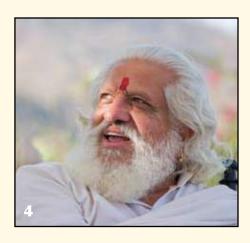




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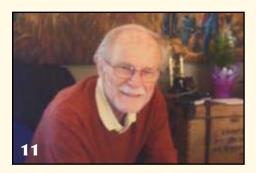


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ON THE COVER: Himalayan Siddah Master Yogiraj Gurunath Siddhanath Photo courtesy of Sergio Solis

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#### PLEASE RECYCLE



## A Guru's Guide to the Afterlife

By Kira Davis

It seems these days everyone's a Guru of something, has a Guru or is seeking to find one. He's a three-point shooter Guru, and she's the Excel Guru at work, and another one is a standout in all things Mac, aka the Mac Guru Guy. For all those seekers, there have been many teachers and healers offering their guidance to the spiritually hungry. The West Coast, also known as the Left Coast, has had a long-standing reputation for attracting spiritual seekers. Many teachers, from the world over and with diverse religious training, have set up churches, ashrams, temples and spiritual centers in California, and especially in Southern California. West Coasters are a spiritually adventurous and open-minded group in comparison to the rest of the country. Where I grew up in New Jersey, no one has a Guru or claims to be one. Here in Southern California, the land of the spiritually adventurous melding with the land of Hollywood-style self-promotion, one can meet a newly minted Guru in the heated yoga class, neighborhood juice bar or just about anywhere! We asked a real Guru, "What does a Guru do? And what happens to the soul when it dies?"

Yogiraj Siddhanath Gurunath, a spiritual Master of the Nath branch of the Yogis, comes every year to Southern California to help seekers practice meditation and pranayama (control of the breath). This year he will be here for the last two weeks in July for retreats and workshops. For more information, click on http://www.siddhanath.org/events. Who is Yogiraj? Yogiraj Gurunath Siddhanath was born in Gwalior, India on May 10, 1944, and is descended from the ancient Solar Dynasty of Ikshavaku Rama. Though he belonged to a royal family, with all the comforts of palace life, he was a born siddha and went into spontaneous enlightened states from the age of three. Spiritually realized from this tender young age, he eventually cast away his royal ties after completing his university responsibilities and fulfilled his calling as a yogi. Yogiraj defines Guru as "One who has India, the book that deals with this topic is called, *The Guruda Purana*. This text is a conversation between Vishnu, a Hindu God, and Guruda, the King of the birds. In it, Guruda asks Vishnu or God what happens to the soul in its journey to the land of the dead. This book was written about 900 CE, but the

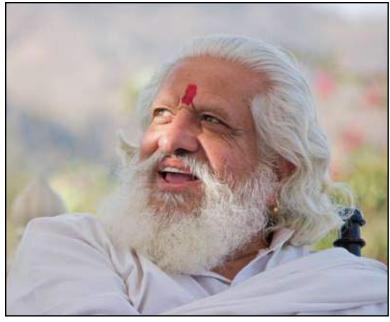


Photo courtesy of Sarje Rao

the gravity to reveal the hidden light and the secret knowledge of the soul; bringing it to light is the work of the Guru. He who from the darkness takes the soul to light is the Guru."

What happens to a soul after death? What kind of life does it have until it is beckoned to return to the earth again for another incarnation? According to Yogiraj Siddhanath Gurunath, the soul travels to many different "lokas" or spheres after it departs its body costume. The Sanskrit word "loka" means worlds. Additionally it is also used to define a stage of development. The sages of India discovered this knowledge, and brought it East to Tibet where it eventually became the famous text, The Book of the Dead. In

exact date and author of the work remains unknown. The Guruda Purana text is broken down into two main parts. The modern day translation consists of about eight thousand verses. It was likely added onto over the centuries as it deals with various rites and rituals important to a Hindu's life, like marriage and religious worship customs, yoga, temple design, and the creation of the universe. This main part of the text is called the Purva Khanda. The Uttara Khanda, or second part of the text, deals with the afterlife. It is said that this later part, more popularly called the Preta Kalpa, was the foundation for The Book of the Dead.

The soul, or Jiva, is immortal and does not die. It takes one

body after another to learn lessons, have experiences and live out the bitter and good fruits of its karma. There is a famous quote from The Bhavagad Gita about the soul that states, "The soul is immortal - for weapons cannot pierce it, the water cannot wet it, the breeze cannot dry it, and fire cannot burn it." While many Christians bury their dead, cremation is an important part of Hindu funeral rites. Hindu families perform certain customs at precise intervals to help the soul in its journey in the afterlife.

## Yogiraj says about the departing soul:

He lives his life. He does good deeds, neutral deeds, bad deeds - all these are collected in his Akashic records or in his collective subconscious. It goes towards the building up of his sanchita karma (stored up karma). But in his present life, he is working out his present karma. In this life, the normal soul lives his life. The physical body, the garment, which is not the soul, the apparent self is burnt. And the true self, the soul, along with its emotions and its mental body passes out of the body. It goes to the afterlife. After that, it works on its karma (unresolved desires) related to the physical body. Then, the emotional body dies; next the mental body is cleared and dissolved. Finally, the soul remains in its pristine purity to enjoy itself with God. However the Yogi works out all his karma in that same lifetime. His life after death is worked out in his meditation in this life.

It takes the soul three days, or more precisely seventy-two hours, to disentangle itself from the physical, emotional and etheric bodies. Immediately after its death, the soul goes into "Preta-loka" (Realm of the Departed) and it hovers around the physical body. Af-

ter the seventy-two hours have passed, people in India come to pick up the ashes. The soul is then ready to move on from the recently-departed state to "Pishachya-loka" (Realm of the Ghosts). Here the soul stays from ten to thirteen days. The tenth day is very important because it is believed the soul moves from the second death sphere to the next one. There is a special religious ceremony, or puja, done on that day to help the soul break free from its grosser physical desires, like desiring a favorite meal. At this tenth day ceremony, a special type of rice, like a risotto is made. It is called pinda. It is said that if a crow eats the pinda during the tenth day of the funeral ceremony, then the departing soul has successfully satisfied its last remaining grosser desires of the physical body, like those of the passionate emotions. It will move onto the stage of the lunar ancestors or "Pitra-loka" (Realm of the Ancestors).

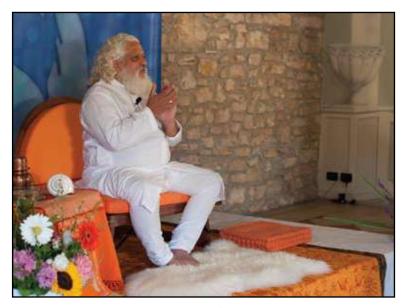


Photo courtesy of Sergio Solis

Some gurus, like Yogiraj Siddhanath Gurunath, will help certain souls move from one stage to another. If the crow doesn't touch or eat the pinda rice, then the families have to wait. They might bring some other food that the departing soul especially liked and wait to see if a crow eats that instead. If the crow eats the new alternate food, then it is believed the soul can move on just as if the crow had eaten the rice. The families will have to figure out what kind of food the crow will touch. If there is a delay, it means the departing soul is probably inhabiting a body of a living soul to fulfill his desires through that active and alive body. The active and alive person will even sound like the departing soul and behave and act like him as well. He becomes possessed by the departing soul who is desperate to fulfill the last remaining desires in order to ascend. If a soul hangs around for too long in an active and alive body, more prayers are performed and a Guru is called in to nudge the soul forward and out of the possessed person's body.

