

Feature Articles

Global Events 2009
A Calendar of Events on
World Change p. 1

Global Events 2009: A Calendar of Events on World Change

By Carl Teichrib

The purpose of this calendar is to help Forcing Change readers better grasp the scope and extent of world change. This calendar not only lists dates and places, it provides contextual information that will help you understand the movements and agendas being put into play.



Upfront, it must be noted that this calendar provides only a brief glimpse into what's being planned. Each year, hundreds of other meetings crop up throughout the international landscape: 2009 will be no different.

Of note for this year is the emphasis on global spirituality, climate change, and the financial crisis. Furthermore, an event of considerable importance that has "fallen off the map" is back for 2009 – the State of the World Forum. You'll find a detailed listing for this event in the back part of the calendar.

Overall, this calendar does two things:

- 1) It provides you contextual knowledge of events and agendas on the horizon, thereby giving you a heads-up concerning the trends for the year.
- 2) It gives you organizational details – as many of the event listings provide extra information designed to help you grasp some of the technical elements along with the bigger picture.



Carl Teichrib, Chief Editor

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January 6-7: The Gulf Forum 2009

Where: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Hosted by the Gulf Research Center and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, this invitation-only event will explore the United States' post-election relationship between Persian Gulf nations – in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council – and the new Obama administration in the US. Some of the objects includes promoting GCC regionalism, to assess the status of US policy in the Gulf zone, and to “outline parameters of a US policy in the Gulf region that balances the need for security and a US presence in the area with the prerogatives of internal stability and [a] more cooperative set of regional relations.”

The Gulf Research Center, located Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is an independent research organization founded by Saudi businessman Abdulaziz Sager. The Center conducts policy research, including economic and security directives that impact the Gulf Cooperation Council region.

January 18-21: World Spirit Forum

Where: Arosa, Switzerland

An annual event, the World Spirit Forum is a gathering of prominent spiritual leaders who envision a planetary transformation built on New Age philosophies; the idea that Mankind will “spiritually evolve” into a universal consciousness.

January 23-27: 7th International Conference on Shamanism

Where: Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Drawing participants from all over, this event presents various shamanistic experiences and schools of thought from every corner of the globe – from Native American witchdoctors to Eastern-based practices. This conference is meant to allow shamans and spiritual seekers to network, learn from each other, and build cultural acceptance regarding the shamanistic experience.

Not sure what shamanism is? Nevill Drury, author of the *Dictionary of Mysticism and the Occult*, gives us some clues.



Shaman: "A sorcerer, magician, medicine-man, or spirit-healer who is able to enter a trance state under will and who serves as an intermediary between people and the realm of the gods and spirits." (p.236)

Shamanism: "Pre-literate technique of gaining trance consciousness, in which the medicine-man, healer, or sorcerer undertakes a journey of the soul to encounter the gods or spirits." (p.237)

NOTE: A host of pagan and shamanistic events are planned for 2009. Here's a short, incomplete list of American events.

- Sacred Space Conference, Feb. 5-8, Laurel, Maryland
- PantheaCon 2009, Feb. 13-16, San Jose, California
- PaganFaire, March 28, Portland, Oregon
- Beltane Festival and Grand Sabbat, April 17-19, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Beltaine 2009: A Pagan Odyssey Festival, May 1-3, Oxford, Connecticut
- Moondance, May 21-25, Bowdon, Georgia
- Yakima County Pagan Pride Day, August 31, Yakima, Washington
- Mountain Mysteries Mabon Festival, September 18-20, Stanardsville, Virginia
- WitchStock: October 2-4, Buffalo, Texas

January 27-February 1: World Social Forum

Where: Belem, Brazil

Originated in 2001, this yearly event has brought together tens of thousands of social activists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that oppose corporate globalization. However, the World Social Forum does advocate another form of globalization, one built on a world socialist model and designed around an empowered United Nations.

