

# The Edinburgh International Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace Festival, MESP 2014



1/3-23/3 Main Events

16/5-30/5 Middle Eastern Film Festival

15/2-21/3 Partner Events

28/2-31/5 Exhibitions

13/4-30/11 Future Events

MESP 2014 Calendar				
Date	Time	Event	Format	Venue
<b>MESP 2014 MAIN EVENTS: SATURDAY 1 MARCH – SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2014</b>				
1/3	10am	Spiritual Dance and Movement	Workshop	Gillis Centre
1/3	7pm	Religion, Violence and Ecology	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
2/3	10am	A Sufi Perspective on Peace	Workshop	Gillis Centre
2/3	7pm	Conflict, the Arts and Therapy	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
8/3	10am	What is Spiritual Transformation?	Workshop	Augustine Church
8/3	7pm	Spirituality, Politics and Culture	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
9/3	3.30pm	Transforming Personal Experiences	Workshop	Augustine Church
9/3	7pm	Armed Conflict, Rape and Sexual Violence	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
15/3	10am	Mediation and Peacemaking	Workshop	Augustine Church
15/3	7pm	Cross-Cultural Leadership for Peace	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
16/3	9.30am	Mindful Peace Walk	Walk	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
16/3	3.30pm	Narrative Approach to Transformational Leadership	Workshop	Augustine Church
16/3	6.30pm	Awakening to Your True Self	Workshop	Augustine Church
20/3	7pm	Spirituality, Mental Health and Wellbeing	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
22-23/3	10am	Spiritual Practice of the Aramaic Jesus	2-Day Retreat	Gillis Centre
22/3	7pm	Inner Power, Transformation and Leadership	Talk/Forum	Augustine Church
22/3	6.30pm	Conversations about Counselling, Spirituality and Faith	Workshop	Augustine Church
<b>MESP 2014 MIDDLE EASTERN FILM FESTIVAL: Friday 16 May - Friday 30 May 2014</b>				
16/5-30/5	Middle Eastern Film Festival, Film, Filmhouse, and other cinemas across Scotland			
<b>MESP 2014 PARTNER EVENTS: Saturday 15 February – Friday 21 March 2014</b>				
15/2	7.30pm	The Queen Who Flew Through the Sky to Seek Her Beloved	Storytelling	Scottish Storytelling Centre
13/3	7pm	Voices from the Olive Trees	Storytelling	Scottish Storytelling Centre
21/3	7.30pm	Kingdom of Fire & Clay: Iran vs. Israel	Storytelling	Scottish Storytelling Centre

## MESP 2014 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Format	Venue
<b>MESP 2014 EXHIBITIONS: Friday 28 February - Saturday 31 May 2014</b>				
28/2-24/3		The Sacred Face	Exhibition	St John's Church Hall
28/2	6pm	Opening and Concert	Concert	St John's Church Hall
1/3	12pm	Public Discussion with Artists	Discussion	St John's Church Hall
11/5 - 31/5		'Haneen lil watten' - a yearning for my homeland	Exhibition	Filmhouse
<b>MESP 2014 FUTURE EVENTS</b>				
Organised by, or jointly by, the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996				
13/4	3.30pm	Girish Chant Workshop	Workshop	Augustine Church
13/4	7.30pm	Girish Kirtan	Kirtan	Augustine Church
26-27/4	10am	The Journey to Your True Self	2-Day Retreat	Stockbridge House
Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Visit to Edinburgh				
10-11/5	10am	Retreat in the City with Sr Ajahn Candasiri	2-Day Retreat	Gillis Centre
7/6	1pm	Findhorn Eight Hour Kirtan	Kirtan	Findhorn
23-29/6		Aisha Salem Visit to Edinburgh	Satsang/Retreat	Augustine Church
20-21/9		Murshid Saul Barodofsky Visit to Fife	2-Day Retreat	The Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy
27-28/9	10am	Sound Voice and Soul Communication	2-Day Workshop	Gillis Centre
4/10	6pm	Dances of Universal Peace	Workshop	Augustine Church
10/10	7pm	Sufi Kirtan	Kirtan	Augustine Church
11-12/10	10am	Sufi Music and the Mysticism of Sound	2-Day Retreat	Stockbridge House
11/10	7.30pm	Sufi Zikr and Storytelling	Zikr	Stockbridge House
18/10	1pm	Edinburgh Eight Hour Kirtan	Kirtan	Augustine Church
Brenda Carter Blessings Visit to Edinburgh				
1/11	2pm	Education with Head, Heart and Hands	Workshop	Augustine Church
1/11	7pm	An Evening with Satish Kumar	Talk/Discussion	Augustine Church
8/11	10am	Rabindranath Tagore's Spirituality	Conference	Augustine Church
22-30/11		David Brazier Visit to Edinburgh	Workshop/Retreat	Stockbridge House/Gillis Centre

