

**2nd Annual International Conference on
"Engaging The Other:"
The Power of Compassion**

October 25-28, 2007

Dearborn, Michigan USA ~ Dearborn Inn Marriott



COMMON BOND INSTITUTE

www.cbiworld.org

2007 ETO Program

Thursday, October 25

(Day)

PRE-CONFERENCE ALL-DAY INSTITUTES

(Note separate registration fees for Pre-Conference Institutes)

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Institute 1: "Thinking About Enemies"

The Warfare System

Traditional Archetypes of the Hostile Imagination,

Terrorism and the faces of the new enemy,

Jihad and the cult of violence

The challenge of the new open source warfare

Re-humanizing the Enemy

Going Beyond Enmity

In this seminar we will use political cartoons and propaganda art from many countries and eras to show the archetypes, the recurring images that peoples, tribes and nations have always used when they wish to dehumanize their enemies and justify warfare. We will examine the images and metaphors we currently use to characterize our new(post 9/11) enemy. Finally, we will explore ways in which we can reown the projections we place on our personal and political enemies and embrace the enemy within and without.

Sam Keen, PhD (*Lecture, Discussion*)

Institute 2: "Tools For Dynamic Peace From The Kabbalah"

The Jewish mystical wisdom known as Kabbalah understands our human tendency towards polarization and helps us to find our way from the trap of one-sided truths to a dynamic balance based on "trialectics." Using the central Kabbalistic image of the Tree of Life, we will begin with self-exploration, mapping out areas of personal struggle, then look at several global issues through the same wise lense. Interactive tools for peace building, listening techniques, and ancient Judaic texts will round out our day.

Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, MA, (*Experiential, Movement, Demonstration, Lecture, Discussion*)

Institute 3: "Re-Membering Right Relationship"

The lesson - and challenge - of the 21st century is recognition that all life is inter-dependent. There is only one of us, and everything we think, say, and do affects the whole, meaning we are all and always in relationship. The choices we make, then, are only and ever about the quality of relationship. This workshop explores tools for consciously choosing and creating relationships that foster the well-being of all parties, and indeed of 'all our relations. This is an experiential workshop using a variety of modalities to explore Right Relationship. We will focus on energy work, dialogue, reconciliation, and ritual, identifying success factors as well how to dissolve or transform obstacles. Attention will mostly be on inter-group relations, but will touch on inter- and intra-personal as well, in all cases using the participants' own experiences as a laboratory for shared learning. The day will range from spirit to strategy, and from inspiration to perspiration. When we re-member, or put back together again the truth of our connectedness, we enliven ourselves and each other and make a new world possible. Come prepared to play.

Louise Diamond, Ph.D. (*Experiential, Lecture, Discussion*)

Institute 4: "Peace From Within: Using Meditation to Build a Nonviolent World"

This workshop will take us through the arc from spiritual practice to social change, passing through nonviolence as the important connecting link. We will discuss 'best practices' at all levels, from a proven method of meditation ("Passage Meditation" from the Blue Mountain Center in California) through the theory and recent history of principled nonviolence to strategies for change in the world around us. I will be illustrating how nonviolence works with the latest theoretical models, some inspiring examples, and some highly suggestive recent scientific studies. There will be a half-hour practice session at the end for those who wish to try passage meditation in a group setting.

Michael Nagler, Ph.D. (*Multi-media, Discussion, Lecture*)

Institute 5: "Deepening the Dialogue: Using Creative Expression to Experience The Other"

This expressive arts experience integrates Touch Drawing with creative movement, writing and felt sense to explore Self awareness and perceptions of the Other. Touch Drawing is a simple yet profound process in which the hands are tools for direct and spontaneous expression. This workshop is of relevance to anyone interested in integrating creative arts and transpersonal languages in dialogue and mediation. * There is a \$12 additional materials fee payable directly to the presenter on-site.

