



The Edinburgh International
Middle Eastern Spirituality
and Peace Festival 2011
MESP 2011

4/03 – 17/03 2011

Main Events

10/02 - 21/02 2011

Middle Eastern
Film Festival

22/02 - 3/03 2011

Pre Events

16/01 - 26/03 2011

Exhibitions and Displays

www.mesp.org.uk



EICSP Website: www.eicsp.org

BEGINNINGS OF THE EICSP

The EICSP was founded in December 2007 to provide educational opportunities and an international forum for understanding, experiencing, and participating in the rich diversity of the world's spiritual traditions. The EICSP continues the spiritual work previously undertaken by the former Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS, 1995-2008. For details of some of the past activities undertaken by the former EICWS see www.eicws.org.

AIM

The EICSP is an events-led Scottish Charity, SC038996, that works with the world's spiritual traditions, both in Scotland and internationally, seeking understandings of the nature of spirituality, and of interspirituality and intraspirituality, in its diversity. The EICSP advances education of the public in Scotland, and elsewhere, concerning spirituality, culture and peace.

MEANS

The activities of EICSP are educational in nature, ranging from international conferences, talks, dialogues, cultural and spiritual forums, retreats, workshops, spiritual practice events, deepening of spirituality events, open space events, networking and social gatherings, exhibitions and displays, book launches, education processes, school visits, visits to places of spiritual significance locally, training sessions, times for reflection, media engagements, hospitality events, service events, community and library hosted events, arts and cultural events - including film, theatre, music, dance and movement, storytelling, poetry, visual arts, photography, printmaking, calligraphy, crafts, among others, as well as participation in national and international events of a spiritual nature.

EXPLORING WORLD SPIRITUALITIES

There is increasing awareness of the potential contribution of the world's spiritual traditions to wider society, and the need for dialogue, shared understanding, and cooperation between these traditions. Scotland has a distinctive role in meeting this global challenge. In response to this challenge the EICSP has initiated a series of events which will illustrate the potential contribution of the world's spiritual traditions to wider society and to the critical issues in contemporary culture and society. The EICSP will also engage with secular forms of spirituality, and with critical issues arising in secular society.

SOME SPECIFIC INITIATIVES OF THE EICSP

- Annual Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP.
- Visits to Scotland by globally important spiritual leaders.
- EICSP participation in initiatives to attract national and international spiritual events to Scotland.
- EICSP participation in national and international spiritual events.
- EICSP working in consultation and collaboration.

COLLABORATING WITH AND SUPPORTING THE EICSP

If you would like to propose any specific events that the EICSP might organise and host, or if you would like to explore possible collaboration with the EICSP, or if you would like to sponsor activities of the EICSP, then please feel free to be in contact.

The Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996.

Contact: Neill Walker, Co-Founder, Co-Director and Executive Secretary.
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The 2011 Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

Festival Introduction and Welcome

From Friday 4 March - Thursday 17 March 2011 the 8th Annual Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP 2011, will bring together people from a wide range of spiritual backgrounds, people working with peace, conflict, reconciliation and justice, educators, teachers, scholars and students, people from artistic and cultural backgrounds, people working with health, well-being and healing experiences and concerns, people from diverse cultures, traditions and communities, and people from across Scotland and internationally. More generally, everyone participates in an individual and non-representative capacity, to allow people to draw upon their own experiences and to share their unique visions and perspectives, and people of all backgrounds who respect the Festival ethos are warmly invited to participate in this spiritual, educational, artistic and cultural and international festival which celebrates peace and mutual understanding. There will also be pre events in the weeks before, including a Middle Eastern Film Festival, and exhibitions and displays, and some may want to participate in some events in a CPD capacity.

Festival Organisation

The Festival is jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, supported by their networking, planning, management and coordinating role. The Festival was co-founded by, and is co-directed by, Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Festival Planning Team Biographies

Neil Douglas-Klotz: "Having been involved with the peace and citizen diplomacy movements of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, I have long been interested in the psychological and spiritual dimensions of human behaviour. In addition, my longtime interest in Middle Eastern language and religion alerted me that there are many different ways people determine and act upon what they feel is "right" or "moral." MESP began for me as an inquiry into the questions: "What does the "Middle East" have to teach us about our own inner "Middle East," the voices of potential conflict and congruence in our individual and social life? And how can we help provide a meeting place for these voices, inner and outer, to progress towards a more sustainable world?"

Fateah Alice Saunders: My desire for peace had its roots in early childhood, when the environment surrounding me was



rarely truly peaceful. The desire remained latent until I met the Dances of Universal Peace (DUP) in 1986 and I was immediately impressed by their effect on myself and other dancers, producing a degree of openness and acceptance new to me. From then on I became deeply connected with the UK and International DUP Networks. Ill-health curtailed my activities for some years, but a move to Edinburgh in 1999 brought immediate involvement in three things to do with peace: teaching DUP at various venues in Scotland; membership of the World Peace Prayer Society near Dumfries; Trustee membership of Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities (EICWS) which later evolved into the EICSP, and hence commitment to planning and taking part in the MESP each year.

Neill Walker: The Principal Founder and Director of the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities, EICWS (<http://www.eicws.org/>), 1995-2008; the Co-Founder and the Co-Director of the annual, Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP (<http://www.mesp.org.uk/>), 2004-Present; the Co-Founder and Executive Secretary of the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996 (<http://www.eicsp.org/>), 2007-Present.

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 and in-kind support towards the Festival in general has come from Creative Scotland, Goethe-Institut Glasgow, Italian Cultural Institute, Screen Academy Scotland, Kalliopeia Foundation, Pump House Trust, Shalem Institute, UK Network for the Dances of Universal Peace, Cairn Hotel, the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL. Support for individual events is listed beside the event itself.

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

Media Partners

We are grateful to have Coracle as Media Partner.

Thematic Strands

In MESP 2011 twelve thematic strands to the Festival will be explicit, to allow a range of entry routes into the Festival, and to allow a range of participation identities, namely:

***Spirituality,
Interspirituality and Intraspirituality***

***Peace, Conflict,
Reconciliation and Justice***

Education and Learning

Arts and Culture

Health, Well-being and Healing

Equality, Diversity and Communities

***Environmental Responsibility
and Climate Change***

***Engagement with
Science and Medicine***

***Engagement with
Communication Media***

***Engagement with
Business and Industry***

***Engagement with Government,
Parliament, NGOs, NPOs and Civic Society***

***Celebrating Scotland,
the UK and the Middle East***

Festival Ethos

The Festival positively affirms the diversity contained within the spiritual, educational, artistic and cultural, ethnic, national and international traditions of Scotland and the Middle East. The Festival avoids taking fixed positions on political, ethical or cultural questions, and allows for challenging and evaluative perspectives as well as affirmative and celebratory opportunities. We intend to create a forum in which we can listen to one another deeply and learn with an open mind and heart.

The Festival brings together at least three different kinds of presentations. First, we hope to learn from each other about our shared traditions, as well as those that form the unique voice of any one of us. Second, we will hear from those who have been active in peacemaking on a spiritual and secular basis on the ground in the Middle East. Third, we invite participants to share in the musical and spiritual practice presented, in order to gain an experiential view of the traditions that we discuss.

One of the Festival's overriding aims is to contribute to peace and mutual understanding through dialogue, spiritual and artistic practice, and improved mutual understanding among the spiritual, secular and cultural traditions that have arisen in what is now known as the Middle East, and more generally among those who have found a home in Scotland and the UK. Accordingly, the Festival seeks to engage a progressively wider and more diverse range of participants who have been active in spiritual, secular and artistic and cultural approaches to non-violent conflict resolution and world peace. No speaker represents, or can represent, the totality of any tradition, and indeed, experiential, evaluative and visionary perspectives are particularly welcome.

Festival participants are invited to shape their own experience during the Festival, and to take personal responsibility for participating as peacemakers and community builders. In particular, participants are invited to take personal responsibility for processing any conflicts or obstacles to peace that they experience, and for self-evaluating their own participation as peacemakers and community builders for the benefit of their wider life experience.

Conflict and obstacles to peace are of central importance in the lives of peacemakers and community builders. They hold seeds for our spiritual, personal

ARTS DIVERSITY WELL-BEING PEACE SPIRITUALITY EDUCATION HEALTH

and creative development and can provide energy to sustain such development. The Festival provides many opportunities to engage spiritually, creatively and non-violently with conflict and obstacles to peace in supportive and non-judgmental environments, allowing participants the opportunity to transform conflicts and obstacles to peace into new perspectives, insights and actions.

The Festival is managed as a charitable event for wide public benefit, and all events in the Festival should reflect, and all participants in the Festival should respect, the Festival Equal Opportunities Policy.

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. If you are travelling from any significant distance to a Festival event, then it is important to confirm the final arrangements close to the date of the event.

The opinions expressed by all speakers at the Festival are their own individual views and should not be identified with those of the Festival organizers or sponsors or with those of any particular spiritual organization, tradition or community. One of the primary principles of the Festival is that all mystical

and prophetic voices for non-violence and peace should be allowed a hearing, without censorship or prior vetting.

Liability

Neither the EICSP nor the EIAL, or MESP presenters, volunteers, hosting venues or sponsors are liable for injury, damage or loss arising from your travel to and from an MESP event or during your participation in any MESP event. Travel and medical insurance are recommended for those visiting MESP from abroad, and is the sole responsibility of participants in MESP.

Festival Directors:

Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Festival Contact Information

Edinburgh International Centre
for Spirituality and Peace,

EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996.
4 William Black Place, South Queensferry,
Edinburgh, EH30 9PZ. Scotland.

T : +44 (0) 131 331 4469

E : mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk

W : www.eicsp.org

Festival Website: www.mesp.org.uk

Please check the Festival website for any updates and changes to the advertised programme, for more detailed background information, for downloading workshop registration forms as well as the Festival Brochure and Poster, for online booking, and for the MESP email list sign up.



Festival Booking Offer and Passes

For events in Edinburgh in the Festival Brochure between Friday 4 March - Thursday 17 March 2011 inclusive: write a note of the Festival Booking Offer or Pass that you wish to purchase, with your name, address and email. Once we receive your cheque and note, then your Festival Booking Offer or Pass will be emailed to you.

The following Festival Booking Offer and Passes are available for MESP 2011, during the dates Friday 4 March - Thursday 17 March 2011 inclusive, for MESP events in Edinburgh included in the Festival Brochure:

NB: these offers do not include the 2-day retreat on 5-6/3/2011, or the day workshops on 15/3/2011 or on 17/3/2011.

One weekend pass, 12-13/3/2011: £40/£30 (Concessions).

Two week pass: £200/£150 (Concessions).

One week pass: £130/£100 (Concessions).

Attend 5 or more workshops, get one free.

Concessions:

Concessions are available to Senior Citizens, the Unwaged, Students and the Disabled. In the case of those who are visually impaired and those in wheelchairs, the concession is extended to one escort. Please inform us of any special needs well in advance.

Festival Event Booking and Booking Offers and Passes

Online: www.mesp.org.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 131 331 4469

Email: mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk

Events can be booked online, using Paypal, and workshop registration forms or a Festival Brochure or Poster can be downloaded through www.mesp.org.uk. You can also email or phone to receive event information, workshop registration forms or a Festival Brochure or Poster.

In Memory of Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari

A man of peace and a Sufi, whose family lived in the Old City of Jerusalem for 400 years.

MESP 2011 Main Events

Friday 4 March – Thursday 17 March 2011

Friday 4 March 2011

Day Workshop: *Old Stories/New Stories: Transformational Storytelling for Peace and Well-Being*

Facilitator: Michael Williams, Ph.D..

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.



DR MICHAEL WILLIAMS

During my time working in Israel and Palestine last year, I heard many stories of fear, anger and revenge leading to violence, imprisonment, injury and death. Such stories get repeated and often go unchallenged, becoming embedded in the tellers' personal and cultural history and belief systems. They become the 'scripts' by which we choose to act. They harden into the stories we tell ourselves and others about who we are and why things have happened to us. The challenge, I believe, is to revisit these stories, their meanings and their emotions, to explore alternative tellings, to empower

their tellers with 're-authoring' their scripts, to renew and revise their meanings and, where necessary, discover other more peaceful and healthy possibilities. The 'truth' of one's experience lies not in any one story, but rather between the various versions which could be told.

