

# Events etc.

## World Peace through Personal Peace

**Sunday, September 27, 2009 - 09:00 - 12:00**

**Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC**

Ticket Price(s): SOLD OUT

The Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Eckhart Tolle and Matthieu Ricard will engage in dialogue.

Personal peace shapes what people believe and how they behave. It is vital to understanding our world and can be used to improve the lot of humankind. An intimate and personal discussion with the Dalai Lama and other respected leaders from across the globe who have inspired societal change through their personal endeavors will explore how inner transformation can help us work towards building a peaceful world.

## Nobel Laureates in Dialogue: Connecting for Peace

**Sunday, September 27, 2009 - 13:00**

**Chan Centre for the Performing Arts**

Ticket Price(s): \$100, \$175, \$250 or \$325

Purchase tickets through Ticketmaster

The Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Mairead Maguire, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Betty Williams and Jody Williams will engage in dialogue.

**Moderator: Mary Robinson**

Leadership in the peaceful resolution of conflict requires both an understanding of differences and an appreciation of our common humanity. It combines a sense of responsibility for others with faith in the power of individuals to shape institutions and create positive change. It also requires working with others to share efforts, create new possibilities, and bridge differences. In this inspiring dialogue, six Nobel Peace Laureates – including the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Jody Williams, Mairead Maguire, Rigoberta Menchu Tum and Betty Williams – will discuss their own motivations, their experiences of connecting for change, and their perspectives on our human responsibilities at the present time.

## Educating the Heart: Creativity and Well-Being and Heart-Mind Education

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009 - 08:30**

**The Orpheum Theatre**

Ticket Price(s): \$60, \$100, \$125, \$150, \$200

Purchase tickets through Ticketmaster

Creativity and Well-being: The Dalai Lama, Sir Ken Robinson, Daniel Siegel, the Blue Man Group, Eckhart Tolle and Murray Gell-Mann will engage in dialogue.

**Moderator: Matthieu Ricard**

Heart-Mind Education: The Dalai Lama, Clyde Hertzman, Kim Schonert-Reichl, Stephen Covey, Mairead Maguire and Adele Diamond will engage in dialogue.

Moderator: Martha Piper

## Women & Peace-building

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009 - 13:00**

**The Orpheum Theatre**

Ticket Price(s): \$60, \$100, \$150, \$175, \$200

Purchase tickets through Ticketmaster

Dalai Lama in discussion with Maria Shriver

Panel Discussion with Kim Campbell, Jody Williams, Fazle Hasan Abed, Swanee Hunt, Ela Bhatt, Sakena Yacoobi. Moderated by Susan Davis.

Women play a vital but often unrecognized role in advancing peace. The summit will bring together leaders from across the spectrum of education, arts, politics, business, philanthropy, and community activism, to explore and share the many ways that women are creating a more compassionate and peaceful world - in their families, communities and in the world.

## Luminaries to consider the profound impact of creative thinking

Can creative thinking enhance personal fulfillment and lead to a kinder and more peaceful world? And exactly what is creative thought and its role in nurturing compassion and education of the heart?

These are some of the questions an eminent panel will consider on Tuesday, 28 September at the Creativity and Well-Being dialogue, held at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.ca](http://Ticketmaster.ca). The

Dalai Lama will join some of the world's most inspiring intellects including Sir Ken Robinson, Daniel Siegel, the Blue Man Group, Eckhart Tolle, Murray Gell-Mann and Matthieu Ricard to explore the topic.

This panel will consider creative thinking and its importance in building peace and a moral global society. The participants will discuss how the creative process can become an effective resource in harvesting the wisdom of the heart and cultivating emotional balance.

**Ken Robinson**, a recognized expert in the field of creativity and innovation, comments that when people are doing something that resonates with them personally and draws on their own aptitude, it is transformative. They achieve "flow", or come to reside "in the zone"; they are absorbed to such a degree that it becomes a holistic experience. "It speaks deeply to our sense of fulfillment," says the author of *All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education*, who Queen Elizabeth II knighted in 2003 for his services to the arts and education.

One way of defining creative thinking, suggests **Murray Gell-Mann**, a prominent scientist who received the 1969 Nobel Prize in physics, is when you liberate yourself from confined thinking. "A selective letting go takes place," similar to that which occurs in meditation, he noted recently. "In creative work you have to let go of preconceptions. In meditative states, letting go is a very important part; it's also very important part of compassion; you have to let go of hindrances."

Moving into a state of letting go of preconceived notions into a state of "not knowing," is important says panelist **Eckhart Tolle**, the spiritual leader who wrote the internationally-best seller, *The Power of Now*.

"So, when you can be at ease with not knowing, you have already gone beyond the mind. A deeper knowing that is non-conceptual then arises out of that state," Tolle writes.

"Artistic creation, sports, dance, teaching, counseling — mastery in any field of endeavor implies that the thinking mind is either no longer involved at all or at least is taking second place."

**Matthieu Ricard** is a French biochemist turned Buddhist monk who has received a number of awards for his humanitarian efforts. Ricard, who will moderate Tuesday morning's panel, says that when a person achieves a state of flow, they experience emotions of happiness, kindness and compassion. The theory that creative thinking is a critical element to furthering and enhancing our life is shared by Daniel Siegel, the Executive Director of the Mindsight Institute. Siegel, an educator and psychiatrist, purports that cultivating creativity in schools opens students to new possibilities, transforms neural circuits and ways of thinking. "A learner becomes filled with passion and the mind is awakened to find true fulfillment, engender feelings of compassion, and promote kindness and peace."

