

Forcing Change



Wrapping Up, Looking Ahead!

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

It's hard to believe that *Forcing Change* magazine has been active for nine full years! In that time of documenting, analyzing, and exploring the changes in culture and society - and how those shifts impact Christianity and liberty - we've covered a tremendous amount of territory. The topics and subjects have been vast, indeed!



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Carl Teichrib, Editor

Here are some examples

- **2015 Parliament of the World's Religions:** 10,000 religious leaders and activists came together to promote Oneness and world unity. The October edition of *Forcing Change* gave you an important, insider's perspective, revealing layers and levels of action that would have been missed otherwise.

- **Transformational Culture:** In fact, *Forcing Change* was the first Christian venue to explore the scope and explosive energy of transformational festivals and culture – a topic that mainstream Christianity still hasn't grasped the importance of.

- **World Federalist Movement (WFM):** Over the years, *Forcing Change* has carried articles on the work and history of the WFM, the largest world government lobby group on the planet. In 2012, FC published the only in-depth and behind-the-scenes report of the WFM International Congress, alerting you to the goals of this influential organization – a task that could only be done by being directly embedded into the Congress itself.

- **Transhumanism:** *Forcing Change* has been lauded for its balanced and academic approach to this controversial and often-sensational subject. Moreover, FC was the first Christian-based journal to offer detailed and firsthand reports on the Mormon Transhumanist Association and the Global Futures 2045 International Congress.

- **World Religions Summit:** In 2010, FC published a detailed overview of the G8/G20 World Religions Summit. While everyone knows about the G8 political meetings, the fact that a global interfaith arm existed was practically unknown to the Christian research community. FC changed that... by being there.

More examples could be given. And if we were to highlight the extensive essays that gave insight into historical and contemporary issues – Earth Day, the mystical use of labyrinths, Freemasonry and religious universalism, the Bank for International Settlements, the role of technocracy, to name just a few – the list would be long indeed.

A lot has been covered, and because of how it was covered, *Forcing Change* was noted for its accuracy and reliability.

Looking back, it's amazing where and how *Forcing Change* has been used; From building up the Christian worldview of readers, to helping students grapple with difficult social topics, to equipping pastors and laypeople in understanding the leading trends of today. Numerous media hosts utilized the magazine, as did Christian authors, commentators, professors, and researchers. It's been used as a door opener in evangelism and in striking deep conversations with coworkers and family members. Over the years, the *Forcing Change* webmaster - Linda Burke - and I, have been greatly encouraged by the stories you've shared. Although *Forcing Change* was a small publication, it made an impact.

But with nine years in publication, it's now time to wrap up! As a magazine, *Forcing Change* reached its end with the closing of 2015.

What's happening next?

In 2016, the *Forcing Change* website will undergo an extensive remake, and all back issues will be held in an online archive. This website will also serve as the launching pad for my newest endeavor, the publishing of a long overdue book. The topic and focus? The rapid rise of Oneness as the dominant worldview, and how this paradigm inevitably shapes culture, politics, religion, and our concepts of technology and society. But “oneness” does something more: It challenges what it means to be human.

Along the way, you'll walk alongside as I take you to “world government” meetings, occult gatherings, transformational celebrations, and transhumanist events. This won't be a walk-in-the-park; we're past that already. Nor will it be a wake-up call, although some may use it as such.

It will be an explanation.

So while *Forcing Change* as a magazine is finished, my work isn't done. More research trips are anticipated, more time will be spent wrestling through the complexities of history and ideology, and other ways of communicating these findings will open up as the book project moves forward.

Personally, I want to thank my wife and children for their unfailing support, love, and encouragement during the past nine years. Linda Burke also deserves a huge round of applause – her work has been substantial, and her support has been instrumental. And to all who have subscribed over the years, who have encouraged us in different ways, and who have upheld us in prayer - thank you!

To God be the glory,

Carl Teichrib



GLOBAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

With the end of each year, *Forcing Change* releases a “Global Calendar of Events,” highlighting a few of the many meetings, summits, and conferences taking place in the next twelve months. These gatherings, and hundreds more, demonstrate the shift towards global transformation; socially, religiously, technologically, culturally, and within the realm of political and economic world order. Listing dates, places and other details, this calendar is a heads-up to the movements, agendas, and ideologies in play. It’s meant to help you understand the context and connections that propel and change our civilization.

