



Perspective

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Ritual and Rites of Passage

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ATP NEWSLETTER

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World Congress on Psychology & Spirituality, Delhi, India, January 5-8 2008

www.WorldCongressPS2008.org

— Stu Sovatsky

The 2008 World Congress on Psychology and Spirituality, with Lama Samdhong Rinpoche, the Prime Minister of Tibet-in-exile (*Spirituality in Politics*), BKS Iyengar (*The Future of Yoga*), Karan Singh, Sri Sri Ravi Sankar, Stan and Christina Grof (on video), Robert Thurman, and others from 27 countries invite you to join in internationalizing spiritual approaches to personal and world issues. Many institutions—*Yoga Journal*, AHP, Russian, European, French, German, Austrian, Brazilian, Polish, UK, Swiss, Romanian, and Japanese Transpersonal Associations, Kripalu Center, Aurobindo Ashram, Shruti Foundation, Green Yoga,



CHRISTINA GROF WITH THE DALAI LAMA

A microcosm of scholars, therapists, lawyers, physicians, educators, artists, scientists, students, social activists, and techies, the Congress is primarily a networking event to support international collaborations

for attendees in areas such as restorative justice, emergency response trauma counseling, prison reform, transpersonal clinical training, spirituality in hospitals, conscious theatre and art forms, university and high school student exchange, yoga and meditation instruction, and world-fusion ecstatic dance and musical events.

Add on holotropic breathwork, Sufi singing, and sound-healing workshops. Meditation retreat and temples tours will be complemented by a special yogic fire ritual known as a Yagya for world peace, to be held at the country estate where *Monsoon Wedding* was filmed. An all-night dance meditation for two hundred youth participants will close the event, whose theme is the central maxim of Indian spirituality, Vasudhaiva kutumbakam, “The world is one family.”

Presenters include Laura Cornell (*Green Yoga*), Geeta Chandran (*Spirituality of Dance*), Vladimir & Kristiana Maykov (*Russian Shamanism*), Ricki Pollicove (*Spirituality for Physicians*), Ike Lasater (*Restorative Justice*), Mara Taylor (*Prison Reform*), Stanford Forgiveness Project, tantra master G. Seshan (*Sri Vidya*), and Shruti (*Mantra Healing*)

Meditation master R. Ganesh will show that nondual awakening can include profound intellectual abilities. By his forties, he had learned 17 languages, written 14 books, and became expert in physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, and various performing arts, includ-

ing spontaneous rap poetry. Most fascinating, he can carry on simultaneous conversations with one hundred people without losing his place. He will revolutionize our understanding of nondual enlightenment.

Registration and proposals: <http://www.WorldCongressPS2008.org>. We look forward to the conversations among attendees as much as to the presentations. We look forward to creating that kind of conference community, in India.

ATP Launches Transpersonal Psychology Podcasts

Each week ATP will publish on itunes a presentation from the Stanislav and Christina Grof Archives of the ATP and ITA conferences held over the past 35 years in more than 17 countries—explorations of Buddhism, Consciousness, Ecology, Spirituality, Psychedelics, and Transpersonal Psychotherapy by Stanislav Grof, Charles Tart, Jeanne Achterberg, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, Francis Vaughan, June Singer, Stanley Krippner, Larry Dossey, Joanna Macy, David Whyte, Terry Tafoya, David Steindl-Rast, Michael Harner, Jim Fadiman, Rachel Remen, Mathew Fox, and others.

There are more than 200 ATP and ITA Conference Presentations. You can gain access to all of them by joining the Association for Transpersonal Psychology. You can subscribe for free to this Transpersonal Psychology Podcast at atpweb.org.



*ITP and Saybrook
Welcome New Presidents*

Dr. Thomas Potterfield comes to ITP from Southern New Hampshire University, where he taught in its Department of Organizational Leadership. Prior to that, Dr. Potterfield had a 13-year career at Velcro USA, a \$250 million company of 1,400 employees. He rose through the ranks at Velcro and eventually became its president. He has used spiritual innovation and applied transpersonal values throughout his corporate career and in his diverse leadership roles. Dr. Potterfield earned a Ph.D. in psychology from

Saybrook Graduate School. He has served on several nonprofit boards.