# The 2014 Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

## Saturday 1 March - Sunday 23 March 2014

### Festival Introduction and Welcome

From Saturday 1 March – Sunday 23 March 2014 the 11th Annual Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP 2014, will bring together people from a wide range of spiritual backgrounds, people working with peace, conflict, reconciliation and justice, educators, teachers, scholars and students, people from artistic and cultural backgrounds, people working with health, wellbeing and healing experiences and concerns, people from diverse cultures, traditions and communities, and people from across Scotland and internationally. More generally, everyone participates in an individual and non-representative capacity, to allow people to draw upon their own experiences and to share their unique visions and perspectives, and people of all backgrounds who respect the Festival ethos are warmly invited to participate in this spiritual, educational, artistic and cultural and international festival which celebrates peace and mutual understanding.



### 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 Directors

Neill Walker and Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz

# Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, MESP 2014, Sunday 23 March 2014



## Festival Contact Information

Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace,  
EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996,  
4 William Black Place, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9PZ.  
T: +44 (0) 131 331 4469, E: [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk),  
W: [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/eicsp](http://www.facebook.com/eicsp),  
and Twitter: [www.twitter.com/\\_EICSP](http://www.twitter.com/_EICSP)

## Festival Website: [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk)

Check the Festival website for any updates and changes to the advertised programme, for more detailed background information, for downloading workshop registration forms as well as the Festival Brochure and Poster, for online booking, and for the MESP email list sign up.

## Festival Event Booking

Online: [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk)  
Phone: +44 (0) 131 331 4469  
Email: [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk)

For more detailed descriptions of all events please check [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk)

## MESP 2014 MAIN EVENTS

**Saturday 1 March - Sunday 23 March 2014**

### Day Workshop: Health, Wellbeing, and Healing through Spiritual Dance and Movement



**Facilitators:** **Merav Israel** (The Feldenkrais Method: Awareness Through Movement); **Susan Scarth** (Inner/Outer); **Catherine Wright** (An introduction to the practice of Movement Medicine); and **Linda Wyman** (An Introduction to the Alexander Technique).

Join us for a joyful day of sharing spiritual dance and movement for health, wellbeing, healing and peace. We will all be together throughout the day, building community and celebrating diversity through spiritual dance and movement.

**Venue:** *Islay Room, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.*

**Date:** *Saturday 1 March 2014.*

**Time:** *Registration: 9.30am-10am. Day Workshop: 10am-5pm.*

**Cost:** *£25/£20 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

**Contact:** *Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

### The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Religion, Violence and Ecology

**Speaker:** **Prof Robert Segal** is Sixth Century Chair in Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen.

**Title:** The Myth of Gaia.

**Chair:** **Dr Louise S Milne**, School of Art, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh.

#### **Forum on Religion, Violence and Ecology.**

**Forum Panellists:** **Nancy Adams**, is a member of the Scottish Palestinian Forum and a student of Mediation and Conflict Resolution; **Brian Larkin**, Coordinator, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre; **Eurig Scandrett** is an educator and activist who, after an initial career as an environmental scientist, spent 15 years in community education and campaigning on environmental, peace, gender and trades union issues.



**Venue:** *Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

**Date:** *Saturday 1 March 2014*

**Time:** *Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.*

**Cost:** *£5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.*

**Contact:** *Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Day Workshop: A Sufi Perspective on Peace – Within and Without

**Facilitator: Alice Fateah Saunders**

Murshid Samuel L Lewis, Sufi mystic of the last century, was clear in stating that achieving peace between people is an active process rather than a passive acceptance. One might call it a “doing” rather than just “being”.

But what are the qualities needed in our own hearts that make us a peaceful person, capable of taking necessary action to achieve peace with others? How might we achieve those inner qualities?

The Dances of Universal Peace – as envisioned by Samuel Lewis - are one means by which some of those inner qualities can be awakened. During the day we will use many of these Dances, and also focus on other Sufi practices concerning breath, repetition of sacred words, the movement of our bodies in walking, and spend quiet time sitting in meditation. Readings from various Sufi mystics will accompany our journey.

**Fateah Alice Saunders** has been following a Sufi path for 20 years and previously trained for several years in psychotherapy and counseling skills. She leads Sufi sessions and Dances of Universal Peace in Edinburgh, further afield in Scotland and elsewhere.

The day will be supported with music from Gavin and Clare.

*Venue: Islay Room, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.*

*Date: Sunday 2 March 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Day Workshop: 10am-5pm.*

*Cost: £25/£20 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Conflict, the Arts and Therapy



**Speaker: Prof Nigel Osborne**, Former Reid Professor of Music and Co-Director of the Institute for Music in Human and Social Development (IMHSD), Music, University of Edinburgh.

