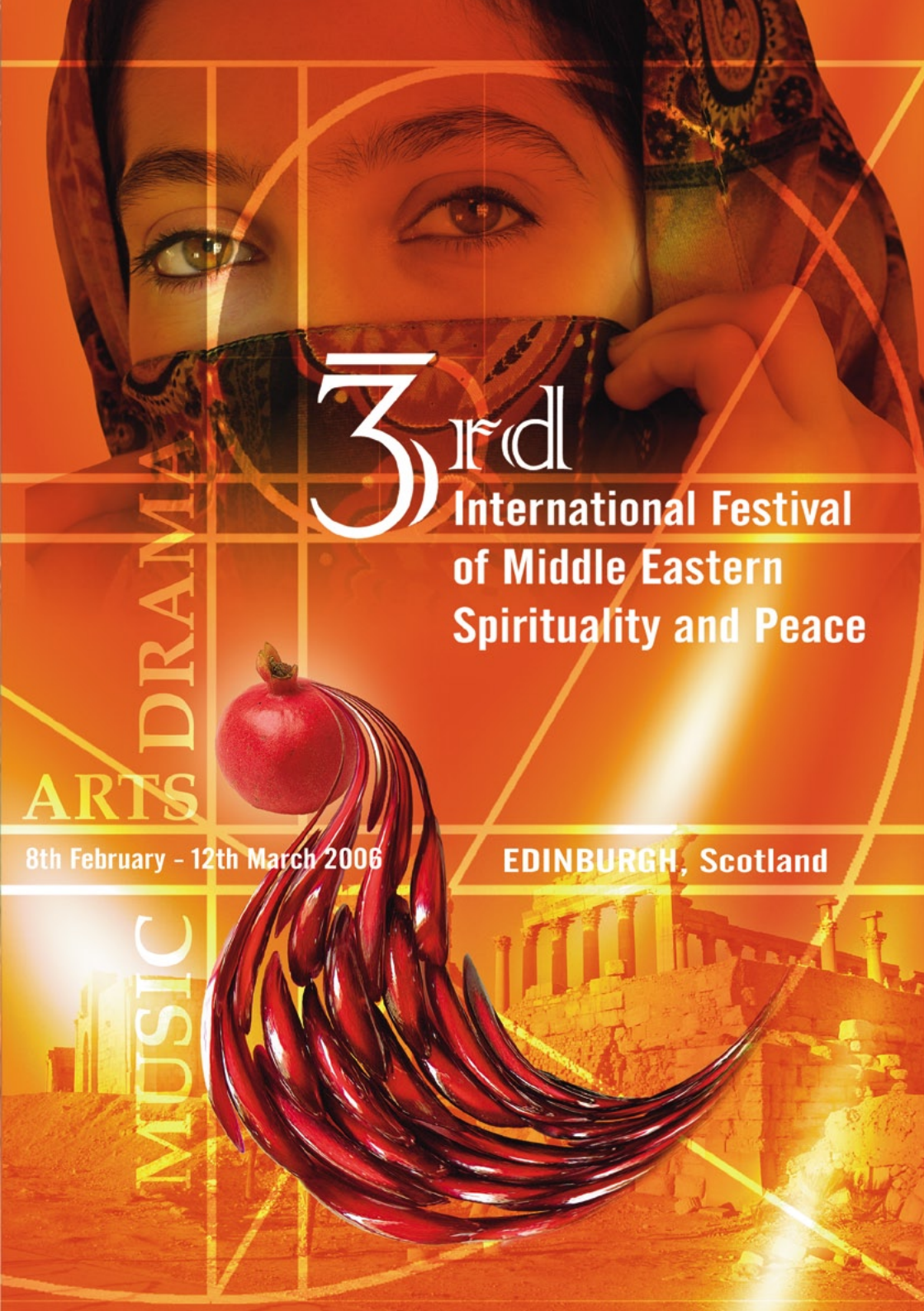

3rd
International Festival
of Middle Eastern
Spirituality and Peace
ARTS
DRAMA
MUSIC
8th February - 12th March 2006
EDINBURGH, Scotland

festival welcome and introduction

From Wednesday 8 February – Sunday 12 March 2006 the 3rd Annual Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace will bring together people from a wide range of spiritual backgrounds, educators, teachers and scholars, people from artistic and cultural backgrounds, people from diverse cultures and traditions, and people from across Scotland and internationally. More generally, all of the principal faith and spiritual traditions of Scotland have been invited to participate in this spiritual, educational, artistic and cultural, and international festival which celebrates 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.

festival ethos

The Festival positively affirms the diversity of the Middle East, as well as that of Scotland. 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, educational, and artistic and cultural approaches to peace and understanding while celebrating the international diversity of Scotland. Most of the Festival events are held in Edinburgh, though in 2006 we are opening up the Festival to events in other parts of Scotland. There are five main strands to the 2006 Middle East Festival, namely: 1. spirituality, and relations among spiritual traditions; 2. education and audience development; 3. arts and culture; 4. celebrating the diversity of Scotland; 5. celebrating Scotland in international terms.

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 in general 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, the Altajir Trust, Sir Tom Farmer, the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL. Support for individual events is listed beside the event itself.

Further in-kind support has come from organizations 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 and individuals.

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.

EVENT: WORKSHOP SERIES: ARTEMIS

Venue: WHALE Learning Centre, 30 Westburn Grove
and Sighthill Community Centre, 1a Sighthill Wynd, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Wednesday 1st February, every Wednesday (time to be confirmed) for 9 weeks or Saturday 4th February, every Saturday (time to be confirmed) for 9 weeks. 2 groups will run in parallel for the 9 weeks, one meeting on a Wednesday and the other on a Saturday. Demand will determine whether digital photography or traditional photography will take place on a Wednesday or Saturday.

Event Description: A photography project for black and minority ethnic women in West Edinburgh. As part of the Middle East Festival in February and International Women's Day in March this project will celebrate Mothers and Daughters. Aptly named after the goddess of light, the artemis project will use traditional and digital photography to explore Western influences and changes within cultures and generations. Supported by the City of Edinburgh Council Celebrating Communities Fund.

EDINBVRGH THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Cost: Free. To register: Contact: Gail @ WHALE on 0131 458 3267
or Margaret Drysdale, 07941352163.

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

EVENT: HEART OF FLESH

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 6pm–8pm

Event Description: This is an experiential gathering with people who have spent the last two years exploring feminist spirituality in their lives and the world around them. Based on the work of Joan Chittister, a Benedictine Sister who wrote Heart of Flesh, this evening will include stories, ritual, singing, and discussions that invite exchange and a sense of community.

Cost: Optional Donation to the University Chaplaincy.

Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY

EVENT: CONCERT: ROBERT BURNS MEETS MARTIN LUTHER KING

Venue: Prestwick North Church, Prestwick, Ayrshire

Time: 8pm

Event Description: A concert of music and song led by some of Scotland's finest traditional musicians and singers together with special guests and The Common Ground Gospel Choir. Common Ground Scotland has presented several concerts using the theme of Robert Burns meets Martin Luther King. The content of the concerts can best be described as songs of substance and songs that inspire, exploring the wider cultural context of Burns and King and the impact of their thinking, in ways that are entertaining and fun.

Cost: £10. To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.

Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

FILMHOUSE

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY — TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

EVENT: MIDDLE EAST FILMS AT THE FILMHOUSE

Venue: The Filmhouse Cinema, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh

Dates/Times: Check with the Filmhouse for final details

Istituto Italiano di Cultura
EDIMBURGO

Event Description: This year's film programme takes as its starting point the central musical theme of the festival with a selection of films looking at singing greats such as Fairuz and Farid Al Atrache, and also Egypt's national treasure, the dancer Samia Gamal, as well as the sumptuous short film, The Violin. A further strand for the season will look at works by the Turkish director Ferzan Ozpetek. There will be a brief look at the Palestinian-Israeli situation through the film Private, and through a recording of the last interview given by Edward Said. Also included in the season is the classic, The Night of Counting the Years, still regarded as one of the greatest Egyptian films of all time. Further titles that may be added to the season include Voice of Iran, about Iran's national treasure, Mohammad Reza Shajarian, and a documentary on the East-West Diwan Orchestra.
Consult: www.filmhousecinema.com for more details.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2006, 6PM

THE NIGHT OF COUNTING THE YEARS (EL MUMMIA)

Shadi Abdelsalam | Egypt | 1969
Cast: Ahmed Marei, Ahmad Hegazi, Zouzou El-Hakim, Nadia Lutfi.
An impressive directorial debut by ex-art director Shadi Abdelsalam, The Night of Counting the Years is an examination of cultural imperialism in reverse. Slow-moving but absorbing, and quite beautifully shot. The programme will also include THE VIOLIN (dir. Atef Hetata | Egypt | 1991). This sumptuous short film uses music to relate the story of a young woman's attachment to her violin.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2006, 6PM

HAREM SUARE

Ferzan Ozpotek | Turkey, Italy and France | 1999
Cast: Marie Gillain, Alex Descas, Lucia Bose.
Harem Suare tells of the impossible love between a Sultan's concubine and her eunuch minder in the last royal harem of the Ottoman Empire, at the turn of this century.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2006, 1PM

FAIRUZ LIVE IN LAS VEGAS

Rima Rahbani | Lebanon
Known for her pure, clear voice, Fairuz has become a national symbol for Lebanon and has gained a large following worldwide. In May of 1999 she came to Las Vegas and gave a historical musical performance attended by over 13,000 fans. The film opens with a documentary on her life and concludes with her live performance.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2006, 1PM

THE GENIE LADY

Henri Barakat | 1950 | 111 minutes | Arabic with English subtitles
Meet Asfour (Farid Al Atrache), a poor singer/actor who stumbles upon a magic lamp and its wish-granting genie (Samia Gamal). Particularly impressive are the elaborate set designs, Farid Al Atrache's superb voice and Samia Gamal's scintillating dance routines.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2006, 6PM

HAMAM: THE TURKISH BATH

Ferzan Ozpotek | Italy, Turkey and Spain | 1997
Cast: Alessandro Gassman, Francesca D'Aloja, Carlo Cecchi, Halil Ergün, Serif Sezer.
A tense and bittersweet romance from one of the strongest Turkish directors working today.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2006, 6PM

PRIVATE

Saverio Costanzo | Italy | 2004
Cast: Hend Ayoub, Mohammad Bakri, Lior Miller, Arin Omary, Tomer Russo.
This courageous foray into the Israeli-Palestine conflict views the struggle through one particular event: the occupation of a middle-class Palestinian home by Israeli soldiers.

