



I W C Newsletter

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



"Our effort has been to bring each person enough rice to eat and a home that doesn't leak."

- Krishnammal Jagannathan

Living Lives of Gandhian Activism

On August 28th, a forum on the book, *The Color of Freedom*, will be held at the Institute. The book authored by Laura Coppo, an Italian activist, offers a portrait of two Gandhian freedom fighters and their dedicated work for social justice in their native India, primarily in Tamil Nadu. S. Jagannathan, age 96, and his wife Krishnammal Jagannathan, age 83, have spent their lives applying principles of non-violence and satyagraha to the challenge of bringing opportunity and equality into the lives of the poor and powerless. Through their fearless leadership in confronting sources of injustice and exclusion, the Jagannathans have experienced freedom from colonial rule and even freedom from the pressures of traditional family expectations.

After traveling with these activists and listening to their personal account of how they became so motivated to put their Gandhian vision into practice, the storyteller describes their unique commitment in this way:

"Somewhere along the line, both Amma and Appa attached themselves to the rather unusual notion that, having cast off all semblances of slavishness, they could be the authors of their own lives . . . They think nothing of moving to a village hundreds of miles from home, where they have never been and where they know no one, because they have read in the newspaper that people have been killed, and they truly believe they can make a difference.

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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



Storytelling from Ancient New Zealand

Film Seminar:

Saturday, August 21, 2010

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Concord House

1407 Chapala Street

Santa Barbara, CA

Presenter: Barry Brailsford

How indigenous peoples understand culture and world culture is the focus of this presentation originally presented by renowned story teller, Barry Brailsford in his 2006 visit to the Institute of World Culture. His message, his story, his song was that there are enough peace makers to save the world, but we must learn to learn from traditional cultures. New Zealand professor, historian, archaeologist and author Barry Brailsford shares his experiences and stories garnered from the Maori and Waitaha elders. By retelling their ancient stories and myths, he conveys a deep understanding of the power and potency of the living culture permeating the islands of New Zealand. Some of Barry Brailsford's books include *Song of Waitaha*, *Song of the Old Tides*, *Chronicles of The Stone*, *The Tatooned Land*, *Song of the Circle*, and *Greenstone Trails*.



The Color of Freedom

Book Forum:

Saturday, August 28, 2010

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Concord House

1407 Chapala Street

Santa Barbara, CA

Presenter: Jenny Sheffield Bisheff

This biography reveals the dedication, principles and persistent effort by two life-long practitioners of *satyagraha*, the principle of non-violent truth force made famous by Mahatma Gandhi. Author Laura Coppo traveled with and captured the direct accounts of S. Jagannathan and his wife Krishnammal Jagannathan, now ages 96 and 83 respectively, of their lives' work, primarily in Tamil Nadu, India, to help the poor and "untouchables" gain economic self sufficiency and social justice. Inspired by a Gandhian vision of village democracy, the Jagannathans, who met Gandhi and worked with Vinoba Bhave, explain the struggle to make the needs and empowerment of the very poor part of the politics of the new Indian nation. Descriptions of local protests against corporate-dominated globalization give the book a very contemporary relevance and raise a number of questions that will be discussed at the forum. The introduction to this oral history is given by noted activist, Vandana Shiva. The modestly priced book can be purchased on the internet. [Orders to info@commoncouragepress.com] ISBN 1-56751-276-3

Save the Date

**Thirty-Six Facets
of Glory:
The Unaccompanied
Cello Suites of J.S. Bach
Seminar and Musical
Performance:
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010
2:00 – 5:00 p.m
Presenters: Joseph Miller
& Rachel Galvin**

This seminar will feature live performance, recordings and discussion of the six cello suites of J. S. Bach. Long hidden in obscurity, and mistakenly considered mere technical studies for one instrument, these suites were mostly ignored until resurrected in the 20th century by the genius of Spanish cellist, Pablo Casals.

Most likely composed during the period 1717–1723, when Bach served as Kapellmeister in Cöthen, these pieces – each with six movements – are masterworks of the solo repertoire. Special guest violist, Rachel Galvin, will play selections from the *Suites*.

The cellist, Mischa Maisky has said of the suites:

“It is like a great diamond, with so many different cuts that reflect light in so many different ways.”

In August**Anniversaries**

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| 1st | Herman Melville, American author, poet b. 1819 |
| 4th | Percy Bysshe Shelley, English Romantic poet b. 1792 |
| 4th | Knut Hamsun (Pedersen), Norwegian author, Nobel laureate b. 1859 |
| 4th | Louis Armstrong, African-American jazz trumpeter, singer b. 1901 |
| 5th or 6th | Alfred, Lord Tennyson, English Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom b. 1809 |
| 6th | Alexander Fleming, Scottish biologist, pharmacologist, Nobel laureate b. 1881 |
| 9th | Amedeo Avogadro, Italian physicist, mathematician, educator b. 1776 |
| 12th | H.P. Blavatsky, Russian author, co-founder of the Theosophical Society b. 1831 |
| 12th | Erwin Schrödinger, Austrian theoretical physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1887 |
| 15th | Shri Aurobindo Ghose, Indian nationalist, poet, philosopher spiritual teacher b. 1872 |
| 17th | Pierre de Fermat, French lawyer, mathematician b. 1601 |
| 23rd | Georges Cuvier, French naturalist, zoologist b. 1769 |
| 24th | Paracelsus, Swiss alchemist, physician d. 1541 |
| 24th | William Wilberforce, British politician, philanthropist, abolitionist b. 1759 |
| 26th | Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, French chemist, biologist, father of modern chemistry b. 1743 |
| 27th | Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher b. 1770 |
| 27th | Giuseppe Peano, Italian mathematician b. 1858 |
| 28th | Johann Wolfgang von Goëthe, German writer, playwright b. 1749 |
| 29th | John Locke, British philosopher b. 1632 |
| 29th | Maurice Maeterlinck, Belgian playwright, poet, essayist, Nobel laureate b. 1862 |
| 30th | Ernest Rutherford, New Zealand chemist, Nobel laureate b. 1871 |
| 30th | Mary Shelley, British novelist, writer b. 1797 |
| 31st | Maria Montessori, Italian educator, physician, first woman in Italy to receive a medical degree b. 1870 |
| 31st | John Bunyan, English Christian writer, preacher d. 1688 |
| 31st | Hermann von Helmholtz, German physician, physicist b. 1821 |