**Chair: Dr Katie Overy**, Director, Institute for Music in Human and Social Development (IMHSD), Music, University of Edinburgh.

### **Forum on Conflict, the Arts and Therapy.**

*Forum Panellists:* **Hugh Donald** leads the work of Place for Hope, an ecumenical organisation offering the means of peace building and reconciliation to address conflict within churches and community.

Formerly a lawyer, Hugh is an experienced mediator, facilitator and coach; **Dr Amy Hardie**, Head of Research, Scottish Documentary Institute; **Samir Mehanovic** is a BAFTA award winning film director who has also directed for the BBC.

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Sunday 2 March 2014*

*Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.*

*Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Day Workshop: What is Spiritual Transformation?



**Facilitator: Sr. Fionntulach** belongs to the Céili Dé (The Servants or Spouses of God), a Celtic Christian spiritual Order based in Scotland. Since 2004 she has been Head of the Order.

In our day together, we will explore some of the ancient teachings, terms, and practices that give us a map, a compass and the means to begin

the walk towards our Spiritual True North which, paradoxically, has always been hidden in the very core of us.

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 8 March 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Day Workshop: 10am-5pm*

*Cost: £25/£20 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Spirituality, Politics and Culture



**Speaker: Donald Smith** is Director of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival, and a development worker for the traditional and community arts in Scotland.

**Title: Freedom and Faith.**

**Chair: Lari Don** is a children's writer, storyteller and occasional political activist,

who is passionate about the power of stories and hopeful about the future of Scotland. [www.laridon.co.uk](http://www.laridon.co.uk)

### **Forum on Spirituality, Politics and Culture.**

*Forum Panellists: Dr Mairi McFadyen, Teaching and Research, Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies, the University of Edinburgh; Leena Nammani, is a Palestinian artist living in Scotland; Eleanor Yule, filmmaker.*

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 8 March 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.*

*Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Afternoon Workshop: Heroic Journey: Transforming Personal Experiences



**Facilitator:** Dr Michael Williams is a professional storyteller, story coach and mentor and a narrative consultant.

This workshop invites you to explore a personal experience and transform it into a compelling story using a mythical framework and some basic storytelling skills and techniques. No previous experience of storytelling necessary. Simply bring an open mind, open heart and a willingness to enjoy yourself and others.

*Venue:* Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

*Date:* Sunday 9 March 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 3.15pm-3.30pm. Afternoon Workshop: 3.30pm-6pm.

*Cost:* £8/£7 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Armed Conflict, Rape and Sexual Violence



**Speaker:** Dr Lesley Orr, feminist historian, theologian, writer and activist.

**Title:** Waging A War Against Women? - Armed Conflict, Rape and Sexual Violence.

**Chair:** Lynn Jamieson is a Co-Director of the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships [www.cfr.ac.uk](http://www.cfr.ac.uk) and a Professor in Sociology at the University of Edinburgh. She has had a long interest in gender and violence. Her portfolio of research includes studies of rape and sexual assault trials in Scotland.

### **Forum on Armed Conflict, Rape and Sexual Violence.**

*Forum Panellists:* Cath Campbell, Rape Crisis Scotland; Lily Greenan, the Director of Scottish Women's Aid; A refugee woman from Refugee Women's Strategy Group.

*Venue:* Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

*Date:* Sunday 9 March 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.

*Cost:* £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## Day Workshop: Mediation and Peacemaking



*Facilitator:* Charlie Irvine, course leader on Strathclyde Law School's MSc in Mediation and Conflict Resolution. The workshop will provide an overview of mediation's key features, including:

- **Understanding conflict**
- Our own “conflict style”
- **Effective communication**
- **Negotiation**
- **Problem-solving**

Participants will learn what mediators do, and have the opportunity to consider applying these approaches in their own situations. Mediation is a practical activity, best learned by doing, and so the day is built around skills practice and discussion.

*Venue:* Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

*Date:* Saturday 15 March 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 9.30am-10am. Day Workshop: 10am-5pm

*Cost:* £25/£20 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Positive Spirituality, Creative Inspiration, and Cross-Cultural Leadership for Peace



*Speaker:* Dr Fahri Karakas is a London-based Lecturer in Business and Leadership at University of East Anglia.

*Title:* Bridging East and West: The Role of Positive Spirituality, Creative Inspiration, and Cross-Cultural Leadership for Peace.

*Chair:* David Lorimer, Programme Director, the Scientific and Medical Network.