By the thirteenth day, most souls have moved into Pitra-loka. The life after death process can be described as moving from the earthly dimension, to the astral dimension, to the celestial dimension and then finally to the divine dimension. Even in the astral spheres, the soul gets its reward and punishments. It still has work to do, and does not sit idly on (Continued on page 6)

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MOVIES

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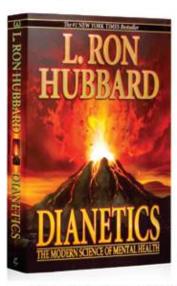
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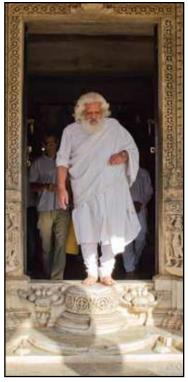
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(Continued from page 5)

#### A Guru's Guide...

some comfy cloud in heaven. It has to work through its desires in order to purify itself for the divine realms. Before the soul can enjoy its astral rewards, he has to work through his bad karma with enemies. Once the karmic slate is clear, the soul enjoys the fruits of his good karma and is re-united with friends and family who are already in heaven. This reunification with past loved ones, or ancestors, developed into a traditional Earth ceremony where in Asia and India ancestral worship takes place every year as a very holy ceremony. Ín India, it is called the Shraaddha ceremony.

These are the stages (Preta-Loka, Pisachaya-Loka, Pitraloka, and Devah-loka) that the soul moves through immediately after death. The soul cannot ascend through these spheres until he works out the subtle karmas of the emotional body, mental body, and etheric body. When the soul has finished his desires one by one. he can ascend to Devah-loka. These are "barriers" which the soul has to break through on his way up to the astral heavenly spheres. After a time in the heavenly spheres, he descends back down to another set of parents to take on more karma. In other words, it moves back through these stages in reverse just prior to reincarnation. So it will leave the sphere of God, or Devas, back all the way down to Preta-loka to astrally enter the prepared womb of the mother. He is attracted to parents who are most suitable to help the soul develop and work out his next karmic lesson



Yogiraj exiting a temple. Photo courtesy of Sergio Solis

for the upcoming lifetime. And so life continues on in its ever upward and downward current, just like the yogic movement of breath up and down the spine.

Kira Davis is an online content developer, freelance writer and web designer in the Southern California area.



Yogiraj's Ashram in Pune, India. Photo courtesy of Sergio Solis

## Indigenous People: One With All

By Ellen Angelica Pendergast

Today we seem to experience so much connection through our technology, such as with smart phones, the internet, etc., and yet so little connection between us through actual verbal communication.

It is said that the average teenager will text over 100 times per day, and yet face to face communication has been set to a minimum.

We somehow feel that we have advanced, but only on a level of measuring our technological achievements. If we measure how we often treat each other, our empathic skills, and overall face to face interaction and communication; we seem to have slipped backwards.

We tend to be very judgmental when we look at other cultures and societies, such as indigenous people whom are often looked at as primitive, but on a Spiritual level, they far surpass the average person whom may live in countries that are involved highly with technology. For these people, the concept of that we are All One is essential and at the top of their priority. They are unified with the earth, and bring that knowledge to their future generations, thereby insuring unity for the future.

These people see connection in everything, with the Spiritual Eyes to view all things as One Soul. Whether a rock, plant, animal, or human, all is seen in the same light.

It is said that the truth is truth, and will be seen everywhere; it will and now does appear in different forms, genres, books, movies, etc. Whether we study Quantum Physics, asserting that there is only One Energy, and that it permeates throughout everyone and everything, or study Indigenous people and their Spiritual beliefs, we may come to that same understand-

ing of our Universe as to what the Indigenous people believe, which is: There is Only One.

However we view who we are and where we come from; for all those seeking the truth, the only answer is to go within. To realize the truth is to understand not only what you believe, but what you KNOW, and why. It may just be time to go within and decide if what you have been told is really YOUR truth.

Indigenous people live their own story, as we all must.

One with All is therefore respect for all, which leads to Love for all... And that view will ensure World Peace.

Many Blessings!

Ellen Angelica Pendergast is originally from Chicago; She holds an MS in Counseling Psychology and has been writing a successful blog which can be found at: www.spirit-minded.com. She currently is in the process of editing her first book based on her blog "Realizations;'residing in the state of Arizona with her husband and adult Children. Her goal is to uplift the consciousness of this Planet Earth, with her writings and information based on Quantum Physics.

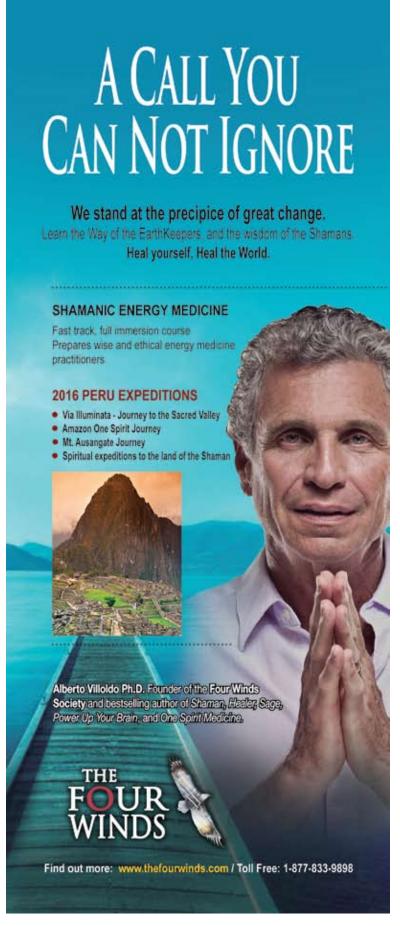
May the Warm Winds of Heaven Blow softly upon your house. May the Great Spirit Bless all who enter there. May your Moccasins Make happy tracks in many snows, and may the Rainbow Always touch your shoulder.

~ Cherokee Prayer Blessing

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## Forgotten Connections: What Nature Teaches Us about Us

By William B. Miller, Jr., M.D.

"I'm so nervous, my stomach is all in a knot."

Who among us has not said this at least once in our lives? Or perhaps, you have had a "gut wrenching experience"? We know that our brains can stimulate reactions in other parts of our body. However, science is now revealing that this is not a simple one way connection. A rich network of microbial life in our internal organs plays a powerful role in shaping critical metabolic functions and even influencing our moods and behavior. Contemporary research is uncovering previously unsuspected physiological pathways involving this crucial microbial life within us and is fundamentally changing our understanding of basic biology. It is even dramatically shifting how we see ourselves as human beings. Fortunately, too, these new findings are provoking important research that will ultimately have a substantial impact on our heath.

Over the last several hundred years, successive waves of medical knowledge have substantially altered patient treatment. Antisepsis, anesthesia, antibiotics and chemotherapy have profoundly affected the practice of medicine. Many of them were initially little regarded or were initially vigorously resisted. That pattern of dramatic progress and skepticism continues today just as in the past. At this very moment in our long medical journey,

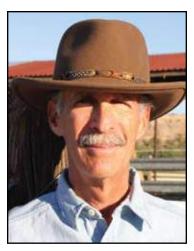
we are at the beginning of a fresh wave of startling discoveries. We have finally reached the era of the hologenome ...... and it represents an exceptionally far-reaching advance in our medical understanding of ourselves and our perception of our place among all nature's creatures.

