



JUNE / JULY 2006

Perspective

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STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

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AHP-ATP

HUMANISTIC & TRANSPERSONAL
ASSOCIATIONS COLLABORATE

ATP NEWSLETTER



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YOUR PERFECT LIPS

EMBODIED SPIRITUALITY

STUDYING CONSCIOUSNESS

100 Years of Transpersonal Psychology



The Association for Transpersonal Psychology and the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology are pleased to announce our **Annual ATP Professional Conference**. One hundred years ago, William James used the word transpersonal for the first time, in reference to that which is shared between individuals. A century later, ATP and ITP invite you to

our annual professional conference, to teach, to learn, and to share the innovations and discoveries that have shaped the field since that auspicious day, and to help us chart the future for the next 100 years. Stanislav Grof, Jeanne Achterberg, James Fadiman, Francis Vaughan, Miles Vich, and many other founders and pioneers in the field will be presenting. There will be more than 24 workshops and talks. There will

also be a media night, a poster session, and a Celebration of Women in Transpersonal Psychology (see p. 22).

Thursday evening, September 7, until Saturday, September 9, 2006, in Palo Alto, California.

For more information, see www.atpweb.org. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Les Lancaster: First Full UK Professor of Transpersonal Psychology

In 2005, Les Lancaster, Ph.D., became the United Kingdom's first full professor in Transpersonal Psychology. He is a founder of and chairs the British Psychological Society's section of Transpersonal Psychology, is cofounder of the Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology Research Unit at Liverpool John Moores University, and is an honorary research fellow at the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University

of Manchester. His recent works include *Approaches to Consciousness: The Marriage of Science and Mysticism* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2004) and *The Essence of Kabbalah* (Chartwell, 2005).

Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, described him as "A humane scholar in the



great tradition of William James, [Lancaster's] work deserves to be read and discussed widely." He combines his initial training in neuroscience research with long-standing scholarly and personal engagement with mysticism and has been awarded grants for promotion of science–mysticism dialogues.

Dr. Lancaster is a frequent lecturer, broadcaster, and workshop leader in both academic and popular contexts, and recently completed a lecture tour of the United States, including talks at the University of Florida, Institute for Transpersonal Psychology, and the Institute for Imaginal Studies.

Council for Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychologies

The Council for Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychologies is a consortium of organizations committed to the promotion of humanistic, transpersonal, and other diversified orientations to psychology. Membership includes undergraduate, graduate, and training programs, and organizations.

The Council's Executive Committee is elected by member organizations. Outgoing members Skip Robinson of Sonoma State University and Colette Fleuridas of St. Mary's College have our appreciation and will be replaced by Art Warmoth of Sonoma State University and Chris Anstoos of West Georgia College. David Lukoff of Saybrook

Graduate School and ATP, Joshua Holcomb of Perennial Partners, Zeno Franco of PGSP, Matt Spalding of CIIS, and Aftab Omer also have joined the board. Aftab is the President of the Council. AftabOmer@imaginal.edu.

CHTP's next Symposium is planned for March of 2007 in San Francisco. Visit www.chtpps.org.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON SPIRITUALITY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Delhi University Habitat Centre, India, January 2008

— Stu Sovatsky

Keynote speakers expected include His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Sudhir Kakkar, Swami Dayananda, and we await word from B. K. S. Iyengar, and other accomplished scholars of Indian and other traditional spiritualities, worldwide. Presenters are confirmed from Japan, Slovenia, the UK, Portugal, the US, Spain, and Russia, with others expected from another dozen countries. The four-day event for 750 participants will include an elaborate fire-ritual to memorialize all who have passed on or who are yet to be born, an all-night world-fusion dance



meditation honoring the youngest current generation, more than forty scholarly and multimedia presentations, evening concerts, postconference tours, yoga and meditation retreats.

Corporate name-recognition sponsorships are available at \$5000 and \$10,000 and give

invaluable esteem to any corporation that can put this sponsorship of a Dalai Lama event on The

Future of Spirituality in the World on their website. Since the conference convener is a registered

charitable organization, donations may be tax-deductible.

