

Forcing Change



Global Calendar of Events: 2015

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

Each year, *Forcing Change* publishes a “Global Calendar of Events.” The purpose of this is to shed light on upcoming world change events planned for the new year. Hence, this calendar lists the dates and places, and provides some context to help you understand how the event plays into the theme of world transformation.

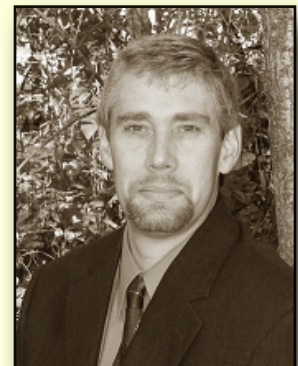
However, it must be noted that this is a *limited calendar*. Hundreds of other events are planned and will take place in the next twelve months, everything from security summits to meetings in the United Nations, the European Union, and World Bank. Likewise, many more New Age festivals and conferences, transhumanist events, and interfaith gatherings will take place than listed here. Moreover, as 2015 continues, other events will surface during the course of the year.

Overall, this calendar is a “heads-up” for 2015.



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Carl Teichrib, Editor

Note: Two major United Nations developments are taking place in 2015. First, the Millennium Development Goals is set to expire this year, and will be replaced by the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Second, a new and universal Climate Change agreement is being negotiated and is to be accepted later this year. Both developments are driving a number of important preparatory events and conferences listed in this calendar.

January 14-16: Lessons Learned from the Millennium Development Goals and Perspectives for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Where: Vienna, Austria.

Vienna is home to a complex of United Nations offices and agencies, and as 2015 is the year when the international community is restructuring the Millennium Development Goals into a more comprehensive “Post 2015 Development Agenda,” the Vienna UN family will be meeting to consider this important changeover. Over three days, agency directors and official representatives from various branches will be discussing how their institutions have and are making an impact regarding the Post-2015 Agenda. Hosting the event is the Academic Council on the United Nations System.

January 15: Governance of Emerging Technologies Conference.

Where: Scottsdale, Arizona.

The third year running, Arizona State University is hosting a conference on the question of transhumanism and how this movement – which seeks to transform humanity through science and technology – will impact laws, policies, and ethics.

January 15-19: Sedona World Wisdom Days.

Where: Sedona, Arizona.

For years, Sedona has been a New Age mecca – a place where people attempt to tap into mystical energies. Combine New Age elements with inspirational speakers and visionary leaders,

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workshops on transformational living and evolutionary culture, shamanistic ceremonies, and that's "Sedona World Wisdom Days." Speakers include Barbara Marx Hubbard, one of the most recognized names in New Age consciousness and the New Spirituality movement, Olympian Greg Louganis, and television guru Norman Lear.

January 21-24: World Economic Forum.

Where: Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

This annual event is the premier gathering of the planet's most influential leaders from business and industry, government, finance and banking, civil society and academia. Hence, what happens at the World Economic Forum reverberates throughout economic and political circles on every continent. Moreover, throughout the year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) hosts special regional meetings in Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America. For 2014, the regional events are as follows;

As the WEF website notes: "The Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters remains the foremost creative force for engaging the world's top leaders in collaborative activities focused on shaping the global, regional and industry agendas."

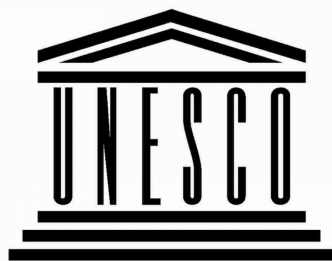
- April 21-23: WEF on East Asia, Nusa Dua, Indonesia.
- May 6-8: WEF on Latin America, Riviera Maya, Mexico.
- June 3-5: WEF on Africa in Cape Town, South Africa.

The theme for this years annual Davos event is provocative – *The New Global Context*.

January 28-30: Second UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education.

Where: Paris, France.

Looking to shift the role of education in the twenty-first century, this invitation-only UNESCO event builds on the First UNESCO Forum held in 2013 in Bangkok, which sought to develop a framework concept for "Global Citizenship Education" (GCE). In this installment, set to be held in Paris, UNESCO will explore how GCE can be embedded in the Post-2015 global agenda, and how it can be integrated at the national level through policies and programs.



UNITED NATIONS
Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Where: United Nation, New York City, and Global.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is an official United Nations program that was influenced by The Common Word campaign, a 2007 inter-religious dialogue between Muslim and Christian leaders. On September 23, 2010, King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed the idea of an Interfaith Harmony Week while at the UN General Assembly. The proposal was unanimously adopted and the first week of February was set aside as the timeframe for this interfaith program. Multiple events are set to take place during the 2015 WIHW.



The Official UN Week

WORLD INTERFAITH
HARMONY WEEK
1st Week of February

February 2: High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Where: UN Headquarters, New York City, NY.