The concept of the hologenome changes our basic understanding of complex organisms. When we look into the mirror, we see our reflection as a single being. Obviously, we assume that is what we are. But, nature sees us very differently. We are not that single organism that we see in that mirror. Instead, we and all other complex creatures are vast inter-dependent cellular

enterprises that we perceive as a single creature, but are decidedly not. Those organisms, such as ourselves, that we can see with our eyes are incredibly complex networks of collaborative, cooperative and competitive ecologies composed of our innate cells and almost incalculably numerous microbial inhabitants so effectively linked together that we feel as a single being. An entire microcosm of life is within us and on us that integrates so seamlessly that we are not normally aware of its enormous influence. We do not merely coexist with this additional life. They are essential to our wellbeing. And this new science of the hologenome is revealing a

(Continued on next page)





William B. Miller, Jr., M.D.

number of surprises.

- 1. The number of these microbial cells outnumber our own native cells by a factor of 10 to 1.
- There are over 100 trillion of them in you and on you.
- 2. The amount of genetic material in those cells outnumbers your 'own' genetic material by more than 100 to 1.
- At least 10,000 species of microbes are part of you.

- 3. These microbes exist in microbial ecological communities, for example in the gut, and can have far- reaching effects even on our brain and mood.
- Our intestines have more nervous tissue than our spinal cords which is one reason that our gut can modulate brain activity.
- 4. The foods we eat can alter these microbial communities and affect our attitudes and even influence complex human behaviors such as anxiety, learning, memory, satiety, and appetite.
- Preliminary research is indicating that the regular consumption of probiotics like some yogurts may have beneficial effects on brain function and affect our emotions, sensation, and thinking.
- 5. Our microbial partners have a crucial impact our immune systems and affect our neurological functions. New therapies for neurological disorders are being evaluat-

- ed including microbial treatments for multiple sclerosis and autism.
- A trial of microbe-based therapy in mice with autistic symptoms improved their ability to communicate with other mice.
- 6. Our crucial metabolic functions are heavily dependent on our microbial inhabitants in ways that are just beginning to be explored.
- Obesity, diabetes, arthritis. autoimmune disorders and even depression may one day be treated by adding specific microbes to our diets or by microbial transplants.

Furthermore, as our understanding of ourselves evolves, there must be a willingness to evaluate some existing medical interventions for possible unintended consequences. For example, antibiotics are commonly prescribed in children for respiratory infections. Yet at this time, there is little understanding of how the normal gut flora of a child would be af-

fected by those antibiotics and what the specific developmental, cognitive and behavioral implications could be. Similar types of studies will need to be performed since emerging research is suggesting that some disorders of the nervous system or brain such as Alzheimer's, autism, multiple sclerosis or depression might be treated in part by manipulating the intestinal microbial composition or microbial populations at other body sites.

What might all this new information mean for us, as humans, regarding our status within any local ecosystem or the further planetary environment? In fact, everything changes. When we release our illusion of being a singularity and understand ourselves as collaborative entities in partnership with a vast array of companion life, we are importantly different. If we properly appraise that this is the reality that makes us human, we are

(Continued on page 11)



## The Indigenous Self

By Frank Daly

A whisper from a place deep inside Lost for millenniums by echoes of intrusion Cast from those who know no thing -Blame is not to resolve but a simple silence Will reveal our indigenous self

The modern world provides a vast array of technology that enables us to travel with ease, communicate on the go, and live within a short distance from a Walmart. With such conveniences, it seems we should feel a sense of security and comfort, after all, these things were all designed with the intention of making our life easier. Yet we know that today's society is rife with depression and anxiety. Too many people feel a daily sense of dissatisfaction and disconnection.

Oftentimes, when we find

ourselves discontent with life we look to the outside world in order to find an explanation. We take inventory of our possessions, our relationships, our financial situation, etc. The result of this exploration reveals that it is not something in the external world that causes our grief, but the loss of a feeling of connection and purpose. Connection is inherently at the core of our existence without it there is nothing.

Henry David Thoreau once stated, "Most of the luxuries, and many of the so-called comforts of life, are not only indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind." So is it modern materialism that has led us away from human connection? If this is the case, and many claim that it is, we should find that indigenous societies that live simplified lives are happier and more peaceful as they are

not distracted by the "so-called comforts of life."

However, when we examine the lifestyle of indigenous people, we come to realize that it is not a lack of materialism that creates a sense of ease, but their ability to live in accordance with nature. They have no guidebook on how to live, no historical or religious texts for them to draw from, no "experts" telling them how to raise their children, no prophets telling them what is moral and immoral, no textbooks instructing them on how to live a healthy life.

Most of us have been taught that the more informed we are the better our life will be. If we read all the right books and complete the required assignments we can obtain a better understanding of life and consequently, be better equipped to make decisions that will improve our existence. Yet when

we examine the lives of those who have taught us this doctrine we quickly realize that they are no better off than we are.

Indigenous people give homage to their natural surroundings every day and in return, they witness an intelligence that governs all of life without any one having to do anything. Food grows from the earth, water flows naturally, the sun sets and rises, and animals reproduce and die. At some level they realize they as well are a part of nature and just like the world around them there is intelligence in every cell of their being. Their heart beats, their lungs allow oxygen in and push out carbon dioxide with them ever knowing the periodic table. When a culture understands this intelligence and allows nature to do its thing, ease of life is the result. When we allow life we feel a sense of peace and happiness and peace is a natural result. It is not that we do not experience sadness in this state, is that we come to accept the contrast of life. Contrast is a natural occurrence of this physical world experience and the acceptance of contrast us brings us back to a balanced state. This is what the indigenous are here to show us.

How much different are we from the indigenous? Can we accept that we are more alike than different? If so, we have a greater chance of understanding our connection to what they possess because we possess the same thing. We do not necessarily need to simplify life, or get rid of material items in order to get here. As we observe from a broader perspective what we call indigenous people we come to realize it is just another concept on how humans live, differ-

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page) ent but not better. Indigenous is a state of mind more than a culture. Every one of us possesses this inner knowing, at times it is buried deep inside and at times we are floating in a place of weightlessness. This is the very reason we as humans study different cultures. We think that by observing a culture that appears to be happy, and then dissecting what they do, we can follow this process and find happiness for ourselves. We know how well this works. Observation of a content culture lets us know it is possible to live in peace and harmony but does not show us how to get there. How we get there, collectively or individually, is an inside job. As we become more acquainted with our higher self or life becomes simpler, even if we live in a chaotic metropolis. Think of it this way, the studying of an indigenous culture is metaphor for studying our inner being.

Frank Daly is a wellness coach and author who has transformed lives for over 15 years with his ability to enable his clients to see beyond the immediate drama of life and connect to the greater whole.

#### Connections...

(Continued from page 9)

permanently unlike our former selves. When we acknowledge that every organism that can be seen with our own eyes has this same basic structure, then our prior frame collapses into one overarching reality..... we are not 'in' the environment, but intimately 'of' the environment. And from that, we reconnect through invisible threads with the wisdom of the ancients, forming an unanticipated resonance across time with the peoples that roamed this land long before we and felt that they and the land were one. Should that not be so again?

Dr. Miller is the author of The Microcosm Within: Evolution and Extinction in the Hologenome. He is an international commentator and writer on the new sciences of the hologenome and the microbiome. You can follow him on his website, themicrocosmwithin.com, on Twitter @billmillermd or Facebook William Miller.

"It does not require many words to speak the truth."

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

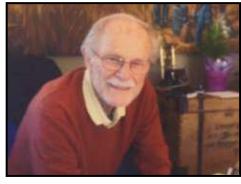


Title: Fellowship • Acrylic on canvas 24"X 36"
Year painted: 2016

www.marikasegal.com

Visionary artist Marika Segal from San Clemente, Ca, conveys the universe within humanity and animals with acrylic on canvas.

