Praxis Peace Institute
presents

The Alchemy of DEMOCRACY

Restoring Soul to Culture

Asilomar Conference Grounds

Pacific Grove, CA

June 13 - 18, 2004

"The future will not belong to those who are cynical or those who stand on the sidelines. The future will belong to those who have passion and are willing to work hard to make our country better."

- **Senator Paul Wellstone**

Dear Friends,

On February 17, 2003, Patrick Tyler of the New York Times identified "World Public Opinion" as the Second Superpower. He was referring to the millions of people worldwide who visibly protested the preemptive war about to be waged against Iraq. Patrick Tyler may have done for this generation what the mythical prince did for the Sleeping Beauty. The realization that we might wield considerable political power constitutes nothing short of a Great Awakening.

Prior to the identification of our Superpower status, we were not aware that we could wield any significant power. We led protests, wrote letters to the editor, created non-profit organizations, and settled for incremental change. We haven't trusted power because we have associated it with repression and exploitation. But, power in itself is value neutral. Have our beliefs about power limited our success?

The challenge: How do we focus our awakening power in extraordinary, responsible, and effective ways? How can we effectively lobby for systemic peace, sustainable lifestyles and social justice? How do we consciously transform ourselves and the body politic? And, what kinds of beliefs are stopping us from manifesting that power today?

The above questions are examples of the inquiries set forth at our conference. We will explore beliefs and myths that hinder the manifestation of systemic Peace and a vital Democracy. But, we will also explore the emerging stories—stories that inspire and empower us, stories that point the way to an empathic, engaged, and transformed citizenry.

The type of politics we know now and the vision we hold for them in the near future is the alchemical "Great Work"—the transformation of base lead to gold, of base politics to a Golden Age of civic participation.

Please join us for an inspiring, energizing, and hope-filled meeting of concerned individuals and organizations. Together, we can consciously dream, envision, and manifest a systemic and vital Democracy. Only we, the second Superpower, have this mandate and possibility. The decisions we make (or do not make) today will have a profound impact on the century before us. We are the ones we've been waiting for—the time is now!

In Peace,
Georgia Kelly

The Alchemy of Democracy: Restoring Soul to Culture

In 2000 and in 2002, our conferences focused on the Alchemy of Peacebuilding, the underlying framework for creating cultures of peace. We asked why—with all the peace organizations, the human potential movement, and a renewed interest in spiritual growth—was the 20th century the bloodiest century of war in recorded history? What were we not seeing?

One answer to the above question is that peace requires an active and conscious co-creation process. It is not a passive state or a pause between wars; consequently, peace cannot take root in a passive environment. Building on lessons from our previous conferences and understanding the importance of the 2004 election, we have decided to focus our third conference on the Alchemy of Democracy, the process of informed and transformed civic action. Our programs and workshops will support the politics of hope, vision, and civic empowerment.

We have chosen a magnificent beachfront conference center that is also an ecological template. As always, our conferences are NOT experiences in sensory deprivation. The grounds of Asilomar comprise 105 acres of pristine forest and sand dunes along the shoreline of the Monterey Bay National Sanctuary in Pacific Grove, California.

CEUs available for this conference!



Asilomar Conference Grounds



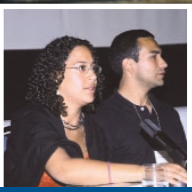




"We often **philosophize** about
the **great, unanswered questions** in life.
It's time we looked instead at the **unquestioned answers.**"
- Lynne Twist

Asilomar Conference Grounds.
Small photos from the 2002 Praxis Peace Institute conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Photographer: Laura Tresemer







How wonderful it is that
nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.
-Anne Frank

Praxis Peace Institute is a non-profit, peace education organization dedicated to radical inquiry, deep dialogue, creative problem solving, and informed civic action.

Co-sponsors of the 2004 Praxis conference

Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS), Association for Humanistic Psychology (AHP), Common Bond Institute, YES (Youth for Environmental Sanity), Institute for Imaginal Studies, Politics of Trust Network, Yes! Magazine, Evolve, and others.

