



## Living Soulfully in a Conflicted World

### Presentation Descriptions and Presenter Bios

#### Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation - Michelle LeBaron

– In this presentation we will explore conflict as a dance between light and dark in ourselves and in the world. Only as we acknowledge our shadow capacities for division and exclusion can we uncover the bright possibilities of soul connection and belonging. Combining collaborative dialogue with the alchemy of visual and expressive arts, we will expand our creative capacities to reconcile the contradictions and conflicts that block constructive relations in our families and the world. Participants will experience five core capacities for reconciliation as inspired by global leaders and artists.

#### Biography

Professor Michelle LeBaron is a conflict transformation scholar/practitioner at the University of British Columbia who is a full professor in the Allard School of Law and a fellow of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, the Trinity College Long Room Hub (Dublin) and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (South Africa). Michelle's approach is animated by creativity and interdisciplinarity, revolving around ways to foster cultural fluency and effective engagement across worldviews. She has done seminal work in many types of conflicts including intercultural, international, family, organizational and commercial. Over the past ten years, she has brought artists and conflict engagement scholars into collaboration with community members in exploring how intractable conflict can be addressed using the arts. Her most recent book, *The Choreography of Resolution: Conflict, Movement and Neuroscience*, explains how dance and movement can help address conflict across social divides. A sought-after teacher, she has worked in over a dozen countries

around the world using innovative pedagogy to train new generations of conflict scholars.

### Co-Creating with the Soul of Humanity - Atum O'Kane

The Christian mystic and scientist Teilhard De Chardin asks us to contemplate the divine intention in creating humanity. What is our unique contribution to this infinite, multi-dimensional, living Universe?

Many mystical traditions use the image of the divine or golden seed contained in the depth of every person to respond to this profound question. Teilhard realized we are now being called upon to grow beyond being instruments for the divine intention and are invited to become co-creators with 'IT'. He was aware of a significant development in human consciousness paralleling the urgent need of the planet.

The core of this presentation will be reflecting on how we, individually and as a community, can embody in our lives and beings, the collective awakening that the Soul of Humanity is seeking to birth now.

Pir Vilayat often said, "The pull of the future (greater consciousness) is stronger than the tug of the past." An important insight to sustain us in these years.

Michelle Obama gave powerful articulation to its reality when she spoke of her family LIVING in the WHITE HOUSE which was built by slaves. She also gave us a key practice used in the Obama family for co-creating with the soul of humanity, "When others go low, we go high" Amen to that!

### Changing Business from the Inside Out - What it Takes to Make Business More Humane and Sustainable and Exercise Conscious Leadership - Nanda Bergstein

For a long time, business has been stripped of any consideration of the impact on people and the environment. But in recent years a trend has been emerging which is calling for a more holistic way of doing business, putting social and environmental concerns onto corporate agendas. But what does that mean in practice? And how does one transform business without being personally affected and shaped by power struggles and egos? How does one hold a center of consciousness when waves of turmoil, insecurity and continuous change come crashing into everyday life and work? In this presentation I will be reflecting on the journey which I have taken so far and what it takes at a personal level to sustain a center of wholeness in this context.

## Biography

Nanda Bergstein has been working in the field of corporate sustainability for 12 years, first as a business consultant and since 9 years for a German mainstream coffee and consumer goods retailer (Tchibo). With her team she is responsible to transition the business into a 100% sustainable business. Her work encompasses human rights and environmental protection in global supply chains, sustainable products and working with stakeholders from civil society, unions, government and other brands and retailers to design global initiatives for change. Amongst others, Nanda negotiated the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety Accord as well as the ACT on Living Wage Initiative. She holds a B.A. in International Relations ( Technical University of Dresden) and an MSc in Gender, Development and Globalisation (London School of Economics). Four years ago, Nanda got exposed to Atum's work and has been working on integrating this body of thought and being into her every day work.

## Life On A Dollar A Day. Issues of Economic Social Justice, Compassion, and Action - Torkin Wakefield

A billion people live in extreme poverty, \$1.25 a day, primarily in Africa and Asia. What is their life like? How do they stay alive? How can we take effective actions to create a world of social justice and shared resources? Torkin will offer portraits of people she has worked with whose cultural strength and unrelenting desire to stay alive inspired her work in eradicating poverty.

## Biography

Torkin Wakefield is the Co-Founder of BeadforLife, a non-profit poverty eradication project working in Uganda since 2004. Under Torkin's leadership BeadforLife grew from a simple encounter in a Ugandan slum to a robust non-profit endeavor affecting over 40,000 people to date. Its programs focus on women and girls who are living on a dollar a day. BeadforLife offers the extreme poor opportunities to for entrepreneurial training and income generating projects, and education. BeadforLife engages citizens around the world to get involved in the issue of extreme poverty by creating opportunities to make a difference in meaningful and heartfelt ways.