## Phillip H. Taylor, M.D.



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- Cliff Tartaglia, College Friend

Phillip H. Taylor, M.D. 3180 Willow Lane, #210 Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

#### Prescription for a Healthy Life

- 1. Today, wake up and greet the day with enthusiasm. Affirm every morning "It's a great day to be alive!"
- 2. Breathe deeply. Move gracefully. Dance lightly. Laugh joyfully. Sing out loud. Repeat several times a day!
- 3. Don't live too far ahead of yourself. Be present now.
- 4. Listen to your body, it is filled with wisdom.
- 5. Eat for health, vitality and longevity.
- 6. Learn something new today, a new word, a new skill, and then share that something new with the world.
- 7. Put your best foot forward. Dress up. Smile. Shine!
- 8. Remember, when you hold onto anger and resentment, it is like holding onto a hot coal and not throwing it away. Let the irritations of life go. Don't hold onto resentments.
- 9. Perform random acts of kindness every day. Smile at strangers, open doors for others, stop at lemonade stands.
- 10. Be grateful. Give thanks for this day, for being alive today on planet earth. Life is a gift! LIVE IT!

"But I've got silver in the stars And gold in the mornin' sun Gold in the mornin' sun..."

- I'm Just a Country Boy by Fred Hellerman and Marshall Baker

## **Justin Farmer:**

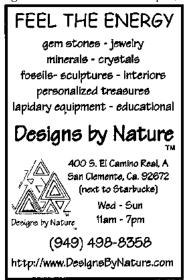
## Helped to Revive the Interest in California Indian Basket-Making

By Christopher Nyerges

Nearly 20 years ago, I saw a huge, larger-than-life photograph of Justin Farmer at the Southwest Museum, in which he was holding a traditional long bow. I continued to hear about this man, and see his picture in books on Native American survival skills and methods of sustainable living.

Finally, I had the opportunity to meet and interview this legend in Native American basketry circles. Farmer has written 4 full-color books on Southern California Indian basketry and cradles and is significantly responsible for the revival of Indian basketry in Southern California.

Farmer was born in 1926 in Julian, California. Farmer explained that he's registered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a "mission Indian," which is the legal term. He quickly adds that they do not like to be called "mission" because it implies that they are subject to the mission. "So most of my life I have been known as a Digueno from San Diego County, but we don't much care for the term 'Digueno' either because it implies we're children of San Diego. We call ourselves Ipai,"



explains Farmer, a term in his traditional language that means "the people."

Farmer continues, explaining that his grandmother was indentured as an infant. "The purpose of indenturing was to stamp out native culture, and it was very effective. So my grandmother hated Indians! That's what she was taught. She couldn't speak her native language, only Spanish. And so that's what she taught her 11 children, and that's what she taught my mother, and that's the way I was raised – that it's not acceptable to be an Indian."

Justin Farmer seems remarkably chipper and alert for his 80-something years. He smiles and adds, "Of the five siblings in my family, I'm the only one who's registered and I'm the only one who will admit to being an Indian." He pauses and smiles. "So until my middle age, I pushed that aside but I always knew I would capitalize on that somehow." Indeed!

In the 1970s, Farmer began to collect Native American baskets. "These baskets are an art form," he emphasizes. "Yes, they are utilitarian, but they are really an art form."



Farmer wanted to collect baskets from the makers, so in the 1970s, he began on a quest to find Southern California Indian weavers. "I started in Santa Barbara, and found that there were no Indian weavers left in Santa Barbara. He went south to Ventura County and found no Indian weavers in Ventura County. He found no native weavers in all of Los Angeles County.

He searched Orange County, San Bernardino County, Imperial County, and it was the same. No native weavers.

He found one elderly lady in Riverside County who still wove baskets, and he found three Indian ladies in San Diego County. "Ironically, all three of them were cousins of mine," said Farmer with a laugh.

The oldest of these three women was about the age of Farmer's mother, in her late 70s or early 80s. Christina Osuna Berseford.

Farmer wanted her to teach him how to make baskets but she didn't want to, saying that it was women's work. "I told her that a man-weaver is better than no weaver at all," said Farmer with a laugh.

He then commissioned Berseford to make a traditional basket with a rattlesnake pattern, and she agreed to make it for \$100. "So during this time, I was still badgering her about

teaching me the art, and she told me that it would take her 300 hours to make the basket I wanted. That included the time to collect and process the raw materials. So she tells me, 'I'm going to charge you \$100 for 300 hours, so you tell me why I should teach my niece how to weave baskets? I'm getting 30 cents an hour!'"

Farmer paid her \$150 when he finally picked up the basket, and she finally agreed to teach him the dying art of basketry. "I sat at her feet and she walked me through this whole process and I took it upon myself to promulgate this art," said Farmer, who has conducted at least 40 basketmaking classes over the years, and taught at 12 different colleges and universities.

He points out that there are maybe 100 styles of basketry, and that he learned and teaches what he calls the Southern California Mission-style of basketry.

"When I started with this whole learning process, there were only 3 Indian women left in all of Southern California who knew the traditional basketry technique," said Farmer. "Three, out of maybe 20 million people! Now, there are perhaps a hundred traditional weavers in Southern Califor-(Continued on page 15)

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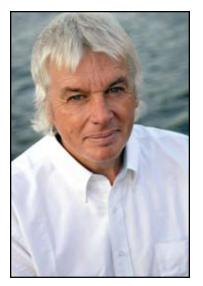
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### Awakening Mass Consciousness Since the Early 90's!

By Nash Singh



David Icke Photo by Jaymie Icke

David Icke is one of the forerunners in the global consciousness awakening movement with titles like "Human Race Get Off Your Knees" and "The Biggest Secret" rising to almost "gospel" status among alternative thinkers. When Icke started out on his journey of questioning the "norms" of society 26 years ago, he was publicly labeled for his "absurd" theories. Now we witness the reality he warned us about daily in mainstream news. Even critics of his work agree that "Icke is right" on a multitude of predictions made throughout his career.

His recently released book, "Phantom Self" describes the fake self that people are manipulated into believing is who they are during the human experience. He postulates that "we, in our true infinite state, are simply awareness. Forget the body, forget form. These are all vehicles for this awareness to experience different realities." Icke believes that the time is drawing near, when the human race will no longer be

within the pyramid of ignorance and fear and embrace our true nature which is love...

Nash Singh, Projects Manager for Conscious Events - Official hosts of the Worldwide Wake Up Tour, USA, Australia & New Zealand.

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> ~ Dave Chief, Oglala Lakota

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### Modern Science Finds that the Spiritual Blessing Cloth can Provide Real, Measurable Benefits

By Awareness Magazine Contributor

The history of the Blessing Cloth goes back to ancient times when it was believed to influence a higher level of vibration and spiritual energy. In modern times, science has discovered that spiritual talismans like the Blessing Cloth can provide real, measurable benefits to those who keep it.

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# Award-Winning Spa Destinations

By Ann Nelson

I know very few people who are not affected by the craziness going on in the world right now. It's essential that we give ourselves a break and go to a quiet tranquil place to recharge and renew. My friend DJ and I were yearning to get away and after careful research, we knew just where to go.

Our first destination was thirty minutes from San Diego, two hours from Los Angeles and six miles from the ocean. We drove along winding country roads, through groves of towering eucalyptus trees, hidden houses and horse farms to the historic Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. The inn, built in 1922 and located in the center of the village, is situated on 21 pristine acres. The grounds are soothing and filled with nature. Gentle paths wind through gardens, croquet lawns and courtyards with cozy lounging areas surrounding outdoor fireplaces. Plants harvested from the lush organic garden are essential ingredients for the restaurant and the spa.

