Synthesis Dialogues III

PARTICIPANTS' Biographical / Profiles

His Holiness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet (Tenzin Gyatso)

Entourage Members

Ven. Thupten Ngawang	Personal Assistant
Ven. Thupten Thokme	Personal Assistant
Tenzin Geyche Tethong	Secretary
Geshe Dorji Damdul	Religious Translator
Tenzin Phuntsok	Security Officer
Kalsang Tashi	Security Officer
Ngawang Lhundup	Security Officer

Emran Akhtar
Pakistan

Our world has reached a point in time when more than ever practical steps are needed to save ourselves. Conferences and discussions without implementation and only statements cannot achieve this end. The way to fully participate in the conference would be by bringing a practical perspective to the table. Our primary purpose of attending would be to assist in achieving and implementing goals set by various individuals groups and organisations present. The way individuals can be assisted their goals achieved dreams realised and taken to the next level, so can groups and organisations.

Dr. Vinu Aram
Shanti Ashram
India

Member of the Presidents of WCRP, Medical Doctor (pediatrician), Director of Shanti Ashram (an Ashram founded by her late Father, an outstanding politician in India), former World Moderator of the Youth Section of WCRP, long time friend of the Focolare Movement (Chiara Lubich visited Shanti Ashram in 2001). Vinu is a very well known on an international level.

A.T. Ariyaratne
Founder, President
Sarvodaya Movement
Sri Lanka

Dr. A T Ariyaratne was born in a village in South of Sri Lanka on 5th November 1931. He had his secondary and higher education at Mahinda Collece Galle and Sri Jayawardenepura University of Sri Lanka. He was a 1st class science trained teacher and also a Bachelor of Arts Graduate. He was awarded D.Litt Degree by Sri Jayawaedenepura University and also Doctor of Humanities Degree from the Emilio Aguinaldo College.

While being a teacher at Nalanda Collecge Colombo he founded the now world famous Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka acknowledged by many scholars and institutions as the largest people,s participatory development movement in the world working in 15.000 villages in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Ariyaratne has won many international awards including the following.
International Awards

∑ Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize, India, 1996
∑ Hubert H. Humphrey Award, USA, 1996
∑ IL-GA Memorial Award for Public Service, Korea, 1995
∑ Niwano Peace Prize, Japan, 1992
∑ Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Propagating Gandhian Values Outside India, 1990
∑ Forel Award, Good Templar Movement for Promoting Temperance, Denmark,1990
∑ Alan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Award,Brown University, USA, 1986
∑ King Boudouin Award for International Development, Belgium, 1982
∑ Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, Philippines, 1969;

He has served in many national and international bodies in areas pertaining to health, education, community development and is a well known authority on Non-violent Social Transformation based on Buddhist and Gandhian values.
Honorary International Appointments
∑ A President of World Parliament of Religions, 1993
∑ An International President, World Conference on Religion and Peace, 1994
∑ Member, Club of Budapest, Hungary
∑ Fellow, World Academy of Arts and Science, Minnesota, USA
∑ Former Chair, Asian and Pacific Bureau of Adult Education
∑ Former Chair, Approtech Asia, Philippines
∑ Former Chair, Asian Institute of Rural Development, India
∑ Third International Advisory Council, Auroville (India) 1999-present

Sri Lankan Awards
Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
Deshabandu Award for Distinguished National Service from the President, Sri Lanka
Vishwa Prasadini Award from the Prime Minister, Sri Lanka, 1996

Prem Baba
Janderson Fernandes de Oliveira
Brazil

Janderson Fernandes de Oliveira was born in a radical Christian family in Brazil. While still young, in training to be an evangelical minister, he was disillusioned by not finding answers to his questions or tolerance for his ideas. So he spent his youth searching through different religions, esoteric schools, scientific academies, and spiritual masters.

He became a gnostic priest and directed the gnostic association of anthropological studies and sciences in Sao Paulo for some years, developing and practising the doctrine of synthesis, which sought to unite art, science, philosophy, and mysticism. He was one of the coordinators of the first meetings of alternative culture in Sao Paulo, where religious leaders from esoteric schools and scientists discussed spirituality and society.

Trained in psychology, Janderson developed methods for building bridges between psychotherapy and spirituality. He added to his work the shamanic experience originating with the peoples of the Amazonian rainforest.

Feeling himself incomplete, Janderson sought in India what he was still lacking. He found himself through the grace of Guru Hans Haj Maharajji, a karma yogi and realized being, and took on a spiritual name, Prem Baba, father of love.

Today he directs the Ordem do Luz, the “Order of Light,” and teaches the “Caminho do Coracao”, the Path of the Heart, that synthesizes elements of all the traditions from which he has learned. The goal of this work is to contribute to the transformation of the world through love, compassion, and truth. In the heart, we are all one.

Barbara Fields Bernstein
Director, Synthesis Dialogues I, II, III
Executive Director, The Association for Global New Thought
U.S.A.

Director of the Synthesis Dialogues with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Dharamsala, India, 1999, Trent, Italy, 2001, and Rome, 2004; Project Director - Gandhi & King: A Season for Nonviolence 1998-2004; Program Director - 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago; Recipient of The Peace Museum's 1998 Community Peacemaker Award, in the area of Diplomacy, and shared with Dr. Arun Gandhi Religious Science International's first Peace Award in 2003; Conference and Program Director for the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies 1996 (Chicago), 2000 (Tacoma, WA), and 2005 (Los Angeles); Program Director - International Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter, Purdue University and the Lilly Foundation 1998-2004; Participant - UNESCO Seminar on Religion and Peace, Granada, Spain, 1998; Co- founder of The Earth Network, a non-profit alternative television organization for the environment, social action, and the human spirit for which she received the 1994 Visionary Award from the Center For New Television; Contributing author, The Community of Religions (Continuum Press, 1996).