### **Forum on Positive Spirituality, Creative Inspiration, and Cross-Cultural Leadership for Peace.**

*Forum Panellists:* Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz; Rev Ali Newell, Associate Chaplain, University of Edinburgh; Prof Dabir Tehrani, Honorary Professor at Heriot-Watt University since April 1984.

*Venue:* Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

*Date:* Saturday 15 March 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.

*Cost:* £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## Mindful Peace Walk



(Introduction to mindful walking at 9.45am and walk begins at 10am).  
No access from East Gate.

*Venue: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.*

*Date: Sunday 16 March 2014.*

*Time: 9.30am-11am, meet at West Gate entrance to the John Hope Gateway, Arboretum Place, at 9.30am Cost: Admission Free.*

*Just come along on the day.*

*For further information:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Afternoon Workshop: Narrative Approach to Transformational Leadership



*Facilitator: Dr Michael Williams* is a professional storyteller, story coach and mentor and a narrative consultant.

Using basic storytelling techniques, mythical thinking, and active dialogue, participants will have an opportunity to improve their communication skills, bolster their confidence, and deepen their understanding of their leadership qualities. Be the leader you want to be. Take control of your story and inspire others.

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Sunday 16 March 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 3.15pm-3.30pm. Afternoon Workshop: 3.30pm-6pm.*

*Cost: £8/£7 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Evening Workshop: Awakening to Your True Self



**Facilitators:** Sharadha Bain is a spiritual healer, and Ian Bain has served on the teaching faculty for the four-year training in Nondual Kabbalistic Healing with A Society of Souls.

Do you long for personal healing and spiritual healing? Discover how the luminous path of Nondual Kabbalistic Healing can take you further on your journey towards enlightenment, towards your true Self.

**Venue:** Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

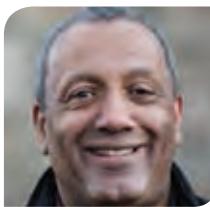
**Date:** Sunday 16 March 2014.

**Time:** Registration: 6pm-6.30pm. Workshop: 6.30pm-9.30pm.

**Cost:** £10/£8 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

**Contact:** Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Spirituality, Mental Health and Wellbeing



**Speaker:** Rev Prof John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, King's College, University of Aberdeen.

**Title:** Is spirituality good for your well-being?: A reflection on the role of "spirituality" in the practices of health care.

**Chair:** Steve Tilley. From 1993 Dr Stephen Tilley taught Nursing students at the University of Edinburgh to look critically at the evolving discourses on spirituality and health care. Having personal and professional interests in spirituality and mental health, he watches with interest the gathering of spirituality, recovery and well-being round common themes of 'meaning, purpose and fulfilment.'

### **Forum on Spirituality, Mental Health and Wellbeing.**

**Forum Panellists:** Edie Irwin, Tara Rokpa Therapist; Jim Pym is a Quaker, with strong links to Buddhism and Advaita; Dr Brion Sweeney is a Tara Rokpa Therapist and Trainer who has been working with Tara Rokpa Therapy for over 30 years.

**Venue:** Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

**Date:** Thursday 20 March 2014.

**Time:** Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.

**Cost:** £5/£3 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

**Contact:** Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## 2-Day Retreat: The Resurrection of Life: Teachings and Spiritual Practice of the Aramaic Jesus



*Facilitator:* Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz directs the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning ([www.eial.org](http://www.eial.org)) in Edinburgh.

During this two-day retreat, we will use teachings and practices suggested by the words of Jesus in his native Aramaic language to deepen us in our own sense of resurrection and renewal. Resurrection can occur whenever we forget the small self, allowing it to dissolve “like the dew drop into the shiny sea.” Opening to the divine we can then allow ourselves to become channels for blessing and healing. This was the practice of Yeshua, whose spirituality we will explore through a mixture of teaching, silent meditation, walking meditation, chant and sacred movement.

The main thread will be the prayer of Yeshua (the “Lord’s Prayer”), which we will meditate with, chant and use in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace. The background for this is in my first book *Prayers of the Cosmos* (HarperCollins 1990). In addition, I will draw teachings and spiritual practice from my later work on Jesus’s teachings, as found in *Blessings of the Cosmos* and *I Am: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus*. I will also share some of my recent unpublished work-in-progress on the Jesus traditions in early Islam.

*Venue:* Skye Room, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

*Dates:* Saturday 22 March - Sunday 23 March 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 9.30am-10am. Retreat Days: 10am-5pm.

*Cost:* £125/£100 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

*Contact:* Alice Fateah Saunders,

[alicefateah@btinternet.com](mailto:alicefateah@btinternet.com), +44 (0)131 664 6206.

