



***“It is the law of love that rules mankind. Had violence, i.e. hate, ruled us we should have become extinct long ago. And yet, the tragedy of it is that the so-called civilized men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence.  
- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi***

## A Vision of Leadership in an Emerging World Culture

*Preface: On November 8th, 2010, United States President Barack Obama concluded his state visit to India with a speech to the Indian Parliament. In his speech he described the contributions of Indian civilization to world culture and offered a vision of leadership that the Indian and United States governments could join in for the sake of universal values and human welfare. Below are some excerpts from that speech.*

I am not the first American president to visit India. Nor will I be the last. But I am proud to visit India so early in my presidency. It is no coincidence that India is my first stop on a visit to Asia, or that this has been my longest visit to another country since becoming President.

For in Asia and around the world, India is not simply emerging; India has already emerged. It is my firm belief that the relationship between the United States and India - bound by our shared interests and values - will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. This is the partnership I have come here to build. This is the vision that our nations can realize together.

My confidence in our shared future is grounded in my respect for India's treasured past - a civilization that has been shaping the world for thousands of years. Indians unlocked the intricacies of the human body and the vastness of our universe. It is no exaggeration to say that our information age is rooted in Indian innovations - including the number zero.

India not only opened our minds, she expanded our moral imagination: with religious texts that still summon the faithful to lives of dignity and discipline, with poets who imagined a future "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" and with a man whose message of love and justice endures - the Father of your Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

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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**



**Enlightened Leadership:  
Essential Qualities and  
Shining Exemplars**

**Seminar: Saturday, December 4, 2010  
2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.  
Santa Barbara  
Speaker: Tim Conway**

Discover the traits, virtues and strengths of authentically enlightened leadership based on what has truly worked in the lives of so many heroes and heroines, past and present. See how inspired leaders bring people together in harmony and solidarity for real social progress. The dynamics of developing leadership qualities that support integrity in continued service to society will be presented, drawing on sources ranging from ancient sacred texts to recent guides for successful secular leadership. The seminar is offered by Dr. Timothy Conway a well known author, educator and spiritual healer, who will utilize materials from his doctoral research and web sites: [www.enlightened-spirituality.org](http://www.enlightened-spirituality.org) and [www.rare-leadership.org](http://www.rare-leadership.org).

Call 967-1055 for more information. There is no fee for the seminar, but voluntary donations are always welcome.



**Annual Holiday Reception**

**Saturday, December 18, 2010  
7:00-9:30 p.m.  
Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.  
Santa Barbara**

Join us in our annual celebration of seasonal and cultural birth and renewal! Enjoy the music of a skilled musical trio currently offering a program of festive songs in nearby cities. Sing-along in a circle of enthusiastic songsters. Ponder the lessons in dramatic readings from *The Christmas Carol* written by Charles Dickens. Donations of food are welcome.

Please contact Carol Bemis at 963-3437 if you would like to contribute international savories or sweets.



## **A Vision of Leadership in an Emerging World Culture**

With the sturdy foundation of an ancient civilization of science and innovation and a fundamental faith in human progress, you have built [a nation] ever since that stroke of midnight when the tricolor was raised over a free and independent India. And despite the skeptics who said that this country was simply too poor, too vast, too diverse to succeed, you surmounted overwhelming odds and became a model to the world.

Instead of slipping into starvation, you launched a Green Revolution that fed millions. Instead of becoming dependent on commodities and exports, you invested in science and technology and in your greatest resource - the Indian people. The world sees the results, from the supercomputers you build to the Indian flag that you put on the moon. Instead of resisting the global economy, you became one of its engines - reforming the licensing raj and unleashing an economic marvel that has lifted tens of millions from poverty and created one of the world's largest middle classes.

Instead of succumbing to division, you have shown that the strength of India -

the very idea of India - is its embrace of all colors, castes and creeds. It's the diversity represented in this chamber today. It's the richness of faiths celebrated by a visitor to my hometown of Chicago more than a century ago - the renowned Swami Vivekananda. He said that: "holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world, and that every system has produced men and women of the most exalted character."

Instead of being lured by the false notion that progress must come at the expense of freedom, you built the institutions upon which true democracy depends - free and fair elections, which enable citizens to choose their own leaders without recourse to arms; an independent judiciary and the rule of law, which allows people to address their grievances; and a thriving free press and vibrant civil society which allows every voice to be heard. This year, as India marks 60 years with a strong and democratic constitution, the lesson is clear. India has succeeded, not in spite of democracy; India has succeeded because of democracy.