Dr. Kenneth Fields
Central Conservatory of Music
Beijing, China

Kenneth Fields graduated with an uniquely designed Ph.D. degree in Digital Media Arts (music and art, computer and cognitive sciences) in the year 2000, specializing in computer music. He has lived in Beijing for the last three years, one year being spent in post-doctorate studies in the computer science department at Tsinghua University (Institute of Human Computer Interaction and Media Integration). In 2003 Ken began teaching in a new computer music program at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing China. His work, apart from composition and recording, is focused on the development of the academic discipline of media arts in China. This year Ken is co-director of the Planetary Collegium's 6th annual conference, Consciousness Reframed: Qi and Complexity which will be held in Beijing.

Dean Lawrence E. Carter Sr.
MLK Jr. International Chapel
Morehouse College
U.S.A.

The Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. is the first dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, college archivist and curator, and professor of religion at Morehouse College. He holds the Ph.D. degree from Boston University. He was 1994 Fulbright Scholar in Brazil and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in 1993 and 1996. He is the author of Walking Integrity:Benjamin Elijah Mays as Mentor to Martin Luther King Jr.

Janis Claflin
Claflin and Associates
U.S.A.

Ms. Claflin is President of Claflin and Associates, a counseling and consulting firm in Austin, Texas, USA. She is a psychotherapist in private practice, a management consultant, an effective facilitator and public speaker. She serves in many areas including conflict resolution, organizational effectiveness, team building, change management, leadership development and spiritual

formation. She is committed to the facilitation of corporate cultures and individual and relational ways of being that promote creativity, integrity, enhanced productivity and well being for all parties involved. She is the founder of several non profit organizations. She is a founding trustee of the Fetzer Institute, a foundation which has as it's mission..."fostering the awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community". She currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Fetzer Institute. She is on the board of trustees of the Texas Capital Value Fund and President of the Center for Teacher Renewal. She holds a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity and a B.A. in English from Vanderbilt's George Peabody College for Teachers.

ON. France Coen
Consigliera per le Politiche della Multietnicita'
ITALY

Positioned in Rome government to be a progressive force on issues of diversity and interfaith activism. (She will also represent the Mayer of Rome, in the event of an unavoidable absence).

Silvio Daneo
Vice President of WCRP/Italy
ITALY

Born in Turin, Italy 1941
Member of Focolare Movement since 1959
Co-founder of Focolare Movement in the USA (1962) and Asia (1966) and former Co-Director of the Movment in Philippines, China, India and Thailand (between 1966 and 1995).
At present: Vice President of WCRP (World Congress of Religion and), Italy
Involved in Inter-religious dialogue since 1973.
Helped in the organization of major Inter-religious events throughout the world, also at the Vatican.
Since 1980 works in the field of International Cooperation (Projects in Third World Countries)
Active in social work, respect and promotion of Human Rights in national and international levels.

Maria Angela Fala
President of the European Buddhist
Union and Italian Buddhist Union
Italy

Maria Angela Falà, Rome, scholar in Oriental Philosophy, President of European Buddhist Union and past President of Italian Buddhist Union, she is interested in the dialogue between Eastern and Western culture. She translated into Italian some Buddhist Texts and she is editor of the oldest Italian Buddhist Revue DHARMA . She collaborates with some Italian Universities and interreligiuos groups and she is the Buddhist representative in the Consulta of Religions of the Municipality of Rome.
She is engaged in rooted Buddhist spirituality in Europe in a non sectarian and openminded way and in deep connection with the spirit and the culture of Western people.

Rabbi Marc Gafni
Bayit Chadash Jerusalem
Israel

Rabbi Mordechai (Marc) Gafni has emerged as an exciting new voice in Israeli and international religious life and spirituality. In addition to teaching graduate seminars on mysticism at Oxford University in England, R'Gafni is the founder and head of Bayit Chadash. Overlooking Israel's Sea of Galilee, Bayit

Chadash is an international spiritual community retreat center committed to Jewish renaissance. Additionally, Gafni is the host and creator of a highly acclaimed national Israeli television program on ethics and spirituality. The show, with hundreds of thousands of viewers, has become an important weaver of the Israeli spirit.

Besides contributing to a number of American journals, R'Gafni is contributing editor to Chayim Acherim, Israel's leading spirituality magazine. An acknowledged master of the ancient texts as well as the texts of the heart, Gafni has published two works of Jewish thought in Hebrew with two more forthcoming in the next year. A third book, Soul Prints, written for a broader English-speaking public, was the subject of a National PBS Special. The book hit the bestseller list, has been translated into numerous languages and was chosen for the prestigious Napra Nautilus Award for the Best Spirituality Book of 2001. Gafni has also just come out with his second highly acclaimed English book, entitled "The Mystery of Love". Gafni's work has deservedly earned him the reputation as a modern philosopher and spirit master: wise, compassionate, accessible, and universal.

Ela Gandhi
Former member of Parliament
Republic of South Africa

I am a qualified social worker by profession. But have always been more of a social/ political activist. From my early childhood I have been driven by a community spirit. I helped child welfare fund raising when I was still in Primary School. For me liberation, social justice, animal and environmental rights issues are important. I consistently take up issues of prejudice, of oppression, of power and of ensuring that the voices of the voiceless are heard. To this end then all my work as an activist in South Africa was directed towards the raising of the issues of the oppressed. While I worked as a social worker, healing and providing relief to people, I also tackled the bigger questions of how people can be mobilized to take up their own issues. But this work drew attention to myself and I was placed under house arrest for 8 years.

During the negotiations process I was selected as one of the representatives of my organization to represent the people. I was then selected to be on the list of candidates for parliament and was sent to parliament for two terms. I resigned from parliament in January 2003. At present I am Editor and Chairperson of the Board of management of Satyagraha- In pursuit of Truth a Non Profit Organisation which runs a newspaper, promoting Gandhian ideals. I am Secretary of the Gandhi Development Trust, which makes awards on an annual basis and holds a Gandhi Lecture. I am Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Help Line and the Mahatma Gandhi Handicraft Centre. Trustee of the Mahatma Gandhi Trust which owns a property which was donated to the Natal Indian Congress when Gandhiji left South Africa in 1914. I am a member on the Advisory Boards of Unilever Ethics Centre, International Advisory Board of the World Parliament of Religions and Advisory Board of the Ahimsa Centre, in California. I am Vice President of the South African Chapter of World Conference on Religion and Peace and am on the ANC's Commission on Religious Affairs. I am hoping to soon set up a Centre for Nonviolence with focus on building a resource centre, a research facility, an academic facility, a materials development facility and a community outreach programme.