January 28-February 1: World Economic Forum

Where: Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

This annual event brings together the most powerful figures in the realm of international business and finance, along with major political leaders and the heads of prominent organizations.

The theme for 2009 is "Shaping the Post-Crisis World," with a central emphasis on the continuing global financial situation. It is expected that the suggestions and recommendations coming from this event will be geared towards tighter globalization policies. Furthermore, the World Economic Forum has developed a specific interest in regionalization as a building block to global governance. A number of other WEF meetings are planned for 2009, all tipped towards developing stronger regional power structures.

Regional WEF meetings include,

WEF Latin America, April 14-16, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

WEF Middle East, May 15-17, Dead Sea, Jordan

WEF Africa, June 10-12, Cape Town, South Africa

WEF East Asia, June 18-19, Seoul, South Korea



Two other WEF events for 2009:

WEF Annual Meeting of the New Champions, September 10-12, in China. The New Champions program is aimed at building up the fastest growing companies on the planet, with the majority coming from China and India. This program is also designed to identify and bring on board the next generation of global and regional leaders.

WEF India Economic Summit, November 8-10, New Delhi, India.

February 9-12: Integrating Spirituality and Organizational Leadership Conference

Where: New Delhi, India

Leaders from the world of business, education, politics, and religion will gather during this international event to explore the development of a global ethics for global governance. Some of the topics to be covered include spirituality and sustainable development, spirituality and organizational leadership, the ethics of climate change, and inter-religious aspects of international organization.

February 17: Global Economic Governance

Where: Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by the Centre for Economic Policy Research – a pan-European research body that caters to central banks, major corporation, and financial institutions – this meeting will examine the role of Europe in formulating new systems of global economic governance.

Many other CEPR meetings are planned for 2009, including the Fourth Annual Workshop on Global Interdependence (March 6th in Florence).

February 18-21: World Affairs Councils of America National Conference

Where: Washington, DC.

The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) is the national umbrella organization over a host of World Affairs Councils across the United States. Birthed out of the more exclusive Council on Foreign Relations, the WACA is a public membership organization that typically appeals to individuals interested in foreign affairs. However, in many respects the WACA leadership is comprised of individuals who would be considered representative of the business and policy elite. It is, for all intent and purpose, the public arm of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Each year the WACA holds a national conference on global issues, incorporating top government officials from the US and around the world, as well as leading academics and business players. The theme for this year's conference is, "The Global Economy: A World of Change, A World of Challenge."

Some of the confirmed speakers for 2009 are,

- Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid al Qasimai, Minister of Foreign Trade for the United Arab Emirates.
- Richard Lugar, Republican Senator from Indiana
- Lewis Kaden, Vice Chair of CitiGroup
- Carla A. Hills, Co-Chair of the Council on Foreign Relations and former US Trade Representative

