

Eagle Notes – Vol. 9 (March – September 2007)

NOTE: The following experiences and insights come from Jeanne and John's journey over the past seven months. Many of you have been with us at the FTODs as dancers, serving on the crew, or coordinating our travels and local events. There are not enough words in any language to express our gratitude to each of you. We wish we could mention all of your names in the Newsletter but it would make the length prohibitively long. Instead, only the highlights are being noted, and hopefully in a way as to give the reader some sense of the magic and inspiration that has resulted from these months of travel. Those of you who have been the wind beneath our wings know who you are. Our hope is to inspire you to continue on your own journey, so that together we might make a difference. As Jeanne says,

“Maybe it isn't about the Dance at all.

Maybe it's about how we treat each other as we create the experience.

If we treat each other in a good way,

the only reason to dance then becomes celebration.”

We do this together, and we couldn't do it without you. Enjoy!

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REFLECTIONS: Changing Form

"The most permanent thing there is is change."

"Pity the man who gets stuck in form."

"Roll with the tide."

We learned a long time ago to let go and let Life move and guide us. We both have learned that our primary responsibility is to keep "showing up and saying yes," as our friend, Beautiful Painted Arrow has said so many times. In doing this, we've discovered the unlimitedness of potential and dreams.

As we have moved across our planet from place to place, we have witnessed and experienced depths of human despair in the same breath as the heights of genuine joy and love. This is especially true of recent months. Having had a rich and rejuvenating winter rest in the beauty of Cape Cod's magic, we moved forward with this year's adventures that held secrets that have changed our lives forever. Maybe this is what happens for all of us all the time.

Rather than "beginning at the beginning," we're going to jump into the middle of the circle and share from two of the most intense experiences of the year that happened very recently. One goes to the center of the soul's heart, and the other challenges any who might have difficulty with change. The first involves Bosnia. The second involves the new form and level of the "For the One" Dance that is now moving worldwide.

BOSNIA

"Everything is of one, undivided consciousness. Love one another."

Two years ago Sanja Grubišić came to us and suggested that it might be time to bring the "For the One" Dance into Bosnia. Sanja is from Croatia. One cannot be true to what happened in Bosnia during the recent war without taking into account the involvement of Croatia and the surrounding countries that had once been known as Yugoslavia.

After the FTOD in Norway, Andreas Clausen volunteered to drive us to Croatia. When we first arrived in Croatia, we were welcomed by an intense and extraordinary double rainbow that reached all the way from Rijeka to the island of Krk, our initial destination. Staying a few days on Krk with Sanja and her sister, Vanja, and their family, we traveled on to Bosnia to meet the people and experience the land where we had been invited to do the "For the One" Dance. A beautiful Serbian man, Dragan, had offered his land upon which to have the dance. We were full of anticipation, but nothing could have prepared us for what we saw and experienced.

Prior to the start of our trip, we learned that there had been three paramilitary terrorist groups during the war that moved through the countryside in Bosnia terrorizing and torturing the people. The most feared and powerful of these was named the "White Eagles!" It's no wonder that the hair on the back of our necks began to bristle when we learned this. Jeanne, who had dreams many years earlier that she would go to Bosnia, immediately gained some understanding of why she was being pulled into this part of the world. Some kind of healing was trying to take place. It was clear that we were being asked to stay aware and alert to see how all of this was going to unfold. Following are Jeanne's comments from her perspective:

"Bosnia ... There is no way to prepare someone for what we've seen and heard. I have been in a state of tears and deep emotional processing since entering this war-torn country. Granted, there were some amazing moments of joy and signs of magic and miracles - we were welcomed by a rainbow our first day in Bosnia, after being greeted by a double rainbow our first minutes into Croatia days earlier. The Bosnian concert we did in Visoko (near Sarajevo) was life-changing for some, the sharing afterward was heartbreaking, and the meeting of people, including young people, so full of hope after their having gone through Hell in the war that ended only 12 years ago.

Bosnia is so different from the Middle East war-zones. I'm not even sure I know why. That will come later, I guess. There's so much to share ... having stayed in Kozarac and meeting some of the survivors. Kozarac was a village of 28,000 in 1992 that was flattened to the ground after the Serbs grabbed and killed ALL men (Muslims) from the ages of 18-60 in mass murders. The Serbs also rounded up all the women and children and put them into concentration camps. Then they blew up and burned the town. We have met the people, and heard their stories that would simply break your heart again and again.

As it is, we will be doing the FTO Dance on land where ancient pyramids were found two years ago. These pyramids are some 20,000 years old. One is 30% larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. The dance ground is on the same land where 3 armies (Serbs, Croatians, and Muslims) met and battled it out, where mass graves have been found, and where there are still some landmines nearby. It truly is hard to describe what we've seen ... villages demolished (some rebuilding), 90% of present structures throughout the countryside (villages and cities) with mortar shell scars and bullet holes. And then, the eyes ... the eyes of the people, particularly the men, who seem lost somehow. Some of them have found their way back. But when you think that many of these people were attacked and tortured by their best and closest friends and neighbors, it is hard to make sense out of what happened here ... Serbs, Croats, and Muslims fighting each other with cruelty that defies the imagination. "Insanity" is the only word I've been able to find that even comes close to what happened here.

Everything is still so fragile. And so to bring the FTOD here is something we do with great respect and great sensitivity. They have asked for us to come and we have said yes. (In fact, one concentration camp survivor asked if the dance will also help to heal the land, a sign to us that she already understood the essence of this dance). John and I have talked at length. Whoever comes here on the crew is going to have to be clear and strong ... no ego stuff. Anyone coming for reasons of "saving the world," who themselves haven't cleared their own emotional baggage could cause serious damage to themselves and to the people here.

There's a lot to share here. Maybe it'll come out in our writings along the way.

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Water & the "For the One" Dance

"The old must pass away for the new to be born."