Dr. Nancy Harris
Terma Foundation
U.S.A.

Nancy Harris has worked for thirteen years to reverse life-threatening conditions for more than one million neglected Tibetan children who have been neglected by the world community.

As a Yale undergraduate Nancy Harris observed the disruptive impact of the modern world on indigenous cultures in the Amazon. With simultaneous BA and MS degrees in Biology, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to assist indigenous people in Venezuela. After graduating from Stanford Medical School she worked with migrant workers suffering from AIDS, drug abuse, and domestic violence.

Seeking a deeper philosophical base, Dr. Harris studied Chinese traditional medicine in Beijing, then visited Tibet. There she found children grossly stunted, appearing half their age, with no official explanation.

In 1993 she procured a grant to do what no other group had done – document the threat to child survival in Tibet. For seven years Dr. Harris and her team worked without basic amenities, often in subzero weather, to weigh and measure several thousand children: Their findings were that under-nutrition affected over 50% of Tibetan children, while nearly 70% had rickets. Easily preventable diarrhea and pneumonia were taking the greatest toll; and severe stunted growth was caused by simple nutritional deficiency, not high altitude as had been formerly assumed.

Dr. Harris initiated creative collaborations between expatriate teams and Tibetan health workers, village elders, and women's groups to conceive culturally sensitive interventions. She founded the Terma Foundation that now operates six successful programs in Tibet that teach and research tools for health and sustainable development.

"Dr. Harris has been able to achieve what no else has," explains a colleague. "She has won Chinese permission to work within Tibet and has overcome numerous other seemingly insurmountable obstacles on behalf of these children. Dr. Harris herself embodies the wisdom and compassion for which Tibetan culture is renowned."

Terma Foundation is a non-profit health initiative, develops and implements programs dedicated to the immediate improvement of child survival and welfare in Tibet so that an endangered generation of children may live to share their wisdom with other world cultures.

Over the last decade, the Terma Foundation documented widespread, severe malnutrition and multiple micronutrient deficiencies, publishing our findings in the New England Journal of Medicine (February 2001). Terma has also found indications of potentially multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, contributing to high maternal and infant mortality rates in Tibet. "

Terma's ongoing Integrated Health Programs include:

- Rickets Education and Prevention
- Child Feeding and Indigenous Food Development
- Tibetan Traditional Medicine
- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies: Prenatal and Postnatal Care
- Health Education and Primary Care Delivery
- Tuberculosis Prevention and Control "

Dr. Hazel Henderson
Global Economist
U.S.A.

Hazel Henderson is a world renowned futurist, evolutionary economist, consultant on sustainable development, and author of *Beyond Globalization* and *seven* other books. Her editorials are syndicated to some 400 newspapers in 27 languages by InterPress Service, Rome. She has published articles in over 250 journals, including *The Harvard Business Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Challenge* (USA), *Mainichi* (Japan), *El Diario* (Venezuela), *Australian Financial Review, World Economic Herald* (China). Her books have been translated in 8 languages. She co-created with the Calvert Group, Inc. of Bethesda, MD, the *Calvert-Henderson Quality-of-Life Indicatorssm*. She sits on the advisory boards of Worldwatch Institute, Calvert Social Investment Fund, WETV, and others -- and on the editorial boards of *WorldPaper*, *Futures Research Quarterly and World Business Academy Perspectives* (USA). Henderson shared the 1996 Global Citizen Award with Nobelist A. Perez Esquivel of Argentina. From 1974-1980 she served on the Advisory Council of the US Office of Technology Assessment, and on advisory boards of the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Engineering. She has been Regent's Lecturer at

University of California (Santa Barbara), held the Horace Albright Chair in Conservation at University of California (Berkeley) She is an active member of the National Press Club (Washington, DC), Social Venture Network, World Future Society (USA), and a Fellow of the World Futures Studies Federation (Philippines).

Afra Jalabi
Canada
Montreal based freelance journalist and writer.(Jawdat Said's niece.)

Born in 1970 in Damascus; moved to Germany in 1975. Finished high school in Saudi Arabia. Did a B.A in anthropology and political science at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. A Master's Degree in Journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Had a weekly column on cultural, social and literary topics in al Jadeedah magazine in London, England for 4 years. Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Law and Religion in the US. Lectures on feminism, Islam and nonviolence. Currently, working on projects about Islam and nonviolence with Jawdat Said in English.

Cardinal Walter Kasper
President
Pontifical Council for the Promotion
of Christian Unity
Italy

Director of all the Ecumenical aspect of the Catholic Church (rapport with ALL Christian denominations) as well as with the Jewish Religious World.

Prof. James P. Keen
Antioch University
U.S.A.

Dr. James P. (Jim) Keen researches, writes and teaches about how people develop and sustain commitments to working on behalf of a common good that includes the diversity of the planet and the whole human family. A key aspect of this work focuses on ways that transformational leaders engage complexity. He currently divides his time among his practice as a leadership coach; his volunteer work for the Quaker United Nations Committee and for two groups working to transform American higher education, The Initiative for Authenticity and Spirituality in Higher Education (he is co-founder) and the Education as Transformation Project (he is Vice President). He is College Professor at Antioch College, where he has served half time since stepping down as Vice President and Dean of Faculty nearly a decade ago. At Antioch he teaches courses in leadership, peace studies, nonviolent action and lives of commitment.

He formerly served as Executive Director of the Governor's School of New Jersey (a program he designed), as Milicent Fenwick Research Professor at Monmouth University, as Senior Research Fellow at the Bonner Foundation, as Associate Director of American Team for the 7th report to the Club of Rome, No Limits to Learning and as coordinator of Harvard University's Committee on Peace and Conflict Studies.