As the world's two largest democracies, we must also never forget that the price of

our own freedom is standing up for the freedom of others. Indians know this, for it is the story of your nation. Before he ever began his struggle for Indian independence, Gandhi stood up for the rights of Indians in South Africa. Just as others, including the United States, supported Indian independence, India championed the self-determination of peoples from Africa to Asia as they too broke free from colonialism. ....you've been a leader in supporting democratic development and civil society groups around the world. This, too, is part of India's greatness.

Every country will follow its own path. No one nation has a monopoly on wisdom, and no nation should ever try to impose its values on another. But when peaceful democratic movements are suppressed-as in Burma-then the democracies of the world cannot remain silent. For it is unacceptable to gun down peaceful protestors and incarcerate political prisoners decade after decade. It is unacceptable to hold the aspirations of an entire people hostage to the greed and paranoia of a bankrupt regime. It is unacceptable to steal an election.

Faced with such gross

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violations of human rights, it is the responsibility of the international community—especially leaders like the United States and India—to condemn it. ... We're going to show that democracy, more than any other form of government, delivers for the common man-and woman. Speaking up for those who cannot do so for themselves is not interfering in the affairs of other countries. It's not violating the rights of sovereign nations. It's staying true to our democratic principles. It's giving meaning to the human rights that we say are universal, and it sustains the progress that in Asia and around the world has helped turn dictatorships into democracies and ultimately increased our security in the world.

Promoting shared prosperity, preserving peace and security, strengthening democratic governance and human rights. These are the responsibilities of leadership. And, as global partners, this is the leadership that the United States and India can offer in the 21st century. Ultimately, however, this cannot be a relationship only between presidents and prime ministers, or in the halls of this parliament. Ultimately, this must be a partnership between our peoples. So I

want to conclude by speaking directly to the people of India watching today.

In your lives, you have overcome odds that might have overwhelmed a lesser country. In just decades, you have achieved progress and development that took other nations centuries. And now you are assuming your rightful place as a leader among nations. Your parents and grandparents imagined this. Your children and grandchildren will look back on this. But only you—this generation of Indians—can seize the possibility of this moment.

As you carry on with the hard work ahead, I want every Indian citizen to know: the United States of America will not simply be cheering you on from the sidelines. We will be right there with you, shoulder to shoulder, because we believe in the promise of India. And we believe that the future is what we make it.

We believe that no matter who you are or where you come from, every person can fulfill their God-given potential, just as a Dalit like Dr. Ambedkar could lift himself up and pen the words of the Constitution that protects the rights of all Indians.

We believe that no matter where you live — whether a village in Punjab or the bylanes of Chandni Chowk — an old section of Kolkata or a new high-rise in Bangalore —

every person deserves the same chance to live in security and dignity, to get an education, to find work, and to give their children a better future.

We believe that when countries and cultures put aside old habits and attitudes that keep people apart, when we recognize our common humanity, then we can begin to fulfill the aspirations we share. It's a simple lesson contained in that collection of stories which has guided Indians for centuries — the *Panchtantra*. It's the spirit of the inscription seen by all who enter this great hall: "That one is mine and the other a stranger is the concept of little minds. But to the large-hearted, the world itself is their family."

This is the story of India; it's the story of America — that despite their differences, people can see themselves in one another, and work together and succeed together as one proud nation. And it can be the spirit of the partnership between our nations — that even as we honor the histories which in different times kept us apart, even as we preserve what makes us unique in a globalized world, we can recognize how much we can achieve together.

Barack Obama

**Reflections on the Programs of 2010**

As we conclude the programs of 2010, your reflections about the lessons learned are welcome. What did you learn about “pioneers of world culture”? What does it take to become such a pioneer? What can be done to encourage the work of such pioneers?

Send your thoughts to [Gerry@worldculture.org](mailto:Gerry@worldculture.org) by Dec. 21st. A synthesis of your contributions will be made available at the end of the year on the webpage.

**Suggestions for 2011 Program**

It’s not too late to make suggestions for the 2011 Program. The suggestion form is available at the IWC website and can be sent to [Carolyn@worldculture.org](mailto:Carolyn@worldculture.org) or dropped into the mailbox on the front porch of Concord House. The theme for next year is education as encouraged in Aim #9 in the *Declaration of Interdependence*:

“To assist in the emergence of men and women of universal culture, capable of continuous growth in non-violence of mind, generosity of heart and harmony of soul.”