Limit: 30-35 participants

Deborah Koff-Chapin, BFA (*Experiential, Demonstration, Movement, Lecture, Discussion*)

Thursday, October 25

(Evening)

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

ETO CONFERENCE OPENING and EVENTS

Greeting, Conference Mission, Announcements, and Introductions:

Steve Olwean

Ashley Montagu Peace Award: 2007 Recipient: Muhammad Ali,

Presented by Sandra Friedman, MS

Keynote:

Sam Keen, PhD: "Violence & Black Lace: Our Clandestine Love Affair With Violence"

Live Virtual Addresses by:

Hazel Henderson, PhD

Pete Seeger

Presentation of Expressive Arts Interpretation of the Conference:

Deborah Koff-Chapin, BFA

Dialogue Groups

Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, MA

Friday, October 26

Morning Meditation 8:00 - 8:30 am: Michael Nagler, PhD

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Maureen O'Hara, PhD: "The Humanization Project"

Morning 9:00 - 9:30 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

Morning 9:45 - 11:00 am

A 1: "Living With Power of Gratitude"

To truly become a healing influence in this world, we each must be powerful in a balanced, spiritually mature and responsible way. Clearly our present culture is not full of role models to help us accomplish this. To a large extent, we need to come up with our own healthy way of being powerful. We can develop an "attitude of gratitude," a life-affirming process that not only brings greater awareness of the wonder and magic that can occur in the course of a day, but can help us reframe negative thinking-and events-and help us develop healthy and positive alternatives to scarcity consciousness and victim thinking. Also addresses ways of helping children develop traits of optimism and gratitude.

Hemlata Pokharna, PhD and Mandakini Pokharna, MD (*Experiential, Lecture, Discussion*)

A 2: "Haunted by War: Understanding PTSD Among U.S. Combat Veterans"

U.S. combat veterans coping with post-traumatic stress disorder represent a major issue confronting mental health providers and practitioners. PTSD is not unique to those men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, but similar symptoms were reported following the Civil War and each subsequent combat operation. A number of therapeutic interventions have been developed since then, but each case is unique and demands individual attention if recovery is to be long-lasting.

Stanley Krippner, PhD. (*Lecture, Discussion*)

A 3: "If These Halls Could Talk": A Program to Deal With Bullying in Our Schools"

This groundbreaking program is for teachers and parents wishing to gain a deeper understanding of bully behavior and school violence. This workshop discusses the effects of cultural and personal bias on bullying behavior and how one can effectively implement a safe school environment and attitude.

Lee Mun Wah, MA, MS and John Boiano (*Experiential, Demonstration, Discussion*)

A 4: "Trauma and Group Conflict: Victim/Aggressor Relations in Jewish-Palestinian Encounters"

Palestinian participants in the encounters are 2nd & 3rd generation decedents of victims of El Nak'ba, the Disaster, the war of 1948. About them, Shafik Masalha says "in 1948 almost every Palestinian family experienced loss in one way or another. Hundreds of villages were destroyed and their people were displayed." The Jewish participants are 2nd or 3rd generation decedents of Holocaust survivors. Some of these are blood decedents and others are Israeli Jews of the same age. Professor Desberg claims that every Jew is a Holocaust survivor, and the term should not be applied strictly to those who were directly afflicted by it. Placed in opposition to one another, these two identities struggle over which group is more humane and more of a victim. After the arguments exhaust themselves, participants find themselves in a more equal and progressive dialogue, and the establishment of a working group. The presentation will involve recounts of experiences from working in this process, and stories brought by the participants themselves. These stories are not only personal, but familial and cultural, demonstrating the national aspect of a shared trauma..

Ahmad Hijazi, MA (*Experiential, Lecture, Discussion*)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

"FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS"

Late Morning 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

(Conference-wide break-out groups. All participants self-select one of several dialogue groups to join)

Opportunities for all conference participants to interact in several small group dialogues to process the conference experience, further engage concepts,, bring up issues not necessarily addressed in the scheduled program, and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and summarized to post on our CBI website during and after the conference for access by participants. This information is also included in conference proceedings and outcomes, and utilized for future planning.

~ Lunch ~
12:30 - 1:45 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

Early Afternoon 1:45 - 3:00 pm

C 1: "Refusing to be Enemies' - The Zeitouna Story" Zeitouna has been in continuous existence since Summer 2002, creatively dealing with the difficult realities of the Palestinian and Israeli conflict and its effects on our respective communities in the Diaspora. This presentation will include a 17-minute trailer of our work together, followed by a conversation with the audience. The finished 1 hour documentary, which is an hour in length and includes footage of the group's trip together to Palestine and Israel in May of 2006, will be shown as one of the optional evening events on this same date.

Wadad Abed, Irene Butter, Leonore Gerstein, Huda Karaman-Rosen, Laurie White, & Zeitouna members (*Multimedia, Discussion*)

C 2: "Science, Peace, and Transformation"

The prevailing understanding is that we are hardwired for competition, aggression and dominance. New Science suggests that we are actually hardwired for love, gratefulness, forgiveness and that attitude and belief are primary. The Science of Peace has been gathering momentum. We will examine the ways science can play a major role in creating a culture of peace. At the same time research has begun to provide greater evidence of sustained transformation into the lives of individuals. We will explore how that transformation is sustained and models for social and collective transformation.