We are reaching out to you, your friends, and your corporate employers and colleagues to join in creating and attending this wonderful event. Please circulate this notice to your colleagues. Contact stuartcs@jps.net for further information.

In one day, ATP raised \$7500, for a total of \$15,000 to date. We must raise another \$15,000 to secure our venue via VIP advanced registrations. Go to ahpweb.org for details.

Checks should be made to the conference convener: Association for Transpersonal Psychology and sent to: ATP, 1069 East Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Co-conveners: www.infinityfoundation.com

www.habitatworld.com
www.atpweb.org

STUDENT CHTP NETWORK

The CHTP Student and Early Career Network is a newly founded branch of the Council of Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychologies (CHTP) dedicated to supporting the academic and professional growth of students and early career professionals in the fields of Humanistic, Existential and Transpersonal (HEaT!) psychology. We envision an expanding network of regional “nodes” of emerging scholars, clinicians, and practitioners, coordinated at a national level through CHTP to strategically advance our emerging collective vision. Our pioneering Bay Area, California, node has already met twice in San Francisco with great success and a Southern California node is in the midst of planning their first gathering. Our core aims are:

- Community building and networking
- Collaboration and resource sharing
- Developing an online community
- Rejuvenate and rearticulate
- Bridge the gap with mainstream culture
- Foster alliances with mentors and elders
- Promote conference presentations
- Provide funding

As a student or early career professional, please join us in cranking up the HEaT from a slow simmer to a rapid boil! If you are faculty and know students who might be interested, please pass this to them. Contact: Matt Spalding, matthewspalding@gmail.com (CIIS PsyD Student).

EUROPEAN TRANSPERSONAL

PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE:

Revealing the Divine Feminine

On Oct 5–8, 2006, in France at the Château de Fondjouan, in the Loire valley, two hours south of Paris, located in a magnificent natural setting, the European Transpersonal Association (EUROTAS) which includes about 20 European countries, and the Group for Research and Study in Transpersonal Therapy (GRETT), a French association whose goal is to promote and support research and experience in the transpersonal field, are co-organizing this Conference that will explore the re-emergence of the feminine and its expression. Participants will come from all over the world, but most of them will be from Europe. Experiential processes (workshops) will be an important part of this event, notably through using the language of the imagination and of the heart: images, symbols, dreams, poetry. Because connection is inherent to the feminine, this exploration does not set the feminine against the masculine, but rather invites us to search for balance and to discover a new dance between the two. There will be about 20 workshops. For more information: www.citizenshipconference.org



CELEBRATION OF WOMEN CONFERENCE

Celebrating Women in Transpersonal Psychology

The centennial ATP/ITP conference will open with an evening celebrating the contributions of women in transpersonal psychology. On Thursday, September 7, 2006, from 7–10 p.m., **Wisdom Women at the Well** will discuss and honor the contributions made by women to academic research, theory, education, transformative techniques, and other aspects of transpersonal psychology which were developed and disseminated by women. Among the guests and luminaries are professors, artists, psychotherapists, and spiritual teachers including Christina Grof, Louise Teisch, Jean Achterberg, Leslie Gray, Kate Wolf-Pizor, Jill Mellick, Ruth Cox, Judy Schavrien, Rosemarie Anderson, and other women, whose dedication, insight and selfless service continues to nourish transpersonal psychology. The evening will celebrate, but more importantly, acknowledge the female, the feminist, and the sacred feminine, which make transpersonal psychology a unique path of knowledge, human development, and transformation. The evening will include a panel and interviews with presenters facilitated by ITP faculty member and spiritual teacher Olga Louchakova, followed by a dance ritual with the Tantric Trance band *Axix Mundi* with Stuart Sovatsky. Music invoking the Divine Mother Kundalini–Shakti will be followed by soulful conversations and light food delicacies. For more information or to register, visit atpweb.org

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Two Transpersonal Psychologists Made Fellows of APA

At the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association held August 18-21, 2005, in Washington D. C., David Lukoff and Harris Friedman were made Fellows of Division 32, the Division of Humanistic Psychology, in recognition of lifetime contribution through research and written work.