Dr. Lorne M. Buchman is Saybrook Graduate School's new president. Dr. Buchman has demonstrated leadership in the higher education and nonprofit community for more than 20 years. His experience in higher education includes positions as President, California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts), President, Kaplancollege.com School of Education, and interim CEO of the San Francisco Art Institute. He also



LORNE BUCHMAN

served as Associate Dean of Student Services for the College of Letters and Science of the University of California Berkeley, Chair of the Department of Dramatic Art, University of California Berkeley,

and Provost for the California College of Arts and Crafts. He is currently the principal/founder of a consulting firm that provides organizational development and strategic leadership to a wide range of nonprofit and public entities. Dr. Buchman received his Ph.D. from Stanford University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

*Report on the Fundraiser and Festschrift for the
Stanislav and Christina Grof Archives*

The Stanislav and Christina Grof Archives Fundraiser held at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) in San Francisco on April 21, 2007, raised more than \$6000! The evening event included wine and cheese followed by a multimedia celebration of the 17 International Transpersonal Conferences held over 34 years, from Iceland to India.

I prepared a slide show of photos from the ITA conferences made available by Stan and Christina from their personal photo albums. In chronological order, Stan and Christina reconstructed the origins, highlights, struggles, and unexpected outcomes. People who were at the conferences also shared their memories. There were moving

accounts from conference participants Angeles Arrien, Francis Vaughan, John McKenzie, and Stan Krippner.

The evening was a moving oral history of the internationalization of the transpersonal movement, seeded largely by the ITA conferences and the many workshops given by Stan and Christina. A video of the oral history will be put online on the ATP website, atpweb.org.

Stan and Christina donated 12 boxes of video and audiotapes from the ITA conferences, and this fundraiser raised money to get the tapes digitized to put on atpweb.org. An audio archiving service in San Jose (www.audioarchive.com) donated consulting time to help ATP purchase hardware including the Audio-

— Dave Lukoff

phile 2496 USB (a compact audio and MIDI interface), TASCAM 102mkII Professional two-head cassette deck, and Adobe Audition software, which will make high quality versions of 500+ audiocassette ITA presentations. Reel-to-reel film and Sony 3/4" videotapes will be transferred by a professional audio archivist.



CHRISTINA AND STANISLAV GROF

ATP wishes to thank all those who contributed to this successful evening honoring the Grofs' contributions to the transpersonal movement—including CIIS, its staff, and the student volunteers.



TRANSPERSONAL CONVERSATIONS

DIRECTED BY KEVIN PAGE
Transpersonal Media, 2005

Reviewed by David Lukoff

Transpersonal Conversations is an in-depth series of cinema-quality, documentary-style interviews filmed in High-Definition with the founders and leaders of transpersonal psychology. The six DVDs contain hour-long conversations with Stanislav Grof on LSD and psychedelic research, his proposal to name the field of transpersonal psychology, and the development of Holotropic Breathwork.

Francis Vaughan discusses transpersonal psychotherapy, healing awareness, and Ken Wilber. Charles Tart holds forth on altered states of consciousness, "Scientism," the scientific study of the human soul, and parapsychology. Ralph Metzner talks about the Harvard Psilocybin Project with Timothy Leary, "set-and-setting" in the psychedelic process, and alchemical divination. James Fadiman reviews the impact of the 1960s consciousness revolution, and Ram Dass speaks on transpersonal psychology and the founding of the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology (ITP). Christina Grof contributes insights into the connection between transpersonal psychology and the recovery movement, global issues in addictions, and Holotropic Breathwork.

The interviews were conducted by Kevin Page who is President of Transpersonal Media. Both ITP and ATP provided support to this endeavor to document the origins and theoretical foundations of transpersonal psychology. Many talks by these founders are available in online ATP conference presenta-

tions, but Kevin Page has captured them at their most eloquent and succinct. He does not appear in the documentaries but has found a way to facilitate their expression of key concepts and turning points in the field. After spending several years on this project, Kevin decided to pursue a doctorate at ITP, and I think many viewers will be similarly moved.

I am personally using these videos in my graduate class on transpersonal psychology at Saybrook Graduate School. Younger students seem to find the opportunity to see these pioneers and hear their stories very inspiring. More information on this series is available at www.transpersonalmedia.com

DAVID LUKOFF is Co-President of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology and a Professor at Saybrook Graduate School.