The Purpose of the 2004 Praxis Conference is to provide an environment for deep inquiry, skill-building workshops, networking, and an opportunity to inspire and be inspired by leading thinkers and activists of our time.

The goal in bringing like-minded people together for a conference such as this is not to preach to the choir. Rather, it is to revive and further educate ourselves so that we may infuse the joyful spirit of civic activism in all those around us. We will learn new skills, hone our ideas, challenge and be challenged, co-create emerging stories, and become better listeners, teachers, healers, and leaders in our own communities. And, we will have a great time doing it all!

Please check our website for frequent updates to the program and speakers' list. Website: www.praxispeace.org

"We live in an age of nuclear giants and ethical infants.
In a world that has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. We've solved the mystery of the atom and forgotten the lessons of the Sermon on the Mount.
We know more about war than we know about peace.
More about dying than we know about living."
- General Omar Bradley

Conference Speakers

* Indicates not yet confirmed as we went to press. Please check our website for the most up-to-date schedule.

Peter Camejo Green Party candidate for governor of California in 2003. Peter is also chair and co-founder of Progressive Asset Management, Inc, which promotes socially responsible investments.

Caroline Casey Visionary activist, popular radio host on Pacifica Radio, master of symbols, and political astrologer.

Peter Coyote Actor, musician, and committed political activist for four decades. Author of "Sleeping Where I Fall," a memior.

Gordon Davidson Co-author of "Spiritual Politics," co-founder of the Center for Visionary Leadership and executive director of the Social Investment Forum.

Riane Eisler Author of "The Chalice and the Blade" and "The Power of Partnership." She is founder and president of The Partnership Way, a non-profit organization.

Matt Gonzalez President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Matt ran an extraordinary grassroots campaign as the Green Party candidate for mayor of SF in Dec. 2003, where he captured 47% of the votes.

***Tom Hayden** Former 20-year member of the California state legislature and life-long activist. He is the author of several books, including "Rebel," (A commentary on the 60's) and "The Lost Gospel of the Earth."

Barbara Marx Hubbard Author, visionary, futurist, former grassroots vice-presidential candidate, and president of the Foundation for Conscious Evolution.

Van Jones Director of Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, an organization that challenges the U.S. criminal justice system. He also served as Arianna Huffington's campaign manager for her run for CA governor in 2003.

Georgia Kelly Director and founder of Praxis Peace Institute, political activist, and musician (harpist, composer, recording artist).

David Korten Author of "When Corporations Rule the World." He is co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Positive Futures Network, which publishes Yes! Magazine, and he is an associate of the International Forum on Globalization.

***U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee** (D-CA)
Co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and courageous leader. She represents the East Bay area in California.

Fred Luskin Founder and director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project, author of "Forgive for Good," and co-director of the Stanford-Northern Ireland HOPE project.

Corinne McLaughlin Co-author of "Spiritual Politics," co-founder of Center for Visionary Leadership and coordinator of President Clinton's National Task Force on Sustainable Development.

James O'Dea President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, former director of Amnesty International's Washington DC office, and former executive director of the Seva Foundation. James is a native of Ireland.

***Eli Pariser** 23-year-old Campaigns Director of MoveOn.org.

Ocean Robbins (now 30) founded and has directed YES (youth for environmental sanity) since 1990. He has held 83 week-long camps for young leaders from 55 nations and is the author of "Choices for Our Future."

Larry Robinson City Council member and former mayor of Sebastopol, CA, poet, and ecopsychologist. Larry has also been a teacher and is on the board of Praxis Peace Institute.

Swami Beyondananda
(aka Steve Bhaerman) is an internationally-known author, cosmic comic and workshop leader. He is the author of "Driving your own Karma" and "Duck Soup for the Soul."

Lynne Twist Co-founder of the Pachamama Alliance, international activist, extraordinary fundraiser and fundraiser for The Hunger Project. She is the author of "The Soul of Money."