Since the beginning of the "For the One" Dance there has been a bowl of water that sits between the center pole of the dance arbor and the East Gate fire. For those who have not yet experienced a ceremonial dance, we simply ask you to use your imagination. Because this dance carries the message that "the time of separation is over" all aspects of the dance itself, including the structure within which it occurs, are a growing manifestation of that purpose. In the past years we have watched the role of the water as it has "assisted" the fire in helping the dancers to process and heal from age-old wounds and hurts.

In the dances in South Africa in 2006, Teresa Hutson, with the support of Dom DeBruin and others, the role of water reached yet another level as a new responsibility emerged ... that of the "water carrier," one who stays attentive to the needs of the dance and dancers, blessing and healing with water throughout a dance. This was brought full force into the Tennessee FTO Dance through two of the new Chiefs, Brett Almond and Cheryl Braswell.

But the power of the water has jumped to a new level. It happened at the Adult "For the One" Dance in North Carolina at Watersong Community (Caretakers: Cheryl Braswell and David Stephenson). We, ourselves, were the Chiefs of this particular dance.

The day before the dance, the State Fire Marshall put a statewide ban on open fires because of serious drought conditions (no rain for two months). Jeanne did a peace pipe ceremony asking for clarity in what Spirit wanted to happen in regard to the dance. She kept seeing water in the "fire-pit." In addition she also saw the people going into the nearby pond, stepping deep into the mud and being immersed into the water, releasing prayers and receiving a blessing ... all instead of a sweat lodge, which normally occurs prior to a dance.

This particular ceremony was, in fact, similar to an old Cherokee water ceremony, and also similar to other indigenous ceremonies done for centuries. While "seeing" this she also was being shown something new that was being born in that moment in regard to the dance changing form...

As it turned out the impact of the water was deep and profound. The only fire we had was the small flames of the 16 candles Jeanne was shown to put equidistant around the arbor (representing the 4 directions of the 4 directions). We connected the pole to the clay water bowl in the "pit" (holding more than 3 gallons of water) and the pond, with cornmeal (used for prayers and clearing) and more candles. Teresa Hutson, along with Judith Brooks, and Lance Davis were the "water keepers." They were amazing and were creating in the moment. At all times the water was moving and being rejuvenated. The result was that the dancers began processing right from the first dance in amazing ways with hearts opening everywhere. There were other things that happened as well. A blue heron (waterbird) flew directly over the arbor at the end of the pipe ceremony, and the Thunder Beings paid a visit at another point in the dance, answering our call to them.

One of the great gifts was the inner ear bone of a whale that had been gifted to Jeanne by our Sangoma friend, Dom. As Credo Mutwa calls Jeanne the whale (African astrological sign), she, with John (whom Credo calls the "double dolphin") used the whale bone to bless the people throughout the dance to give the water blessings.

It seems that the dance has reached yet another level.

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The above accounts describe the two most recent experiences of this year. What follows is a retrospective of other dances and ceremonies.

Tennessee FTOD

May 23-25, Center for Peace

"Large shifts begin with small changes..."

This was the first dance of the year. It was a "transition" dance. Brett Almond and Cheryl Braswell ("CB") were the Chiefs, and did a great job. Jeanne and John pulled back into the role of "teaching elders," something new for them - and not always comfortable. Even in the dances in Ireland and South Africa last year, when Jeanne was recovering from pancreatitis, others stepped into the role of Chief but John worked inside the arbor. This time, Jeanne and John sat in the elder's area and watched the crew go through their paces, offering only occasional advice during teaching moments between rounds. They've known that if the FTOD is going to continue to grow, they must give the dances away to

other Chiefs. Yet, stepping back is not always easy. So, it took two strong Chiefs to step up as Jeanne and John stepped back together for the first time.

There were ten dancers. Ten is the number where things come full circle to step up to the next level. Also, it was in the dance arbor at the Center for Peace (CFP) that Jeanne had the vision for the "For the One" Dance in September of 1996. The FTODs at the CFP have always been quite powerful. This one brought the dance to a new level.

Jeanne and John were very proud of Brett and CB as the Dance Chiefs, and reflected that they couldn't have picked a better pair of Chiefs to lead this first dance of 2007. Right out of the box, they made two innovations. The first was to add a new position of "Water-Carrier." Teresa Hutson stepped into this role as an extension of the sangoma initiation she received last year in South Africa. Brett and CB also honored a path for the unseen Spirit Dancers. Later in the dance, Walton Deva (Sun Father) would come in and dance for these unseen spirits. And, indeed, there were many spirits present.

Saturday evening both Brett and CB were exhausted, part of the experience of being a Chief of this dance. Yet, they also experienced the upside, the euphoria of a powerful dance that ended well. After the dance ended on Sunday with the feast, sharing, and give-away, Brett and CB were both on a high that carried them late into the night.

It was also gratifying that so many people came to the CFP from the Watersong Community in North Carolina (CB, Dobs, Judith, Teresa, Fernando, Lori and Walton, and Miriam). Marti, Robbie, Marie Claire, and Jamie also came up from Charlotte. Troy came in from Asheville. Others, like Glen Christman came in from other States, as well. The tapestry of love, support and connectedness that the FTOD weaves is one aspect of the dance that Jeanne and John feel best about.

One of our elders noted last year in South Africa that Thich Nhat Han, the Vietnamese Buddhist Monk living in France, says that the next incarnation of the Buddha will not be a single individual. It will be a community. The love and support shown to each other at the FTOD is an expression of this collective "Buddha" energy.

FTODs in Israel

For the One Youth Dance - April 26-28, Wadi Yanshuf

What can be said about this first Youth Dance is that it was successful although difficult in some aspects. First, no actual "youth" from ages 16-24 showed up to dance, though there were several *parent-child* combinations who came to serve as helpers (as drummers, arbor helpers, kitchen angels, etc). We did have 10 dancers, most of them ranging in age

from late 20s to early 30s. Two dancers were in their 40s (Tlalit and Shelley). One dancer was over 50 (Jeff Goldstein). So, these dancers "danced for the youth." And, at the same time we danced here in Israel, a group of teens in Germany were doing a "Long Dance," and were consciously making the connection between themselves and the Israelis.