THE GIFTS OF GRIEF

DIRECTED BY NANCEE BONOYA
giftsofgrief.com, 2006

Reviewed by Vitor Rodrigues

No explosions, no car chases. A slow rhythm, and still you get stuck on the screen, not by outer but by inner action. Strong emotion delivered at the right pace, allowing your soul to breathe with the movie. Six human beings (Isabel Allende being one of them) give us their testimony about their own processes of grieving, and move the film along, from excerpts about how desperate, angry, depressive, or blackened it has been for them to how they became better human beings afterward, and something inside them was reborn after they walked through grief. Darkness and heaviness giving place to light, love, and beauty during these moving 50 minutes.

This is a documentary that goes deep, thanks to a harmonious proportioning of interviews with documents concerning the lives of dear loved ones, the ones who left behind grieving people. You get the impression that they all became the best human beings when they allowed themselves to grieve and to come out of that grief more mature, open, honest, and loving, both of themselves and of others. *The Gifts of Grief* is a movie gift we can really enjoy. It can be extremely useful for us therapists, for our patients, for nurses and medical doctors, virtually anybody who is trying to deal with and understand our humanness. I can but congratulate and thank Nancee Sobonya for such a great work—and for her hard and accomplished work, too.

VITOR RODRIQUES, Ph.D., is a psychotherapist and writer, and President of EUROTAS (the European Transpersonal Association).

HEART OF COURAGE:

Aikido Practices of Love in Action, workshop for women
September 9–14, 2007

Aikido is a noncompetitive martial art, which cultivates harmony of body, mind, and spirit. In this retreat, we'll grow our capacity to "walk our talk," access unconditional self-acceptance, and shift conditioned patterns of reactivity into joyful expressions of response. We'll explore themes central to Aikido: centering, connecting with others, shifting from a culture of "power over" to one of "power with," and becoming fully present. No experience in Aikido is needed. <http://www.omega.org>. CECs available. Instructor: Michelle Manger Keip, RN, has been practicing Aikido and teaching life skills for over 25 years.



The Woodfish Prize Winners: Sidian Morning Star Jones and Stanley Krippner

– Ray Greenleaf

With the sun shining and sailboat spinnakers flying on the bay, friends, family and colleagues gathered on March 3 at Greens restaurant in San Francisco for the Annual Woodfish Prize presentation. This year's recipients were Sidian Morning Star Jones and Stanley Krippner, who are collaborating on a book on Rolling Thunder, the Native American shaman and elder. Sidian Jones is Rolling Thunder's grandson and a poet and writer living in Montana. Stanley Krippner, as our readers will know, is one of the elders of the transpersonal movement, having published more than 20 books on shamanism, dreams, and indigenous healing, among other topics.

The Woodfish Prize is a joint award given to two people, one an indigenous North American (Native American or First Nation) and the other a Euroamerican (European North American), for co-creating a transpersonal social action project that is mutually transforming. This award is co-sponsored by the Woodfish Institute and ATP.

The event was highlighted by several presentations and performances. Leslie Gray, the founder of the Woodfish Institute, then introduced Sidian Jones and Stanley Krippner, who both spoke of the creative processes and interactions in their joint endeavor. Not only was this a multicultural endeavor, it was also multigenerational with Sidian in his 20s and Stanley being the elder statesman. Stanley told of learning the ins and outs of Myspace and other multimedia sites of the younger generation, and it was apparent to all of us that the collaboration was proving to be both significant and fun. Sidian will be interviewing folks who knew and worked with Rolling Thunder. These stories will be the foundation of the book, and Stanley Krippner, who had many interactions with Rolling Thunder, will collaborate and guide the project to publication.

The Woodfish Institute was started by Dr. Leslie Gray, a psychologist, author, and teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a Native American, her passion is to foster and promote "reciprocal transformation." The Institute's mission statement says: "The mission of the Woodfish Institute is to provide education and services to the

general public for the purpose of bridging core indigenous ways of knowing and transindigenous healing methodologies with modern multidisciplinary approaches to human problem solving, mind-body healing, and ecopsychology."



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