February 26-March 1: The Awakening Conference: A Voice for Change

Where: Austin/San Maros, Texas, USA

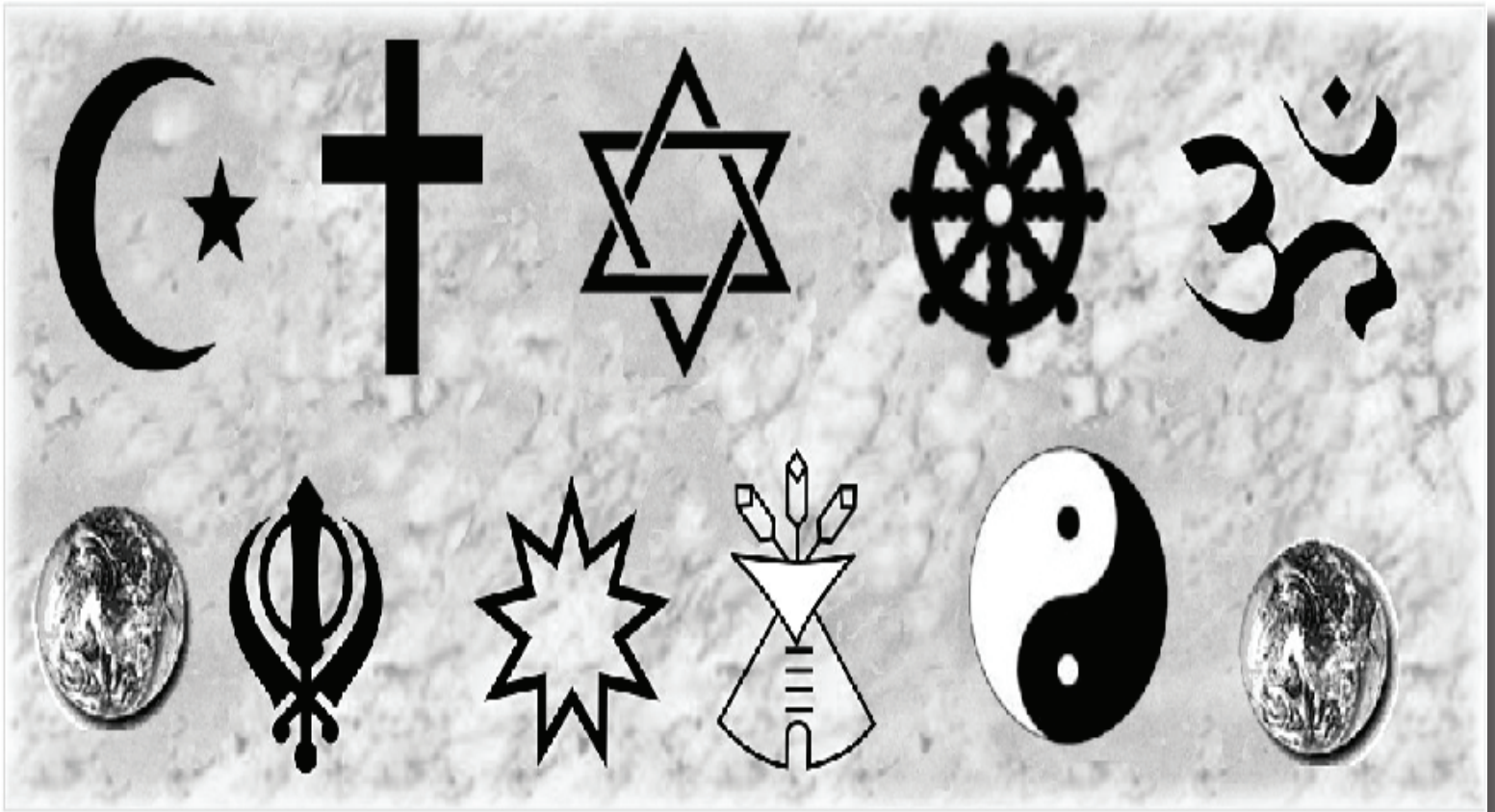
The Awakening Conference is a New Age gathering with some of the most recognized leaders in the movement, including Jean Houston (famous author who teaches on the emerging “World Civilization and a World Spirituality”) and Dan Millman (author of numerous New Age books, including *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*)

A second Awakening Conference is slated to take place in Mesa, Arizona, May 14-17. Both conferences seek to advance “conscious evolution” and social transformation through New Age philosophies and mystical encounters.

March 13-15: 1st International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace

Where: Rochester, MI, USA

Organized by the Common Bond Institute and Oakland University, this interfaith conference will seek ways to bridge spiritual experiences and promote religious pluralism within American society. Although the Islamic experience in the United States is to be showcased, the event takes a broader approach in that it promotes global interdependence while denouncing exclusive religious truth-claims.