At the beginning of the dance, there was a tremendous amount of low frequency energy to clear, maybe because of the war with Hezbollah last year. Two dancers wanted to leave the dance early. We managed to convince them to stay. One of the dancers was also filled with entities and elementals. Because of the heavy energy, it took until late the second day and early on the final day for the dancers to really "gel" as a connected group.

On the second day of the dance, six eagles circled high in the sky to the southwest. As the dancers danced and sang to the drum, the eagles circled over the arbor. At sunset on that day, there was a rainbow with a cloud formation on the leading edge shaped like an arrowhead. We thought of our friend, Joseph Rael, whose name in his language of Tiwa means "Beautiful Painted Arrow." The next day, during the close of the dance when the dancers burned their prayer ties, three eagles flew near the east gate and the dancers.

Dancers and crew had wonderful things to say in the sharing, including a couple of dancers who were convinced they weren't going to make it. This is always a sign of success. Hagit's daughter, Maureen, said, "I don't want to leave from this place!"

Jeanne and John were both very tired after the dance. They were glad that Rhonda Factor and Alex Racky were the Chiefs for the upcoming Adult FTOD dance.

Adult FTOD - May 3-5, Wadi Yanshuf near Rosh Pina

Rhonda Factor from Israel and Alexander Racky from Germany were the Chiefs of this dance. To have Israeli and German co-chiefs of this dance is, in itself, a very special thing, and an affirmation of the message of the FTOD ... that the "time of separation is over."

This was a very "busy" dance in terms of both the amount and the depth emotional processing that took place. At one or two points, there were 6-7 dancers down at once! It was a challenge, but Rhonda and Alexander did a great job as new Chiefs, and the crew rose to the occasion.

There was a lot of dark, heavy energy the first night of the dance - dragon and snake energy. Was it an out-picturing of the residue of the war with Hezbollah the previous fall? Whatever it was, there were physical manifestations of this energy that showed up in dramatic ways.

The second morning of the dance, Paul Barrett, our Navajo Drum Chief, brought a water glass over with a scorpion in it. The scorpion had attempted to crawl into the sweat lodge, and seemed connected with the energy of this dance. In fact, Dom described the dance as the "scorpion dance - everyone got stung in the butt." About 1:30A on the last morning, one of the Moon Mothers found a viper in the closet of the room where the Moon Mothers were sleeping. Paul again came to the rescue, caught the viper and released it outside. *[Insights on "scorpion" and "snake": Contrary to many teachings, these two creatures carry powerful and sacred energy. For instance, to the Maya of Central and South America, the snake is the messenger of God, as its belly is never separated from the earth and its back is always connected to the sky.]*

We also had our share of positive signs from the physical world. As in the dance a couple of years ago, two flocks of storks that were flying in wide spirals merged and became one over the arbor - at least 100 in total. The storks seemed to go with the "18" dancers. "18" is "Life" in the Hebrew tradition. In the Mayan tradition it is called "Qanil," the seed. Maybe this dance was planting new seeds for peace.

The Peace Conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Sinai, Egypt took place as the FTOD entered its second day. The conference was attended by Iraq, Iran, regional Arab governments, the US and various EU countries. We consciously made a connection between the dance and the conference, consciously radiating the energy of love and peace outward to the whole of the country, the Middle East region and the world. We wonder if it made any difference in the results at the Peace Conference...

After the dance ended, Rhonda and Alex received many compliments from the 18 dancers during the sharing circle. The very positive feedback that the new Chiefs got means that Jeanne and John were doing their job of teaching, but also melting into the background. Jeanne told someone after the dance, "If we are successful in making this a global dance, people will do it without remembering where the dance came from. They'll just do it because it works."

John is not so sure that people will forget Jeanne as the visionary. But, the time is coming when the new Chiefs will be teaching other new Chiefs who will be teaching other new Chiefs. So, these early dances are important.

FTOD in Germany

May 25-27, Grossropperhausen

Just before the FTOD in Germany, Jeanne had an insight about what is being created in the experience of bringing people together to dance and be on the crew. She said, "Maybe

it's not about the dance at all. Maybe it is really about how we, as a community, treat each other with love and understanding. Maybe it is about how we are able to take this feeling and sense of connection out into the world in our relationships with others. If we do this truly, maybe there will come a time when there is no need for any of the dances."

The night before the dance, all the dancers and crew gathered in a circle. Moshe, a beautiful man from Israel, together with Anael Harpaz, and assisted by Sammie Jo Harvey and Sonja Munz, did a Jewish ceremony with bread and wine. It was a blessing for all of us, a healing for many, and opened hearts - a good beginning for a powerful dance.

Start of the FTOD: Brett Almond (England) and Candy Barbee (U.S.), the Chiefs of this dance, did a superb job of stepping into leadership roles. Both Jeanne and John were proud of them. We had 20 dancers! There were people at the dance from 7 countries: Germany, Croatia, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, South Africa and the USA.

During the opening sweat lodge, the Thunder Beings came. It poured down rain. It brought a cleansing for the dance ... everyone got soaked. A second thunderstorm blew in as the dance started. It poured rain with lightning and thunder for about an hour and a half, and then quit. But that night, after the dancers and crew had gone to sleep for the night, the thunder, lightning and wind returned in a dramatic way. One of the dancers had to be moved, as a support brace above her head broke. Candy had gone to the arbor to help fix this space. Later, one of the dancers commented that Candy helped them to feel safe. It's one of her special talents.

Two years ago at the German FTOD, a dramatic healing took place when an Israeli Jewish dancer reached out to help a German dancer experience a profound healing. This year, there was again a healing between Jews and Germans, but this time it was the Germans reaching out to be the healers as all the other dancers surrounded them in a circle.