This workshop invites participants to work with a story from their life experience which they would like to re-examine with a view to exploring alternative versions. Through storytelling, listening, dialogue, artwork, and role-play, participants will engage in the process of re-authoring one's own stories. Old stories are made new, tellers are empowered and transformed.

Transformational storytelling draws on my experience as a storyteller, peace educator and counsellor. It is informed and inspired by the work of Paula Underwood, Richard Stone, Nancy Mellon and Alida Gersie, among others. Although I work with a therapeutic intention, participants must take responsibility for their own well-being. This workshop should not be viewed as a substitute for professional therapy or counselling. If in doubt, please feel free to consult with me before registering.

Michael Williams, Ph.D., is a storyteller and education consultant based in Edinburgh, Scotland. He has worked with adults, young people and children for more than 30 years as a qualified social worker, teacher and therapeutic storyteller and workshop facilitator. He has recently completed a tour of the Holy Land working with Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis as part of the international 'Healing Words' storytelling group from Emerson College.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Evening Workshop: *The Personal God: Devotional Mysticism from Sumer*

Facilitator: **Dr Geo Athena Trevarthen.**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 5pm-5.30pm. Workshop: 5.30pm-9.30pm.

Sumerian tradition describes each person's Shamanistic relationship to their personal God, their theophany, a manifestation of the Sacred with which they share a deep, passionate, devotional connection. This relationship existed along with the individual's worship of other theophanies, such as Enlil and Inanna. Similar kinds of devotional relationships can be found between Christian



DR GEO ATHENA TREVARTHEN

mystics and Christ or the Blessed Mother, Hindu devotees of the Bhakti tradition and Lord Krishna, and between the magician and Holy Guardian Angel of medieval and modern ritual magic. In this workshop, Geo will share stories, chants and meditative practices that can help us understand and develop a profound relationship with our personal theophany.

Dr Geo Athena Trevarthen is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. She was raised in a hereditary Shamanic tradition and works with individuals and groups

by phone, internet and in person as a spiritual mentor. A poem about her devotional relationship to the Sumerian theophany, Enlil, features in *Datura*, a book of magical and devotional poetry recently published by Scarlet Imprint (www.scarletimprint.com). She is the author of *The Seeker's Guide to Harry Potter*, exploring the novels' deeper layers of spiritual meaning. She recently wrote and presented the documentary of the same title by Reality Films (available on amazon.com) and features prominently in *This Sacred Earth: the 2012 Phenomenon* (<http://www.thissacredearth.tv>).

Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Two-Day Retreat: Cultivating the Inner Life - Harmony with the Outer Life: Growing the seeds of Motivation, Clarity, Strength, Compassion and Ease



PIR SHABDA KAHN

Facilitator: **Pir Shabda Kahn.**

Venue: Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

Dates: Saturday 5 March - Sunday 6 March 2011.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Retreat Days: 10am-4.30pm.

Join master musician and renowned Sufi teacher Pir Shabda Kahn for a powerful journey into the Way of the Heart: This beautiful retreat will offer the opportunity to discover or deepen your experiences of the profound teachings and practices of mysticism, helping to bring beauty and peace into the world we live in. Join us as we offer an experiential exploration of our attunement to our life through the Dances of Universal Peace, Sufi practices, teachings, stories, the Walking Mediations of Murshid Samuel Lewis, and Zikr. All welcome!!

Pir Shabda Kahn received his initial training in the lineage of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan beginning in 1969, where he was a disciple of Murshid Samuel Lewis. His teachings are informed by this chain of transmission reaching back though to the 12th century. Shabda is currently the Pir (spiritual director) of the Sufi Ruhaniat International and the director of the Chisti Sabri School of Music. He worked closely with the great American Mystic Joe Miller. He is also a disciple of the illustrious Tibetan Buddhist Master, the 12th Tai Situpa Rinpoche. Shabda spent 24 years developing as a vocalist under the living guidance of the late Pandit Pran Nath, the Master North Indian Classical Vocalist. Shabda brings warmth, humour, and clarity to his efforts to help seekers on their own personal Path to Awakening.

Cost: £125 (both days), £65 (per day). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Evening Workshop: Chanting in Daily Life as a Pathway to Peace

Facilitator: **Madhuram**, Scottish Association of Yoga in Daily Life.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 6pm-6.30pm. Workshop: 6.30pm-9.30pm.

Participants in this practical and experiential workshop will learn about and experience the positive effects of chanting (bhajans and kirtan) on the body, mind and emotions, and they should then be able to apply this knowledge in their daily lives to reduce stress and anxiety, and to awaken and purify positive human qualities such as humility, understanding, universal



love, contentment and peace, regardless of their spiritual background or culture.

This workshop will include chanting together, and there will be handouts on the words of the chants, and no previous experience of chanting is necessary to fully participate in the workshop.

For more information: <http://www.yogaindailylife.org.uk/>

Madhuram has been practising and teaching the traditional system, Yoga in Daily Life (www.yogaindailylife.org), for the past 6 years as a disciple of the system's author, His Holiness Paramhans Swami Maheshwaranandaji (known as Swamiji). Madhuram has been sharing the chants and spiritual songs (bhajans and kirtans) taught to him by his Master with people from diverse cultures and spiritual traditions in Edinburgh, as well as in London, continental Europe and India. His use of mantras, chants, bhajan and kirtan is also an integral part of his own spiritual practice. To hear Yoga in Daily Life Bhajans and Kirtans, please visit www.timeforpeace.org.uk

Cost: £6. For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Sunday 6 March 2011

Two-Day Retreat: Cultivating the Inner Life - Harmony with the Outer Life: Growing the seeds of Motivation, Clarity, Strength, Compassion and Ease

Facilitator: **Pir Shabda Kahn.**

Venue: Gillis Centre,
100 Strathearn Road,
Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

Dates: Saturday 5 March - Sunday 6 March 2011.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am.

Retreat Days: 10am-4.30pm.

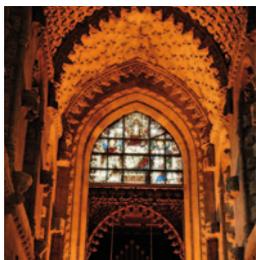
Cost: £125 (both days), £65 (per day).

For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker,
mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk
0131 331 4469.



Praying with the Earth: Chanting for Peace



Venue: Rosslyn Chapel, Chapel Loan, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9PU.
Time: 5pm.

This is a time to pray for peace. And it is especially a time to pray for peace within the household of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar. Praying with the Earth: Chanting for Peace is an evening of meditative chant (based on words from the Quran, the Hebrew Bible, and Words of Jesus) led by **Sounds of the Eternal (soloist Suzanne Adam)** with prayers for peace by **J. Philip Newell**. Just come along on the day.

Cost: Free of Charge. (CDs by Sounds of the Eternal will be available for sale).

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Healing Sounds for the Wandering Dervishes of Turkey: Turkish Mystic Sufi Music, Poetry, Stories and Images with Latif Bolat



LATIF BOLAT / PHOTO:
NEILL WALKER

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 7pm-7.30pm. Event: 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Travelling from the Mediterranean city of Mersin in Turkey, **Latif Bolat** plays Turkish Folk ballads and ecstatic devotional Sufi songs. These are the ritualistic music and poetry of the Anatolian mystics since the 12th Century. From the horrifying years of the Crusaders and Genghis Khan's destruction in the Middle East, through to the present days, people found great comfort in this Sufi culture. Throughout, Latif Bolat will also recite devotional poetry from 13th Century Sufi poets Yunus Emre, Rumi and other ancient poets, and will show images of the Turkish people and sacred places from the land of Anatolia.

One of the most well-known Turkish musicians in the US, his mesmerizing performances draw on ancient texts and employ traditional instrumentation such as the Saz (long necked lute). Now partially residing in New Mexico and Turkey, Latif Bolat has presented his music all across America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Bulgaria, Spain, Turkey, the Philippines, Ireland, England and Scotland. In addition to the workshops, music events and lectures around the world, he has recorded 4 very successful CDs, made many TV and Radio appearances, and composed music for the PBS Documentary "Muhammed: Legacy of a Prophet," and George Lucas's TV series "Young Indiana Jones." He is also the co-author of the compilation book of ancient Turkish Sufi poets entitled "Quarrelling with God: Mystic Rebel Poems of the Dervishes of Turkey." Latif Bolat has recently performed at the Carnegie Hall in NYC and received the Best Collaboration CD Award from the European Union for his work with the Bulgarian Jazz group Lot Lorien. **Latif Bolat Website:** <http://www.latifbolat.com/>

Cost: £10, on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Monday 7 March 2011

**Day Workshop: History of Islam and Sufi Mysticism
since Prophet Muhammed**

Facilitator: **Latif Bolat.**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

In this workshop we'll review the development of Sufi mysticism within the religion of Islam starting from the time of Prophet Muhammed and after. These developments will be taken from historical, spiritual and artistic dimensions. In addition to the history and philosophy of Sufism, we'll concentrate on the artistic expressions of the Sufi mystics for the past 1,000 years, especially from the Turkish perspective. We'll have a journey from the steppes of Central Asia into Anatolia. We'll trace the mystical nature of the pre-Islamic nomadic Turkish people, their Nature worshipping, Shamanistic beliefs, and their effects on the later Sufi Mysticism that was developed among these nomadic people. We'll review the poetry of Yunus Emre, Rumi, Nesimi and many other Bektashi poets. We'll work on the songs of these Wandering Dervishes from the 12th century on. You can expect to go home with a good understanding of the Turkish Mysticism of the past 1,000 years after this workshop. For further details on Latif Bolat see: <http://www.latifbolat.com/>

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Tuesday 8 March 2011

Day Workshop: Instant Peace Lab: Living Your Full Potential Now!

Facilitator: **Lee Gershuny, Ph.D.,**

Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

The purpose of this workshop is to work creatively with conflict as a pathway to peace. You will have an opportunity to discover and practice the most effective ways of giving yourself time and space to choose between escalating a potential conflict or dissolving it before it starts. This experiential workshop provides a variety of interactive exercises enabling you to practice stopping in the midst of

conflict long enough to tap inner sources of creativity, wisdom and playfulness and be peace in an instant. You will also be able to practice seeing things as they are, both inwardly and outwardly, and choosing based on what's most important to you in the moment. Our aim is to discover new insights and actions for living our full potential from moment to moment.

DR LEE GERSHUNY/PHOTO: MARIA FALCONER



The full day session will introduce key principles and tools that enable you to be peace regardless of the personal or collective circumstances that may be disturbing you in the present. For additional practice, please see the weekly series of 3 evening workshops, "Instant Peace Lab: Living Your Full Potential Now," in the MESP 2011 Future Events.

Lee Gershuny, Ph.D., award-winning playwright in both the USA and UK, is also an internationally published poet and founder/Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre Company. She has developed new forms of theatre and facilitated creative development workshops with a diversity of participants in England, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Scotland and the USA including professional artists, youth, older people, primary school children, people with physical and learning difficulties, homeless people, survivors of physical and substance abuse, users of mental health services and refugees.

She is a founding member of the Research Society of Process-Oriented Psychology/UK and has designed and facilitated workshops in creative conflict facilitation in local, national and international festivals and conferences, including the Alternative G8 Summit (Edinburgh, 2005), the SUBUD World Congress (Innsbruck, 2005), the World Youth Congress (Stirling, 2005), Roars, not Whispers (Scottish Youth Parliament Leadership Training, 2008), International Civicus Youth Assembly (Glasgow, 2008), and the MESP from 2004 to the present.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Wednesday 9 March 2011

Day Workshop: Opening the Book of Nature: An Exploration of Celtic and Middle Eastern Mysticism

ALASDAIR TAYLOR



Facilitator: Alasdair Taylor.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 10am-10.30am. Workshop: 10.30am-4pm.

"Every soul born with a mystical tendency is constantly drawn toward Nature, ..., from the moment man's eyes open and he begins to read the book of Nature, he begins to live; and he continues to live forever." *Hazrat Inayat Khan.*

Nature can be seen as a mirror for the human soul, and is as holy to mystics as any sacred text. Through it we can enter into a sense of unity and eternity. We will navigate the landscapes of Celtic mythology and 'folk spirituality,' ably assisted by poetry, tales and teachings from Arabic, Persian, Indian and Turkish traditions, exploring ways in which Nature can lead us from confusion to clarity, from strife to peace, from separateness to unity.