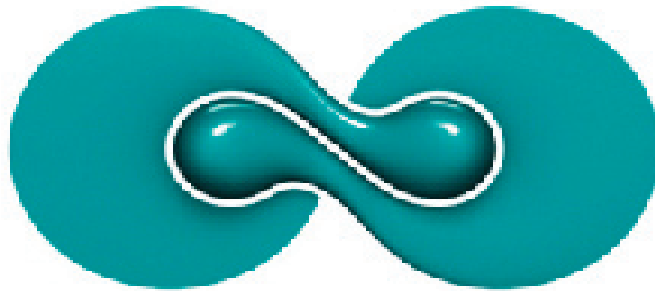
March 15-22: World Water Forum

Where: Istanbul, Turkey

The World Water Commission hosts this fifth World Water Forum. As an event, the Forum seeks to build international consensus regarding global water management, particularly in regions affected by water bodies that span local borders.

The work of the World Water Commission is important to watch, as the organization is striving towards global water-rights policies, waterway access strategies, and the role of water in international political developments.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM I S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



**BRIDGING
DIVIDES
FOR WATER**

March 19-21: Global Citizens in a Time of Turmoil

Where: Washington, DC.

Hosted by Citizens for Global Solutions, formerly known as the World Federalist Association, this event will examine how “global citizens” can engage the new Obama administration regarding the advancement of international governance. The first day of this conference will include lobbying training and then visits to political representatives on Capital Hill.

March 26-27: The Gulf-Europe Strategy Forum

Where: Berlin, Germany

This invitation-only event, sponsored by the Gulf Research Center, will focus on broadening the connections between the Persian Gulf and European communities. The outcome of this event is to be a series of policy recommendations that draws the two regions into a tighter working relationship. This is especially relevant in light of the upcoming creation of the Gulf economic region under the auspices of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the fact that the European Union has been actively involved in this development.

April 3-4: NATO 60th Anniversary

Where: Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany

2009 is the 60th anniversary of NATO – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Very symbolic to this anniversary is where the main European events will be held: the historically contested German/French border region.

This anniversary event (which will have a North American counterpart in Washington) will focus on the history of the organization. It will also be a stocktaking time concerning how NATO's present and future options may play out. Right now, there is a debate within NATO and its supporting agencies and personnel regarding the future roles, scope, and reach of the organization.

April 20-24: Durban Review Conference – Durban II

Where: Geneva, Switzerland

In 2001, the United Nations convened a conference in Durban, South Africa to combat racism at the international level – a “global drive for the total elimination of racism.” In the end, the conference turned out to be a very racist event; one openly promoting an anti-Israeli stance.

Now a review conference (Durban II) will be held in Geneva, and it's already raising controversy. It turns out that this event is under the umbrella of the United Nations Human Rights commission, with Libya heading the 20-member planning committee for the event. Not surprisingly, the Durban II draft declaration takes an anti-Western, anti-Israel approach.

The Canadian government announced back in January 2008 that it would not participate due to the racist nature of the event.

April 22: Earth Day

Where: Global

An annual, international celebration that focuses on the Earth, and advocates Earth-centric values and goals. This global celebration incorporates pagan elements, advocacy and education promoting Earth values, various festivals, etc.



April 22-23: B4E Global Summit

Where: Paris, France

The B4E – Business for Environment – summit is a high level conference sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Global Compact. Attendees will include diplomatic representatives (both head-of-state and ministerial level), senior UN officials, CEOs and other corporate personnel, globally recognized scientists, and influential members of academia.

The aim of the B4E is to help set priorities and strategies toward global environmental management issues. Plenary discussions currently listed of the B4E are,

- "The Climate Imperative"
- "Policy for the Planet: Taking the Lead on Change"
- "Changing Mindsets, Changing Behavior: Business and NGOs Advancing the Green Agenda."

April 26-30: International Science Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Where: Bonn, Germany

This is the seventh annual event of its type, and is now billing itself as the "largest international science conference dealing with the social aspects of global environmental change."

With approximately 1,000 participants expected, including policy makers, this event will discuss models of international environmental management and global social cohesion. According to the conference website, "New governance processes are required that can facilitate the inclusion of new kinds of information, new values, and new voices into decision-making."