## The 2014 Middle East Festival Forum on Inner Power, Transformation and Leadership

**Speaker:** **Scilla Elworthy** Ph D, founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982.

**Title:** What is Inner Power, and how do we use it?

**Chair:** **Brian Smith**, former Bishop of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church..

### Forum on Inner Power, Transformation and Leadership.



*Forum Panellists:* **Dr Thomas Clough Daffern**, Director, International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy; **John Drummond**, managing director of Integrity Works and a Principal of Integrity Works Inc, three years ago he co-founded the Constitutional Commission with Canon Kenyon Wright; **Professor Bashabi Fraser** MA PhD, Joint Director, Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs).

**Venue:** *Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

**Date:** Saturday 22 March 2014.

**Time:** Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Discussion/Forum: 7pm-9pm.

**Cost:** £6/£4 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

**Contact:** Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## Evening Workshop: Conversations about Counselling, Spirituality and Faith



**Facilitator:** **Alette Willis**, PhD, is a researcher in Counselling and Psychotherapy at the University of Edinburgh.

Join Alette to explore your own story of counselling, psychotherapy, religion and spirituality in relation to oral history material from people key to the history of this field in Scotland, as well as in

relation to contemporary practitioners from a range of backgrounds. Discuss what it means to be a counsellor with a strong faith or spirituality in Scotland today. We will work creatively and respectfully using readers' theatre, reflective journaling, open discussion and found poetry techniques.

**Venue:** *Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

**Date:** Sunday 23 March 2014.

**Time:** Registration: 6pm-6.30pm. Workshop: 6.30pm-9.30pm.

**Cost:** £10/£8 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

**Contact:** Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## MESP 2014 Middle Eastern Film Festival

Friday 16 May - Friday 30 May 2014

### Middle Eastern Film Festival: Postcolonial Struggles: Cinema from the Maghreb

*Organisers and Partners:* A partnership between The Middle East Festival, MESP, and the Filmhouse, supported by the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Iranian Festival, Screen Academy Scotland, Scottish Documentary Institute, Goethe-Institut Glasgow, Institut Français d'Ecosse, North Edinburgh Arts, Africa in Motion, the Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh, among others. Partner cinemas: Filmhouse, Glasgow Film Theatre, DCA, Eden Court, Robert Burns Film Theatre, Bo'ness Hippodrome, and North Edinburgh Arts. This festival is organised and directed by **Neill Walker** (on behalf of MESP), with programme curation by **James McKenzie** and **Stefanie Van De Peer**, in association with Neill Walker and the Filmhouse, and is managed by Neill Walker (on behalf of the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996).

*Lead Venue:* Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh. EH3 9BZ.

*Contact and Booking:* 0131 228 2688, [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)

*Full details on:* [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk)

## MESP 2014 Partner Events

Saturday 15 February - Friday 21 March 2014

### Storytelling: The Queen Who Flew Through the Sky to Seek Her Beloved

“Once there were two lovers whose great love for each other endured through lifetime after lifetime...” So begins the tale of Queen Chudala and King Sikkhivaja in one of Hinduism’s most esoteric texts. Their love burns bright through partings and reunions, twists and turns replete with yogic miracles and mystical teachings. Storyteller **Sharadha Bain** takes us on a journey to ancient India for this epic romance. Adults.



*Venue:* Scottish Storytelling Centre,  
43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR.

*Date:* Saturday 15 February 2014.

*Time:* 7.30pm (1hr).

*Cost:* £6/£4 (Concession).

*Contact:* [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org) and 0131 556 9579.



## Storytelling: Café Voices: Voices from the Olive Trees



Jan Sutch Pickard draws on encounters as an Ecumenical Accompanier/Peace Observer and experiences of planting saplings and harvesting olives in the West Bank, alongside Palestinian families and Israeli peace activists. Come and share a story or just listen and enjoy. 14+

*Venue: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR.*

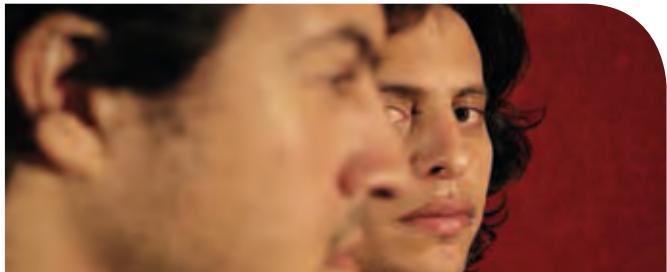
*Date: Thursday 13 March 2014.*

*Time: 7pm (2 hrs).*

*Cost: £5.*

*Contact: [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org) and 0131 556 9579.*