James O'Dea, PhD. (*Lecture, Discussion*)

C 3: "Fostering New Conversations Across Divides: From Vision to Practice"

In this experiential session, participants gain an understanding of the variety of dialogue methods available to them, & knowledge of the work of the Public Conversations Project. For 18 years, PCP's dialogue work has helped highly divergent groups (pro-life/pro-choice, Muslims/Jews, environmentalists/industry) develop mutual understanding and take collaborative action.

Maggie Herzig (*Experiential, Discussion, Lecture*)

C 4: "Marginalized Youth" CONCURRENT PANEL

This panel addresses the experiences of marginalized youth in various circumstances and from various perspectives, including school systems, communities, impoverished inner cities, regions of war and violence, etc. Among aspects explored will be the impact of trauma and stress, negative stereotyping, exclusion, polarization, bullying, and exploitation. It will also consider how these experiences are carried into adulthood and can effect the next generation.

Najah Bazy, RN, Robert Oppenheimer, PsyD, Jehan Olweean, MA, Cheryl Ware, MSW

Moderated by **Dizzy Warren, MA**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

"FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS"

(Conference-wide break-out groups. All participants self-select one of several dialogue groups to join)

Late Afternoon 3:15 - 4:30 pm

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~ **Dinner** ~

5:15 - 6:30 pm

FRIDAY EVENING PLENARY PANEL: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

"The Psychology, Sociology, Culture, and Neurology of The Other"

**Sam Keen, PhD, Maureen O'Hara, PhD, Michael Nagler, PhD, Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D,
Sharif Abdulla, JD**

Moderated by **James O'Dea, Ph.D**

Evening Events (concurrent options): 8:30 - 10:30 pm

1) Film Showing: "Refusing To Be Enemies" Zeitouna story, documentary by Laurie White. Group members will be in attendance to share experiences and answer questions (*Note: There is a separate \$8 fee for this Special film showing, which goes toward the costs of producing and distributing this important film). www.zeitounamovie.com

2) ETO Open Mic Performances: Sharing Music, Song, and Fun

3) ETO Chat Room

Saturday, October 27

Morning Wake-Up 8:00 - 8:30 am: Michael Whitty, PhD *(optional)*

Early Morning 9:00 - 9:30 am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: US Congressman John Conyers

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

Early Morning 9:45 – 11:00 am

E 1: "The Practice Of Engagement: 12 Steps To Build Inclusivity"

This workshop teaches how to engage The Other in challenging situations. Using the "12 steps of inclusivity" found in Sharif's book, "Creating A World That Works For All", participants learn and share "best practices" for using inclusivity in both everyday and global situations.

Sharif Abdullah, JD *(Experiential, Lecture, Discussion)*

E 2: "Using Conflict Creatively"

In this engaging workshop Karen will facilitate blending martial arts and science to demonstrate how conflict can be used in a creative way. Attendees will leave with a fresh perspective about conflict and skills to practice everyday.

Karen Valencic, BSME *(Experiential, Movement, Demonstration, Discussion)*

E 3: "Turning Towards The Necessary Conversation: Otherness And The Organizational Shadow"

This workshop will address the issue of how organizations and communities harm their members. Through an examination of cases, demonstration and experiential processes we will learn how to recognize the signs and engage with the paradox of virtue and malignancy in well intentioned organizations.

Maureen O'Hara, PhD, and Aftab Omer, PhD. *(Lecture, Experiential, Discussion)*

E 4: "Challenging Dialogues: The Personal Journey Of Crossing Boundaries, Building Bridges, And Cultivating A Personal Relationship With The OTHER."

JOINT DIALOGUE

A discussion among individuals actively engaged with bi-community dialogue efforts to co-create bridges of understanding, compassion, and healing. Panel members share their personal stories, efforts, difficulties, successes, lessons learned, hope, and the unique rewards of cultivating a personal relationship with The OTHER.

Brenda Naomi Rosenberg, Imad Hamad, Alicia Villareal *(Discussion)*

E 5: "Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: Embracing Self and Liberating All"

CONCURRENT PANEL

A panel and discussion about gender identity and sexual orientation. In the process of "coming out" as a lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender person, there are often experiences of connecting with "The Other" within. When integrating who we are internally into our outer lives, difficulties arise when society defines the norm in a binary way in relation to gender and affection.