Alasdair Taylor is a Scottish-based storyteller and poet who teaches environmental education and he spent several years living in a tree. His mission is to bring people closer to themselves and each other by getting closer to Nature.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on Iran: Dictatorship or Democracy?

PROF ALI ANSARI



Speaker: Professor Ali Ansari, BA (Lon), PhD (Lon), Professor of Iranian History and Director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St Andrews; Associate Fellow of the Middle East Programme, Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House).

Chair: Dr Andrew J Newman, Reader in Islamic Studies and Persian, Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, the University of Edinburgh.

Forum on Iran: Dictatorship or Democracy?

Forum Panellists: Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, Lecturer in Persian and Film Studies, the University of Edinburgh; **Roxana Pope**

is an Edinburgh based, British Iranian singer, filmmaker and writer; **Prof Dabir Tehrani**, Honorary Professor at Heriot-Watt University since April 1984. His education is in Mathematics (Tehran University) and Petroleum Engineering (Birmingham University, UK). He has had over 50 years of experience in the oil industry (25 years in Iran), during which time his assignments included Petroleum Engineering Manager (Oil Service Company of Iran).

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.

This talk will discuss political developments in Iran since the contested presidential election of 2009 with particular focus on the possible political trajectories within the country and its likely impact on international relations, both within the region and further afield. With Britain and the United States likely to be involved in Afghanistan for the better part of the next decade, Iran is no longer a distant country of little immediate consequence but effectively a political neighbour. Themes that will be addressed in the talk are the possibilities of dictatorship and democracy, the role of religion and social change.

Professor Ali Ansari, author of: *Crisis of Authority: Iran's Presidential election of 2009*, RIIA, London, 2010, pp 129; *Iran Under Ahmadinejad*, Adelphi Paper, IISS, January 2008; *Confronting Iran: the failure of US policy and the roots of mistrust*, Hurst, London, 2006; *Modern Iran since 1921: the Pahlavis and after*, 2nd Edition, Longman, London, 2007; *Iran, Islam and Democracy - The Politics of Managing Change*, 2nd Edition, RIIA, London, 2006.

He is currently working on a book for Cambridge University Press entitled, 'The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran,' and has recently been appointed Editor of the Cambridge History of Iran Vol 8 (The Islamic Republic).

Following the talk by Professor Ali Ansari, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.



Thursday 10 March 2011

Day Workshop: **Creating, Re-creating, Co-creating, Healing:** **A reflective day with the Christian tradition of using the** **words of Jesus and Christian mystics**

Facilitator: **Rev Jenny Williams**, Chaplain, Christian Fellowship of Healing.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

REV JENNY WILLIAMS



Singing, simple movement, silence and sharing will be offered as doorways to deepen reflection bringing prayerful engagement with the whole of our being - body, mind, emotion and spirit.

Teachings of Neil Douglas-Klotz and Matthew Fox will be integrated and their value for healing explored. Led by Jenny Williams, Chaplain to the Christian Fellowship of Healing: www.cfhsotland.org.uk

Jenny Williams has worked for the past 12 years as Chaplain to the Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland). Jenny studied biology, trained in social work and is ordained within the Church of Scotland. She has been deeply influenced by living in communities, the ecumenical Christian community of Taize and Shantivanam, a Christian Ashram in India.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on **From Brokenness** **to Wholeness: The Role of Prisons in Transforming Society**

VERY REV DR ANDREW MCLELLAN

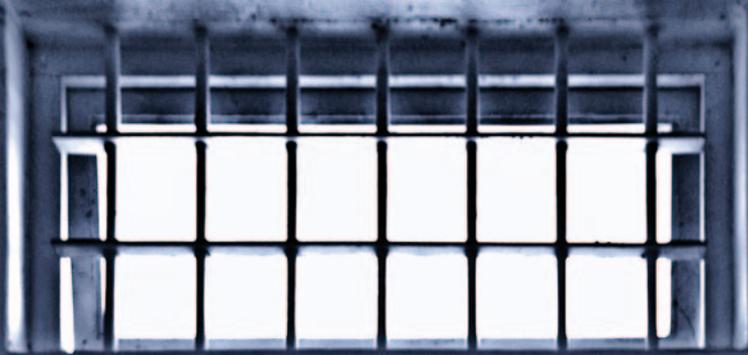


Speaker: **Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan**, was HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland from 2002 until 2009.

Chair: **Richard Sparks**, Prof of Criminology, the University of Edinburgh.

Forum on From Brokenness to Wholeness:
The Role of Prisons in Transforming Society.

Forum Panellists: **Dr Claire McDiarmid**, Senior Lecturer and PGR student leader, The Law School, University of Strathclyde; **Angela Morgan**, CEO of Includem; **Prof Mike Nellis**, Professor of Criminal and Community Justice in the Glasgow School of Social Work, University of Strathclyde.



Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.

The people who get least out of society and who put least into society end up in prison. Once there they put nothing into society and take a great deal out of society. That is not good for them and it is not good for society.

If prisons are to play a role in transforming society we need to answer “yes” to these questions: *Do we want our prisons to be decent? Do we want our prisons to be less full? Do we want our prisons to equip people for leaving prison? Do we want prisons to be well-funded?*

And we need to answer “no” to these questions:

Do we want prisons to be painful? Do we want prisons to be hopeless?

Do we want prisons to be ignored and misunderstood?

Most of all, we need to answer “yes” to these two questions:

Can prisoners change? Will we be judged by the state of our prisons?

Andrew McLellan was HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland from 2002 until 2009. He is a minister of the Church of Scotland. In 2000 he was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. As a parish minister he lived and worked first in Greenock and then in Stirling. In Greenock he was elected a member of the District Council and served as a university tutor; in Stirling he was a prison chaplain. Then he served as minister of St Andrew’s and St George’s in the centre of Edinburgh for sixteen years. During that time the interest of that congregation was focussed both on working with the city centre business and retail community and on aid for the world’s poor. For four years he was the Convenor of the Church and Nation Committee of the Church of Scotland, which dealt with social and political matters on behalf of the church; and, also for four years, the Convenor of the Parish Development Fund which supported new forms of mission and service. He was appointed Convener of the Church of Scotland’s World Mission Council in 2010. He is the author of two books arising out of his experience as preacher and as Moderator; and he was a Director of Scottish Television and Chairman of the Scottish Advisory Committee on Religious Broadcasting for the BBC. He was awarded the CBE in 2009.

Following the talk by Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Friday 11 March 2011

Day Workshop: Healing and Touch

Facilitator: Rev Prof Stephen G Wright.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

This day workshop will explore several different approaches to healing and well-being using reflection, meditation, dialogue, listening and the use of touch. The session will include some specific contemplative approaches and integrate these with teaching on the use of touch, specifically a concept known as Therapeutic Touch (TT) which seeks to support the health and healing of others and ourselves. During the day there will be ample opportunity to practice and to take time to take care of ourselves for a little while in a peaceful and supportive environment. Many of those involved in caring for others often neglect to get taken care of themselves. The day will be an opportunity to step off the treadmill for a while and experience a gentle time of relaxation and restoration whilst also learning and deepening our capacity to be available to others.



REV PROF STEPHEN G WRIGHT

**Rev Prof Stephen G Wright RN RCNT RNT DipN DANS RPTT MSc
FRCN MBE, University of Cumbria, Carlisle.**

Founding Editor: "Spirituality and Health International"

Chairman: The Sacred Space Foundation.

Reverend Professor Stephen G Wright FRCN MBE, Stephen works as a spiritual director for the Sacred Space Foundation (**see www.sacredspace.org.uk**) helping those in spiritual crisis (including burnout) and guiding spiritual seekers. Before this he had a long and distinguished history in academia and in the British National Health Service, gathering lots of glittering prizes along the way.

He has co-authored two books exploring the nature of healing relationships - "Therapeutic Touch" and "Sacred Space

– right relationship and spirituality in health care" (both co-written with Jean Sayre-Adams). "Reflections on spirituality and health" published in 2005, by Wiley, received outstanding reviews. "Coming Home" was published in 2009, a personal and scholarly account of spiritual awakening rooted in the experience of his work as a spiritual director, for which he received significant training in the presence of several renowned teachers and at the Interfaith Seminary (**www.theinterfaithfoundation.com**). He is an active Trustee of several charities and an Associate Member of the Iona Community. He works with organisations developing the practice of healing, spiritual care, conflict resolution and staff support. He is an ordained interfaith minister and spiritual director and brings a rich experience of spiritual practice from many faiths to his work. His recent published works ("Beloved," "Contemplation," "Song and Dance for the Way Home") include songs, chants, dances, poetry and prose influenced by his primary spiritual practice of the Contemplative Way. He lives in the English Lake District, deepening service and spiritual practice, participating in his local church community, taking care of his organic garden and enjoying grandfatherhood.

Cost: £25/£20 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, **mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk**, 0131 331 4469.

The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on Spiritualities and Psychotherapies - Dr Dale Mathers in conversation with Rev Prof Stephen G Wright

Title: Peace, Buddhism and Analytical Psychology.

Chair: Rev Sandy Young, NHS Lothian's Head of Service for Spiritual Care.

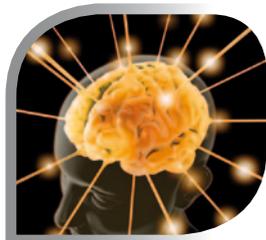
Forum on Spiritualities and Psychotherapies.

Forum Panellists: **Prof Liz Bondi**, Professor of Social Geography at the University of Edinburgh. She is also a counsellor accredited by COSCA (Counselling and Psychotherapy in Scotland); **Dr Eolene Boyd-MacMillan**, Associate Staff (Lecturer, Supervisor, Examiner), The School of Health in Social Science, Department of Counselling and Psychotherapy, the University of Edinburgh; **Dr Gavin Miller**, AHRC/EHRC Research Fellow, The Theology and Therapy Project.

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.

This discussion explores differences between Buddhist and Christian ideas about peace, what it means, where it is located and how it can be attained. Using ideas from the two and a half thousand year old Theravada Buddhist tradition and insights from Jungian analysis, we will be trying to make bridges that can bring more meaning to this timeless problem. Is peace something we have to "do" to make the world a better place? Does it more concern a quality of our inner being? How can we cultivate peace in ourselves and the world in ways that are healthy for both? What do Buddhism, Christianity and Jungian analysis have to say about peace and is there common ground? We will use an interview style format to allow deeper exploration of the issues, which has proved popular and illuminating at previous Festival events. Dale and Stephen will dialogue with each other, mainly prompted by questions and comments from Stephen to allow Dale to share his experience.



Dr Dale Mathers MRCPsych, is a supervisor with the Association of Jungian analysts (AJA), a Member of the International Association of Analytical Psychology (IAAP), and a psychiatrist and humanistic psychotherapist in private practice in South London. He teaches at several analytical psychology schools in the UK and Europe. His book, 'An Introduction to Meaning and Purpose in Analytical Psychology' looks at how people make and fail to make symbols, introducing the idea of 'meaning disorders.' He co-organised the second conference on Buddhism and Psychotherapy in Kyoto, 2006, and edited selected papers as 'Self and No-Self,' published in 2009. He also edited, with AJA colleagues, 'Vision and Supervision: post Jungian perspectives,' (Routledge, 2009). He is a trained 'Social Dreaming' host, and a member of the Theravada class of the Buddhist Society, London.

Following the discussion between Dr Dale Mathers and Rev Prof Stephen G Wright, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Saturday 12 March 2011

Day Workshop: **Health, Well-being and Healing Through Spiritual Dance and Movement**

AUDICIA LYNNE MORLEY



Facilitators: **Margaret Christie** (Circle Dance); **Audicia Lynne Morley** (The Planetary Dance, Earth Run. A community dance of planetary healing); **Fateah Alice Saunders** (New Ways of Walking); and **Linda Wyman** (An Introduction to the Alexander Technique).

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am.

Workshop: 10am-5pm.