SCREENING AT FILMHOUSE, TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2006, 6PM

EDWARD SAID: THE LAST INTERVIEW

Mike Dibb | UK | 2003
With: Edward Said, Charles Glass
In 1991, the Israeli-born author and critic Edward Said was diagnosed with leukaemia. One of his last engagements was this final, feature-length interview, conducted by the journalist Charles Glass, ranging over his life and ideas.
Cost: 6pm shows are £5.20/£3.70, 1pm shows are £4/£2.50.
There will be a see any three film deal for £12/£7.50.
Contact: The Filmhouse, 0131 623 8020
http://www.filmhousecinema.com/



FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

EVENT: MUSICAL INTEGRATION: MIDDLE EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

Venue: St Cecilia's Hall, Niddry Street, Cowgate, Edinburgh

Time: 4pm-7pm

Event Description: The Institute for Music in Human and Social Development (IMHSD) presents films, talks and performances exploring the creative role of music in social development and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on Middle Europe and the Middle East. Integration of traditional and contemporary musical cultures, styles and instruments will be highlighted with performances from GoI (including Roxanna Pope, Dee Isaacs, Peter Vilk and guest musician Ilhan Barutcu) and from the Intercultural Music and Art Project (including Anothai Nitibhon and Kimho Ip). Speakers will include Prof Nigel Osborne, University of Edinburgh. Cost: Admission Free.
To attend: Contact: 0131 650 8248, k.overy@ed.ac.uk

EVENT: CONCERT: ROBERT BURNS MEETS MARTIN LUTHER KING

Venue: St Johns Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm

Event Description: As above.
Cost: £10. To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.
Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY — SATURDAY 4 MARCH

EVENT: THEATRE: ROMEO AND JULIET

Venue: Citizens' Theatre, 119 Gorbals Street, Glasgow

Dates/Times: Friday 10 February - Saturday 4 March 2006, 7.30pm

Event Description: The greatest love story ever told. The original star crossed lovers. Torn apart by their families, the Montagues and the Capulates, Romeo and Juliet must fight for their forbidden love in a tale of passion, revenge and reconciliation that has echoed down the ages. The template for every romance that has followed is brought to life in spectacular style in this stunning new production of Shakespeare's most beautiful, poetic play by the Citizens' Theatre Company.
Cost: £14/£7. Contact and Booking: Box Office 0141 429 0022, online www.citz.co.uk

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: AWAKENING THE DIVINE FEMININE

Facilitator: MaryCatherine Burgess

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: This experiential workshop will explore not only how the Divine Feminine is awakened and experienced in the lives of participants, but also how that process occurs in larger societal contexts. Those present will be invited to share stories and insights, reflect on emerging spiritual perspectives, learn from each other, participate in co-created rituals, contribute toward

building a sense of community, and have fun. To her work with the Divine Feminine MaryCatherine brings extensive experience in group facilitation, retreat work, feminist spirituality, teaching, Shamanism, psychodrama, music, Mystery School, and the creation of rituals that incorporate the expressive arts. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch. Cost: £15/£10. For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: CHANTING A PATHWAY TO PEACE

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: If we can't find peace within ourselves how will we find peace in the world? This one day workshop will explore the power of chanting as a tool to draw us deeper into ourselves to re-connect with an inner strength and tranquility. The day will draw upon ancient Vedic chants which are universal in nature and are said to embody the very essence of God. Come join us! Cost: Admission Free. Donations Welcome. To Register:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TALK: IN SEARCH OF BABAR, WITH DR HASAN BEG

Venue: Oxgangs Library, 343 Oxgangs Road North, Edinburgh

Time: 3pm



Event Description: Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar was born in Farghana, a small state in Central Asia in 1483 A.D. He had great ancestry being the descendent of Amir Taimur from his father and Changez Khan from his mother. He was not only a great king but he had many other qualities. He was a man of letters. He wrote his autobiography, he composed a Diwan, a collection poems and a commentry on the principles and practice of poetry. He was a great follower of the Naqshbandi school of Sufism. He was a great builder of gardens and he created many of them in Kabul and in India. Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Nicola Tonner, 0131 529 5547/5625, nicola.tonner@edinburgh.gov.uk



EVENT: MULTICULTURAL FOOD 'N' FUN DAY

Venue: Teviot Row House, Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 1pm onwards

Event Description: From international food stalls, Arabic coffee, to ready to wear clothes and fabric stalls, to henna painting, to an extravagant fashion show, to exotic belly dancing performances. This day has it all! During the day many celebrated shops will have stalls exhibiting and selling their trade: Jewellery, arts and crafts as well as a children's area with face painting, hair braiding, and balloon twisting. From 6pm-10pm, ADULTS ONLY: Fashion Show and Dance Performances to round the fun off! A great way to explore the various aspects of Middle Eastern culture!
Cost: Free (£3/£4 from 6pm). For stall reservation and tickets:
Contact: Susan Karim, 07944652815, susan@sce.eu.com

EVENT: TURKISH COMMUNITY CULTURAL EVENT

Venue: Langside Hall, 5 Langside Avenue, Glasgow

Time: 12-3pm



Event Description: This Turkish cultural event will feature a concert of Turkish music and refreshments containing Turkish food and drink in an informal setting in the company of Turkish community members. Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
To attend: Contact: Birol Topuz, 0785 901 63 02, biroltopuz@yahoo.com

EVENT: CONCERT: ROBERT BURNS MEETS MARTIN LUTHER KING

Venue: Adelaides, Bath Street, Glasgow

Time: 8pm

Event Description: As above.
Cost: £10. To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.
Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

EVENT: MOROCCAN HAFLA (FESTIVAL)

Venue: McDonald Road Library, 2-4 McDonald Road, Edinburgh

Time: 1.30pm-4.30pm

Event Description: This Moroccan Hafla event will feature Moroccan food, drink, and music in an informal setting. Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Mohammed Boussaboun, 0131 529 5636.

EVENT: MULTI FAITH AND SPIRITUAL FORUM: THE PATH OF RELATIONSHIPS —

Relationships as the Path for Spiritual Realisation and Compassionate Action: Wisdom from the World's Spiritual Traditions

Venue: Nicolson Square Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh

Time: 6.30pm onwards. Chair: Rev Fiona Bennett

Speakers: MaryCatherine Burgess (The Importance of Balance), Rebekah Gronowski (Treading the Path of Peace: The Use of Traditional Jewish Wisdom to help us to build Relationships), Rev Ali Newell (The Sacredness of Relationships - a Christian Perspective), Sahdia Raja (Islam, Human Relationships and Society), Ravinder Kaur Nijjar (A Sikh Perspective on Relationship with God and Creation).

Event Description: Relationships in a pluralistic and multi cultural society.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk



EVENT: JOHN K CLARK'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS – A VIEWING WITH THE ARTIST

Venue: Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, 222 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, Glasgow

Time: 1.30pm-4.30pm

Event Description: A viewing and explanatory talk from the renowned stained glass artist John K Clark on his unique set of stained glass windows depicting The Jewish Festivals. Originally commissioned for Queen's Park Synagogue but now installed in Giffnock Synagogue, the imagery of these stunning windows depicts the various facets of the festivals which go to make up the Jewish year. Refreshments will be available. Postcards of the windows are available for purchase.
Cost: Donations will be very welcome.
Contact: 0141 577 8200.

MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: DEEPENING OUR PERSONAL JOURNEY: INTRODUCING THE ENNEAGRAM

Facilitator: Janette Blakemore, Insight Coaching, www.insightcoaching.co.uk

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: The Enneagram is a powerful and profoundly practical tool which can support us in our journey to reconnect with who we truly are beyond our habitual and often limiting personality patterns. In this practical and participative workshop, we will: Explore the nine ways we abandon ourselves; Understand much more about why we do what we do; Learn practical ways to increase our Presence in each moment. As well as extensive teaching, there will be time for group discussion as well as deeper exploration in smaller groups and pairs. Janette Blakemore is a leadership coach and team facilitator and she is Director of Insight Coaching. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10.
For a Registration Form: Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

EVENT: MINDFULNESS@LUNCHTIME

Venue: St Marks Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 12.15pm to 2pm

Event Description: The Community of Interbeing and Unitarians in Edinburgh are jointly organising Mindfulness@Lunchtime every Tuesday from 12.15pm to 2pm. Take a break, come and find mindfulness@lunchtime – guided sitting meditation, walking meditation, enjoying our food together in silence and ending with a short silent meditation, returning to the world refreshed! Mindfulness is gently bringing our attention to the present moment, invoking our inherent capacity for healing and renewal. Please bring your own lunch.



Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Jon Bagust, bagust.chang@virgin.net



Picture Credit: Aki Babamiri

EVENT: ZIPANG, MESOPOTAMIAN STORYTELLING

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 7pm-9pm. Doors open at 6.30pm

Event Description: One and a half hours with two English-speaking storytellers and one Kurdish Iraqi harpist/singer. The performance consists of a 45-minute retelling by Fran Hazelton of Lugalbanda and the Anzud Bird written in Sumerian in about 2500 BCE. The second part of the performance is a 45-minute retelling by June Peters of the Epic of Gilgamesh written in Akkadian in about 1000 BCE. Both retellings have a harp accompaniment by Tara Jaff. The harpist will also sing a Hymn to the Goddess Inana/Ishtar in Sumerian and a festive song of praise for the city of Arbela sung in Akkadian/ancient Assyrian. The Arbela Song was written about 3000 years ago praising Arbela for its festivals in honour of the goddess Ishtar. The Arbela Song will be sung for the first time for thousands of years in Edinburgh, artistically linking that city in the mountains with the ancient mountain city of Arbela. Sponsored by The Enheduanna Society.
Cost: £8/£6 on the door, on the night.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: ARMENIAN, GEORGIAN AND SYRIAN CHURCHES IN SOUTH EAST TURKEY, AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY RUFUS READE

Venue: The Nomad's Tent, 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm onwards

Event Description: This talk is part of a series of three illustrated talks by Rufus Reade as part of the exhibition, Objects of devotion: Religious artefacts which help approach the divine.
Cost: Admission Free. Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

EVENT: FORUM: ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD TODAY. SPEAKERS: INAYAT BUNGLAWALA, SOHAIB SAEED AND PROFESSOR RICHARD ROBERTS

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 7pm onwards

Event Description: Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary, Media Committee, the Muslim Council of Britain (Islam and the Media); Sohaib Saeed, President, IsocEd (Islam and the Youth); Professor Richard Roberts, Honorary Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Stirling, and Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Lancaster University (Islam and Globalisation).
Cost: Donations welcome towards costs. Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: KURDISH CULTURAL EVENING

Venue: The Attic, 56 Dundas Street, Glasgow
5 minutes walk from Queen Street Station and George Square

Time: 6pm-11pm

Event Description: An evening of Kurdish music, dance and food. Organised and sponsored by the Kurdish Cultural Association – Scotland.
Cost: £15 per person (the price includes Kurdish food), over 16 only (no children).
Contact: Ben Balata on 07886872998.

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Institut FRANÇAIS d'Écosse

EVENT: ARABIC MUSIC AND DANCE EVENING

Venue: French Institute, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh

Time: 6pm-8pm

Event Description: special Arabic evening with music and dance.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome. Contact: culture-ife@hotmail.co.uk

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: CONFLICT AS A PATHWAY TO PEACE

Facilitator: Lee Gershuny

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: If given a choice, many of us would avoid or deny conflict until we or 'it' got out of control. Yet, conflict, an inevitable part of life, holds the seeds of our own spiritual and creative development and the energy to sustain it. This experiential workshop will provide opportunities for you to develop skills in working creatively and non-violently with conflict and obstacles to peace in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Discussions, demonstrations, role-play and other interactive exercises will enable you to tap inner sources of creativity and transform conflicts of everyday life into your own pathway to peace. Lee Gershuny, Ph.D., poet and award-winning scholar and playwright, is founder/Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre. In the USA, she was Full Professor of English at the culturally and racially diverse City University of New York. Resident in Scotland since 1988, she is a founding member of the Research Society of Process-oriented Psychology (RSPOP/UK). In 1998, she launched The Justice Project with The Elements, a collaborative arts programme, challenging us to end cycles of abuse, examine our prejudices and value our differences. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10. For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TALK: TOWARDS A CULTURE OF LOVE: THE SPIRITUAL VISION OF BEINSA DOUNO (PETER DEUNOV 1864–1944)

Speaker: David Lorimer

Venue: c/o Jane Ridder-Patrick, 29 East London Road, Edinburgh
Please confirm attendance to Jane on 0131 556 2161 jrp@janeridderpatrick.com