He is co-author of the book, Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World and of numerous articles, the most recent of which address the integrative counter-tradition in the 20th century, equanimity as an aspect of spirituality, students' understanding of service as politics, and interfaith encounter and dialogue in a pre-college program focusing on human rights and environmental issues.

Azim Khamisa
Tariq Khamisa Foundation
U.S.A.

Azim N. Khamisa is Chairman, CEO and Founder of the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) and Sovereign Capital Markets, Inc. He is a successful international investment banker, advisor and consultant with over 30 years of experience. He has conducted business ventures in Africa, Middle East, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Mr. Khamisa was educated in England in Mathematics & Finance and is a well-traveled multi lingual United States citizen and resides in La Jolla, California. Mr. Khamisa serves on the Board of Directors of various for profit and non-profit boards.

TKF (www.tkf.org) was founded by Mr. Khamisa in memory of his 20-year old son Tariq, who was murdered in January of 1995. Mr. Khamisa reached out in forgiveness to the grandfather and guardian of his son's killer, Mr. Ples Felix who now serves as Vice Chairman of TKF. He has committed his life to defeating the continuing cycle of violence amongst the youth

Mr. Khamisa is a highly regarded and respected leader in the San Diego community and nationally for his exceptional leadership in finding innovative solutions to prevent youth violence. He delivers keynote addresses at a variety of local, national, and international venues. He is an award- winning author of the book: ***Azim's Bardo - From Murder To Forgiveness – A Father's Journey.***

Mr. Khamisa is a recipient of over 50 regional, national and international awards. Our nation's leaders have recognized him with the National Crime Victims Special Community Service Award presented to him in 1997 by President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno. Mr. Khamisa visited the White house on three different occasions under President Clinton's administration. He recently received the prestigious "Search for Common Ground" international award for "Building Peaceful Communities" along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu & Ted Koppel. In December 2003, Mr. Khamisa received the California Peace Prize and is one of thirty people in the world to be invited to participate in the Synthesis Dialogue to be held at the Pope's summer residence in Castagandolfi, Italy with His Holiness the Dalai Lama from June 1st to June 7th 2004. His work has been highlighted in various local, regional and national printed media including the New York Times, People Magazine, Parade Magazine, Washington Post and U.S.A. Today. He has conducted numerous local, regional and national print, television and radio interviews, including NBC's Today Show and KPBS Fresh Air. He is on the cover of the March 2004 Science of Mind issue.

For more information on Mr. Azim Khamisa please refer to his websites www.tkf.org; www.azimkhamisa.com; www.canei.org

Mir Nawaz Khan Marwat
Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan
Karachi, Pakistan

Mr. Mir Nawaz Khan Marwat hails from one of the most respectable families of Marwat Tribe. He has brilliant academic career at his credit. As a student he was elected President of College Union and participated in many all Pakistan debates during college days where he won many shields and awards. As a student leader he took active part in Pakistan movement. His educational qualifications are M. A., L.L.B. He is an advocate of Supreme Court of Pakistan.

He remained Federal Minister as well as Provincial Minister twice. He was a member of Federal Council of Pakistan (Majlis-e-Shura). He was elected as a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan from Karachi in 1985. He also remained as Chairman of Labour Welfare Commission of Pakistan. He represented Pakistan as delegate in UNO in 1987. He has attended many international conferences and seminars in different parts of the world and is a well read and extensively travelled person. He is the office bearer of many cultural and social organisations. He is the president of World Conference on Religion and Peace

Pakistan and Asian Conference on Religion and Peace Pakistan Chapter.

Elected as Moderator of Asian Conference on Religion and Peace in Authiya, Thailand, in October 1996, for five years; re-elected as Moderator for five years on 28th June, 2002, in Yogyakarta, (Indonesia); awarded certificates of meritorious and social services in 1965 by the Government of Pakistan; awarded certificate by Government for his services for peace and harmony; taken on many important committees of legal, social and administrative reforms by the Government; appointed as Justice of Peace; attended many meetings and conferences of ACRP and WCRP in different parts of the world.

As a parliamentarian he contributed a lot in the legislative work and also presided the lower House of Parliament, National Assembly of Pakistan; led Parliamentary delegations of Pakistan to many countries; represented Pakistan in the Conference of Global Forum held in Oxford, U.K., from 11th to 15th April, 1988 which was attended by hundred Parliamentarians and hundred spiritual leaders of the world; elected Assistant Secretary General International of World Muslim Congress on 15th October, 1997; re-elected as Assistant Secretary General for five years on 19th December, 2002, in Colombo; attended Sixth Asia Pacific Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights from 28 February to 2 March 1998 in Tehran, Iran; attended Conference for Christian and Muslim understanding in Castelgandolfo, Rome, held under the auspices of Focolare Movement from 10th to 14th June 1998; awarded Peace Award by International Commission of Human Rights; invited by different Universities of world and organisations for lectures; attended Inter-Sessional Workshop on the Development of National Plans of Action For Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held from 5th to 7th July 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand; performed the Opening Ceremony of Women Empowerment Centre of ACRP in Manila, Philippines, on 5th July 1999; elected as International President of World Conference on Religion and Peace for five years in November 1999 in Amman, Jordan; nominated as member of select Committee for Disarmament and Security of W.C.R.P; re-elected as Moderator of A.C.R.P. on 28th June 2002 in Yogyakarta Indonesia.

He is respected by the followers of different religions due to his efforts for bringing peace, harmony and understanding amongst them; a staunch believer of peace, human dignity, common living, interfaith dialogue and human survival in Nuclear Arms free world.

Attended 50th Anniversary of Myochikai Foundation in October 2000 in Tokyo, Japan and delivered speech on Peace and Harmony on behalf of all the foreign delegates. He was the only Muslim who was invited at this important occasion. He also attended meeting of Arigatou Foundation and Global Network of Religions for Children and made important recommendations for resolving the problems of Children and for their betterment. These recommendations were accepted and it was made part of the document to presented in the special session of U.N.O. for children to held in 2001.
On November 27th and 28th, 2000 attended 30th Anniversary of World Conference on Religion and Peace in Kyoto, Japan. On 28th and 29th, 2000 attended there also a meeting of Steering Committee for Disarmament and Security formed by World Conference on Religion and Peace and was elected as Vice-Chairman of Commission for “Disarmament and Security”.

