



# 1st Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

Festival Programme  
27th February - 7th March 2004

From Friday 27 February - Sunday 7 March 2004 a series of events will be held on the subject of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. These events as listed here have been developed around three major public events on the evenings of Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th, and Friday 5th, an international conference on the subject of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace on Thursday 4th, a day Workshop on Friday 5th, an Interfaith Spiritual Retreat from Friday 5th - Sunday 7th, and a Middle Eastern themed One World Peace and Justice Concert on Saturday 6th.

We invite expressions of interest from individuals, organizations, spiritual and faith traditions, civic organisations, arts and cultural organisations, among others, about possible participation in this Festival.

## FESTIVAL PRE EVENTS

### A 'Ministry for Peace' Initiative

4th February 2004, 7-9pm

Talk by Diana Basterfield on the Ministry of Peace, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, Jointly organised by the EICWS and the EIFA. Admission is free.

Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com or Victor Spence eifa100@hotmail.com

### The Whirling Dervishes of Turkey with the Suleyman Erguner Ensemble

10th February 2004, 8pm

Edinburgh Queen's Hall, Tuesday. Presented by MultiCulti, in association with the EICWS. This event will be preceded by a pre-concert talk by Suleyman Erguner on 'The Spiritual Side of Sufism', from 7pm. Contact: Kola Adefope, multicultiuk@yahoo.co.uk, or 0131 668 2019.

Tickets - £16. Box office - 0131 668 2019 or boxoffice@queenshalledinburgh.org

## MAIN FESTIVAL

### Public Discussion:

#### 'To the Leaders of the World's Religions'

Thursday 26 February, 7pm

Baha'i Centre, 26 North Fort Street, Leith. Admission is free. Contact: David and Maureen Hunter-Merrick, 0131 333 2170, meteorquake@hotmail.com, or mospleen@hotmail.com

At the start of the current millennium the Universal House of Justice (the governing body of the Baha'i Faith) issued a Message to the leaders of the world's religions calling for a concerted effort to remove bigotry and prejudice from the world. This evening presents the key points of this message in the hope of stimulating useful discussion. Refreshments will be served. As space is limited please book your seat in advance.

### Middle Eastern Films at the Filmhouse Cinema

As a contribution to the Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, following on from the release of the Afghan film OSAMA (20-26/2 see www.filmhousecinema.com), there will be a season of films set in the region. The programme is yet to be finalised, but will include Elizabeth Fernea's documentary on the citizens of Palestine and Israel, THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, Hany Abu-Assad's revealing road movie that takes us from the roadblocks at Ramallah to the roadblocks at Jerusalem, FORD TRANSIT, two films on Moroccan street children AWAKENINGS and ALI ZAOUA, Elia Sulieman's black comedy DIVINE INTERVENTION, and Ghassan Salhab's Lebanese comedy TERRA INCOGNITA.

For further information, please contact:

James McKenzie, james.mckenzie@filmhousecinema.com or 0131-623-8020

### Dialogue between Rev Prof Frank Whaling and Rev Paul King

Rev Prof Frank Whaling in dialogue with Rev Paul King on the 'Seven Modes of Inter-Faith Dialogue', Sunday February 29th at 6.30pm, at Nicolson Square Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh. Admission is free.

Contact: Paul King, 0131 662 0417 / 0131 667 1465 paul.king7@virgin.net

### Heart Rhythm Meditation

Sunday 29th February, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Salisbury Centre, 2 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh

Heart Rhythm Meditation has its origins in the works of Sufi Master Hazrat Inayat Khan. This practical meditation brings the Heart to the centre of one's life by coordinating the body's internal rhythms, resulting in the ability to act naturally and easily with Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Compelling Vision, Creativity and Confidence. Admission is free.

Contact Ayaz Walker at 0131 667 0656 (evenings) or Email at hrm@ayazwalker.plus.com

### Dances of Universal Peace events

These meditative movements, accompanied by chanting sacred phrases, are inspired by spiritual traditions across the world and engender feelings of love, joy, and harmony. During the Festival we will be focussing on Dances of Universal Peace inspired by religions of the Middle East. Sunday 29 February, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, 3-5pm, £5/£3.50; Monday 1 March, Creative Space, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, 1-2pm, by donation; Friday March 5, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, 7-8.45pm, £5/£3.50. Contact: 0131-664-6206 for 29/2, 1/3, and 5/3 events; 01786-461-173 for 5/3 event.