Time: 8.15pm

Event Description: Beinsa Douno was a Bulgarian spiritual master whose fundamental principles were Love, Wisdom and Truth. He had an esoteric school in Bulgaria from 1914 onwards and

took his followers to camp in the Rila Mountains where they danced the symbolic movements of Paneurhythmy, which he choreographed and for which he also wrote the music. The core qualities of the spiritual aspirant for Douno were love, light, peace and joy. This talk will introduce his work and show how his vision is of relevance to our time.
Cost: £3. Contact: David Lorimer, 01333 340490, *dl@scimednet.org*

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY AND MIDDLE EASTERN VISUAL ART

Venue: Metropolitan College, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear

Dates/Times: Friday 17 February 12-4pm. Saturday 18 February 10am-3pm

Event Description: A day workshop exploring the basic rules of Arabic calligraphy and Middle Eastern visual art. The visual art will be exploring the Um Kalthoum instillation art by Mai Ghoussoub and a debate about the art of women (music and songs of a diva) in the Middle East.
Cost: £12 for the two days.
Contact and Booking: Emily on 07811177437, mcinfcen@hotmail.com

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

EVENT: FILMS CELEBRATING THE MIDDLE EAST

Venue: Macrobert, University of Stirling, Stirling

Dates: Friday 17 February – Sunday 19 February

Event Description: This selection of films will celebrate the Middle East in film.
Cost: Tickets are £4.95/£3.95.
Contact: 01786 466666 www.macrobert.org

macrobert

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: STORYTELLING FAITH TO FAITH

Facilitator: Angela Knowles

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: A day workshop open to anyone interested in exploring how stories can help build peace, understanding and relationship between different faith traditions. We will listen and tell our own stories, learn and share some new ones and have the opportunity to discuss with others exploring faith and story. Angela Knowles is a storyteller accredited with the Scottish Storytelling Centre. She helped create The Telling Place, a network of 800 people, from different Christian traditions interested in stories which help heaven and earth meet. Faith to Faith is an initiative to link people, spiritual traditions and storytelling.
Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £26/£20 (concessions). Contact: Angela Knowles: 07989 352151, angela@thefoolstory.com

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

Facilitator(s): Gary Smith and Cathy Maxwell

Venue: No 21 Counselling and Art Therapy Service, 21 Rutland Square, Edinburgh

Time: 10am-3pm

Event Description: An experiential creative workshop to explore your relationship to spirituality, through art therapy and action drama methods. Art Therapy is the use of materials for self-expression and reflection and can offer a way of accessing thoughts and feelings that might not be initially apparent. The work is done at whatever level of self-disclosure, or depth of self-analysis the individual is comfortable with. Action drama is a dynamic approach that can help individuals and groups explore the complexity of thoughts and emotions present within any life situation. During the workshops you will have an opportunity to participate in both activities. You can request a certificate to count towards CPD. Organised by Common Ground Arts.
Cost: £30 (£20). Contact: 0131 331 5447, commongroundarts@onetel.com



Picture Credit: Peter Heywood

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: ONE WORLD PEACE CONCERT

Venue: The Queen's Hall, 87-89 Clerk Street, Edinburgh

Time: 6.30pm-10pm. Doors open 5.30pm

Indian snacks served by Suruchi Indian Restaurant from 5.45pm-6.30pm in the bar.
Event Description: 'Inshalla Shalom' (Inshalla: in Arabic, With God's Help, Shalom: in Hebrew, Peace) Yair Dalal and Avi Agababa present peace songs Yair Dalal composed in Hebrew, Arabic and Aramaic. www.yairdalal.com;
'Songs for Peace' St Peter's Primary School Choir;
'Bharathanatyam with Priya and Danceihayami' The dancers will present classical Indian dances with extreme precision, hand gestures, footwork and expressions. Bharata Natyam is poetry in motion. It is a blend of the abstract and the emotional and is derived from its fusion of two prime elements, nritta (pure dance) and nritya (expressive dance). Bharathanatyam derives much of its intense and dramatic impact from this juxtaposition and contrast in which both elements are used;
'Classical Turkish Sufi Songs of Love and Devotion' Neyzen Ilhan Barutcu. Neyzen Ilhan Barutcu, a graduate of Istanbul Conservatiore, lectures in music at Trabzon University on the Black Sea Coast. Ilhan plays the ney in the classical Sufi Tradition. He has performed around the world and has released two collections of his music on CD;
'Singing Together with Peace' Quakers and Buddhists;
'East Meets West' Songs with Heather Heywood and Bharati Bundhoo. Heather Heywood is regarded as one of Scotland's finest traditional singers. Bharati Bundhoo is a classical Indian singer from Mauritius now resident in Scotland. Each has a depth and spirit in their singing that is exceptional;
'A Place That Changes My Mind - A Fusion of Poetry and Music Creating a Culture of Peace as a Sustainable Work-in-Progress' written and presented by Lee Gershuny with original music by Haftor Medboe and Fred Parsons;
'Spiritual Choral Music from a Variety of Christian Orthodox Traditions' Coda Choir is an ecumenical choir helping people to experience spirituality through the arts.
Organised and sponsored by the EICWS and the UNA Scotland.
Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions).
Contact: Booking Hotline on 0131 668 2019, or in person at the Queen's Hall.
Queen's Hall Website: http://www.thequeenshall.net/index.php

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

EVENT: WORKSHOP: MIDDLE EASTERN PERCUSSION WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Avi Agababa

Venue: Candlish Hall, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 1pm-2pm

Event Description: The passionate Belly Dance Rhythm, the flavoured Gnawa beat and the Sufi trance are a few of the many Middle Eastern rhythms that will be performed in the Workshop. Master percussionist Avi Agababa will demonstrate a range of Middle Eastern percussion: Frame Drum, Darbuka, Tambourine and finger symbells. We will sing rhythm patterns and experience different improvisations. Bring your own percussion instrument.
Cost: £8/£6. For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: LANGAR COMMUNITY MEAL

Venue: Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sheriff Brae, Edinburgh

Time: 2pm-3pm

Event Description: Guests are welcome to this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TALK: BETWEEN ASSIMILATION AND DIFFERENCE: ASPECTS OF JEWISH IDENTITY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Speaker: Professor Gary Gilbert

Venue: Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm

Event Description: Professor Gary Gilbert is a Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Permanently based at Claremont McKenna College, California, USA, while at Oxford he is researching the relations between Jews and gentiles in the Diaspora during the Roman period. This talk is hosted by the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society. Everyone welcome.
Cost: Voluntary donations towards costs. Contact: Avery Meiksin, aam@roe.ac.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: YAIR DALAL AND AVI AGABABA CONCERT

Asmar - Yair Dalal returns more than ever to his Jewish - Iraqi musical roots. This is Yair Dalal's journey to explore and expose his Babylonian heritage, and the music of Baghdad

Venue: Sanctuary, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 8.15pm-10.15pm. Doors Open at 7.45pm

Event Description: Yair Dalal, composer, violinist and oud player is probably the most prolific Israeli ethnic musician today. Over the last decade he has put out nine albums, covering wide and varied cultural territory. Much of Dalal's output reflects the strong affinity that he has for the desert and its inhabitants. Dalal's family came to Israel from Baghdad and he has included much Iraqi material



in his work to date. Dalal creates new Middle Eastern music by interweaving the traditions of Iraqi and Jewish Arabic music with a range of influences originating from such diverse cultural milieus as the Balkans to India. The evocative compositions comprise a unique and colourful sound, including numerous Arabic percussion instruments, tabla, sitar, flute, clarinet, lyre and saz - and invoking Iraqi, Moroccan, Persian and even Bedouin singing styles. Yair Dalal is a peace activist in all means; besides his musical endeavours, he devotes much time and energy to helping to remove ideological barriers between musicians from different cultures and, in particular, between Jews and Arabs. Dalal performed at the Nobel Peace Prize gala concert in 1994 honouring the then Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Chairman Yassir Arafat. Nominee for the BBC World Music Award 2003 in the category of the Middle East. Avi Agababa: One of the foremost percussionists in Israel today. A musician with various musical backgrounds and knowledge, graduated at Rimon School of Jazz. Agababa started his career as a drumset player and performs with various outstanding Israeli artists. Agababa plays with a unique feeling for folk, ethnic and classical oriental music. Avi Agababa was born in Israel to Jewish Iraqi parents. See: http://www.yairdalal.com/
Cost: £12/£10 (concessions). To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.
Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

EVENT: OPEN DOORS

Venue: Garnethill Synagogue, 129 Hill Street, Glasgow

Time: 2pm-4.30pm

Event Description: A chance to visit this unique Victorian 'A' listed building, which also houses the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, which will also be open. Garnethill Synagogue is Scotland's oldest purpose built synagogue. Its inaugural service was held on 9 September 1897 and the building was meticulously refurbished in 1998.
Cost: Donations would be very welcome.
Contact: 0141 577 8200.

EVENT: A MOTHER'S JOURNEY REVISITED – WITH MARSHA GLADSTONE, MOTHER OF YONI JESNER

Venue: Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, 222 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, Glasgow

Time: 8pm

Event Description: A unique opportunity to view this documentary again in the presence of Marsha Gladstone, mother of Yoni Jesner, and to participate in the question and answer session and discussion following. The documentary, made for TV, tells the poignant and remarkable story of a mother who, in the midst of her grief for her murdered Jewish son, agreed that his organs could be used to save a life. Nineteen-year-old Scottish student Yoni Jesner was visiting relatives in Israel during his gap year before returning home to study medicine. He was killed when a suicide bomber targeted the bus he was on in Tel Aviv in 2002. This terrible event and Marsha Gladstone's subsequent trip to Israel to meet the eight-year-old Palestinian girl who will grow up because of her son's tragic death is movingly documented in the film.
Cost: Donations will be very welcome. Contact: 0141 577 8200.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT



EVENT: YAIR DALAL AND AVI AGABABA CONCERT

Shacharut - Live in the Desert: Shacharut is free in spirit, delicate, poetic and rhythmic, combining varied and distant periods and cultures, both Jewish and Arab

Venue: Sanctuary, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 8.15pm-10.15pm. Doors Open at 7.45pm

Event Description: For biographies, see above. See: http://www.yairdalal.com/
Cost: £12/£10 (concessions). To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.
Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: JUDEO ARAB MUSIC – BRIDGE TO BABYLON, MIDDLE EASTERN MUSICAL SYSTEM

Facilitator(s): Yair Dalal and Avi Agababa. See: http://www.yairdalal.com/

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: Judeo Arab Music - Bridge to Babylon, Middle Eastern Musical System. Bring your own instrument. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £20/£10 (concessions). For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: MINDFULNESS@LUNCHTIME

Venue: St Marks Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 12.15pm to 2pm

Event Description: As above. Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Jon Bagust, bagust.chang@virgin.net



EVENT: READING AND DISCUSSION: AN EVENING OF THE POETRY OF HAFEZ

Venue: The Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm onwards

Event Description: Readings from the 14th century Sufi poet of Iran from new translations. Dr Neill Douglas-Klotz in conversation with artist Jila Peacock.
Organiser: Jointly organised and hosted by the Middle East Festival and the Scottish Poetry Library.
Cost: £3/£2. Contact: to book call 0131 557 2876 or email reception@spl.org.uk

SCOTTISH POETRY LIBRARY
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EVENT: A STREET CALLED STRAIGHT: WANDERINGS IN SYRIA, AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY RUFUS READE

Venue: The Nomad's Tent, 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm onwards

Event Description: This talk is part of a series of three illustrated talks by Rufus Reade as part of the exhibition, Objects of devotion: Religious artefacts which help approach the divine.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC

Venue: Ramshorn Theatre, Jordanhill Campus, Glasgow

Time: 1.15pm-2pm



Event Description: The first opportunity in Scotland to hear this unique duo in concert - shakuhachi (bamboo flute) wizard Hidekazu Kato and Joji Hirota, king of the taiko, bring you purifying drumming performed on a wide variety of percussion, traditional Japanese music and original compositions improvised by the performers live on stage, and vocal renditions of Japanese folksongs. Presented by the Strathclyde University Music Society and the Middle East Festival.
Cost: £3, on the door.
Contact: Alan Tavener, 0141 548 3444, alan.tavener@strath.ac.uk

EVENT: PERSIAN POETRY NIGHT

Venue: 3/1, 54 Gordon Street, Glasgow

Time: 7pm-9pm

Event Description: The main focus of the Persian Poetry Night will be recitation of Persian poetries from well known Iranian poets such as Hafez, Sa'di, Roumi, Khayyam, as well as contemporary poets, accompanied by Persian Music.
Organised by the Iranian Scottish Association. www.iranianscottish.co.uk/
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: 0141 221 3033, iranianscottishassociation@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

EVENT: SOUNDS OF THE ETERNAL

Venue: St Giles' Cathedral, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh

Time: 7pm-8pm

Event Description: An evening of meditative chants and prayers for peace in the Celtic tradition, drawing on sounds from the Middle East and Sephardic spirituality. With soloist Suzanne Adam and writer Philip Newell, accompanied by musicians, Sandy Butler, Simon Jaquet, Marion Lees McPherson, Ali Newell, and Joel Sanderson. Their CD, Sounds of the Eternal, will be available for sale.
Cost: £5, on the door. Contact: www.jphilipnewell.com

EVENT: TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC AND WORKSHOP

Venue: Crawfurd Café/Bar, Jordanhill Campus, Glasgow

Time: Music: 1.15pm-2pm. Workshop: 2pm-5pm

Event Description: As for the concert on 21 February.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Alan Tavener, 0141 548 3444, alan.tavener@strath.ac.uk

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: THE ART OF LIVING IN PEACE

Facilitator: David Keith

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: The Art of Living in Peace is both a book and a training programme, published by UNESCO, to stimulate the art of living in peace within oneself, within society, and in our relationship with nature. Written by Prof Pierre Weil of The International Holistic University of Brazilia: City of Peace Foundation, (Unipaz), the training integrates themes of Western psychology, the new physics and the great spiritual traditions. The day is a mostly experiential introduction to the full programme, and will consist of reflections and explorations covering key themes such as the nature of reality and the obstacles to peace; and participants are invited to enjoy a number of experiences which remind us that in our relationships peace is never far away! David Keith is the Director of Unipaz UK and enjoys both facilitating this workshop and training others for the same.
Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10. For a Registration Form: Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: AFTERNOON WORKSHOP ON PERSIAN CALLIGRAPHY

Facilitator: Jila Peacock

Facilitator: Jila Peacock Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 1pm-4pm

Event Description: An afternoon workshop, including a short talk on the history of calligraphy in the Islamic world and a demonstration of the alphabet and in particular, the nast'aligh style of writing followed by questions. The session would continue with practical work on calligraphy by the group using pen, ink and paper. This workshop is intended for 16-18 year olds, perhaps studying art and design at school or college. Limited to 15 places.
Cost: Free event, but please book in advance. To Register: Contact: 0131 623 3841, l.murphy@nls.uk

EVENT: 'BETWEEN THE IMAGE AND THE WORD': SHAPE POEMS IN PERSIAN CALLIGRAPHY

Speaker: Jila Peacock

Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 7pm onwards

Event Description: Working at the Glasgow Print Studio, artist Jila Peacock has printed a hand-made book of shape poems from Hafez of Shiraz, the great poet of medieval Persia. In this richly illustrated talk, she explains the importance of Hafez, describes the development of figural calligraphy in Islamic Art and talks about the making of the book.
Cost: Admission Free, but places must be booked in advance.
To Register: Contact: 0131 623 3845, events@nls.uk

EVENT: CHRIS DOOKS PRESENTS THE POLYFAITH MAP

Venue: Stills, 23 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh. www.stills.org

Time: 7pm

Event Description: An entertaining artist's talk. In 2005 Chris Dooks unveiled the secret spiritual landmarks of Edinburgh with www.polyfaith.com. Come along to hear how this amazing, enlightening project came to be and get your very own Polyfaith map. Chris Dooks is an Edinburgh based artist and practicing Buddhist.
Cost: £4. Contact and Booking: Please book in advance at Stills by calling 0131 622 6200.

EVENT: HARMONY OF PEACE PRAYERS WITH THE WORLD PEACE FLAG CEREMONY

Facilitator: The World Peace Prayer Society

Venue: Allanton Sanctuary, Auldgirth, Dumfries

Time: 7pm onwards

Event Description: We invite you to share and participate in prayers of peace from different faiths and traditions. We will also pray for the peace of the world, using the flags of each country, with a special focus on the countries of the Middle East. Followed by refreshments with a Middle Eastern flavour.
Cost: Admission Free. For information on reaching Allanton and to attend:
Contact: 01387 740642, wppsallanton@btinternet.com

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

EVENT: AFTERNOON WORKSHOP ON PERSIAN CALLIGRAPHY

Facilitator: Jila Peacock

Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 1pm-4pm

Event Description: An afternoon workshop, including a short talk on the history of calligraphy in the Islamic world and a demonstration of the alphabet and in particular, the nast'aligh style of writing followed by questions. The session will continue with practical work on calligraphy by the group using pen, ink and paper. This workshop is intended for adults. Limited to 15 places.
Cost: Free event, but places must be booked in advance. To Register:
Contact: 0131 623 3845, events@nls.uk

EVENT: LOVE'S FIRE – PERFORMED READING, WITH POST SHOW DISCUSSION

Venue: Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm

Event Description: Love's Fire by Steven Gaythorpe, Farsi extracts by Dr. M. T. Tabatabai and Mrs M. Tabatabai. A journey into eleventh century Persia to discover the creation of one of the world's most enduring epic love poems. Nezami is a celebrated poet, haunted by the love of his long-dead wife. He is cynical about the power of poetry to fill men's hearts with love. ZENDEH is kindly supported by the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund and Queen Margaret University College. Love's Fire is a work in progress. www.zendeh.com Cost: £4 Full price and £2 Concessions. Contact and Booking: Traverse Box Office, 0131 228 1404, boxoffice@traverse.co.uk Online booking at www.traverse.co.uk (no booking fee).

Learning workshops exploring the creative method and text will be available for educational groups and theatre-makers, please contact Nazli Tabatabai Artistic Director nazli@zendeh.com for more information.

EVENT: ULFAH ARTS PRESENTS THE JOURNEY TO THE GREAT MOSAIC

A women only concert supported by Islamic Relief

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: Doors open at 6.30pm. Concert from 7pm-9pm

Event Description: A collection of stories from different women about their spiritual journeys to The Great Mosaic. A concert including poetry, Islamic songs/Music (nasheeds), comedy and Quran recitation. A peace-fusion of women, art, Islam and spirituality for ALL women to enjoy! Ulfah Arts is a pioneering organisation providing opportunities for women who practice specific cultural beliefs to develop themselves across all art forms in the environments and conditions they need - breaking down stereotypes, allowing greater understanding and creating harmony which in Arabic is Ulfah.
See: www.ulfaharts.co.uk for more information.
Cost: £5/£3 donation on the door, on the night.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: THE RHYTHMS AND MUSIC OF TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST – AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRADITIONAL SUFI, FOLK AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC OF TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Facilitator: Omar Faruk Tekbilek. See: http://www.omarfaruktekbilek.com/

Venue: Sanctuary, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: See Sunday 26 February entry for more details. Bring your own instrument. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £20/£10 (concessions). For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH KEVIN MACNEIL

Venue: Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh

Time: 2pm-4pm

Event Description: See Tuesday 28 February entry for more details.
Cost: £4. Contact and Booking: Traverse Box Office, 0131 228 1404.

EVENT: ARABIAN NIGHT

Venue: Harvesters Business Centre, 75a Harvesters Way, 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 Kurdish songs by Meriwan; belly dancers performing group and solo dances with live Arabic music; 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, Hillary's Bazaar, 0131 225 7103.

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

EVENT: SERVICES FOR PEACE AT CHURCHES AND CATHEDRALS ACROSS SCOTLAND

Venue: Across Scotland

Time: throughout the day

Event Description: Churches and Cathedrals across Scotland are asked to be mindful of the Middle East Festival during their services on this day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: LANGAR COMMUNITY MEAL

Venue: Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sheriff Brae, Edinburgh

Time: 2pm-3pm

Event Description: Guests are welcome to attend this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara. Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: SUBUD HOSPITALITY MEAL AND SOCIAL FOR MIDDLE EAST FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 4pm-6pm

Event Description: a light meal, with vegetarian needs taken into account.
Cost: Free to Festival participants.
Contact: Daniel Smith, 0131 467 7979.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: MUSIC FROM THE SUFI AND FOLKLORE TRADITIONS OF TURKEY

Concert with Omar Faruk Tekbilek accompanied by Orhan Salliel

Venue: Sanctuary, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 8.15pm-10.15pm. Doors open at 7.45pm

Event Description: Omar Faruk Tekbilek: Honoured as a peacemaker and virtuoso, Omar Faruk Tekbilek is now one of the most sought-after Middle Eastern/Turkish musicians, whose work transcends political boundaries while maintaining traditional sensibilities in a way few artists can manage. He is a virtuoso on several instruments: the nay (bamboo flute), the zurna (double-reed oboe like instrument), the baglama (long-necked lute) and percussion instruments, and is a masterful performer on dozens more. Omar Faruk Tekbilek brilliantly interprets the Sufi, Folk, and Contemporary music of the Middle East. Nominee for the BBC World Music Award 2003 in the category of the Middle East. Orphan Salliel is one of the most outstanding musicians and conductors of his generation in Turkey. He was born in 1968 in Adana Turkey. See: http://www.omarfaruktekbilek.com/



Cost: £12/£10 (concessions). To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.

Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: NVC: NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION: AWAKENING THE HEART OF COMPASSION IN DAILY LIFE

Facilitator: Liz Kingsnorth

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: NVC: Nonviolent Communication is a learnable process for personal and social change that was developed by Marshall Rosenberg, now used worldwide in homes, schools, businesses and communities. It enables people to communicate with empathy, power, honesty and compassion with the aim that each person's needs be met peacefully. This workshop is an introduction to NVC. It will be practical - using examples from participants' lives - supportive and fun! Liz is a free-lance, accredited trainer with the Centre for Nonviolent Communication. Her spiritual practice is Sahaj Marg - a form of Raj Yoga that uses heart-centred meditation. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.

