

Other Information

Festival Contact Information:

Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace,
EICSP, Scottish Charity SC038996.
4 William Black Place, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9PZ. Scotland.
T: +44 (0) 131 331 4469, E: mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk, W: www.eicsp.org

Festival Website:

www.mesp.org.uk

Travel:

It is the responsibility of workshop participants to arrange their own travel, as required.
For some travel tips see <http://www.edinburgh.org/traveltips/intro/>

Accommodation:

It is the responsibility of workshop participants to arrange their own accommodation, as required.
For information about other options contact Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board,
0845 2255 121 (UK), or +44 (0) 1506 832 121 (Outside UK), <http://www.edinburgh.org/accommodation/>

Venue Locations and Map:

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.
<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&msid=101724989355369851255.00000113247afe07dfba4>

Access:

The venue has disabled access and disabled toilets.

Refreshments:

Tea/coffee/biscuits will be available. There are also cafes/restaurants near to the venue.

Belongings:

Participants are responsible for their own belongings.

Booking Confirmation:

Upon receipt of the Registration Form and payment, a confirmation email will be sent to you only if you request one. Otherwise, please just come along on the day where we will have a list of everyone registered.

Cancellation:

There will be no refund for cancellations after 1 February 2009.

Detailed Information, Online Booking and Updates:

See: www.mesp.org.uk

Detailed Workshop Description:

This day workshop will introduce, with chant, meditation and movement, the shared prayers and meditations of the heart that connect the Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis. Yeshua's words, viewed through Aramaic eyes, reveal many aspects of his original way of prayer, contemplation and spiritual practice. As Swiss theologian Hans Kung has noted, Eastern Syriac and Aramaic Christianity heavily influenced the beginnings of Islam. Historically, early Islam had a close relationship with Aramaic and Arabic Christianity, which share the

same emphasis on the mystical and spiritual side of Jesus' teaching. Within the larger community of Islam, the Sufis expressed this mystical side, used some of the same practices and told many stories about Jesus, whom they still hold in high respect. As we explore this relationship, we aim to help build bridges between the differences we perceive within and between us. Jesus' wisdom teachings are still as relevant today as when he first said, "Love your neighbour as yourself." We love the "neighbour" within as we become more fully human, exploring the full potential of our power and love. This naturally expresses itself in a more vivid and enlivened daily life.

Facilitator Biography:

Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz directs the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL (<http://www.eial.org>), and co-founded the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. He was the co-chair of the Mysticism Group of the American Academy of Religion and has published several books on Middle Eastern spirituality and peace, including Prayers of the Cosmos, Desert Wisdom, The Hidden Gospel, The Genesis Meditations, The Sufi Book of Life, Blessings of the Cosmos and The Tent of Abraham. In 2005 he was awarded the Kessler-Keener Foundation Peacemaker of the Year Award for his work in Middle Eastern peacemaking.

Festival Organisation:

The Festival is jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity SC038996, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, supported by their networking, planning, management and coordinating role. The Festival was co-founded by, and is co-directed by, Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Festival Booking Offers and Passes:

The following Festival Booking Offers and Passes are available for MESP 2009, during the dates Saturday 28 February - Sunday 15 March 2009 inclusive, for the events in Edinburgh:

Attend 5 workshops, get one free.

1 week pass: £130/£100 (Concessions).

2 week pass: £200/£150 (Concessions).

16 day pass: £240/£180 (Concessions).

1 weekend pass: £40/£30 (Concessions).

2 weekend pass: £70/£55 (Concessions).

3 weekend pass: £100/£80 (Concessions).

Concessions: Concessions are available to Senior Citizens, the Unwaged, Students and the Disabled. In the case of those who are visually impaired and those in wheelchairs, the concession is extended to one escort. Please inform us of any special needs well in advance.

Festival Event Booking and Booking Offers and Passes:

Online: www.mesp.org.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 131 331 4469

Email: mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk

Events can be booked online, using Paypal, and workshop registration forms or a Festival Brochure or Poster can be downloaded through www.mesp.org.uk. You can also email or phone to receive event information, workshop registration forms or a Festival Brochure or Poster.

Festival Sponsorship and Support:

The Festival organisers would like to acknowledge and thank those organisations and individuals who have offered financial and in-kind support to this Festival.