Attended on 23-24 October, 2001 in New York, U.S.A. international symposium of Leaders of the World Religions and delivered speeches on both dates. The topic was “Religions Working Together Against Terror and Violence and for Peace with Justice”.
From June 9th to 12th, 2002, participated in African Religious Leaders Conference on H.I.V/AIDS held in Nairobi (Kenya). He also attended the meeting of Governing Board of W.C.R.P. there on 12th and 13th June, 2002. On 3rd and 4th August 2002, he attended 15th Anniversary of Inter Faith Religious Summit arranged by the Tendai Bhuddhist Denomination in Kyoto (Japan). He delivered an important speech on “Dialogue between World Religions and Islam”. On 4th August 2002 he joined the World Religious Leaders on Mount Hei, Kyoto and all prayed together for peace there. On 1st to 3rd November 2002, he attended convention of Muslim Friends of Focolare Movement, well known Christian organisation in Castale Gandalfo Rome. He delivered Key Note speech on “Peace and Human Brotherhood”. The Convention was attended by large number of Christians and Muslim leaders from all over the world. He also visited Vatican and held meeting with President of Pontifical Council of Inter Faith. Attended Peace Conference in 17-18 November 2003, in Seoul and presided over one session. The Conference was

organized by Korean Peace Forum.

Chalanda Sai Ma Lakshmi Devi
Humanity in Unity
U.S.A.

Chalanda Sai Ma, a Holy Being and a Spiritual Leader, radiates the healing grace of Divine Love. As a Divine Mother, Sai Ma brings the healing power of love and compassion to humanity. She answers our heart's yearning to experience our own true nature, the nature of the Divine.

Bold, fearless and passionate in Her efforts to end our suffering, Ma is the inspiration behind Humanity in Unity, a nonprofit, charitable foundation whose purpose is to develop and administer humanitarian projects. The projects encompass all races, religions, nationalities and cultures. Honoring the many paths that lead us to God, Ma teaches Oneness, Wholeness, Truth and Love. Whatever our tradition, Ma guides us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and of the path we have chosen: "The All is in You, the All is You and You are All."

Sai Ma travels throughout the world serving humanity. She works tirelessly supporting programs to end poverty and hunger, to care for the sick, to educate our children and to bring peace to the planet. Ma moves around the planet working quietly with an uncommon personal grace and commitment to bring relief to people of many nations and cultures. Essential to Her work is the message: "As I serve you, so shall you serve others."

James McManis
U.S.A.

I am by training and education a theologian, a psychoanalyst, a family therapist, a community developer, an organizational consultant and a spiritual teacher and healer. I completed my doctoral work in consciousness studies with an emphasis in transformation of consciousness. My life's work has been focused in the practical work of transformation of organizations and institutions, small and large. My particular focus in this work is on the integration of spiritual practices and values into the flow of normal institutional practices. My effort in my work has been to awaken in others a sensitivity to our inherent spiritual nature and to the remembrance that we are spiritual beings, first and foremost; that our work in and for the world, when infused consciously with our spiritual values, becomes deeply transformative, with an opening to transcendent (beyond this life; beyond form) realities.

James O'Dea
President
Institute of Noetic Sciences
U.S.A.

James O'Dea, a native of Ireland, joined the Institute of Noetic Sciences as President in April 2003.

Previously, he spent ten years as the director of the Washington DC office of Amnesty International, where he testified before Congress, met with two U.S. presidents and numerous foreign heads of state and government leaders, and represented Amnesty International to the State Department, the White House, and the World Conference on Human Rights.

Subsequently, he spent six years as executive director of Seva, a non-profit organization dedicated to international health & development issues in Latin America, Asia, and on American Indian reservations. Seva is a Sanskrit word meaning service.
During the past five years, James created and currently co-leads a series of dialogues funded by the Fetzer

Institute called "Compassionate and Social Healing." The dialogues bring together leaders and activists in a variety of fields related to human rights, peace, and social reconciliation initiatives.

James lived and worked in Turkey and Lebanon, and witnessed civil conflict and massacres, which influenced him deeply. He brings to IONS a sense of urgency about the issues the world currently faces, as well as an Irish sense of humor and love of language.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig
World Congress on Religion and Peace
Vatican Representative Anti-Defamation League
Italy

B.A. Barnard College, M.A. Columbia University Teachers College. Candidate for PhD in Social Sciences: Media at the Pontifical Gregorian University Born in Vienna, Austria, U:S. and Italian citizen. Vice Moderator of the European section of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, Representative in Italy and Vatican Liaison of the Anti-Defamation League, Rome correspondent of "The Jerusalem Post" and free-lance journalist for English and Italian language publications Former lecturer in English at Columbia University, Queens College, New York University, The New School for Social Research, University of Puerto Rico, American Overseas School of Rome. Have organized and directed press offices of several international conferences related to inter-religious dialogue on theological and media issues. Participated as Advisor to Council of Europe panels on Mass Media, and on Intercultural Dialogue. Fluent in English, Italian, French, German

Lucia Ricco
Baha'i Community
Italy

Born in Cagliari, 1958. Graduate in Chemistry. Member of the National Board of Directors of the Italian Baha'i community, Director of the Foreign Office of the Italian Baha'i community in Rome. Long career in the television network, Director of an Italian and European network for over 15 years. At present she is a member of Executive Council of the Budapest Club Italy and member of the Municipal Inter-religious Office of Rome. Former member of the Executive Committee of WCRP/ Italy and President of the Youth Budapest National Club in Italy.

She has been giving lectures and conferences all over the Italian territory.
In 1988 she was the director of an important documentary film in Human Rights in Africa marking the 50th anniversary of the Human Right Chart. In 1966 she is awarded the first price as director of a film "Vote woman", by the Commission for Equal Opportunities inRome.