David Lukoff, Ph.D., is on the faculty at Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center in San Francisco where he is the director of the Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychology Program. He also serves as co-president of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology. His work in co-authoring the DSM-IV diagnostic category Religious or



HARRIS FRIEDMAN

Spiritual Problem has had national impact and contributed to the recent opening of the mental health field to serious consideration of spiritual issues in clinical practice.

He has published more than articles and chapters, including two in the *Textbook of Transpersonal Psychiatry and Psychology*, and one in *Spiritually-Oriented Psychothera-*

pies published by the APA Press, and was awarded the Exemplary Paper award from the Templeton Foundation.

Harris Friedman, Ph.D., is Research Professor (Psychology) at the University of Florida and Professor Emeritus at Saybrook

Graduate School. He has written more than 60 articles and book chapters, as well as edited several books. His most notable professional achievement is the development of the transpersonal construct of

“self-expansiveness” and its accompanying measure, the Self-Expansiveness Level Form, which is widely used in transpersonal research. He co-edits the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, a publication of transpersonal writings from around the world. In addition, he has been involved in various human rights



DAVE LUKOFF

and environmental activism for which he received the 2003 Florida Psychological Association’s award for Outstanding Contributions in the Public Interest.

Fundraiser for the Stanislav and Christina Grof AV Archives

On October 28, 2006, Stanislav and Christina Grof will attend an ATP fund-

raiser dedicated to preserving our transpersonal heritage. Recently the Grofs donated a dozen boxes of tapes from the past 30 years of ITA conferences, and ATP has tapes from its conferences for more than 30 years. These include talks by Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Abraham Maslow, 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 Remmen, Mathew Fox, and many others. Some are reel-to-reel tapes and quite fragile.

ATP has made the commitment to have them digitized for the Stanislav and Christina Grof AV Archives, which is already on the ATP web site. It currently holds more than 200 conference presentations, and the goal is to digitize more than 1,000 remaining tapes. At the fundraiser, and soon on-line, you can sponsor a tape. Then for the next 10 years, your name as spon-

sor will be listed next to it in the archives.

The fundraiser will be held at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco on Saturday October 28 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will include a presentation



honoring the contributions that the Grofs have made throughout their career, as well as refreshments and time to mingle. If you have any photos or stories you’d like to share about the Grofs’ work and contributions, please contact

David Lukoff at dlukoff@comcast.net. Donations to this project are quite welcome and tax deductible. Visit atpweb.org.

EXCERPT

YOUR PERFECT LIPS: A Spiritual Erotic Memoir

By STUART SOVATSKY

iUniverse.com, McGraw-Hill, 2005,
106 pp., \$11.95, ISBN 13: 978-0-595-
37587-5.

Imagine an alternative Christ whose message of love and redemption is conveyed, not by a story of heroic self-sacrifice and martyrdom, but by the passionate love between Man and Woman, the Perfect Couple as Religion, a Mystico-Erotica as its most esoteric scripture. As Krishna proclaimed of Himself in his Song of God, "I am the passion in beings that is attuned to the Ultimate Goal." A rare kind of sex in which desire shudders throughout the body in myriad crescendos of awe, heat, and bliss, rendering all bodiless religions and myopic sexologies vestigial to an age on the wane.

How so? Far beyond the thrall of the teenaged awakening, Nature has hidden in us numerous rare and mysterious erotic reflexes (except for Kundalini, completely unknown to modern times—did we really believe we had discovered everything there is about the erotic universe?) that only an ever-deeper passion might awaken: shuddering genital reversals vajroli mudra, that emerge in meditative depths or only after the second hour of embrace, spinal surges Kundalini-shakti, davening, Quaking, Shaking, zikr-ing, holy ghosting, involving devotional surrenders requiring an ease with tears at the thought of it all. We might call these awakenings postgenital puberties as in the ancient name for Yoga: shamanica medhra, "the going-beyond-genital-awakenings"—but beyond into what?