Kate Runyon, Jim Toy, MSW, Dawn Wolfe, MFA, Rachel Crandall, MSW, Johnny Jenkins, BA *(Discussion)*

BI-PLENARY SESSIONS F

Afternoon 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

F 1: "Waking Up to The Energy Of Fear in Our Relationship With The Other" BI-PLENARY PANEL

Some topics explored include (but not limited to):

- Dynamics of the energy of fear and exclusive group identity in formulating devaluing stereotypes that allow "good" people to do "bad" things to others by objectifying entire groups to the point of justifying inhumane treatment.
- What happens to a society - short and long term - when the energy of fear, revenge, and victimization become systemic and are manipulated to galvanize a process of demonizing and dehumanizing a perceived Other as justification for oppression, inhumane treatment, and violence?
- What are effects of direct person to person contact on innate fear of the unknown and mysterious, and are there practical methods for experiencing this quality of contact in a global community?

Imam Mohamed Mardini, Marilyn Youngbird NAHHP, Len Traubman, Anna Rodina, Ph.D,

Moderated by **Libby Traubman**

F 2: "Media Images Of The Other" BI-PLENARY PANEL

How do we portray each to the other, and what is the power of these images?

This panel explores how images of The Other are depicted in various media, both currently and historically, and the effect they can have - consciously and unconsciously - on the individual and society in shaping how we relate to each other. Modes considered are TV, movies, radio, print, photos, art, plays, songs, folk stories, jokes, the Internet, etc.. Panel members have diverse backgrounds both in terms of media focus and culture

Jeffrey Mishlove, PhD, Osprey Orielle Lake, Osama Siblani, David Crumm

Moderated by **Nadia Fadel JD**

~ **Lunch** ~

12:30 - 1:45 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

Early Afternoon 1:45 - 3:00 pm

G 1: "The Politics Of Trust' - Pragmatic Real-World Examples"

We desperately need a whole new politics to succeed our cynical, dysfunctional, divisive current politics - which is fundamentally wrong. The new Politics of Trust is grounded in a faithful vision of our selves, our human nature, and our potential (cf Willis Harman's 'The New Copernican Revolution'). It is also pragmatic in providing a dual agenda (both process and content) - the 16-point 'Expanding Human Agenda.'

Sen. John Vasconcellos (*Lecture, Discussion*)

G 2: "The Compassion Paradox: Healing The Victim/Perpetrator Chasm Through Opening To Suffering"

This presentation will share my stories and insights from my 27 year history as a practitioner in the field of psychosocial healing and reconciliation as well as my recent research into compassion within the context of social healing. Topics covered will include: the role of narrative, witnessing, dialogue, and artistic expression, as means to cultivate compassion; the importance of how these processes are designed, managed and conducted in order to support compassion; applicability of the language and conceptual terrain of compassion to the broader framework of transitional and restorative justice; differentiations between compassion and empathy; and, the implications of compassion education for building a culture of peace.

Judith Thompson, PhD (*Lecture, Discussion*)

G 3: "Looking for The Enemy Within: Society and Paranoia"

JOINT DIALOGUE

A joint session exploring dynamics of fear-based public paranoia and generalized hyper-vigilance arising from perceived "outside" threat, such as war and terrorism, that can lead to marginalizing and oppressing targeted groups within a society. Included is the role of overt and covert manipulation of fear to galvanize a society. Although these dynamics are universal, the US example will be explored. Presenters represent the Japanese-American internment experience during WW II, and also the current experience of the Arab/Muslim-American community specifically (and non-Western-looking ethnic-American communities in general), that has similarities with early stages of the WW II dynamics in the US.

Ihsan Alkhatib, Esq., MA, and Mark Mitsui (*Dialogue, Discussion*)

G 4: "Belonging: The Search for Our Other Half "

CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable explores our common human need for and experience of belonging. We will also consider the converse experiences of separation, isolation, loneliness, and alienation, and implications for our search for self identity, meaning, and security in the world.

Some questions to consider are:

- How does belonging reduce stress and increase a basic sense of security, and conversely, what is the effect of a lack of this experience in our life?
- Are there paths to achieving belonging that are constructive, healthy, and conducive to compassionate, peaceful relationships with others outside our immediate circle, and are there also paths that are counter to this?
- Is a positive, compassionate, and non-adversarial experience of belonging naturally resistant to prejudice, animosity, and violence toward others?