In 2015 the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) officially comes to an end. The MDGs were an eight-point poverty reduction, health, and education blueprint that national governments agreed to in 2000. Now that the MDG timeframe is closing, a new “Post-15” framework is being negotiated, and the High-Level Thematic Debate is part of this process. According to the United Nations “Beyond 2015 Overview,”

“With the MDGs concluding at the end of 2015, world leaders have called for an ambitious, long-term agenda to improve people’s lives and protect the planet for future generations. This post-2015 development agenda is expected to tackle many issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

Governments are in the midst of negotiating, and civil society, young people, businesses and others are also having their say in this global conversation. World leaders are expected to adopt the agenda at a summit in New York in September 2015.”

As benign as the above text sounds, the UN understands that the Post-2015 system will require a more robust system of “global governance.” In June 2014, the UN Committee for Development Policy issued a report titled *Global Governance and Global Rules for Development in the Post-2015 Era*. The report noted that “...strengthening global governance and global rules is

necessary in order to manage the increasing interdependence among countries more efficiently, to reduce existing inequalities, and to guarantee the necessary policy space for countries to pursue their own priorities within the limits given by interdependence.”

February 4-5: The Hague Summit on International Law and Human Rights.

Where: The Hague, Netherlands.

As 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance for Human Rights & Global Peace will convene a special summit at the Peace Palace in The Hague. This summit will examine the history of international law, the present system of global agreements and treaties, the legal actions of the International Court of Justice, and the future development of global governance.

February 5-7: World Sustainable Development Forum.

Where: New Delhi, India.

The annual World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF) is a major meeting of global political leaders, UN representatives, and business interests. In 2015, the WSDF will focus on the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda, adding input into the larger process “totally unencumbered by official limitations...” Topics and themes will range from climate change to consumption and production patterns, water resource management, global governance of biodiversity, poverty eradication, and global wealth redistribution – the problem of “growing income and wealth disparities across the globe.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the former Governor of California, will be a speaker. In 2010 Schwarzenegger formed the R20 Regions of Climate Action, an organization working in cooperation with the United Nations to help sub-governmental agencies with climate change projects. Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General, will give a presentation via video feed.

Organizationally, the WSDF operates under an umbrella of high-powered Patrons.

- **Lord John Browne**, former Group Chief Executive of British Petroleum; currently co-chairs Riverstone's Renewable Energy Fund.
- **Jeffrey Sachs**, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Director of Columbia University's Earth Institute.
- **George Soros**, global investor and Founder of the Open Society Institute.
- **Shoichiro Toyoda**, Former Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation and the Japanese Business Federation.
- **Jens Stoltenberg**, former Prime Minister of Norway; current Secretary General of NATO.
- **Bharrat Jagdeo**, former President of Guyana, former Chair of the IMF and World Bank Board of Governors, and currently works on a number of green initiatives.
- **Olafur R. Grimsson**, President of Iceland and Founder of Arctic Circle.
- **Tarja Halonen**, former President of Finland and Co-Chair of the UN Millennium Summit; current Co-Chair of the High Level Task Force for International Conference on Population and

Development, and a member of the Leadership Council on the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

- **Jeffrey R. Immelt**, CEO of General Electric Company, and serves as chair of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness.

- Haruhiko Kuroda, former President of the Asian Development Bank; current Governor of the Bank of Japan.

- **Yukio Hatoyama**, former Prime Minister of Japan; currently president of the Japan-Russia Society which is working to create a Eurasian Economic Corridor from Western Russia to East Asian markets.

- **Abdoulie Janneh**, former Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; currently Chairs the African Governance Institute is a board member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

- **Ricardo Lagos**, former President of Chile and president of the Club of Madrid; current Special Envoy on Climate Change for the UN Secretary General.

February 6-8: Big I Conference.

Where: San Francisco, California.

Big I is a conference fusing spirituality, consciousness, and theology within an integrated, interfaith approach. Hindu swami's, mystical Christians, New Agers, Spiritualists, and environmentalists will explore "the evolution of human spirituality." Hosting organizations include the Council of Interfaith Communities and the Order of Universal Interfaith.

February 13-15: National Preach-In on Global Warming.

Where: United States of America.

The weekend from February 13-15 has been set aside as a time for religious leaders across the United States to speak and preach on climate change. Hundreds of pastors and teachers from different denominations and religions will deliver sermons on global warming, the need to change behaviors and values, and the desire for a united world response to stem "climate change." The organization coordinating the annual National Preach-In is Interfaith Power and Light.

February 18-21: Global International Relations and Regional Worlds.

Where: New Orleans, LA.