Sarah Van Gelder Editor of Yes! Magazine and co-founder of the Positive Futures Network. She co-founded the Winslow co-housing community, established a cooperative of food-coops, and previously produced television and radio programs.

John Vasconcellos California State Senator, now serving a second term, after 30 years in the CA state assembly. He has authored several books and founded The Politics of Trust Network.

Workshop Facilitators and Panelists

In addition to the facilitators listed here, some of the plenary speakers are also conducting workshops. Please check our website (www.praxispeace.org) for workshops being added.

Linda and Charlie Bloom

Authors of "101 Things I wish I knew when I got married." The Blooms are educators, therapists, and seminar leaders. They have been leading relationship workshops internationally for many years.

Aftab Omer

Founder and president of the Institute of Imaginal Studies graduate school in Petaluma, CA. His work has included assisting organizations in tapping the creative potentials of conflict and chaos.

Steve Olweean

President of the Association for Humanistic Psychology, Director of Common Bond Institute, and director of the annual Conflict Resolution conference in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Skip Robinson and Jon Townsend

Have been mediators and negotiators throughout the U.S. and in Russia, Poland, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Guatemala and other countries. Both teach in the Conflict Resolution program at Sonoma State University.

Natalie Rogers

Is a pioneer in expressive arts therapy and leads trainings in the U.S. and internationally. She is a professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies and has been a practicing psychotherapist. Dr. Rogers is the author of "The Creative Connection" and "Emerging Woman."

Conference Planning Committee: Charlie Bloom, Joshua Holcomb, Georgia Kelly, Aftab Omer, Larry Robinson, and Natalie Rogers.

"The individual's awareness
of the **prevailing repression**
is **blunted by** the manipulated
restriction of his consciousness."
- Herbert Marcuse






Unique Features

- **Café Discussions** – For in-depth explorations of conference themes, small group discussions will follow each plenary session. Participants will choose a group by topic.

- **Praxis Think Tank** – A few questions and issues that are relevant to our themes will be announced in March 2004. In order to explore these areas more deeply, optional e-mail and in-person meetings will take place prior to the conference. The inquiries will be fully explored in café groups onsite, and a report of our findings will be published within a year of this conference.

- **Conference Tracks** – In addition to the plenary sessions, we will offer four concurrent tracks for workshops and café discussion groups.

- **Labyrinth** – an outdoor labyrinth will be available for walking meditation.

- **Empowering Connection and Collaboration** – Praxis Peace Institute is pleased to announce its collaborative partnership with EVOLVE, an online Global Community Center for Conscious Evolution (www.evolve.org). EVOLVE will be our online connecting source and conference Directory. You may register as an Evolve Community Member today ($36.00 annual fee). More information on this Directory will be available on our website in February (www.praxispeace.org).

- **For the Soul** – In addition to music, poetry, and dance, we will offer daily meditation practice, yoga and a few surprises.

- **Free Time** – To enjoy the magnificent beauty of our coastal setting.

- **Newsletters** – A newsletter with information from our speakers will be in your onsite registration packets. It will list all participating organizations and their contact information. A final newsletter will be mailed after the conference.

- **Night-owl Discussion Groups** – Depending on interest, we will have informal café discussions after our evening sessions on two of the conference nights.

- **Dance!** – Bring your dancing shoes! We will have at least one evening of Salsa instruction and dancing. Since we will provide instruction, no one need feel shy.






The Alchemy of Democracy

The Alchemy of Democracy describes a process of civic engagement, a transformed polis, a community of active citizens who care about each other and are committed to relating in a conscious, constructive, and responsible manner.

The theme of our conference held in Dubrovnik, Croatia in 2002 was "integrating spiritual vision with active citizenship." In 2004, we are taking the next step by supporting the vision of a transformed polis. The alchemy of democracy supports systemic transformation in both personal consciousness and political consciousness. As above, so below. The integrity of one is reflected in the integrity of the other. The active ingredient is dynamic love and caring, and democratic participation is a way to put that love and caring into motion.