The Spa at the Inn offers superb therapy work. The Inner Strength Massage incorporates a blend of essential oils strengthen the mind and spirit. The Deep Discovery Massage focuses on penetrating work to reduce muscle tension and inwalled courtyard with an overing with breath. Lisa Gornall, energy coach visits the spa for private sessions.

Morada's, the signature restaurant, spills out onto the oversized porch overlooking the elegant landscape. Menu choices are constantly evolving, inspired by the fresh local produce.

The rural elegance of the inn and the town itself offer a little slice of serenity along with the feeling of nostalgia that exemplifies the ambiance of "Old California". Spending time at





Photo courtesy of Rancho La Puerto.

this countryside retreat is actually more affordable than many places at the nearby beach. The quaint historic village and sixty miles of hiking trails are just outside the front door. Many of the luxurious guest rooms and cottages feature outdoor lounging areas and fireplaces. The inn has a long history of prestigious awards, including 2014 Conde Nast "Top 5 of the 25 Best Hotels in Southern California" and 2015 USA Today "Top Ten Best Boutique Hotels in Southern California".

Rancho La Puerta, a little over an hour's drive from San Diego and around three hours from Los Angeles, is another magical and transformative destination. The spa, voted "Top 10 Best Destination Spas" in 2015 by Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards Reader's Polls, has been in operation since 1940 and is situated on 3,000 acres at the base of Mount Kuchumaa.

The heart and soul of Rancho La Puerta is based on the life principles of its co-founder, Deborah Szekely. "It's easy to play so many roles that you're just not there. You won't find yourself unless you look and listen. The goal is to look at yourself and find time for yourself." The key, Deborah says, is to create a balance in life.

There are endless ways to fill your days here. Dozens of activities and fitness classes include boxing, stretching, yoga, meditation, hiking, dancing and jewelry making. A full menu of spa treatments are available at therapy centers that dot the landscape. There are 11 gyms, four outdoor pools, a running track, a Labyrinth, a reflexology path and tennis courts. Evening programs and lectures are featured each week and discussion topics range from "A New Vision for Growing Wise" to "Taking Charge of Your Health and Happiness". Many of the keynote speakers are worldrenowned artists, doctors, astronomers and philosophers.

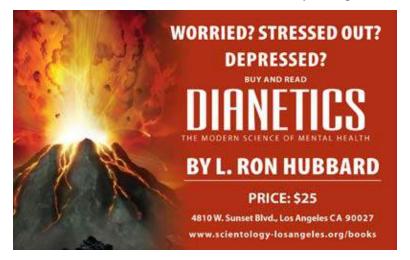
Activities, meals, lodging and classes are included in the price. Six different styles of casitas all come with lovely patios and gardens. Healthy scrumptious meals are prepared with ingredients fro the six-acre organic garden and served in the beautiful Spanish Colonial dining room. Executive Chef Denise Roa dazzles guests with creations like Homemade Pasta with Porcini Mushrooms. Cooking classes are offered by visiting chefs such as Joe Yonan, the two-time James Beard Award-winning Food and Dining editor of The Washington Post. On Saturday round-trip transportation to and from the San Diego airport is provided.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:** The Inn & Spa at Rancho

**Santa Fe:** (858) 756-1131 or www.theinnatrsf.com

Rancho La Puerta: (858) 764-5500 or contact: www. rancholapuerta.com

Ann Nelson is a freelance writer residing in San Diego.



#### Farmer...

(Continued from page 12)

nia." Farmer is now on the board of the directors of the California Indian Basketmakers Association, which has a bulletin and an annual gathering.

He's also the author of four books.

His first book was "Southern California Luiseno Indian Baskets: A study of 76 Luiseno Baskets in the Riverside Municipal Museum Collection" (2004). This was written and produced as a result of the U.S. Postal Service issues a pane of 10 stamps to commemorate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. One of the stamps featured one of the baskets in the Riverside Municipal Museum collection, and this was the impetus for this full-color book describing the various Southern California baskets.

Farmer's second book was "Basketry Plants Used by Western American Indians" (2010) which shows the 37 common plants used in Southern California Indian baskets. Farmer wrote this book for students and collectors to help identify the material used in old baskets. It took him about 5 years to complete this book.

His third book was "Creating an Indian Style Coiled Basket" (2012), which is a complete guide to making a coiled-style basket from the raw material to the finished basket. When asked about the use of pine needles in coiled baskets, Farmer replies, "There were only a pitifully few Indian people in California who ever used pine needles. In fact, if you see a basket with pine needles, there's a 99.5% chance that it was made by a white guy." He adds that there were only about three Indian families in all of California who made traditional baskets with pine needles. "Pine needles are brittle and not good basketry material."

Farmer's fourth book was

"Indian Cradles of California and the Western Great Basin" (2013), a beautiful cataloguing of the styles of cradles and the people who made them. The techniques used to make a cradle are all basketry techniques, and, according to Farmer, the Indian cradles are very poorly represented in the literature. All the mothers carried their children on their backs in cradles in the old days, and when they were no longer needed, they were typically just hung up in a tree and left to go back to nature.

Additionally, Farmer authored a book about Chinigchinich, which the Indian religion from the Los Angeles basin. It was only recorded by a Catholic missionary, father Boscana. "Boscana was the only missionary who ever took the time to study and record the local religion," explains Farmer, "though he wasn't above bad-mouthing them either." Farmer's hard-to-get book on Chinigchinich is a digest of the three versions of Boscana's 1820s book.

Over the years, Farmer has practiced bow-making, flint-knapping, arrow-making, and learning to make throwing sticks. He learned to make throwing sticks from Paul Campbell, author of "Survival Skills of Native California." "I have the highest regard for Paul Campbell," he says, "since Paul doesn't accept that 2 + 2 = 4."

"I've gotten involved a lot in the old skills. Not just so-called survival skills. People lived in the old days. Think of all the things we do today. Well, that's what people did in the past, except they had no Walmart to go to. Everything came from scratch, from nature."

Books by Justin Farmer are available from The Justin Farmer Foundation, 1954 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835, or by calling 714 256-1260.

Nyerges is a teacher and the author of "Foraging California," "Guide to Wild Foods," "How to Survive Anywhere," and other books. He can be reached at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.

## Bloodstone GemSpot with a Geranium AromaSpot

By Margaret Ann Lembo



Photo courtesy of Andy Frame Photography

The vibration of bloodstone and geranium - hand in hand - offer the opportunity to birth your dreams into reality as you constantly regenerate and rejuvenate on all levels. Bloodstone amplifies your ability to manifest your dreams and intentions. It helps you to stay motivated and actually take the action you need to actualize the dream, project, invention, or idea. With bloodstone in hand, you are motivated and bring it from the idea stage to the actual realization so you can see it, touch it, play with it, and enjoy it!

Bloodstone helps you to truly recognize that your feelings and emotions are the juice behind what you manifest in your life, that your heartfelt emotions create your reality. Use this stone to clear your emotional birth canal so that you have a clear channel for the emotions that help determine your life's purpose.

Couple geranium with bloodstone for balance and to repel negativity and those who may hamper the efforts to manifest the dream. Geranium helps you to maintain your focus on something important when your thoughts are scattered. Its calming effect helps you sort out your thoughts.

Both geranium and bloodstone are beneficial to reduce the effects of hormonal challenges. Inhale geranium essential oil while you keep a bloodstone on or near you when you are reestablishing your equilibrium to enable you to step forward with confidence and courage to give birth to your goals and dreams.

