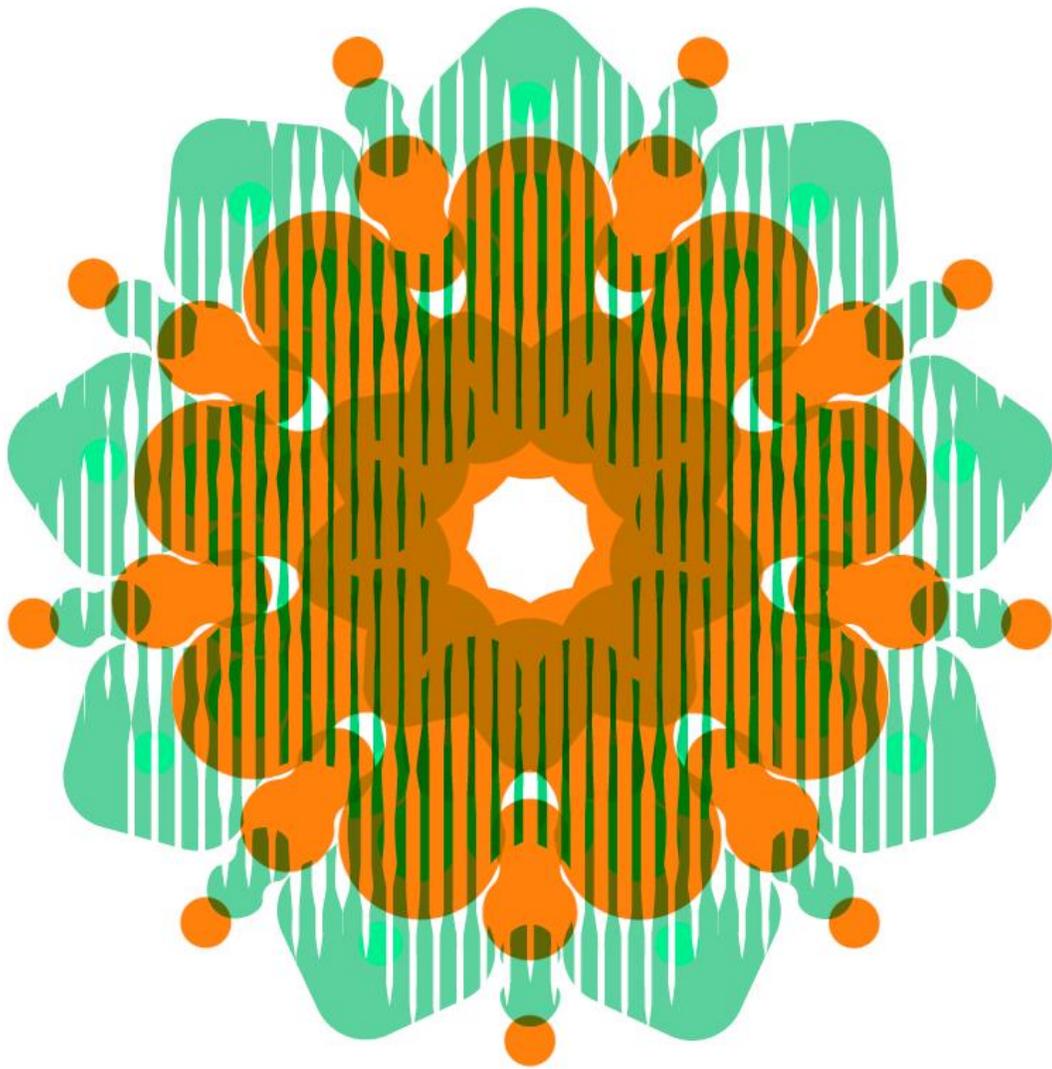


Soul Food

Trustees of the Earth



June 2015

Trustees of the Earth

June 2015

This special Soul Food event celebrates World Environment Day and encourages us to cherish the natural wonders of our earth.