Torkin has had a life time of humanitarian service and has started many organizations during her career as a social entrepreneur including The People's Clinic, a medical center for the poor, AIDS, Medicine, and Miracles, a national conference for people living with HIV, Hollyhock Retreat Center (British

Columbia), Wellspring Holistic Healing Center (Boulder, Colo), and The World Sits Down to Dinner, a theatrical experiential event about food security. She has also served in the Peace Corps in India and worked in Nepal, Mexico, Kenya, Uganda and Italy. She is the former mayor of Gold Hill, Colorado. She got her BA from University of California, Berkeley and her Master's Degree from University of North Carolina. Torkin lives in Boulder, Colorado with her husband.

## Global Epidemics, You and Me:

### AIDS to Zika-- Issues, Lessons and Personal Experiences from Four Epidemics - Charles Steinberg

Across the globe new and old diseases are emerging. The disparity of health care between the haves and have-nots is immense, with the have-nots having way more than their share of suffering and dying from these illnesses.

What is going on today with emerging infectious diseases? How is climate change effecting this? What is it like to live with a chronic infectious disease in the developed or the developing world? What is it like as a physician to engage with people living and dying with these diseases? Charles will offer his understanding of these current global health crises including the huge paradigmatic shifts taking place in the approaches to these epidemics. Charles will share some of his stories of people living and dying with AIDS, Ebola, and TB, and the lessons learned at all levels: intellectual, emotional and spiritual.

## Biography

Charles Steinberg M.D. is an HIV/AIDS specialist from Boulder Colorado. After 30 years of U.S. practice, Charles began to work internationally, treating people living with HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and training physicians and nurses in this care. Charles has practiced and trained others in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Nepal, Mexico, Peru, Honduras, Romania, Ukraine and Myanmar. He was an early volunteer at an Ebola Treatment Unit in Sierra Leone in late 2014. He currently teaches at The University of Colorado Medical School.

Charles is also a professional photographer, who teaches photography and is widely published. He uses his images in his presentations to bring in the "human" aspects of illness and medical care.

## The Scramble for International Wealth and Power - Charles Steinberg and Torkin Wakefield

This is an experience of the resource division around the world. Participants will

experience the inequality of resources, power imbalances and the consequences, and the injustice of poverty around the world.

Fast moving and engaging, this game creates experiences which leads us into a conversation of depth about these issues.

### Music for Mary – Devi Matthieu

Mother, Sister, Intercessor, Guardian, Virgin, Dark One. The many facets of Mary are celebrated in an abundance of music from around the western world. We can sing her praises with simple pilgrim songs of the Black Madonna, sung prayer from St. Hildegard of Bingen, and miracle ballads from the Camino de Santiago. Everyone can join the singing, no musical knowledge or experience required. We'll be singing "through the ear to the heart" — a nourishing and joyful process of listening and singing together that comes to us from ancient oral tradition.

### Biography

Devi Mathieu explores the common roots from which spiritual traditions arise and exults in bringing this commonality into consciousness through song. She sings medieval and contemporary music in the US and Europe, as a concert soloist, as a teacher, and as a seeker. She leads song circles using methods that enable everyone, regardless of their perceived musical ability, to participate. Devi is especially devoted to the music of Hildegard of Bingen, and guides singers' pilgrimages to sacred sites in the Rhineland region where the saint lived. Devi often collaborates with her husband, composer, author, and teacher William Allaudin Mathieu. Concert programs range from song settings of the poetry of Mevlana Jelalludin Rumi to *Music from the Time of St. Francis of Assisi* and *Music for the Black Madonna* – medieval songs and dances dedicated to this icon of beauty, power, and depth. Grateful for Atum's wisdom and guidance, Devi looks forward to meeting and singing with more of his friends in Oaxaca.

### Dancing the Soul: Dancing from the Inside Out - Margie Gillis

*Exploring your body's experiential wisdom and revealing the soul in motion*

This workshop supports participants to discover the wisdom of their bodies as well as to connect with the curiosity and awe that initiates and inspires movement. With gentle mediation we open to the exploration of the body in motion to deepen our understanding of health, communication, and the development of creativity. With supported curiosity, the participants are

sensitized to the links between their thoughts, emotions, and body. The emphasis is placed on the natural kinetic process, and on how our “inner landscape” is naturally expressed in the muscles through movement. By listening to the body’s intelligence, we will begin to dance from the inside out.