Affirmation: It is easy for me to birth my dreams into reality. My energy flows perfection. I take action and get things done. My relationships with friends and colleagues are supportive and in balance. I am healthy, whole, and complete.

Margaret Ann Lembo is the author of The Essential Guide to Aromatherapy and Vibrational Healing and The Essential Guide to Crystals, Minerals and Stones. Find out more about The Crystal Garden Brand medical grade essential oils and all of her books at www.TheCrystalGarden.com and www.MargaretAnnLembo.com.





## Not Stope By Audrey Hope

## To Us All

Our techno world can never advance us enough to honor and love the land and the heart and each other. Our machines can't measure inner light, the saving key.

We think we have travelled far, but we are now less than the same, - dangerously lost, seduced into Reality show reality, nourished on twitter feeds, and loved by Facebook likes. We speak of the right and the left, but it is the wrong conversation because it is about the center point, the connection of light to our souls. Did we exclude the term from our media list?

If we are discussing values let us term it primal. This is the kind of language –in any location, has as its foundation – truth telling and a declaration of love for ourselves, each other and the land. It contains the honor and the integrity to uplift and transform. It is what the indigenous people have and we need to call them up.

On this topic of being indigenous, I found some younger writings around this issue that still rings true today.

### I WANT TO BE AN INDIGENOUS PERSON

(to belong naturally to a place)

I am jealous of my friends from other lands. They know things. They worship things. I buy things. I count things.

They dance in moonlight to awaken sleeping goddesses, Once, I bought a picture of women circling in a group and hung it on my wall.

In community, they gather and cook meals on sacred fire. I drive through clown machines to eat, alone.

Great grandmothers teach them to revere the land and sea,

I watch people pray on t.v. I want to be an indigenous person.

They discuss seeds and earth and notice how trees grow. I count wrinkles and worry how they will disappear.

Their silence is eternity. In noisy cities, I measure time lost.

I want to be an indigenous person,
To love my homeland, to bless my life, my moments,
To notice the small things everyday- like the air I breathe can be enough.

I want to be an indigenous person.
To embrace, that despite the pain, the suffering, the despair - Grace reigns, beauty abounds.

And this holy earth that lets me walk on it is the gift, and saving it, is the only work that matters in this life.

#### **TEACH ME HOW TO BOW**

I can be jealous of the way you love...

That you bend to kiss the morning,

And kneel to thank the night ... And hold the sacred passage of things.

A reverence so natural - married hands meeting your low-

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ered brow.
You touch silence,
and know - GREAT SPIRIT,
While my mom bought apples
in the store.
A city girl - I thought fruit
grew on shelves.

No one showed me the language of the earth...
That a tree could talk, the wind has ears, and animals run wild with messages from God.

My world runs on batteries technical and fast. Things are black and silver. I run to catch time. I never stop.

Oh, teach me emerald green, and majestic blue. and to honor the footprints of bears, and deer.

I want what you still have, Though we trampled and murdered and drained your blood. And took your land and your children and your heart and tried for your soul.

We could not take your bow. Teach me how to bow. Teach us all how to bow. Then, I think maybe, could be, the world would be okay.

In lowered reverence, this must be the secret song to life.

Audrey Hope is a spiritual counselor and host/producer of REAL WOMEN, an international award-winning talk show dedicated to life-altering perspectives. Visit: www.hopesreal women.com and audrey-hope.com Her CD, The High Voltage Hope System, is available on www.amazon.com

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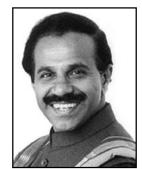
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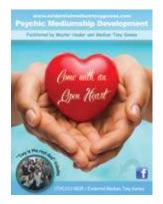
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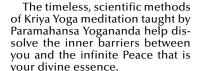
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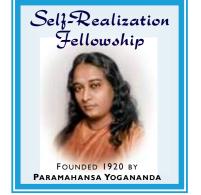
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By Jenny T. Liu, M.A.

## Inviting Ancestral Wisdom

You make decisions every day. At some point, you may feel uncertain about what direction to take question or if you are doing the right thing. Parents and elders with their life experience can help you make major decisions in your life, however, they may not always be physically accessible.

In the circle of life, the physical body perishes, but the soul never dies. Because all energy is recycled and interconnected, your ancestors always remain a part of you. As long as you stay connected with your ancestors in some fashion, they

can impart their wisdom and comfort to you. Realizing and embracing that your ancestral wisdom is always a part of you is empowering.

Maintaining connection with your ancestors can be done several ways. In many cultures, an altar is placed in the home and acts as a bridge between you and your ancestors. Although styles vary, the ancestral altar is basically a table or cabinet with space to accommodate a plaque upon which your ancestors' names are inscribed, an incense burner, three cups of water, and daily offerings of fruit or flowers.

In various cultures, there are special times during the year set aside for celebrating ancestry or remembering the deceased. For the Chinese, this time is known as the "Ghost Month." Every year, the full moon is aligned opposite the sun on the fifteenth night of the seventh lunar month. This marks the beginning of Ghost Month. It is believed that during this alignment, the portals of the spirit dimensions are open and spirits are able to freely roam the earth and visit their families.

Ghost Month festivities focus mind and soul energy on connecting with ancestral wisdom. During the first, fifteenth, and last day of the Ghost Month, offerings of food, burning incense, and burning paper representations of material goods are performed along with prayers. With these offerings and prayers you can send your messages, questions, and wishes to your ancestors, asking

them to resolve your concerns or manifest your desires.

Another very powerful way to connect with ancestral wisdom is to meditate upon appropriate artwork. Recent neurological studies show that whether you physically perform an action, or imagine yourself performing the action, the brain responds and processes the information in the same way. This means that even if you cannot place an actual ancestral altar in your home, a visual aid can help you visualize yourself making offerings at an altar, which can lead to connection with your ancestors.

As an example of how to use a visual aid in meditation I am using the Chi Art painting "Heavenly Offerings" pictured in this article. While gazing at "Heavenly Offerings," imagine you are the person in the painting, hold your hands together in prayer, and bow to the heavens and your ancestors. Send your ancestors men-

(Continued on page 25)



## **BOOK** Reviews

By Chris L. Thompson



#### THE BOOK OF HO'OPONOPONO: THE HAWAIIAN PRACTICE OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

by Luc Bodin, M.D., Nathalie Bodin Lamboy, and Jean Graciet

The Book of Ho'oponopono explains how an ancient Hawaiian shamanic custom can reshape our being. The mantra "I'm sorry, forgive me, thank you, I love you" is a powerful but simple method of healing. With consistent use, negative memories and their associated energy is banished. The authors share historical and scientific evidence and explain how Ho'oponopono works. This book is a practical guide on cleansing the spirit and becoming receptive to the possibilities that are all around us. It is a modern adaptation of an ancient tradition that applies to all.

Published by Destiny Books, www. DestinyBooks.com. Available at local booksellers and online.

#### BE YOUR OWN HERBALIST: ESSENTIAL HERBS FOR HEALTH, BEAUTY, AND COOKING

by Michelle Schoffro Cook, PhD. DNM

In this book, Michelle Schofforo Cook has an epiphany while sitting on a park bench. She realizes that "Mother Nature's medicine" would hold the key to treating her disease, a rare genetic disorder, that modern pharmaceuticals had failed to remedy. On her journey of healing, she discovers that there are many herbs that can treat a multitude of ailments. This is a manual to thirty-one different herbs. It is a step by step guide to growing,

harvesting and using herbs medicinally and culinarily. There is scientific documentation for the each herb's effectiveness on certain afflictions. There are instructions to make a variety of concoctions like ointments, infusions, tinctures, poultices, and fomentations. There are also simple ways to include all of these herbs into our daily diets. It is a book for anyone interested in practical applications of holistic medicine.