Note: this is a *limited calendar*. Many more events will surface as 2016 progresses.

Date: Unknown.

Where: Unknown.

Sometime later in 2016, a new organization with the backing of the US Conference of Mayors is to have its first congress-styled event, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM). With three planning sessions already convened, and momentum building since September 2014, the GPM project is a grouping of mayors from around the world who hope to create a new guiding entity. According to the background explanation on the GPM website; “...the GPM must be realized as a legitimate governance platform for common global action.”

In other words, “world cities” will carry the banner of “world government.”

At this point the project is in its early stages, but the list of individuals who are assisting as international advisors is remarkable: Jan P. Balkenende (former PM of Netherlands), Tom Chochran (Executive Director of the US Conference of Mayors), Bruce Katz (Brooking Institute), Ken Livingston (past Mayor of London), and Jeffrey Sachs (Director of The Earth Institute).

Support has already been expressed from a number of mayors representing major cities: Cape Town, Warsaw, Baltimore, Rotterdam, Boston, Athens, Seattle, Bristol, Barcelona, and Amsterdam. As their own promotional material states, “A planet ruled by cities represents a new paradigm of global governance...”

January 13-15: New Approaches for a Peaceful and More Sustainable World.**Where:** Vienna, Austria.

Hosted by the Vienna office of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), this event will consider opportunities to strengthen the United Nations as it reflects on its seventy-year history. Furthermore, as Vienna is home to a range of UN duty stations and agency offices, working in close proximity to other global and regional organizations within the Vienna “International City,” the location and nature of this conference is expected to attract active diplomats and members of the United Nations.

Anticipated topics include: the new *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*, outcomes from the Paris Climate Change summit, and security concerns in light of the Middle East.

ACUNS is an international network of academics, diplomats, concerned laypeople, and members of UN agencies. The organization focuses on the role of the UN in support and maintenance of global governance.

January 20-23: World Economic Forum.**Where:** Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

This annual event is the premier gathering of the planet's most influential leaders from business and industry, government, finance and banking, civil society and academia. What happens at the World Economic Forum (WEF) reverberates throughout economic and political circles on every continent. Over the year, regional WEF meetings will focus on specific parts of the world. For 2016, the regional meetings include (more are to be announced),

- May 11-13, WEF Africa in Kigali, Rwanda.
- October 19-22, WEF Asia, Japan.

The theme for this year's annual Davos event is – Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution. According to the WEF literature, “In global governance, the balance of power between nation states and the international framework that managed it in the last century are frayed.” Hence, this event will work to improve global governance in partnership with corporations and major financial institutions.



February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week.**Where:** United Nation, New York City, and Global.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is an official United Nations program that was influenced by The Common Word campaign, a 2007 inter-religious dialogue between Muslim and Christian leaders. On September 23, 2010, King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed the idea of an Interfaith Harmony Week while at the UN General Assembly. The proposal was unanimously adopted and the first week of February was set aside as the timeframe for this interfaith program.

Multiple events are set to take place during the 2016 WIHW, including a five day interfaith film festival in Toronto, Ontario, featuring the four-part movie series, *The Sacred Bee* – “Gently uniting the World’s Religions through the Paradigm of the Bee.” The Washington DC Interfaith Leadership Summit is also scheduled to coincide with the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

February 12-15: PantheaCon.**Where:** San Jose, CA.

PantheaCon is a large and long-standing pagan convention that serves the pagan community in the Bay Area of California. The event itself incorporates rituals, sacred spaces, vendors, and workshops on a variety of topics: Goddess spirituality, sustainability, green living, shamanism, tarot, ceremonial magic, etc.

As the pagan worldview continues to gain supporters, expect more pagan/Wiccan events to take place. The fact that 2016 marks the 22nd year for PantheaCon demonstrates how entrenched and growth-oriented the pagan mindset has become, thriving alongside a sleeping Christian church.

February 16-17: Doha Interfaith Conference.**Where:** Doha, Qatar.