Ven. Achok Rinpoche
Director, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives
Dharamsala, India

ACHOK RINPOCHE, born in 1944 in Amdo, Tibet, left his monastery, Amchok Tsenyi Gompa, along with with his teacher, for further study in Lhasa, from where they escaped to India in 1959. Continuing his philosophical studies in the Buxa transit camp for exiled Tibetan lamas and monks in West Bengal, he was later appointed abbot of the re-established Tashi Kyil monastery, and then worked for 14 years in the Library of Tibetan Works & Archives at Dharamsala. Following this he was Director of Tibetan Medical Institute and then abbot of Gaden-Shartse Monastery in south India for short periods. He spent many months in Tibet in both 1983 and 1987, and travelled extensively in the West, having taught Tibetan philosophy and language at Vienna University in Austria for 2 years. Currently he is Director, Library of Tibetan Works & Archives, Dharamsala.

Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris
Evolutionary Biologist
U.S.A.

Internationally known evolution biologist, futurist, author and business consultant. She taught at MIT and the Univ. of Massachusetts, has been a science writer for the TV program, NOVA/HORIZON, organized Earth Celebrations 2000 in Athens, Greece, was a UN Consultant on indigenous peoples. She teaches in the Bainbridge Graduate Institute's MBA program on sustainable business and is a fellow of the World Business Academy. Dr. Sahtouris lived extensively in Greece and the Peruvian Andes, learning to see solutions to our big social and economic problems in Earth's ecosystems and indigenous sciences. Her venues have included The World Bank, EPA, Boeing, Siemens, Tokyo Dome Stadium, Australian National Govt, Sao Paulo's leading business schools, State of the World Forums (NY & San Francisco) and World Parliament of Religion, South Africa. Her books include EarthDance: Living Systems in Evolution, A Walk Through Time: from Stardust to Us and Biology Revisioned (with Willis Harman). Her websites are www.sahtouris.com <http://www.sahtouris.com/> (professional) and www.ratical.org/lifeweb <http://www.ratical.org/lifeweb> (personal, with many writings).

Jawdat Said
Damascus, SYRIA
Jaoudat Mohamad (known as Jawdat Said in his writings) was born in 1931 in Syria. After elementary school he continued his education in Egypt where he graduated from Al Azhar University in Cairo. During this period he was in touch with known figures in the cultural and political scene of Cairo and witnessed the violent confrontation with Nasser's government. This crisis made him aware that violence is what ails, and eventually would destroy Islamic movements.

After Egypt, he went to Saudi Arabia. But he made the decision to go back to Syria after a few years to work on his own Islamic intellectual path, which was based on nonviolence and telling truth to power in a nonviolent manner.

He was a teacher at a college of education in Damascus. But he was moved to a girls' high school. Then he was moved again to a high school a 100 km out of Damascus.
. In early 1962, he was imprisoned for the first time for his intellectual activism. He was imprisoned five times and tried twice: once by a military court and another by a civil court. In both instances he was found not guilty. He was then discharged from teaching in any official post. His last imprisonment was in 1973.

He published many books, essays and columns. One of the early works was "The Path of Adam's Son," who, according to the Quran, refused to defend himself when his brother told him he was going to kill him. This was published in 1966, in which he tried to create a blueprint of social and political reform through nonviolence, which he based on a Quranic prophetic tradition. He also wrote this book as a warning, to the young and rising Islamic movements at the time, of the dangers of militancy and the use of violence to achieve political and social transformation. He predicted long before the rise of militant Islam the inevitability of such a crises due to the content of the religious thought being preached and taught at the time. This urged him to publish his first book of nonviolence.

Since 1976 he has created a farm with one of his brothers on a land they inherited from their father. He has an apiary and earns his living from working in the field, and devotes most of his time to reading and writing.

He had a weekly column in Al Majalah magazine (similar to Time or Newsweek in the Arab World) for 5 years.

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis

Senior Adviser To The Managing Directors Office
The World Bank, Washington Office
U.S.A.

< Major Areas of Experience
Human Rights and Economic Development.
Named the Institutional Focal Point on human rights at the World Bank. Principal spokes-person at the UN and WTO and other international forums, including civil society organizations. Prepared large number of papers/statements on civil and political rights, economic and social rights and the right to development.

< Mainstreaming Sustainable Development Into Macro-Economics and Global Policy
Led missions and tasks to design and implement sustainable development programs. Given training on conceptual and practical aspects of sustainability, including sectoral and resource based issues (e.g., forestry, water, soil and biodiversity). Worked in the preparation of country strategies and national environmental action plans at the macro and local levels. Assisted developing countries in the implementing of environmental programs and in integration into macro-economics planning, public investment and expenditure reviews, sectoral policies and programs, and regional strategies.

< Environment, Sustainability and Poverty Eradication
Involved in operations and evaluation of progress made with regard to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Integrated growth, sustainability and poverty through the theory of capital accumulation and its translation into the design of forestry and land management programs. Drafted and led implementation of policy positions in fisheries development, water conservation and management, pricing natural resources, and compensation of displaced populations.

< Operational Experience: Project/Program Related
Participated and led mission in agriculture, structural adjustment public expenditure reviews environmental conservation and natural resources management. Special emphasis on forestry, irrigation development, soil conservation and land management, desertification and biodiversity. Added emphasis on institutions, social structures, equity and long term impacts. Written books/reports on the economic analysis of natural resources and conservation strategies. Provided training and prepared training materials on natural resources management and environmental policies. Given training policy makers in developing countries, including legislators and justice people, journalists, etc.. Training given at the community level.

< Evaluation and Assessment of Sustainable Development, Environmental/Economic Impacts
Led two major macroeconomic studies on the long term impacts of macroeconomic policies and investment programs into natural resources management. Included review of multilateral assistant programs during a period of 25-30 years of development interventions. Emphasis on the role of human, cultural and institutional capital.