Program



Friends Trio

01. *Prayer*
02. *Aboriginal Creation Dreaming*
03. *An Ancient Song of India*
04. *Native American, Pawnee hymn*
05. *Fyodor Dostoyevsky, from The Brothers Karamazov*
06. *Muslim Writings*
07. *Bahá'í Writings*



Friends Trio

08. *Stephanie Dowrick*
09. *Environmental Trustees*
10. *Brian J Brock*
11. *Jewish Writings*
12. *Edwin Markham*
13. *A Ute Prayer*
14. *Christian Writings*



Friends Trio

15. *Bahá'í International Community*
16. *Baha'i Writings*
17. *Bahá'í Writings*
18. *Celtic Invocation*
19. *Wendell Berry*
20. *Scottish Blessing*
21. *Bahá'í Writings*



Friends Trio

*Here is your country.
Cherish these natural wonders,
cherish the natural resources,
cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage,
for your children and your children's children.
Theodore Roosevelt*



**The Frog Galliard - Thomas Morley
Friends Trio
Maxwell Parr(Violin) Wilhelmina Johnson (Viola)
Ben Van de Niet (Cello).**

01. Glory be to Thee, O Lord my God! Make manifest the rivers of Thy sovereign might, that the waters of Thy Unity may flow through the inmost realities of all things, in such wise that the banner of Thine unfailing guidance may be raised aloft in the kingdom of Thy command and the stars of Thy divine splendor may shine brightly in the heaven of Thy majesty.

Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee, Thou, verily, art the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

~Bahá'úlláh

02. **Aboriginal Creation Dreaming**

In the beginning the earth was bare and plain. All was dark. There was no life, no death. The sun, the moon, and the stars slept beneath the earth. All the eternal ancestors slept there, too, until at last they woke themselves out of their own eternity and broke through to the surface.

When the eternal ancestors arose, in the Dreamtime, they wandered the earth, sometimes in animal form – as kangaroos, or emus, or lizards – sometimes in human shape, sometimes part animal and human, sometimes as part human and plant.

Two such beings, self-created out of nothing, were the Ungambikula. Wandering the world, they found half-made human beings. They were made of animals and plants, but were shapeless bundles, lying higgledy-piggledy, near where water holes and salt lakes could be created. The people were all doubled over into balls, vague and unfinished, without limbs or features.

With their great stone knives, the Ungambikula carved heads, bodies, legs, and arms out of the bundles. They made the faces, and the hands and feet. At last the human beings were finished. Thus every man and woman was transformed from nature and owes allegiance to the totem of the animal or the plant that made the bundle they were created from – such as the plum tree, the grass seed, the large and small lizards, the parakeet, or the rat.

This work done, the ancestors went back to sleep. Some of them returned to underground homes, others became rocks and trees.

The trails the ancestors walked in the Dreamtime are holy trails. Everywhere the ancestors went, they left sacred traces of their presence – a rock, a waterhole, a tree, for the Dreamtime does not merely lie in the distant past, the Dreamtime is the eternal now.

Between heartbeat and heartbeat, the Dreamtime can come again.

***Though a tree grows so high,
the falling leaves return to the root.
Malay proverb***

03. In the beginning there was darkness covered in darkness;
There was no existence, and no non-existence,
There was no earth, no sky above,
There was no death, and no immortality.
There beginning of life floated on the waters of empty space.
And from fire came the wind,
and from the wind the waters,
from the waters came the earth
and from the earth the seeds of man were created...
~ An Ancient Song of India

04. A Behold! Our Mother Earth is lying here.
Behold! She gives of her fruitfulness.
Truly, her power gives she us.
Give thanks to Mother Earth who lies here.
Behold on Mother Earth the growing fields!
Behold the promise of her fruitfulness!
Truly, her power gives she us.
Give thanks to Mother Earth who lies here.
Behold on Mother Earth the spreading trees!
Behold the promise of her fruitfulness!
Truly, her power gives she us.
Give thanks to Mother Earth the running streams;
We see the promise of her fruitfulness.
Truly, her power gives she us.
Our thanks to Mother Earth who lies here!
~Native American, Pawnee hymn

***He that planteth a tree is a servant of God,
he provideth a kindness for many generations, and faces that
he hath not seen shall bless him.***

Henry Van Dyke

- o5. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better everyday. And you will come to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.
~ Fyodor Dostoyevsky, from The Brothers Karamazov
- o6. From heaven We have sent down the blessed rain whereby We made the gardens grow, and grain of harvest and tall palm trees laden with clustered dates, in provision for men, thereby bringing again to life a land that was dead. Thus will be the Resurrection.
~Qur'an: Surah 50

07. Say: Nature in its essence is the embodiment of My Name, the Maker, the Creator. Its manifestations are diversified by varying causes, and in this diversity there are signs for men of discernment. Nature is God's Will and is its expression in and through the contingent world. It is a dispensation of Providence ordained by the Ordainer, the All-Wise. Were anyone to affirm that it is the Will of God as manifested in the world of being, no one should question this assertion.
- It is endowed with a power whose reality men of learning fail to grasp. Indeed a man of insight can perceive naught therein save the effulgent splendour of Our Name, the Creator. Say: This is an existence which knoweth no decay, and Nature itself is lost in bewilderment before its revelations, its compelling evidences and its effulgent glory which have encompassed the universe.
- ~Bahá'í Writings.

