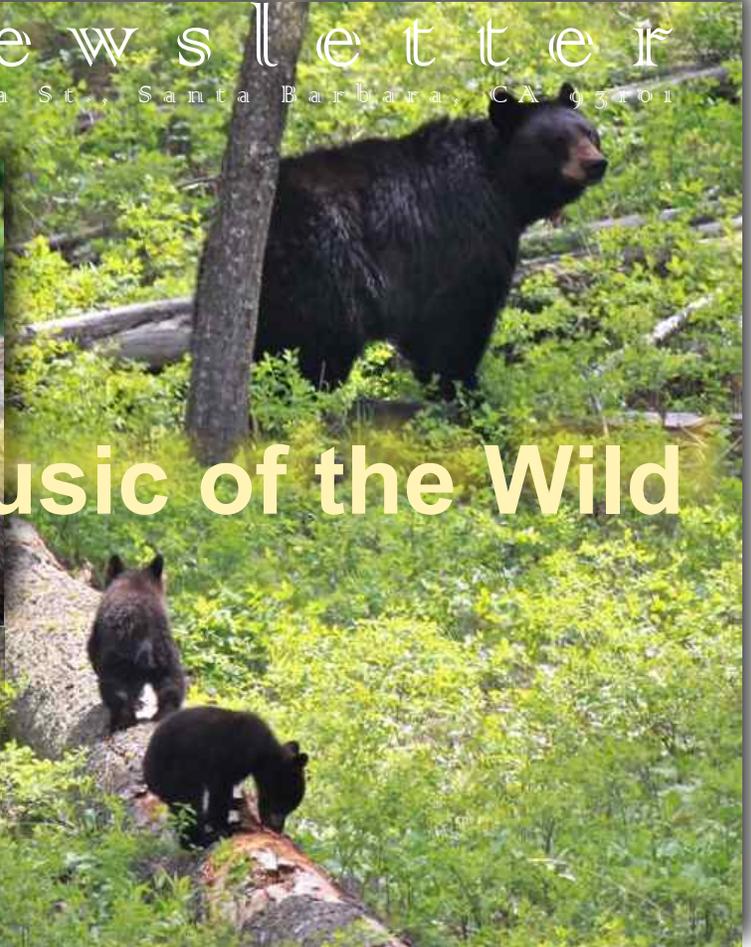




I W C

Concord House, 1407
www.worldculture.org

Newsletter
 Chapala St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Music of the Wild

*"Heaven is under
 our feet as well as
 over our heads."
 ~ Thoreau*

As brilliant silvery light reflects from the Lamar River, the lone black wolf struggles to cross the unusually fast moving high water, finally disappearing behind the waving yellow-green cottonwoods into the blue-gray sagebrush. The speckled black wolf is then seen heading back up into the lodgepole pine forest below Specimen Ridge in the grand Lamar Valley, a jewel in Yellowstone National Park. A herd of pronghorn antelope, the second fastest land mammal in the world after the cheetah, is running through the valley with their young, whose horns have barely surfaced. Across the wide dark green expanse of the valley beyond the river is a long line of peaceful bison, punctuated by the rollicking jumping of the new red dogs, or baby bison, who run circles around their mothers.

The beauty of nature evokes a natural intuitive reverence, an awe of the boundless spirit in all forms of life, and inspires a growing desire to learn more about the interdependence binding all beings into a unity on Planet Earth. Nature *(Continued on p. 3)*

Theme for 2009: Expressions of Spiritual Striving
 Aim 5: To deepen awareness of man's spiritual striving and its rich variety of expression
 in the religions, philosophies and literatures of humanity. —Declaration of Interdependence

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thoreau's Discovery of the Sacred in Man and Nature

**Forum: Saturday, September 5
4:00 - 6:00 pm**

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

Discussion Leader: Gerry Kiffe

Henry David Thoreau is one of America's most celebrated literary figures. His concept of the sanctity of man and nature is both profound and mysterious. But what is his view of religion? His writings have fundamentally influenced the Indian Independence Movement with Mahatma Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement with Martin L. King. His work has provided the spiritual inspiration behind the environmental movement. What is his message and what makes it so powerful? What did he mean when said he was "never as wise as the day he was born"? Why is "heaven under our feet, as well as over our heads"? What is the central message of Thoreau's *Walden*? Join a discussion on these universal themes. Recommended reading for the forum are the chapters "Reading" and "Conclusion" in *Walden*.



