



# I W C Newsletter

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



*“For the rest, whatever we have got has been by infinite labor, and search, and ranging through every corner of nature; the difference is that instead of dirt and poison, we have rather chosen to fill our hives with honey and wax, thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light.”*  
- Jonathan Swift

## Going to the End of the Road

On Saturday, April 17th, anthropologist Julie Campbell will present a seminar, “Cultures in Transition”, at Concord House. In her presentation, she will share the voluminous research and photographs that she has acquired over 30 years in her studies of traditional cultures in Asia and North America. The study of such cultures, nearly invisible and facing extinction, has become an established part of anthropology since its academic birth in the 19th century. Giving identity and reasoned understanding of indigenous and traditional cultures has provided an alternative, empirically based concept of culture that contrasts with the idealized concept of the 18th century. In that era, culture was thought to represent the ideals or the “classical” standards which art and lifestyle should reflect and be guided by.

This “high culture” was appropriated by social elites and used to distinguish their values and behavior from those of ordinary folk or “inferiors” whose lifestyles were looked down upon. During the 19th century this concept of a “high culture” morphed into claims of racial or ethnic superiority whereby Europeans and North Americans could justify their conquests and exploitation of the peoples of Africa, Asia and South America. Since then many factors have brought about a karmic adjustment among the nations and peoples of the world.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Theme for 2010: Pioneers of World Culture

Aim 3. To honour through appropriate observance the contributions of men and women of all ages to world culture — Declaration of Interdependence

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### “Glorious Beings” Creating World Culture

**Forum:**

**Saturday, April 3  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Concord House  
1407 Chapala St.  
Santa Barbara**

**Speaker: Frank Kelly**

*"Look at one another. Listen to one another. Touch one another. Become aware of what glorious beings you are. You are far more involved in shaping the future than you have begun to realize."*

Frank Kelly, long time journalist, speechwriter and narrator of his oral history, *Kissing Joy As It Flies*, will share his vision of leadership in an emerging world culture. His presentation of insights gained from a lifetime of active citizenship will explain his idea of “glorious beings” who serve humanity through creative initiatives and a demonstrated dedication to public service.

*For program information, please call (805) 967-1055, or visit the IWC's website, [www.worldculture.org](http://www.worldculture.org).*



### Cultures in Transition

**Seminar:**

**Saturday, April 17th  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

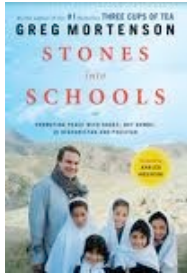
**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.  
Santa Barbara**

**Speaker: Julie Campbell**

Anthropologist Julie Campbell will share her research and experience with peoples living in traditional cultures in Asia and North America. The impact of cultural values and customs on family and community life will be explored with the aid of numerous photos of housing styles, rituals, dances and feasts. Questions about change – its sources and consequences - will be raised with reference to cultures in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Tibet, that of the Pacific Coast Natives in Canada and the aboriginals of Australia.

Julie Campbell has traveled extensively, lived for over 20 years in Indonesia and written on her observations of these cultures and the pressures to change they currently are experiencing. This seminar offers a rare and rich opportunity to learn not only about the traditional values of this significant, albeit nearly invisible, sector of the human family, but also about the challenges they face in our era of globalization and modernization.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Stones into Schools***

**Book Circle:**  
**Saturday, April 24th**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Concord House,**  
**1407 Chapala St.**  
**Santa Barbara**

The next meeting of the IWC Book Circle will be Sat., April 24th, when the last part of *Stones into Schools* will be taken up. Newcomers may join the group at any time.

Greg Mortenson will be speaking at the Arlington Theatre at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Tickets are available through [Arts and Lectures](#). Another resource is Greg Mortenson's [website](#). The final Book Circle meeting will be a review on May 15th, following Mortenson's lecture.

Contact Carolyn Dorrance at 967-1055, or email inquiries to [carolyn@worldculture.org](mailto:carolyn@worldculture.org).

**In April****Anniversaries**

- 3rd Georg Cantor, German mathematician b. 1845
- 1st William Harvey, English physician b. 1578
- 1st Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian composer, pianist, conductor b. 1873
- 2nd Charlemagne, German King of the Franks and 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 and 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 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

**Going to the End of the Road**



By the late 20th century, globalization redirected wealth, health and power to some considerable extent, and nation-states that once were colonial masters such as Great Britain and the Netherlands have taken a modest and vulnerable place in the community of nations. The emergence of China and India as centers of global wealth and influence accentuates a reversal of the old imperial order but has not stopped the pressure of Westernization, now called modernization or globalization, on the indigenous peoples of Asia hidden in scattered enclaves. The less developed in terms of modern technology and moneyed wealth may experience a relentless pressure to change and learn to live a “modern” life.