***We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors;
we borrow it from our children.
Native American Proverb***

 **The Shepherd's Dance - Susato**
Friends Trio

o8.

Let life flow

May we touch the earth lightly.

May we cultivate beauty and nourishment wherever we can.

May we drink and use water carefully and gratefully.

May we plant thoughtfully, tend, harvest and give thanks.

May we swim with wonder.

May we regard the stars with awe.

May we bathe in the light of the moon.

May we be warmed by the sun.

May we protect ourselves from what is harsh.

May we stay open to what is tender and healing.

May we touch and be touched by the life forces we share.

And most humbly, may we know Spirit in all.

May we live in peace.

Blessed Be.

~ Stephanie Dowrick.

***Air is the guru, water is the father,
and earth is the mother of all.
Sikhism.***

09. Environmental Trustees in West Timor

Aleta Baun is an award-winning Indonesian environmental activist, who won the 2013 Goldman Environmental Prize for organizing hundreds of local villagers to peacefully occupy marble mining sites in “weaving protests,” to stop destruction of sacred forest land on Mutis Mountain on the island of Timor.

A leader of indigenous Mollo people, she was born to a family of farmers. Having lost her mother at a young age, she was raised in the village by other women and elders who taught her to respect the environment as a source of their spiritual identity and livelihood. As a community leader sharing traditional knowledge, she eventually became known as “Mama Aleta.” Mama Aleta’s work made her a target for the mining interests and local authorities, who put a price on her head. After surviving an assassination attempt, Mama Aleta went into hiding in the forest with her baby.

Despite intimidation, Mama Aleta increased the movement to include hundreds of villagers. It culminated in a weaving protest where one hundred and fifty women spent a year sitting on the marble rocks at the mining site, quietly weaving their traditional cloth. Because women were traditionally responsible for getting food, dye and medicine from the mountains, mining in these mountains would have directly impacted their livelihoods. While the women protested at the mine, the men provided domestic support at home: cooking, cleaning and caring for the children.

In the face of the villagers’ peaceful and sustained presence, marble mining became an increasingly untenable endeavor for the companies involved. Public awareness of the weaving occupation was growing, and Indonesian government officials took notice. By 2010, the mining companies, reacting to the pressure, halted mining at all four sites within the Mollo territories and abandoned their operations.

Mama Aleta now helps communities across West Timor to map their traditional forests. She works in water security, natural resource management and land rights. She said to the Jakarta Post: "We especially want to conserve the upstream region of our territory because it is a watershed for the entire island. We are considering a joint title for our three communities and placing the land under collective ownership of the communities".

Jakarta Post. April 18, 2013.

The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.

Pope John Paul II

10. Kurna people

Kurna people

this was your land now concrete roads and cars

Kurna people

this was your land now drifting dunes where once the mallee grew

Kurna people

these were your living hills where now the streams are still or rage in flood

Kurna people

these were your open spaces where now the fence confines

Kurna people

these were your swamps and waterways where now our garbage lies

Kurna people

best your spirits dream than see all this and die again as this your land has done

~Brian J Brock

11. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon
the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of
the waters... And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb
yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose
seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his
kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his
kind: and God saw that it was good.
~ Judaism

***Grandfather, Great Spirit, all over the world the faces of living ones
are alike... Teach us to walk the soft earth as relatives to all that live.
Native American, Sioux prayer***

12. **Earth is Enough**
We men of Earth have here the stuff
Of Paradise – we have enough!
We need no other stones to build
The stairs into the unfulfilled –
No other ivory for the doors –
No other marble for the floors –
No other cedar for the beams
And dome of man's immortal dreams.
Here on the paths of every day –
Here on the common human way
Is all the stuff the gods would take
To build a Heaven, to mold and make New Edens,
Ours the stuff sublime
To build eternity in time!
~ Edwin Markham, Earth Is Enough

***Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together. All things connect.
Chief Seattle, 1855***

13.

