



I W C Newsletter

Concord House, 1407 Chapala St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.worldculture.org



The Hero in Man

“What we need is that interior tenderness shall be elevated into seership, that what in most is only yearning or blind love shall see clearly its way and hope. To this end we have to observe more intently the nature of the interior life ... There is a spirit in us deeper than our intellectual being which I think of as the hero in man, who feels the nobility of its place in the midst of all this, and who would fain equal the greatness of perception with deeds as great.”

— A.E. (George William Russell)

George William Russell, or A.E. (1867 - 1935), not only contributed to the Irish cooperative movement, but was an artist, poet, and mystic whose writings are relevant today. “Chivalry” draws upon ancient Celtic mythology to illustrate the theme of universality which enriches our understanding of human nature and inspires fresh applications of ethical principles to contemporary living.

Chivalry

I read in one of the Celtic stories, a tale rudely told but instinct with a magnificent spirit of rivalry, how Maeve, queen of the Olnemacta, stood upon the walls of her liss and saw below the Knights of the Red Branch arrayed and ready for battle against her; and as her druid pointed out one famous hero after another - Concobar, most subtle of princes, Cuculain the champion, Conal, Laegaire, and the rest, how a glow of heroic admiration lit up her speech: ‘Noble and regal is the description,’ cried the queen. ‘Noble and regal are they of whom it is said,’ her druid also spoke. Not the fear of conquest, not death, could still the impartial love of beauty, wisdom, and courage shining even in a foe. Such was the tradition of Celtic chivalry. It has almost passed into the night, this great and fearless spirit. Whatever honeyed words are addressed by one nation to another have good material expectation, the making of some advantageous treaty, at the back of them. Let that hope be shattered, and where is the chivalry?

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Theme for 2009: Expressions of Spiritual Striving

Aim 5: To deepen awareness of man’s spiritual striving and its rich variety of expression in the religions, philosophies and literatures of humanity. —Declaration of Interdependence

UPCOMING EVENTS



Exploring the Culture of Bhutan

**Forum: Saturday, April 4
4:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara
Presenters: Kathy Stiles and
Robert Reynolds**

How does a traditional culture retain its values while adapting to modern life? What kind of education can help the people of a country in transition give direction to cultural change?

The presenters will illustrate the talk with original slides taken during their recent visit to Bhutan.

For information: (805) 687-6466
<http://www.worldculture.org>



Symbolism of the Quest in Myth and Fairy Tales

**Seminar: Saturday, April 18
2:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara
Presenters: Nandini Iyer
and Garrett Riegg**

How do myths and fairy tales from different cultures depict the goals and challenges of a quest for knowledge or spiritual enlightenment? What meaning does such a quest hold for modern life? The speakers will offer their insights with reference to a variety of myths and stories and invite discussion of such questions.

For information: (805) 967-1055
<http://www.worldculture.org>

Chivalry

And between public men the tone is equally ignoble: to praise an opponent, to grant him sincerity and patriotism, seems almost a betrayal of one's own party. But could we not hail like Maeve with equal joy whatever of beautiful or good shines in those who are opposed to us? How meagre then would appear the hostile array! The distinctions of party, the pride of nationality, have no place in those who see One alone living in all. With this ideal before us we declare ourselves free from all parties and to belong to one nation only. Our people are humanity and our foes are yet to be discovered. Whoever deny us we shall not deny. If they are witty at our expense they shall have made us to laugh also; and if they are cruel we will remember that we can only be hurt by departing from our own ideals. We shall hail whatever is beautiful in them as their contribution to a common cause. And indeed it seems to us that it is only through such tolerance and mutual recognition that the dream brooded upon with awe and hope by so many great thinkers in the past will ever become possible, that spiritual fusion of nations where a limitless spirit pervades a multiform life, and one eternal will inspires all with equal intent. Though this divine event be far off in the sunset of time, it is not too early to begin our efforts while the clash and roar of battle are about us. While we are in the turmoil, O spirit of ancient chivalry, return again to us. Return, return!