Sandra Friedman, MS, Steve Olweean, MA, Mukti Khanna, Ph.D, Lhakpa Dolma, MD, Chip Baggett, MA

G 5: "Positive Power & Tenable Trust: Inclusion vs Invisibility: Personal to Global"

Trust and Power are deeply intertwined. The issue of individual and collective diminishment, invisibility, erasure, disappearances, or "vaporizing" (Natalie Rogers term) needs bearing witness to and being "called out" and confronted respectfully by us all in order to establish a just and realistic trust of each other. Through "naming" what is, as we experience it, we may uncover some hidden patterns among us that we have chosen not to address or to ignore, even in our most humanistic and egalitarian communities. In so naming, we may then seek more congruent, compassionate and inclusive alternatives to these chosen evasions or unconscious blind spots, and heal the lesions and wounds of degrading or diminishing the value of others. The lecture and dialogue process format will focus on the role of power and powerlessness in relation to particular populations, peoples and groups, and the taboo topics and issues that we rarely explore, or purposely avoid in order to maintain the status quo of those power elites who define "Others," whether individuals, groups or countries.

Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D (*Lecture, Roundtable*)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

Late Afternoon 3:15 - 4:30 pm

(Conference-wide break-out groups. All participants self-select one of several dialogue groups to join)

Opportunities for all conference participants to interact in several small group dialogues to process the conference experience, further engage concepts, bring up issues not necessarily addressed in the scheduled program, and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and summarized to post on our CBI website during and after the conference for access by participants. This information is also included in conference proceedings and outcomes, and utilized for future planning.

~ Dinner ~

5:15 - 6:30 pm

EVENING PLENARY PANEL: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

"Spirituality and Contemporary Issues"

Imam Hasan Qazwini, Rabbi Brian Walt, Reverend Kenneth Flowers, Geshe Gendun Gyatso

Moderated by **Aftab Omer, Ph.D**

EVENING EVENTS (concurrent options): 8:30 - 10:30 pm

- 1) "Images In Celebration Of Life" - Osprey Orielle Lake**
 - 2) "Family Stories** of reaching across boundaries to overcome prejudice and discrimination.
With: Robert Oppenheimer, PhD and LaRon Williams
 - 3) ETO Open Mic Performances: Sharing Music, Song, and Fun**
 - 4) ETO Chat Room**
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Sunday, October 28

Morning Meditation 8:00 - 8:30 am: Michael Whitty, PhD

MORNING PLENARY PANEL: 9:00 - 10:45 am

"Political, Historical, and Ecological Dynamics of The Other"

Sen. John Vasconcellos, Louise Diamond Ph.D,

Invited: **Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Dennis Kucinich**

Moderated by **Sen. John Vasconcellos**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

FACILITATED DIALOGUE GROUPS

(Conference-wide break-out groups. All participants self-select one of several dialogue groups to join)

Late Morning 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Opportunities for all conference participants to interact in several small group dialogues to process the conference experience, further engage concepts, bring up issues not necessarily addressed in the scheduled program, and explore practical applications. In addition to facilitators, scribes are assigned to each break-out session to record questions, ideas, issues, and applications. These are then synthesized and summarized to post on our CBI website during and after the conference for access by participants. This information is also included in conference proceedings and outcomes, and utilized for future planning.

*This last session of dialogue groups is intended to stimulate action plans, collaborations, and products to carry away from this gathering and into our communities, and to facilitate continuing the dialogue process beyond the conference.

ETO CONFERENCE CLOSING:

(includes lunch)

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Summary, Outcomes, Processing, and Where We Go From Here

Special Features

LIVE VIRTUAL SPEAKERS

Hazel Henderson, PhD
Pete Seeger

IN-PROCESS EXPERIENCES

Evolving Expressive Arts Interpretation of the Conference
Deborah Koff-Chapman
Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandala Ritual- a fascinating spiritual, cultural, and artistic event.
Geshe Gendun Gyatso and Tibetan Buddhist monks from Tashi kyil Monastery in Northern India

MEDIA / ART EXHIBITS

Touch Drawings (collection of interpretive drawings by Deborah Koff-Chapman created during the conference inspired by activities and events as they emerge)
Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandala

EVENING PRESENTATIONS, SOCIAL-CULTURAL EVENTS, and COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

E-CONFERENCING

In-Process **Internet Blog** to post conference proceedings.

RICH NETWORKING and INTENTIONAL CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

CONFERENCE RECORDING OF SESSIONS available on-site

BOOKSTORE and EXHIBITS (**additional exhibit space available*)



COMMON BOND INSTITUTE

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