Cost: £15/£10. To be emailed a registration form:

Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: EDUCATIONAL USE OF PUPETEERING AS A PATHWAY TO PEACE

Facilitator: Erica Sapir

Venue: City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: Performance explaining the usefulness of puppetry in education followed by a workshop developing the theme. Erica has worked as a designer and maker of puppets, scenographer,

director, puppeteer in many shows for children and adults, and is the co-founder and member of the NGO Marionnettistes sans frontiers. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10. To be emailed a registration form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FROM TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Concert with Omar Faruk Tekbilek accompanied by Orhan Salliel

Venue: Sanctuary, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 8.15pm-10.15pm. Doors open at 7.45pm

Event Description: See Sunday 26 February entry for more details.
Cost: £12/£10 (concessions). To book contact Tickets Scotland LTD.
Contact: Tickets Scotland LTD, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, 0131 220 3234, open 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm on Sunday. http://www.tickets-scotland.com/contact.html

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: HUMAN CENTRED EDUCATION: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN SUPPORTING THE INNER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

Facilitator(s): Faustina Ramos-Coca, and Solihin and Alicia Thom

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: Through experiential exercises the participants will gain an understanding of the forces that shape us and so acquire a useful tool to create an environment that supports human growth. Faustina Ramos-Coca is a founder, teacher and the principal of the Erlebnisschule, a school in Austria inspired by the Montessori and Life Forces models. Solihin and Alicia Thom are co-founders of Ad Humanitas, an organization dedicated to furthering humanity within each of us as members of one global community. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10. For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: MINDFULNESS@LUNCHTIME

Venue: St Marks Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 12.15pm to 2pm

Event Description: As above.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Jon Bagust, bagust.chang@virgin.net



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EVENT: POETRY READING WITH KEVIN MACNEIL

Venue: The Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm

Event Description: Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature is pleased to present Kevin Macneil as Writer in Residence for the 2006 Middle East Festival. Kevin is an award-winning poet, novelist and playwright and is a very engaging performer of his own work. His books include the poetry collection Love and Zen in the Outer Hebrides (published by Canongate) and his first novel The Stornoway Way (published by Penguin). Kevin will also be running creative writing workshops for schools and writers' groups as part of his residency and will be attending as many other events in the Festival as possible. Having immersed himself in the storytelling, art, music, poetry and food of Middle Eastern cultures during the course of the residency, he'll then write a piece of work reflecting on the themes of the Festival. This City of Literature residency is supported by funding from Edinburgh City Council and the Scottish Book Trust.
Cost: £3/2. Contact: To book, call 0131 557 2876, or email: reception@spl.org.uk

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EVENT: ASSASSINS IN IRAN: A STORY OF 11TH CENTURY POLITICAL INTRIGUE, AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY RUFUS READE

Venue: The Nomad's Tent, 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm onwards

Event Description: This talk is part of a series of three illustrated talks by Rufus Reade as part of the exhibition, Objects of devotion: Religious artefacts which help approach the divine.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: PATHWAYS TO PEACE THROUGH SPIRITUAL DANCE

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration. 9.30am-5.30pm: Dance Day

Event Description: Peter Vallance will lead Sacred Circle Dance, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz) will lead Traditional Sufi Movement, Alice Fateah Saunders will lead Dances of Universal Peace, and Iona Kelli Sellars will lead 5 Rhythms Dance. The format for the day will be as follows: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration • 9.30am-10.15am: Sacred Circle Dance • 10.15am-11am: Traditional Sufi Movement • 11am-11.30am: Break • 11.30am-12.15pm: Dances of Universal Peace • 12.15pm-1pm: 5 Rhythms Dance • 1pm-2pm: Lunch • 2pm-3.30pm: 2 Parallel Workshops: 1. Traditional Sufi Movement. 2. 5 Rhythms Dance • 3.30pm-4pm: Break • 4pm-5.30pm: 2 Parallel Workshops: 1. Dances of Universal Peace. 2. Sacred Circle Dance.
Cost: £20/£10 (concessions). For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: TALES AND MUSIC OF THE SPIRIT WITH BETH BAHIA COHEN AND PETER VALLANCE

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm-10pm. Doors open 7.30pm





Event Description: An evening of folk tales and traditional music drawn from the vibrant cultures of the Middle East. Drawing on Jewish, Arab and Christian sources, Peter weaves a garland of treasures that inspire, uplift and make us laugh while Beth takes us on musical journeys with the Egyptian rebaba, Turkish bowed tanbur, and the violin, playing Arabic debkes, Sufi ritual music, and Sephardic Jewish melodies. Beth Bahia Cohen is a master of the violin and various bowed instruments from the Middle East and the Balkans who loves to show the beauty of traditional music as well as their differences and similarities across cultures. She has studied and performed with violinists from Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, and more. She performs and teaches throughout the U.S. and Europe and has played with Led Zeppelin and Itzhak Perlman, among others. Peter Vallance is a native Scot who lives in the Findhorn community. He sees stories as central to the spiritual quest and shares them on his journeys around the world. See: http://bethcohen.com/ Cost: £8/£6 on the door, on the night.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TALK: RUMI'S DAUGHTER

Speaker: Muriel Maufroy

Venue: Borders, 98 Buchanan Street, Glasgow

Time: 6pm

Event Description: Muriel Maufroy will be speaking about her new book, Rumi's Daughter. Rumi's Daughter is the delightful novel about Kimya, the girl who was sent from her rural village to live in Rumi's home. She already had mystical tendencies, and learned a great deal under Rumi's tutelage. Eventually she married Shams, an unusual husband, almost totally absorbed by his longings for God. Their marriage was fiery and different and, in the end, dissolved by Kimya's death - after which Shams vanished.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: 0141 222 7700.

THURSDAY 2 MARCH

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: PATHWAYS TO PEACE THROUGH SPIRITUAL AND MUSICAL PRACTICE

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration
9.30am-5.30pm: Day of Spiritual and Musical Practice for Peace

Event Description: The format for the day will be as follows:
9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration • 9.30am-9.40am: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Welcome and Introduction • 9.40am-10am: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Sufi Chanting • 10am-10.20am: Peter Vallance and Beth Bahia Cohen: Morning Blessings in Music and Story: An opportunity to be blessed by stories and music that conjure up images of dawn, renewal and light. With storyteller Peter Vallance and musician Beth Bahia Cohen • 10.20am-10.40am: Beth Bahia Cohen: Sufi Devotional Music: Beth Bahia Cohen will play music from the mystical branch of Islam on the Turkish yayli (bowed) tanbur • 10.40am-11am: MaryCatherine Burgess: Music and Song for Peace • 11am-11.20am: Break • 11.20am-11.50am: Latif Bolat (with Jennifer Ferraro): Mystic Songs and the Practice of Remembrance in the Turkish Sufi Tradition. The sacred hymns (nefes and illahis) of Turkey's dervishes are a sung zikr, a practice of the remembrance of God which also present the rich living wisdom of this tradition

in their poem-lyrics. The mesmerizing music invites audience participation in the zikr • 11.50am-12: Jennifer Ferraro: Poems that Illuminate, Awaken, Reveal and Transfigure – A sharing of poems across cultures which speak of the heart's wisdom and transfigure experience into luminous distillation • 12-12.20pm: Carolyn Sparey-Fox and Jeremy Fox: A Musical Setting of Poems by Táhirih, 19th century poet-martyr, with Carolyn Sparey-Fox and Jeremy Fox • 12.20pm-1pm: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Ritual of Universal Peace • 1pm-2pm: Lunch • 2pm-2.20pm: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Chanting the Aramaic Words of Jesus • 2.20pm-2.40pm: Rebekah Gronowski: Using Music and Singing to Cross over the Barriers between Cultures and Promote Peace • 2.40pm-3pm: Rabbi David Rose: Readings on the theme of Peace • 3pm-3.30pm: Davod Azad: Mantra, Zeker • 3.30pm-3.50pm: Break • 3.50pm-4.10pm: Ask and Receive, as practiced in Subud • 4.10pm-4.30pm: Rev Jenny Williams: Taize singing - singing for peace within and beyond the Christian tradition • 4.30pm-5.30pm: Alice Fateah Saunders: Dances of Universal Peace.
Cost: £20/£10 (concessions). For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: THE 2006 MIDDLE EAST FESTIVAL LECTURE BY PROFESSOR TARIQ RAMADAN

Talk Title: Islam and the West in a Quest for a Just and Peaceful World
Chair: Rev Prof Frank Whaling

Venue: The Queen's Hall, 87-89 Clerk Street, Edinburgh

Time: Doors Open: 6.30pm. Lecture and Questions: 7.30pm-9.30pm

Organised by the Middle East Festival, and Co-hosted by the University of Edinburgh.

Event Description: This event will consist of an hour long lecture by Tariq Ramadan followed by an hour of questions and discussion.



Named by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most important innovators of the 21st century, Tariq Ramadan occupies a unique place among leading Islamic thinkers. Professor Tariq Ramadan holds MA in Philosophy and French literature and PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Geneva. In Cairo, Egypt, he received one-on-one intensive training in classic Islamic scholarship from Al-Azhar University scholars. Tariq Ramadan is currently Senior Research Fellow at Lokahi Foundation and visiting Professor at St Antony's College, Oxford. Through his writings and lectures he has contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world. He is active both at the academic and grassroots levels lecturing extensively throughout the world on social justice and dialogue between civilizations. Prof Tariq Ramadan has written more than twenty books exploring the difficult issues of reinterpretation and reform within Islam itself and between the Islamic world and its neighbours around the globe. His books include Western Muslims and the Future of Islam (Oxford University Press, 2003), Islam, the West, and the Challenges of Modernity (The Islamic Foundation, 2000), To Be a European Muslim (The Islamic Foundation, 1998), and Jihad, Violence, War and Peace in Islam (in French only, Tawhid, 2002). He has also published a total of 700 contributions or articles in collective books, academic reviews, and magazines. See: http://www.tariqramadan.com/
Cost: £7/£5 (concessions).
Contact: Booking Hotline on 0131 668 2019, or in person at the Queen's Hall.
Queen's Hall Website: http://www.thequeenshall.net/index.php

EVENT: INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND FOOD EVENING

Venue: Edinburgh Refugee Centre, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 6pm-8.30pm

Event Description: This is an opportunity to meet people from Edinburgh's many Refugee, Migrant and local communities, learn some of their languages and taste some of their foods. If you would like to host a table from your culture please get in touch with Gemma at the end of January.
Cost: Recommended donation of £3. Contact: Edinburgh Refugee Centre on 0131 226 1499.

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: PATHWAYS OF THE HEART CONFERENCE

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration. 9.30am-5.30pm: Conference

Event Description: The format for the day will be as follows: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration. • 9.30am-9.40am: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Welcome and Introduction • 9.40am-10.20am: Talk by Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: The Tent of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar: A New Look at the Biblical and Quranic Stories and Their Implications for Peace • 10.20am-11am: Talk by Bishop Kallistos Ware: Create Silence: the Aim of the Jesus Prayer • 11am-11.10am: Questions and Discussion • 11.10am-11.30am: Break • 11.30am-12.10pm: Talk by Prof James Morris: The Reflective Heart: the Pathways of Spiritual Intelligence • 12.10pm-12.50pm: Talk by Prof Nigel Osborne: Music and the Heart • 12.50pm-1pm: Questions and Discussion • 1pm-2pm: Lunch • 2pm-3pm: Three Parallel Workshops: 1. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti: Sufi Meditation for Peace 2. Prof James Morris: Cinema and the Divine Comedy: Exploring Ibn 'Arabi's Shadow-Theatre of the Heart 3. Rohana Laing: Subud workshop • 3pm-3.20pm: Break • 3.20pm-4.20pm: Three Parallel Workshops: 1. Bishop Kallistos Ware: Find Christ Everywhere: the Jesus Prayer in our Daily Life 2. Davod Azad: Music as a Path of the Awakened Heart 3. Jennifer Ferraro: Poetry as a Path of the Awakened Heart • 4.20pm-5.30pm: Panel Plenary and Discussion: Theme: Dimensions of the Heart. Panelists: Bishop Kallistos Ware, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti, Prof James Morris and Prof Aziz Sheikh.
Cost: £20/£10 for each day of the conference. To receive a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: THE 2006 MIDDLE EAST FESTIVAL CONFERENCE LECTURE BY BISHOP KALLISTOS WARE

Title: Acquire Inner Peace: Prayer of the Heart in Orthodox Spirituality

Chair: Rev Prof Frank Whaling

Venue: St Mary's RC Cathedral, Broughton Street, Edinburgh

Time: Doors open at 7pm. Lecture: 7.30pm-8.30pm,
Questions and Discussion from 8.30pm-9.30pm



http://www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk/find.html
Event Description: Bishop Kallistos is an Assistant Bishop in the Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople), and also a monk of the Monastery of St John the Theologian on the island of Patmos. During 1966-2001 he was Spalding Lecturer in Eastern Orthodox Studies at Oxford University, and he is an Emeritus Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. His books include The Orthodox Church (Penguin Books), The Orthodox Way and The Inner Kingdom. He is co-translator of The