This conference is the annual event of the International Studies Association (ISA), a long-standing body that connects scholars and political practitioners from around the world. In 2015, the 56th convention of the ISA will discuss the role of international relations and regionalism; How does regionalism and global governance relate? What are the roles of private transnational actors in regional and international affairs? How is accountability achieved within a system of regional and global governance? How does regionalism overlap with, and/or compete with, larger developments in world order?

February 21-24: Third World Approaches to International Law.**Where:** Cairo, Egypt.

A movement exists to enhance the voice of the Global South in international law development, both within the United Nations system and through regional bodies. To that end, a meeting will take place in Cairo that will examine a multitude of issues concerning world law. Topics include, “Human Rights and Global Justice,” “The Praxis of Environmental Justice,” “Economic Orders,” and “The Question of Palestine.”

Sponsors include the American University in Cairo, Research Council of Canada, National University of Ireland, University of Windsor, York University, the Jack & Mae Nathanson Centre, and Harvard's Institute for Global Law and Policy.

February 23-24: Security and Defence.**Where:** London, UK.

Chatham House, also known as the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is the UK's premier foreign affairs and diplomatic think tank – hosting many events throughout the year on topics of global concern. At this event, prominent defense leaders from governments and think tanks will meet to debate and dialogue on new trends and developments in security; regional security pooling and its impact on sovereignty, the role of military contractors, cooperation on space security issues, and examining the feasibility of new models for cooperative security.

Speakers include: Celso Amorim (Minister of Defence, Brazil), General Nicholas Houghton (Chief of the UK Defence Staff), Abdullatif Bin Rashid Al Zayani (Secretary General, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), and Robin Niblett (Director, Chatham House). Other speakers will come from NATO, the US Department of Defense, Center for a New American Security, US Naval War College and US Army War College, Carnegie Moscow Center, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Royal United Services Institute, and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

February 27-March 1: Wisdom 2.0.**Where:** San Francisco, California.

Wisdom 2.0 is an annual event that incorporates New Spirituality – the concept of oneness and transcendence through Eastern spiritual experiences and discovering inner divinity – with technology, community, motivation and inspiration, and cultural/business energy. As stated by *The New York Times* and repeated on the Wisdom 2.0 website, “Founders from Facebook, Twitter, eBay, Zynga and PayPal, and executives and managers from companies like Google, Microsoft, Cisco... in conversations with experts in yoga and mindfulness.”

Over 2000 people attend this “conscious raising” event, and plans are in the works to launch Wisdom 2.0 gatherings in New York City, Dublin, and Singapore.

March 24-28: World Social Forum.**Where:** Tunis, Tunisia.

The annual World Social Forum (WFS), which started in 2001 as a socialist counter to the capitalist-minded Davos-based World Economic Forum, is an event that brings together tens of thousands of social activists from around the planet. It is considered to be one of the largest politically-motivated, international gatherings of the year. And while the Forum – and the movement it has birthed – calls itself anti-globalist, it is only so in that it combats world capitalism and multinational corporations. However, the Forum is pro-globalization in terms of favoring and forwarding international socialism. To that end, WFS supports global governance through “global democracy” based on joint grassroots activism and a broader political transformation.

Over the years, WFS has been a platform for a variety of internationalist causes; Palestinian statehood and Israeli sanctions, sustainable development and eco-justice, socialist economic models and global taxation methods, climate change and “climate justice,” economic adjustments and political restructuring for social justice, and the necessity of instituting a democratic “world parliament.”

This year, as in 2013, the WFS is meeting in Tunis, the starting point of the Arab Spring.

Note: UNESCO has been a World Social Forum supporter and participant.

**March 25-27: Dresden Nexus Conference.****Where:** Dresden, Germany.

Nexus is a United Nations-linked conference on finding and managing, through an international approach, the connections between world-wide environmental concerns, global governance and global change, and engineering natural resource use for sustainable development. Three interlocking themes will be considered in light of resource management and governance; Climate Change, Urbanization, and Population Growth. As this will be a technical-oriented event, anticipated outcomes include a consensus on management practices and documentation processes, identifying policy objectives and research priorities, finding ways to advance the global “green economy,” and developing applicable strategies through the Nexus approach.

Nexus is jointly organized by the United Nations University, Technische Universität Dresden, and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development. Event stakeholders includes UNESCO and its Institute for Water Education, the Secretariat's office of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Habitat, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the UN Industrial Development Organization, various branches within the UN University system, the International Water Management Institute, the Global Water Partnership, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, along with numerous university bodies and research institutes, and German governmental agencies.

April 2-5: Marxism 2015.**Where:** Melbourne, Australia.

Marxism 2015 is the largest conference and film festival related to advancing Marxism in the Asia-Pacific region. Attending this event will be Marxist personalities from around the world, musicians, film makers, unionists, feminists, anti-Israel activists, environmentalists, and community organizers. Numerous workshops and lectures are scheduled, touching on a range of topics from the Middle East to Leninism to “Aboriginal resistance” to gender/sexuality issues to media roles in fermenting revolutionary socialism. The University of Melbourne Student Union is one of the official supporters of this event.

