
International Community of Spiritual Guidance



The 7th Advanced Training for the International
Community
April 21 - 24, 2011
Los Gatos, California

A Letter of Invitation

Dear Friends,

It is with a sense of blessing and joy that I am sharing the program for our next International Spiritual Guidance Gathering. I find myself in awe at the richness of our community as represented by the presenters and topics listed below. In selecting the various themes, I have referred to the question reflected upon in the last Deeper Story newsletter: What are the needs, longings, cries and calls of the Soul of the World?

The Autumn Season of our Lives – Frances Vaughan

Europe and North America are at the beginning of a huge wave of an aging population. How to enhance our spiritual journey during an expanded lifetime, with more physical limitations, is an urgent issue millions will confront. I asked Frances to address this theme because of the wisdom she has harvested. During our last gathering one of our participants asked her for advice on growing older with grace and dignity. Their brief exchange touched me, and its beauty lingered on.

As noted by many of you the last time, we are graced to be in Frances' presence. Her influence on the Spiritual Guidance Community arises from her teachings offered in various training sessions and her books on the reading list. I have also shared several guidance stories that arose during the time I was mentored by Frances.

Passionately Alive – Margie Gills

Tielhard de Chardin, the Christian mystic, spoke of the call to a "zeal for life" as one of the necessary elements to birth a greater consciousness in humanity. I know of no one who better exemplifies that passionate aliveness than Margie Gillis. I experience her as a gifted spiritual teacher whose medium includes the body, movement, dance, and a profound understanding of the mystical dimensions of time and space. Over the years I have witnessed a source of her aliveness, which is endless curiosity brought to each moment. Margie is one of Canada's foremost dancers and choreographers. In addition to her working and playing with us, she will perform one of her solo pieces.

Lost and Found Soul – Atum

All of you have heard me quote from Carl Jung that the spiritual illness of our time is the loss of soul. For many years I have been exploring this urgent problem. Having gathered a body of teachings and practices on the Four Worlds of the Soul, I now feel called to pass it on to the community for your use in spiritual guidance and possibly offering a series of classes. In this way our community can make a further contribution to healing this pervasive illness that is infecting so much of contemporary life.

Easter Weekend and Shabbat

In honoring this sacred time and the mystical mysteries contained within it, I will lead a meditation on the suffering Christ embodied in humanity and the planet on Friday afternoon. Sunday morning there will be an Easter Resurrection Service. The Jewish Shabbat ritual will also be honored with the related theme of mending the brokenness of the world. On Thursday night we will gather with the celebratory Dances of Universal Peace that honor the unity and diversity of the religious traditions that contribute to the Soul of the World.



A Letter of Invitation—continued

Responding to the Needs – Breakout Groups

Sunday morning will offer several breakout groups addressing the cries and calls of our time. I can testify to the spiritual maturity and rich journey of each presenter. The following reflect my guidance in selecting the themes. At the gathering, you will receive a description of each presentation and bios of the presenters.

Hazrat Inayat Kahn taught that the condition of the world reflects the consciousness of humanity. If attitudes can be changed in a healthy way then greater consciousness is evolved. The emergence of global consciousness can also become planetary conflict on all levels if we are not able to find our way to peaceful cultural resolutions. Again and again the pattern of wounding occurs as persons are swallowed and lost in institutions and organizations. How do we safeguard against this abuse of soul? Hazrat Kahn spoke of music as the religion of the future, for it offers us experience of divine states rather than dogma. He also honored the music of life and the need of each person to sing the song of their soul. What creates a spiritual foundation for the youth living on a planet in transition? In a time of polarization of the opposites how do we create an integrated spiritual journey? As rigid cultural stereotypes dissolve, can we foster an inner alchemical marriage of the masculine and feminine, whatever our sexual orientation? With the movement toward spiritual liberty, and less dependency on external religious authority, there is a greater need for individual and collective discernment, especially with the complex decisions we face. Finally I had hoped for a gifted presenter on the core cry of the environment, but it did not work out for this gathering.

Images of the Divine Feminine – Kat Taylor

We are blessed to have again the soulful art of Kat Taylor as she continues her rendering of the emergence of the Divine Feminine.

Anita Matson Scholarship Fund

In honor of a beloved member of our community we have established a scholarship fund. One of my most vivid memories of Anita is of her dancing in ecstasy at our last gathering. Due to the financial difficulties of recent times, some of our community would love to attend but cannot without assistance. A contribution of any amount would be appreciated.

Gratitude for Nancy

We are again blessed to have Nancy Monson as the coordinator of our international gathering. She weaves the spiritual and organizational dimensions together in a way that creates harmonious manifestation with joy.

May we be blessed with the grace
of renewing our soul friendships
and supporting the Soul of the World
as we gather together.