For twelve years, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) has hosted a lavish, annual conference promoting interfaith activity.

According to the DICID, “From the perspectives of the world monotheistic religions we seek to reach common and harmonious cooperation and a genuine desire to lay the foundations of world peace. And for that very reason we as a team of true believers and promoters of the inter-faith dialogue wish to share our vision with the global community, to resolve world conflicts and restore peace and harmony.”

February 17-18: United Nations Youth Assembly.**Where:** UN Headquarters, New York City, NY.

According to the literature, “The Youth Assembly at the United Nations is a unique platform created to foster dialogue and generate partnerships between exceptional youth, UN high officials and staff, private sector, and civil society.”

Two days of plenary sessions, roundtables, working groups, and leadership building will equip the next generation to see themselves as global citizens. The goals of the Assembly include: promoting youth involvement in UN programs and affiliated agencies, strengthen youth-based opportunities in the implementation of Sustainable Development, and promote long-term commitment to the global organization.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice.

Where: Global.

Sponsored by the United Nations as an Official Observance, the World Day of Social Justice highlights collective social action and global development. Local events that build on the ideas of social justice are encouraged, and each year the UN Secretary General issues a statement concerning a particular topic or concern in light of social justice.

Although some debate has taken place in the Christian community as to the meaning of social justice, the UN understands its context: “Unlike justice in the broad sense, social justice is a relatively recent concept, born of the struggles surrounding the industrial revolution and the advent of socialist (and later, in some parts of the world, social democratic and Christian democratic) views on the organization of society.” (*Social Justice in an Open World: The Role of the United Nations*, UNDESA, 2006, p.2)

February 20-22: Wisdom 2.0

Where: San Francisco, California.

Wisdom 2.0 is a trendy, annual technology and leadership event that mixes digital developments with spirituality. Discussion topics are diverse, covering social entrepreneurship and cultural change to workplace meditation and yoga to the role of Artificial Intelligence in open societies. Wisdom 2.0 incorporates lectures, networking, art and performance, and participatory learning. Leaders from Apple, Microsoft, Twitter, Facebook, and Google have been noted attendees.

This sell-out event is Silicon Valley’s mash-up of high technology and New Thought spirituality. It is being included in this calendar as a model for how New Age concepts, social change, and technology come together in a dynamic way.

February 21-24: Building a Better World: The Academy as Leader

Where: Montreal, QC.

This year’s annual conference of the Association of International Educators will endeavor to build local-global connections, and help universities see themselves as globally embedded actors. Subthemes include climate change, food security, religious intolerance, human trafficking, universal education, and best practices in global interaction. Another significant subtheme is Global Citizenship: curriculum development, assessment, and modeling.

March 18-20: Paganicon.**Where:** Minneapolis, MN.

This is an annual convention geared to advancing and celebrating paganism in the US Midwest. Who attends? Druids, Wiccans, Heathens and Pagans of many stripes – and the event is open to the public.

Paganicon has become a nationally recognized event, and is one of the prominent indoor conferences on paganism. Opening and closing ceremonies, rituals, vendors, a costume ball, art exhibitions, sacred fires, workshops, and networking opportunities are part of the experience.

**March 24-27: Marxism 2016.****Where:** Melbourne, Australia.

With over 100 working sessions, the Marxism 2016 conference is the largest student-organized event of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. Attending this event will be Marxist personalities from around the world: musicians, filmmakers, unionists, feminists, anti-Israel activists, environmentalists, and community organizers. Workshops and panel discussions are to include “Sexual Oppression Under Capitalism,” “What is the Capitalist State?” “The Greek Social Struggle,” “The Left and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt,” and “Why you should be a socialists today.” The University of Melbourne Student Union is an official supporter.

March 25-27: Justice in Action, From Local to Global.**Where:** De Poort, Groesbeek, Netherlands.

Open to the public and hosted by the Baha’i Community, the Justice in Action forum will explore structures for global justice, including the interplay between international and national systems of law. As the Baha’i vision for a just world includes an effective world government, a single global currency and the oneness of all faiths, it recognizes that international law – along with a dedicated global citizenry – are essential elements in creating the planetary society.