April 21-24: World Order Symposium.**Where:** Cambridge, UK.

The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, a University of Cambridge institute, is hosting a free-to-the-public World Order Symposium with Richard Haass (pictured right), the president of the US Council on Foreign Relations. Haass will explore definitions and descriptions of “world order,” the role of statecraft and diplomacy, and the future of international order.

**April 21-26: Living the Spirit of the Aquarian Christ: Prepare the Way.****Where:** Mesa, Arizona.

This New Age event is geared to preparing followers for the appearing of the Aquarian Christ, the occult-initiated world messiah who, in New Age literature, is proclaimed as the coming world peace maker. As the event website explains,

“The Christ of this Age will bring a *New Spirit* to the world. He will, we are told, be supported by a great Triangle consisting of the Avatar of Synthesis, the Spirit of Peace and the Lord Buddha. His emphasis upon the Divine Will will be far greater than before. His externalized ministry to humanity and the planet will last not just three years as it did some 2000 years ago, but well through the duration of the Aquarian Age. His divine Presence will condition the entire Age of Aquarius, and humanity and the planet will never be the same again.

But the Great Lord will not accomplish these ends by Himself alone. Many of His trained Co-workers, the Masters of the Wisdom, will precede Him into general visibility, and even before the Masters can reappear in all the great planetary centers and be recognized by men and women of goodwill for what they are, the disciples of the Christ (who are the students of the Masters) must fully play their part. They must *Prepare the Way.*” [emphasis in original]

April 22: Earth Day.**Where:** Global.

Around the world, children and adults from all cultures and religions will engage in Earth Day, a time to engage in eco-activism and uphold the Earth. Started in 1970 with an overtly anti-Christian and anti-family tone, Earth Day has now become one of the most recognized “secular holidays” on the planet. Nevertheless, the “green pagan” aspect of this day cannot be overlooked. Summing up Earth Day in 1990, the actor James Coburn said the following to Christian researcher, Caryl Matrisciana: “Mother Earth is our Mother. She's the Mother Goddess. She's the one we should be praising rather than raping. I mean, all of these people here today are here for one reason, because they are concerned about what's happening to the Earth, what Mankind is doing to the Earth... The Earth is a living organism. We're killing the one we love the most, and she loves us. We've got to praise our Mother Goddess!”

**April 22-23: World Green Economy Summit.****Where:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

At the 2014 World Green Economy Summit, a declaration was made to establish Dubai as the “The Capital of the Green Economy.” What is the Green Economy? Based on the belief that human-caused climate change is poised to destroy Earth, the “global green economy” is a system built around sustainable development and the scaling back of petroleum energy as being foundational to economic growth. Petroleum is out, wind and solar are in, along with a host of other “green” products, services, and industries. More importantly, a global Green Economy is one that operates through carbon credits and carbon offsets – providing a new way of creating and transferring wealth within a “green” banking-and-trading system. It also means that certain industries will be negatively impacted through increased political pressure (taxes, fees and policies), while “approved” green sectors will receive favorable treatment.

This year the Summit will continue to build Dubai as a world platform in establishing a global green economy, and work toward enhancing the Paris climate summit in late 2015. Speakers at the World Green Economy Summit include Connie Koksang (former EU Commissioner of Climate Action), Kandeh Yumkella (Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and CEO of the UN's Sustainable Energy for All initiative), and Gino Van Begin (Secretary General of ICLEI* – Local Governments for Sustainability).

* The ICLEI network in the United States is comprised of “450 member cities and counties... in 46 states.”

May 10-12: Council of Councils Annual Conference.**Where:** Washington DC.

Founded in 2012 by America's preeminent policy think-tank, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and its International Institutions and Global Governance Program, the Council of Councils (CoC) is a global super-Council comprised of the most powerful policy-institutions from the world's top twenty-three countries (roughly paralleling the G20).

The purpose: As foreign policy challenges are now global in nature, an international Council of Councils is needed to facilitate “non-attribution dialogue” between high level policy makers and elite thinkers, “with the ultimate purpose of injecting the conclusions of its deliberations into high-level foreign policy circles within members' countries.”

Since its inauguration, the annual meeting of the CoC has strongly focussed on global governance issues, including climate change agendas, world internet management, the Euro crisis and global economic instability, international security concerns (including the role of NATO), Arctic diplomacy, and regional actors for world order. Although the agenda for the 2015 annual meeting has not been published during the time of writing this entry, it would not be unreasonable to expect the Washington CoC event to include talks on the UN Post-2015 agenda, the upcoming negotiations on a new climate treaty, and concerns regarding the Middle East and Europe/Russian affairs.

