



THE FOUNDATION FOR SHAMANIC STUDIES

a nonprofit public 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization

Dedicated to the preservation, study, and teaching of shamanic knowledge for the welfare of the Planet and its inhabitants.

November 2022

We hope that this communication finds you well. Your contributions and participation in our work have made it possible for us to maintain and carry forward Michael Harner's legacy preserving and teaching shamanic wisdom. We are most appreciative.

We'd like to update you on the Foundation's situation as a result of the pandemic—both its challenges and exciting new possibilities. We hope you will be inspired to continue your support.

In early Spring 2020, the pandemic caused an immediate postponement of our in-person workshops. Prior to that time, we had seen a steady increase in attendance at the workshops and trainings, with a stable financial outlook. With this postponement, income from workshops and the advanced residential programs stopped, leaving only support from FSS memberships and donations.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS. We had been considering online offerings via Zoom, in addition to our in-person courses, for some time. This was the perfect and necessary time to begin. We immediately started development of fully experiential online shamanic workshops, designed to be taught in the digital environment. These courses are based in Michael's core shamanism, incorporating the spirit of experimentation that was an integral part of his work. The practices taught online are derived from our in-person workshops and focus on shamanic methodologies, but specific exercises were not transferred directly in order to preserve the depth and power of the time-tested original workshops.

Our faculty members plunged in, undergoing intense training in the use of Zoom videoconferencing, as well as in the content of each workshop as it was developed. As the pandemic continued and we received feedback that the online offerings were working well, we continued to add more workshops. By the end of 2020, there were four unique online workshops being offered, covering basic principles such as the shamanic journey, divination, ethical considerations, and the shamanic worldview. After the success of these courses, we embarked on a full shamanic healing series, culminating by the end of 2021 in the online [Shamanic Healing Training Program](#). We also completed an online [Shamanic Knowledge & Power](#) series, for those interested in addressing persistent personal and community problems by combining ordinary reality methods with shamanic wisdom from the spirits.

Since May of 2020 to the present, faculty members have taught over 600 online workshops, introducing more than 2100 students to shamanic practice. Over 120 students have completed the full Shamanic Healing training, receiving a certificate of completion for their efforts. This has allowed us to reach a broad and varied audience, including many younger students and those unable to attend in person.

“Exhilarating in this day and age that something so liberating could be made so accessible. Afterwards, I was so inspired and encouraged I journeyed for a few more hours and was uplifted by the results. This workshop was a life changer; so much more than imagined was given to me.”

—Participant, *The Shamanic Journey*

IN-PERSON TRAINING PROGRAMS. In May of this year, following Covid safety protocols, we were delighted to resume the [in-person residential programs](#): *Three Year Program in Advanced Initiations in Shamanism and Shamanic Healing*, *Two Week Shamanic Healing Intensive*, and *Harner Shamanic Counseling Training*. Our regular lineup of in-person two-day workshops have also continued. More are being scheduled by faculty members, as permitted by Covid circumstances in local areas. We expect to see increasing numbers of students registering in the coming months.

GOING FORWARD. The preservation and study aspects of our mission are ongoing. The FSS continues to support indigenous shamans through programs such as the [Living Treasures of Shamanism](#). We also work to study and preserve knowledge through articles in the *Shamanism Annual* written by anthropologists, FSS field associates, and those with personal experiences with indigenous shamans.

Now, however, the immediate and crucial need is support for our educational programs. Michael Harner's genius in bringing us core shamanism, from the standpoint of preserving our future, is three-fold: Core shamanism is accessible to humanity regardless of culture; it can be learned and put into successful practice relatively quickly; practitioners of core shamanism work with fully compassionate spirits of the Upper and Lower Worlds. Shamanism can help us find our way forward to a better world.

We need your help to ensure that shamanic training and the wisdom of the compassionate spirits is available to a broad audience. Your contribution to the general fund will help support our staff, faculty training, promotion of workshops and residential programs, and workshop development.

Shamanism "is a way to multiply your opportunities of solving problems, of asking for healing for the planet, getting in touch with all the beings of the planet. This goes beyond compassion.... That's a wonderful path but in shamanism it's not just being compassionate for other beings, other animals, plants, the planet—it's becoming one with it. So you feel compassion for it and yourself at the same time. We are working in concert with the agenda of the compassionate ones. It's much bigger than just us."

—Michael Harner, [The Way of the Shaman](#) documentary

We hope you will support us in this expansive next phase of our work.

In gratitude,

Susan Mokolke
President

Sandra Harner
Founder and Vice President

HOW TO DONATE

- By mail: [Download form](#)
- Online: <https://www.shamanism.org/join/make-a-difference.php>
- Email Susan Mokolke with your questions or to arrange a call: info@shamanism.org