The Dynamic Dimensions of Yellowstone

**Original Film: Saturday,
September 19
7:30 - 9:00 pm**

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

Speakers: Russ and Gerry Lewin

Yellowstone rests in the caldera of an ancient volcano. It is one of the largest and most active geothermal areas on Planet Earth. Abundant wildlife includes wolves, grizzly bears, moose, pronghorn antelope, osprey, badgers, bison and more. The successful reintroduction of wolves, a keystone species, in 1995 vividly portrays the interconnected web of life. The original 45 minute film will give viewers an experience of the dynamic dimensions of Yellowstone, America's first National Park. The film presentation will also feature nature poetry, history, and be followed by discussion. *(Please Note: Seating is limited; please come early.)*

For more information, check the IWC website: www.worldculture.org.

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is replete with infinite potentiality and regenerates all who seek her refuge. How can we better understand how all life is connected, from the largest galaxies to the smallest microorganisms, such as those in the yellowish-red bacterial mat surrounding the deep turquoise blue of Yellowstone’s Grand Prismatic Spring?

Kathleen Raine, one of the poets of the Perennial Philosophy, wrote, “We can love our world, we experience everything as a kind of unending dialogue, and not with sentient beings only but with sun and mountains and trees and stones. They tell us those things that constitute our wisdom better than the mere measurement of scientific experiment.”¹ She said that by losing a sense of awe, we lose a part of ourselves that exists in the tree, the river, and elements. To know consciousness and nature as inseparable is to recover the lost consciousness of wholeness.

Caring and protecting nature with its myriad life forms is a part of the human response to

immersion in nature, as well as the rational conclusion from living in today’s world. Sustainability is a crucial principle by which to live, and we are learning more about the ways to ensure that future generations will inherit their natural birthright.

We have only to look at the near extermination of the wolves in the 48 states of America to see how predatory humans can be. Between 1870 and 1930, wolf extermination was public policy; the last wolf in Yellowstone was killed in 1926. With the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, wolves were protected. In 1995-96 wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone from Canada. They have made a comeback and about fifteen packs exist currently in the protected zone of Yellowstone National Park. The history of the bison tells a similar story. Out of the estimated thirty million original bison, only one thousand roamed America around the late 1800s following the construction of the first transnational train route that brought hunters and trappers westward who shot bison for trade and sport.

What can we do to help promote the *(Continued on p. 5)*

In September

Anniversaries

- 6th Jane Addams, American progressive reformer, one of the founders of the U.S. Settlement House movement, Nobel Laureate b. 1860
- 9th Luigi Galvani, Italian physician, physicist b. 1737
- 9th Leo Tolstoy, Russian author, essayist b. 1828
- 11th Vinoba Bhave, Indian scholar, social reformer, writer b. 1895
- 14th Dante Alighieri, Italian poet d. 1321
- 7th Queen Elizabeth I, Queen of England and Ireland
- 18th Samuel Johnson, British author b. 1709
- 21st Kwame Nkrumah, African politician, leader of Ghana b. 1909
- 22nd Michael Faraday, British physicist, chemist b. 1791
- 25th Dmitri Shostakovich, Russian composer b. 1906
- 26th T.S. Eliot, British poet, playwright, Nobel laureate b. 1888
- 29th Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish novelist, playwright, philosopher b. 1864
- 29th Enrico Fermi, Italian physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1901
- 30th Jalal al-din Rumi, Persian mystic, poet b. 1207

Observances

- 2nd Adoption of the Gregorian calendar by England in 1752
- 3rd French Civil Code renamed Code Napoléon in 1807
- 7th (2009) Labor Day celebrated in the U.S. to honor workers - initiated in 1882

(con’t. p. 4)

In September

Observances (con't.)