Philokalia and of Orthodox liturgical books.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome. First Come, First Served.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

SATURDAY 4 MARCH

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: PATHWAYS OF THE HEART CONFERENCE

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration. 9.30am-5.30pm: Conference

Event Description: The format for the day will be as follows:

9am-9.30am: Arrival and Registration

9.30am-9.40am: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. Welcome and Introduction

9.40am-10.20am: Talk by Bishop Kallistos Ware

We Behold His Glory: Prayer of the Heart and the Transfiguration of Christ

10.20am-11am: Talk by Sheelah Trefle Hidden

Conflict, Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Their meaning in the Contemplative Life

11am-11.10am: Questions and Discussion

11.10am-11.30am: Break

11.30am-12.10pm: Talk by Elizabeth Carmack. The Alchemy of Music as a Healing Art

12.10pm-12.50pm: Talk by Prof James Morris. From Spirituality to Civilisation: Exploring the Political Dimensions of Spiritual Intelligence

12.50pm-1pm: Questions and Discussion

1pm-2pm: Lunch

2pm-3pm: Three Parallel Workshops

1. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. The Sufi Psychology of Peace: The Beautiful Names of Allah
2. Latif Bolat. Turkish Mysticism: Heterodoxy and Islam
3. Sheelah Trefle Hidden. Examining Violence and Forgiveness in the Gospel of Matthew

3pm-3.20pm: Break

3.20pm-4.20pm: Three Parallel Workshops

1. Bishop Kallistos Ware. Glorify God with your Body: the Role of the Body in Prayer
2. Latif Bolat and Jennifer Ferraro. Poetry and Music of the Sufi Dervishes of Turkey
3. Elizabeth Carmack. Dialogical Thinking

4.20pm-5.30pm: Panel Plenary and Discussion

Theme: Understandings of the Spiritual Nature of the Heart

Panelists: Bishop Kallistos Ware, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti, Prof James Morris and Dr John Parris

Cost: £20/£10 for each day of the conference. To receive a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: PEOPLE OF THE BOOK — PRINT YOUR OWN PRECIOUS BOOK

Venue: Edinburgh Printmakers, 23 Union Street, Edinburgh

www.edinburgh-printmakers.co.uk

Time: 1pm-5pm

Event Description: Artist Leena Nammari leads this workshop where you'll print the template for your own sacred book using precious paper and beautiful materials. No experience of printing or drawing required, we'll supply all materials and you'll take your book home with you on the day. It's also a great chance to have a look around Edinburgh Printmakers beautiful studio and gallery. Cost: £4.
Contact and Booking: Please book in advance at Edinburgh Printmakers by calling 0131 557 2479.

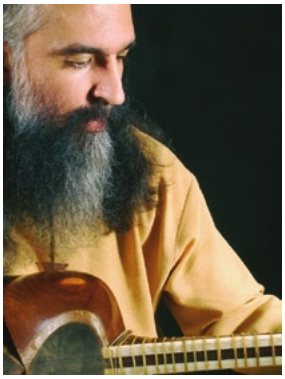
FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: THE VOICE OF UNITY, CONCERT WITH DAVOD AZAD

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm-10pm. Doors open at 7.30pm

Event Description: Davod Azad was born in 1963, and raised in Azarbajan (Iran). He started initially to explore the wonderful world of Iranian classical music on his own. After his first encounters, he advanced to study music under the guidance and supervision of Persian masters on vocals and multiple instruments including Taar, Sehtar, Tanbour, Rabab, and Daf. His work is based on long and intensive studies of the past masters of Iranian classical music. He has many publications such as the studies of the school of Tabriz Tar and the Hormozey style of Setar. He is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Mastering in the Iranian classical music, the Azeri folk music, the ancient Persian music, and the Persian Sufi music, specifically influenced by the music of the Ghajar period in Persian history, a pure classical Persian music form which to this date has remained undiluted by Western or other styles of music. The classical Persian music which Davod Azad plays is based on the ancient Modal System of Persian classical music. The Persian classical music is one of the oldest and purest forms of music in the world today. Its unique style is based on 12 Modes or Dastgaahs. The nearest music forms to Persian Dastgaah is that of the Indian Raga.



See: www.davodazad.com Cost: £8/£6 on the door, on the night.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

SUNDAY 5 MARCH

EVENT: DIVINE LITURGY WITH BISHOP KALLISTOS WARE

Venue: The Orthodox Community of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh

Time: 10.30am

Event Description: Bishop Kallistos Ware will be the celebrant at the Divine Liturgy Service.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: MINDFUL PEACE WALK

Facilitator: Senior member of the Community of Interbeing Sangha

Venue: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am-10.30am, meet at the West Gate at 9am

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, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

EVENT: TALES OF PEACE

Venue: Temperate Palm House - Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Time: 2pm and 3.30pm

Event Description: Join an international pair of storytellers for tales of the rich diversity and enduring peacefulness of our world. The tales will be told in the beautiful setting of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's Palm House. Suitable for families and children of all ages.
Cost: Free, drop in. Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: TOUR TO ROSSLYN CHAPEL: CHAPEL OF PEACE

Facilitator: Jackie Queally, www.celtictrails.co.uk

Time: Noon-4pm. Leave at 12 from outside the Caledonian Hotel, Lothian Road

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. A herald in stone of universal peace and harmony, you can become aware of the divine interconnectivity between all here. Jackie is an experienced and sensitive guide who will attempt to impart the spiritual significance of this sacred site. She has been leading small groups to this chapel on a regular basis for the past seven years, and many find that her insights illuminate their visit deeply.
Cost: £19 includes the transportation, entrance fee of £6 and notes sent upon booking. Please book in advance in order that transport arrangements can be ensured.
Contact: +44 131 448 2869, jac@celtictrails.co.uk

EVENT: LANGAR COMMUNITY MEAL

Venue: Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sheriff Brae, Edinburgh

Time: 2pm-3pm

Event Description: Guests are welcome to attend this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT



EVENT: LATIF BOLAT ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

Time: Doors open at 7.15pm. Pre-Concert Lecture from 7.45pm-8.15pm
Concert from 8.15pm-10.15pm
The Asik (Lover/Troubador) Tradition in Turkish Culture and Mysticism. Healing Sounds of Turkish Mystic Music: An evening of music, poetry, dance and images. There will be a pre-concert lecture before the concert

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Event Description: In this concert Latif Bolat will present the mesmerizing folk and Sufi songs of Turkey, called Nefes and Ilahis, singing and accompanying himself on the traditional troubador instrument called baglama. Jennifer Ferraro will accompany Latif Bolat on the frame drum and will present devotional dance and poems of the Sufi mystics of Turkey that she and Bolat have translated. Images of Turkey will also be shown, creating a tapestry of beauty and devotion in the Sufi tradition. http://www.latifbolat.com/
Cost: £8/£6 on the door, on the night.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

EVENT: CONCERT WITH YASMIN LEVY

Venue: The Queen's Hall, 87-89 Clerk Street, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm



Event Description: In her deep, spiritual and moving style of singing, Yasmin preserves and revives the most beautiful songs from the Ladino/Judeo-Spanish heritage, mixing it with Andalusian Flamenco. In 2004, she performed at various international festivals and events including WOMAD Singapore, Forum Barcelona, and the BBC's New Year's Day concert in London. Yasmin has been nominated for the BBC World Music Awards 2005. See: http://www.yasminlevy.net/
Cost: Tickets £14, Concessions £12.
Contact: Queen's Hall Box Office, 0131 668 2019, or at www.thequeenshall.net

MONDAY 6 MARCH

EVENT: DAY WORKSHOP: A SHORT COURSE IN CONSCIOUSNESS

Facilitator: Chris Thomson

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Time: 9.30am for 10am-4pm

Event Description: Consciousness determines virtually everything we think, feel, say and do. It is literally our life experience. The more we work on consciousness, the more conscious we become. Such courses are designed to help people develop their ordinary consciousness and their extraordinary consciousness. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch.
Cost: £15/£10. For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: WALK THE INDOOR LABYRINTH

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 11am-4pm

Event Description: an opportunity to walk the intimate indoor labyrinth - just candles and quiet music.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Di Williams at chaplain@ec.ac.uk and www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk

EVENT: THE SACREDNESS OF RELATIONSHIPS

Facilitator: Rev Ali Newell

Venue: St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm-9.15pm

Event Description: A series on Christian Mystics and Thinkers for our Time presented by Creative Space and the EICWS on 6, 13, 20 and 27 March 2006.
Cost: £30 for the series.
Contact: mail@creativespacegw.org.uk

TUESDAY 7 MARCH

EVENT: MINDFULNESS@LUNCHTIME

Venue: St Marks Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

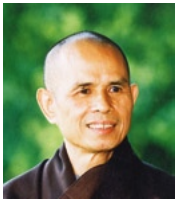
Time: 12.15pm to 2pm

Event Description: As above.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Jon Bagust, bagust.chang@virgin.net

EVENT: MY LIFE IS MY WORK

Venue: St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh

Time: 7pm onwards



Event Description: Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh is a world renowned Vietnamese Zen Master, Poet and Peacemaker. He devotes his entire life to worldwide peace. He lives in Plum Village, a Buddhist training monastery he founded near Bordeaux, and travels worldwide lecturing and leading retreats on the practice of mindful living. In the DVD, My Life is My Message, Thich Nhat Hanh with members of his Sangha show how they work to promote peace with many groups throughout the world. The DVD shows the yearly gathering at Plum Village of Palestinians and Israelis, sharing together the teaching of deep listening and shared understanding. A senior member of the Community of Interbeing Sangha will be in attendance to introduce the DVD and to answer questions.
Cost: By donation at the door, recommended - £2.50 to £5 per person.
Contact: Jon Bagust, 0131 339 8401.

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH

EVENT: ALP WELCOMING

Venue: Methodist Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh

Time: 1pm-3.30pm

Event Description: Art in the Middle East.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome. Contact: Stan Reeves, Stan.Reeves@educ.edin.gov.uk

EVENT: FORUM: THREE MIDDLE EASTERN FAITHS IN ONE DIVERSE EUROPEAN SOCIETY:

Can Judaism, Christianity and Islam speak the same civic language?