## Biography

Internationally acclaimed modern dancer/choreographer, Margie Gillis has been creating original works for over forty years. Her repertoire includes more than one hundred pieces, which she performs as solos, duets and group pieces. She also gives lectures on dance and the role of art in society. With her unique approach of “Dancing from the Inside Out”, she teaches her art form to professionals and aficionados. She also mentors fellow artists and new dancers alike. Her numerous awards and distinctions include the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award from the Governor General’s Performing Arts Award Foundation and the Stella Adler Studio of New York first MAD Spirit Award for Exceptional Humanitarian Actions by an Artist. She is Knight of the Ordre National du Québec and Officer of the Order of Canada. Margie Gillis’ masterful interpretation of the different facets of the human soul has won her loyal audiences over the years. Unwaveringly, She continues to develop her craft through experimenting, teaching and creating.

([www.margiegillis.org](http://www.margiegillis.org))

## *Neither Here nor There, but Somehow Still Present: Living the Cross-Cultural Life - César Valdez*

As we undergo the transformational storms of a rapidly changing world and the emergence of a global community, Atum identifies the need for what he calls *bridge people*--those who live soulfully with one foot in one world and one foot in another. César Valdez grew up along the Rio Grande in Southwest Texas, an area of the U.S. primarily made up of a people who maintain many of the cultural traditions of their Mexican ancestry, and who also very much identify as “all-American.” While this kind of bi-cultural life may present many challenges and conflicts, one of its hidden gifts is the ability to hold seemingly dissonant experiences at once and without the option of taking sides. With consideration to both the increasing globalization and polarization of our world, we will explore lessons learned from living in a space that is neither here nor there, yet somehow still powerfully present.

## Biography

César Valdez lived the first 17 years of his life in a predominantly Mexican American region of Texas before moving with his family to an exclusively Caucasian area of rural Michigan during his junior year of high school. He attended the University of Michigan and, upon graduating, worked for the University's Office of New Student Programs coordinating projects on diversity and multiculturalism. After earning his Masters degree from the University, he worked in Detroit in a predominantly African American setting. He now lives in Ann Arbor with his German-Peruvian wife and their three children. César is a psychotherapist of 21 years and practices within a psycho-spiritual framework and from an integrative model that blends classical psychological traditions with cutting-edge neurobiological modalities. He is the co-founder of *Partners in Healing*, which provides training and consultation to other psychotherapists.

## Conversations with Allah - A Glimpse into a Western Muslim Teenager's Mind – Tarek Mounib

This presentation takes you on a gripping journey into a young Muslim's mind, who was born and raised in the West and is struggling with questions of spirituality, religion, identity and ethics. He is confronted with two very different views of Islam - one of peace, kindness and integration and one of confrontation, revolution and war. This exposé attempts to reveal the different thought patterns and mind streams that are struggling for control of this young Muslim's mind and soul.

After the monologue, there will be a de-briefing and discussion and exploration of what we as a society can do to create a society where people of all faiths, religions and beliefs can live in mutual tolerance and respect.

## Biography

Tarek Mounib was born and raised in Canada to Muslim Egyptian parents. By growing up in the Canadian Muslim community, he saw how Islam helped many people connect and live from their Hearts. At the same time, he also saw the corruption and bigotry that was done in the name of Islam and other religions. Being a Westerner with Oriental roots made him very interested in building bridges and he discovered that there was one universal language throughout and beyond all religions, cultures and world-views which was the language of the Heart. This led him to take a sabbatical from the business world to complete his Masters in the Study of Mysticism and Religious Experience. Afterwards he spent one year immersing himself in Jungian-Studies at the Carl Jung Institute in

Switzerland. Tarek also completed the Spiritual Guidance and Alchemy Programs led by Atum O'Kane.

## The Blessing of a Soul-friendship During the Journey of Cancer – Margit Krukow and Gudrun Langner-Fahlisch

In a kind of dialog between the two of us we would like to share with you the development process of our soul-friendship. In the beginning there was just an unaware, nevertheless deep intuitive commitment to this friendship. Over the years we slowly developed a deeper friendship and got more conscious about the qualities of this soul-companionship. These qualities were available when we were both facing - in different ways -, the deep crisis of Gudrun's cancer illness. Looking from a sublimatio point of view it was trust, deep respect, service, reliability, but also joy and humor - all in all unconditional love - that helped us through.