## Storytelling: Kingdom of Fire & Clay: Iran vs. Israel



Two young artists meet; one an Israeli, the other an Iranian. Sworn enemies, or possible best friends? After performing two separate but highly successful shows at the International Storytelling Festival Amsterdam, they decide to combine forces and make a show that dives into their pasts, their cultures and the source of their countries' enmity. Kingdom of Fire and Clay combines classical Jewish and Iranian tales, as well as the personal stories of storytellers **Raphael Rodan** and **Sahand Sahebdivani**. Words are mixed with music; friction with moments of intimacy. 16+

*Venue: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR.*

*Date: Friday 21 March 2014.*

*Time: 7.30pm (1hr 15 mins).*

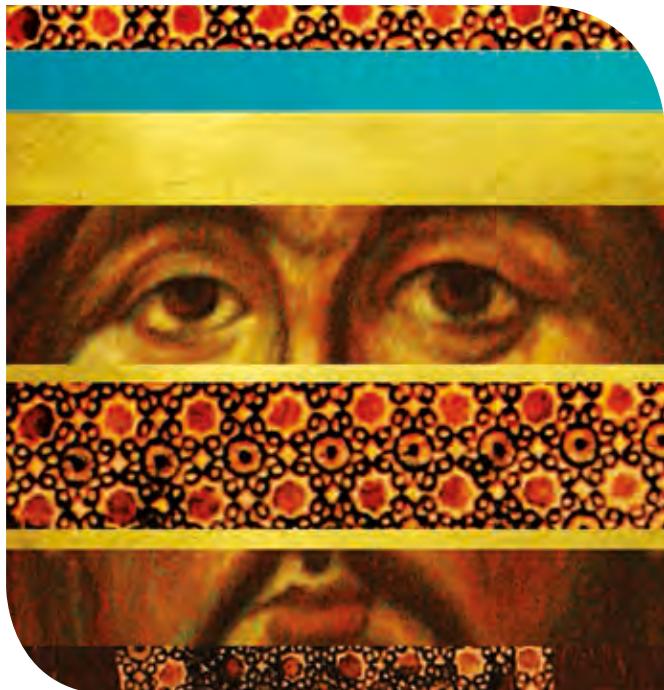
*Cost: £10/£8 (Concession).*

*Contact: [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org) and 0131 556 9579.*

## MESP 2014 Exhibitions

Friday 28 February - Saturday 31 May 2014

### Exhibition: The Sacred Face



This exhibition features the work of five artists mostly based in Edinburgh: Basia Mindewicz, Monika Walendziak, Marta Kamila Pawelek, Andrew Paterson and Rafal Urbaniak.

Opening with Concert: Friday 28 February 2014, 6pm: Toczka, a trio (Monika Niemczynowicz, Anna Pietrzkiewicz-Read and Anna Rogus) working within the vast vocal traditions of Ukraine, Poland, and Russia. Edinburgh Georgian Singing Group, led by David Tugwell. The group aspires to follow Frank Kane's approach of focusing on vibration in the body as the path to finding the authentic voice within ourselves and to connecting with other singers.

The artists taking part in the exhibition will lead a public discussion on the subject of how we may find 'ways in' to spiritual realities through visual art, both as makers and viewers. Saturday 1 March 2014, 12pm-1.30pm.

*Venue: St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ.*

*Dates: Friday 28 February - Monday 24 March 2014.*

*Times: Monday to Friday: 8am-4.45pm.*

*Saturday: 8am-12.30pm.*

*Sunday: 8am-7pm. Closed between 2pm and 5pm.*

*Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Photography Exhibition: 'Haneen lil watten' - a yearning for my homeland.

'Haneen lil watten' (a yearning for my homeland) is a series of photographic portraits resulting from the photographer's encounters with various Palestinian people living in Scotland. Using 'home' as



a central theme, a fluid and diverse concept to people of Palestinian descent, each sitter is viewed in a moment of contemplation as they think of 'home'. 'Haneen lil watten' has been, for the photographer, a personal exploration of the issue of Palestine, now shared with a wider audience.

Venue: Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh. EH3 9BZ.

Dates: Sunday 11 May - Saturday 31 May 2014.

Time: During Filmhouse opening hours.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.

Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## MESP 2014 Future Events

Organised by, or jointly by, the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996

For more detailed descriptions of all events and for new events please check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org)

### Girish Chant Workshop and Girish Kirtan

Facilitator: Girish.

**Girish Kirtan:** Girish, an accomplished musician of many genres, sings traditional Sanskrit mantras with a modern, funky, yet deeply devotional twist. Accompanied by his amazing band, Girish invites his audience to participate by singing along and dancing.

**Girish Chant Workshop:** Girish's chanting immersion is for anyone seeking to bring the bliss of Sanskrit chanting into daily life or to deepen an existing practice. No previous experience necessary!