FATEAH ALICE SAUNDERS



Join us for a joyful day of sharing spiritual dance and movement for health, well-being, healing and peace. We will all be together throughout the day, building community and celebrating diversity through spiritual dance and movement.

9.30am-10am: Arrival and Registration.

10am-11.20am: An Introduction to the Alexander Technique.

A simple and effective way of regaining natural balance and ease of movement improving physical and mental well-being. It is a learning process which teaches you how to best use your body helping you to increased energy and more efficiency in all you do.

LINDA WYMAN



Linda Wyman trained at Fellside Alexander School in Cumbria for three years and did her post graduate term at the Institute for the Research and Development of the Alexander Technique in New York in 1991. She currently teaches in Edinburgh and East Lothian. www.lindawyman.co.uk

11.20am-11.40am: Break.

11.40am-1pm: The Planetary Dance, Earth Run. A community dance of planetary healing.

The planetary dance is an annual all-day ritual of healing and community renewal which has now been celebrated/performed for over 30 years around the world. Originally this dance was conceived by Anna Halprin and community as a call to enact a 'positive myth in dance' in order to reclaim the safety of the mountain on which they lived. At the heart of this dance is the 'Earth Run' – a simple dance that everyone can participate in through running, walking or standing and creating a moving mandala to the steady heartbeat of drums. Each step upon the ground/earth becomes a prayer for healing. 2010 marks Anna's 90th birthday and the 30th anniversary of this powerful dance ritual. All are welcome. No experience necessary, just a willingness to participate with intention for the benefit of our planet.



1pm-2pm: Lunch.

2pm-3.20pm: Circle Dance with Margaret Christie.

Moving and being still in harmony with others: circle dance.

Circle dance has roots in traditional social dance from many different cultures, and can foster a consciousness of peace and wholeness.

The dances will be taught at an easy pace, suitable for all, and will be accompanied by **Peter Bolland** on accordion.

Margaret Christie's circle dance teachers include Anna Barton, Ian Buckley and Peter Vallance. She likes to adapt dances for occasions and to integrate circle dance into ceilidh culture. She is a passionate advocate of live music for dancing.

3.20pm-3.40pm: Break.

3.40pm-5pm: Fateah Alice Saunders: New Ways of Walking.

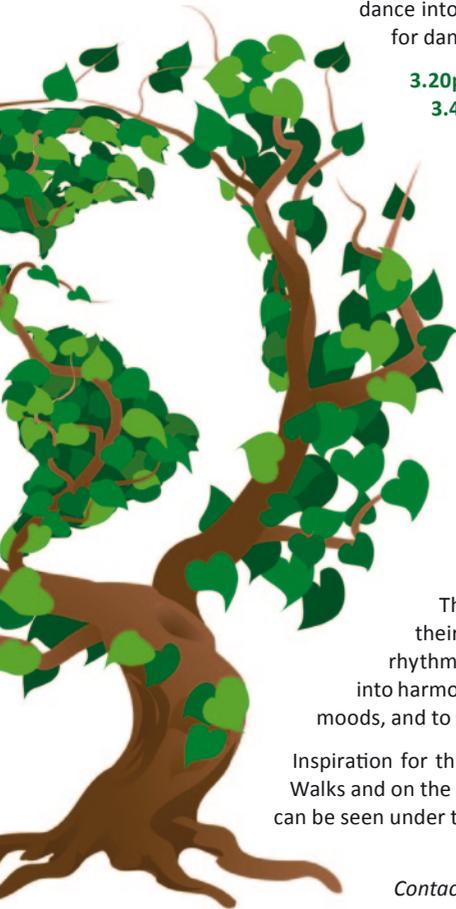
Once the art of walking is mastered, unless we are incapacitated through accident or illness, we rarely think about the way our legs and feet move us from place to place. Through the centuries we have used our own legs and those of others to transport us, moving swiftly, purposefully, striving to reach our destination in as short a time as possible. Today the use of wheels, rails, boats and wings enables us to proceed faster and even faster. Yet taking time and slowing the pace of our own natural locomotion can bring great benefits.

Walking is used meditatively, or prayerfully, in many spiritual traditions. Pilgrimages are undertaken, labyrinths traversed, and circumambulations of holy places performed annually. But spiritual walking can be done by anyone – at any place, any time.

This session will help each person to become more aware of their own walking and to use it creatively - to gain a sense of rhythm both in walking and breathing, so that the two are brought into harmony in ways that can help us change our internal feelings and moods, and to be more present for others.

Inspiration for this session comes from Murshid Samuel L Lewis's Spiritual Walks and on the Mindfulness Walks of Thich Nhat Hanh. Fateah's biography can be seen under the 16th March event.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:
Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.



The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on State of Power in the Modern Middle East

Speaker: **Prof Anoush Ehteshami**, PhD, AcSS, FRSA, Professor of International Relations, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University.

Chair: **Professor Marilyn Booth**, Iraq Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies, the University of Edinburgh.

Forum on State of Power in the Modern Middle East.

Forum Panellists: **Dr Anthony Gorman**, Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History, the University of Edinburgh; **Dr Ewan Stein**, Research Fellow at the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, the University of Edinburgh.

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.

The Middle East is a highly dynamic region in which power lines are fluid and inter-state and social relationships rather complex. The often contradictory appearance of regional relationships could be better understood, however, if one adopted a multi-dimensional approach. For this to happen we will need to incorporate into our analysis a series of perspectives that shed light on the many aspects of power in this volatile regional system – the most obvious of these being the relationships that define the region's brute power politics, economic distribution of power, political legitimacy, identity politics, external partnerships, role of non-state actors, and relationship with globalization.



PROF ANOUSH EHTESHAMI

Professor Anoush Ehteshami is Dean of Internationalisation at Durham University and also Professor of International Relations in the School of Government and International Affairs. He was the founding Head of the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University (2004-9) and is Joint-Director of the ESRC-funded Durham-Edinburgh-Manchester Universities' £5.2 million Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW), 2007-2011. He is a Fellow of the World Economic Forum, acting as Advisor to the WEF's Geopolitics, and Energy Programmes. He was Vice-President and Chair of Council of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) 2000-2003.

Following the talk by Prof Anoush Ehteshami, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Mindful Peace Walk



Venue: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.
Time: 10am-11am, meet at the John Hope Gateway, Arboretum Place, at 9.30am.

This silent walking meditation is an open event. It will be led by the lay members of the Edinburgh Sangha of the Community of Interbeing, who follow the practice and teachings of Zen Buddhist Master, Thich Nhat Hanh. The walk begins at the John Hope Gateway of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Before the walk begins there will be a brief introduction to mindful walking as meditation practice. This is not a protest or a campaigning event, so please do not use any banners. Children are welcome when accompanied by adults. Please remember to wrap up warmly. 'We walk just for walking. We walk with freedom and solidity, no longer in a hurry. Let us enjoy every step we make.' Thich Nhat Hanh.

Cost: Admission Free. Just come along on the day. For further information:
Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Afternoon Workshop: Sufi Drum Circle: Journey to the Heart

Facilitator: **Nihat Tsoiak**, Director of Caravansary Project.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 3pm-3.15pm. Workshop: 3.15pm-5.45pm.



Sufi frame drumming is an ancient tradition in the art of Eastern spiritual drumming, similar in many ways to other spiritual drumming traditions, such as Shamanic drumming. Sufi Drum Circle aims to build a 'heart connection' through rhythm, and explore the inner space within our heart and within the heart of the group. Through this experience one aims to surrender one's nafs (ego) and attain spiritual freedom and self-exploration. Sufi drumming can be practiced individually and in a group. With the beat of the drum we aim to connect not only to our own inner rhythm, but



also to the universal rhythms around us. Drum beats and heart beats lead us to the boundless universal rhythm and love. Love of yourself, your fellow human being and of the wider world.

Sufi rhythms in 4, 6 and 8 beats will be practiced initially, and then later we will practice some advanced level rhythms of 5, 7 and 9 beats. No prior drumming knowledge or experience is required, just come along and enjoy. Drums will be provided, but please bring your own drum if you have one.

The session is facilitated by **Nihat Tsolak** (pronounced nat). Nihat holds an MA (Sociology) and MPhil (Psychology) from Glasgow University and is the Director of Caravansary Project, www.caravansary.org

Nihat discovered Rumi 15 years ago in Glasgow while studying at Glasgow University. Since then he caught the bug of Rumi, and he has been organising and facilitating concerts, poetry evenings and drum circles for more than ten years. Nihat is interested in experiential drumming, exploring ways of using drums to build a 'heart connection' to oneself, others and to the wider world. Currently he is working on a book on Sufi Drumming and experience.

Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: **Neill Walker**, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on Towards a Civilization of Love

Speaker: **The Rt Rev Brian Smith**, Bishop of Edinburgh.

Chair: **Rev Ewan Aitken**, Council Secretary for the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council which has the remit of facilitating the Church's engagement with social, political and ethical issues. He is ordained in the Church of Scotland. Ewan is also a Labour member and former leader of the City of Edinburgh Council.



THE RT REV BRIAN SMITH

Forum on Towards a Civilization of Love.

Forum Panellists: **Jo Clifford** is one of Scotland's leading playwrights. Author of approximately 80 works for every dramatic medium, her plays include *Every One*, *Faust*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Life is a Dream for the Lyceum and Losing Venice*, *Light in the Village*, and *Inés de Castro* for the Traverse; **Lee Gershuny**, Ph.D., Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre; **Claudia Goncalves**, Co-Founder of the Community Foundation for Planetary Healing and the Edinburgh Shamanic Centre.

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.

The Rt Rev Brian Smith is the 25th Bishop of Edinburgh. He was installed in the Diocese on 23 June 2001. He was elected Bishop of Edinburgh in 2001.

Bishop Brian was born in Edinburgh and attended school and university in that city. He studied theology in Cambridge, focusing on the philosophy of religion. He was ordained deacon in the

Diocese of Oxford in 1972, and held a number of posts in that Diocese, including that of Senior Tutor at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

Following the talk by The Rt Rev Brian Smith, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Monday 14 March 2011

Day Workshop: *Awakening Creativity through Sound: Deep Listening, Presence and Expression*

Facilitator: **Susanne Olbrich.**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.



This workshop is for all, with or without musical training who would like to immerse themselves in sound: touch your own vitality and the mystery of life through sound and silence!

Creativity is our birthright, it is an integral part of being human. Every human life contains its seeds and is constantly manifesting it, whether we are decorating a cake, singing a song, or creating a website. Our own essential nature is a reflection of the boundless creativity of the universe.

You are invited on a creative journey of listening, exploring and inventing music which will be intuitive, non-linear and experiential. Mindfulness helps us to gently bring our attention to the present moment, invoking our inherent capacity for openness, playfulness and non-judgmental awareness.

Hearing sound with the whole body and mind, we understand it intimately. When you and the sound become one, you don't hear the sound, you are the sound. Silence is at the root of everything. By spiraling into its void, the unexpected is allowed to express itself. Letting the music happen to you, you become a conduit in the service of the creative spirit: we are all players, and we are all being played!

There will be a safe space for experimentation – come and try out something new, using your voice, small percussion instruments from all over the world, and whatever sources of sound you bring along!