< Management and Implementation
Held many management positions, including tasks essential for development implementation. Participated in many supervision and evaluation missions including social, environmental and economic issues and constraints. Organized retreats, seminars, committees and task forces, and leader on International Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Development. Organized professional staff retreats on technical, organizational and institutional dimensions linked to the environment and natural resources.

< Spiritual Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship, Human Values in Economics, Finance, and Sustainable Development
Involved in developing a new paradigm based on the non-material and spiritual dimensions of economic and social development. Assisted in the organization of a world meeting on Ethics, Moral and Spiritual values for Sustainable Development. Given many seminars on the relationship between spiritually and economic development, including indigenous peoples knowledge. Published several articles and made numerous public statements. Involved also on issues of business, entrepreneurship and spirituality. Provided elements needed to enliven the soul of businesses.

Other Areas of Expertise
< Macroeconomics: Monetary, Fiscal and Trade Policies
Trained in economics with particular emphasis on macro policies. Worked at Central Bank of Chile leading on questions of savings and interest rate policies. Prepared a dissertation on Credit Concentration in the Private Sector. Researched on international trade and finance, with emphasis on trade of primary commodities (non-renewable resources) and impacts on developing countries. Prepared a paper on potential retaliation from trade practices in copper, tin and bauxite. Trained as an agricultural economist with strong background on economic evaluation and assessment, benefit cost analysis, policy formulation and analysis and institutional development. Emphasized institutional economics matters, including role of the public sector and civil society.

< Innovative Forms of Financing Environmentally Sustainable Development
Organized a world conference on innovative forms of financing for sustainable development. Prepared and disseminated a number of proceedings on matters related to financing.

< Institutional, Human and Social Development
Interested and actively sought to mainstream institutional and social dimensions of sustainable development into macro-economic planning, policy formulation and implementation. Of particular interest: development of environmental institutions (including socio-economic research) at the national and regional levels; role of indigenous communities in sustainability and knowledge; cultural aspects of the development process; and issues related to governance.

< Indigenous Knowledge, Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development
Improved understanding of the role that indigenous people and their knowledge play in sustainability. Increasingly involved in learning about the holistic views of the Mapuche, Maya, Cuna and Lacota peoples.

Sulak Sivaraksa
Founder, Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute
Bangkok, Thailand

2001-present: Cofounder of the World Future Council
1980-present: Founder and Director of the Thai Inter-Religious Commission for Development (TICD) and its resource center, under Satheirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation
1988-present: Founder and Director of the International Network of Engaged Buddists (INEB)
Founder and Director of Santi Prachadhamma Institute, an non-govermental, non-profit Tahi institution for research, training, propagation and community activities, under Satheirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation
1994-present Foundeer and Director of Spirit in Education Movement, a non-governmental organization heading to promote alternative education for adults, under Satheirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation
1998 Chief Advisor to the organizers of the world artists for Tibet exhibition, Bangkok

Dr. David Sluyter, Ed.D.
Program Director, Fetzer Institute
U.S.A.

For the past twelve years, Dr. Sluyter has worked at the Fetzer Institute as a program director, vice president for education, and an interim period as president and chief executive officer. He currently holds the position of senior advisor.

The following three themes have run through Dave's work at the Fetzer Institute:

∑ Relationship-Centered Care – Dave has been interested in the influence of relationships in health care including relationships between providers and patients, between providers from different professions, and between providers and the communities in which their patients and clients reside. He is also interested in

the organizational factors that promote and sustain right relationship with patients, staff, and other constituencies. He has organized a network of health care providers and educators who are doing this work and is currently working with a large medical school that is establishing a model educational program based upon it.

∑ Teacher Formation and the Courage to Teach Program – Dave has worked closely with a national program called the Courage to Teach, which facilitates small groups of public school teachers who are attempting to reconnect with the core values that brought them into the profession. It is a program that brings new meaning to the life of the teacher. This program is currently being applied in other professions as well.

∑ Emotional Intelligence and Social and Emotional Learning – Dave helped build the field of social and emotional learning in primary and secondary education in the United States. He is on the leadership team of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), an organization that sponsors research and practice in teaching and social and emotional skills to children. He co-edited the book, Emotional Development and Emotional Intelligence: Educational Implications.

Prior to his work at the Fetzer Institute, Dave worked in several capacities at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He taught in the psychology department and in the holistic health care program, and he founded and directed a rehabilitation and research program for severely and profoundly mentally retarded adults. Dave was a senior consultant in applied behavioral analysis with the Michigan Department of Mental Health. He worked with the staff of several psychiatric hospitals in Michigan, and with patients who exhibited severe behavior disorders, including violent behavior and self-abusive behavior. His specialty was the application of learning theory to these difficult behavior problems.

Prior to working at the university, he held a number of executive level positions in mental health clinics and institutions in Southwest Michigan. He has been on the executive board of numerous professional and nonprofit organizations, including the Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists, the American Association on Mental Retardation, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), and the Phoenix Society.

Dave received his doctorate in counseling psychology from Western Michigan University.

Bro. David Steindl-Rast, OSB
Hermitage
U.S.A.

DAVID STEINDL-RAST was born July 12, 1926, in Vienna, Austria. He studied art, anthropology, and psychology, receiving an MA from the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts and a PhD from the University of Vienna. In 1953 he joined the Benedictine monastery in Elmira, NY, of which he is now a senior member. In 1958/59 Brother David was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Cornell University, where he also became the first Roman Catholic to hold the Thorpe Lectureship, following Bishop J.D.R. Robinson and Paul Tillich. After twelve years of monastic training and studies in philosophy and theology, Brother David was sent by his abbot to participate in Buddhist-Christian dialogue, for which he received Vatican approval in 1967. He co-founded the Center for Spiritual Studies in 1968 and received the 1975 Martin Buber Award for his achievements in building bridges between religious traditions. Together with Thomas Merton, Brother David helped launch a renewal of religious life.