At one point, late in the second day, Candy and Brett did a ceremony during the dance to release earthbound spirits into the light through the portal at the top of the tree. It was also very powerful.

During the sharing after the dance was over, lots of WWII stuff came up around the holocaust, the impact of the war on Germans, the impact of the war on France and on England, too. Several people shared their experience of the war as it ripped through the families in vicious and torturous ways that only now are beginning to be addressed and healed. Candy also relived a past-life experience as a Nazi - something very strong for her since she was a Chief at this dance, giving orders again.

We had to cut the sharing circle short because work needed to be done to take down the arbor and kitchen. Some people were upset they didn't get to share. It gave Brett and

Candy a taste of having to make decisions that are in the highest overall good of the dance community even if it displeases others. It is something that the Chiefs have to do.

Families at the dance: Shania's father, Gunter, who was a drummer, told Jeanne with tears in his eyes just how special it was that his entire family was at the dance - his wife, Eva, (who danced), Shania (coordinator and drummer), Gudrun (his daughter and Shania's sister, who was a Dog Soldier) and, of course, his grandchildren Muriel and Noah - three generations! ♦ Verner also had his two sons at the dance: Frederick and David. ♦ Alexander's brother, Florian, stayed and was a Dog Soldier. ♦ Robert, one of the dancers, also had his wife, Grita, and his daughter at the dance. ♦ And Chief Brett had his father and brother at the dance.

Michael led a Sufi dance before dinner. It was a simple dance that put the words of a Muslim prayer to a simple melody: *Bismillah, al hamdullelah, la allah il allah: (In the name of God, the One, we give praise. There is no God but God).*

FTOD in Norway

June 29 - July 1 at Birgitta Tun near Tverdestrand

After two years of dancing in the mountains at Bergskog, the arbor was moved south to Solveig Smith's land called Birgitta Tun, not far from Tverdestrand in southern Norway. Birgita Tun is the name Solveig has given to her land. The word "tun" means land between communities, and the energy of Birgitta (or Brigid) is strong here.

We put up the arbor in the meadow below the house. The space was a little smaller than normal, and we had to "adjust" the directions based on the configuration of the space and where it was possible to put the east gate fire. *Note: The Norwegian Dance occurred before the changes with Water's role in the dance of taking on a new form and replacing the East Gate Fire, which was to occur some weeks later in North Carolina.* In reality, the "east gate" turned out to be almost exactly northeast - an acceleration point. We wondered what impact it would have on the dance...

After breakfast on the first day, we did the tree ceremony - cut the tree, carried it to the arbor as a group, singing all the way, and put it up in the center. Everything else fell into place. We started the crew sweat on time, as well as the dancer's sweat. It was one of the smoothest starts to a FTOD that we've had, partly because we had a great crew.

Actually, the slightly smaller arbor and different directional orientation seemed to have a positive effect! The energy came into the arbor almost with the first drumbeat, and the dance was off to a fast start. Dom, who danced instead of serving, was down in the first

dance and deep in his process. Later in the dance, we joked that we just "couldn't keep that boy on his feet!" He was constantly flying off in vision.

It rained, starting just before the sweat lodge and continued well after the dance ended for the night. Despite the wet weather, spirits were high. The Norwegians on the crew sang songs from Norway for over half an hour before dinner. It was a good group time.

The second day of the dance was also surprisingly powerful. John wondered if it had something to do with the different orientation of the arbor because we put the "east" gate in the northeast, on the acceleration point where winter changes to spring. It makes sense that this dance arbor would bring the energy of "change" into the arbor. John also wondered if the smaller, 16-meter arbor also had an effect, the smaller arbor compressing or intensifying the energy. There was another interesting energy effect. The north "shrine" was a *huge* natural stone that radiated energy. It seemed to have a strong effect on the dancers in the north (like Dom) who generally did more processing than the other dancers.

One young Norwegian man went through a very deep process. Jeanne worked with him in the arbor, initially. Then, John took him into the sweat lodge to pull out a deep childhood trauma. Finally, Sammie Jo came in and completed the process by loving him and talking to him in her "grandmother" voice.

When the Dance was over the third day, lots of new, first-time people left with big smiles and some excitement in their hearts. It was a good sign. From this experience came further invitations and contacts for dances in Russia, France, Taiwan and Japan.

FTOD Youth Dance - Graham, NC

August 3-5, Watersong Community

For years, prior to the dances, Jeanne and John worked closely with teenagers. When the "For the One" Dance began, one of Jeanne's dreams was to bring teens into the dance, eventually creating a "For the One" Youth Dance. It was *Tracey Turner-Keyser* and her husband, *Dave Keyser*, who became the catalysts for the first Youth FTOD. They work with highly abused kids, and they thought that the dance might help them. The FTOD has already proved to be a powerful way for these kids to accelerate their healing and make therapeutic breakthroughs.

This year, we did the third North Carolina Youth Dance, again with 11 of Tracey and Dave's kids, aged 11-16. Most come from broken homes. All of them have been highly abused in some way, either sexually, physically and/or mentally. A couple of them have special

problems, such as Tired's Syndrome, or Frederick's Ataxia (an aggressive form of multiple sclerosis). All of them came to dance by choice. They'd been working up to it all year. And, just the weekend before the dance, they did a "fire walk" - walking across a bed of hot coals without getting burned. Nobody who has ever done this will ever believe that they can't do miraculous things. In the case of these children and young teens, it prepared them for dancing in over 100°F weather (38°C).

It was a very hot dance. But these kids rose to the occasion.

It has been said many times. Children are the hope for the world. Looking back from the vantage point of being adults, we know that if we could have put down our emotional baggage when we were teens, we would have been able to live up to our potential more quickly. Well, if these abused teens can do it, anybody can. And, they are doing it!