Girish is currently on tour to support his new album (Mondolaya, December 2013) His widely acclaimed seven previous releases and tours popularized his original music in yoga studios, churches, and music festivals worldwide. [www.girishmusic.com](http://www.girishmusic.com)

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Sunday 13 April 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 3pm-3.30pm.*

**Girish Chant Workshop:** 3.30pm-5.30pm.

*Registration: 7pm-7.30pm.*

**Girish Kirtan:** 7.30pm-9.30pm.

*Cost: £12/£10 (Concession) for each of the Workshop and the Kirtan, £24/£20 (Concession) for both.*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Visit to Edinburgh, Scotland

*For finalised details check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org) or:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## 2-Day Retreat: Retreat in the City - conducted by Sr Ajahn Candasiri, a Theravada Buddhist nun

*Facilitator: Sister Ajahn Candasiri, has been active in the evolving community of nuns at Chithurst Monastery, Amaravati Monastery and, more recently, at Milntuim Hermitage in Perthshire.*

This weekend will be an opportunity to practise ancient methods for settling the mind that were prescribed by the Buddha over 2,500 years ago. It is open to people of any faith, or none. In addition to settling the mind, there will also be time and encouragement to consider deeply our human predicament. Such pondering can enable the arising of insight that will help us to maintain a sense of inner tranquillity and balance after the retreat in surroundings that may not always be as tranquil and balanced as we would prefer. Attendance for the whole weekend is strongly recommended.

*Venue: Skye Room, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.*

*Dates: Saturday 10 May - Sunday 11 May 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Retreat Days: 10am-5pm.*

*Cost: £50/£40 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## Findhorn Eight Hour Kirtan - Non-stop enchanting mantra music experience

*Organisers:* Jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and ISKCON Scotland, Scottish Charity, SC001127.

*Venue:* Universal Hall, The Park, Findhorn, Forres, IV36 3TZ.

*Date:* Saturday 7 June 2014.

*Time:* 1pm-9pm.

*Cost:* Admission: £5 suggested donation. Everyone Welcome.

*Contact:* scotlandkirtan@facebook.com, 07726688778.

## Aisha Salem Visit to Edinburgh, Scotland, 23-29 June 2014

For finalised details check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org) or:

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## Murshid Saul Barodofsky Visit to Fife, Scotland, 20-21 September 2014

For finalised details check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org) or:

*Contact:* Neil and Natalia, [info@eial.org](mailto:info@eial.org)

## 2-Day Workshop: Sound Voice and Soul Communication: Journey to the Heart of your Voice



*Facilitator:* **Chloe Goodchild.**

Sound visionary and voice pioneer **Chloe Goodchild**, will introduce you to simple user-friendly and life-changing ways to connect with the authentic voice of your soul. Meditative, spontaneous, and structured vocal practices invite a depth of self-inquiry and deep listening in a safe and supportive context. You will soon find yourself expressing yourself and more important, hearing yourself and others in ways you never imagined possible. You will explore your true voice as:

- a metaphor for life – a way to live in harmony with yourself;
- a musicianship of love – an opportunity to explore the full expression of your heart;
- a metaphysics of being – a gateway into the spirit of interconnectedness.

*Venue:* Skye Room, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

*Dates:* Saturday 27 - Sunday 28 September 2014.

*Time:* Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop Days: 10am-5pm.

*Cost:* £100. For a Registration Form:

*Contact:* Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.

## Evening Workshop: Dances of Universal Peace

**Facilitator:** Dominic Ashmole, has been leading Dances of Universal Peace since 2007.



The Dances of Universal Peace are a powerful group spiritual practice originating in Sufism. We sing or chant sacred phrases while dancing in a circle. By opening our voices and hearts, dancing together and honouring sacred traditions of many different peoples and times, we may experience feelings of connectedness, joy, playfulness, healing and strength.

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 4 October 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 5.30am-6pm. Evening Workshop: 6pm-9pm.*

*Cost: £10/£8 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.*

## Sufi Kirtan and 2-Day Retreat: Harmony: Hearing the Symphony of Life: Sufi Music and the Mysticism of Sound

**Organisers:** Jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL.

**Facilitators:** Philip Tansen O'Donohoe and Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz.

The weekend will begin with a Friday evening of "Sufi Kirtan," which uses traditional forms of music in new melodic and rhythmic ways. The intention remains, as it did for our Sufi ancestors, to open ourselves to the deepest connection with the divine Beloved. The evening is open to all.

This weekend workshop will continue to explore the ancient methods Sufis have used to experience music as a spiritual practice and prayer. In this way, 'one becomes an hollow reed,' as Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi recommends. At the same time, we will explore and experience new Western styles of Sufi music, linked to group movement and prayer, chanting, poetry, meditation, Dances of Universal Peace and storytelling. Saturday evening, Tansen and Saadi will guide workshop participants in an extended experience of Sufi zikr, using movement and music in various forms.

