



I W C Newsletter

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



“At some critical point, the realization will set in that we share a common planet, that we are all affected, and that our neighbors’ suffering is not unlike our own. At that juncture recriminations and retributions will be of little avail in addressing the enormity of the crisis at hand. Only by concerted action that establishes a collective sense of affiliation with the entire biosphere will we have a chance to ensure our future. This will require a biosphere consciousness.” — ***Jeremy Rifkin.***

The Empathic Civilization

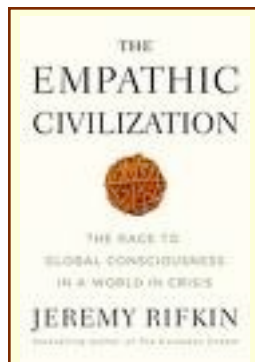
In a new book circle beginning Monday, September 5th, discussion will focus on *The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis* by Jeremy Rifkin. The author predicts that “we are at a decisive moment in the human journey where the race to global empathic consciousness is running up against global entropic collapse.” To support this view, Rifkin describes the history of several civilizations and then explains the entropic biological, technological and environmental changes that threaten the continuation of civilization and may destroy the empathic capacities in human nature. In the Introduction to the book, Rifkin explains the purpose of his study as follows:

“This book presents a new interpretation of the history of civilization by looking at the empathic evolution of the human race and the profound ways it has shaped our development and will likely decide our fate as a species.”

(Con'd p.4)

Theme for 2011: The New Learning: Pathways to Global Culture
Aim 9. 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 — Declaration of Interdependence

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis

**Book Circle: Mondays, Beginning
Labor Day, Sept. 5
7:30 - 9:00 pm**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Discussion Leader:
Professor Maurice Bisheff**

In this extensive study of the history of civilizations and the human capacities developed over the centuries, the influential author and international advisor, Jeremy Rifkin, explains a paradox arising from biological, technological and environmental changes in human lifestyles. As human beings have nurtured heightened empathic sensitivity, they have unleashed entropic effects that may destroy civilizations. The result is a contemporary crisis of global dimensions. All are welcome to join in this provocative discussion and contribute to the shaping of a vision of future civilizations. The circle will meet every Monday until mid-December. For more information, contact Maurice Bisheff at maurice@west.net.



Building Bridges through International Education

Panel Discussion:

**Saturday, Sept. 10
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Panelists: Dr. Manou Eskandari,
Dr. Andrea Haupt, Dr. Carrie
Hutchinson, Carola Smith and
Marilynn Spaventa**

The panelists will share their personal experiences as former Fulbright Scholars, Peace Corps volunteers, and as international educators and examine the impact of structured international learning experiences on students' academic and professional careers and their ability to compete within our rapidly globalizing society.

The Challenges of Cross- Cultural Education for Early Childhood Development

***Forum: Saturday, Sept. 24
4:00 - 6:00 pm***

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Presenter: Professor Elvia Rivero**

The challenges of educating young children from mixed cultural backgrounds will be explained by Professor Elvia Rivero who has studied the challenges in depth during (*con'd p.3*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Childhood Development

her extensive teaching and professional career as well as through personal experience. The goals and methods of cross-cultural education will be examined in relation to the needs of children to be prepared in their early years for success in the long cycle of school and work. Questions will be welcome. Professor Rivero currently teaches classes in Early Childhood Development at Oxnard College and has a doctorate in her field.

Call 967-1055 or email Carolyn@worldculture.org for more information about programs.

SAVE THESE DATES In OCTOBER

Education in an Ashram Seminar: Saturday, October 1 2:00 - 5:00 pm

The purpose of life in an ashram and the educational opportunities for growth it provides individuals and families is the focus of this seminar. The discussion of different types of ashrams will include reports of "lived experience" in both American and overseas communities.

Exhibit: 1001 Inventions FIELD TRIP to California Science Center, Los Angeles Saturday, October 15 9:00 - 6:00 pm

This global educational initiative highlights the scientific and technological achievements made by men and women of different faiths and cultures who lived in or

were connected with broader Muslim civilization. The exhibit has been awarded the Best Touring Exhibition of the Year.

Film: Arabia 3D

A sweeping portrait of the history, culture and religion of the Arabia Peninsula is given by a mix of contemporary and historical portraits in an IMAX film with stunning 3D visual effects.

Email Carolyn Dorrance at carolyn@worldculture.org if you are interested in joining this field trip or call 967-1055. More information will be provided in the October newsletter.



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.

In September

Anniversaries

- 6th Jane Addams, American progressive reformer, one of the founders of the U.S. Settlement House movement, Nobel Laureate b. 1860
- 7th Queen Elizabeth I, Queen of England and Ireland
- 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
- 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

The Institute of World Culture is
a 501(c)3 non-profit
educational organization.

The Empathic Civilization

“A radical new view of human nature is emerging in the biological and cognitive sciences and creating controversy in intellectual circles, the business community, and government. Recent discoveries in brain science and child development are forcing us to rethink the long-held belief that human beings are, by nature, aggressive, materialistic, utilitarian, and self-interested. The dawning realization that we are a fundamentally empathic species has profound and far-reaching consequences for society.

“These new understandings of human nature open the door to a never-before-told journey. The pages that follow reveal the dramatic story of the development of human empathy from the rise of the great theological civilizations, to the ideological age that dominated the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the psychological age that characterized much of the twentieth century, and the emerging dramaturgical period of the twenty-first century.

“Viewing economic history from an empathic lens allows us to uncover new strands of the human narrative that lay previously hidden. The result is a new social tapestry – The Empathic Civilization—woven from a wide range of fields, including literature and the arts, theology, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, political science, psychology, and communications theory.

“At the very core of the human story is the paradoxical relationship between empathy and entropy. Throughout history new energy regimes have converged with new communications revolutions, creating ever more complex societies. More technologically advanced civilizations, in turn, have brought diverse people together, heightened empathic sensitivity, and expanded

The Empathic Civilization

consciousness. But these increasingly more complicated milieus require more extensive energy us and speed us toward resource depletion.

“The irony is our growing empathic awareness has been made possible by an ever-greater consumption of the Earth’s energy and other resources, resulting in a dramatic deterioration of the health of the planet.

“We now face the haunting prospect of approaching global empathy in a highly energy-intensive, interconnected world, riding on the back of an escalating entropy bill that now threatens catastrophic climate change and our very existence. Resolving the empathy/entropy paradox will likely be the critical test of our species’ ability to survive and flourish on Earth in the future. This will necessitate a fundamental rethinking of our philosophical, economic, and social models.

“The most important question facing humanity is this: Can we reach global empathy in time to avoid the collapse of civilization and save the Earth?”

Jeremy Rifkin has been a highly regarded advisor to the European Union and an influential author. His previous publications include *The Hydrogen Economy*, *The Future of Work* and *The European Dream*. All are welcome to join in the book circle discussion that will critique Rifkin’s paradox and pose questions about the empathic and entropic impact of modern, networked institutions such as global corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

In September

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 2nd Adoption of the Gregorian calendar by England in 1752
- 3rd French Civil Code renamed Code Napoléon in 1807
- 5th (2011) Labor Day celebrated in the U.S. to honor workers - initiated in 1882
- 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
- 21st International Day of Peace established by the U.N. in 1981
- 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
- 23rd (2011) Autumnal Equinox (9:04 UTC; 5:04 EDT)
- 25th Sandra Day O'Conner became the first women appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981
- 29th (2011) Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days
- 30th First astrophotograph of the Orion Nebula taken in 1880