- 8th International Literacy Day established by the U.N. in 1965 and celebrated annually
- 16th Mexican Independence Day celebrates Mexico's Independence from Spain
- 16th Mayflower sailed from England carrying English Separatists to America in 1620
- 17th Constitution Day: the final draft of the U.S. Constitution was approved for submission to the states by the Constitutional Congress in 1787
- 19th (2009) Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days
- 21st International Day of Peace established by the U.N. in 1981
- 22nd (2009) Autumnal Equinox (21:18 UT)
- 22nd Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 declaring the freedom of American slaves in the Confederate states
- 23rd Planet Neptune was discovered by the German astronomer Galle in 1846
- 25th Sandra Day O'Conner became the first women appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981
- 27th (2009) Yom Kippur is the annual Jewish Day of Atonement and end of High Holy Days
- 30th First astrophotograph of the Orion Nebula taken in 1880



Boxtales Theatre presents *OM - An Indian Tale of Good and Evil*

Boxtales Theatre Company, in conjunction with THEATRE UCSB, is presenting a World Premiere of "Om - An Indian Tale of Good and Evil" at the Lobero Oct. 1 - 4th. It is derived from the Indian epic narrative, The Ramayana, "one of the most important epic narratives of world literature."

The group rate of \$28 will apply if at least ten sign up to go Friday, October 2, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. (General tickets are \$40, and Students and Senior tickets are \$15.)

Please contact Carolyn Dorrance (carolyn@worldculture.org or 967-1055) to let her know if you'd like to join the IWC group to attend Friday night.

***Looking Forward to October
Seminar: The Cult of Knowledge in Islam
Saturday, October 3, 2009
2:00 - 5:00 pm
Concord House, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa
Barbara
Speaker: Racha El Omari***

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healing of nature, and how do we better learn to live a balanced life in harmony with the natural order? The Dalai Lama said that scientists should educate society on global studies about the environment. These ideas should be taught to children in school. Rather than throw out technology, he advised working more intelligently with new progress, taking care to avoid negative side effects for the environment. Speaking about the cause and effect relations between phenomena and the interdependence of all life, he said that “the correct understanding of the subtlest level of interdependence – that of the interdependence of things and conceptual constructions – has more to do with maintaining the balance of the outer and the inner world, and with the purification of the inner world.”² While the unwise use of intelligence led to excesses, perhaps by cultivating a deeper awareness of the sentience of beings, we will see the necessity of purifying a motivation to become increasingly compas-

sionate, which in turn will influence mankind to live more ethically.

Brooke Medicine Eagle of the Northern Plains Indian medicine path wrote about what she realized on her vision quest: “We know how to do something; we know how to make something, how to exert effort; but we need to allow, to be receptive, listen to the Earth, find the Universal knowledge and ancient truths within ourselves, to surrender and serve. Each of us must find that balance, heal ourselves, become whole.”³ In doing so, we unfold our full potential and create a more abundant life for all. She said when Native Americans seek the vision quest, they not only try to heal and fulfill individual potential, but also try to “learn to use that potential to serve all our relations: the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds, the wingeds, those that crawl upon the Earth, and the Mother Earth herself.” We may evolve new patterns of living in harmony with the environment by rediscovering ancient truths at the heart of diverse cultural traditions. Thus, by living to restore balance we may

contribute to and create world culture.

The path of becoming whole, of developing inner potentialities and offering them in service of humanity and nature, can be inspired by scientists, philosophers, sages, mystics and poets from traditions around the world and from all time. Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote of the experience of deep music, a harmony of being, indeed of an idyllic paradise, the spirit of an age of gold, in the poem, “Epipsychidion”:

And every motion, odour,
beam, and tone,
With that deep music is
in unison;
Which is a soul within
the soul – they seem
Like echoes of
an antenatal dream.

¹ Raine, Kathleen. “The Underlying Order: Nature and the Imagination.” *Seeing God Everywhere: Essays on Nature and the Sacred*. Ed. Barry McDonald. Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2003. 171-190.

² Gyatso, Tenzin, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. “Tibetan Buddhist Perspective on Spirit in Nature.” *Seeing God Everywhere: Essays on Nature and the Sacred*. Ed. Barry McDonald. Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2003. 17-27.

³ Medicine Eagle, Brooke. “The Rainbow Bridge.” *Sisters of the Earth*. Ed. Lorraine Anderson. New York: Vintage Books, 2003. 386-392.

— Gerry Lewin