April 9: Mormon Transhumanist Association Annual Conference.**Where:** Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Mormon Transhumanist Association (MTA) is the “world’s largest network for the ethical use of technology and religion to extend human abilities.” Indeed, it has become a leading voice in the transhumanist movement, bridging the culture of science with religious thought and post-human aspirations.

Each year the MTA hosts a conference for Mormons and non-Mormons, giving academics, authors, technicians and interested laypeople the opportunity to explore and discuss transhuman

developments, theories, and goals. The MTA does not undertake scientific operations, but works as a membership organization to advance the post-human idea.

April 11-12: High-level Thematic Debate on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Financing.

Where: UN Headquarters, New York City, NY.

The President of the UN General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on implementing global climate change principles, pursuing the 2030 sustainable development Agenda, and unlocking financing for these two major areas of global governance.

April 22: Earth Day.

Where: Global.

Around the world, children and adults from all cultures and religions will engage in Earth Day, a time to consider ecological issues and uphold the Earth. Started in 1970 with an overtly anti-Christian and anti-family tone, Earth Day has now become one of the most recognized “secular holidays” on the planet. Nevertheless, the “green pagan” aspect of this Day cannot be overlooked. Summing up Earth Day in 1990, the actor James Coburn said the following to Christian researcher, Caryl Matrisciana: “Mother Earth is our Mother. She's the Mother Goddess. She's the one we should be praising rather than raping. I mean, all of these people here today are here for one reason, because they are concerned about what's happening to the Earth, what Mankind is doing to the Earth... The Earth is a living organism. We're killing the one we love the most, and she loves us. We've got to praise our Mother Goddess!”

April 22 is also a United Nations declared observation: “International Mother Earth Day.”

April 25-30: TSC 2016.

Where: Tucson, AZ.

TSC – The Science of Consciousness – is an annual conference bringing together 700 recognized scientists, modern philosophers, New Thought/New Age teachers, and experts and academics to explore “what is consciousness?” Quantum science, paranormal experiences, artificial life, transformational encounters, Eastern spirituality and yoga, neuroscience, virtual reality, the role of art... all of these topics, and more, are considered in the quest to understand human consciousness and its “evolutionary” connection to “universal consciousness.”

In many respects, TSC is a merging of science and spirituality in the pursuit of oneness.

May 4-8: Integral European Conference.

Where: Lake Balaton, Hungary.

Integral theory is a system of evolutionary consciousness as transmitted by former Christian, and now Buddhist mystic and Emergent thinker, Ken Wilber. It is the recognition of oneness, wherein everyone's consciousness and the cosmos are interconnected as a whole.

In 2014, the first Integral European Conference was held, acknowledging the deep history of the continent and its cultural yearning for unification, and framing this within the context of a new level of spirituality – moving away from “conventional level religion” – and accepting an evolutionary oneness couched in the “global feeling.” Now, two years later, the next IEC will convene. According to the IEC 2016 website,

“At this 2nd Integral European Conference we will reflect upon: Is Europe at a crucial transformational point? What does it take to reinvent Europe from an embodied integral perspective, synchronizing different value-systems? Can Europe become a role model in the world to reflect a true unity in diversity, politically but also culturally by including and transcending our national identities? If so, how?”

Integral theory has already been introduced to major corporations. Brian van der Horst, an “Integral Consultant,” explained at the 2014 event that he had been teaching Integral to Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Siemens, and BMW.

May 5-6: Climate Action 2016.

Where: Washington DC.

Climate Action is a strategic meeting hosted by the United Nations Secretary General as a follow-up to the 2015 Paris COP21 climate summit. This invitation-only event is limited to 700 participants, and will focus attention on action-oriented outcomes including land use concerns (agriculture, forestry, etc), city-based programming, global energy issues, and tools for policy development. Listed conference partners are: World Bank, Global Environment Facility, Compact for Mayors, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, and the World Business Council of Sustainable Development. Attendees will include government officials, select business leaders, and representatives from international institutions.

May 10-11: High-level Thematic Debate on Strengthening the UN’s Role in Peace and Security.

Where: UN Headquarters, New York City, NY.