George W. Russell

In April

Anniversaries

- 1st William Harvey, English physician b. 1578
- 1st Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian composer, pianist, conductor b. 1873
- 2nd Charlemagne, German King of the Franks, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire b. 742
- 2nd Hans Christian Andersen, Danish author, poet b. 1805
- 3rd Washington Irving, American author, essayist, historian b. 1783
- 4th Martin Luther King, Jr., African-American clergyman, civil rights leader d. 1968
- 5th Joseph Lister, English surgeon b. 1827
- 5th Booker T. Washington, African-American educator, orator, author b. 1856
- 6th Raphael, Italian High Renaissance painter, architect b. 1483
- 7th William Wordsworth, English Romantic poet b. 1770
- 8th Hugo von Mohl, German botanist b. 1805
- 9th Charles Baudelaire, French poet, critic, translator b. 1821
- 9th Paul Robeson, African-American singer, actor, activist, lawyer b. 1898
- 10th Hugo Grotius, Dutch jurist, playwright, poet b. 1583
- 10th George William Russell, Irish nationalist, writer, editor b. 1867
- 13th Thomas Jefferson, American political philosopher, Founding Father, 3rd President of the U.S. b. 1743
- 14th Christiaan Huygens, Dutch mathematician, astronomer, physicist, horologist b. 1629
- 14th Arnold J. Toynbee, British historian, author b. 1889
- 15th Leonardo da Vinci, Italian artist, scientist, inventor b. 1452
- 15th Guru Nanak, Indian founder of the Sikh religion 1469
- 15th Matthew Arnold, English poet, cultural critic d. 1888
- 15th Leonhard Euler, Swiss mathematician, physicist b. 1707
- 16th Anatole France, French poet, journalist, novelist, Nobel laureate b. 1844
- 16th Charles Chaplin, English comedic actor, filmmaker, musician b. 1889
- 17th Thornton Wilder, American playwright, novelist b. 1897
- 18/19th David Ricardo, British economist, member of Parliament b. 1772
- 21st Peter Abelard, French philosopher, theologian, logician d. 1142
- 21st John Muir, Scottish-born American naturalist, author, conservationist b. 1838
- 21st Max Weber, German political economist, sociologist b. 1864
- 22nd Immanuel Kant, German Enlightenment philosopher b. 1724
- 22nd Vladimir Lenin, Russian revolutionary, politician b. 1870
- 23rd William Shakespeare, English poet, playwright b. 1564 & d. 1616
- 23rd Max Planck, German physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1858
- 23rd Serge Prokofiev, Russian composer b. 1891

Notes:

“Chivalry” and the image of the oil painting by A.E. (on page 1) are taken from the following:

Russell, George William. The Descent of the Gods. Eds. Nandini and Raghavan Iyer. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe, 1988. (This volume is Part 3 of the Collected Works.)



INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE

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PRISM ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRISM lists member-recommended community events of interest on the IWC website. Please e-mail suggestions to donna@worldculture.org.

Looking Forward

The Way of the Seeker

Seminar: Saturday, May 9, 2009
2:00 – 5:00 pm
1407 Chapala St., Santa Barbara
Speaker: Pravrajika Vrajaprana

In April

Anniversaries

(Con't.)

- 24th Edmund Cartwright, English clergyman, inventor b. 1743
- 25th Oliver Cromwell, English soldier, statesman b. 1599
- 26th Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor, philosopher b. 121
- 26th David Hume, Scottish philosopher, economist, historian b. 1711
- 26th John James Audubon, French-American ornithologist, naturalist, painter b. 1785
- 27th Edward Gibbon, English historian, member of Parliament b. 1737
- 27th Samuel F. B. Morse, American painter, inventor b. 1791
- 27th Herbert Spencer, English philosopher, political theorist b. 1820
- 28th Kurt Gödel, Austrian-American logician, mathematician, philosopher b. 1906
- 29th C. P. Cavafy, Greek poet, journalist b. 1863 & d. 1933
- 30th Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician, scientist b. 1777

Observances

- 3rd (2009) Hindu deity Rama commemorated in North India
- 5th (2009) Palm Sunday commemorates entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
- 5th British Museum founded in 1753 to promote universal understanding
- 6th Expedition led by American explorer Robert Perry reached the geographical North Pole in 1909
- 7th U.N. World Health Day celebrated
- 7th (2009) Mahavir Jayanti celebrated in the Jain tradition
- 8/9th (2009) Pesach or Jewish Passover celebration begins
- 9th (2009) New Year festival for Theravada Buddhists
- 12th Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin first human to travel in space and to orbit the earth, both in 1961
- 12th/19th (2009) Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus on the 12th in the Western and the 19th in the Eastern Christian traditions
- 20th Radium isolated by Madame Curie in 1902
- 20th/22nd (2009) Earth Day celebrated worldwide
- 24th Library of Congress established 1800
- 25th Discovery of DNA structure by Watson & Crick in 1953
- 29th Discovery of electron by J. J. Thompson in 1897

Please contact Ingrid Head at ingrid@worldculture.org if you would like to request an Institute of World Culture 2009 Program booklet.