



I W C Newsletter

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



“What is man but a congress of nations.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Global Soul

On Saturday, May 8th, Pico Iyer will be speaking on the emergence of a Global Culture. (Please see program description for details.) A glimpse of his ideas on the global changes affecting us all is given in the following passages found in Chapter One of his book, *The Global Soul*.

What complicates the confusions of the Global Soul is that, as fast as we are moving around the world, the world is moving around us; it is not just the individual but the globe with which we're interacting that seems to be in constant flux. So even the man who never leaves home may feel that home is leaving him, as parents, children, lovers scatter around the map, taking pieces of him wherever they go. More and more of us may find ourselves in the emotional or metaphysical equivalent of that state we know from railway stations, when we're sitting in a carriage waiting to pull out and can't tell, often, whether we're moving forwards, or the train next to ours is pulling back.

Thus even those people whose lives haven't changed are subject, at times, to a universe increasingly shaped and colored by the Global Soul, and the Bangladeshi who's never moved from his village finds himself visited by images of Hong Kong (on-screen), and videos from Bombay, and phone calls from Toronto, perhaps, while the Torontonian who's never left the city walks out of his grandmother's house, only to see signs he can't read and hear words he can't understand, among people whose customs are strange to him. Never before in human history, I suspect, have so many been surrounded by so much that they can't follow...

The world we like to think of as united, my experience suggests, looks, in fact, more and more like a group of differently colored kids all sleeping under the same poster of Leonardo DiCaprio, while arguing about whether Titanic is an attack on capitalist hegemony or a

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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



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 are available online at the IWC website using Paypal through Friday. Please print out your tickets to bring to the event. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

For program information, please call (805) 967-1055, or visit the IWC's website, www.worldculture.org.



What is Universal in Shakespeare?

Panel Discussion:

Saturday, May 29th

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

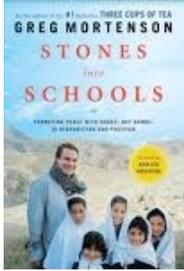
**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara**

**Speakers: Nandini Iyer,
Franchesca Cleyet, Aiden Colbert**

Do the plays and poems of William Shakespeare offer more than a foundation of thought for English language cultures? Are there themes and portrayals of human character and behavior that are universally relevant and timely tools for understanding contemporary life? Is Shakespeare a pioneer of world culture? Three students of Shakespeare will offer their insights, and seminar attendees are encouraged to bring their examples from the "Bard's" writings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stones into Schools



**Book Circle:
Saturday, May 15th
4:00 p.m.
Concord House,
1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara**

This book circle will conclude with a discussion of the lecture at the Arlington Theater, May 4th, by the author, Greg Mortenson. Reflections on what we can learn from the book and the talk about social activism and the emergence of a world culture will be encouraged. Newcomers are welcome.

Suggestions for a New Book Circle or Study Group?

Summer months offer a little more leisure for discussion of a book or topic of current interest. Do you have a suggestion? Send them to Carolyn Dorrance whose email is

carolyn@worldculture.org or leave a message at 967-1055. Times, day and frequency of meetings will be determined by interested participants.

INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE
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In May

Anniversaries

- 2nd Satyajit Ray, Bengali filmmaker b. 1921
- 4th T. H. Huxley, English biologist b. 1825
- 5th Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher, theologian b. 1813
- 5th Karl Marx, German philosopher, historian, revolutionary b. 1818
- 6th Sigmund Freud, Austrian psychiatrist b. 1856
- 7th Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali poet, philosopher, musician, writer, educator, Nobel Laureate b. 1861
- 7th Robert Browning, English poet, playwright b. 1812
- 7th Johannes Brahms, German musician, composer b. 1833
- 8th Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Russian Countess, co-founder of the Theosophical Society d. 1891
- 9th José Ortega y Gasset, Spanish humanist philosopher b. 1883
- 12th Florence Nightingale, Italian nurse, writer, statistician b. 1820
- 14th Robert Owen, Welsh social reformer, founder of socialism and the cooperative movement b. 1771
- 21st Albrecht Durer, German printmaker, painter b. 1471
- 22nd Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Indian religious, educational reformer b. 1772
- 23rd Carolus Linnaeus, Swedish botanist, physician, zoologist b. 1707
- 23rd Franz Anton Mesmer, German physician, astrologist b. 1734
- 25th Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist, philosopher, b. 1803
- 27th Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian political leader, first Prime Minister of India serving from 1947-1964 d. 1964
- 30th Joan of Arc, French heroine, Catholic saint d. 1431
- 31st Walt Whitman, American poet, essayist, journalist b. 1819
- 31st Tintoretto, Italian painter d. 1594

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The Global Soul

Confucian parable of self-reliance: in short, a hundred cultures divided by a common language. And though it may not matter if what I call "blue" suggests a different shade to you, it does matter if what I mean by "true" or "soon"—or "hope"—is different from what you do...

In the midst of all this change, the Emersonian hope keeps burning: in Davos, one of the scientists I met spoke of the Internet as the makings of a "planetary soul," and when people today quote Chief Seattle's famous dictum—"Whatever [man] does to the web, he does to himself"—they cannot fail to hear an extra resonance. A leader such as Václav Havel always takes pains to stress that the main term to be qualified by "global" should be "responsibility," and that in a world in which everyone's problems are everyone else's, a new sense of community must be formed on the basis of something deeper than soil and higher than interest rates, if our "One World" dreams are not to devolve into One Nation parties...

Yet it seems unlikely that globalism will prove any less ambiguous than any other of our dreams. While I was writing this book, I happened to visit the Dalai Lama in his increasingly crowded exile's home in the foothills of northern India (the clocks in the little village showing the time in Israel), and I heard him say, as he often does, that the shrinking of the planet is making visible and palpable what Buddhists, among others, have always held: that all our destinies are intertwined, and even the meanest self-interest suggests we look out for

In May

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 1st May Day celebrates the ancient Druid new year
- 1st International Workers' Day (Labor Day) celebrated in many countries
- 9th (2010) Mother's Day celebrated in the U.S.
- 11th Diamond Sutra, world's oldest known printed book, printed in 868
- 15th International Day of Families observed annually worldwide
- 16th Mexican Independence Day commemorates the day Mexico declared its independence from Spain in 1810
- 17th Brown vs Board of Education, landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding segregation, first announced in 1954
- 20th David Livingstone crossed Africa coast to coast in 1856
- 21st Charles Lindbergh completed the first solo, non-stop, transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927
- 21st/27th (2010) Buddha Purnima observed in India and worldwide to honor the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha
- 24th First telegraph message sent by Samuel Morse in 1844
- 27th (2010) New Year celebrated in the Theravada Buddhist tradition
- 29th Fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks in 1453
- 31st (2010) Memorial Day in the U.S. honors men and women who died in military service

the ones around us. "Due to the modern economy," he told me, "and also due to information, to education and to tourism and the ecology problem—due to all these factors—now the world is heavily interdependent, interconnected. So, under such circumstances, the concept of 'we' and 'they' is gone; harming your neighbor is actually harming yourself." And your neighbor is everyone alive.

Pico Iyer