Venue: Martin Hall, New College, the University of Edinburgh, The Mound

Time: 7pm

Event Description: Europe faces great changes both internally and in its relations with its near and distant neighbours, as the European Union expands, populations migrate, different civilisations encounter each other, international intervention takes new forms, and social and political attitudes are in flux. The three Abrahamic faiths have been and are a significant part of this Eurasian scene. Can they, from their related traditions, offer constructive ideas and practices for the ordering of common life within and among nations? Have they a common civic vocabulary? Jointly organised by the Helsinki Citizens Assembly and the EICWS in association with the University of Edinburgh School of Divinity and CAIRS. Cost: Admission Free. Donations Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: A MASS FOR PEACE

The Strathclyde University Chorus and Chamber Choir and the Strathclyde Sinfonia Ensemble. Conductor: Alan Tavener

Venue: Barony Hall, Glasgow

Time: 8pm

Event Description: Two composers join hands across a half millennium inspired by the melody of the medieval popular song L'Homme arme – Palestrina's sublime setting of the Mass based on this tune, and The Armed Man Suite by Karl Jenkins, composer of Adiemus. Presented by the Strathclyde University Music Society and the Middle East Festival.
Cost: Tickets £7 (concessions £5/students £3).
Contact: Alan Tavener, 0141 548 3444, alan.tavener@strath.ac.uk

THURSDAY 9 MARCH

EVENT: LECTURE ON THE CRUSADES: ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES

Facilitator: Professor Carole Hillenbrand (University of Edinburgh)

Venue: Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics (CSRP), University of St Andrews, St Mary's College Hall, South Street, St Andrews

Time: 11.15am-12.45pm

Event Description: Professor Hillendbrand of the University of Edinburgh, winner of the the prestigious King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies, will be speaking about her book, The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives. Cost: Free and open to the public. To attend:
Contact: Dr Mario I. Aguilar, Director CSRP, 01334 462835 or csrp@st-and.ac.uk

EVENT: A MUSICAL HISTORY OF ARMENIA (THE FIRST CHRISTIAN NATION)

Venue: St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Time: 8pm-9pm

Event Description: A rare opportunity to hear the historical background and choral music of Armenia, ranging from traditional to modern, from folk to Christian Orthodox, presented by the Coda Choir and guest speaker. In association with Creative Space.
Cost: Donations Welcome (retiring collection).
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: EGYPTIAN DANCE CLASS LED BY CLARE CRISP

Venue: Brora Primary School/Community Centre, Brora, Sutherland

Time: 7.30pm-9pm

Event Description: Weekly, for women over 16 years of age.
Cost: £2 (£1.50 concessions). Contact: Roxana, 01408 635211, roxana.meechan@highland.gov.uk

EVENT: THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH JEWISH SOCIETY PRESENTS: USHPIZIN

Venue: Terrace Bar, Teviot Union, Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Thursday 9th March - Friday 10 March 2006, 7.30pm

Event Description: Depicting the vibrancy and diversity of modern Jewish life, Ushpizin is a revelatory film, exploring a fairly unknown section of Israeli society. It follows the humorous story of an orthodox couple during the Jewish festival of Succoth and the arrival of some unexpected guests. The film will be introduced and followed by a discussion with an acclaimed Israeli film expert.
Cost: £3.00. Contact: edinburghjsoc@yahoo.co.uk

THURSDAY 9 MARCH — SUNDAY 12 MARCH

EVENT: WATERING THE SEEDS OF TRUE PEACE

Facilitator: Senior member of the Community of Interbeing Sangha

Venue: Wiston Lodge, Wiston by Biggar, South Lanarkshire

Dates/Times: 6pm Thursday 9 March, to 2pm Sunday 12 March 2006

Event Description: The Community of Interbeing offer a 4 day retreat as a breathing space to bring together people of different faiths or none, in the spirit of mindfulness. We will practice: sitting and walking meditation, and eating together in mindfulness. Through silence and deep listening we hope to encourage shared understandings, watering the seeds of true peace and joy within ourselves and each other.
Cost: Including accommodation and vegetarian meals. 3 rates according to your ability to pay: 1) £100; 2) £120; 3) £140. Deposit of £20 per person.

Contact and Booking Arrangements: Pete Smith: pete_ishere@yahoo.co.uk, 0131 668 3592 (between 6pm and 7pm); Jon Bagust: 0131 339 8401.

FRIDAY 10 MARCH

EVENT: THE GLORIOUS RECITAL: GOD AND CREATION

Venue: The Reid Hall, Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Time: 6pm for 6.30pm

Event Description: Follow-up to the pioneering Festival 2005 show, featuring expert recitation from the Word considered by Muslims to be direct divine revelation. Themed selections are recited in Arabic, while a screen displays their meanings. Guest reciters to be confirmed (see Quranica.com).
Cost: £5. Contact: Sohaib Saeed, 07973 708 928, sohaib@quranica.com

FRIDAY 10 MARCH – SUNDAY 12 MARCH

EVENT: SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Facilitator: Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

Venue: Findhorn, Scotland

Event Description: Spiritual Retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Meditation, Chant, Dances of Universal Peace, and Body Prayer. Contact: Maris Warrior, +44 (0)1309 690690, maris@findhornbay.net

SATURDAY 11 MARCH

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

EVENT: THE SPRING WIND: READING AND WRITING HAIKU

Venue: Inverleith House - Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Time: 2pm–4.30pm

Event Description: Haiku are short poems about the natural world - snapshots of the seasons. We will read spring haiku by Japanese and Scottish poets, look at different ways to approach their composition, walk in the gardens (or the glass-houses, if the weather is bad) to find our subject matter, and spend time writing haiku. Beginners and more experienced writers welcome. Suitable for age 12+. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum 15 participants.
Cost: £5 full price/£4 concessions. Please book in advance.
Contact and Booking: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

EVENT: MAKING MASKS — A FUN FAMILY WORKSHOP

Venue: Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, 25 Hawthornvale, off Newhaven Road, Edinburgh. Get an 11 or 7 bus from the city centre. www.edinburghsculpture.org

Time: 2pm-4pm

Event Description: An Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop Artist leads a fun family workshop where you'll make extraordinary masks. No experience required, we'll supply all materials and you'll take your mask home with you on the day. For children aged 5 – 10 years accompanied by the adult of their choice. It's also a great chance to have a look around Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and see where some of Edinburgh's most exciting art is made.
Cost: £4 per child – adults free. Contact and Booking: please book in advance at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop by calling 0131 551 4490.

EVENT: CHOIR OF LONDON – LAMENT FOR JERUSALEM

Venue: St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

Time: 7.30pm

Event Description and Website: The Choir of London presents Sir John Tavener's epic Lament for Jerusalem (2002) in the version arranged by the composer for the Choir's 2004 tour of the Middle East. For soloists, chorus and orchestra, the Lament includes Christian, Islamic and Jewish texts in a mystical love song for the city. The concert will also include New York Triptych (2005) by the rising young composer Tarik O'Regan. This work similarly utilises texts from a number of faiths and cultural backgrounds in a sustained call for peace and unity between nations. The Choir of London and Orchestra are directed by Jeremy Summerly, and this concert marks the launch of the Naxos CD of the Tavener Lament for Jerusalem. www.choiroflondon.org
Cost: £13 full, £10 concession, £3 children.
Contact and Booking Arrangements: Booking is through The Queen's Hall Box Office - tickets available by phone (0131 668 2019), by email (boxoffice@queenshalledinburgh.org), or by post or in person (Clerk St, Edinburgh, EH8 9JG). General enquiries to info@choiroflondon.org

SATURDAY 11 MARCH — SUNDAY 12 MARCH

EVENT: HOLY FOOL WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Angela Knowles

Venue: tbc

Event Description: Playing with the Fool archetype enables masks and defences to drop easily, revealing the beauty and unique gift of each person and creating a deep sense of connection. Through theatre, clown, meditation and relaxation exercises we become fully present, full of energy in the Now. In this way engaging with the Fool is holy work. For those who perform, speak to groups or are interested in developing authenticity, spontaneity and presence. Angela Knowles works as a professional storyteller, fool and teacher of performing arts in many countries. The Holy Fool draws on non-verbal communication, meditation, clowning and storytelling she has been engaged in for thirty years. Cost: £70/£50 (concessions).
Contact and Booking: 07989 352151, angela@knowles.icom43.net

SUNDAY 12 MARCH

EVENT: LANGAR COMMUNITY MEAL

Venue: Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sheriff Brae, Edinburgh

Time: 2pm-3pm

Event Description: Guests are welcome to attend this community meal at the Edinburgh Sikh Gurdwara.
Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

SERVICES

Event: Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh (Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community) Services

Venue: Please ring 07891 439 646 to find out more.
Dates/Times: 11am on Saturday 18th February and 7pm on Friday 3rd March.
Event Description: Everyone wishing to take part is welcome to attend.
Cost: Admission Free. Contact: Please ring 07891 439 646 to find out more.

Event: Services at the Edinburgh Synagogue

Venue: Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.
Dates/Times: A Carlebach Service on Friday 24 February at 17.15pm, and a service on Saturday 25th February from 11am.
Event Description: Please phone Jackie Taylor to confirm attendance.
Cost: Admission Free. Contact: Jackie Taylor, 01324 612126.

Event: Services at St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Kirkcaldy, Fife

Venue: St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife.
Date/Time: Sunday 12, 19, 26 February 2006, Sunday 5 March 2006, 10.30am – 12.30am.
Event Description: Guests are welcome to 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: Services for Peace at Churches and Cathedrals across Scotland

Venue: across Scotland.
Date/Time: Sunday 26 February 2006, throughout the day.
Event Description: Churches and Cathedrals across Scotland are asked to be mindful of the Middle East Festival during their services on this day.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Event: Divine Liturgy with Bishop Kallistos Ware

Venue: The Orthodox Community of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: Sunday 5 March 2006, 10.30am.
Event Description: Bishop Kallistos Ware will be the celebrant at the Divine Liturgy Service.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL PRE EVENTS

Event: Slow Train to Damascus: Talks with Paul Whittle

Venues: 7.30pm Monday 9th January 2006 Fraser Noble Lecture Theatre, Kings Campus, Aberdeen University, Aberdeen.
7.30pm Tuesday 10th January 2006 Tower Extension Theatre, Dundee University, Perth Road, Dundee.
7.30pm Wednesday 11th January 2006 Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline.
Event Description: The splendours of Petra, the Dead Sea and former Roman cities are described by Paul Whittle who takes a rare desert train ride on the Hedjaz Railway once destroyed by Lawrence of Arabia.

Event: In Lawrence's Footsteps: Talks with George Sutherland



Venues: 2.15pm Wednesday 18th January 2006
Royal Museum Lecture Theatre, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.
2.15pm Thursday 19th January 2006 Renfield Church Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow.
Event Description: Military historian George Sutherland contrasts the photographs of Syria taken nearly 100 years ago by T. E. Lawrence with those taken on a recent journey through Syria and Jordan, touching upon Lawrence's activities as an archaeologist and soldier.
Entry: £6. Students free.
Further information about RSGS and full details of illustrated talks programme can be obtained from: RSGS, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE
Phone: 0141 552 3330, E-mail: rsgs@strath.ac.uk Website: *www.*rsgs.org

FESTIVAL POST EVENTS

Event: Middle East Festival Post-Festival Reflection Meeting

Venue: Edinburgh Brahma Kumaris Centre, 20 Polwarth Crescent, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: Thursday 30 March 2006, 2pm-4pm.
Event Description: An opportunity to reflect back upon the Festival.
Cost: Admission Free. To attend and participate:
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Event: The Cornish Theatre Collective and James Seabright present The Alchemist, based on the novel by Paul Coelho

Venue: Citizens' Theatre, 119 Gorbals Street, Glasgow.
Date/Time: Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April 7.30pm.
Event Description: This acclaimed adaptation brings Paulo Coelho's bestseller to the stage in an enchanting and magical production that has already delighted audiences in three sell-out tours, as well as winning the personal approval of the author. The exhilarating tale of a shepherd boy's daring quest for his dream has captured the imagination of readers worldwide, with over 30 million copies sold in 60 languages.
Cost: £14/£7.
Contact and Booking: Box Office 0141 429 0022 online www.citz.co.uk

EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS

Event: Elias Chacour: Prophet in His Own Country

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Friday 10 February – Friday 10 March 2006

Event Description: This display contains photos from the 2005 Middle East Festival Lecture given by Abuna Elias Chacour, and also includes information on the work of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Event: From Our Perspective

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Friday 10 February – Friday 10 March 2006

Event Description: An exhibition of photographic work resulting from a series of workshops run by artist Anna-Lisa Drew with various Muslim women's groups in Edinburgh. The subject matter explores women's identity, and in particular the Muslim women's identity in Western society. With sponsorship from Stills.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Liz Forrester, 0131 650 2595.