NC Adult FTOD

August 27-29, Watersong

Using water instead of fire - the birth of something new! There were 18 dancers, and 38 on the crew. This FTOD was the birth of something new with the water energy. And, the impact of the energy on the dancers and crew was amazing. People may be talking about it for years. It happened in the way it did because we were told by the Sheriff, Fire Department and Forestry Service that we could not, under *any* circumstances, have an open fire. That meant *no* sweat lodges, and *no* ceremonial fire. So, we had to do the dance differently.

Knowing that a fire ban was a possibility, Jeanne had done a sacred Peace Pipe Ceremony on the day before the dance, and asked Spirit what to do. Dobs said that at the same time Jeanne was doing the pipe ceremony, he and Judith looked out their window. The air outside was shimmering. Dobs said to Judith, "Something's going on at Watersong. I'm going to go check it out!" He ran out to the car and drove to the Peace-Sound Chamber. Jeanne was just walking up from the pond. She'd just finished the pipe ceremony and was carrying the pipe in her hand. Dobs looked at her, grinned and said, "Well, that explains it."

It had been a powerful pipe ceremony. The answer Jeanne got to her prayer was to use water as the main energy for the FTOD and integrate the fire using glass-encased candles. So, the east gate "fire pit" became the altar for the water. A large clay bowl was placed on an even larger woven basket. The bowl was filled with water. The "water altar" was connected to the pond with a cornmeal line and a few candles. Sixteen candles were put around the arbor, four for each quadrant. The charcoal grill was brought down to the

sweat lodge fire pit and hot charcoal was used in the smudge buckets to ignite the sage and cedar, the smoke of which is used to clear and bless.

Before the dance, instead of the sweat lodge, the crew and dancers were taken to the pond so that they could immerse themselves in the water, and receive a blessing with the inner ear bone of the whale. The immersion was similar to an old Cherokee water ceremony. Each person was asked to bring something biodegradable representing an issue to be released into the water. Some people brought leaves, rocks, pinecones, small sticks or flowers to release. Some brought several things. Even so, the dunking did have kind of a baptismal feel to it. Watching the dancers and crew get dunked put a smile on Georgia Stone's face, our 95-year-old elder. She said it brought her back to her childhood and being baptized at the church.

The proof is in the pudding, in the results. Even a casual observer would have had to conclude that using the water was having a dramatic effect. The dancers began releasing right from the very start of the dance on Friday afternoon, as if the water was doing something special to open their hearts. Dave Keyser described it as the "Kentucky Derby of dances." The dancers were out of the gate like a shot, and the intense emotional processing continued right on up to the joy round on Sunday morning.

Teresa Hutson, Judith Brooks and Lance Davis worked with the water to keep it from being stagnant. They even worked in a sangoma way to put fire into the water to activate its power. They lit white sage and put it on the water like little burning rafts. They used rattles, and sprinkled water on the surface of the water in the bowl using cedar branches. At one point on Sunday morning, John turned and looked at them working with the water and was transported back centuries. He saw the two women as ancient priestesses working in a ceremonial way with the water and the goddess energy. Jeanne had a similar experience. ... *Maybe we are remembering something very old while birthing something very new.* ♦ Early Sunday morning, as if in confirmation of the power of the water, a blue heron (a water bird) flew directly over the center of the arbor.

Jeanne also did a "Thunder-calling" dance on Saturday afternoon under a clear sky. Indeed, it did cloud up for a period, and the Thunders came, announcing themselves quite forcefully.

It was a powerful dance and became the bridge between the original form of the FTOD and the new form that was beginning to take shape. The complete birth of the Water in the East Gate connected to Fire at the Sweatlodge, occurred days later in Ireland.

For the One Dance, Ireland: A New Form Comes to Life

September 21-23, Rathe House, County Meath

*" Those who say something can't be done,
shouldn't interfere in the process of someone who is actually doing it!"*

We had a big group. Like the adult dance at Watersong in North Carolina, there were 18 dancers (8 men, 10 women) and 38 people on the crew. It is a heartwarming turnout for Ireland with many new faces.

Steve and Nan City came from the U.S. to be the Chiefs for the dance. They left with a new extended family from nine different countries. Jeanne danced this FTOD, allowing her to be inside the birthing canal of the Dance's new form, trusting and knowing that Steve and Nan would do a magnificent job as Chiefs. And, they did. They led a very powerful dance that gave birth to a new form. Like throwing a pebble into a still pool of water, the ripples of this dance will extend outward and touch distant shores over the years to come.

When we set up the dance arbor and blessed the shrines, we called on the ancestors to come and bless us and be with us. But we also called upon all the beings of light from the future to guide us. Something new was born from this dance, as though our future guides heard us.

The dance started on the Mayan Day of "Iq," the energy of storms and fury, volcanoes and earthquakes. "Iq" is the energy that allows us to break through old forms and begin something new. For sure, there were several powerful differences in this dance.

A new form for the dance: Most important was the new form that emerged with the water and fire. In Jeanne's vision, given during the Pipe Ceremony prior to the Watersong FTOD in North Carolina, she saw a Water Alter in the East Gate connected to the *Mother/Father Fire* at the Sweatlodge. And so, in Ireland, this is how it was done. At the East Gate, there was a large bowl of water that was connected to the fire with a cornmeal line. The water and fire worked in tandem to balance the feminine and masculine energies. It softened the dance, while making the experience even more powerful for many. Paul Benham and Niamh Traynor worked primarily with the water. El Gleeson and Henry Rowan worked primarily with the fire. The four-person team worked well.

Also, surprisingly, the sweat lodge got built with the door facing *north*, something that Joseph Rael once told Steve *never to do!* But, Joseph also taught us not to get stuck in form. So, after taking a deep breath, Steve and John both said OK to the north-facing

sweat lodge. It seemed to represent the energy of the ancestors and light beings coming in to teach us. The dance proved that this was a true insight.