Earth Teacher

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring
as the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage
as the tree which stands alone.
Earth teach me limitation
as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach me regeneration
as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
as dry fields weep in the rain.
~A Ute Prayer

14. May this land be blessed by the Lord,
with precious gifts from heaven above,
and from the deep that lies beneath,
with the choicest fruits of the sun,
with the rich yield of harvests,
with the greatness of ancient mountains,
with the abundance of everlasting hills,
with treasures of the earth,
in its marvelous perfection.
~Deuteronomy 33: 13-16

***Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the
remaining wilderness be destroyed ...
We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do
more than drive to its edge and look in.
Wallace Stegner***



**Sonatina - Mozart
Friends Trio**

15. **Earth Charter**

In order to reorient individuals and societies toward a sustainable future, we must recognize the following:

The unrestrained exploitation of natural resources is merely a symptom of an overall sickness of the human spirit. Any solutions to the environment/development crisis must, therefore, be rooted in an approach which fosters spiritual balance and harmony within the individual, between individuals, and with the environment as a whole. Material development must serve not only the body, but the mind and spirit as well.

The changes required to reorient the world toward a sustainable future imply degrees of sacrifice, social integration, selfless action, and unity of purpose rarely achieved in human history. These qualities have reached their highest degree of development through the power of religion.

Therefore, the world's religious communities have a major role to play in inspiring these qualities in their members, releasing latent capacities of the human spirit and empowering individuals to act on behalf of the planet, its peoples, and future generations...

Consultation must replace confrontation and domination in order to gain the cooperation of the family of nations in devising and implementing measures that will preserve the earth's ecological balance. Only as women are welcomed into full partnership in all fields of human endeavor, including environment and development, will the moral and psychological climate be created in which a peaceful, harmonious, and sustainable civilization can emerge and flourish.

~ Extract from the Bahá'í International Community to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1991)

***Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs,
but not every man's greed.***

Mahatma Gandhi

16. We cannot segregate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life molds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every abiding change in the life of man is the result of these mutual reactions.
~ Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Writings

***The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony
with human ambition.***

Carl Sagan

17. Every time I lift up mine eyes unto Thy heaven,
I call to mind Thy highness and Thy loftiness,
And Thine incomparable glory and greatness;
And every time I turn my gaze to Thine earth,
I am made to recognize the evidences of Thy power
And the tokens of Thy bounty.
And when I behold the sea,
I find that it speaketh to me of Thy majesty,
And of the potency of Thy might,
And of Thy sovereignty and Thy grandeur
And at whatever time I contemplate the mountains,
I am led to discover the ensigns of Thy victory
And the standards of Thine omnipotence.
~ Bahá'u'lláh

18. I call upon the four winds,
Earth to ground me,
Air to teach me,
Fire to empower me,
Water to uplift me,
I honor Grandmother Earth who bore me,
Grandfather Sky who watches over me,
And the Creator whose spark
Is within me and all things.
~ Celtic Invocation

A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.
Franklin D. Roosevelt

19. Odd as I am sure it will appear to some, I can think of no better form of personal involvement in the care of the environment than that of gardening. A person who is growing a garden, if he is growing it organically, is improving a piece of the world. He is producing something to eat, which makes him somewhat independent of the grocery business, but he is also enlarging, for himself, the meaning of food and the pleasure of eating.
~Wendell Berry

20. May the blessing of Light be on you
Light without and light within,
May the blessed sunlight shine on you
And warm your heart till it glows like
A great peat fire, so that the stranger
May come and warm himself at it,
And also a friend.
And may the light shine out of the two eyes of you,
Like a candle set in two windows of a house,
Bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the Rain be on you
The soft sweet rain. May it fall upon your spirit
So that all the little flowers may spring up,
And shed their sweetness on the air.
And may the blessing of the Great Rains be on
You, may they beat upon your spirit
And wash it fair and clean,
And leave there many a shining pool
Where the blue of heaven shines,
And sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the Earth be on you
The great round earth; may you ever have
A kindly greeting for them you pass
As you're going along the roads.
May the earth be soft under you when you rest upon it,
Tired at the end of the day,
And may it rest easy over you when,
At the last, you lay out under it;
May it rest so lightly over you,
That your soul may be out from under it quickly,
And up, and off, and on its way to God.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.
~Scottish Blessing

21. The oneness of mankind... implies an organic change in the structure of present day society, a change such as the world has not yet experienced... It calls for no less than the reconstruction and the demilitarization of the whole civilized world – a world organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life, its political machinery, its spiritual aspiration, its trade and finance, its script and language, and yet infinite in the diversity of the national characteristics of its federated units... Bahá'í Scriptures maintain that adherence to the principle of the oneness of humanity will have a direct and enduring impact on man's spiritual, social and physical environments. Universal acceptance of this principle will entail a major restructuring of the world's educational, social, agricultural, industrial, economic, legal and political systems. This restructuring will facilitate the emergence of a sustainable, just and prosperous world civilization. Ultimately only a spiritually based civilization - in which science and religion work in harmony – will be able to preserve the ecological balance of the earth, foster stability in human population, and advance both the material and the spiritual well-being of all peoples and nations.
~From the Bahá'í presentation to the United Nations on 'Conservation and Sustainable Development', 1995.

