

Satyana Institute



December 14, 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings for a joyous and peaceful holiday season . . .

This year has been monumental for us and our work - both the Gender Reconciliation International project and the Dawn of InterSpirituality conference. We've experienced some major milestones-please see the highlights of 2013 below.

We hope you are moved to donate to this vital work as it blossoms in new ways. Your gift will help us to bring the gifts of this work to ever wider circles of people.

What a joy it's been to share these rich experiences together. Deep thanks to each of you for your participation, and for your generous support of our work. May 2014 be an inspired year for you!

With blessings and gratitude,
Cynthia and Will

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Highlights of 2013

Gender Reconciliation International



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Cynthia Brix, and William Keepin sharing a lighthearted moment during the press conference announcing partnership.

- A formal partnership was officially launched between Gender Reconciliation International and the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. The purpose is to implement Gender Reconciliation (GR) programs and the facilitator training to qualified students at Stellenbosch University, located near Cape Town, South Africa. A media launch with Rev. Mpho Tutu and Archbishop Desmond Tutu was held on August 20 to announce the partnership, in collaboration with Stellenbosch officials at the University's Tygerberg campus. A short video of the launch is available [here](#).



2013 graduating class Gender Reconciliation International Facilitator Training, Cape Town, South Africa

- Congratulations to the 2013 graduating class of Gender Reconciliation facilitators! We welcome each of you fully into the Gender Reconciliation work. This year 11 facilitators completed their GR training and internships in Cape Town, South Africa. Another 24 trainees in the United States completed the training modules, and are working on their internships. A deep bow to each of you!



Training Group in United States, Gender Reconciliation International 2012-2013

- A group of 45 student leaders at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa participated in an introductory GR workshop, generously hosted by Dean of Students Rudi Buys with support from Samantha van Schalkwyk and Prof. Pumla Gobodo Madikizela. Phaphama Initiatives in Soweto, held an additional four GR workshops this year.



Student leaders who participated in a Gender Reconciliation workshop at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa

- GRI founders Will Keepin and Cynthia Brix presented at the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, California in October, and led a gender awareness exercise with over 2,000 attendees, plus a breakout workshop and panel. Three intro GR presentations were given at Whidbey Institute in 2013, and GR workshops were conducted in Santa Fe, Raleigh-Durham, Austin, and Lake Elsinore, CA.



Gender Reconciliation break-out session at the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, California

- Gender Reconciliation landed in Australia in November, graciously hosted by Esther and William Diplock and Nina Springle. GRI founders Will Keepin and Cynthia Brix facilitated an introductory Gender Reconciliation workshop in Brisbane, and three more GR workshops are scheduled for Melbourne, Uki, and Brisbane in May 2014, with a full facilitator training beginning in July 2014.



Australian participants of an Introductory Gender Reconciliation workshop in Brisbane, Australia

- GRI has been invited to introduce GR work in India, Japan, and Colombia.

Dawn of Interspirituality conference



The Dawn of Interspirituality conference held at Cascadian Center in Mt. Vernon, Washington brought together 175 participants and speakers from 12

countries. The conference purpose was to foster the 'revolution in religion' and spirituality that is taking place across the faith traditions today, as Fr. William Treacy, co-founder of Cascadian Center, spoke to eloquently.

A few conference highlights:

- Some 37 presenters from Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Sufi, Native American, Shamanic, Sukyo Mahikari, and Taoist traditions as well as 'spiritual but not religious' paths shared their insights, contemplative practices, service projects, and inspirations;



Plenary session 2013 Dawn of InterSpirituality conference, Mt Vernon, WA

- A strong contingent of young people and emerging young spiritual leaders explored deep questions including multiple religious belonging, new forms of monasticism, and how to apply spiritual principles and practices to the challenges that face young people today; or early in January;



Young adults and emerging young spiritual leaders during a conference panel discussion, Mt. Vernon, Washington

- Videos of most conference presentations will be posted on You Tube this month or early in January;
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave us his blessing by video from Cape Town, South Africa:

My dear brothers and sisters, I am so exhilarated that you are gathering at this beautiful [Cascadian] Center. My very best wishes for an exciting, joyful conference-as you, for all of us, discover that as we approach the transcendent one, we all find home. We have been treading different paths, but home is just one. We are one family. The God I worship, which you worship in different kinds of ways, is smiling...



Small group activity sharing our spiritual journeys, Dawn of InterSpirituality

- The conference included the first reunion of inter-religious leaders from the Snowmass Interspiritual Dialogue, convened by Fr. Thomas Keating over the past 30 years. Keating enjoins us to 'love thy neighbor' across the religions:

It is not enough to simply respect and listen patiently to others' presentation of their religious beliefs. What needs to be added to spiritual dialogue is to love other religions-to see in them the presence of ultimate reality.

This love of one another and others' religions indeed emerged, as participants and presenters engaged each other deeply and exquisitely in the diverse participatory and experiential sessions. Not just a series of presentations, the conference was more a 'celebration of presence.'

The spiritual atmosphere was one of kindred souls meeting in the "field out beyond right and wrong" that Rumi speaks of-out beyond Christian and Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist, doctrine and dogma, etc. As our colleague Swami Mahayogananda aptly summed up how we all felt afterwards:

Aha, again we danced in that field! Together!

And now alone, my heart aches; yet why should it be so? May it ache for that One Love which we tasted together; may it never forget that taste; may it ever drink deep from that cup.

*Maybe it aches only for the missed good-byes, which true Lovers never need anyway,
since they are one in Love.*

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Healing and Transformation Between Women and Men



Satyana Institute
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