**COUNCIL
OF COUNCILS****May 18-22:** Sustainable Energy For All Forum.**Where:** UN Headquarters, New York City.

Sustainable Energy For All is a United Nations initiative meant to build a vision for global energy sustainability by 2030 - “to defeat poverty and save the planet.” To that end, industrialized nations must reduce their carbon footprint while phasing out petroleum-based energy, and engage in technology and monetary transfers to developing countries in order to build up their sustainable energy infrastructure.

At this Forum, green energy business leaders, UN and governmental representatives, along with climate activists will work to strengthen the Paris climate change summit set for late 2015, and push forward on energizing the 2030 vision. Part of this process will be partnering with existing energy/sustainability programs already set in motion through the World Bank, OPEC, the European Union, and the Asian Development Bank.

May 19-21: International Conference on Sustainable Development and Planning.**Where:** Istanbul, Turkey.

This academic conference will address sustainable development strategies and methodologies across a spectrum of management areas; policy trends in community planning, city planning and rural development, regional and global governance systems, social/cultural issues, energy/

resource management, social equality and quality of life, sustainability modeling, and environmental management concerns. Leading this event is an international scientific committee and a Turkey-based scientific panel. The UK-based Wessex Institute is sponsoring this event.

May 26-28: Governance and Emerging Technologies.

Where: Scottsdale, Arizona.

Emerging technologies are poised to challenge and shape society in a multitude of ways. This conference will explore governance and legal issues around transhumanism, including questions of privacy, pluralism, ethics and “sources of truth,” and political implications.

May 28-31: Building the New Order Conference.

Where: Radford, Virginia.

Hosted by Radford University, this event will work to model and explore global oneness. According to the organizers, “in order to 'Build the New World,' humanity must quickly shift from imperialism to social democracy, from materialism to altruism, from a global war-system to a worldwide peace-system, from unsustainable environmental destruction to resilient organic networks, and from religious separation to the redeeming state of spiritual unity. We must move from fragmentation to holism ... and fast!”

Working sessions will take place on the role of education, spirituality and religion, global law, technology, economics, culture, and peace-building; “...the vision of creating an integrated future will not end when the conference is over. Rather, the intent is to actually manifest the world which we seek! To that end, another goal of this conference is to establish an on-going transformative network that will continue to support our plans for building a glorious 21st Century.”

Sponsors include the World Constitution and Parliament Association, Prout International, Oracle Institute, The Shift Network, and the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

June 1: High-level Event on Combating Climate Change

Where: UN Headquarters, New York, NY.

The President of the UN General Assembly will host a high-level meeting aimed at building momentum towards the adoption of the new and upcoming UN Climate Change agreement. This event is just one of many taking place within the global community that is geared towards a Post-2015 system of world law.

June 4-7: Canadian New Thought Conference: Cultivating Our Mental Garden.

Where: Toronto, Ontario.

“Join us as we Awaken Humanity to its Spiritual Magnificence!” So says the website of the Canadian New Thought Conference, a New Age and motivational-styled event that will bring some of the most dynamic New Thought leaders and teachers to one location. Speakers include Michael B. Beckwith of the Association for Global New Thought (in 2012 he addressed the

United Nations General Assembly during the World Interfaith Harmony Week), Joan Borysenko (recognized author and a major influence in the mind-body health-care movement), James Mellon (founder of the Global Truth Center), and Rick Tamlyn (advisor to Fortune 100 companies).

June 10-11: 5th World Religious Congress.

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan, and its capital city, Astana, has worked hard to be viewed as a significant player in the quest for internationalism. To that end, Astana has hosted a number of small but important interfaith events with religious leaders and representatives of world political organizations.

The World Religious Congress, also known as the “Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions” - with its theme, “Dialogue of religious leaders and politicians in the name of peace and development” - will bring representatives from Christianity, Islam, Taoism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Judaism, together with senior figures from UNESCO, the World Islamic League, the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Alliance of Civilizations.



June 11-13: The United Nations at 70: Guaranteeing Security and Justice.

Where: The Hague, Netherlands.

The annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System has for its theme, “The United Nations at 70.” ACUNS will commemorate this milestone and reflect on the accompaniments of the United Nations. This will also be a time to discuss the future of the world body in terms of global governance and UN empowerment.

June 14-21: Pagan Spirit Gathering.

Where: Earlville, IL.

This annual pagan festival is one of the largest in the United States, and one of the oldest, with its beginnings going back to 1980. Over 150 activities take place at PSG, including many workshops, rituals, entertainment venues, network meetings, and a continuously burning Sacred Fire. Two items of note that have gained this event some fame are its Summer Solstice Ritual and the 1000-candle labyrinth. There's also a leadership development program hosted by the Pagan Leadership Institute during the PSG.

July 1-3: Ravage of the Planet IV.**Where:** Opatija, Croatia.