***The ultimate test of man's conscience may be
his willingness to sacrifice something today
for future generations whose words of
thanks will not be heard.
Gaylord Nelson, co-founder of Earth Day***



German Dance - Mozart
Friends Trio

*

Please join us for refreshments

Soul Food

Soul Food is an open community event hosted on the first Sunday of each month and whose purpose is to inspire us to transform our lives, our neighbourhoods and our communities with actions that promote the unity and betterment of society. Set in the tranquil setting of the Baha'i Centre of Learning, it provides an occasion to be inspired and reflect on uplifting themes with our neighbours. Our programs feature live music, audio-visual pieces and readings from various authors, sources and Faiths - indigenous, ancient and modern- from all over the world.

Soul Food was initiated by the Bahá'í community in Adelaide and now occurs in places around Australia and as far afield as Botswana, Africa. It is also proudly supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Original programs are available for free download from www.soulfood.com.au/tas/

Soul Food - First Sunday of each month.

Venue: Bahá'í Centre of Learning, Hobart

Time: 3.00pm – 4pm

Study Circles

The Bahá'í Community offers a series of life-changing circles of study. These small informal groups of like-minded individuals are an opportunity to explore and learn collaboratively about meaningful topics such as the individual's inner reality and their capacity to integrate their spiritual and personal transformation with that of their communities towards the betterment of humankind.

The first series is titled *Reflections on the Life of the Spirit* and is a 3 unit exploration on the following themes: Understanding the Bahá'í Writings, Prayer & Meditation, and Life & Death. If you enjoy Soul Food then a study circle may appeal to you. For inquiries or more information please email Shirin at shirin@iinet.net.au

Children's classes in the Neighbourhood

Regular children's classes are held in communities around Tasmania and provide moral, spiritual and virtues-based training essential in nurturing the inner capacities of children. The classes aim to build a strong moral framework which will assist children to achieve excellence in material, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of life. For inquiries or more information please call Shohreh's mobile 0419 585 453.

"Children are even as a branch that is fresh and green; they will grow up in whatever way you train them. Take the utmost care to give them high ideals and goals, so that once they come of age, they will cast their beams like brilliant candles on the world..."

-- from the Writings of the Bahá'í Faith

Junior Youth Groups

The junior youth spiritual empowerment program is open to young people aged between 11 and 14, and assists them to navigate through a crucial stage in their lives. Those in their early adolescent years possess altruism, a sense of justice, eagerness to learn about the universe, and a desire to contribute to the construction of a better world. Young people's spiritual capacity, the basis for their own happiness and sense of well-being, is a powerful force for social change. The program helps them form a strong moral identity and empowers them to contribute to the well-being of their communities and the world at large. By developing their spiritual qualities (virtues), their intellectual capabilities and their capacities for service to society, the participants come to see that they can become agents of positive change in the world. The program adopts a participatory mode of learning where the facilitator (animator) and participants learn from each other. Groups of participants engage in activities such as artistic expression, discussion, drama, cooperative games, study of literature, story telling and acts of community service. The junior youth program explores themes from a Baha'i perspective, but is not a formal religious education program. Junior youth groups meet on a regular basis, is open to all, subject to parental approval, and there is no written homework. All program facilitators are certified under the Baha'i Child Protection Policy, which includes a mandatory police check. Parents are welcome to meet with an animator to learn more about the program.

For enquiries or more information, please call James Pepperell ☎️ 0404352042 or email him james.pepperell@gmail.com

join us for the next program

Sunday July 5th 3pm

"Sweet Scents of Friendship"

Dates for 2015

- August 2nd - Youth: Bridge to the Future
- September 6th - The Light of Universal Peace
- October 4th - The Inner Balance – Spiritual Health
- November 1st - Children -Tender plants in the garden of life
- December 6th - Reflections

The Bahá'í Faith

You can find out more about the Baha'ís and their world embracing vision at www.bahai.org.au or feel free to call 03 6234 7654 for more information



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
FORESTS: NATURE AT YOUR SERVICE | 05 JUNE

All Soul Food programs are available for free download from www.tasbcl.com.au