The conference is hosted by the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, a joint project of the United Nations University, the International Social Science Council, and the International Council for Science.

April 27: Global Financial Forum

Where: New York City, NY

This one-day, forum is sponsored by Chatham House, which is the current moniker used by the British-based, Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Every year Chatham House hosts dozens of special events catering to upper echelon policy makers, statesmen, business leaders, and international professionals. The Global Financial Forum, which will be held in New York City, will focus primarily on the global credit crisis, regulatory changes, and what the financial architecture will look like once the crisis is overcome.

May 5-8: World Civic Forum

Where: Seoul, South Korea

This inaugural forum is being sponsored by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, along with the Kyung Hee University. The theme of the World Civic Forum is "Building Our Humanitarian Planet."

Why? Because, according to the WCF website, "Our Earth is calling for a humanitarian regeneration."

Key focus areas include, “Civic Values for Global Justice” and “Civic Action for the Global Agenda.” Issues to be discussed at the WCF center on climate change, international social justice, wealth redistribution, world peace, and global political management. Much of the attention will be on the existing body of United Nations treaties, and how these international obligations can be better enforced. At the end of the Forum a declaration will be adopted for international dissemination.

May 15-16: Moral Economy Project Conference

Where: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The Moral Economy Project is an educational/advocacy platform launched by the Quaker Institute of the Future. The purpose of this project is to stimulate dialogue and action towards an environmental approach regarding the global and national economy. To this end the Moral Economy Project calls for a “grand reconciliation between humans, human systems, and the environment.” This project takes, in every respect, an Earth-centric approach.

Part of this effort includes a Montreal-based symposium for 2009. During this event effective global governance models will be explored that impose Earth-values over Western market approaches. In many respects this conference, and the entire Moral Economy Project, smacks of the Club of Rome’s 1970s extremist view of “Limits to Growth” – that Mankind is in the process of recklessly destroying the earth and that our actions must be curtailed to save the globe from massive environmental calamity.

This Montreal meeting will also witness the launching of the Project’s book, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*. Already the book has been endorsed by Jimmy Carter, Gus Speth (co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council), Steven Rockefeller (co-chair of the Earth Charter International Council), Adam Koniuszewski of Green Cross International (Mikhail Gorbachev’s organization), and Maurice Strong (one of the most influential players in the UN/environmental governance community during the 1990s).

May 24-26: World Business Summit on Climate Change

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

Now that the Kyoto climate treaty is winding down (it expires in 2012), a new global covenant is being drafted in response to “climate change.”

Toward that end, a series of conferences, forums, and summits will take place in an attempt to provide direction for the new global compact. The World Business Summit on Climate Change is one such event; bring together business leaders, scientists, NGO representatives, media figures, and government officials to articulate policy recommendations for the next international climate treaty.

Global governance advocates and environmental change-agents see this new treaty development as an opportunity to create an international environmental agency – one that can enforce climate change proposals across the spectrum of society.



June 14-21: Pagan Spiritual Gathering

Where: Not yet announced at time of writing

Known as PSG, this event is the largest and oldest Pagan gathering in North America, bringing Pagan practitioners from around the world. This weeklong event will feature a wide variety of Pagan rituals and ceremonies, workshops and training sessions, youth programs, concerts, and other activities focused on Paganism.

June 25-28: NAIN Connect

Where: Kansas City, MO, USA

This is the main continental interfaith event for the North American Interfaith Network, an umbrella group that incorporates a broad spectrum of inter-religious organizations across Canada, the US, and Mexico. For 2009, the event's theme is "Experiencing the Spirit in Education – The Challenge of Religious Pluralism."

For 2009, NAIN Connect will seek to build support between public educators and the interfaith agenda; "...to share stories, ideas and strategies for interfaith education so that we can all become more effective."

July 1-8: 11th Session of the Provisional World Parliament

Where: Van, Niwas, India

This is the 11th session of the Provisional World Parliament as set up by the World Constitution and Parliament Association, a world government advocacy group that has been in operation since 1959. At its core, this group – and its provisional world parliament sessions – seeks to construct a direct world government alternative to the United Nations.

