

2020 FOUNDATION NEWS

Challenging times bring out the best in so many people. Yes, there has been great loss and suffering in these past months, but there has also been a tremendous outpouring of heartfelt giving and caring for each other. FSS faculty members stepped up in a magnificent way to take on the online training, including new course content—not to mention learning how to use Zoom. FSS circle members plunged enthusiastically into online community meetings, supporting each other by sharing experiences, insight, and inspiration. People found creative ways, large and small, to use their shamanic training to help our world, thereby helping themselves—and fulfilling the promise of the ancient ways of the shamans, made new in our time of need. I am deeply moved and inspired by you all.

In gratitude,
Susan Mokolke

THIS YEAR AT THE FSS

As it has been for much of the world, this has been an exceptional year for us here at the Foundation. In March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FSS postponed in-person workshops and training programs. Beginning in May, after an intensive period of course development and faculty training, we began offering fully interactive experiential workshops and community meetings by Zoom video conferencing. These online meetings have been very well received by participants and more are planned. Once the crisis passes, FSS in-person trainings will be rescheduled and future online offerings will be evaluated. See *journal pages 2 and 6-9* to see what we are doing and learning.

IN MEMORIAM: ALICIA LUENGAS GATES, 1936–2020



With great sadness, we announced the passing of Alicia Luengas Gates—extraordinary shamanic teacher and healer, and spiritual mentor to many—on July 29 in Southern California. Since then, our memorial page in her honor has blossomed with remembrances of her beautiful life and work. The small sample below expresses what a difference her presence made in those whose lives she touched. For more about Alicia and to add your own remembrance, visit: shamanism.org and click on the link in the News column on the left.

Those of us who knew Alicia know of her love for life and for shamanic work. A great teacher, not only for her knowledge but also for her great experience in shamanic healing. Watching her work with her spirits taught and inspired us. She shared with impeccable and immense love the work of Harner for so many years. Have a good trip to your soul dear friend and teacher.

A powerful shamanic practitioner and excellent teacher, she was utterly devoted to the helping and healing spirits and the FSS work. My heartfelt thanks to her, to Michael and the compassionate, wise spirits that brought us together. I could not have asked for a better teacher for the Two Week Intensive. I had no idea what I was about to learn, I only knew that I belonged. Your teaching gave us all compassion, humor, strength and power.

The Spirits LOVED to work with Alicia. A wonderful example for us all. Godspeed, Alicia!

One time you paid close attention to calling me back to my body, to ordinary reality. My entry was greeted by the penetrating gaze of your eyes. All that I experienced in that gaze—welcoming, safety, powerful presence and love—are forever etched into my heart. Good journeys, dear Alicia. thank you for guiding us so well.

Alicia was my teacher, colleague and friend. Her shamanic ethics were impeccable, her healing power amazing. To be in her presence while she worked was an inspiration and a benediction. She was a strong, decisive woman, with an abundance of compassion. Her power and strength were evident in the way she shared so completely with so many of her heart and her wisdom, without holding back. She was fearless in living her life doing what she loved. Farewell, beautiful spirit.

CORE SHAMANISM AND THE FSS: INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN MOKELKE

Susan Mokelke was interviewed about the work of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies by Susan Hess Logeais on October 28, 2018, in San Francisco, California. This interview is part of The Way of the Psychonaut documentary series, which explores the life and work of Stanislav Grof, Czech-born psychiatrist and psychedelic psychotherapy pioneer. The interview streamed live on August 20, 2020, via The Way of the Psychonaut website. *View the video here:* <https://shamanism.org/video.html>

FSS EUROPE: SHAMANISM AND DIGITALIZATION CONFERENCE

On June 26, 2020 FSS Europe pioneered the field with the conference “Shamanism and Digitalization.” Relevant contributions have been published in the online book *Shamanism and Digitalisation* (https://issuu.com/fsse/docs/tagungsbuch_2020_en). A follow-up event “Shamanism and Digitalization 2.0” took place on November 6, 2020 to further evolve in knowledge and expertise in spiritual work in the digital realities. The focus was on experiential aspects and shamanic practice in the digital realms. *See pages 3 - 9 of this issue of the journal for more about the conference and excerpts from the book.*

FSS ONLINE WORKSHOPS LAUNCHED THIS YEAR

The FSS is now offering fully interactive and experiential workshops and community meetings online by Zoom video conferencing. *See page 9 of this issue of the journal for current offerings.* For details and workshops under development, visit shamanism.org.



Michael Harner and Stan Grof.

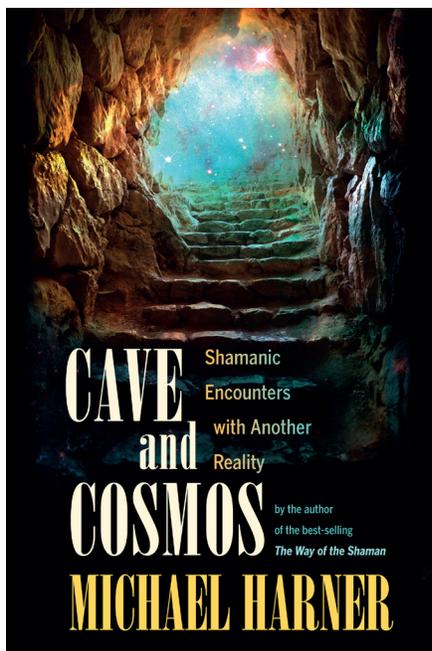
CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL HARNER AND STAN GROF

Two trailblazers in human spiritual abilities share insights and wisdom: Michael Harner, Ph.D. (1929 - 2018), anthropologist and originator of core shamanism and founder of The Foundation for Shamanic Studies (FSS), and Stan Grof, MD, Ph.D., a pioneer of consciousness research and experience for over 60 years.

The conversation is introduced by filmmaker Susan Hess Logeais and producer Mitch Schultz and followed by Q&A with FSS faculty members Amanda Foulger and Dana Robinson, and Foundation president Susan Mokelke.

Michael Harner was interviewed by Stan Grof and filmmaker Susan Hess Logeais on November 12, 2016 in Mill Valley, California. The interview, followed by live Q&A, was streamed October 7, 2020. From The Way of the Psychonaut documentary series by filmmaker Susan Hess Logeais.

View the video here: <https://shamanism.org/video.html>



CAVE AND COSMOS

Named a Kirkus Review Nonfiction Indie Book of the Month, the Kirkus says of *Cave and Cosmos: Shamanic Encounters with Another Reality*: “Harner’s rich compendium gives many ways to consider and explore a powerful and inspiring view of the cosmos.” (See more at shamanism.org.) Translations available: Czech, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Slovenian, Spanish, and Turkish.

Cave and Cosmos is available in paperback directly through the Foundation bookstore, as well as online and in local bookstores. As Michael requested, royalties from *Cave and Cosmos* go to the FSS in support of its work.