### Biography

Margit Krukow lives in Mainz (Germany). Already in her early youth her life centered around friendships. She loved to share personal experiences and in case of any crisis she listened, tried to capture the essence and find new ways and perspectives to deal with it. After finishing her training as a high school-teacher she worked several years for the children's broadcast and then made her youth dream come true: She became a psychotherapist for children, young adults and their parents. Since 25 years she has supported her clients on their path of self-understanding, -acceptance, -growth, joy and loving care in their relationships. On her spiritual path, her longing for an intimate encounter with the divine in 1993 led her to the desert, which became her soul-landscape. Several weeks a year she was co-guiding meditative self-exploring travel-groups, walked with camels through the beauty of the Sahara, enjoying the power of nature, the silence and the sound of her own heart. In 2009 she had the pleasure of meeting Atum. 2011 she became part of the spiritual guidance wisdom school. Sharing this experience with Gudrun deepened their friendship, which had started in 1975, made it more and more a source of love and support. During Gudrun's cancer illness the grace of this soul-companionship unfolded an unknown power which led each of them to more growth and thankfulness for this gift.

## Biography

Gudrun Langner-Fahlisch lives in Heidelberg (Germany). She was trained as an academic high school teacher, a role she has lived for more than ten years. Her deep longing to support children and young adults on their way of finding their own personality and individuality led her to become a children and young adults' psychotherapist. Since 1985 she has worked with these groups (specializing on eating disorders and traumatic experiences) in her own psychotherapeutic practice. Since 2012 she is part of the spiritual guidance community, which has shifted her perspective to more serving soul and heart-orientated work. Her journey with cancer, especially the blessing of her soul friendship with Margit and other deep relationships and experiences in this context helped to bring about another longing in her: To share her experiences in order to help other people to get through it. Since January 2017 she is volunteering and serving in a "*patients help patients*" organization.

## Shabbat – Barbara Boyk-Rust

Friday evening as the week comes to a close, we enter the sacred time of Shabbat, which brings the gifts of rest and deep nourishment for the soul. With breath, voice and prayer we find the stream of love that flows from the divine to us as we release anything in its way and open more fully to our inheritance, connection with the Beloved.

## Biography

Dr. Boyk Rust is Jewish by birth and has journeyed with spiritual teachings from several paths, most deeply immersing in teachings from Reb Zalman and others in the international Jewish renewal community. The sanctification of life through prayer and ceremony is the primary aim of her spiritual study and practice. Her intellectual pursuits center on psychology and education: the integration of thought and feeling, young adult development of identity, depth psychological healing of the wounds of heart, mind, and soul and individuation processes in older adults. As a psychotherapist she assists individuals in freeing themselves from self-limiting patterns, opening to greater fullness of being. Her studies with Atum began in 2000. Since then the fibers of her life's pathways are knitting together with more ease, clarity, purpose and joy. In the summer of 2014 Atum was the anchor of a Wisdom Council of elders that ordained her as a leader and spiritual teacher.

## Dances of Universal Peace - Quan Yin

Quan Yin will again gift us through guiding us through the beautiful Dances of Universal Peace to bring our hearts, voices and bodies together in simple movements and songs based on sacred phrases to open our program together on Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and again on the final Sunday night. We will especially honor the place where we dance in Oaxaca by dancing in honor of the Divine Feminine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Biography

Quan Yin (Lynne Williams)

Dr Quan Yin is a happy and devoted part of the Spiritual Guidance community, a grandmother, a long-time Sufi teacher and minister, and psychiatrist. She has loved and led the Dances of Universal Peace for nearly 40 years, and has been blessed to lead in many programs and pilgrimages.

## Saturday Night Auction - Ananda Garlichs and Emmanuel O'Kane

Our Saturday Night Auction tradition of raising money to support non-profits is a Saturday Evening custom at our International Gatherings. Led by our amazing auctioneer Ananda Garlichs and supported by Emmanuel O'Kane your gifts and donations will help to heal the brokenness of the world.

## Yoga - Aileen Gilzow

Aileen began her yoga practice in 1987, and has studied with many teachers in Ann Arbor, and elsewhere. Her most influential teachers were Barbara Linderman, Ron Chalfont, and Cathy King. Aileen's style is one of warmth and creativity. She believes each student brings a unique body, mind, and spirit to class.

## Opening and Closing Remarks, Director of the Gathering - Trevor Simpson

Trevor is a Spiritual Coach and has been studying with Atum since 2001 when he took the Art of Spiritual Guidance program. In his previous life he was a consultant and business manager in the advertising and communication business. As with the Gathering in Assisi, he is the Director for financial management and organization for this event in Oaxaca and has worked with Atum for almost two years to bring it into reality.