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They will transplant themselves thousands of miles away to another state, where their own native language isn't even spoken, and spend seven months literally in pigsties, and living on boiled potato leaves, in order to impede keepers of temples from treating people unfairly. They walk freely out of police vans to which they have been confined, and lie down in front of trucks and bulldozers . . . They go to prison and there demand the right to wash their clothes, and make it possible for everyone else to do so as well. They make new bank rules for bankers, adopt and take it upon themselves to feed, clothe, house, and educate several hundred children at a time, and find laws and their application where no one thought there were any."

The work of the Jagannathans has grown over the decades from an effort to develop a vision of the newly independent Indian state into a response to globalization and its destructive impact on local and sustainable economic development. Multinational corporations and self-interested local elites have allied against the peoples' wellbeing in coastal communities. Through public interest litigation before the Indian Supreme Court, and a successful ruling, S. Jaganathan has been letting the world know what has happened in South India, as similarly experienced in the Philippines, Ecuador, Thailand, and Indonesia. In recent decades the younger generation of landholding

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In August

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 2nd Ratification of the U.S. Declaration of Independence begins in 1776
- 2nd First underground subway opens in London in 1870
- 6th Atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945
- 8th Gandhi launched his "Quit India" movement in 1942 to gain independence from British rule
- 11th/12th Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting begins
- 12th International Youth Day declared by the United Nations in 1999
- 15th India's Independence Day celebrated commemorating independence from British rule and birth as a sovereign nation, both in 1947
- 12th/18th Discovery of the two moons of Mars by Asaph Hall in 1877
- 26th Women's Equality Day commemorates the day women in the U.S. gained the right to vote in 1920
- 27th The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen adopted by France's National Assembly in 1789
- 28th William Herschel first used his newly completed astronomical reflecting telescope in 1789
- 28th First commercial radio broadcast initiated from New York in 1922
- 29th Discovery of electromagnetic induction by Michael Faraday in 1831

INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE

Memberships: memberships@worldculture.org

Website: <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.

The Color of Freedom

families of South India have moved to the West, allowing multinational corporations to enter and set up operations in Tamil Nadu. This corporate shrimp farming has invaded coastal farmland and brought devastating degrees of environmental destruction. The Jaganathans have been leading challengers to this darker face of the global forces of capitalism. They have been the spokespeople for the very poor, the "untouchable" class, and for the many displaced workers migrating across several bordering states. They are upholding the basic democratic rights of common community members to put an end to slash and burn destruction of coastal agricultural land, water and the local economy itself.

Another thrust to the work of these activists, particularly Krishnammal Jaganathan's, is the work of liberating and empowering women. Many may be familiar with Gandhi's statement that he hoped to be reborn as a woman in the Chandala (outcast) class. This comment has served as a global call to the socially progressive to support projects that empower women. Accordingly, several of the key concerns of the post-independence, Constructive Movement in India have been the uplift of

women, the end of untouchability, the protection of children, and the promotion of village development, including village industry. The success and influence of these efforts was recognized by the awarding in 2008 of the Right Livelihood Award (a global, alternative Nobel Peace Prize) to Krishnammal Jaganathan in recognition of her over thirty years of community work. Paradoxically, the Jaganathans, who own virtually nothing, have been the instigators of bringing a standard of living higher than any known by their South Indian neighbors for many, many decades. Krishnammal began her effort hoping to bring each person "enough rice to eat and a home that doesn't leak". Far more has been achieved.

To promote her goals, she co-founded the NGO, LAFTI, Land for the Tillers' Freedom. The organization is characteristic of contemporary global NGOs in that it operates through a hybrid volunteerism with its Italian founder donors, administrative organization offered by women in San Diego, CA, and support in supplying domestic animals for livelihood made possible by enthusiastic donations of goats from England. LAFTI began in the early 80's, but only after decades, hundreds of

marches, protests, fasts and imprisonments did it attain a steady flow of support for poor but able women. Krishnammal describes her goal in this way: "The aim of my life is to make sure that they have that minimum necessary to have a dignified life, so that they can raise their heads and think about God, too."

The Color of Freedom is full of fascinating and inspiring stories about how these two dedicated activists made a difference for the sake of thousands of individuals while also keeping alive a creatively effective Gandhian vision of human empowerment and social justice in India, a major force among contemporary democracies. The book and the forum call attention to two significant although less visible pioneers of an emerging world culture.

– Jenny Sheffield Bisheff



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