MESP 2011 Events Calendar

MESP 2011 Main Events 4 March – 17 March 2011

Date	Start Time	Event and Format	Venue
4/3	10am	Transformational Storytelling, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
4/3	5.30pm	Devotional Mysticism from Sumer, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
5/3	10am	Pir Shabda Kahn Retreat, Retreat	Gillis Centre
5/3	6.30pm	Chanting in Daily Life, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
6/3	10am	Pir Shabda Kahn Retreat, Retreat	Gillis Centre
6/3	5pm	Chanting for Peace, Chanting	Rosslyn Chapel
6/3	7.30pm	Turkish Sufi Music with Latif Bolat, Concert	Augustine Church
7/3	10am	Islam and Sufi Mysticism, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
8/3	10am	Instant Peace Lab, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
9/3	10.30am	Celtic/Middle Eastern Mysticism, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
9/3	7pm	Iran: Dictatorship or Democracy? Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
10/3	10am	Creating and Healing, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
10/3	7pm	Prisons in Transforming Society, Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
11/3	10am	Healing and Touch, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
11/3	7pm	Spiritualities and Psychotherapies, Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
12/3	10am	Spiritual Dance and Movement, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
12/3	7pm	Power in the Modern Middle East, Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
13/3	10am	Mindful Peace Walk, Walk	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
13/3	3.15pm	Sufi Drum Circle, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
13/3	7pm	Towards a Civilization of Love, Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
14/3	10am	Awakening Creativity, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
14/3	5.30pm	Listening/Sharing/Playing/Exploration, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
15/3	10am	Native Middle Eastern Spirituality, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
16/3	10am	Peace in the Heart, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
16/3	7.30pm	Persian Sufi Music with Davod Azad, Concert	St John's Church
17/3	10am	Practice of Self-Compassion, Workshop	Quaker Meeting House
17/3	7pm	Desert Wisdom, Talk/Forum	Augustine Church

MESP 2011 Middle Eastern Film Festival 10 February – 21 February 2011

10/2-21/2		Middle Eastern Film Festival, Film	Filmhouse
19/2	10.30am	Turkish Cinema Workshop, Workshop	Augustine Church

MESP 2011 Pre Events 22 February – 3 March 2011

22/2, 1, 8, 15/3	12.15pm	Mindfulness@Lunchtime, Meditation	St Mark's Church
22/2	7.30pm	Sacred Art of Armenia, Lecture	Scotland-Russia Institute
23, 25, 28/2, 2/3	12.30pm	Himalaya Meals, Meal	Himalaya Arts and Crafts
23/2	7pm	Being Transgender is a Gift From God, Film	Augustine Church
24-26/2, 7.30pm	26/2, 3.30pm	Elements World Theatre, Theatre	Scottish Storytelling Centre
24/2	7pm	Servas Peace Meal, Meal	Double Dutch Bistro
25/2	6.30pm	LGBT Film Night: Screening of Unveiled, Film	LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing
25/2	7.15pm	Naqshbandi Sufi Dhikr, Spiritual Practice	Himalaya Arts and Crafts
26-27/2	12.30pm	Exploring the Flora of the Middle East, Workshop	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
26/2	11am	Shabbat Morning Service, Service, visit http://www.eljc.org for venue	
26/2	2pm	Women as Peace Makers, Ceremony	St Cuthbert's Church
26/2	6pm	Palestine 1880-1948; Stories My Grandmother Told Me, Story	Augustine Church
26/2	7pm	LGBT Life in South Africa, Reflection	Augustine Church
27/2	2pm	Langar Community Meal, Meal	Guru Nanak Gurdwara
27/2	8pm	In how many ways can you sing Kaddish? Music	Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
3/3	7.30pm	Hafla with Lorna Gow, Hafla	Jewel and Esk College

MESP 2011 Exhibitions and Displays 16 January – 26 March 2011

16/1-6/2		Group Photography Exhibition	The Filmhouse Café
24/1- 5/2		Painting Exhibition: Haleh Jamali and Maryam Hashemi	Out of the Blue
7/2-26/2		Photography Exhibition: Visitors Welcome	The Filmhouse Café
7/2-26/2		Photography Exhibition: Moroccan Patchwork	The Filmhouse
10/2-26/3		Exhibition: Armenia: The Country and its Language	Scotland-Russia Institute
		Artist Research at MESP 2011 by Déirdre Ní Mhathúna	

MESP 2011 Future Events

8/3, 6, 13 and 20/4	10am 6.30pm	Workshop Series: Instant Peace Lab: Living Your Full Potential Now!"	Quaker Meeting House
6/4	3pm and 7pm	Croak, The King and a Change in the Weather, Theatre	Scottish Storytelling Centre
28-29/5	10am	Two-Day Retreat: A Universe Singing Inside You: Discover the Wisdom of Your Singing Soul with Chloe Goodchild	Gillis Centre
30/9	7pm	World Sufi Concert	Augustine Church
1-2/10	10am	World Sufism Symposium Edinburgh	Gillis Centre

The day will include some simple, gentle movement practices, so please wear comfortable clothes. If you have musical instruments, please bring them along (again: everyone with or without musical training is welcome!).

Susanne Olbrich is a German-born pianist, composer and music teacher who has been living in the Findhorn community for nearly 10 years. She has been offering creative music workshops in Germany and Scotland, collaborating with music schools, adult education providers, community groups and the NHS. Susanne has just released her second album of original music with her band "Marama Trio." Having been classically trained, her work is inspired by jazz, world music and a wide range of influences. As a lay-member of Thich Nhat Hanh's Order of Interbeing she has been studying and practicing Mindfulness for many years. In recent years Susanne has been engaged in artistic and educational projects that combine music and mindfulness, fostering awareness and creative expression. Currently she is part of the initiative "Sustainability Education and Carbon Reduction in Moray Schools," creating Nature themed music with primary school children.
www.myspace.com/susanneolbrich, www.susanneolbrich.webs.com

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Evening Workshop: Listening, Sharing, Playing and Exploration: Life Exercises, Breath Control and Strategies to Cope with Stage Fright on and off Stage - In the Workplace and at Home



CORINNE HARRIS

Facilitator: **Corinne Harris.**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 5pm-5.30pm. Event: 5.30pm-9.30pm.

I have developed what I now call 'Life Exercises' from the vocal and physical preparations I have used and incorporated into my daily practice as performer, singer and musician. At the core of this practice is connection with the self and the group encouraging a shared meditative approach throughout which encourages the clearing of the mind and focussing inward to our core selves and a deep awareness of the breath of life. This can be both energizing and relaxing, encouraging self-awareness, trust and soul connection within the group. Breath awareness and meditative focus when incorporated into daily routine can be used as strategies for coping at times of stress and heartache.

Corinne Harris has been involved in theatre for thirty years as an actor, director and musician. Her belief in the transformative potential of theatre as an art form and platform for life changing possibility has led her to exploring the theatre of possibility both on and off stage.

She received an MA from RADA and King's College, London specialising in directing – her primary focus being the practice of Eastern European directors. This led to an interest in the ego and notions of self in performance within ensemble theatre practice and she is now doing PhD research around the work and practice of Joseph Chaikin who directed The Open Theater – one of the most innovative, experimental ensemble companies in the sixties and early seventies, The Open Theatre.

Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Tuesday 15 March 2011

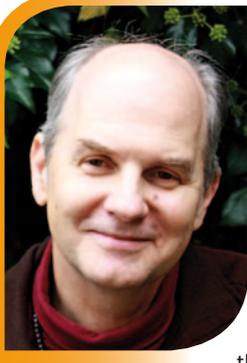
Day Workshop: A Day with Desert Wisdom: Native Middle Eastern Spirituality and Life's Big Questions

Facilitator: **Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti).**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

DR NEIL DOUGLAS-KLOTZ



Meditation, storytelling, poetry, chant, spiritual practice - ranging from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions through to Sufi poets Rumi and Hafiz.

This day with Desert Wisdom will feature the three “big questions” that confront all human beings, and which all ancient indigenous traditions reflect upon:

- Diversity: Why am I here? What is my purpose in life?
- Interiority: Who am I? What is the “self”?
- Communion: How do I relate to other people, Nature and my surroundings? How do I love and how do I die?

The book Desert Wisdom was first published in 1995 and again this year in a new, revised edition. Rather than divide the book by religious or spiritual tradition, it gathers voices from various Middle Eastern eras to comment on the same questions. This creates a chorus in which the unique quality of each voice can be heard. It also sets each voice in its ecological or “home” context: the Middle Eastern environmental region, which generated the worldview in which all the voices are rooted.

Historically, some Middle Eastern voices (and interpretations of them) have been very influential in the development of Western culture. Desert Wisdom attempts to hear and experience all of these storytelling voices together, as they might have been in their “wild” forms. The meditations, chants or “body prayers” we will share are typical of Native Middle Eastern spirituality and intend to help us explore the themes or questions offered. The body prayers use elements common to all human beings: breathing, internal sound, visualization, body awareness and simple group movement. So no prior experience, other than breathing, is required.

Cost: £50/£40 (Concessions). Bursaries are available. For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Day Workshop: **Peace in the Heart: Joining Heart to Heart in Empathy**

FATEAH ALICE SAUNDERS



Facilitator: Fateah Alice Saunders.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

Peace begins in the heart. Finding peace within our own heart enables us to greet others in peace, to remain centred and peaceful when others are not, to act from the peaceful core of our being, to walk with peaceful steps and to breathe peace into our surroundings, our community.

This day will be devoted to chanting sacred words from the three main Middle East Spiritual traditions, together with simple dance movements alternating with meditation. Many people find that this combination of sound, movement and silence brings a deep sense of internal peace, and a feeling of harmony within the group. Once experienced, this can provide an internal resource to help us meet the demands of everyday life.



Fateah Alice Saunders has been an international teacher/mentor of Dances of Universal Peace (DUP) for many years and is also a Sufi guide/teacher for the Sufi Ruhaniat International. She met the Dances of Universal Peace in 1986, became a recognised teacher in 1995 and was involved for 12 years in committee work for both the UK and International Networks for the DUP. She moved to Edinburgh in 1999 and has introduced DUP at many venues in Scotland: Edinburgh, Dundee, Perth, Dumfries, Glasgow and the Island of Shapinsay, Orkneys.

Fateah's inspiration for this day comes from Murshid Samuel L Lewis, American founder of the Dances of Universal Peace, who tirelessly worked for peace between nations during the 1950s and 1960s - from her spiritual guide and teacher, Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, with whom she visited Palestine in 2001 - from her work with the Dances of Universal Peace in other countries, notably the Czech Rep for the last 7 years - and from her ongoing involvement with the MESP, from its birth in 2003 up until now.

The day will be supported by guitar music from **Chris Granger**.

"Words are not peace. Thoughts are not peace. Plans are not peace. Peace is fundamental to all faiths, all religions, all spirituality." (*Murshid Samuel L Lewis, 1896 - 1971*)

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Concert: Sublime Persian Sufi Music with Davod Azad: Mystical and Devotional words of great Sufi Masters of the past accompanied by Iranian classical modal music

DAVOD AZAD



The music will be performed with Iranian ancient string instruments: Oud (Barbat), Tanbur and Daf (Percussion).

Venue: St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ.

Time: Registration: 7pm-7.30pm.

Event: 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Davod Azad is an accomplished Vocalist, Composer, Instrumentalist Musician originally from Iran. His musical source is from the classical Iranian modal system (Dastgah) and the Tradition (regional) Maqam musical form. The spiritual music that Davod plays is based on the actual music that is played live at Sufi gatherings at Iranian Sufi houses worldwide.

His music brings the ecstatic joy that is experienced by Sufi's and all spiritual seekers on stage! His music speaks the universal language of Love and Unity for all mankind.

In this way, during his performances, he becomes a channel to convey this message to all people present that

Humanity is One, and as a result it creates harmony to all people regardless of their background and ethnicity.

Davod Azad is also involved in musical collaborative works with Western as well as Eastern musicians and his latest work is Sufi music with Blues music. In a Sufi path, it is believed that a true seeker must live in harmony with all people in whichever society he/she is living in. Therefore, Davod is always seeking to work with new talents and other musical forms. This makes Davod's music always refreshingly new and contemporary even though it takes its root from a very ancient civilization!

Davod Azad has performed in Europe, North America, the Caribbean, Australia, India as well as Iran, with over 300 performances worldwide at international festivals such as Istanbul International Music Festival, BBC Proms, Music Village (Sacred Voices), the Sir John Tavener Festival, Folk Festival of Hungary, World in Nord Festival (Norway), and the Art in Action Festival (Oxford).

Davod has also been the first Iranian lecturer invited to Oxford University to lecture about Iranian Music and its forms. His "The Divan of Rumi and Bach" Album was the first Iranian fusion with Western classical music which was also performed at many international venues and radio stations such as Radio Kulture House in Vienna, Austria.