The greatest hindrances to Democracy are not terrorism, a despotic ruler, or controlling special interests—they are apathy, hopelessness, and cynicism. These powerful myths keep believers wrapped in cocoons of complacency, consumption and complaints. The alchemy of democracy is a process that transforms an atrophied polis into a vibrant community of active citizens.

There is a movement afoot—as is obvious in the extraordinary impact that MoveOn.org has had in shaping the dialogue and bringing humane concerns to the foreground. Many web-based organizations are providing deeper news analyses and creating ways for us to network effectively for constructive change. Yes! Magazine, one of our co-sponsors, chronicles the extraordinary good news about citizens who are making a difference. At the dawn of the 21st century, the opportunities for active participation in the polis have expanded exponentially. And, as creative thinkers, we have the responsibility to co-create our way into a transformed and vibrant political environment.

"The real **alchemy** of democracy
is to be found in each of us as we fully develop **our own democratic character structure**
(as identified by Abraham Maslow), wherein
we equally **value, liberate, and integrate**
our mind, emotions, and body.
As each of us attends to that goal, we will
spontaneously live more **democratically**!"
- CA State Senator John Vasconcellos

Restoring "Soul to Culture"

An untended soul is susceptible to colonization; our collective soul has been colonized by the culture of the machine. Most of our modern ills—environmental degradation, the glorification of consumption, social and economic injustice and a pervasive sense of powerlessness—can be directly traced to this loss of soul. Recovery of soul requires us to challenge the myths and values of the dominator paradigm.

To restore "Soul to Culture" means to acknowledge how western culture, for all its many gifts, has de-animated our world, leaving us wandering as exiles in a wasteland. It means embracing our collective shadow; it means accessing the imaginal world of dreams and inspiration; it means trusting the creative powers of vision and deep intuition; it means finding our place again in the family of things.

More than anything else, to restore soul to culture means to bring the wholeness of our lives to full engagement in the world. The times require nothing less!











Major Tracks of the Conference

Myths and Beliefs (The Inquiry)

The alchemical challenge: Catalyzing the emerging myths of personal and social liberation—while composting the dominator myths that hold us captive.

We will explore…

- the American myths that trigger reactionary rather than conscious behavior;
- the unexamined myths that support injustice, violence and environmental degradation;
- the media's role in promulgating the official myths of our culture;
- how cultural myths manipulate our thoughts and emotions by defining the worldview and limiting the discussion;
- the emerging stories of partnership, empathy, social justice, and systemic peace;
- the beliefs that prevent us from seeing common ground or from hearing the concerns of those with different viewpoints;
- the conscious transformation of belief systems that are rooted in fear.

"**Politics** is about story telling—
about **which story will prevail.**"
-Larry Robinson

Creativity and Imagination

- Empowering the Dream: creativity and imagination define the Dream that drives transformation. Without the dream, there is no vision, no new story, no passion, and no change.
- Expressive Arts for Peace: using the creative process to connect the world.
- Music, Art, Dance, Singing, and creative exercises in visioning.

"The true **value of the imagination**
relates not only to the past but also to the future.
In its **refusal to accept** the imposed
limitations on **what's possible,**
it can deliver the historical reality to new values."
-Herbert Marcuse



Personal and Political Transformation (Skills and Strategies)

- Conflict transformation
- Grassroots organizing and empowerment
- Social Healing: truth, reconciliation, forgiveness, and restorative justice
- The healing power of forgiveness
- Relationship as a vehicle for personal and social transformation
- "Those Evil Ones": Scapegoating, Hatred, & The Shadow
- The Consciousness of Peace
- Politics as Spiritual Practice
- The Politics of Trust
- The integration of spiritual vision and active citizenship

"Cowardice asks the question—is it safe?
Expediency asks the question—is it politic?
Vanity asks the question—is it popular?
But conscience asks the question—is it right?
And there comes **a time when one must take a position**
that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular:
But one must take it **BECAUSE it is right.**"
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Empowerment and Leadership

- Skill-building workshops in leadership, networking, fundraising, public speaking.
- Presentations by, and meetings with, elected representatives who herald the emergence of new political and activist models.
- How to inspire, energize and activate a community.
- Discussions on campaign strategy, PR, and marketing of a new political story.