Sponsored by the UK-based Wessex Institute, this is the fourth “Ravage of the Planet” conference, an event that seeks regional and global management solutions to “human-caused” ecological stresses – climate change, over population, and careless use of resources: “Our society has fallen into a self-destructive process...” A range of scientific/social/political/economic management topics will be considered around themes of Energy, Planning and Development, Political/Economic/Social Sciences, Water Resources, Learning from Nature, New Technologies, Ecological Issues, Soil, Air, Health and Security. Previous “Ravage” events have been well attended by the scientific community.

July 2-5: Socialism 2015.**Where:** Chicago, IL.

The Chicago district of the International Socialist Organization, a large Marxist organization with branches across the United States, holds an annual summer conference to bolster activism, strengthen the ranks, and pursue the goal of Marxism – domestically and abroad. Hundreds of students, community organizers, educators, feminists, labor representatives, environmentalists and activists take part in this annual event. Over 100 workshops and strategy meetings occur under the umbrella of this gathering. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the Socialism 2015 conference will discuss the role of civil activism and protest in light of the growing unrest within America.

July 7-10: Our Common Future Under Climate Change.**Where:** Paris, France.

UNESCO and the International Council for Science and Future Earth, are hosting a large scientific conference on climate change and global governance. Four daily themes will be explored; 1) State of Knowledge on Climate Change, 2) Scenarios Exploring Our Common Future, 3) Responding to Climate Change Challenges, 4) Collective Action and Transformative Solutions.

July 9-10: BRICS Summit.**Where:** Ufa, Russia.

BRICS is an acronym for “Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa,” and this is the seventh summit of the five-nation group. Last year's meeting led to the announcement of the BRICS Development Bank, a “non-Western” option to the World Bank/IMF system – essentially, an “alternative world order.” This year's summit will continue to flesh out the Development Bank, and in particular, to decide on its physical location and determine who its president will be.

July 24-26: WorldFuture 2015.

Where: San Francisco, California.

This is the annual event of the World Future Society, an international organization of futurists, world order advocates, spiritual explorers, corporate leaders, technological and social trendsetters, political players, New Age personalities, visionaries, and a wide range of professionals who support global unity.

July 26-31: Our Transhuman Futures: Transhuman Juniata.

Where: Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

“To be human is to evolve.” So says the website for the Our Transhuman Futures conference, sponsored by Juniata Colleg. This event will explore self-directed human evolution through technology and science. Discussions will take place on human-robot interactions, cognitive enhancements, and social/religious/political issues concerning transhumanism.

August 28-30: Conference for Consciousness and Human Evolution.

Where: London, UK.

This is an annual New Age-type event styled after the famous TED Talk series. Its purpose: To raise consciousness for human evolution and global spiritual development. Speakers will discuss scientific breakthroughs in consciousness raising, the unlimited landscape of the human potential, mystical experiences and the rise of a new global metaphysics.

August 31-September 7: Burning Man.

Where: Black Rock City, Nevada.

Burning Man is a massive transformational festival and counterculture celebration in the Black Rock Desert of northern Nevada. How large is it? In 2014 the attendance topped 70,000 people.

In the final weeks of August, a tent-camper city arises out of the sand. This town, known as Black Rock City, is built in a massive C-configuration around an enormous human effigy: The Man. Constructed out of wood, this towering figure is the focal point of the week-long celebration. At the end of the week, the Man is ritually razed to the ground, followed by the burning of the Temple on Sunday. This Temple is an artistically designed shrine built with the Burning Man theme in mind.

Burning Man is a celebration of inclusiveness, radical self reliance and expression, community building and participation – with a combination of bohemian living, “self discovery,” sexual adventurism, and pagan encounters. Artisans of all stripes create unique sculptures, theme camps arise, and music stages are assembled. Clothing is optional.

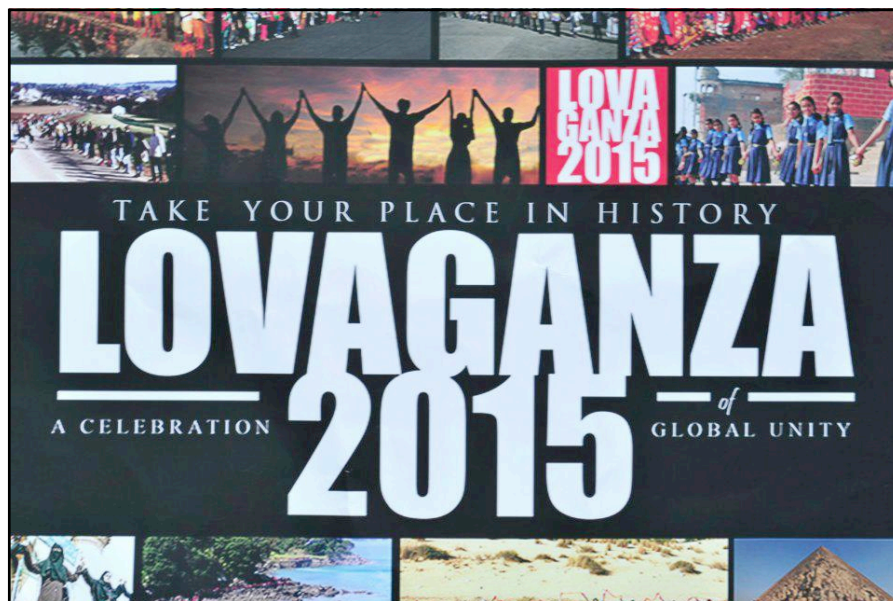
Burning Man is considered a “petri-dish for postmodernism,” seeking to experience the building of a temporary utopian community that reflects “what the world could be.”