Cost: £10, on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Thursday 17 March 2011

Day Workshop: *The Practice of Self-Compassion* ~ a psycho-spiritual perspective ~

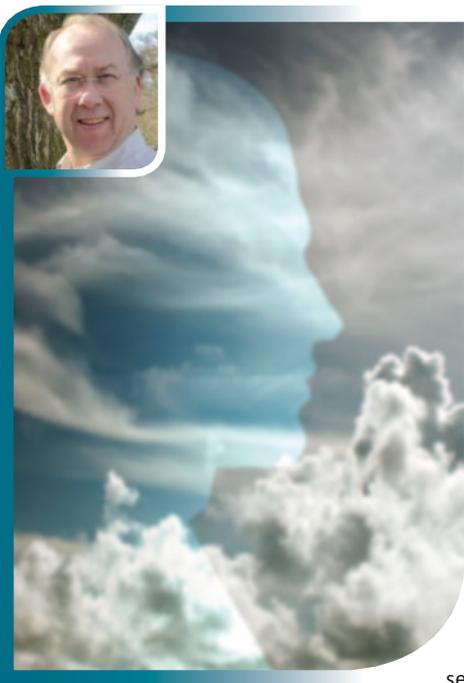
The time will come when, with elation you will greet yourself arriving at your own door, in your own mirror and each will smile at the other's welcome ~ Derek Walcott

Facilitator: **Michael Wilson.**

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4pm.

MICHAEL WILSON



For centuries the Wisdom Traditions of both West and East have emphasised the importance of self-compassion as the other side of, the more familiar, compassion toward other. Western psychology is increasingly turning its attention to the benefits of self-compassion as a continuation of mindfulness practice, but also as a practice in its own right. This exciting development in psychology and therapy opens pathways for healing the mind, and enables you to face many of life's challenges with greater ease.

Through a series of exercises and explorations, balanced with appropriate theory, this day is an opportunity to explore what it means to be compassionate towards self. We will also consider obstacles to self-compassion, methods of over-coming these, as well as practical ways of carrying this forward into your own lives. There will also be an opportunity to consider the spiritual implications which self-compassion raises.

Mike Wilson (www.psychospiritual.co.uk) is an experienced psychotherapist (UKAHP Acc UKCP Reg) and transpersonal psychology practitioner, with extensive experience in teaching and facilitating groups. He practises in Edinburgh and from his home in the Scottish Borders, and offers workshops in the field of transpersonal psychology and related areas in the UK, and sometimes farther afield. He has a longstanding interest in the evolution and practical application of transpersonal psychologies, which his workshops give testimony to. Limited to 16 places, so please book early to ensure your place.

Cost: £55/£45 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

The 2011 Middle East Festival Forum on World Spiritualities

Speaker: Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz, Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL.

Title: Desert Wisdom: Hearing the Heart of Native Middle Eastern Spiritualities as it addresses the “Big Questions.”

Chair: MaryCatherine Burgess, Ph.D., Associate Chaplain at the University of Edinburgh.

Forum on Revisioning “Sacred Language” and its Importance for Personal, Relational, Community and Ecological Health, Wellbeing and Healing.

Forum Panellists: David Lorimer, Programme Director of the Scientific and Medical Network; Ali Newell, works at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre where she teaches and offers spiritual accompaniment. She is a minister, trained counsellor, and was warden of Iona Abbey; Rev Jenny Williams, Chaplain, Christian Fellowship of Healing.

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9.15pm.



DR NEIL DOUGLAS-KLOTZ

When it was first launched in 1995, the Desert Wisdom Project proposed to hear anew the voices of “Native Middle Eastern” spiritualities, which later became the source of several religious organizations and formulations. The book of the same name retranslated many texts and stories from the region in their “wild” form, attempting to hear them in a way before they were cultivated and harvested as theology. The book, which received widespread praise and was influential in initiating several Middle Eastern peace projects, has been extensively revised and republished in 2011. It proposes a radical revisioning of the way we see the relation of spirituality, religion, ecology, art and personal growth:

ECOLOGY: all human religious and spiritual experiences arise from an embodied relationship with the environment and Nature. These natural experiences produce vision, ritual, story and sacred text. Religion organizes or ‘colonizes’ these experiences, increasingly, though often unwittingly, as the province of experts (a clerical, legal, academic or administrative class). Similarly, the natural human impulse to produce music and move in rhythm or dance has gradually been colonized as performing arts, with an audience listening to or watching expert professionals - first live, then now increasingly virtually.

VISION AND RITUAL: vision and ritual go hand in hand. We can understand them on their own terms, not those of the later development of written texts, theologies and legal interpretations, organizations, structural bureaucracies and political hierarchies.

THE BIG HUMAN QUESTIONS: vision and ritual naturally arise from questions basic to the human experience: Where do we come from? Where are we going? Who are we? How do we relate to ‘others’? How do we ‘die’ and what happens then? All of these questions are posed first in the plural, as a community question, and only progressively over the past two millenia in the singular, as questions for an individual person’s health, fulfillment, happiness or “salvation.”

Within the range of answers to these questions fall all ideals ranging from the religious afterlife(s) to the secular “new world orders.”

For health of both community and individual, we need to hear anew these questions, as well as the natural experiences of vision and ritual that empowered Western religion, and which unite religious and secular ways of knowing and being in the world.

Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz directs the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning (www.eial.org) in Edinburgh, Scotland and co-founded the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, now in its eighth year. He is the past chair of the Mysticism Group of the American Academy of Religion and has published several books on Middle Eastern spirituality and peace, including *Prayers of the Cosmos* (1990), *Desert Wisdom* (1995, 2011), *The Hidden Gospel* (1999), *The Genesis Meditations* (2003), *The Sufi Book of Life* (2005), *Blessings of the Cosmos* (2006) and *The Tent of Abraham* (2006, with Sr Joan Chittister and Rabbi Arthur Waskow). In 2005 he was awarded the Kessler-Keener Foundation Peacemaker of the Year Award for his work in Middle Eastern peacemaking. Information about his work internationally can be found at the website of the Abwoon Resource Centre, www.abwoon.com

Following the talk by Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz, there will be questions and discussion with the panel and with the audience. The panel members will then each give short presentations on the Forum subject, followed by further questions and discussion.

Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

MESP 2011 Middle Eastern Film Festival

Thursday 10 February – Monday 21 February 2011

Classics of Turkish Cinema



Organisers and Partners: A partnership between the Middle East Festival, MESP, and the Filmhouse, supported by Creative Scotland, the University of Edinburgh Persian Society, Goethe-Institut Glasgow, Italian Cultural Institute and Screen Academy Scotland.



This project is organised by Neill Walker (on behalf of MESP), and James McKenzie (on behalf of the Filmhouse), and is managed by Neill Walker (on behalf of the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996).



The purpose of the Festival is to provide a focus for the study and promotion of Middle Eastern cinema. The geographic area covered by the Festival broadly covers that outlined in Oliver Leahman’s ‘Companion Encyclopedia of Middle Eastern and North African Film,’ which includes Central Asia, North Africa, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Iraq.





Following on from the retrospective on Iranian cinema in 2009 and Egyptian cinema in 2010, this year’s retrospective will be on the highly influential Turkish cinema.



Although film shows were popular forms of entertainment in Istanbul pretty much from the beginning of cinema, it wasn’t until 1911 that the first Ottoman film was produced, by brothers Milton and Yanaki Manaki. Film production took a bit of a boost during the First World War when the propaganda value of newsreels was recognised by the Ottoman rulers. However, film production remained at best erratic even after the founding of the Turkish Republic in 1923, when film was seen as a strategic vehicle for the establishment of national identity. It wasn’t really until the establishment of a series of popular genre film in the fifties and into the sixties that the industry really took off. The sixties also saw Turkey make its mark on the international scene with Metin Erksan’s *Dry Summer*, winning best film at the Berlin Film Festival. A combination of social turmoil and the increasing popularity of television saw a marked decline in film production throughout the seventies and then, with the advent of video, a further decline in the eighties. This period also saw migration both into Europe and from rural Turkey into Istanbul and these trends are highlighted powerfully in Ali Ozgenturk’s *The Horse* and lyrically in Tunc Okan’s *The Bus*.



Recent years have seen a surge in Turkish cinema, prompted in part by the domestic success of Yavuz Turgul’s *Eskiya* in 1996, but also by a string of European co-productions, that have contributed to the rise of a New Wave of Turkish filmmakers including Ferzan Okpetek, Nuri Bilge Ceyland, Semih Kapanoglu and Zeki Demirubuz.



Contact and Booking and finalised details: 0131 228 2688,
<http://www.filmhousecinema.com/>

MESP 2011 Day Workshop: History and Themes of Turkish Cinema Saturday 19 February 2011



OZLEM GUCLU

Facilitator: **Ozlem Guclu**, Film scholar, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: Registration: 10am-10.30am. Workshop: 10.30am-4pm.

Drawing upon the film clips, this day workshop covers the whole history of Turkish cinema from the early years to the present.



The program will include the following topics:

- Early years
- Golden years of Turkish cinema
- National cinema debate
- Social realism
- Yilmaz Guney cinema
- Censorship
- Erotic films and arabesque films in the late 1970s
- Women's films in the 1980s
- September 12, 1980 military coup films
- The crisis years
- New cinema of Turkey
- Diverse tracks in the new cinema

Ozlem Guclu, Film scholar, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Ozlem Guclu is a PhD candidate in Media and Film Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, with a thesis entitled 'Silent Female Characters in the New Cinema of Turkey: Gender, Nation and Memory.' She is working on Turkish cinema – on the new cinema of Turkey, in particular - in its historical contexts and its relation to gender, sexuality, nation, ethnicity and memory.

Cost: £10. (Free for students). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

MESP 2011 Pre Events

Tuesday 22 February – Thursday 3 March 2011

Tuesday 22 February 2011

Mindfulness@Lunchtime

Venue: St Mark's Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2DP.

Dates: Tuesday 22 February and Tuesday 1, 8, 15 March 2011.

Time: 12.15pm-2pm.

The Community of Interbeing and Unitarians in Edinburgh jointly organise Mindfulness@Lunchtime every Tuesday from 12.15pm to 2pm. Please take a break, slow down, 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

Lecture: *The Sacred Art of Armenia*



Speaker: **Dr Vrej Nersessian.**

Venue: Scotland-Russia Institute, 9 South College Street, Edinburgh. EH8 9AA.

Time: 7.30pm.

The illuminated manuscript has been the Armenian religious object par excellence. Like the reliquary in the Catholic West and the icon in the Orthodox Church, the Armenian manuscript was the locus of faith, to be treasured and

guarded. The lecture will explore the role of the manuscripts and books carrying the name and the memory of its sponsor, scribes, illuminators, binders, paper makers, tying them to the saving powers of the Armenian Church. NB: Booking essential as space is limited

Cost: Donations £2 (SRF members), £5 (non-members) payable at the door.

Contact: 0131 668 3635, info@scotlandrussiaforum.org

Wednesday 23 February 2011

Himalaya Meals



Venue: Himalaya Arts and Crafts, 20 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9PR.

Dates: Wednesday 23 February, Friday 25 February, Monday 28 February and Wednesday 2 March 2011.

Time: 12.30pm-14.30pm.

Himalayan vegetarian and vegan meal with fresh salad. All the money raised goes to Green Tara charity helping disadvantaged children in the northern part of India. See: www.himalayashop.co.uk

Cost: £3.50. Just come along on the day.

Contact: Reka, himalayashop@hotmail.com, 0131 662 9818.

Being Transgender is a Gift From God



Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Time: 7pm-8.30pm.

Screening of 'Transgender and Faith' short film, made in partnership with St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Glasgow in 2009. The film's contributors will take part in a panel discussion about transgender, identity, and faith. There will be an opportunity for questions raised by the film.

Cost: Free, and no booking required.

Contact: revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com, 0131 220 1677.



Thursday 24 - Saturday 26 February 2011

The Elements World Theatre presents
The Old Woman Who Lived in A ...
Storytelling with Drama, Poetry and Music
About the Quest for Love, Happiness and Inner Peace
in a culture based on violence

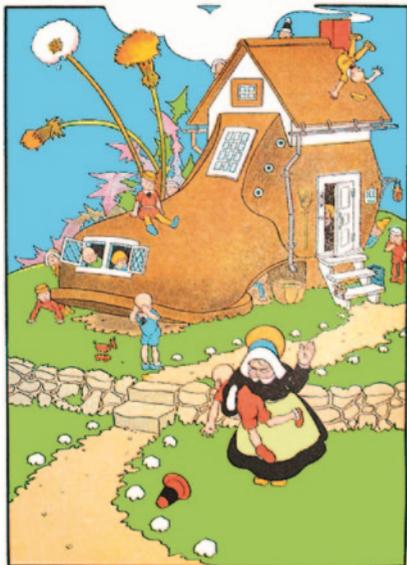
Written by **Lee Gershuny** and Directed by **Corinne Harris**.