**Chris Wink** is a co-founder of the Blue Man Group, a creative organization that sprang from "an outrageous idea" and has since grown to include theatrical shows and concerts and an innovative elementary school. He believes that the 21st Century will require creative thinking to survive and thrive. "The problems facing the planet will require creative approaches to compassion; creativity that will deal with global issues."

Join these creative thinkers at the Educating the Heart session of the Vancouver Peace Summit, presented by the Dalai Lama Center for Peace & Education. For more information, visit the DLC website.

## Women affecting change

VANCOUVER – "There cannot be any excuse for not removing poverty. The priorities have to change. The resource allocations have to change. Policies have to change."

With this conviction, **Ela Bhatt**, the founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), has set out to empower women in India by supporting them in their efforts to become financially independent and autonomous through their own labour.

**Ela Bhatt** is one of the speakers appearing at the Women and Peace-building dialogue on Tuesday, September 29, at the Orpheum Theatre. She will be joined by **The Dalai Lama, Fazle Hasan Abed, Kim Campbell, Jody Williams, Maria Shriver, Ashley Judd, Swanee Hunt and Susan Davis**.

The former Indian parliamentarian has been guided by Mahatma Gandhi's stance that only local employment and self-reliance will lift people out of poverty. As a determined entrepreneur who believes in the force of a grass-roots movement, she has built SEWA, India's largest single trade union, to a membership of 1,000,000. The women labourers are vegetable and garment vendors, in-home seamstresses, head-loaders, bidi rollers, paper pickers, construction workers, incense stick makers, and agricultural workers.

"Self-reliance is self-sufficiency financially ... You decide and you manage in making decisions, in managing your own affairs. That is, in very specific terms, what we mean by self-reliance."

SEWA's goal is full employment, which means employment whereby workers obtain work security, income security, food security and social security (at least health care, child care and shelter). "Let us guarantee a living income, provide social protection, ensure decent work and most important, build communities," Bhatt has declared.

In order to help achieve these goals, Bhatt established the Cooperative Bank of SEWA, founded in 1974 by 4,000 women each contributing ten rupees. Called a "gentle revolutionary," Bhatt is also the founder and chair of Sa-Dhan (the All India Association of Micro Finance Institutions) and founder-chair of the Indian School of Micro-finance for Women.

"Through their own movement women become strong and visible. Their tremendous economic and social contributions become recognized." The result, as Bhatt has shown us, is the alleviation of chronic deprivation, poverty, injustice and the realization of social change.

**Fazle Hasan Abed** is another luminary who shares Bhatt's viewpoint that poverty must be tackled through the organization of the isolated poor and by finding practical ways to increase their access to resources, support their entrepreneurship, and empower them to become active agents of change. Abed is the founder and chair of BRAC, formerly known as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, one of the largest non-government development organizations in the world.

"No human being should be in dehumanizing poverty for any time. And we would like to break the cycle of poverty into a cycle of human existence," Abed has vowed.

Under Abed's leadership, BRAC has taken a holistic approach towards combating social, economic and political inequalities by introducing innovative initiatives in health care, education, income generation, population control and microfinance. BRAC is currently active in 70,000 villages of Bangladesh connecting with an estimated 100 million poor and the organization is also on the ground working in Afghanistan, Africa and Sri Lanka.

Women and girls have been the central analytical lens of BRAC's anti-poverty strategies. The organization has introduced programs and initiatives that have enabled 3.8 million women, the backbone of BRAC's organization, to establish village microfinance organizations that have disbursed more than \$1 billion in loans. These loans have allowed women to create small businesses, poultry farming, cow rearing, and dairy farming, and in the production of iodized salt, which helps prevent goiter.

Abed, formerly a Corporate Executive at Shell Oil, strongly believes that poverty cannot be eradicated without the reconstruction of gender role in the society. Empowerment of women is a precondition for sustainable poverty alleviation. He has been tireless at promoting a development culture with women at the forefront of all activities, be it micro-credit, health, or education.

## Espousing Peace

His Holiness the **Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Matthieu Ricard and Eckhart Tolle** will meet on Sunday, September 27, at the Chan Centre to engage in a discussion on World Peace through Personal Peace.

Much has been written about the two elder world statesmen, the peace-mongering world-beloved spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, and the Archbishop, a stalwart defender of human rights and masterful conciliator and mediator. Their own close relationship is renowned and many are moved by their spontaneous show of affection for each other. Tutu once commented on his friend, the compassionate leader: "Isn't it extraordinary, in a culture that worships success, that it isn't the aggressively successful, the abrasive, the macho, who are the ones that we admire. We might envy their bank balances, but we do not admire them. But we revere the Dalai Lama."

But what about the two other panel members – a molecular biologist turned monk, who has been dubbed the "happiest man in the world," and a quiet individual, who at 29 experienced a profound inner transformation, which led to teachings that have, in turn, inspired millions searching for personal peace and greater fulfillment.

What will they bring into the conversation, drawing from their life journeys and lessons learned?

Ricard came from a privileged background, growing up among the personalities and ideas of Paris' intellectual and artistic circles. He completed a doctoral thesis in 1972 at the Pasteur Institute under the supervision of Nobel Laureate Francois Jacob. He left behind the western world and headed to the Himalayas to become a monk, studying various oral and practice lineages of Tibetan Buddhism. In all, he studied with 50 great teachers, including Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche.

The scientist monk, who is a best-selling author and photographer of stunningly beautiful images, has chosen to pursue happiness, both at a basic human level and as a subject of inquiry. The attainment of true happiness, Ricard has said, requires the same type of rigorous training and dedication that other serious pursuits demand.