Event: Keeping Faith 2

Venue: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Friday 10 February – Friday 10 March 2006

Event Description: Following on from the Keeping Faith exhibition held at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in 2004/05, photographic artist Luke Watson exhibits new portraits of individuals representing some of the lesser known faiths practised in Scotland today.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Liz Forrester, 0131 650 2595.

Event: Objects of Devotion: Religious artefacts which help approach the divine

Venue: The Nomad's Tent, 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Friday 10 February - Sunday 5 March 2006
(Open daily Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm)

Event Description: Religious artefacts which help approach the divine.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: 0131 662 1612.

EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS

Event: A Spiritual Journey: Figurative Art and Calligraphy by Sufi Artist, Afifa Ematullah

Venue: St Georges West Church, 58, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Friday 17 February – Sunday 12 March 2006. 10am-4pm

Event Description: A visual journey from the artist's love of natural beauty to the contemplation of the inner and eternal worlds as represented in Islamic calligraphy.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: St Georges West: 0131 225 7001 or Afifa Ematullah, islamicart1@hotmail.com

Event: Truth is a Pathless Land

Venue: Central Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Date/Time: January and February 2006

Event Description: An exhibition to mark the twentieth anniversary of the death of Krishnamurti.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Further details on 0131 242 8060 or at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries

Event: Morocco, Asilah's life

Venue: Susie's Diner, 51/53 West Nicholson Street, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Wednesday 8 February – Wednesday 8 March 2006

Event Description: Asilah, a small town by the Atlantic Ocean, in the north of Morocco, is a very special place where you can feel something magic in its streets and people. A place where the word Islam (peace) finds its true meaning. This exhibition by Alicia Conde invites you to get to know more about the life in this north-African country, full of spirituality and hospitality for those who visit it.
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Alicia Conde, closeedinburgh@hotmail.com www.aliciaconde.com

Event: Ashura by Esther Sabetpour

Venue: The Filmhouse Cinema, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh

Date/Time: Saturday 28 January – Saturday 4 March 2006

Event Description: Unique photographic reportage of Iran. www.esthersabetpour.com
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Neill Walker, 0131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Event: Susila Dharma: Acting upon inner guidance towards peace in the world

Venue: The Sanctuary, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France

Date/Time: Sunday 12 February – Sunday 12 March 2006

Event Description: An exhibition on the work of Susila Dharma (Britain).
Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Daniel Smith, 0131 467 7979.

University of Edinburgh Office of Lifelong Learning

Office of Lifelong Learning, the University of Edinburgh Courses - offered in association with the Middle East Festival.
To book: 0131 650 4400, OLL@ed.ac.uk

Art and Culture in Ancient Egypt (Course 2), Diana Brown MA FSA Scot.

Course 2 reveals the cultural significance of pictorial symbolism in the beauty of hieroglyphs, Tutankhamun's tomb, the temples of the Opet Festival and the royal ka. The course concludes with a review of the cultural and historical evidence uncovered through Egyptian art. New students welcome.
(Code B225) Tuesdays from 10 January 2006, (11 Classes) 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Room 4.01, David Hume Tower, £80/£53 conc.

Women in Islam and Arabic cultures, Ali Al Nagrat BA HSD MA PhD.

In this course students will look at the place and role of women in Islam and their social status in different Arabic cultures. They will also examine the Koran's precepts and their interpretations on women's issues. They will discover samples of literary texts by and/or about women.
(Code K228) Tuesdays from 10 January 2006.
(10 Classes) 1pm-2:30pm, Drumlanrig Room, 11 Buccleuch Place, £55/£37 conc.

Qur'an and Bible 2, Ida Glaser BSc MPhil PhD.

The Qur'an refers frequently to the Bible, and also calls Christians to Islam. Muslims have therefore interacted with the Bible, and Christians with the Qur'an, since the time of Muhammad. This course will explore Muslim-Christian relations through a study of how Muslims and Christians have read each other's Scriptures. It will then consider selected themes of common interest as understood through the Bible and the Qur'an – for example, gender roles, criminal justice, the place of violence, relating with people of other faiths. Students must have completed Qur'an and Bible 1 or its equivalent before doing this course.
(Code R225) Thursdays from 12 January 2006.
(11 Classes) 6:30pm-8:30pm, Muslim-Christian Studies, 18 Buccleuch Place, £80/£53 conc.

Women in Ancient Egypt, Diana Brown MA FSA Scot.

A critical analysis of the role of women as goddess, heiress, queen and priestess in ancient Egypt using temple art, myth, and literature as a source of information. Can this view of women be used as a model to examine the status of women in everyday life? All welcome.
(Code R332) Wednesdays from 19 April 2006.
(11 Classes) 6:30pm-8:30pm, Fleming Room, 12 Buccleuch Place, £80/£53 conc.

FESTIVAL TOURS

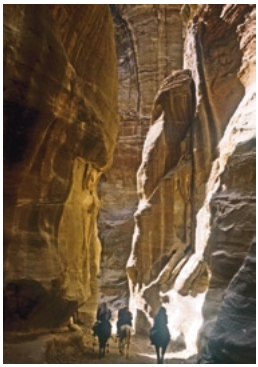
Two tours led by Latif Bolat to Turkey:

Contact: Latif Bolat: lbolat@aol.com http://www.latifbolat.com/cultural-tours.php

1. Journey to Western and Central Turkey:

(2 weeks, May 20-June 3, 2006; $1600, land only)
This journey takes us through the medieval town of Safranbolu to the most impressive museum of the Hittite Museum in Ankara. Then Cappadochia's fairy chimneys and cave dwellings from the 6th century on and the Mediterranean Coast of Turkey, great Mystic Rumi's tomb in Konya, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, Ephesus and Virgin Mary's chapel in Selcuk. You'll feel that you are following the footsteps of St Paul from 2000 years ago!

FESTIVAL TOURS



Picture Credit: National Geographic Society

2. Unknown and unspoiled Eastern Turkey Tour:

(17 Days: September 4-September 21, 2006; $2200, land only)
Come and join us to discover the unspoiled and unvisited mysteries of Eastern and Southeastern Turkey. From the ancient imperial seat of Trabzond to Mount Ararat, from the Armenian capital city Ani ruins to Abraham's city of Urfa, we'll be visiting some of the least visited historical sites in Turkey and take time travel to 3000 years ago. A once in a life time journey, before these traditional cultures fall victim to globalization!

Two weeks in Syria during November 2006

Exploring Christian and Muslim shrines, monasteries and tombs with guest lecturer Bruce Wannell. The tour is organised by Rufus Reade Tours, 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9SH.
Contact: 0131 662 1612. Full itinerary on request.

Festival Brochure

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

Festival Web Site

The Festival web site is as follows: **www.mesp.org.uk**

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.

Festival Updates and Additions

Please consult the Festival website for any changes and updates to the schedule.

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. People attending Festival events are responsible for their own belongings.

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: +44 (0) 131 331 4469, E: njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL

42/4 Sciennes, Edinburgh, EH9 1NL. Scotland, UK.
Office: +44 (0)7005 802 580, Fax: +44 (0) 7005 802 581,
Mobile: +44 (0) 7766 704 879, E: ndk@eial.org, W: www.eial.org

Abuna Elias Chacour 2005 Middle East Festival Lecture DVD

The 2005 Middle East Festival Lecture was given by the three times Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Abuna Elias Chacour, on Thursday 3 March 2005 at the McEwan Hall, the University of Edinburgh. The title of the lecture was 'Spiritual Approaches to Middle East Peace,' and the evening consisted of an hour long talk followed by an hour of questions and discussion. The DVD will be available from March 2006. It costs £15 + £2 for postage and packaging. To order a copy send a cheque made payable to EICWS to Neill Walker, 4 William Black Place, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9PZ. Scotland. UK. For further information contact: +44 (0) 131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

Sufism Symposium Scotland 2006

Date: Thursday 14 September 2006: World Sufi Concert, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
Friday 15 and Saturday 16 September 2006: Sufism Conference
St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Presenters: The International Association of Sufism, IAS,
The Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL,
The Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS.
boxoffice@queenshalledinburgh.org, +44 (0) 131 668 2019,
http://www.thequeenshall.net/tickets/index.php

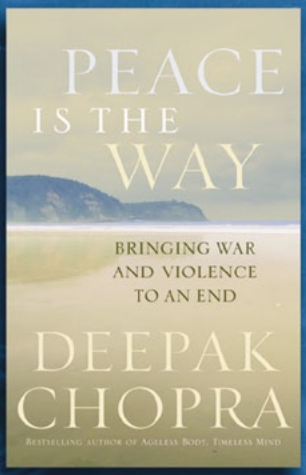
Event Description: An international gathering of Sufis with representatives of schools, orders and tariqas worldwide demonstrating the diversity within this mystical school of the Islamic traditions. Art, music, poetry, lectures, spiritual practice and discussion amongst world leaders in the Sufi tradition. Topics for the conference will include: Ancient Wisdom and Everyday Life, Wisdom of the Past and the Present, Sufi Approaches to World Peace, Sufism and Multicultural Societies, Meditation and Spiritual Practice for Everyday Life. Sessions are open to all. Web link: http://www.ias.org/
Sufi Conference Cost: £30/£20 (concessions) per day, £50/£30 for both days.
For further information and for booking arrangements contact:
Participants from within Europe: neillw@hotmail.com, +44 (0) 131 331 4469.
Participants from outwith Europe: ias@ias.org, +1 415 382 7834.

The 2007 Middle East Festival

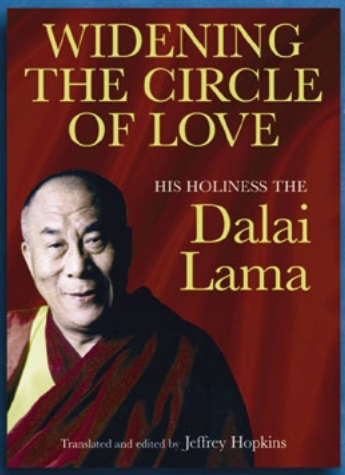
The 2007 Middle East Festival will run from Wednesday 7 February – Sunday 11 March 2007. Individuals, communities and organisations who would like to consider becoming involved in the 2007 Middle East Festival are very welcome to contact: Neill Walker, +44 (0) 131 331 4469, njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk

‘There is no way to peace. Peace is the way’

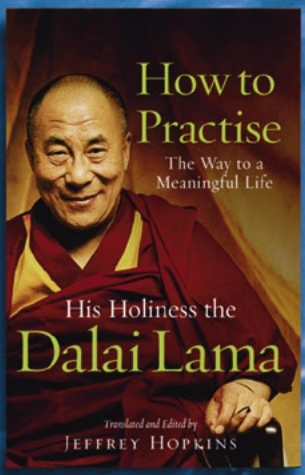
Mahatma Gandhi



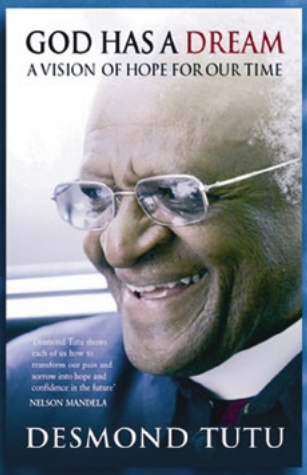
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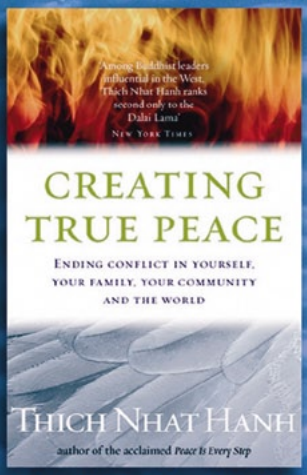
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