Performed by **John A Sampson, Robert Williamson** and **Corinne Harris**.

Venue: The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1SR.

Dates: Thursday 24 - Saturday 26 February 2011.

Times: 7.30pm, with 3.30pm Matinee on Saturday 26 February 2011.



The story begins 20 years after the end of the famous nursery rhyme, "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe." The setting has moved from a Shoe to The Café of No Tomorrows - a mythical place, a state of mind where now is the only moment that exists and the Head Waiter, its ruling presence.

The children that The Old Woman beat black and blue, are now grown up and a few return to confront her in the Café of No Tomorrows. Like noble knights on a great quest, they are determined to vanquish fear and self-doubt by dealing with their demons from the past – The Old Woman. In order to reach The Old Woman, they must first convince the Head Waiter of their virtue. The Waiter, however, is not easily convinced.

The Elements World Theatre has frequently presented new work as part of the MESP. Like other productions, *The Old Woman Who Lived in A ...* dramatises an MESP theme - the quest for love, happiness and inner peace.

Audience Comments on Past Productions:

"Thought provoking and amusing," "Fantastic depth and meaning,"
"Relevant subject matter and energetic acting," "Happening on many levels," "Fantastic production."

Cost: £10 (Full Price)/£7 (Concession).

Contact and Booking: 0131 556 9579. The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1SR.



Thursday 24 February 2011

Servas Peace Meal, with a focus on Asylum Seekers and Refugees



Venue: Double Dutch Bistro, 27-29 Marshall Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9BJ.

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm.

Last year for the first time, Scottish Servas members agreed to try something new, yet in keeping with the ethos of Servas hosting: a Servas Peace Meal. It worked really well and we're now planning the 2011 meal, with very welcome advice and input from MESP and local activists with specialist knowledge to share.

The 2011 Servas Peace Meal at MESP will focus on Asylum Seekers and Refugees as our theme. Three invited speakers whose lives have been touched by the complex issues of displacement will give short talks drawing on their own experiences. We will share food and informal discussion between these talks, following the pattern by which Servas hosts all over the world welcome travellers into their homes. The Servas Peace Meal is an opportunity to share ideas, knowledge and aspirations - as well as discussing the very real obstacles - to peace, while sharing a meal of wonderful Middle Eastern food.

Cost: £16/£10 (Concession).

Contact and Booking: 0131 228 2186, servasedinburgh@hotmail.com



Friday 25 February 2011

LGBT Film Night: Screening of Unveiled

Venue: LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, 9 Howe Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6TE.

Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm.

Drinks, nibbles and screening of Unveiled (Fremde Haut). An Iranian woman assumes a new identity in order to start her life over again in this powerful drama from Germany. Themes of persecution, political asylum, identity and love are raised at this unique and friendly event.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: 0131 523 1104, jules@lgbhealth.org.uk

Naqshbandi Sufi Dhikr

Venue: Himalaya Arts and Crafts, 20 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9PR.

Time: 7.15pm.

A Sufi dhikr (zikr) is an opportunity to focus on the highest ideal of Allah (God) that one can conceptualize in the form of chanting or repeating His names and attributes in a rhythmic way. This has the effect of opening the heart to enable us to then feel, sense or experience God. The Sufi says God is love, lover, and beloved. In other words God is the object, God is the subject, and God is the love experienced between the two. Our spiritual guide is Maulana Sheikh Nazim al-Haqqani. For further info visit www.scottishnaqshbandidhikr.webs.com

Cost: Donation Welcome.

Contact: info@pomegranategarden.com, 0131 623 2425 or 07855 478046.

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 February 2011

Exploring the Flora of the Middle East

Venue: Real Life Science Studio, John Hope Gateway, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Time: 12.30pm–3.30pm (drop-in).



The team at the RBGE's Centre for Middle Eastern Plants identify, document and conserve plants in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan. Discover their work and some of the links between botany and Middle Eastern culture. www.rbge.org.uk/events

Cost and Booking: Free, Drop-in.



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

Saturday 26 February 2011

Shabbat Morning Service

Venue: Please visit <http://www.eljc.org> for venue information.

Time: 11am.

The monthly sabbath service of Sukkat Shalom, the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community, to be led by our Rabbi Mark Solomon. We are delighted to have visitors from MESP. If possible please let us know that you plan to come so we may welcome you.

Contact: info@eljc.org and leave a message. We will get back to you promptly.

'Women as Peace Makers' - The Bridge of Peace Ceremony, a Bridge for Friendship



Facilitator: Women's Federation for World Peace, Scotland.

Venue: St Cuthbert's Church, 5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2EP.

Time: 2pm-5pm.



'The Bridge of Peace' ceremony brings reconciliation. Those taking part meet someone from a different spirituality, culture or race and commit themselves to bridge the gap between them. They go beyond their differences and determine to make reconciliation through their friendship. This will break the cycle of conflict in the world and free the newfound sisters to experience a new beginning.

This event includes music and dance from Mongolia and other countries and talks about 'Women as

Peace Makers,' and a World Peace Flag Ceremony. You will be able to meet people from all over the world and share food from different countries.

Cost: £3 donation (includes international refreshment).

Contact: Harumi Currie, 0131 331 1433, wfwpscot@gmail.com

Palestine 1880-1948; Stories My Grandmother Told Me

Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL

Time: 6pm-8.30pm.

Every Friday afternoon, after prayer, Um Fahd sat cross-legged on the carpet of the small Al Huriyya mosque in the Burj el Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp and waited for the children to arrive from their UNRWA school to share with them stories of how it used to be in the land of their forefathers. For a while, she managed to transport them beyond the narrow alleys of their camp, named after Palestinian cities, to the open spaces of the villages of their forefathers. For a while, through Um Fahd's stories, they were transported in time and place to relive the lives of their care-free ancestors who tilled the land, winnowed the wheat, picked their olives and together, at the end of the day, shared the fruits of their labour.

Join **Pat Smith**, **Mostafa Salameh** and **Anita Shanley** in recounting some of these stories which touch on traditions, customs and history of early Palestinians. Technician: **Mohammed Abu Shaban**.

Enjoy refreshments, music and an exhibition of Palestinian windows and doors. There will also be a stall of Palestinian embroidery, oil and soaps.

Cost: Entrance free but donations welcome!

Contact: Anita Shanley, anita.shanley@gmail.com, 07908028078.

El Funoun Group (Scotland/Palestine) is part of the Palestine Society, SCO38953.

El Funoun-Scotland.org

Reflection on LGBT Life in South Africa



Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.
Time: 7pm-8.30pm.



Rev Pressley Sutherland, former pastor of Good Hope MCC, Cape Town, South Africa, will lead a worship celebration. Using music and reflection he will guide us to explore the diverse experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in South Africa.

Cost: Free, and no booking required.

Contact: revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com, 0131 220 1677.



Sunday 27 February 2011

Langar Community Meal

Venue: Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sheriff Brae, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6TJ.
Time: 2pm-3pm.

Guests are welcome to attend this traditional vegetarian meal at the Edinburgh Gurdwara.

Prior to the meal there will be a short talk with questions and answers.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: Wege Singh, sewadar@hotmail.com



How Many Ways Can You Sing Kaddish?: Varieties of Jewish Music



Venue: Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AB.

Time: 8pm-9.30pm.

Jewish music draws from the many lands in which Jews have lived, from the Middle East to Eastern Europe. Rabbi Mark Solomon, minister of Edinburgh's Liberal Jewish Community and a trained cantor, will illustrate varieties of devotional music for synagogue and home, and conclude with a cook's tour of the Jewish year using the Kaddish, a much-loved prayer in the Jewish liturgy.

Cost: Voluntary Contribution Requested.

Contact: aam@roe.ac.uk

Thursday 3 March 2011

**Hafla: From Edinburgh to Cairo and back again:
An Evening of Bellydance Featuring Lorna Gow
and guest local dancers**

LORNA GOW/PHOTO: MAANI



Venue: eh15 Restaurant, Jewel and Esk College, Milton Road, 24 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2PP.

Time: 7.30pm for 8pm.

Lorna Gow is an Edinburgh lass working as a Bellydancer in Cairo since 1996. Join us for beautiful performances by Lorna and guest local dancers. To help increase East/West understanding, over dinner we'll be discussing Lorna's experiences of life in Egypt and how dance reflects the culture and traditions there.

www.bellylorna.com

Cost: Tickets £32 including a three course meal.

Contact and Booking:
Elspeth Alexandra, 07748 183171,
swishandhips@hotmail.co.uk

**MESP 2011 Exhibitions and Displays
Sunday 16 January – Saturday 26 March 2011**

Group Photography Exhibition

Venue: The Filmhouse Café, Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ.

Dates: Sunday 16 January - Sunday 6 February 2011, during Filmhouse opening hours.

A selection of photographs by Iranian photographers around the theme of Iranian culture: Vida Sherkat Khameneh, Sara Mohseni, Mehrdad Azmin, Bahar Azadi, Roxana Pope and Maryam Ghorban Karimi.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: **<http://www.ediranfest.co.uk>**, **maryam@london.com**

Painting Exhibition: **Haleh Jamali and Maryam Hashemi**

Venue: Out of the Blue, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh, EH6 8RG.

Dates: Monday 24 January - Sunday 5 February 2011, 10am - 5pm (Monday - Saturday).

Haleh Jamali and Maryam Hashemi are both Iranian painters living in the UK. Their recent works deal with topics of identity and personal journey.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: <http://www.ediranfest.co.uk>, maryam@london.com

Photography Exhibition: **Visitors Welcome**

Venue: The Filmhouse Café, Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ.

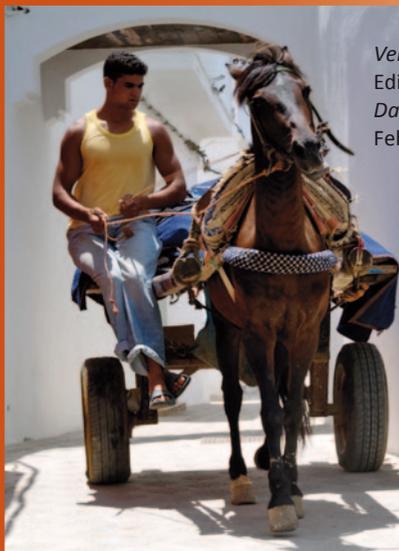
Dates: Monday 7 February - Saturday 26 February 2011, during Filmhouse opening hours.

A photographic exhibition exploring Middle Eastern community groups in Glasgow. The project will investigate what the purposes of these groups are and who are their key members, the invaluable support these groups provide for their members and how this is essential for their integration into an alien society.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Photography Exhibition: **Moroccan Patchwork**



Venue: The Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ.

Dates: Monday 7 February - Saturday 26 February 2011, during Filmhouse opening hours.

A patchwork of stories focussing on the eerie semi deserted lanes of the early morning Grand Souk in Tangier, to the rebel on his horse-and-cart charging through Asilah's narrow streets. Her story, his story, make history. 'History' derives from the Greek meaning – literally - 'story.'

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: Aliko Sapountzi, photos@aliki.co.uk

Exhibition: **Armenia: The Literary and Visual Tradition**



Venue: The Scotland-Russia Institute, 9 South College Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9AA.

Dates: Thursday 10 February – Saturday 26 March 2011.

Times: Open Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm, Saturday 1.30pm-4pm or by appointment outside those times.

This exhibition shows Armenia both as an ancient civilisation and as it is today, with works by several Armenian photographers featuring the beauty and the life of the country.

Armenia is often referred to as a museum in the open air, with about 40,000 historical monuments. It was the first country to make Christianity its official religion (in 301 AD) and much of its cultural heritage is shaped by symbols and values associated with the Christian faith.

The Armenian language is an independent, one language subgroup within the Indo-European group. Its unique alphabet was created in 405AD and the exhibition will also feature copies of early manuscripts charting the

history of the written language. The world-renowned expert in Armenian literature and culture is Dr Nersessian who has kindly provided some exhibits from his personal collection of books.