*Venue: Friday 10 October 2014: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 October 2014: Stockbridge House, 2 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB.*

*Dates: 10-12 October 2014.*

*Times: Friday 10 October: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm.*

*Kirtan: 7pm-9.30pm.*

*Time: Saturday 11 October: Registration: 9.30am-10am.*

*Retreat: 10am-5pm.*

*Saturday 11 October: Retreat Evening of Sufi Zikr and Storytelling: 7.30pm-9.30pm.*

*Sunday 12 October: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Retreat: 10am-5pm.  
Cost: Friday Evening Sufi Kirtan: £10 (This evening is open to all).  
Saturday and Sunday: £140/£110 (Concessions).  
For a Registration Form:  
Contact: Fateah, [alicefateah@btinternet.com](mailto:alicefateah@btinternet.com), +44 (0)131 664 6206.*

## **Edinburgh Eight Hour Kirtan - Non-stop enchanting mantra music experience**

*Organisers: Jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and ISKCON Scotland, Scottish Charity, SC001127.*

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 18 October 2014.*

*Time: 1pm-9pm.*

*Cost: Admission: £5 suggested donation. Everyone Welcome.*

*Contact: [scotlandkirtan@facebook.com](mailto:scotlandkirtan@facebook.com), 07726688778.*

## **Brenda Carter Blessings Visit to Edinburgh, Scotland**

*For finalised details check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org) or:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## **Afternoon Workshop: Education with Head, Heart and Hands**

*Facilitator: **Satish Kumar**, Editor of Resurgence Magazine.*

*Our current educational system serves the interest of the economy rather than the individual but we need an education which places equal importance to head, heart, hands and homes. Of course we need to learn to think and use our brains but we also need to develop our intuition, our imagination and our heart qualities.*

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 1 November 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 1.30pm-2pm. Half Day Workshop: 2pm-5.30pm.*

*Cost: £30/£25 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## **An Evening with Satish Kumar**

*Speaker: **Satish Kumar**, Editor of Resurgence Magazine.*

*Title: Soil, Soul, Society.*

*The future wellbeing of humanity and the earth is dependant on a new world view in which the care of the planet, nourishment of the soul and the nurturing of the human community are integrated and seen as a continuum. As the trinity of *égalité*, *liberté* and *fraternité*, we need a new trinity for the age of ecology which has wholeness, integrity and cohesion. I propose the trinity of soil, soul and society. Our reverence for the earth, our care of the soul and a just order in society represent a vision of sustainability, spirituality and justice. After the talk there will be questions and discussion and a book signing.*

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 1 November 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Event: 7pm-approx 9pm.*

*Cost: £10/£8 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## **Day Conference: Rabindranath Tagore's Spirituality: Artistic, Educational and Political Expressions**

*Organisers:* Jointly organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996, and the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs).

The conference themes will include the following:

1. the formation of Tagore's spirituality and the evidence of it in his artistic endeavours.
2. the contribution of Tagore's spirituality to his action at home and in the world and to his outlook on world affairs.
- 2.1. evidence of Tagore's spirituality in his international contacts, his ideas on politics and the nation and nationalism and a consideration of how his spirituality may have been affected by, or changed by, his action in the world.
- 2.2. the contemporary relevance of Tagore and of his spirituality.
3. evidence of Tagore's spirituality in his educational and socio-cultural endeavours.
4. evidence of Tagore's spirituality in his dialogues with Gandhi

and other political and spiritual leaders of his time.

5. linking the themes raised to Scotland - to Scots that Tagore had contact with, and to Scotland today.

*Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.*

*Date: Saturday 8 November 2014.*

*Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Day Conference: 10am-5pm.*

*Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Evening Event: 7pm-9pm.*

*Cost: Day Conference: £25/£20 (Concessions)/£10 (Students).*

*Evening Event: £10/£8 (Concessions)/£5 (Students).*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## **David Brazier Visit to Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-30 November 2014**

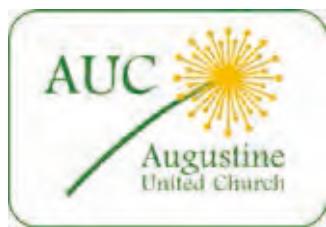
*For finalised details check [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org) or:*

*Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.*

## **The 2015 Middle East Festival**

The 2015 Middle East Festival will be held in February/March 2015, including the Middle Eastern Film Festival. Those who would like to consider becoming involved can contact:

Neill Walker, [mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mesp2014@hotmail.co.uk), 0131 331 4469.



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