

## 2009 Golden West College Peace Conference Topics, Speakers, & Performers

***Building Peace in Global Hot Zones of Urban Conflict* - Scott A. Bollens, Ph.D., AICP**, is professor, Department of Planning, Policy, and Design, University of California, Irvine and holder of the Warmington Endowed Chair in Peace and International Cooperation. He studies urbanism and inter-group conflict. He has interviewed over 220 urban professionals in Jerusalem, Belfast, Johannesburg, Nicosia (Cyprus), Sarajevo and Mostar (Bosnia), and Barcelona and Basque cities (Spain) about the role of urban policy and city building amidst nationalistic ethnic conflict and political transitions. He is author of *Cities, Nationalism, and Democratization* (Routledge Press, 2007), *On Narrow Ground: Urban Policy and Ethnic Conflict in Jerusalem and Belfast* (State University of New York Press, 2000), and *Urban Peace-Building in Divided Societies: Belfast and Johannesburg* (Westview, 1999).

***Selfless Giving in the 21st Century* - Sukh Chugh**, at 34 years of age, has been there and done that. He had a successful career in Management Consulting when, in the midst of financial success, a heart-changing incident led him to drop everything and start anew. He is now a living legend of selfless service. He started a volunteer-run network ([www.bethecause.org](http://www.bethecause.org)) which creates enriching opportunities of service that benefit the community at large as well as change the lives of the volunteers. The network, with over 10,000 volunteers, has numerous ongoing projects worldwide, one of them being the much-famed Seva Cafe in Long Beach ([www.sevacafe.org](http://www.sevacafe.org)).

***Conflict Dissolution: Bringing Peace from the Inside Out* - Jesus Nebot** is an award-winning filmmaker as well as a renowned inspirational speaker and transformational trainer. Jesus has lectured to educational, cultural, non-profit, business, and civic organizations in over 30 American states and 10 additional countries around the world. His mission is to inspire personal and social healing and transformation through his speaking engagements, training seminars, and artistic endeavors, which include writing, producing, directing, and acting.

***Wisdom of Leadership* - Charles Royston III**, an anthropological philosopher, teaches Human Services and Anthropology at CSU Fullerton. All aspects of the human condition fascinate him. His life, political activism, belief in service, and the books he writes are fueled by his personal philosophy "One Global Family: Each and every human being sees themselves in the eyes of another, regardless of different background or belief."

***Intercultural Affairs* - Joumana Silyan-Saba** is a Policy Advisor for the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. Through her work with the City HRC, Mrs. Silyan-Saba has developed and implemented various trainings in the areas of conflict management, cultural fluency, and human relations and presented on several panels focused on the above areas. She has also designed several programs aimed at enhancing inter-group relations and meeting the identified needs of our local communities. Joumana's current focus is on areas of inter-group relations as it pertains to interfaith relations and issues of the Middle East. Her efforts include working with the Mayor's office, faith and community leaders, civil rights organizations, and academic institutions to bridge divides and address social justice issues.

***Diversity and Nonviolence in the Classroom* - Vikas P. Srivastava** holds a MA in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a BA in Sociology from UC San Diego. He has taught pre-school, middle school, special education, high school, and college throughout the last 12 years. He currently develops curriculum and teaches Audio Technology and Entrepreneurship at Canyon Crest Academy in San Diego. Srivastava is an Ahimsa Fellow as of 2007.

***Literature as a Way of Communicating Peace* - Paul Tayyar** received his Ph.D. in American Literature from U.C. Riverside. His most recent books of poems are *Postmark Atlantis* (Level 4 Press) and *Scenes From A Good Life* (Tebot Bach Press). He is a two-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize and he is the Managing Director of World Parade Books, an independent publishing house based in Huntington Beach.

***Opening Musical Performance* - Shayan Chalan** has been pursuing the vintage Pandanallur/Tanjore style of Bharata Natyam (classical dance of south India). She has been under the tutelage of Guru Malathi Iyengar, Artistic Director, Rangoli Foundation for Art and Culture. Shayan had her Arangetram (Solo Dance Debut) in 2004 and performs in India and in the United States of America. Shayan will be opening the conference with a performance featuring an offering of flowers aimed at creating an environment where positive progress is created through all that participate in the day's events.

***Special Musical Performance* - Larisa Stow & Shakti Tribe's** live performances are a dynamic blend of East meets West that mix kirtan (devotional call-and-response), mantra, and uplifting music. Larisa Stow is known for her thought-provoking, soul-searching lyrics and haunting melodies. Bringing their music's messages of peace, hope, and love in order to empower, transform, and educate communities is some of Shakti Tribe's most powerful work to date. Teaching the concepts of Oneness - that we are all connected by the invisible threads of our humanity beyond race and religion - is a pivotal piece in shaping people's lives, their sense of personal value, and higher responsibility.