Published by New World Library, www.newworldlibrary.com. Available at local booksellers and online

## EARTH ACUPUNCTURE: HEALING THE LANDSCAPE

by Gail Reichstein Rex, L.Ac.

A vision received during a meditation class starts Gail Rex on a path to help heal a section of the Hudson river and land surrounding an aging nuclear power plant. On this journey of discovery, she would learn how to listen to the land. She puts together of team of local

friends and colleagues from the United Kingdom. They diagnose and come up with a treatment; Native American and Chinese medicine combine with Celtic earth magic to start the healing process. A melding of various traditions from around the world becomes a tool to help heal it. In this story, we learn how much human beings and the earth mirror each other. Acupuncture diagrams and maps of the Hudson river help demonstrate this relationship. There are some exercises included to help us deepen our connection to the land.

Published by Bear & Company, www.BearandCompanyBooks.com. Available at local booksellers and online.

#### SPEAKING WITH NATURE: AWAKENINGS TO THE DEEP WISDOM OF THE EARTH

by Sandra Ingerman and Llyn Roberts

This book is written by two shamanic teachers as a guide to improving our communication with the feminine power of nature and the nature spirits who inhabit the Earth. Each of the authors share their experiences with several of the nature beings. Outwardly, the authors' experiences are unique. This is because of where they live. One lives near the Hoh Rain

Forest in Washington while the other lives in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico. But we soon discover that the spirits communicate similar messages. After each account, there are exercises to perform. One may learn to communicate with nature and the divine feminine with practice.

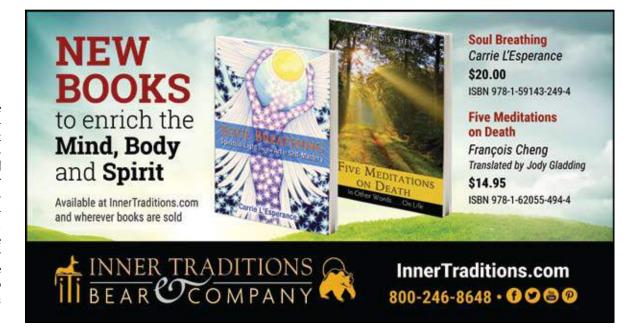
Published by Bear & Company, www.BearandCompanyBooks.com, Available at local booksellers and online.

#### BECOMING NATURE: LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS

by Tamarack Song

Tamarack Song teaches us in twelve steps the techniques needed to commune and become one with nature. This book will help us to again become active participants instead of spectators on the sidelines of the wild. Finding what Tamarack calls the "Animal Mind" is not easy in our world. It requires us to give up preconceived notions and our reliance on solely verbal communication. Modern technology hinders this process of discovery. Communicating through means other than talking may be hard but there are several helpful exercises. After

(Continued on page 24)



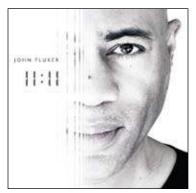
## MUSIC MEDIA Reviews

By Michael Diamond



#### **JOHN FLUKER**

11:11 www.johnfluker.com



LA-based pianist/composer John Fluker is a man on a mission. As he describes it: "My life is about sharing my musical knowledge, and using my talents to help other performers create inspiring music." For me, this album had lots of surprises, and there is definitely something for everyone in its mix of elegant and soulful solo piano as well as contemporary groove-based tracks and orchestration. I appreciated hearing John's usage of electronic elements and the tasteful way he integrated them. Beyond being impressed with John's remarkable abilities as a pianist and composer, as well as his skills in the studio as an arranger, there is a feeling and emotional expressiveness that comes through in his music, no doubt reflecting his deep spirituality, which I found quite moving and deeply inspiring. I know that this is an album I'll come back to again whenever I want to tap into that feeling.

#### **FIONA JOY**

Signature Synchronicity www.fionajoy.com

The term "synchronicity" is defined as: the coming together of inner and outer

events. On Fiona's homage to this phenomenon, her deep inspiration and artistic vision combine with the exceptional talents of the many gifted musicians and producers she had the good fortune to work with. Fiona Joy is a truly a remarkable composer and pianist whose graceful and elegant piano work is as technically impressive as it is emotionally evocative. In addition to her exquisite piano playing, Fiona's airy vocals imbue the tracks they are on with an ethereal ambiance. With this new release, "Signature - Synchronicity," Fiona reprises the stunning piano compositions from her recent solo piano release, "Signature - Solo," but here adds accompaniment by a host of world-class musicians, recorded at the iconic Imaginary Road Studios of GRAMMY winning producer and Windham Hill Records founder Will Ackerman, who called Fiona: "One of the brightest lights in the contemporary instrumental genre."

#### **IEFF PEARCE**

"Follow The River Home" www.jeffpearcemusic.com

For many, the electric guitar has been a symbol of rock & roll and not usually thought of in terms of dreamy ambient soundscapes. But that is exactly what highly regarded recording artist Jeff Pearce has been creating with the instrument over the last 23 years. While it would be easy to assume that the ethereal layers of sound originate from synthesizers, they all indeed emanate from six strings, channeled through a variety of electronic effects. This latest release includes two live concert recordings and five studio compositions that reflect structured and improvised works, and some with a bit of both. Sonic cloud formations, shimmering arpeggiated chords, and stratospheric lead guitar take the listener on a musical magic carpet ride. Jeff's albums have garnered a variety awards, nominations, critical acclaim, and radio airplay, and "Follow The River Home," will certainly not be an exception. In fact, it is one of Jeff's best releases yet.

#### **SEAY**

In The Garden www.seayinthegarden.com

In The Garden by composer, vocalist, and instrumentalist Seay (pronounced "say"), is one of the most uplifting, richly orchestrated, and lavishly produced recordings I've heard in some time, on a level with the work of renowned artists like David Arkenstone or Enya. While some of Seay's vocals and arrangements may evoke favorable comparisons with Enya, she indeed has her own unique style that integrates a much wider range of world music influences. An extensive list of top musicians and studio personnel from around the world, including new age GRAMMY winners Ricky Kej and Wouter Kellerman lent their talents to the project. Seay's vision is for the music to take people to a timeless place of peace and beauty, to the mythical Shangri la. With themes that include love and respect for the earth, the oneness of all life, and more, In The Garden is an exquisitely detailed and deeply inspirational musical experience.

#### **SILVIA NAKKACH**

Liminal

www.silvianakkach.com

"Space... the final frontier." For anyone who has ever watched *Star Trek*, these iconic words will strike a resonant chord. Although these words could also describe *Liminal*, the new album by GRAMMY

nominated composer, vocalist, and instrumentalist Silvia Nakkach whose music is as much about sound as it is about the space that surrounds it. Billowing clouds of ambient atmospheres carry elements of Indian ragas, sacred Afro-Brazilian chants, and more that drift serenely over ever-evolving sonic terrain that is expansive, ethereal, and enchanting. The word "flow" provides a good description of the music heard throughout the album. Joining Silvia are Todd Boston, who also produced the album, David Darling, Jeff Oster, and Val Serrant. Silvia's exquisitely airy vocals glide and soar gracefully like an albatross over the tranquil musical waters. Liminal provides a transcendent listening experience that invites one to enter into a timeless space and connect with deeper levels of Being.