Thank you for all your thought and imagination for a better future and for your care and effort towards fulfilling the

aims of the Institute of World Culture.

With appreciation,  
Carolyn Dorrance  
President and  
Program Coordinator

**Supporting the Institute of World Culture**

A New Year with a new program brings to mind another opportunity to contribute funds to support the Institute and its activities. The Board of Trustees estimates that we need to raise \$21,000 by January 1st to balance the books for this year and to fund next year’s program.

The Institute is supported solely by **voluntary contributions** of time and money. To keep our programs free and open to the public, we need to cover the real world costs of maintaining our beautiful building and cover operating expenses. Funding is needed to bring speakers from afar, sponsor events in the community and expand our publications.

Kindly send your donation to the Treasurer, Institute of World Culture, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Any donation you can afford will be most welcome. We appreciate the generous donations many have given over the past years. Acknowledgement of your tax-deductible donation will be sent to you promptly.

**In December**

**Observances and Acknowledgements**

- 1st First Nobel Prize given to an American was for Peace and went to Theodore Roosevelt in 1906
- 2nd (2010) Chanukah, Jewish Festival of Lights, begins
- 2nd First controlled nuclear chain reaction begun by Enrico Fermi at the University of Chicago in 1942
- 3rd Planet Uranus discovered by John Flamsteed in 1714
- 6th Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery ratified by U.S. Congress in 1865
- 10th Human Rights Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- 14th Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reached South Pole in 1911
- 15th Bill of Rights becomes part of the United States Constitution in 1791 providing protection for the basic rights of the individual to free expression and justice
- 17th First airplane flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright 1903
- 18th House of Lords in England confirmed abolition of capital punishment for murder 1969
- 21st English Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620
- 21st (2010) Winter Solstice (23:38 UTC; 6:38 EST)
- 24th First extended radio audio broadcast of the human voice was transmitted through the air in 1906
- 25th Christmas Day traditionally celebrated as the day of the birth of Christ



## 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](mailto:donna@worldculture.org).

For inquiries about the  
newsletter, contact  
[gerry@worldculture.org](mailto:gerry@worldculture.org).

### In December

#### Anniversaries

- 1st Nikolai Ivanovich Lobachevsky, Russian mathematician b. 1792
- 4th Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian, essayist b. 1795
- 4th Rainer Maria Rilke, German poet b. 1875
- 5th Werner Heisenberg, German physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1901
- 7th Giovanni Bernini, Italian sculptor, architect b. 1598
- 8th Horace, Roman poet b. 65 B.C.E.
- 9th John Milton, English poet b. 1608
- 10th William Lloyd Garrison, American abolitionist, editor b. 1805
- 10th Emily Dickinson, American poet b. 1830
- 14th Nostradamus, French seer, apothecary, healer b. 1503
- 15th Antoine Henri Becquerel, French, physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1852
- 16th/17th Ludwig van Beethoven, German composer, pianist b. 1770
- 16th Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist b. 1901
- 15th/16th Jan Vermeer, Dutch Baroque painter d. 1675
- 17th Sir Humphrey Davy, British chemist, inventor b. 1778
- 18th J. J. Thomson, British physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1856
- 18th Francis Thompson, English poet b. 1859
- 19th Albert A. Michelson, American physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1852
- 20th/22nd Sacagawea, Native American (Shoshone) guide, interpreter d. 1812
- 22nd Srinivasa Ramanujan, Indian self-taught mathematical genius b. 1887
- 22nd Gobindh Singh Jee, Indian 10th Guru of Sikhism b. 1666
- 24th James Prescott Joule, English physicist b. 1818
- 24th Matthew Arnold, English poet, cultural critic, essayist b. 1822
- 25th Anwar al-Sadat, Egyptian statesman, President of Egypt b. 1918
- 26th Thomas Gray, English poet, classical scholar b. 1716
- 26th Charles Babbage, English mathematician, philosopher, inventor b. 1791
- 27th Johannes Kepler, German mathematician, astronomer b. 1571
- 27th Louis Pasteur, French chemist, microbiologist b. 1822
- 30th Sri Ramana Maharishi, Indian teacher, sage b. 1879
- 31st John Wycliffe, English theologian, translator, reformist d. 1384
- 31st "Odetta" Holmes, African-American singer, activist b. 1930
- 31st John Flamsteed, English astronomer d. 1719