The WCPA has a published *World Constitution*, and the group's world parliament sessions are viewed as opportunities to develop policies and establish organizational structures.

Although the WCPA has been supported by a large number of eminent persons, beyond a handful of Third World officials there has been little in the way of bona fide government endorsements. While this is the case, it must be noted that the WCPA ideals have made historical inroads within the larger world government movement.

For more on the work of the WCPA, including a peek at the organization's documents, see Gary Kah's book *En Route to Global Occupation*.

July 5: Earth Charter Day

Where: Eindhoven, The Netherlands

The Netherlands' division of Green Cross International is hosting a mega-event to promote and celebrate the Earth Charter – a soft law document that promotes global interdependence and Earth-centric values. Inspiration for this

event, according to the Earth Charter Day webpage, came from Mikhail Gorbachev, Al Gore, Kofi Annan, the actors Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio, Bono, and The Elders – a group of world leaders who have come together to help direct the global village. The Elders includes Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter, and Gro Brundtland, among other prominent “global citizens.”

A number of side events are planned for the Earth Charter Day, including an Earth Charter Academic Conference.

July 6-31: Building an Interfaith Community – an educational experience

Where: Bossy, Switzerland

“Building an Interfaith Community” is not an event in the traditional sense as outlined in this calendar, rather it is a multi-week educational experience hosted by the World Council of Churches. For most of July, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim students will come to worship and study these three religions in a shared “sacred space.” The goal of this academic-styled program is to “build together a mutually accountable society.”

This educational program is listed because it represents a multitude of similar university-type programs and courses promoting an interfaith agenda.

July 8-10: G8 Summit

Where: La Maddalena, Italy

The G8 Summit is a regular, high-level meeting between the heads-of-state of the top eight industrialized countries (USA, Canada, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, France, Italy). NOTE: The European Union is a delegate, but cannot chair a G8 Summit.

In 2009, the G8 will be held in Italy. At the top of the agenda is the climate change agenda. As the Kyoto climate convention comes to a close (it expires in 2012), there is at present a major push to develop a new, international climate change treaty system – one with enforcement options. The other primary agenda issue is the on-going financial crisis.

Of special interest is Italy’s desire to see the G8 expand. Presently, Italy has announced that it would like to see the nations of China, India, Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico join this international body – creating the G13. Whether this happens waits to be seen.

July 17-19: WorldFuture 2009: Innovation and Creativity in a Complex World

Where: Chicago, IL, USA

This is the annual event of the World Future Society, an influential group of future thinkers, world government advocates, change agents, and individuals working for “planetary evolution.”

Each year, members of the World Future Society collectively examine global trends. This includes future aspects of religion and social direction, politics (nationally and internationally), education and culture, finance and monetary

issues, and technology. The emphasis is typically on world unification, global ethics and spirituality, and the role of technology in linking the globe.

August 5-7: First Global UN Model Conference

Where: Geneva, Switzerland

Throughout the year there are a number of Model UN programs underway. However, this particular UN Model is the first one to take on a global perspective, incorporating students from around the world.

The UN Model concept is straightforward: Organize a diverse group of students to participate in a multi-day mock-up of the United Nations, complete with debates on global issues and the development of resolutions. In many respects, UN Models are hands-on training for the next generation of international leaders.

This Global UN Model is sponsored by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

August 31-September 7: The Burning Man

Where: Black Rock Desert/Black Rock City, Nevada

For years The Burning Man festival has drawn tens of thousands of participants to the harsh Black Rock Desert of northern Nevada (almost 50,000 participated in 2008).



In the days before the actual event a tent city, known as Black Rock City, comes into existence. This community is typically built in a massive C-configuration around an enormous figure: The Burning Man. Constructed out of wood, this forty-foot high human effigy is the focal point for the weeklong celebration. And at the end of the week, The Burning Man is ritually razed to the ground in a towering inferno.