The President of the UN General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on the role of the United Nations within the global security system. Expect discussions to include Peace Keeping operations, security requirements, and potential UN responses to regional crisis.

May 17-21: Festival of Faiths.

Where: Louisville, KY.

Internationally acclaimed mystic, Richard Rohr, has called the Kentucky-based Festival of Faiths “the Sundance of the sacred.”

This inter-spiritual festival includes music, films, art, a daily “guided spiritual practice led by practitioners from diverse faith traditions,” and inter-faith dialogues. Leading mystics, Hindu teachers, Christian professors and pastors, Islamic scholars, and representatives from other

religions converge to explore contemplative spirituality, talk about pressing global concerns, and re-connect with the “sacred self” and the Earth. It is a coming together of “East and West.”

Major personalities at past festivals have included Jeffrey Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute; William Vendley, Religions for Peace International; Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, noted for his work with the first *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*; Jon Symes of the Pachamama Alliance; and Ambassador Thomas Graham Jr., who served under six US presidents.

May 23-24: United Nations World Humanitarian Summit.

Where: Istanbul, Turkey.

Climate change, global income inequality, sustainable development, urban growth, and disaster risk mitigation are some of the pressure points that led the UN Secretary General to call for the World Humanitarian Summit. This international summit will bring together heads-of-state, major civil society organizations, international agencies, the private sector, and regional and national actors. The purpose: To pursue and initiate major steps of action in building systems of humanitarianism, based on the UN 2030 program – to “set the tone and ambition for a global agenda for humanity.”

The World Humanitarian Summit will be a flagship event for 2016.

May 23-24: Transformative Global Climate Governance.

Where: Berlin, Germany.

In light of the 2015 Paris Climate Summit, what models of global governance are needed? How will international actors work with national governments to implement global standards? What role will the European Union play in advancing global governance? Will “global justice” be established, and on what basis?

These questions, and other core concerns, will be considered at the Berlin conference on climate and governance. This event is an interdisciplinary academic gathering, and is organized by the German Development Institute and the Environmental Policy Research Centre, receiving support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

June 5: World Environment Day.

Where: Global.

Declared by the United Nations as a special observance, World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated with local and regional events. Each year, WED adopts a theme. In 2015 it was “Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.” In 2009 it was “Your Planet Needs You – UNite to Combat Climate Change.” The “un” in UNite was intentionally capitalized to focus attention on the United Nations as a unifying entity.



June 13-14: The Practical Politics of Global Integration.**Where:** Brisbane, Australia.

Geared as an academic conference, this two-day event is specifically designed to explore the practical challenges of global security, world democracy, and international justice in the context of planetary integration. Presenters include academics from major universities, including Yale and John Hopkins, along with Andreas Bummel, director of the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

June 19-26: Pagan Spirit Gathering.**Where:** Earlville, IL.

This annual weeklong pagan festival is one of the largest in the United States, and one of the oldest, with its beginnings going back to 1980. Over 150 activities take place at PSG, including workshops, rituals, concerts, network meetings, a leadership program, and a continuously burning Sacred Fire. PSG is also noted for its Summer Solstice Ritual and the 1000-candle labyrinth.

June 21: International Day of Yoga.**Where:** Global.

In 2015, the UN officially celebrated the first International Day of Yoga. The year before, in petitioning for the creation of this day, India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, told the UN General Assembly: "It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day."

Many events took place around the world in 2015 in celebration of this day. Likewise, mass yoga events and gatherings are anticipated for 2016.

July 8-9: NATO Summit.**Where:** Warsaw, Poland.

The Poland gathering will be a time to critically examine NATO force structures and strategic adaptation in light of Russia's involvement in the Ukraine and Middle East. It is anticipated that a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force will be announced, giving NATO a 5,000-man rapid reaction unit that could be quickly deployable.

With Russian aggression and the fact that Middle Eastern conflicts have spilled into Europe through the refugee crisis, and the threat of ISIS within NATO member nations, the 2016 Summit will be a critical time in cementing responses through "collective security." NATO now finds itself, for the first time since the end of the Cold War, facing serious tests that potentially have global ramifications.