Always oscillating, Krishna worships Radha worships Krishna man worships woman worships man thus becoming god, becoming goddess. From the inside out, molting their human skins born out of their arduous longing for this other, the beloved, the ache of it all endured this life into That into this into That a weaving maturing of souls verging on oneness, circling auguring ever-deeper into the Source of incarnation itself close and even closer winding toward the vertiginous center, quickening the hopes and fears of each lover there ever was or will be. . . .

So how could I not touch your satiny throat an arm's length away yet in doing so you started to cry as if alone then looking up leaning into the mystery unfolding, that first slow kiss kissing the selfsame kiss except one is male the other female kisses the one the other you me, me you with the verb implied, that close.

I recall the kisses of that first night especially, so deliberate, slowly focusing our lips upon one another. I learned more watching your lips—so shy and, yet, hopeful, waiting so receptively as if they were fainting into themselves into another place far far away—than your eyes, still tinged with sorrow. Those lips, wanting more, awaiting more, this way then that, tongue flicks here and there then opening into the warm moist cathedral of joined mouths. That feeling of warm liquified pink, licking the insides of your cheeks, beneath your tongue, drinking each other delicately and then thirstily, years, decades of thirst coming out. Pausing, returning, looking hands grazing your breasts as you leaning leaned farther toward me the tunnel of your deep neckline suddenly dropping down opening that chasm, the darkness in the center, your breasts revealed indirectly as you crawled toward me closing the distance fully desiring whether you knew it or not for me to see, look, take, please, reach into me as I reach into you.

And then the sighing emerged the half-unbuttoning that somehow got in the way as much as being the way toward one another—who wants to touch buttons when you are right there? So, unbuttoning became a slow sacrificial ritual, the feel of hard pearly plastic being pressed through dislodging with a tthiik parts the panels of a shirt blouse holy ark opens to unseen flesh revealed only for me for you, then slowly tumbling forth a cascade of yeses you so beautiful in the dim-light touch here there exquisite reaching down the tthiik of waistbands opening and further in deliberate and pausing, licking here there the black satin covering slip it down gradually trapping you for a moment at the hips thighs knees trapping in exposed shyness turning away and toward at the same time like a child velvety-winged provoking tensions delayed longings and even an uncertainty,

would anything happen?

With my eyes closed I feel you discovering more of your own beauty as you feel me savoring you. In my mind I imagine being in your mind just as your taste is still on my lips, yours devouring me, your eyes now oblivious, you washing forth back like waves along a foamy darkened coastline everything fading backward receding into the ocean's ever-shifting maw. As if you had been breathing underwater for a long time, you look up your face now blurred with drunken passion. I give up you said. You are torturing me. Take me. Care of me.

Then muffled tears, lost fragments of re-arising long-dashed hopes. Anything, anything, I said. You: I am delirious. Me: In a good way, I hope. You: Yes, in a very good way.

In the Vedas two birds are on a branch, one eats, the other watches feeding upon the eating one's sheer enjoyment, who enjoys the watcher's enjoyment of her enjoyed feeding, adding to the other's adding to. The memory of it backwards, the looking forward to it again, becoming other memories inspiring other lookings forward becoming other memories becoming. Everywhere you look, then, now, later, feeding or being fed upon, like the darting beam of a diamond-faceted miner's light, consciousness is there there there, a mushrooming infinity of bliss.

Two people chained to one another in endless causality by their hunger for one another, irresistibility inciting irresistibility, chemical fusion reactions of the entire polarized universe. Every glistening cell poised aiming him her and nothing else is what every living gendered fiber wants Has ever wanted, a hundred a thousand a million years all cresting right now. Feel it.

With you, the one who exceeds all expectations lucky to be with you, lucky to be with you. The tantra weavedness of it all, no longer an Eastern philosophy that includes erotic arts, but the ineluctable nature of reality—an intertwining foliating romance, or nothing at all. . . .

STU SOVATSKY is Copresident of ATP, Trustee for CIIS, a marriage therapist for 30 years, and author of *Words from the Soul* (SUNY Press, 1998).