Also, we didn't have enough sage or cedar, so Jeanne suggested we use Sound to clear the dancers and crew going into the arbor - chanting "EEEEEM - EEEEEEM - EEEEEEM" three times in multiples of 3, an ancient Tibetan Buddhist chant used to balance and neutralize energy. Because sound is one of the important components of the FTOD, it made sense to use sound for clearing in this way.

9 Countries at the Dance: We had a very gratifying international mixture. There were a good number of people from Ireland, of course. And we also had dancers and helpers from Norway, Germany, Wales, England, Scotland, Croatia, South Africa, and the USA.

Day 2: The second day began with the energy of "Aqabal," the Mayan Day Lord of "Beginnings and Endings" - a perfect energy for letting go. Although it got almost to freezing under a clear, starry sky before midnight, clouds came later in the night, and it was warmer in the morning. John woke the dancers with the flute at 6:45A. Jeanne was smiling from her place in the arbor - directly in the west. As the day wore on, the weather was near perfect, a real blessing in this land where the locals joke is that they've been told that there was once a day in 1902 when it didn't rain!

It was a busy day at the office for the Chiefs and the crew. The dance started quickly. Two dancers were down before breakfast. After breakfast, more dancers in the north went down - an interesting thing, since the north-facing lodge gave us a clue that the ancestors would be bringing in energy to the dance.

Steve and Nan did a great job, and they were pretty tired as the day ended. The Moon Mothers and Sun Father worked well with the many dancers that went into process or vision. Sammye Jo was also a great support, not only inside the arbor but also at the fire. And Sophia Peters added her elder's wisdom in supporting dancers and crew.

Water & Fire: Paul Benham and Niamh Traynor were the water workers. The 100-year-old heirloom bowl at the East Gate (gifted by our host, *Brian Garvey*) was wide and deep. We buried it partly in the ground, filled it with water, and put a clear rose quartz stone in the middle. Paul brought in a Steiner technique he learned in biodynamic agriculture in working with the water. He stirred it creating a clockwise vortex while chanting sounds in an ascending scale. Niamh also became the water carrier, bringing water into the arbor to cleanse the dance ground - as Teresa Hutson did both in North Carolina and (originally) in South Africa last year. It worked well.

In this dance we learned how important it is to have a balance between the fire and water, giving equal attention and prayers to both. Once we got the energy flowing between the

two, it was very powerful, and took the dancers and crew to a new level. There is so much "fire" energy on the planet that shows up in conflict and violence. Learning the balance between the water and fire at this dance was not only important to the experience in Ireland, but also for the world.

John was very proud of Jeanne. She really let go in trust for the Chiefs and crew and did her own dance. For much of the time, she was flying! She landed for a bit to do the pipe ceremony at the end of the day, which a few dancers reported was very powerful.

Day 3: Mira, one of the Norwegian Moon Mothers, felt that she needed to go to the fire just after midnight. As she was standing there, her attention was drawn to the sweat lodge. The door was open. She closed her eyes and saw that the ancestors from every land were sitting in the lodge. They had come to support us. They showed her a rainbow that extended around the entire planet. We believe that this is what the FTOD does. It's no accident that in the very first FTOD, a circular rainbow formed around the sun directly above the center pole! The ancestors were also telling us that we do this for the planet.

During the sweat lodge, with all of the dancers inside with Chief Steve, a rainbow formed in the NW. The arc of the rainbow extended to both sides of the arbor. It was faint, at first, but became more and more brilliant until its light was radiating outward over the land. As the dancers left the sweat lodge, the rainbow began to fade. It was gone within five minutes. After the dancers dressed and we lined up for the sunrise song, Mira shared her vision. Jeanne had said to Steve before the Dance began on the first day, "We speak of the Ancestors and the old ways. The truth is *we are the Ancestors*, bringing in not only the old ways but creating the new ways as well ... completing the *Circle of Past, Present and Future*." And so Steve shared this clear message with the other Dancers..."We are the Ancestors." And indeed, we are.

Actually, we could call this FTOD in Ireland the rainbow dance. There were two rainbows before the dance, the rainbow at the sweat lodge this morning, and another rainbow as the dance ended - simply amazing! We wonder if this is connected in some way with balancing the water and fire energies at the dance...

At the sharing, Jeanne got much love from dancers and crew who experienced her dance as adding a lot of energy to the arbor. That was John's experience, too. When Jeanne wound up on the ground in vision during the dance, a burst of energy went through the arbor in all directions. John's heart flipped. Sammye Jo was also in tears and had to take deep breaths. But Jeanne was flying, receiving many important insights, and a new vision that will come to light in the coming months.

Internet Discussion/Dialogue Board

www.sacredceremony.com/fortheone

Due to the creativity and savvy of Brett Almond in England, we now have a way for anybody and everybody connected with the For the One Dance to "dialogue" with each other over the Internet. This could take the dance to a new level, if it is used. Chiefs can talk with Chiefs, Moon Mothers and Sun Fathers can share what they've learned with each other. Dancers can compare notes about their experience with other dancers. Those of you who have been on the crew and "the wind beneath" all of our wings, can share ideas, insights and experiences with the rest of us.

But, there is a caveat. For this vehicle to be effective and useful, it has to be used. We need a "critical mass" of people signing on, going to www.sacredceremony.com/fortheone and getting involved in the dialogue. So, sign on, get a password, add your photo (if desired), go through a practice session to learn how to use the "dialogue/discussion board" and join in. Make a posting. We want to hear from you!

When we do special events or trainings, like the one coming up in South Africa, we'll add a special section for participants to talk with one another.

Blessing Ceremony Peace-Sound Chamber

Sunday, June 10, Denmark

The Friedens Klangraum (Peace-Sound Chamber) is named "Wah Loh Leh Ney" or "Chamber of the Wind." John noted that another translation of the Tiwa name is "Breath of the Ancestors." It is a Chamber that is very connected with the Mer People and the Oceans. Jeanne gave it the name, "House of Singing Light," two years ago. This beautiful Chamber is located in Denmark but is not far from Flensburg in Northern Germany on a plot of land the community calls the Vision Land.