NOTE: Throughout 2015, dozens of “Regional Burns” take place in other US states and around the world.

September 7-14: Lovaganza.**Where:** Global.

This event is billed as “the most amazing planetary celebration for peace and unity of all time.” Over the course of one week, a multitude of celebrations, concerts, and conferences will be held in cities around the planet, each event a beacon for world unity. Then, on the 14th, a “Worldwide Human Chain for Global Unity” is supposed to take place, ushering in a planetary age of harmony and collective empowerment. Through this action it is hoped that September 14 will become the International Day of Unity.

Part of the Lovaganza initiative is the release of a film series, *The Lovaganza Convoy*.

**September 10-12: The Judicialization of International Law.****Where:** Oslo, Norway.

The European Society of International Law will host its annual conference on the theme of judicial action in light of world law. Up for discussion will be the use of world tribunals, international courts (ICs), and the growth of global standards enshrined through treaties and other venues of trans-national law. According to the organizers,

“This judicialization of international law has been hailed as a glimmer of more effective and legitimate world governance promoting human rights, justice and peace. New ICs are called for to solve ever more problems, be it climate change or corporate wrongdoing. But critics abound. Some fear the judicialization of world politics others question the effectiveness of the ICs and fear new turf wars among them. Some critics lament the circumvention of national legislators and the neglect of cultural differences.”

Sept. 13-16: World Social Science Forum: Transforming Global Relations for a Just World.

Where: Durban, South Africa.

Interdisciplinary social science leaders, academics and community activists will meet to consider actions on combating climate change, transforming consumption patterns, addressing international health and education concerns, and invigorating social justice campaigns. The point: to push for global social, economic, and political transformation.

September 15-18: Beyond Humanism Conference.

Where: Seoul, South Korea.

This academic conference will consider themes and issues surrounding technology and evolutionary human progression, specifically, the ethical, social, cultural and philosophical relationships between what it means to be secularly human, posthuman, and transhuman.

September 18-21: EarthDance Global Peace Party.

Where: Global.

EarthDance is a series of synchronized celebrations, music and dance parties, and activist events – a “Global Link-Up” of roughly 60 gatherings around the world meant to actualize planetary peace and harmony. EarthDance started in 1996 when musician Chris Deckker “had a vision – in the King’s Chamber of the Great Pyramid in Giza, Egypt – of a synchronized, multi-location psytrance dance party.” Since then, over 600 EarthDance events have taken place as an “epic party” of intentional planetary good will and global conscious evolution. Finally, EarthDance is held in conjunction with the annual United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21.

September 21: International Day of Peace (World Peace Day).

Where: Global.

This United Nations-recognized day is celebrated around the world in different ways; from individual school projects and teach-ins to interfaith gatherings, public events, group meditations for universal harmony, peace ceremonies, and activist campaigns. While “peace” sounds so good, and the motives of many participants are well intentioned, the overriding theme is that lasting peace can only be achieved through global oneness. This type of thinking implies global governance and other political, social, religious, and economic factors that work towards “one world.”

September 25-27: UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Where: UN Headquarters, New York, NY.

Heads-of-state and high governmental officials will be meeting with UN leaders to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a more robust replacement for the UN Millennium Develop-

ment Goals (MDGs), which officially comes to a close at the end of the year. In June 2014, the UN Committee for Development Policy issued a report titled *Global Governance and Global Rules for Development in the Post-2015 Era*, linking the Post-2015 poverty reduction goals, educational and health targets, within the framework of sustainable development and global governance. Indeed, the MDGs are supposed to be replaced with SDGs - “Sustainable Development Goals,” including security and peace processes - and is supposed to be universally applicable and internationally coordinated.

The UN System Task Team report, *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development*, in considering the Post-2015 system, hinted at the universal approach being pursued.

“A renewed partnership for sustainable development will require universal commitments from developed and developing countries across the various goals that become part of the agenda. Such a universal agenda should help to facilitate collective action to address the problems of an increasingly interconnected world.”