So what is The Burning Man about? It's festival of inclusiveness – a gathering of pagans, occultists, New Agers, and free spirits. Sexual adventurism and all manner of alternative lifestyles are accepted; clothing is optional. It's a week of rituals and pagan ceremonies, with the culmination being the act of "burning the Man." At times it has been described as a "pre-Hell celebration."

The Burning Man also draws to itself hundreds of artists and entertainers, and artistic expressions of all types are encouraged. No one is considered a spectator; all are expected to participate in building the "new world."

Burning Man regional festivals are now happening in different parts of the world.



"Black Rock City, as seen by satellite. The Burning Man is in the center of the open 'C' Configuration."

September: National Yoga Month

Where: United States of America

Last year's National Yoga Month included major yoga events in 10 major North American cities. This year, the goal is to have every city in the United States participate in yoga events. Part of this movement is to build on the United Nations International Day of Peace (see the September 21 event listing).

Note: Yoga has become very popular in the Western world, and is now embraced by many Christians and churches. However, yoga is inseparable from Hinduism, and its goals are antithetical to Biblical Christianity. For a short but important examination of yoga, especially in relationship to Christianity, see Dave Hunt's book, *Yoga and the Body of Christ* (The Berean Call, 2006).



September 9: *World Day of Interconnectedness*

Where: Global

At 9:00 AM, in every time zone around the world, groups and individuals will engage in activities that promote world citizenship. Many of the ideas presented are actually very good, taken on their own: smile to everyone, practice forgiveness, etc. However, the motive for the event itself (along with many other activity ideas) has a decided New Age slant – the creation of a world order based on global spirituality and social transformation.

September 12: *Earthdance*

Where: Global

Earthdance is an annual event that occurs in hundreds of cities around the planet, and is considered the largest synchronized dance event on the globe. Incorporating music,

dance, and other visual arts, this event is designed to advocate and build world peace.

Foundational to this event is the Earthdance Prayer for Peace, which promotes a New Age view of global unity. "We are one global family...one world united..."

September 21: International Day of Peace

Where: Global

Instituted by the United Nations, the International Day of Peace (IDP) is meant to bring the world closer together in peaceful co-existence. All major religions participate in this annual event with peace ceremonies, celebrations, and rituals.

According to the International Day of Peace website,

“Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.”

As in 2008, a major focus for the 2009 IDP will be yoga for world peace through the Global Mala Project – an international yoga event that is meant to unite the “global yoga community from every continent, school or approach to form.”

November (exact date unknown): Joint IPU-United Nations Meeting

Where: New York City, New York, USA

For the last number of years, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has been holding joint meetings with the United Nations. While the IPU is virtually unheard of outside parliamentary political circles, its work as a global gathering place for parliamentarians is enormous. One of the oldest multinational institutions in the international community, the IPU has been lobbying for the creation of a UN-based parliamentary body. Annual IPU meetings with the United Nations are part of this global parliamentary agenda.

November 12-14: State of the World Forum

Where: Washington, DC

Founded by Mikhail Gorbachev, the State of the World Forum was an annual event from 1995 until 2003. During that time it attracted some of the most influential players in the international community, including heads-of-state. After the 2003 SWF, it no longer functioned as an annual conference. Instead, organizers embarked on a multi-year phase of research and collaboration, building up to the next State of the World Forum: 2009.

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This SWF represents a hard-hitting approach on two fronts: First, political. With the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States, SWF organizers openly display their expectation for the new leader – a partner in global transformation and “climate change.” Here are a few excerpts from the SWF website (www.worldforum.org/state-2009.htm),

“The election of Barack Obama ushers in a new era in human affairs. We can now deal with issues long ignored and suppressed and implement policies and priorities that can deal with the critical challenges confronting the world, the most urgent and acute of which are the recent global financial meltdown and dealing with the escalating effects of global warming... The Obama presidency and the next phase of world history ultimately will be defined by our collective response to global warming... What will be unique and innovative about the 2009 State of the World Forum is that it will employ an integral framework to identify those initiatives that President Obama and the international community can initiate to establish an effective and globally geostrategic response to climate change.”