Michael Diamond is a music producer, recording artist, and music journalist in the San Francisco Bay area with over 30 years of experience writing for nationally-published magazines and more recently worldwide on the internet. He currently has five CD's including two with new-age music pioneer Steven Halpern. For additional reviews of CD's, DVD's, and more, please visit: www.michael diamondmusic.com

#### Book Reviews...

(Continued from page 23)

mastery of the nonverbal, the lessons turn to moving through nature. There are games that teach skills which will help you to become one with nature. If you have the dedication, you can learn all of the skills that Tamarack Songs teaches.

Published by Bear & Company, www.BearandCompanyBooks. com, Available at local booksellers and online.

Chris L. Thompson is a freelance photographer and documentary filmmaker who makes his home with his family in Sacramento.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Native American Proverb

## **REFLEXIONS**

By Robert Ross, CHZT



## California Get Ready! The Adult Use of Marijuana Act is Coming

"Pot Legal in California!" reads the headline, January 1, 2017. The statewide initiative officially titled the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) is, according to the Los Angeles Times, "a clear favorite to make the November ballot."

This initiative has the backing of the California Medical Association, State Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, the state NAACP, and financial support from billionaires like George Soros and Sean Parker.

The trend toward legalization of cannabis in the state indicates a sea-change is in the works. The Public Policy Institute of California survey shows 60% of likely voters favor legalization, indicating behaviors will pivot rather dramatically on January 1. So dramatically, California, often referred to as the "golden state," may take on the dubious title of the "weed state."

On September 30, 2010, Governor Brown signed into law CA State Senate Bill 1449, which effectively reduced the charge of possession of one ounce of cannabis from a misdemeanor to an infraction, similar to a traffic violation, with a \$100 fine and no mandatory court appearance or criminal record.

California, the most populous state in the country with over 38 million people, is seen as a trend setter for the nation.

So all eyes, nationally — and worldwide — will be focused on the November election. And, surprisingly, if the Adult Use of Marijuana Act passes, pot will be legal in all the west coast states from Alaska to the Mexican border.

Currently, twenty-four states now allow the use of medical marijuana, and four states, Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado, have legalized the use of pot for recreational use.

So, how will things look under the new law? Will we see a return of the hippie generation, stoned young people, wearing tie-dyed T-shirts frolicking about in local parks? Let's take a look.

Marijuana is legal in California for medical use only. It's taxed, and brings in — according to 2014 statistics — up to \$109 million in revenues yearly. As of March 1, 2016, there were over 750,000 legal medical marijuana users in the state.

A study looking at the legalization of medical marijuana nationwide, published in 2014 in the journal *PLOS ONE*, found: "Not only does medical marijuana legalization not correlate with an uptick in crime, researchers from the University of Texas at Dallas argue it may actually reduce it." The reduction in crime following the legalization of medical marijuana should hold true with the legalization of cannabis for adults.

Summarizing the AUMA initiative, the bill would legalize marijuana for those over 21 years old. It will protect children by prohibiting the consumption of marijuana near schools and places where children congregate. It establishes laws to regulate marijuana cultivation, distribution, sale and use. It will also protect the environment from potential dangers. And, the bill establishes the Bureau of Marijuana Control within the Department of Consumer Affairs to regulate and license the marijuana industry.

The state Attorney General's summary of the bill indicates there will be a reduction in costs related to marijuana offenses, saving state and local governments up to \$100 million annually. The summary also suggests that net additional state and local tax revenues were likely, ranging from the high hundreds of millions of dollars to over \$1 billion annually. Most of these funds would be required to be spent for specific purposes such as substance use disorder education, prevention, and treatment.

California's legalization will have a huge impact. As a result, restrictions on the use of marijuana will fall like dominos throughout the nation. Newsweek magazine stated the success of the California's initiative would be influential, given California's national importance as a "regulatory laboratory."

Legalizing marijuana in California will present problems, of course, from driving under the influence, to exposure of cannabis to those under the age of 21. Colorado is currently using tax revenue from cannabis sales to fund research into a law enforcement test to determine if someone is high while driving. California will benefit from this analysis.

As legislation moves forward in California and other states, one thing is obvious: decriminalization and variations on legalization is occurring

throughout the nation. There will be court challenges, and communities that ban the use of pot all together, much like dry communities throughout the country. However, when all is said and done, the use of cannabis is here to stay. We can either make it legal, tax and regulate it, or let the drug cartels reap the profits, expanding their criminal enterprises.

Remember, elections are November 8. Let your voice be heard.

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Robert Ross can be reached at: SanDiegoRoss@yahoo.com

### Feng Shui...

(Continued from page 22)

tal thoughts through the prayer; show them your appreciation, and share with them your deepest thoughts and desires. Look upon the common chicken transforming into a magical phoenix as a metaphor for your wishes coming true.



Heavenly Offerings

Mentally become one with the archer shooting his arrow at the tiger. This imagery releases harm, loss, and injury. Use your eyes to trace the patterns of the mantra charms in the upper left of the painting for bringing love, peace, power, and wealth.

Committed meditation in front of an altar or appropriate work of art is one way to establish a connection with your ancestors. It allows you to look deeply within yourself to receive helpful messages, protection, and comfort from loving ancestors who are always a part of you as you navigate through life.

# CALENDAR of Events

Calendars are \$2.00 per word, minimum \$30.00. Phone numbers with area code, websites, and e-mails are considered as one word; hyphenated words are considered as two words. Please e-mail your listing to: Yolanda@awarenessmag.com Deadline is August 15.

#### **ONGOING**

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#### JULY

July — Yogiraj Gurunath Siddhanath 2016 World Tour. Anaheim Retreat at the The Learning Light Foundation on Sunday, July 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Encinitas Experiential Workshop - Seaside Center for Spiritual Living on Saturday, July 23 from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Carlsbad Retreat at The Hilton Garden Inn on Saturday, July 30 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 31 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. www. siddhanath.org

July 26 - Vittorio Grigòlo in concert at 7:30 p.m. Born in Arezzo, Italy, Vittorio Grigòlo is the quintessential Italian tenor. He began his vocal career 26 years ago as a soloist in the Sistine Chapel Choir and at 39, he is considered one of the finest tenors of his generation. He has performed principal tenor roles in the world's most prestigious opera houses and his exceptional vocal and dramatic talents have been widely praised since his 2010 debuť at London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as the Chevalier des Grieux. The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage - 1310 11th St. Santa Monica CA 90401. Parking is free. www.thebroadstage.com



#### **AUGUST**

August 27 - 28 - VOYAGER TAROT TRAINING, LA/BUR-BANK, Sat + Sun, 10am - 7pm. Learn to use Tarot's "energy mirrors" as Soul-Coaching tools in this one-weekend crash-course. Tarot Soul-Coaching Practitioner ongoing training also available. Info: Barbara Schiffman. (818) 415-3479, www.YourLifeand Soul.com, www.Meetup.com/AkashicLA

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**September 23-25 The Apollo Conferences** in Atlanta, GA. Communion. Experience the power of transformation that Union IS, inspiring like-minded hearts in music, presentations, art, celebration. Call (949) 290-3333 or visit www.apolloconfer ences.com"

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\*Recommended reading prior to workshop:

"You Can Heal Your Life"

By: Louise Hay\* Facilitated by:

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www.whispersyoga.comupcomingevents

Let us know peace. For as long as the moon shall rise, For as long as the rivers shall flow,

For as long as the sun shall shine,

For as long as the grass shall grow,

Let us know peace.

- Cheyenne Prayer

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

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Kundalini Kriya Yoga Advanced Retreat Hilton Garden Inn, Carlsbad Beach July 31