October 1-4: Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy and Religion.

Where: Thessaloniki, Greece.

Sponsored by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, this invite-only event will bring-to-the-table chief diplomats and leading politicians, authors, faith representatives, and academic figures in discussing the role of interfaithism and “unity of faiths” as a primary vehicle for securing world peace.

October 15-19: Parliament of the World's Religions.

Where: Salt Lake City, Utah.

The first Parliament occurred in Chicago back in 1893. It took one hundred years before the second Parliament happened, again in Chicago. But from 1993 until now, there has been a Parliament in 1999 (Cape Town, South Africa), 2004 (Barcelona, Spain), 2007 (Monterrey, Mexico), and 2009 (Melbourne, Australia). In 2015, the next Parliament will happen in Salt Lake City, bringing thousands of faith leaders and activists to Utah for this massive interfaith gathering.

October 15-25: Global Week of Action for a World Parliament.

Where: Global.

The Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly will be hosting its international action week as a time dedicated to advancing the cause of a “world parliament” – a world government designed around a democratically elected international parliamentary system. Organizers and participants will be engaged in public relations and advocacy campaigns, lobbying and awareness activities, marches, demonstrations, and workshops. During the last two years, the Global Week of Action has spawned “world parliament” debates, discussion groups, and “model world parliaments” in places like Brussels, London, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Bangladesh, Ottawa, Munich, Paris, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, and Washington DC. More lobbying and advocacy pressure is expected for 2015.

October 21-25: SAND 2015.

Where: San Jose, California.

Sponsored by the non-profit group, Science and Nonduality, the SAND conference brings together leading mystics and major scientists in the quest to discover and accelerate the Oneness of universal experience. To that end, SAND primarily focusses on the unification between science and spirituality in birthing a global consciousness – the integration of All in All. Note: By using the term, “nonduality,” the statement is made that a transcendent God outside the universe does not exist, but that “God” is everything and everywhere in the energy of the cosmos and all matter.

October 24: Global Oneness Day/United Nations Day.

Where: Global.

Started by the group, Humanity's Team, an organization formed by best-selling “New Spirituality” author Neale Donald Walsch, Global Oneness Day (GOD) is a worldwide event meant to usher in a New Age of world unity and global harmony through the realization of “Oneness” - the deity of humanity and the interdependence of the universe. As an annual event, the main thrust of Global Oneness Day is a major Telesummit (over 40,000 participated in 2013) with the likes of Neale Donald Walsch, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Ken Wilbur, Jean Houston, Ervin Laszlo and other New Age/New Spirituality gurus. Other events take place around the world, including Drumming Circles and “Sunday Oneness Services.”

October 24 is also United Nations Day, a time set aside to acknowledge and celebrate the work of the United Nations. That GOD falls on UN Day is no coincidence. When Humanity's Team started on the road to creating GOD, they met with UN representatives and were encouraged to proceed with the idea. Hence, the choice to piggyback on the same day was a conscious decision meant to elevate global oneness in all spheres of human activity.



November 15-16: G20 Summit.**Where:** Antalya, Turkey.

World leaders from the top 20 nations will meet in Turkey to discuss pressing global issues. The direction of the summit was already signaled in late 2014: climate change financing, global investment and trade, world energy markets, and transnational financial/taxation regulations as part of the global economic engine. As the Prime Minister of Turkey said in his G20 message for 2015: “The Great Recession in 2008-09 taught us that the solution to global challenges rests in global actions. The rise of the G20 is a manifestation of this spirit.”

November 30 to December 11: United Nations Climate Change Conference.**Where:** Paris, France.

Negotiators from national governments, the United Nations and European Union, will meet to adopt a new UN climate agreement now that the Kyoto Protocol has expired. Sections of the first draft have already been circulated, and it is anticipated that by May 2015, the full text will be available for review. This agreement is being referred to, in a favorable way by the European Union, as a “single comprehensive regime.” Many environmental lobby groups and non-governmental organizations are and will add pressure to make this agreement globally binding. At the same time, there are major cracks in the Climate Change foundation, and the Paris conference could end in debacle. Although this is not what the UN wants, the possibility that the event could end in impotence is already being considered by some environmental activists, with suggestions that the ensuing political fallout may open doors to push for an even stronger global commitment.

December 27-29: 14th Session of the Provisional World Parliament.**Where:** Kolkata, India.

The World Constitution and Parliament Association (WCPA) and the Institute on World Problems, along with the International Society for Intercultural Study and Research, are hosting the 14th Session of the Provisional World Parliament.

According to the WCPA literature, “Today’s world situation calls for a World Parliament to continually build the body of world law, modeling for the rest of the world the way human problems are properly addressed. It also demands immediate action to establish democratic world government in accordance with the Constitution for the Federation of Earth.”
