



Society for the Study of

# Shamanism, Healing, and Transformation

## Newsletter

February 2010

[www.shamanismconference.org](http://www.shamanismconference.org)

A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation,  
501(c)(3) and registered Charitable Trust

### Ruth-Inge Heinze Memorial Fund Established

The Board of the Society decided to establish a Ruth-Inge Heinze Memorial Fund to honor the legacy she has created through her scholarship, her dedication to healing and dreaming in her work with individuals, and, especially, during her quarter century work with the Shamanism Conference.



Last year's 26<sup>th</sup> international conference successfully continued Ruth-Inge Heinze's work for the second year. The responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive and highly supportive. We observed a shift in the quality of

conversations and networking as we enjoyed the presentations, panel discussions, and shamanic rituals. We are thus encouraged to follow the course that has developed. It is clear that there continues to be a need for the conference and people want to see it happen and evolve.

The Ruth-Inge Heinze Memorial Fund has been established for the primary purpose of awarding shamans fellowships for travel and participation in the conference.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 by the end of this calendar year.

Here is the good news: The Society recently received an initial gift of \$1,000 from an anonymous donor to raise matching funds. Our first project is to raise \$1,000 to match this generous gift so that it actually becomes part of the fund. All conference team members have pledged donations.

At this time we need you to get involved and help making the conference richer through the presence of indigenous shamans.

If you want to support the travel of shamans - whether from Mongolia or South America or elsewhere - consider making a donation. We

have a Buryat shaman from Siberia and a shaman from South America who would like to share their



Svetlana Darlbazarova  
Buryat Siberian  
Shaman

wisdom provided we have a fellowship available.

In order to be able to plan our upcoming 27<sup>th</sup> conference we need to raise \$3,000 by the end of April and reach our half-way mark by summer.

Please send your tax deductible donation (as allowed by law) to

Society for the Study of Shamanism, Healing, and Transformation, P.O. Box 1855, Sebastopol, CA 95473. You may also go to our website (see above) and use the "donate" button to make your donation. The Society is a 501(c)(3) and registered charitable trust. Making your donation *now* helps to insure that we have a strong presence of shamans at the conference.

In past years the actual presence of shamans has led to profound experiences. Their

ceremonies and stories have been invaluable and exciting contributions.

Please visit our website [shamanismconference.org](http://shamanismconference.org) and use the link Donate to contribute to this effort. The fund was established to

## Why This Conference?

- To invite indigenous shamans from diverse cultures and traditions to share their practices.
- To help preserve shamanic healing practices and its indigenous wisdom for the benefit of their own communities and others.

continue and strengthen Ruth-Inge Heinze's intentions for this conference and to deepen the dialogue among shamans, other practitioners, scholars, and the lay public.

- To support and endorse friendships and collaboration of healers from different groups and cultures.
- To study, document, and reflect upon shamanic and other healing practices.
- To provide a forum in which a deeper dialogue may take place about healing, transformation of consciousness and wholeness on a personal, communal and planetary level using lectures, performances, art, and ceremony.



- To educate professionals and the public about the importance of shamanism and healing in today's societies.
- To explore new ways of healing that are emerging in the 21st century.
- To strengthen the transformative powers of shamanism for the sake of social evolution and change.

## Hmong Shamans to Participate in 2010 Conference

At the beginning of February the Conference Team visited with Hmong Shamans (Txiv Neeb) at the Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition in Merced. This unique and exemplary project supports the presence of shamans in hospitals and allows them to conduct nine of their



rituals without any question. Marilyn Mochel, the clinical director of the project, graciously welcomed us to a two hour conversation with shamans and medical staff. 89 sha-

mans so far have been oriented to the western medical system and over 300 members of the medical staff have taken training in cross-cultural issues that impact the Hmong community. This significant project has encouraged Hmong shamans to serve their community with less secrecy as their shamanic approach is recognized as helpful for the patients' healing process in the hospital setting. Dr. Jim McDiarmid also attended the meeting and mentioned one of the extraordinary healings that had occurred as a consequence of the involvement of shamans. We invited him to present at our conference. The shamans Ye Her and Kong Pheng Lee, together with their spouses, agreed to participate in our conference, as did Marilyn Mochel.



### Healthy House Merced

It was apparent in our conversation that the need to document incidents of apparent shamanic healing is great and it will be one of the topics of this year's conference (inviting all participants to share and document



their own experiences). The conversation was conducted via two wonderful interpreters, Palee Moua and Changvang Her. The necklaces worn by the Hmong are Hui-chol necklaces given by the Team as gifts. Ms. Mochel will also look for funding to support the participation of additional shamans and staff members in our conference.

## Wisdom of the Dream

Mandaza Kademwa

In Africa, particularly at my healing center, with my family, each day begins by listening to a message from spirit through dream on how the day is going to be conducted. We are told exactly what is going to happen the whole day and we follow that dream.

We know there are elders above us, the ancestors, who are the wise ones. Then they tell us how we

are going to spend the day wisely.

These dreams are given to children, little ones. Every morning we sit in a circle and listen to the dreams to find out exactly what is happening here today.

We are children of spirit, spirit is guiding us, and it is giving us warnings, guidelines, and other useful information on how human beings should take care of themselves.

We don't see beauty in each other. We don't see the beauty in the peoples of Iraq for example.

## 2010 Conference Theme: Wisdom of our Ancestors Bridge to the Future

\* How does ancestral knowledge and contact with ancestors guide our healing work for the future?

\* What healing do our ancestors need?

\* What are challenges and pitfalls of conducting ancestor work?

\* What shadow work is needed to clear our connections with our own ancestors and the ancestors of

other traditions?

\* How can traditional practices be utilized as the bridge to a healthy future?

\* What research and documentation is helpful to understand present shamanic practices and their ancestral connections?

\* What contribution can shamanism make to cultural and earth healing? To modern life? To healing



Peoples in Palestine, peoples in Israel, we don't see the beauty the love that they have for all of us. We don't even see the beauty in mother earth, because our eyes are very limited, we don't see the oneness, in animals for example. Human beings wear masks, therefore the bear [of the dream] is removing the masks, so that we will begin to see the truth in everything.



the pathologies of modern life? To insure our future?

\* What are models to understand shamanism by both looking back toward our ancestors and forward to the future?

See [www.shamanismconference.org](http://www.shamanismconference.org) for registration details. Early bird registration ends June 30.