Atum



Program Schedule

<i>Thursday Evening</i>	<i>Atum O’Kane and Others</i>
8:00 PM	Opening Gathering
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Atum O’Kane</i>
Pre-Breakfast	Morning Yoga with Aileen Kernohan—optional
9:30 AM—12:30 PM	The Four Worlds of the Soul
2:30 PM—5:30 PM	The Four Worlds of the Soul—continued
8:00 PM	Celebration of Shabbat—Mending the World
<i>Saturday Morning</i>	<i>Frances Vaughan</i>
Pre-Breakfast	Morning Yoga with Aileen Kernohan—optional
9:30 AM—12:30 PM	Gifts of Grace: Conscious Aging and Spiritual Practice
<i>Saturday Afternoon</i>	<i>Margie Gillis</i>
2:30 PM—5:30 PM	Dancing With the Miracle of Who We Are
<i>Saturday Evening</i>	<i>Margie Gillis, Kat Taylor and Steve Flynn</i>
8:00 PM	Dance Performance
	Art and Sculpture—Commentary and Questions
	Comedy Sketches
	Community Singing and Dancing to Soul Music
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Atum O’Kane and Others</i>
Pre-Breakfast	Morning Yoga with Aileen Kernohan—optional
9:00 AM—10:00 AM	Easter Resurrection Service
10:15 AM—12:30 PM	Break Out Groups: Small Groups Gathered Around the Needs of Our Time.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Resilient Heart: An Exploration of Attitudinal Healing: Richard and Madhura Cuadra ◆ Your Guiding Purpose & the Emerging Future: Orianne Lee Johnson ◆ Exploring Attunement: Cedron & N’Shama Sterling ◆ Separating and Connecting: Befriending Conflict: Michelle LeBaron ◆ Practicing Discernment in Decision-Making: Trevor Simpson ◆ Holding the Opposites and Living an Integrated Life: Kat Taylor and Nancy Monson ◆ Youth and Spiritual Awakening: Golden, Fragile, Messy, Moist, Outrageous, and Beautiful: Quan Yin and Nur Ali
2:00 PM—3:00 PM	Closing Ceremony



Registration and Information

There are three options for registration: private room, semi-private room (two persons per room) and day use. Details are outlined below under Facility. Accommodations are booked directly through the application process with Anna West *not* through The Presentation Center. **Partners and spouses are welcome to attend the gathering for the same fees as Spiritual Guidance Training graduates/students.**

Scholarships may be available depending on donations and registration numbers. ***If you would like to donate to the Anita Matson Scholarship Fund, please check the appropriate box on the application form.*** If you are interested in receiving a scholarship, please contact Nancy Monson at the number below. For specific information regarding registration, please contact Anna West at the number below.

To register, complete the separate one-page application form and forward it along with payment to:

For additional information, contact:

Anna West
799 Dahlia, #304
Denver, CO 80220
annamayz@msn.com
303.320.1011

Nancy Monson Coaching, Inc.
559 Rutland Ave.
San Jose, CA 95128
nancy@nancymonsoncoaching.com
650.804.5810

Facility

Location

The Presentation Center
19480 Bear Creek Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9519
www.presentationcenter.org

The Presentation Center is a retreat center in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains 20 minutes from Silicon Valley and 30 minutes from the San Jose International Airport. Information and photos of the facilities are available on the website.

Accommodations

Private and Semi-Private Rooms in Cottages

Quaint cottages accommodate four to ten persons, depending on the size of the cottage. The living rooms of the cottages provide a comfortable gathering place for small groups. Many of the cottages have functional kitchens. We have reserved a limited number of beds in private rooms and semi-private rooms (two persons to a room). Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We will try to accommodate everyone's requests. Overnight accommodations include three meals (beginning with dinner on Thursday evening). The Center is renowned for superb meals, all home cooked.

Day Use

For those wishing to stay off site (Los Gatos), coming just for the sessions is an option. Day use includes dinner on Thursday night and lunch Friday through Sunday.

There are a number of hotels in the Los Gatos area for those wishing to stay off site. They are between a 10 and 15 minute drive from the Center.



Frances Vaughan

Frances Vaughan, Ph.D. is a psychologist, author and co-editor of many books, papers and articles on psychology and spiritual growth. She has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Australia, and Latin America.

As a pioneer in transpersonal psychology, Frances was a founding faculty member of the Institute of Transpersonal psychology. Later she joined the clinical faculty at the University of California Medical School at Irvine. At present she is a founding faculty member of the Metta Institute.

Frances has served as President of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology and the Association for Humanistic Psychology and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She is currently a trustee of the Fetzer Institute. The mission of the Fetzer Institute is to foster the awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community.

Frances has been a practitioner of meditation since 1972, and she participated in many of the human potential developments in California. She has studied and practiced Buddhist, Sufi and Hindu spiritual traditions in addition to deepening her understanding of Christian mysticism.

Frances has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and on the board of editors of several journals. She graduated from Stanford University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. She has raised two children and has five grandchildren. She lives with her husband in Marin County, California.

Margie Gillis

As choreographer and performer of more than one hundred solo dance works, Margie Gillis has earned rave reviews in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and in South and North America. A passionate and steadfast artist, she has worked with the greatest dancers and artists of her time either including them in her own personal projects or by participating in the productions of her peers. Concerned with the durability of her unique approach to art, Margie Gillis teaches often in different institutions such as the Juilliard School of New York.

Margie Gillis has been a Member of the Order of Canada since 1988 and she was appointed Knight of the Ordre national du Québec in 2009. Also, the Canadian and Quebec governments have each given her the honorary title of Cultural Ambassador. In 2001, in recognition of her exceptional contribution to national culture, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec awarded her their Career Grant. During the 2008-2009 season, which spotlighted the 35th anniversary of Margie Gillis' career, the Canada Council for the Arts awarded her the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, and the famous Stella Adler Studio of New York gave her their first MAD Spirit Award for Exceptional Humanitarian Actions by an Artist.

Margie Gillis' masterful interpretation of the different facets of the human soul has won her loyal audiences over the years. Unwaveringly, her work continues to develop through experimenting, teaching and creating.