"**Today's mighty oak** is just
yesterday's nut that
held its ground."
-Anonymous

Accommodations

"The Alchemy of Democracy, Restoring Soul to Culture"

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Asilomar Accommodations

Hotel accommodations are available directly from Asilomar (with Praxis code) or from other nearby hotels, not through Praxis Peace Institute. When you register with Praxis Peace Institute for the conference, you will receive a Reservation Code for making reservations at Asilomar. We have a limited number or rooms at Asilomar, so early reservations are recommended.

Asilomar registration forms are available online at www.visitasilomar.com

Asilomar Conference Grounds

Tel: 831-642-4222 • Fax: 831-642-4262 • Online: www.visitasilomar.com

Asilomar Room Rates include three meals a day and all taxes.

Various Price Options are listed below for your convenience.

Prices per person, per night for Historic (rustic but lovely) accommodations:

$74.87 for Triple room $93.91 for Double room $141.75 for Single room.

Prices per person per night for Standard (deluxe) accommodations:

$84.10 for Triple room $105.43 for Double room $172.87 for Single room.

Youth room rate (3-17) based on double occupancy:
$60.60 per day. This price also includes 3 meals a day.

If you are looking for a roommate, Praxis Peace Institute and/or Asilomar will be happy to assist you.

Meals at Asilomar always offer meat, fish, and vegetarian entrées. If you have other dietary needs, please make them known to the registration office at Asilomar.

Meal Tickets For Attendees Staying Offsite

If you choose private accommodations with friends or accommodations other than Asilomar, you may purchase daily meals at Asilomar. Meal tickets are available at the front desk or can be purchased in advance. A vegetarian option is always available. Although individual meal tickets will be available, we encourage advance purchase if you are choosing the 3-meals-a-day option.

Other Accommodations

Praxis Peace Institute has a list of many inns and hotels near Asilomar (most within walking distance). They are also posted on our website on the Registration pages for the 2004 Praxis conference.

Travel to Pacific Grove, CA

Pacific Grove is located on the Monterey Peninsula in central California. Air travel is accessible through the Monterey Airport (with connections coming through San Francisco and Los Angeles airports) or the San Jose Airport. Driving time is approximately 3 hours from San Francisco, 2 hours from San Jose, and 5-1/2 hours from Los Angeles.

Registration Form

"The Alchemy of Democracy, Restoring Soul to Culture"

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CEUs available for conference participation.

Register early and receive a $100. discount!

☐ **I am registering before Feb. 28, 2004 for a $100 discount! Conference Fee with discount is $595**

☐ **I am registering after Feb. 28, 2003. Conference Fee is $695**

☐ **I am registering as a Youth (age 25 or younger) - Conference Fee is $495**

Conference Fee includes plenary sessions, in-depth workshops, café groups and discussion/research groups.

IMPORTANT NOTE: After you have registered for the conference, you will receive the Praxis Group Code for making reservations at Asilomar. See opposite page for hotel accommodations and prices.

Send this form and payment to: Praxis Peace Institute, P.O. Box 523, Sonoma, CA 95476
Tel: 707-939-2973 Fax: 707-939-6720

Name (Please Print clearly) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Country _____ ZIP _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

E-mail (Please Print VERY clearly) _____

Payment Options:

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ I have enclosed a check for $ _____

Credit Card Number _____ Amount _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

Please assist deserving scholarship applicants to attend this conference. I wish to give a Tax-deductible donation to the Praxis conference Scholarship Fund for $ _____

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Refunds for cancellations will be issued as follows: Full refund, minus $75.00 processing fee, to March 1, 2004. 90 days prior to the conference – 80% refund. 60 days prior to the conference – 70% refund. 30 days prior to the conference – 50% refund. 15 days prior to conference – no refund