### Public Talk on Islam and Medicine by Professor Aziz Sheikh

Professor of Primary Care Research and Development, University of Edinburgh, Chair of the Research and Documentation Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain. The Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre hosts a public talk with Professor Aziz Sheikh who will speak on Islam and Medicine on Monday 1 March, 7.30pm, Annandale Street Mosque, Edinburgh. Admission is free.

Contact: Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, 0131 229 0993, peace-justice@btconnect.com, or, Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### Book Launch Event: Genesis Meditations: A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims - Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

Cornerstone Bookshop, St. John's Church, Princes Street, Tuesday 2nd March, 5:30-6:30pm. Contact: Nikki Macdonald; 0131 229 3776, or cornerstonebooks@stjohnedin.fsnet.co.uk. Free event, but please book your place as seats are limited.

### Scientific and Medical Network Edinburgh event:

#### Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz will talk on Creation: Old Story, New Story

2nd March, 8.00pm, c/o Jane Ridder-Patrick, 29 East London St, Edinburgh. Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz is well known as a scholar in religious studies and psychology, as well as a leader in the International Sufi Movement. His most recent book is The Genesis Meditations, which sets out meditations on creation from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Admission is free. Please let Jane know you are coming: 0131 556 2161

### Meetings at the Borders: Spiritual Approaches to Middle East Peace, with Rodef Shalom Eliyahu McLean, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari, and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

Wednesday 3 at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, 6.30pm for 7pm-9.30pm:

First come, first served. Admission is free, donations appreciated towards costs. Everyone welcome to attend. Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### International Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

An international conference on the subject of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace on Thursday 4 at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Registration 9am-9.30am. Conference runs from 9.30am-5.30pm. Lunch will be available from 1pm-2pm. Conference registration £20/£10. This conference will include participation from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sufi, Ismaili, Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and Druze as well and other faith and spiritual traditions.

Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com, for enquiries and a conference registration form.

### Public Multi Faith Forum on the Spiritual Foundations for Peace

Thursday 4 at St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, refreshments from 6.45pm-7.15pm. Multi Faith Forum on the Spiritual Foundations for Peace, 7.15pm-9.30pm. First come, first served. Admission is free, donations appreciated towards costs. Everyone welcome to attend. Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com, for detailed information on speakers at this Multi Faith Forum.

### "Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims." Interfaith Spiritual Retreat led by Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

March 5-7: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland: Meditation, chant, Dances of Universal Peace, body prayer. Contact: Narada Ian Ramsey: Tel. 44 (0)1290 661 082. narada@abwoon.com. For information on Neil's new book, Genesis Meditations, see:

<http://www.genesismeditations.com/schedule.html>,

[Http://www.abwoon.com/GenesisNowatWistonLodgeMarch2004.htm](http://www.abwoon.com/GenesisNowatWistonLodgeMarch2004.htm)

### Workshop 'Where's the Power!' facilitated by Lee Gershuny, Ph.D.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore different ways of dealing with obstacles to peace. It is based upon the belief that practicing peace locally in our daily lives not only empowers us individually and collectively, but also promotes peace and justice in the world. The workshop aims to enable participants to: 1. Become more aware of attitudes and actions that help create peace and justice with each other in the present; 2. Develop skills to work creatively among diverse participants; 3. Build a sense of community among diverse participants. Demonstrations, interactive exercises and role play in small and large groups will enable us to practice three principles of peacemaking, namely, Not Knowing; Bearing Witness; Loving Action/Compassion. Lunch will be purchased from caterers at the venue. This workshop will be facilitated by Lee Gershuny of The Elements, and will be held at St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, on Friday 5. Tea 9.30am-10am. Workshop from 10am-4.30pm. Lunch will be available from 1pm-2pm. The cost for coffee, teas, etc. is £1 per participant for the whole day. Registration fee is £5, first come, first served, and registration forms are available from: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### Science and Spirituality:

#### A Crisis of Faith in Science and the Need for a New Enlightenment?

Friday 5 at Martin Hall, New College, The Mound, Edinburgh University, jointly organised and hosted by the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly and the EICWS. 7pm-9.30pm. Chair: Joyce McMillan. Speakers: Prof David Fergusson, Head of the School of Divinity, Edinburgh University; Prof Salim al-Hassani, Hon. Chairman of the Foundation for Science, Technology, and Civilisation; Prof Wilson Poon, Prof of Physics and Astronomy, Edinburgh University. Admission is free, everyone welcome to attend.

Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com, or, Dr Andrew Morton, 0131 332 6592, armorton@btoopenworld.com

### Storytelling Workshop. Wise Fools and Spiritual Quests in Middle Eastern Stories. Workshop led by Angela Knowles, storyteller, and Dr Donald Smith of the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Saturday March 6th, 12.30-4.30, St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

Much of Middle Eastern literature has been shaped by oral traditions of storytelling. In this relaxed workshop participants can explore different kinds of storytelling in small groups and then share stories informally. The session begins with a keynote introduction and light lunch. Please book in advance, since places are limited. £7.50/£5.00. To book contact the Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR. Tel 0131 557 5724, Fax 0131 557 5224.

Email: scottishstorytellingcentre@uk.uuimail.com. This event is jointly hosted by Creative Space and the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

### Middle Eastern themed One World Peace and Justice Concert

A major Middle Eastern themed One World Peace and Justice Concert on Saturday 6. Doors open at 5.45pm, first come, first served. 5.45pm-6.30pm: refreshments by Suruchi Indian Restaurant. Concert from 6.30pm-10pm, at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, near Haymarket, Edinburgh. No tickets in advance. £4.50/£3.50, family ticket price of £2.50 per person.

CANTY: Anne Lewis, Lorna Stephens, Rebecca Tavener, with William Taylor (medieval clarsach). 'The Mother and the Magdelene': A sequence of medieval music celebrating the two Marys of the New Testament including antiphons by Hildegard von Bingen, an Italian 'lauda', an English 'carol', polyphony from the Llibre Vermell and the St Andrews Music Book, plus the Scottish premiere of 'The Troparion of Kassiani' by Ivan Moody; 'The Beauty of Islam' by Hassen Rasool and Sarah Joseph, on behalf of the Muslim Council of Britain; "Where's the Power?" Dance/Drama, devised and presented by The Elements; Egyptian Dance with Hilary Thacker; Improvisation with veil and cymbals, and Middle Eastern percussion with Mike Zolker and Javier Villar Morales; Jewish Klezmer Music with Celtaica Schmeltica; Music from the band Moscu with influences from Iran, Brazil, Cuba, and Africa. The performers are Roxana Pope (vocals), Dougie Hudson (vocals/percussion), Peter Vilik (drums/percussion), and Marcello (guitar); Jewish Chants led by Rodef Shalom Eliyahu McLean; Sufi Chants led by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari; Dances of Universal Peace led by Alice Fateah Saunders.

Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com; Paul Boast - 0131-2299594, pboast@onetel.com

### Services and Events at Cathedrals and Churches across Edinburgh on Sunday 7 March 2004

Edinburgh Churches Together have communicated with churches across Edinburgh to consider linking services on Sunday 7 to the Festival theme: St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, Sunday 7 March 2004, 3.30pm. Choral Evensong, J.S.Bach Cantata BWV 54 'Widerstehe doch der Sünde'. Special prayers for Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace Festival; St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, Sunday 7 March 2004, special bidding prayers/prayers of intercession for peace and greater community in the Middle East during 7.30pm Mass; Old St Paul's Episcopal Church (enter from Jeffrey St, disabled access available - phone ahead 0131 556 3332), Mass for Justice and Peace at which all are welcome, Friday 27 February and Friday 5 March 2004, 12.20pm. This is a reflective service of prayer and communion, celebrated in a chapel built to remember those killed in wars. Churches across Edinburgh are encouraged to be mindful of the Festival theme on Sunday 7 March 2004.

### Service at the Edinburgh Synagogue

4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, on Saturday 28 February.

To attend contact: Rabbi David Rose, 0131 668 1279, Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### Women in Black Silent Vigil

Women in Black hold a silent vigil on every Saturday, 1-2pm at the East End of Princes Street, and all women of all ages are welcome to join the silent vigil. Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### National Library of Scotland event

Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com;

Fiona Morrison Graham, 0131 226 4531

### Napier University Chaplaincy student focused event

A student focused event is being planned at the Napier University Chaplaincy. For information contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com; Jenny Williams, butterfly.greenleaf@gmx.net

### Media Coverage associated with the Festival

Discussions are ongoing about specific media input to the Festival, including Radio Scotland. For interviews, photo opportunities, or a press release contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

### The Time for Reflection in the Scottish Parliament

May be given by a distinguished visiting speaker associated with the conference on Wednesday 3. Contact: Neill Walker - 0131-3314469, njwalk1300@hotmail.com

*'Scotland has a distinctive role to play in meeting the global challenge of multifaith and cultural diversity, dialogue, and shared understanding leading to mutual spiritual enrichment. We feel that this conference and Festival will not only lead to new spiritual understandings across traditions, but it will also further contacts, understandings, and learnings between Scotland and the spiritual communities of the Middle East.'*

Festival Coordinators