In the next two years there are two important Armenian anniversaries: in 2011 it will be 700 years since the translation of the Bible into Armenian and in 2012 it will be the 500th anniversary of the first printed Armenian book in Venice, 1512.

Exhibition curated by Vesna Petkovic, Pro Art and Co. Expert-Consultant: Dr Vrej Nersessian. Book collection from the private collection of Dr Vrej Nersessian.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: 0131 668 3635, info@scotlandrussiaforum.org

Artist Research at MESP 2011 by Déirdre Ní Mhathúna

Taking recorded voice as her starting point, Déirdre creates installations that literally 'give voice' to the often unheard sounds and thoughts that make up our culturally diverse communities. During MESP 2011, Déirdre will be attending selected Festival events and inviting participants to contribute to her research for a future work. You may wish to record your opinions, say a poem or gift a small object to the developing work. You will have the opportunity to listen to and/or see how your recording or contribution will be used in the final work, which the artist hopes to exhibit during MESP 2012.

Déirdre Ní Mhathúna has contributed several times to MESP with a widely exhibited sound installation, 'The Listening Seat.' Its last showing was at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Sanctuary (MESP and early summer, 2010).

MESP 2011 Future Events

Workshop Series: *Instant Peace Lab:* *Living Your Full Potential Now!*

Facilitator: **Lee Gershuny, Ph.D.**, Artistic Director of The Elements World Theatre.

Organiser: Jointly organized by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and, The Elements World Theatre, a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland No. 283766, Scottish Charity, SC022072.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Date: Day Workshop: Tuesday 8 March 2011.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

Dates: Evening Workshops: Wednesdays, 6, 13 and 20 April 2011.

Time: Registration: 6pm-6.30pm. Workshop: 6.30pm-9pm.

DR LEE GERSHUNY/PHOTO: MARIA FALCONE



The purpose of this workshop is to work creatively with conflict as a pathway to peace. You will have an opportunity to discover and practice the most effective ways of giving yourself time and space to choose between escalating a potential conflict or dissolving it before it starts. This experiential workshop provides a variety of interactive exercises enabling you to practice stopping in the midst of conflict long enough to tap inner sources of creativity, wisdom and playfulness and be peace in an instant. You will also be able to practice seeing things as they are, both inwardly and outwardly, and choosing based on what's most important to you in the moment. Our aim is to discover new insights and actions for living our full potential from moment to moment.

The full day session will introduce key principles and tools that enable you to be peace regardless of the personal or collective circumstances that may be disturbing you in the present. The 3 evening sessions will focus on the following themes:

Session 1: Seeing things as they are in the present.

Session 2: Tapping inner sources of playfulness, wisdom and creativity.

Session 3: Being Peace with yourself and others.

See Tuesday 8 March 2011 entry for biographical details.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions) for the Day Workshop.

Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions) for each Evening Workshop.

£40/£30 (Concessions) for the whole series of workshops. For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Croak, The King and a Change in the Weather

Venue: The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR.

Date: Wednesday 6 April 2011.

Time: 3pm and 7pm (performance with introduction and discussion 65 mins).



A performance by the children of Shatila Palestinian Refugee Camp, Beirut of Peter Mortimer's fable on how a cruel and dictatorial monarch is brought low by the forces of Nature. Peter Mortimer created the play, which uses live music, dance and mime while living for two months in the camp at the end of 2008.

Cost: £5/£3.50 (Concessions).

Contact: 0131 556 9579, reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

Two-Day Retreat: A Universe Singing Inside You: Discover the Wisdom of Your Singing Soul An Introductory Naked Voice Retreat

Facilitator: **Chloe Goodchild.**

Organiser: Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996.

Venue: Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Rd, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

Dates: Saturday 28 May - Sunday 29 May 2011.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Retreat Days: 10am-4.30pm.



CHLOE GOODCHILD

There lives within the subterranean depths of every human soul, an inviolable longing for peace or union. This longing can only be satisfied through a direct encounter with one's true nature, fully and effortlessly expressed, without censorship of any kind. Once heard, this connection with your true Self is stronger than the fear of separateness and death. It is the healing salve that paves the way home to the source of our true Being. Your naked voice activates a wondrous power inside you. I call it "A Universe Singing Inside You." Here and here alone, you will discover the capacity to access and express your deepest truth spontaneously and courageously. This authentic encounter with your true nature is joyous, graceful and freely given. It awakens within you what the mystics call, the presence, a spacious awareness beyond the confines of your personality and rational mind. Within this presence you remember once again how to embrace and transform your negative emotions into deeper positive feeling. Your naked voice activates a

faculty of attention known as the self-observing mind, or witness consciousness. This witness enables you to communicate with yourself and with others, in new and wiser ways, openly and



honourably, without reactivity and fear. “Who is singing?” is the central question arising from the universe singing inside you. In the Naked Voice experiential workshops and trainings, we explore a wide range of inner-outer vocal practices. They are like ‘sonic formulas’ such as sacred mantra, devotional chant, the Seven Sounds of Love (musical chakras), and healing songs inspired by our Indigenous and Wisdom Traditions. These vocal practices are supported by energy movement which enables you to embody your voice, awaken your heart, and strengthen your singing soul. You will find yourself breathing deeper, relaxing, and sounding out in ways that you never imagined possible. The Naked Voice Foundation: www.thenakedvoice.com

Chloe Goodchild is a singer, sound healer, transformative teacher, workshop leader, author and founder of The Naked Voice Foundation based in Bristol, England. “A Universe Singing Inside You” is the title of Chloe’s forthcoming book, available in 2011. Her autobiography “The Naked Voice: Journey To The Spirit Of Sound” (Rider 1993) is now available as an eBook from The Naked Voice. Chloe has made a range of recordings “Devi” (1996), “Sura” (1998), “Fierce Wisdom” (2004), “Laughing Heart” (2009), “Thousand Ways of Light” (2010) and others, all available from Naked Voice Music (www.thenakedvoice.com). Chloe’s instructional audiobooks “Your Naked Voice” (3CDs 2006), and “Awakening Through Sound [5CDs and DVD]” (2007) are available from The Naked Voice and from www.sounds.true.com (if you live in USA).

Cost: £100 (both days), £55 (per day). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2008@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Invitation to Participate in:
World Sufism Symposium Edinburgh:
The Sufi Path in the 21st Century
Friday September 30 – Sunday October 2, 2011



Co-sponsored by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996 (www.eicsp.org) in conjunction with the International Association of Sufism (www.ias.org).

An international gathering of Sufis with participants from schools, orders and tariqas worldwide demonstrating the diversity within and across this mystical school of the Islamic traditions. Art, music, poetry, storytelling, lectures, spiritual practice and discussion amongst world leaders in the Sufi tradition. The previous World Sufism Symposium in Edinburgh, in 2006, drew participants from Egypt, Bangladesh, Senegal, Holland, Germany, UK and USA.

Sufism is a diverse spiritual path, with expressions unique to many world geographical areas and cultures. At the same time, the Sufi path focuses on and expresses the ideal of “unity” based on at least 1,300 years of tradition. As such, Sufism represents a post-modern form of interspirituality that emphasizes respect and empathy, as well as the importance of deep relationship and social responsibility.

We invite proposals for short talks (20-25 minutes) from among the following panel themes: Sufism and Ecology, Sufism and Economics, Sufism and Multicultural Societies, Sufism and Women, Sufi Practice in Everyday Life, The Way of the Sufi (personal experience with and introduction to the Sufi path), Sufism and the Arts, Sufism and Health, Wellbeing and Healing, Sufism and Peace, Conflict, Reconciliation and Justice.

We also invite proposals for open sessions of Sufi practice - including meditation, music and chant (30 minutes) to be shared among attendees. The two-day conference will be launched with a World Sufi Concert on Friday evening, September 30, the birthday of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi. Proposals to participate in this are also invited, including details of technical needs. Presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

To express an interest in participating, and to submit proposals:
Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Festival Bursaries

A limited number of bursaries are available for those on very low income to support their attendance at some Festival events. Please contact the Festival organisers to discuss whether you qualify: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Festival Brochures and Posters

Festival Brochures and Posters are distributed widely across Edinburgh and wider Scotland. If you would like to receive further copies of the Festival Brochure or Poster for your venue, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival Volunteering

If you would like to volunteer at some Festival events, or to help putting out some Festival Brochures or Posters, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival Internships

Please get in contact if you would like to be an intern during the Festival.

Festival Sponsorship Opportunities

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

Festival Access

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

Festival Updates and Additions

Please consult the Festival website for any updates and additions to the Festival programme.

Festival School Events and Visits

If your school is interested to host an event to tie in with the Middle East Festival, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival Library Events, Displays and Visits

If your library is interested to host an event or display to tie in with the Middle East Festival, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival CPD Opportunities

If you would like your attendance at some Middle East Festival events to contribute to your Continuing Professional Development, CPD, then please contact the Festival organisers.

Festival Media Opportunities

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

Festival on Facebook, Myspace and Twitter

The Middle East Festival is now on Facebook, Myspace and Twitter.

The 2012 Middle East Festival

The 2012 Middle East Festival will run from Thursday 1 March – Sunday 11 March 2012, with externally organised Pre Events from Tuesday 21 February – Wednesday 29 February 2012, with the Middle Eastern Film Festival in the weeks before, and with Exhibitions and Displays running over the entire date period. Those who would like to consider becoming involved can contact: Neill Walker, mesp2011@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

BEGINNINGS OF MESP

MESP was founded in 2004 and has been developed as an annual Festival in Edinburgh in February/March of each year. MESP was co-founded by, and is co-directed by, Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

AIM

One of MESP's overriding aims is to contribute to peace and mutual understanding through dialogue, spiritual and artistic practice, and improved mutual understanding among the spiritual, secular and cultural traditions that have arisen in what is now known as the Middle East, and more generally among those who have found a home in Scotland and the UK. Accordingly, MESP seeks to engage a progressively wider and more diverse range of participants who have been active in spiritual, secular and artistic and cultural approaches to non-violent conflict resolution and world peace. No speaker represents, or can represent, the totality of any tradition, and indeed, experiential, evaluative and visionary perspectives are particularly welcome.

MEANS

The activities of MESP are educational in nature, ranging from international conferences, talks, dialogues, cultural and spiritual forums, retreats, workshops, spiritual practice events, deepening of spirituality events, open space events, networking and social gatherings, exhibitions and displays, book launches, education processes, school visits, visits to places of spiritual significance locally, training sessions, times for reflection, media engagements, hospitality events, service events, community and library hosted events, arts and cultural events - including film, theatre, music, dance and movement, storytelling, poetry, visual arts, photography, printmaking, calligraphy, crafts, among others.

THEMATIC STRANDS TO MESP

In MESP twelve thematic strands will be explicit, to allow a range of entry routes into MESP, and to allow a range of participation identities, namely:

- Spirituality, Interspirituality and Intraspirituality.
- Peace, Conflict, Reconciliation and Justice.
- Education and Learning.
- Arts and Culture.
- Health, Wellbeing and Healing.
- Equality, Diversity and Communities.
- Environmental Responsibility and Climate Change.
- Engagement with Science and Medicine.
- Engagement with Communication Media.
- Engagement with Business and Industry.
- Engagement with Government, Parliament, NGOs, NPOs and Civic Society.
- Celebrating Scotland, the UK and the Middle East.

COLLABORATING WITH AND SUPPORTING MESP

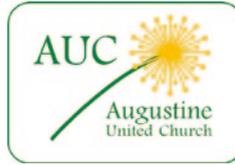
If you would like to propose any specific events that MESP might organise and host, or if you would like to explore possible collaboration with MESP, or if you would like to sponsor activities of MESP, then please feel free to be in contact.

The Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP.

Contact: Neill Walker,
Co-Founder and Co-Director.

E : mesp2008@hotmail.co.uk
P : +44 (0) 131 331 4469
W : www.mesp.org.uk

EICSP
Edinburgh International Centre
for Spirituality and Peace



Edinburgh International Festival of
MESP
Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

Kalliopeia
FOUNDATION



Rejuvenating the Body, Mind and Soul



A Skillsset
Film & Media
Academy



FILMHOUSE



our tribe



Cairn
HOTEL

