

Conflict Transformation and Peace Pavilion

Team Leader: Dr. Scilla Elworthy

With Stephen Busby, Zacks Brustig, Nicholas Janni, Dr. Rama Mani & Willi Walter

TRANSFORMING CONFLICT FROM WITHIN

We intend in this Pavilion - as in our lives - to transform conflict and nurture peace in our countries, communities, organisations, families and our own selves. We are aware of unhelpful images or beliefs we may have of how 'peace' should look or how 'conflict' must end. An essential step is to 'be' at peace ourselves, to learn not to judge whatever the present moment presents to us as pleasant or unpleasant, desirable or not. From such acceptance peace can arise in and around us.

We have prepared for the Festival by reflecting and researching on these questions – and we invite you to join us in this vital work:

What is conflict: its constructive and destructive forms. **What is violence:** direct, or systemic or structural violence, cultural and psychological violence, metaphysical or spiritual violence. **What causes violent conflict?** Did you know that despite the 9.11 attacks and the costly global war on terror, only 582 people have died each year since 9.11 due to 'terrorism in the West', while 27,881 have died in terrorist attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. And that it is inequality and group discrimination that fuel conflict (it is not the poor who are violent but powerful elites who violently crush those who demand justice).

What are the common dynamics of conflict and the shadow aspects? Similar dynamics cause and perpetuate all destructive conflicts but can also help us to transform them. The internal causes include our own ignorance, fear, greed and anger: 'Our enemy is the shadow we ourselves cast' (Lao Tzu). Destructive conflict outside us mirrors what is fragmented and repressed inside. When we recognise and integrate our shadows, they can become our greatest strengths.

Our work

If present trends continue: there will be no end to violent conflict. As long as we believe the causes of conflict are 'out there' and not 'in here', inside ourselves, the list of supposed 'causes' will get longer and the number of wars and victims will keep rising. If we don't stop to question where the causes of conflict are – in 'here' rather than out 'there' – then we continue to be participants in violence, condoning or colluding in it, rather than agents of peace.

Transformative peace-making goes beyond external causes and material consequences, beyond the overt actions of those involved, and delves into the inner states of actors and unspoken often systemic factors. It requires not just 'doing' but 'being' – that we allow peace to emerge with great courage.

Empowering agents of peace: as we become peace-makers ourselves, we transform conflict and empower conflicting parties to become themselves 'agents of peace'.

WHAT YOU WILL DISCOVER IN OUR PAVILION

Specialists will present an overview of what is happening in the field of mediation, conflict transformation and conflict prevention, both at home and in other countries. Then we will download together a vision of what could happen in terms of global and local conflict by 2030. What if current trends continue? What is our vision if we become a conscious part of the change?

Conflict Transformation Pavilion - EVERY DAY: 3:00 - 5:30 pm

Scilla Elworthy



Stephen Busby



Nicholas Janni



Rama Mani



Willi Walter



Zackes Brustik



Saturday 28th July

Introduction to the pavilion's work from **Dr Scilla Elworthy**.

Dr Rama Mani will give an overview of current work in the field and predictions for the kinds of conflict expected over the next 20 years. A synthesis of why the standard approaches to conflict transformation and 'peacemaking' practised by the majority of mediators in the majority of conflicts fail - what are they missing? - which may guide us in what we can provide from a consciousness perspective that is deeper and more complete. Discussion!

Sunday 29th

What will happen, if we go on as we are? What needs transforming?

Nicholas Janni will introduce **Sheikh Ghassan Manasra** and **Eliyahu McLean** on Skype from Jerusalem. **Sheikh Ghassan Manasra** is the director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Nazareth, promoting tolerance and interfaith dialogue. Ghassan is an ordained sheikh and he is the son of Sheikh Abdel Salaam Manasra, the head of the Qadiri Sufi order in the Holy Land. **Eliyahu McLean** is the director of the Jerusalem Peacemakers: a network of religious leaders and grassroots peacebuilders in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Eliyahu was initiated as a 'Rodef Shalom', 'Peace Pursuer' by Reb Zalman Schachter Shalomi. **Prof Dr Stephan Breidenbach** will also speak on his unique understanding of what's happening in social movements today, and social innovation, especially as relates to conflict. He will be asked "what needs transforming?" Discussion!

Monday 30th

What would it look like if we applied the new consciousness in conflict transformation? (part 1)

Nicholas Janni and Stephen Busby will offer an introduction to the deep-systems approach to healing and conflict transformation that integrates aspects of systemic constellation work and of the timeless wisdom teachings in terms of higher evolutionary potential and field-consciousness. This may an experiential process.

Tuesday 31st

What would it look like if we applied the new consciousness in conflict transformation? (part 2)

Willi Walter will show a video on the healing events around Thomas' work - healing the memories of WWII and of the holocaust in Germany and Israel. **Rama Mani** will describe how transformative peacemakers and transformative peacemaking embody five principles that overturn the characteristics of destructive conflicts and inadequate conventional mediation/resolution methods. Discussion - and **Dr. Scilla Elworthy** with examples of peacework.

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd

Vision Labs: What is possible right now to create a thriving human society? How can we align with the highest evolutionary intelligence in the field of conflict transformation? How can we play a more constructive (cooperative) part in this unfolding evolutionary process, helping it to develop further on this planet?

Stephen Busby, Nicholas Janni and the team will together hold the two days. We will tune-in to a greater intelligence to develop ideas, projects, plans, and we may work in small groups. We will show clear images of what conflict transformation could look like in 20 years' time, and outline the steps that will be necessary to get from here to there!