The Chamber was completed earlier this year. We were asked to do a blessing ceremony. We had a large bowl of water brought into the chamber, into which we placed a beautiful large seashell from Israel. Jeanne brought the inner eardrum of a whale from South Africa, and we used that to bless the seven Chamber Caretakers in front of the community (Teodoro, Michael, Florin/Petra, Maria, Hans, Bettina and Frieda), filling it with water and pouring a bit on each of their heads. The whales are the "record-keepers" of the ancient wisdom. This simple blessing will help them all remember that wisdom, as well as make a stronger connection with the Mer People.

We then asked the Caretakers to stay in the Chamber with us while the rest of the community gathered outside and made physical contact with the Chamber as Jeanne, John and the Caretakers sang a spontaneous song begun by Grandmother Teodoro. Afterwards, the entire community gathered back in the Chamber for the pipe ceremony, more singing, and some stories. It was simple, and took a little over an hour.

Star Dance - Graham, NC

August 17-19, Watersong Community

The Star Dance was born out of the SunMoon Dance (of Joseph Rael's vision). It has a different intention, and a different effect than the "For the One" Dance. The For the One Dance is a Medicine Dance, a "healing" dance. It connects people in a spirit of oneness and unity, and teaches people that the time of separation is over. The Star Dance, on the other hand, is a visionary dance, and connects the dancers with the cosmos, a "vertical" process.

The day was over 100° F (38° C), and the sweat lodges were hot, hot, hot, even with just a few stones. John shared the water pouring responsibilities for the dancers' lodge between himself and the Moon Mothers - Teresa Hutson, Lori Fendell and Cheryl Braswell. It was a wonderful lodge. But, it was hot and long enough that the dancers were dehydrated when they finished. So, John gave them each a big cup of water, something that is uncommon at the start of the dance. But, they really needed it.

John danced the star-dancers into the night under a clear sky full of stars. He broke them into groups of three and had them form a line in each direction facing the pole. Then, as a unit, they danced the energy of the four cardinal directions into the arbor to the sound of drumming and "Wah Mah Chi" (dance song). It was a good start.

The second day of the dance was a long day. The dancers were up at 6:30A, and danced through another very hot day and into the darkness and under the stars.

Like last year, we did the line dance at twilight. John lined the dancers and Moon Mothers up along the cornmeal line that extends from the center pole to the east gate fire. Then, we danced as one giant spoke around the arbor in a sun-wise direction. We all did an about face and danced back around in the counter-clockwise direction. This dance does something very special to balance the energy in the arbor and, metaphorically, with the earth. Partly, in the "Star Dance," we are dancing to restore balance between the earth and the cosmos. This line dance helps to bring that balance. The dancers seem to enjoy it.

DB (David Stephenson) poured a one-round Lakota sweat lodge for the dancers in the evening. It was good to have him involved in the dance. He sang several Lakota songs that were powerful for the dancers. It was a good way to clear their energy at the end of the day.

Day 3: John divided the dancers into groups of three again. We danced in the four directions as we did Friday night. Then, John arrayed the dancers like four spokes of a wheel, one in each of the cardinal directions. Then they danced clockwise (sun-wise) around the arbor. It really brings the energy into the pole in a dramatic way to make it available for the people. So, Afterward, there was an honoring round for the crew. The crew lined up and danced to the pole, around it, and back out the east gate.

We did a "thunder-calling" ceremony. Shannon Ray had brought stones from a river in Tennessee. Each of the dancers had taken one after the opening sweat lodge. Each dancer used their stone to call the Thunders. It hadn't rained in almost two months. The Thunders *did* come, but only faintly and in the distance. And it didn't rain.

We also did a drum journey. Each dancer lay down with their heads at the pole and went on a journey to a drumbeat of 120 beats per minute. It was quite hot in the sun. Still, several of the dancers got some very powerful insights and visions. One dancer said that she saw angels in "heaven" throwing little balls of energy into the sky that created fireworks. They were celebrating our dance. She was then taken out into the universe where she saw that dancers on *other* planets were connecting with us in *our* dance, aware that we were dancing. Maybe this is another way that we create balance and harmony with the cosmos - by connecting up all the other dancers - everywhere in the universe! ... The Lakota people believe if they ever stop dancing then we're lost. Maybe they are right.

At the end of the dance, a Heyoka Medicine Man-Clown came in just before the water ceremony. He was hilarious. This is a humorous ceremony for the dancers, but the serious purpose is to take out any of the "crap" that is still hanging around in the arbor. One of our Sun Fathers also got into the comedy act. Afterward, both the Heyoka and Sun Father had a lot of releasing to do - unseen by the dancers and crew. God bless them.

Fundraising

"Giving and receiving create a circle. What you give comes back around again - multiplied."

First, we want to say a warm, heart-felt **thank you** to each of you who have made donations to the "For the One" Organization this year. As the FTO Dances grow around the world, our need for funding also grows - especially for the Youth Dances. Some of you have been very generous this year with your money, time and effort. It is appreciated more than words can describe!

We also ask you to be equally generous with your contributions in the future. We know that when you support the things that open your heart and spark your passion, abundance flows into your life in unexpected ways to support you in *your* work. It is a circle. Our prayer is that whatever you give, will come back to you a thousand fold in blessings.

Good things *are* happening. In conjunction with the Center for Peace in Tennessee, we received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation, considered the "Cadillac" of grant-giving institutions. We hope that this will help us get future grants from other funding organizations.

We also have made a strong connection with the Center for Positive Living in Charlotte, a non-denominational "Science of Mind" church. They want to take the "For the One" Dance on as their "mission work," particularly the FTO Youth Dances.

Miracles are happening as people from different cultures come together with loving intention. Individual lives are being shifted in positive ways. We are helping to clear the energies of conflict and violence from the land. Communities are getting stronger. Together, we are creating a worldwide family. So, know that your contributions are helping to do these things. Tell others about our work. We do it together, and we cannot do it without you!