And secondly, a heavy emphasis on spirituality: Past State of the World Forums have had an unmistakable spiritual side based on New Age ideals. For 2009 this spiritual component is readily visible, starting with the fact that Wisdom University – a school of esoteric philosophy – is heavily involved in the entire process (Mikhail Gorbachev's good friend, Jim Garrison, is a prominent member of Wisdom University). Also, many of the speakers are openly involved in occultism and the New Age Movement, such as Jean Houston and Caroline Myss (author of *Sacred Contacts*).

The mission of the SWF, when coupled with its spiritual aspect, provides an interesting picture of what this event is all about.

“The Forum was established to create a global leadership network comprised of eminent individuals – ranging from Heads of State to grass roots organizers, Nobel Laureates to business leaders, policy makers to social activists – drawn from the governmental, business and civil society sectors, committed to discerning and implementing those principles, values and actions necessary to guide humanity wisely as it gives shape to an increasingly global and interdependent world.”

November 13-15: Engaging the Other

Where: San Francisco, CA, USA

Sponsored by the Common Bond Institute and the International Humanistic Psychology Association, this event seeks to develop cross-cultural and interfaith connections in a global context. Participants will include psychologists, spiritual leaders, environmentalists, philosophers, and cultural visionaries. A Tibetan Buddhist Mandala ritual is planned, along with cultural themes and times of artistic expression.

Some areas to explore include,

- The “role of inherent sin and exclusive dogma” as it relates to a globally accepted ethics, and the negative implication of such dogmas in building a world culture.
- Transforming negative belief systems, individually and culturally, in order to create a global ethos.
- Practical experiences and encounters that advance the global community.



November 30-December 11: COP15

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP15, is the most important climate event for 2009. In 2012, the present Kyoto convention on climate change will expire, and a new international treaty on climate change is being drafted to replace the old, “ineffective” one. Hence, COP15.

This high-level event will bring heads of state and other world leaders to the table. Out of this gathering, and the subsequent conferences that will precede and proceed from it, international leaders hope to have a globally binding climate treaty.

Expect 2009 to be a year filled with “climate change” action and anticipation as COP15 comes into view.

December 3-9: Parliament of the World's Religions

Where: Melbourne, Australia

Thousands of spiritual leaders from around the world will converge at Melbourne, raising the banner of interfaithism and global pluralism. This event, viewed as the Olympics of religions, is a powerful influencer. Over the years, the Parliament has worked to flesh out a global code of ethics, it has called for a political aspect to world religions, and it has broadened and deepened the interfaith movement.

A poster for the Parliament of the World's Religions 2009. The top section has a light orange background with the title "Parliament of the World's Religions" in a dark red, cursive font. Below it, in a smaller, bold, dark red sans-serif font, is "Be part of the world's largest global interfaith event". The date "3-9 DECEMBER 2009" is in a bold, black sans-serif font. The central graphic features a large, dark red, organic shape with the text "Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth" in a white, cursive font. Below this shape is a horizontal orange banner with the text "Parliament of the World's Religions" in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, there is a row of small, colorful dots in shades of orange, red, and brown. To the right of the dots, the text "MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA" is in a bold, black sans-serif font, followed by "MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE" in a smaller, black sans-serif font.

Parliament of the World's Religions

Be part of the world's largest global interfaith event

3-9 DECEMBER 2009

*Make a World of Difference:
Hearing each other, Healing the earth*

Parliament of the World's Religions

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA
MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND
EXHIBITION CENTRE

The theme for this event is “Making a World of Difference: Healing Each Other, Healing the Earth.”

Note: a number of preliminary events leading up to the Parliament will take place around the world throughout 2009. **FC**

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