



INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE

Celebrating 50 Years 2026

1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA

www.worldculture.org



IWC Co-founder Raghavan Iyer welcomed His Holiness, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama to the Institute of World Culture on his His Holiness' first visit to Santa Barbara in 1984.

The Institute of World Culture (IWC) is a non-profit, educational institute founded on July 4, 1976. The IWC is dedicated to deepening our appreciation of the diverse flowering of human culture, past and present, with the aim of promoting universal brotherhood and fostering human fellowship among all races, nations and cultures. Based on its aims and principles, the IWC has taken up themes in talks, forums, workshops, and concerts related to science, philosophy, spirituality, literature, politics and history, ethical and psychological perspectives, as well as the music, arts, and crafts of past and present humanity. During the academic year, we offer an ongoing, weekly **Study Circle** for more in-depth discussion.

Declaration of Interdependence

The ten aims of the Institute can be found at the [IWC's website](http://www.worldculture.org). In order to promote its aims, the Institute offers a wide variety of seminars and cultural events highlighting classical and contemporary themes to foster a new universal vision for humanity's welfare.

New Recording Studio!

IWC relies on donors and friends for their generous support. Most recently,



we have built a recording studio in Concord Hall, where in addition to offering live presentations, we are now able to livestream events around the globe and to archive a video library for future viewing on our [IWC YouTube](http://www.worldculture.org) channel.

Themes for the thoughtful spanning the past 50 years . . .

- Moments of Choice in Shakespeare's Plays • Pico della Mirandola on the Dignity of Man • Kandinsky and the Spirit in Modern Art • How Should We Treat Animals? • Hubble Telescope, the Cosmic Eye • Power of Myth • Transforming Environmental Policy: Private Conscience and Public Choice • Classical Indian Music: the Mathematics of Sound • The Golden Verses of Pythagoras • Remarkable Women in History • Iroquois Confederacy • Sufi Poetry and Philosophy • Regenerative Agriculture • Cultures of Russia and China • Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence • Government and Self-Government • Gandhian Trusteeship • The Universe in a Spiritual Atom: The Convergence of Science and Spirituality • Good and Evil • Guaranteed Annual Income • The Lotus • Education of a Buddhist Monk • Henry David Thoreau: Rediscovery of Ancient Wisdom Principles of American Democracy • Dimensions of Light • Yellowstone and the Tropic Cascade • From Fear into Love: A Young Man's Odyssey • Ancient Maya and their Forest • International Ecological Resilience: Permaculture in Action • Symbolism of the Persian Carpet, and many, many more.

In Honor of Our 50th Anniversary...



ATMA Ensemble will give a concert of Classical Indian music April 25, 2026 from 7-10 pm in Lotte Lehman Hall on the UC Santa Barbara campus – "Classical Indian music with the spirit and verve of jazz". [Click for tickets](http://www.worldculture.org).



On the Program for 2026

Concord Hall, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Simultaneous livestream is available for most of our programs on our YouTube channel as well as a library of past presentations:

<https://www.youtube.com/@iwcinsantaBarbara/streams>

2026 Annual Theme: Awakening to Interdependence

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| Jan 10 | <i>Awakening to Interdependence, Elton Hall, Ghazala Rabman Rafiq and James Tepfer</i> |
| Jan 24 | <i>Expanding a Universal Vision of Liberty and Justice, Carolyn Dorrance and Danson Kiplagat</i> |
| Feb 7 | <i>The Universal Voice of Rabindranath Tagore, Sumita (Rumi) Sengupta</i> |
| Feb 14 | <i>Realizing the Principles of American Democracy, Cliff Tillotson and Jonathan Colbert</i> |
| Mar 7 | <i>Autobiography of a Yogi: The Legacy of Yogananda, Ryan Quirk</i> |
| Mar 21 | <i>Artificial Intelligence: Social Impacts on the Future, Peter Friesen</i> |
| Mar 23 | <i>Salon Series: California Water: The Future of a Vital Resource, Amy Steinfeld (Mon 7-8:30 pm)*</i> |
| Apr 20 | <i>Salon Series: Starlight to AI: Learning to Read the Universe, Daniel Godinez (Mon 7-8:30 pm)*</i> |
| Apr 25 | <i>ATMA Ensemble: An Evening of Music & Meditation</i> (7-10 pm) * at Lotte Lehman Concert Hall, UC Santa Barbara Campus.* For tickets: https://www.musiccircle.org |
| May 18 | <i>Salon Series: Play: The Architecture of World Renewal, Cassandra Bates (Mon 7-8:30 pm)*</i> |
| May 22 | <i>Classical Indian Music Concert at Concord Hall, Institute of World Culture (Fri 5-7 pm)*</i> |
| Jun 6 | <i>The Web of Wisdom & Interdependence: Rumi, Fariba Entesbari, Rumi Educational Center</i> |
| Jun 27 | <i>Spinoza: The Radical in the Tulip Patch, Blossoming of the Dutch Golden Age, John Powers</i> |
| Jul 4 | <i>Founders' Day Forum and Celebration: Revisiting the IWC Inaugural Address</i> |
| Jul 11 | <i>Uptown–Downtown: American Art for a New Century 1890–1920, Lori Mohr, SB Museum of Art</i> |
| Jul 18 & 25 | <i>Summer Film Series: Documentary Films and Discussion, Robert Moore, Moderator (7-9 pm)*</i> |
| Sept 5 | <i>Nature's Mosaic: Yellowstone, Russ Lewin and Gerry Lewin</i> |
| Sept 19 | <i>Democratic Visions and the Common Man: Walt Whitman, Joseph Miller and Kim Miller</i> |
| Oct 3 | <i>Spiritual Dimensions in Architecture, Jonathan Taube and Kirk Gradin</i> |
| Nov 7 | <i>Robert Hutchins and the Center for Democratic Institutions, Judy Saltzman and Jennifer Bisheff</i> |
| Nov (TBD) | <i>Mindful Movement, Renée Tillotson, Still & Moving Center, Honolulu, Hawaii</i> |
| Nov 21 | <i>Hope as a Phenomena of Human Nature, Yuliia Shabanova, Dnipro, Ukraine (9–11 am, US Pacific Time)*</i> |
| Dec 19 | <i>Annual Members' Holiday Reception celebrating our 50th anniversary (7-9 pm)*</i> |

*Events are on Saturdays from 2–4 pm in Concord Hall, unless otherwise noted**

Check the IWC website at www.worldculture.org for program details and time and date changes before attending events.