

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

POETRY AND THE AWAKENED HEART: *From the Mythical to the Mystical*

This exuberant inspiring workshop will deeply explore how poetry and the development of poetic imagination can help preserve the wild places, both without and within. Poetry can be a practice of attentiveness and deepened feeling; it can be a bridge creating intimacy, a way to speak to one's beloved; it can also preserve and express our neglected intuitive wisdom, thereby revitalizing the hearts of individuals and communities. Through sharing of poetry and stories, through writing and discussion, we will deepen our sense of how the awakened heart and word can transfigure awareness. Join us for a cutting edge exploration of the power of language to awaken, heal and transform.

Day Workshop: £20/£15, or £35/£25 for both days.

Evening Events: £7/£5, or £12/£8 for both events.

For further information,
and for registration forms:

Contact: Neill Walker,
njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk,

0131 331 4469

Friday, 13 April, 2007

9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Arrival and Registration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Intimate Distance: The Poetry of Longing and Ecstasy
with U.S. poet and performer Jennifer Ferraro

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Lunch

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Inner Forest/Outer Thunder: Poetry, Myth
and Wilderness with U.K. storyteller,
mythologist and wilderness guide Martin Shaw

7 p.m. – onwards
Wild Heart, Awakened Word:
A celebration of poetry, song and dance



Saturday, 14 April, 2007

9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Arrival and Registration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Poetry of Awareness: Haiku and Renga
with U.S. poet and musician Jay Leeming

1pm-2pm
Lunch

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Weaving the Strands of Wisdom:
A dialogue/conversation with Martin Shaw,
Jay Leeming and Jennifer Ferraro

7 p.m. – onwards
Roots and Wings: An evening
of old story, ritual and poetry



POETRY AND THE
AWAKENED HEART:
From the Mythical to the Mystical

A two-day workshop,
with associated evening events,
led by international poets,
artists and storytellers,
Jennifer Ferraro, Jay Leeming
and Martin Shaw.

Friday, 13 April and
Saturday, 14 April, 2007

Quaker Meeting House,
7 Victoria Terrace,
Edinburgh, Scotland

Organised by, and under the auspices of,
Edinburgh International Centre
for World Spiritualities, EICWS.

DAYTIME EVENTS

The Poetry of Awareness: Haiku and Renga with Jay Leeming

The poetry of China and Japan has much to teach us about the awareness we bring to our poems and to our daily lives. It also provides us with an intriguing alternative to our own tradition of poetic creation, being a practice rooted in observation and perception and not in direct emotional statement.



Jay Leeming is the author of Dynamite on a China Plate, a book of poems published by The Backwaters Press. Since 2004 he has been the co-director of Roots and Wings, a world music choir which he founded. His poems have appeared in a variety of magazines including Ploughshares, The Gettysburg Review, and Poetry East. He has been a featured reader and teacher at Butler University, the Omega Institute, Robert Bly's Great Mother Conference and the Woodstock Poetry Festival. He lives and teaches in Ithaca, New York, where he writes a monthly poetry column for the Ithaca Times.



Intimate Distance: The Poetry of Longing and Ecstasy with Jennifer Ferraro

Poetic language and utterance can often be a kind of bridge: between self and other, between Lover and Beloved, between the inner and outer worlds. In this workshop we will feast on the ecstatic, impassioned, tender-hearted words of poet-lovers from the Sufi tradition, the Bhakti and Tantric traditions of India, and poets of love both sensual and divine such as Neruda and Rilke. We will explore the burning point of intimacy sacred and personal to each one of us, allowing the texture, form, and voice of our central longing to inhabit our poems.



Jennifer Ferraro, MFA, is author/co-translator of Quarreling with God: Mystic Rebel Poems of the Dervishes of Turkey (White Cloud Press, 2006) and a book of illustrated poems, Divine Nostalgia. A poet, artist and performer, she teaches writing and speaks about poetry, creativity and soul. For five years she toured with a Turkish Sufi music ensemble performing percussion, poetry and devotional dance. She lives in Santa Fe in the USA.



Inner Forest/Outer Thunder: Poetry, Myth and Wilderness with Martin Shaw

Through the poetry of myth we find a mirror of our own need for vocation, challenge and the sensual in our lives. In this workshop we will explore the Bardic imagination, through stories from the Celtic fringes of Britain, specifically exploring the role of oratory as major component in initiatory process. Through sharing of stories, discussion and writing, we will attempt to clear a trail between the "forest" and the "village," both in our consciousness and in our use of language.



Martin Shaw is a wilderness Rites of Passage teacher, mythologist and award winning painter. He leads "Stalking the Rebel Soul" a year-long program exploring story, wild places and the poetic imagination. For a decade, Shaw has been leading individuals and groups, from at risk youth to corporate directors, through the initiatory process. Winner of the 2006 Robert Bly scholarship, he is directly involved with the use of poetry as a vehicle to what Gaelic mythology calls "The Otherworld," the edge of the human landscape. He is currently writing a book The Leopard is Made of Many Crow, an exploration of the relationship between wildness, culture and vocation. He lives in Dartmoor, Devon in the UK.



A Dialogue/Conversation with Martin Shaw, Jay Leeming and Jennifer Ferraro

In this final synthesizing workshop, we will consider the question: How can poetry and the poetic imagination heal, transform and awaken awareness individually and collectively? Presenters will discuss the question in light of their own work and personal lives, and invite participants to offer their insights and experience as well, weaving a rich tapestry of meaning and beauty from the workshop's offerings.

EVENING EVENTS

Friday, 13 April
7 p.m. – onwards

**Wild Heart,
Awakened Word:**

**A celebration of
poetry, song and dance**

This collaborative evening will include inspiring and soulful words shared and performed with music, hypnotic drum and lyrical dance in ways sure to enchant and inspire. This evening will expand the notion of poetry and spoken word to include the incantatory, ecstatic and profound. The program will be interspersed with stories from the Celtic lands that inflame the imagination, masterful ritualistic drumming with spoken word, Sufi poetry recited with Persian style dance, live music, the opportunity for audience participation and sharing, and a sampling of the poems and writings of presenters Martin Shaw, Jay Leeming and Jennifer Ferraro.

Saturday, 14 April
7 p.m. – onwards

**Roots and Wings:
An evening of old story,
ritual and poetry**

This evening will be a mesmerizing sharing of poetry, myth and stories from different cultures, particularly those that involve a shifting of perception as a doorway into the Otherworld. In the Bardic tradition, magic happened through the vehicle of the mouth. Together we will journey through village and forest, into the wild terrain of our yet un-lived vocations, through the power of oratory, myth and poetry. Martin Shaw will be our bard-in-residence for the evening, and will guide us through the intersecting paths of myth, ritual and wilderness initiatory process. Poems will be shared which spring from a deep intimacy with wilderness and the intuitive knowledge of the earth. With Jay Leeming and Jennifer Ferraro.