You can contact:

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TWO NEW ANGELS

1) FTOD Travel Agent: Sherry Livingston

When we started this work, Jeanne and John did everything: organizing and coordinating, at multiple levels for what was the beginning of a worldwide effort. This included helping others who travel with us to get cheaper tickets online.

Today, we have an FTO International Coordinator (*Margarita DiVita*), local in-country Coordinators, many volunteers on the "traveling crew," an International Director of Fundraising (*Patty Coleman*), and so on. There are those "behind the scenes" without whom the dances and all details involved, would not happen, i.e., *Cheryl Braswell, Jo Fisher* and so many more.

Recently, a member of the Watersong Community in North Carolina stepped up and said "Yes" to being our **FTO Travel Agent**. She is **SHERRY LIVINGSTON**. Sherry will be the point person who will research the internet sites and more to get cheap plane tickets for those who need them. This will save us countless hours on the computer. And, we are most grateful!

2) International Youth Coordinator: Robbie Warren

The energy around the "For the One" Youth Dances is beginning to build and expand very rapidly. This is something we are all excited about. There aren't words enough to say how important the young people are, and the role that they play in the survival of our planet and all life here. It is they who hold much of the wisdom that will lead us. At the same time, it is many of these young people who have experienced wounds from abuse, conflict and out-and-out war. The FTOD gives these youth a way to heal the hurt within themselves and within their cultures.

It is **ROBBIE WARREN** who has stepped up and said "yes" to being the new "For the One" *International Youth Coordinator*. Already, in just a very short time, she and her "Teen Team" have begun to create miracles.

The first FTO World Youth Dance will occur in Cape Town, South Africa in December (7-9) of this year, 2007. With Robbie's help (and the teens working with her), young people from Israel, Palestine, Croatia, Germany, and other countries including South Africa will have a chance to be a part of this important adventure. In Robbie's words: *"I think we can create a powerful network for young people to reach out to each other in support, encouragement, love, trust and compassion. I believe that our future starts with them and I am grateful to be their student."*

If you are interested in supporting the youth effort in some way, please contact Robbie at: rwinterior@aol.com . You can also contact Patricia Coleman (blueearth48@bellsouth.net) (snail mail address is listed above) if you would like to help financially.

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Mystical Numerology

Most of you are aware of the new 13-month calendar and system of "mystical numerology" that John has created. It is a system that he has developed after many years of study and research. And, his research continues, making the system more and more profound in its insights, and useful as a predictive tool for individuals, but also for global changes.

John sees big changes for the coming year (2008). "8" is the number of cutting away what no longer serves us. And, "10" (2008 = 2+0+0+8 = 10) is the number of completion and stepping up to another level of service. So, the events on the world stage will very likely unfold in a way that will clear away many of the established structures to make way for new ideas, and for something new to be born. There is the potential for dramatic happenings that may seem shocking. But the purpose is to get us "unstuck" so that we can move forward in a new way. These insights are in keeping with the prophecies about our time, and have also been confirmed by a variety of seers and "channels."

John does detailed readings for people (including businesses and other organizations) in helping them to discover their life purpose and potential, including life lessons and challenges, their inherent strengths and so much more. The results, to-date, have been *profound*. If you think you might want to learn more and/or have a reading done, contact John at JBPehrson@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

FTO Youth Dance, North Carolina (October 5-7): The teens from our earlier youth (August 3-5) were so enthusiastic about their experience that they've requested another dance. We've always known that the Youth Dances would be more powerful for the kids if they were supported by their parents, or by a mentor. So, this time, we are asking the parents or legal guardians come to support them.

Crew & Chiefs' Training, South Africa (November 10-19): We did the first "Crew & Chiefs' Training" last year in North Carolina. This experience will begin with a "community building" experience, and incorporate teachings on as many aspects of the dance and being a Chief as we can fit in. At the end of the week, we'll do a For the One Dance (Nov. 16-18), and the people who have come for the training will be the Chiefs, Moon Mothers, Sun Fathers, Water-Fire Keepers, Dog Soldiers, Drummers and Kitchen Angels. It will be an interesting 10 days, but not for the faint-hearted.

FTODs in South Africa: In addition to the "training dance" in Midrand, near Johannesburg at the end of the C&C Training, there will be three (3) additional dances: one at Rustlers Valley Resort, and two at Blue Hippo north of Capetown.

Below are the dates and Locations for all of this year's dances in South Africa:

- Johannesburg(Midrand): November 16-18
- Rustler's Valley: November 23-25.
- Blue Hippo: Nov 30 - Dec 2.
- "For the One" World Youth Dance at Blue Hippo: Dec 7-9.

Special note about Rustler's Valley Resort: A fire swept through Rustler's Valley on September 19. It burned nearly everything except for a few structures, which miraculously include the dance arbor, sweat lodge and Niyan's Starseed structure. The restaurant is gone. The round huts and rooms are gone. But they are still asking us to bring the FTOD. Please come to support this dance, if you can. Or, send donations to help them rebuild if you are called to help in that way. Know that we'll be "roughing it" this year - sleeping in tents, eating from a camp kitchen, and so on. It will be a real South African adventure.

2008 Schedule

The 2008 Schedule is in the process of being finalized as of this writing, and will be posted on our website as soon as possible.

At present, we know that

- *the FTO International World Peace Dance in Israel (in Megiddo, also known as Armageddon)* will occur at some point within the first two weeks of *May*.
- *Bosnia* will happen in *June*
- *Germany* will host the 2008 FTO Crew & Chiefs Training & FTO Dance in *July*
- *Norway* will happen in *September*

More Details are forth coming. They will include dates and locations for those listed above, as well as for Tennessee(USA), North Carolina(USA), Hawaii(USA), Ireland, South Africa and others.

Closing Comments

"Go gently...and Laugh a lot!"