For decades, Brother David divided his time between periods of hermit's life and extensive lecture tours on five continents. His wide spectrum of audiences has included starving students in Zaire and faculty at Harvard and Columbia Universities, Buddhist monks and Sufi retreatants, missionaries on Polynesian islands and gatherings at the United Nations, Green Berets and participants at international peace conferences.
He has written for a wide range of books and periodicals, from the Encyclopedia Americana and The New Catholic Encyclopedia, to the New Age Journal and Parabola Magazine, and has contributed chapters or

interviews to well over 30 books. His books have been translated into many languages. He co-authored with physicist Fritjof Capra Belonging to the Universe, a dialogue on new paradigm thinking in science and theology (American Book Award 1992).

At present, Brother David serves a worldwide Network for Grateful Living, through www.gratefulness.org, an interactive website with several thousand participants daily from 226 countries.

Bro. Wayne Teasdale
Co-director, Synthesis Dialogues
U.S.A.

Wayne Teasdale, Ph.D.: Brother in Sannyasa tradition; adjunct faculty at Catholic Theological Union and Columbia College; formulated with the Dalai Lama the Universal Declaration on Nonviolence; Board of Trustees, Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions; author of numerous books and articles including his latest books--The Mystic Heart, and A Monk in the World.

William Ury
International Negotiation Network
U.S.A.

William L. Ury co-founded Harvard's Program on Negotiation where he currently directs the Global Negotiation Project. He is co-author (with Roger Fisher) of Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In, a five-million-copy bestseller translated into over twenty languages. "No other book in the field comes close to its impact on the way practitioners, teachers, researchers, and the public approach negotiation," comments the National Institute on Dispute Resolution. Ury is also author of the award-winning Getting Past No: Negotiating with Difficult People and Getting To Peace (released in paperback under the title The Third Side.)

Over the past twenty-five years, Ury has served as a negotiation adviser and mediator in conflicts ranging from wildcat strikes in a Kentucky coal mine to corporate restructurings to ethnic wars in the Middle East, the Balkans, and the former Soviet Union. With former president Jimmy Carter, he co-founded the International Negotiation Network, a non-governmental body seeking to end civil wars around the world. Most recently, Ury has served as a third party in a civil war in Indonesia and in a bitter political struggle in Venezuela.

Ury is also co-founder of the e-Parliament Initiative, which is intended to link together the 25,000 elected parliamentarians around the world (together with representatives of civil society) in an Internet-based forum to address global problems such as AIDS, children's rights, and war.

Ury is the recipient of the Whitney North Seymour Award from the American Arbitration Association and the Distinguished Service Medal from the Russian Parliament.

Trained as a social anthropologist, Ury has a B.A. from Yale and a Ph.D. from Harvard.

ON. Walter Ventroni
Sindaco della Citta di Roma
Italy

Mayor of Rome, acclaimed for work he is doing in the field of promoting peace, inter- ethnic relationship, and giving voice to minorities; strong supporter of cultural events and the arts. He has declared Rome "City of Peace". Each year, he invites dozens of Mayors from some of the most important capitals in the world for a joint effort in building ties and promoting common programs for peace.

Venerable Dr. Yifa
Hsi Lai University
U.S.A.

Ph.D. in Religion, Yale University, 1996; Religious Studies, University of the West, USA.
Venerable Yifa has been a nun at Fo Guang Shan Monastery in Taiwan since 1979. She received her Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale University in 1996 and an award the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in Taiwan in 1997. She has been an administrator at Fo Guang Shan Buddhist College and at Hsi Lai University, Rosemead, California, a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley, and a faculty member at National Sun Yat-Sen University. Now she acts as the vice president of Deer Park Foundation in New York.

For these years Yifa has been engaged in interfaith dialogues, some of occasions are supported by UNESCO; and was a contributor to "Safe Motherhood Project" by UNICEF in South Asia Office. Yifa is a frequent guest lecturer on diverse subjects, including Chinese Buddhist philosophy, thanatology and ethics. Her current research focuses on Women in Buddhism. Her book on monastic rules and institutions, *The Origin of Buddhist Monastic Codes in China*, is soon be published by Hawaii University Press. Her own website: http://www.yifa.ws

Ven. Dhyani Ywahoo
Sunray Meditation Society
U.S.A.

Venerable Dhyani Ywahoo, is founder Sunray Meditation Society, Chief Green Mountain Ani Yunwiwa, parent, grandparent, author, musician and spiritual advisor.

Sunray is an international society of like-minded beings dedicated to cooperative action to support the potential of wisdom and peacemaking in all beings. Sunray is composed of three schools; Buddhist studies, Cherokee Philosophy and Healing Methods of Indigenous peoples.

The Ani Yunwiwa is a Cherokee band composed of relatives who have relocated to the Green Mountains of Vermont, as instructed by our elders, to offer prayers into the headwaters, as earlier ancestors have done, to return appreciation to the waters of life and to energize the seed of lucid awareness in all those who drink from these waters. Water being a means of transmitting information, it may carry our prayers for all beings to live with mutual respect.

Author of 'Voices of Our Ancestors' 'Wisdom from the Cherokee Fire',
Shamballah, Boston, 1986.
'One Taste' "One Truth Behind All Appearances", Thesus Varolg, Munich2004.
'Love Letters from the Heart of the Sky', Ywahoo and Starry Puddle Publishing, Los Angeles,2004.

Author and designer of Peacekeeper Training Program, 1983-1996, based upon the teachings of the' 'Luminous One', an awakened being born among the Cherokee and his later rebirth among the Huron people, then known as the Peacemaker.

The Peacekeeper Training program is a seven-year program offering clear instruction on reconciling the appearance of difference to the realization of innate luminosity (Orinida), and that all beings are our relatives in the dance of life's appearances and reveals clear methods of reconcilation.

Through this carefully constructed curriculum, inspired by Cherokee and Huron teachers, individuals observe and repair their original relationship with awakened mind within and trace the roots of relationship with family, clan &(coworkers) nation, planetary and cosmic relationship and perceive the appearances of an individual as inseparable from a vast sphere of potential. This awakened potential permeates all appearances and is know as Nuwati.

This original curriculum has become model utilized by many schools and organizations worldwide.