



I W C Newsletter

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



“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestioned ability of a man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.”

– Henry David Thoreau

A UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

By Pico Iyer

The heart of every life, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama says every time I see him, is potential; we all have the possibility to do much more than we suspect and we should never underestimate the power, wisdom and sense of kindness we have within us. This is not just a Buddhist truth, he always hastens to point out; it is simply a human and universal fact of life. Most of the people alive today, he once said to me, have no religion at all, and that's fine; we can't force them to be otherwise. But none of them is without the capacity for compassion and responsibility and what he always calls simple “secular values.”

I suppose this is one reason why he, like most wise beings, seems so committed to education, a “drawing out” of what we have inside us; children are potential incarnate and, free of assumptions about what they could be doing, not yet told or encouraged to look askance at the world, they can do things—pick up foreign languages, question everything, take nothing for granted—before they even know that they're supposed to be incapable of so doing.

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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 Education of a Buddhist Monk

**Seminar: Saturday, May 7
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Speaker: Yeshi Dorje**

Yeshi Dorje, a member of the Lower Tantric College and Gyume Monastery in Hunsur, India, will speak on his education and life as a Buddhist monk. In addition to extensive training and examinations in numerous Buddhist texts, this Renaissance man has developed skills in traditional Tibetan drawing and tangka painting. His work has been published and displayed at the Smithsonian Museum as well as in countless collections around the world. His 41 line drawings of the Buddha's life are preserved in the office of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama and used as blueprints for any monastery seeking to paint the life of the Buddha. Currently he is teaching Tibetan art at UCSB. He has lectured on Buddhist philosophy and taught art at several schools and colleges.

Reservations Recommended:

Priority is given to IWC Members who call by Wed., May 4th. On Thurs., May 5th, anyone may call to reserve a seat.

Call **967-1055** or email
Carolyn@worldculture.org



Architecture for the Poor

**Seminar: Saturday, May 21
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Presenters: Kirk Gradin, LEED AP
and Detlev Piekert, AIA LEED AP**

According to the UN Global Report on Human Settlements, since 1950 mankind has witnessed the most rapid population growth in recorded history: from 2.5 billion to more than 6.5 billion. Sixty percent of this growth has been in urban areas. Despite modern technology, improved social attitudes and organization, and large pools of wealth in developed countries, more than 30% of the world's urban population and 10% of the rural live in slum conditions. The plight of the poor has been intensified by the economic crisis and the proliferation of recent natural disasters. "Housing in the twentieth century has been one continuing emergency," wrote Charles Abrams. By what means should access to secure shelter, safe water and sanitation be made available to all? Is the failure to provide these a global, national or local governmental responsibility? Is it a lack of will or empathy or is it a design problem waiting to be solved? Is it enough to provide boxes with the bare necessities or do beauty, cultural meaning, access to education and community integration have to be part of the solution? What role should the architect play?

A Universal Education

Three years ago, traveling around Japan with the Dalai Lama for a week, I saw that he had a single day free in Tokyo. He'd devote it to a news-conference, I thought, or to meeting with Japanese policy-makers, or to seeing the power-brokers who can maybe help him talk to China and ease life in Tibet. Wrong. He spent the entire morning meditating with and then talking to a group of elementary and junior high-school boys, and the entire afternoon with another set of schoolboys. The next year, he committed one whole day to visiting a school of young female students. These are not the obvious sources of power and influence he could have been cultivating and yet, in his more spacious and far-sighted view of things, very much the ones who'll be making the world we inhabit thirty years from now.

In classical Tibet, of course, every school was part of a monastery; secular education didn't exist at all. And high monks like the Dalai Lama had to go through a rigorous training in metaphysics and logic and dialectics, equivalent to beginning in kindergarten and not concluding until you have earned a doctoral degree. Outside his home in Dharamsala, one can still see monks practicing traditional debating, lunging at each other with questions—"If there is no self, then who is delivering that sentence?"—as one monks sits quietly under a tree and another fires out enquiries. The Dalai Lama himself cannot see a sound system, a camera, a Japanese text without wanting to learn more about it and expand the knowledge that, until he came out into exile, was circumscribed by geography and circumstance.

More than that, education itself is a constantly shifting presence, he seems to see: as soon as he arrived in exile, he realized that he could introduce modern and Western teachings to his monks' curriculum, and empirical, 21st century science is now something that every Tibetan monk in exile has to learn. Education, he might be saying, is not learning what we know or what we want to believe already, but traveling into precisely those spaces that are dark and entirely beyond our ken. Only by exposing ourselves to very different doctrines can we come to a measured, objective and rounded sense of our own.

As a Tibetan monk comes to the Institute this coming month, and as the Dalai Lama comes to Los Angeles for four days of varied teachings and discussions—on science, on the relations between religions, on happiness and kindness (each leading to the other) and, in fact, on secular values—it's worth recalling that education has less to do with what the world does to us than with what we do to ourselves, and so to the world. Everyone, as Emerson and Thoreau often reminded us, has the potential to be a student and so a teacher.

***"This is my simple religion.
No need for temples. No need
for complicated philosophy.
Your own mind, your own
heart, is the temple; your
philosophy is simple
kindness.
His Holiness the
Dalai Lama***

UPCOMING EVENTS

June and July 2011

June 4th Dancing in the Footsteps of Eve

June 18th Learning to Live in Ashrams and Communes

**July 2nd Founding Day Address
The Correspondence of Giants: Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Carlyle**

July 22nd (tentative date) Learning through Heart Math

**SAVE the DATE:
NEW Book Circle**

Beginning *Monday June 6th* and continuing on through *July*, a new book circle will meet to discuss the recently published *American Veda*. This lucid survey by Philip Goldberg reviews the transfer of ancient Asian Indian spiritual teachings to the West. Beginning with the reception of “Hindoo” texts by the New England Transcendentalists such as Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman and extending to the interest in Yoga shown by the Beatles and countless meditation groups in the 1960s and 70s, the reader is treated to a rich lesson in cultural and philosophical history.

The book has been highly praised by experts in religious studies and is required reading in some religious

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

(Con't. p. 5)



study classes at UCSB. Copies are available at local book stores. The publisher is Harmony Books (Random House) and the ISBN # is 978-0-385-52134-5

Contact Carolyn Dorrance at 967-1055 or email carolyn@worldculture.org for more information. During July, the circle will meet on Wednesday evenings if participants agree to that.



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In May

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 1st May Day celebrates the ancient Druid new year
- 1st International Workers' Day (Labor Day) celebrated in many countries
- 8th (2011) 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 (2011) Buddha Purnima observed in India and worldwide to honor the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha
- 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
- 24th First telegraph message sent by Samuel Morse in 1844
- 29th Fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks in 1453
- 30th (2011) Memorial Day in the U.S. honors men and women who died in military service

PRISM ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRISM lists member-recommended community events of interest on the IWC website.

Please e-mail suggestions to donna@worldculture.org.

The Institute of World Culture is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization. All contributions, including memberships, are tax deductible.