July 10-11: Warsaw Security Forum.**Where:** Warsaw, Poland.

The Warsaw Security Forum (WSF) is an annual security and defense conference, bringing together Ministerial ranking officials, noted military personnel, diplomats, the heads of security and aerospace firms, and leading academics.

This year, the WSF is being structured to act as a support and follow-through conference for the NATO Summit, and will critically examine the new tensions on Europe's eastern flank along with internal pressures due to Middle Eastern spillover.

July 10-13: NAIN Connect.**Where:** Guadalajara, Mexico.

The North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) is a leading interfaith body that is continental in its scope, and has been active since 1988. Over the years it has interfaced with other trend-setting interfaith groups, such as United Religions Initiative, the Parliament of the World's Religions, and the New York City-based Temple of Understanding – which helped birth the organization in the 1980s.

Each year, NAIN hosts a conference for the purpose of networking with religious groups and other interfaith bodies. Although the event doesn't bring in large numbers of people, it does pull together prominent thinkers and activists from within the interfaith movement, including academics and pastoral leaders.

In 2015, NAIN met in Regina, Saskatchewan. Other cities have included Atlanta, Toronto, Wichita, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and Vancouver, to name just a few. 2016 will mark the first NAIN Connect conference to be held in Mexico.

July 11-20: High-Level Political Forum.**Where:** UN Headquarters, New York City, NY.

This forum will be a governmental follow-up of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted by the UN in September 2015. The heads of government agencies are expected to formulate “platforms for partnership,” conduct state-level reviews, and work to find ways of enhancing the 2030 Agenda at the national level.



August 9-14: World Social Forum.**Where:** Montreal, QC.

The World Social Forum is an annual, global gathering that seeks to create a socialist-oriented international system as opposed to corporate globalization. The first forum took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, with 12,000 people attending. WSF attendance, over the years, has been staggering. In 2005 the event had over 150,000 registered individuals, and in 2015 – with the WSF held in Tunisia – over 70,000 delegates participated.

The Montreal WSF call reads thus,

“The goal of the WSF 2016 is to gather tens of thousands of people from groups in civil society, organizations and social movements who want to build a sustainable and inclusive world, where every person and every people has its place and can make its voice heard. Join this collaboration and solidarity process between the North and South, East and West, and between the older generation of social actors and the new movements of indignation, resistance, decolonization and occupation that have emerged around the world since the Arab Spring of 2011. In order to build real alternatives, it is now urgent to unify humanity around a solidarity between people beyond divisions, to collectively take back power over our lives and thereby to open the horizon of possibilities.”

August 25-September 1: Burning Man.**Where:** Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

Burning Man is a massive transformational festival and counterculture celebration in the Black Rock Desert of northern Nevada. How large is it? In 2015 the attendance topped 70,000 people.

In the final weeks of August, a tent-camper city arises out of the sand. This town, known as Black Rock City, is built in a C-configuration around an enormous human effigy: *The Man*. Constructed out of wood, this towering figure is the focal point of the week-long celebration. At the end of the week, the Man is ritually razed to the ground, followed by the burning of the Temple on Sunday. This Temple is an artistically designed shrine, and its theme for 2015 was “Temple of Promise.”

Burning Man is a celebration of inclusiveness, radical self-reliance and expression, community building and participation – with a combination of bohemian living, “self discovery,” sexual adventurism, and pagan encounters. Artisans of all stripes create unique sculptures, theme camps arise, and music stages are assembled. Clothing is optional.

Burning Man is considered a “petri-dish for postmodernism,” seeking to experience the building of a temporary utopian community that reflects “what the world could be.”

NOTE: A global network of Burning Man regional events and communities now exist. Each year about 65 regional burns are held, with locations throughout the United States, and in 15 other countries. At the 2015 Burn in Israel, the effigy that was razed was “Adam and Eve.”

September 4-5: G20 Summit.**Where:** Hangzhou, China.

The G20 is an economic and governance forum bringing together heads-of-state and ministerial level officials, central bank representatives, and global institutional leaders. This year China is hosting the event, and it has already announced its intent to move the G20 towards a more robust system of global economic governance.

September 17-18: Pagan Pride.**Where:** Global.