Cultural anthropologists have done much to help us understand that traditional does not mean ignorant or primitive in the derogatory sense. They have taught us, perhaps too thoroughly, the concept of cultural relativity and confronted us with the axiom that we cannot presume to know a culture from the position of an outside observer. Cultures are to be understood from within, e.g. from the perspective of those socialized into a

**In April**

**Anniversaries**

- 21st John Muir, Scottish-American naturalist, author, conservationist b. 1838
- 21st Max Weber, German political economist, sociologist b. 1864
- 22nd Immanuel Kant, German 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
- 23rd Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish author, playwright d. 1616
- 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

culture and who are active participants in its evolving uses. Steeped in empathetic sensitivity as well as knowledge of the cultures they attempt to study, anthropologists build bridges to the outside world and try to tame the advocates of the latest version of “high culture”.

*(Cont'd. on pg. 5)*



### Going to the End of the Road

We have benefited from their rich descriptions of traditional cultures and from the recognition that the history of man is a history of remarkable ingenuity, adaptation and unspoken wisdom by those with limited resources or no visible symbols of worldly power. We may puzzle over the customs and practices that betray our norms of human dignity. Recently a report on the effort to reduce maternal mortality in the remote villages of Peru revealed that the women would only consent to giving birth in hospitals after doctors recognized and allowed some of their traditional rituals to be practiced in the birthing rooms. Are we too superficial in our observations? We use import stores to dress ourselves and decorate our homes with the crafts of traditional people. But do we understand deeply the values and the ecology represented in the life-style of these remote indigenous peoples? Do we see their humanity and not just an image of a foreign culture? Do we see the pain and hope they feel because of the cultural transitions brought upon them?

Currently, a great deal of attention is focused on the principle of assistance espoused by Greg Mortenson in his efforts to build schools in Central Asia. His is a commitment to go to “the end of the road” first and assist those absolutely without resources and who receive NO help from governments and NGOs. Without presuming that we are the bearers of cultural assistance, can we find a way to empathetically go to “the end of the road” relative to our psychological habitat and include the peoples of remote and disappearing cultures in our conceptions of the human community? Do they not have something to contribute to an emerging world culture? Is there not a richness and mystery to traditions that have survived so

long? Perhaps answers to some of these questions will emerge from our thoughtful participation in the seminar presented by Julie Campbell, a longstanding student of traditional cultures.

Carolyn Dorrance



### In April

#### Observances and Acknowledgements

- 4th (2010) Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus (Western and Eastern Christians celebrate on the same day in 2010, a rare occurrence which happens on only a few years each century)
- 5th British Museum founded in 1753 to promote universal understanding
- 6th Expedition lead by American explorer Robert Perry reached the geographical North Pole in 1909
- 7th U.N. World Health Day celebrated
- 12th Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, first human in space and first to orbit the earth, both in 1961
- 20th Radium isolated as an element by Marie Curie in 1902 for which she received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911
- 22nd Earth Day official date, celebrated worldwide on various days (40th anniversary in 2010)
- 24th Library of Congress established in the U.S. in 1800
- 25th Discovery of DNA structure by Watson & Crick in 1953
- 28th (2010) Theravadin Buddhist new year celebration
- 29th Discovery of the electron by J. J. Thompson in 1897

**Songs for a Brave  
New World:  
A World Culture for the Future**

**Saturday, May 8th**

**7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Victoria Hall Theater,  
33 West Victoria Street,  
Santa Barbara, CA**

**Speakers: Pico Iyer  
with Marc Cooper**



Author Pico Iyer and journalist Marc Cooper will explore the trends in music, literature, digital communication and life style that are creating a global culture. Their lively and well-informed dialogue will interpret the literature of a new generation of authors from diverse backgrounds and indicate the travel and digital experiences that are shaping a new global world view among the young. Also, changes in the social perspectives of Americans represented by the emerging leadership of Barack Obama will be debated. This conversation will include an opportunity for questions to be asked by members of the audience. Pico Iyer is the author of several books and articles including *The Global Soul* and the recently published biography of the Dalai Lama, *The Open Road*. Marc Cooper is a radio commentator and contributor to several publications including *The Nation*.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students. They may be

purchased by printing out the form posted on the Institute [website](http://worldculture.org) (worldculture.org) and sending it in with a check or money order to the Institute address. Tickets will be available at Institute events in April, or they may be purchased at the door. Purchase forms will be mailed to those who do not have access to the internet.

Call Carolyn Dorrance at 967-1055 if you have questions.



**INSTITUTE OF WORLD  
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**Memberships**

memberships@  
worldculture.org

**Website**

[www.worldculture.org](http://www.worldculture.org)

**PRISM Online  
Community Calendar**

PRISM lists member-recommended  
community events of interest  
on the IWC website.

Please e-mail suggestions to  
[donna@worldculture.org](mailto:donna@worldculture.org).