Financial and in-kind support towards the Festival in general has come from the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Screen, Awards for All, the List, EAE, Direct Distribution, the Kalliopeia Foundation, the Shalem Institute, the Pump House Trust, the Edinburgh International Centre for

Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity SC038996, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL. Support for individual events is listed beside the event itself.

In-kind support has come from organizations who we have worked with to organize specific Festival events. These organizations are listed beside the specific events which they have been involved with. Further in-kind support has come from a range of hosting and supporting organizations and individuals.

Media Partner:

We are very grateful to have the List as a Media Partner for MESP 2009.

Thematic Strands:

In MESP 2009 twelve thematic strands to the Festival will be explicit, to allow a range of entry routes into the Festival, and to allow a range of participation identities, namely:

1. Spirituality, Interspirituality and Intraspirituality;
2. Peace, Conflict, Reconciliation and Justice;
3. Education and Learning;
4. Arts and Culture;
5. Health, Wellbeing and Healing;
6. Equality, Diversity and Communities;
7. Environmental Responsibility and Climate Change;
8. Engagement with Science and Medicine;
9. Engagement with Communication Media;
10. Engagement with Business and Industry;
11. Engagement with Government, Parliament, NGOs and Civic Society;
12. Celebrating Scotland, the UK and the Middle East.

Festival Ethos:

The Festival positively affirms the diversity contained within the spiritual, educational, artistic and cultural, ethnic, national and international traditions of Scotland and the Middle East. The Festival avoids taking fixed positions on political, ethical or cultural questions, and allows for challenging and evaluative perspectives as well as affirmative and celebratory opportunities. We intend to create a forum in which we can listen to one another deeply and learn with an open mind and heart.

The Festival brings together at least three different kinds of presentations. First, we hope to learn from each other about our shared traditions, as well as those that form the unique voice of any one of us. Second, we will hear from those who have been active in peacemaking on a spiritual and secular basis on the ground in the Middle East. Third, we invite participants to share in the musical and spiritual practice presented, in order to gain an experiential view of the traditions that we discuss.

One of the Festival's overriding aims is to contribute to peace and mutual understanding through dialogue, spiritual and artistic practice, and improved mutual understanding among the spiritual, secular and cultural traditions that have arisen in what is now known as the Middle East, and more generally among those who have found a home in Scotland and the UK. Accordingly, the Festival seeks to engage a progressively wider and more diverse range of participants who have been active in spiritual, secular and artistic and cultural approaches to non-violent conflict resolution and world peace. No speaker represents, or can represent, the totality of any tradition, and indeed, experiential, evaluative and visionary perspectives are particularly welcome.

Festival participants are invited to shape their own experience during the Festival, and to take personal responsibility for participating as peacemakers and community builders. In particular, participants are invited to take personal responsibility for processing any conflicts or obstacles to peace that they experience, and for self-evaluating their own participation as peacemakers and community builders for the benefit of their wider life experience.

Conflict and obstacles to peace are of central importance in the lives of peacemakers and community builders. They hold seeds for our spiritual, personal and creative development and can provide energy to

sustain such development. The Festival provides many opportunities to engage spiritually, creatively and non-violently with conflict and obstacles to peace in supportive and non-judgmental environments, allowing participants the opportunity to transform conflicts and obstacles to peace into new perspectives, insights and actions.

The Festival is managed as a charitable event for wide public benefit, and all events in the Festival should reflect, and all participants in the Festival should respect, the Festival Equal Opportunities Policy.

Festival Equal Opportunities Policy:

All participants are expected to respect the Festival Equal Opportunities Policy, which can be viewed on the Festival website.

Disclaimer:

All events were as correct as could be ascertained at the time of going to press. The Festival organisers will not be held responsible for any errors in the listings in this guide or changes to any advertised programme. People attending Festival events are responsible for their own belongings. If you are travelling from any significant distance to a Festival event, then it is important to confirm the final arrangements close to the date of the event.

The opinions expressed by all speakers at the Festival are their own individual views and should not be identified with those of the Festival organizers or sponsors or with those of any particular spiritual organization, tradition or community. One of the primary principles of the Festival is that all mystical and prophetic voices for non-violence and peace should be allowed a hearing, without censorship or prior vetting.

Liability:

Neither the EICSP nor the EIAL, or MESP presenters, volunteers, hosting venues or sponsors are liable for injury, damage or loss arising from your travel to and from an MESP event or during your participation in any MESP event. Travel and medical insurance are recommended for those visiting MESP from abroad, and is the sole responsibility of participants in MESP.