Pagan Pride, also known as Pagan Pride Day, will be celebrated around the world. Founded in the late 1990s, the Pagan Pride network now consists of over 100 public events, and the Day is geared to be a celebration within the Pagan community and an outreach to the general public. Although the majority of gatherings will be held in the United States, Canada and Brazil each host a significant number of PP events, and the Day is gaining popularity in Chile, England, and Italy.

Some celebrations span a weekend and are quite large. For example, the Raleigh, NC, Pagan Pride is a two-day festival attracting 3,000 people. Others, like the Fargo/Moorehead Pagan Pride Day and the Kalispell, MT event, are intimate one-day gatherings.

While most Pagan Pride events will occur on the weekend of September 17-18, the timeframe is fluid, with festivals and gatherings ranging from August 1 until the end of September.

**September 21: International Day of Peace and Vigil.****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 day marked with peace ceremonies, the ringing of a peace bell, interfaith prayer meetings, concerts and celebrations, peace rituals, and meditations for world harmony. Associated with the IDP is the International Day of Peace Vigil, a grassroots spiritual component to the IDP project.

This vigil has been supported by a variety of religious organizations, including Hindu groups like the Aetherius Society, the Church of Scientology, In the Light – an interfaith Hindu/Muslim organization, the Buddhist Yun Lin Temple, and the Mennonite Central Committee.

In 2015, the Education Outreach Section of the United Nations hosted a student videoconference to commemorate the IDP.



October 17-20: United Nations HABITAT III.**Where:** Quito, Ecuador.

Delegates from member states, civil society actors, mayors and urban planners will convene to promote “a new model of urban development” that aligns with the goals of the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*. Part of this new model includes linking and expanding national governments to engage in urban planning, installing new rules and outcome goals for urban development, and bringing urban centers into the larger circle of global governance. Up to 30,000 people could take part in this international event.

October 24: Global Oneness Day.**Where:** Global.

Started by the group, Humanity's Team, an organization formed by best-selling “New Spirituality” author Neale Donald Walsch, Global Oneness Day (GOD) is a worldwide event meant to usher in a New Age of world unity and global harmony through the realization of “Oneness” - the deity of humanity and the interdependence of the universe.

As an annual event, the main thrust of Global Oneness Day is a major Telesummit (over 60,000 participated in 2015) with the likes of Neale Donald Walsch, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Ken Wilbur, Jean Houston, Ervin Laszlo and other New Age/New Spirituality gurus. Other events take place around the world, including Drumming Circles and “Sunday Oneness Services.”

A petition is being readied for presentation to the United Nations in the hope of making Global Oneness Day an officially sanctioned observation.

October 24 is also United Nations Day.

December 10: Colloquium on the Law of Futuristic Persons.**Where:** Terasem Island, Second Life.

Not all events dedicated to global change take place in the “physical world.” Each year, on December 10 – Human Rights Day – the Terasem Movement holds a conference in the virtual environment of Second Life. The annual theme is the exploration of law and culture in relationship to “futuristic persons.” Noted philosophers and academics attend via an avatar, giving papers and presentations on subjects such as Artificial Intelligence, man-machine interfacing, cryogenics, virtual simulations, and other topics that feed into the transhumanist vision – that is, engineering sentient life beyond humanity. In other words, the development of post-human beings through science and technology as the next step in “human evolution.”

This annual event is a small affair that resonates with academics, philosophers, and supporters of transhumanism. In 2015, the speakers included US Presidential candidate, Zoltan Istvan (running on the Transhumanist Party ticket); John Havens, journalist and author; David Wood, Secretary of Humanity+ and chairperson of the London Futurists; Susan Schneider, author and academic; and, Leslie Seymour, inventor and systems technologist.

December 31: UN Secretariat Change.**Where:** United Nations.

At the end of 2016, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is slated to step down from his position, and a new Secretary General will be ushered in. At this time (December 2015), it is unclear who will follow suit, but there is pressure to have a woman take the lead role at the United Nations. Never before in UN history has a female held the high office. Some suggestions have included former New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark, and Irina Bokova, the current Director General of UNESCO. *FC*

