



I W C Newsletter

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



“From generations of soldiers and government officials on my father’s side I inherited a belief that no life was more satisfactory than one of selfless service to your country – or humanity. This service required a sacrifice of all personal interests, but likewise the courage to stand up unflinchingly for your convictions. From scholars and clergymen on my mother’s side, I inherited a belief that, in the very radical sense of the Gospels, all men were equal as children of God, and should be met and treated by us as our masters in God.”

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary General of the United Nations,
1953-1961

Reflections on Pioneers of World Culture

Aim # 3 “To honour through appropriate observance the contributions of men and women of all ages to world culture”

The third aim of the Institute’s Declaration of Interdependence reminds us that world culture does not just emerge as a plant from the ground, however nourishing the soil. It takes the imagination and courage of human beings to create culture, whether by the articulation of principles, the expression of values or by engagement in action. From human intentions and deliberate actions, specific forms such as artistic compositions, ethical practices and constructive institutions are brought into view for the education and enjoyment of others. Through sharing a vision of possibilities for enlightened living a culture is created.

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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



Can We Agree on Anything Important?

Film and Forum:

**Saturday, January 16
3:00-5:30 p.m.**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara
Discussion Leader:
Carolyn Dorrance**

The diverse and powerful voices of 12 of the world's most influential spiritual leaders offer provocative, compelling and enlightening perspectives on the sources and destructive impact of fanaticism, terrorism and war in a documentary, *In God's Name*. Discussion following the film will focus on the possibilities of overcoming sectarian world views and building consensus on fundamental values and shared principles of world culture.

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



Building Bridges: Gandhi's Path to Tolerance

Lecture and Discussion:

**Saturday, January 30th
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Concord House
1407 Chapala St.**

**Santa Barbara
Presenter: Gerry Kiffe**

How did Gandhi demonstrate an imaginative and non-violent means of overcoming sectarian violence and of building communities with true toleration of diversity? In our time of uncompromising polarizations and animosity between religions, ideologies and partisan political positions, what can be learned from Gandhi's principles and self-sacrificing practice? This meeting that commemorates the 62nd anniversary of Gandhi's death by assassination includes both an introductory talk and discussion by participants.

Reflections

We learn culture from our perception and experience of what others have created, and we may be inspired to make our own contributions through experiment and a fresh definition of values. Since world culture is only embryonic at this time, those who are helping to create world culture invite us to learn more than the conventional modes taught through traditional socialization. We are invited to become pioneers in a fascinating enterprise of our era by imaginative thinking and empathetic vision expressed, for example, in the other aims of the Institute's Declaration of Interdependence. A first step in this undertaking is to honor by study and use the contributions of those who have gone before and can be viewed as heroes. To this end, the Institute's programs in 2010 will focus on several pioneers, past and present, from several continents and cultures. Please join us in this journey that combines biography, history, intellectual creativity, political engagement and enthusiasm for a future in which lives are lived with the support of a nourishing world culture.

Carolyn Dorrance

In January

Anniversaries

- 3rd Cicero, Roman statesman, constitutionalist, orator b. 106 B.C.E.
- 2nd/3rd Clement Attlee, British Prime Minister from 1945 - 1951 b. 1883
- 4th Isaac Newton, English scientist, theologian b. 1642
- 4th Louis Braille, French inventor, teacher of the blind b. 1809
- 5th George Washington Carver, African-American inventor, scientist, educator d. 1943
- 6th Joan of Arc, French heroine, Catholic saint b. 1412
- 6th Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese-American artist, poet, writer b. 1883
- 7th Charles Peguy, French poet, essayist, philosopher b. 1873
- 11th William James, American philosopher, psychologist b. 1842
- 12th Edmund Burke, Irish statesman, author b. 1729
- 14th Albert Schweitzer, German physician, Nobel laureate b. 1875
- 15th Moliere, French playwright, actor b. 1622
- 15th Martin Luther King, Jr., African-American civil rights leader b. 1929
- 17th Benjamin Franklin, American printer, statesman b. 1706
- 17th Anton Chekhov, Russian playwright, author, doctor b. 1860
- 18th Baron de Montesquieu, Charles-Louis de Secondat, French political philosopher b. 1689
- 18th Claude de Saint-Martin, French philosopher, mystic b. 1743
- 19th James Watt, Scottish inventor, engineer b. 1736
- 19th Robert E. Lee, American soldier, general b. 1807
- 19th Edgar Allan Poe, American poet, writer, editor b. 1809
- 22th André-Marie Ampre, French physicist, mathematician b. 1775
- 22nd Francis Bacon, English philosopher, statesman, author b. 1561
- 22nd George Gordon, Lord Byron, British poet b. 1788
- 23rd David Hilbert, German mathematician b. 1862
- 25th Robert Boyle, Irish-born chemist, inventor b. 1627
- 25th Robert Burns, Scottish poet b. 1759
- 27th Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Austrian composer b. 1756
- 27th Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson), English author b. 1832
- 29th Thomas Paine, British pamphleteer, revolutionary, inventor b. 1737

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Fundraising Drive A Spectacular Success

Thanks to the generous donations and membership renewals from many members and friends of the Institute, the goal of raising \$15,000 to support the Institute in the coming year was amply met. With such strong support matched by a generous donor, we can present an enriching program in 2010 and begin the technical preparation for putting some of our programs on the internet.



INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE

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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.

In January

Anniversaries

- 29th Romain Rolland, French dramatist, Nobel laureate b. 1866
- 30th Franklin D. Roosevelt, American 32nd U.S. President b. 1882
- 30th Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian political and spiritual leader d. 1948
- 31st Franz Schubert, Austrian composer b. 1797

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 1st New Year's Day observed in the U.S.
- 1st Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 committed the U.S. to ending slavery
- 1st Ceres, smallest identified dwarf planet in the Solar System, discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801
- 5th Twelfth Night, a Christian holiday concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas
- 7th Christmas celebrated in the Coptic community and Orthodox churches
- 7th (2010) Muharram, first month of the Islamic calendar, celebrated as one of the four sacred months identified in the Quran
- 7th Three of Jupiter's moons first observed by Galileo in 1610
- 8th Thomas Paine's Common Sense published in 1776
- 10th League of Nations founded in 1920 to preserve international peace
- 10th Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 B.C. starting a civil war that led to the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire
- 17th (2010) World Religion Day celebrated, initiated by the Baha'is of the U.S. in 1950
- 18th (2010) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed
- 26th Republic Day of India marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950
- 27th British government formally abolished the death penalty in the United Kingdom in 1999

Undated Observances and Acknowledgements

- Announcement of the creation of artificial radioactivity by Nobel laureates Irene Curie and Frédéric Joliot
- Edict of Saint-Germain in 1562, an edict of limited toleration which sought to end persecution of non-Catholics in France
- British Broadcasting Company (BBC) began radio broadcasts to the British Empire and the world in 1930s
- News of the splitting of the Uranium atom published 1938
- First boat specialized as a lifeboat tested on the River Tyne in England in 1790