

## 2019 FOUNDATION NEWS

### GATHERING OF THE COUNCIL

An inspiring in-person gathering of the membership of the Foundation took place in January 2019. The theme of this year's meeting was "coming together to help create a vibrant future for our community and the planet." (*View videos at: <https://shamanism.org/news/creating-a-vibrant-future/>*)

### Thai Lersi Hermit Shamans

We began on Friday evening with a fascinating presentation by Kevin Turner, Director for Asia, on the Thai Lersi Hermit Shamans. (*See article p. 2.*) Using video clips, Kevin provided a look at how the Lersi, among other methods, use amulets and tattooing for healing and protection. The evening concluded with video and commentary on Kevin's experience with Ibu Gambuh, the Resurrected Shaman of Bali, as she performed extended extraction healings.

### Creating a Vibrant Future and Report on the Legacy Project

On Saturday morning, Susan Mokolke, FSS president set the context for the day, taking a look at the Foundation's history and development and where we are now.

She discussed the relevance of shamanism today, and the critical need to bring the wisdom of the spirits to our communities and world—not only for healing, but to restore balance, unity, and harmony to carry us into the future. Sandra Harner, vice president and Director of the Shamanic Knowledge conservatory, gave us an inspiring message about the Foundation's ongoing work and future potential. She announced exciting news about the preservation of Michael Harner's library and personal papers by the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

### Shamanism and the Living Universe with Duane Elgin

Duane Elgin—social visionary, internationally recognized speaker, and author (<https://duaneelgin.com/>)—spoke to the importance of shamanic wisdom in a universe where everything is alive. He provided a look at the deeper trends that underlie what we see happening on the surface in our societies. He addressed some of the practical implications of a living universe, and how we would relate effectively to people, all of nature, and the universe itself, if we understood this fundamental truth. Duane finished with a

message of inspiration and hope, offering a model of where humanity is in our development and suggesting possibilities for our maturation as a species and creating a future that nurtures all life.

### Dialog and Discussion: Creating a Vibrant Future

Stimulated by Duane's presentation, we broke into several smaller groups for a dynamic discussion of what a vibrant future would look like for our community and our Earth. A spokesperson for each of the groups shared ideas raised by group participants.

### Breakout Sessions with FSS Faculty

After lunch, four FSS faculty members led small groups in experiencing a shamanic practice of personal interest to them, which they had developed.

*Charles Conatser* – "A Shamanic Approach to Addressing Unfinished Business with the Deceased"

*Tim Cope* – "Wisdom from Our Wild Relations"

*Elaine Egidio* – "Shamanism and Healing Movement"

*Amanda Foulger* – "Bringing Heart to Our Lives & Practice"



*Gathering of the Council, Circle of the Foundation, January 2019.*



Breakout session with Tim Cope, "Wisdom from Our Wild Relations"

### The Dream Dance

The day ended with an experience of the Dream Dance. Susan Mokolke provided background and history of the Foundation's involvement and instructions. Attendees took part in the dance, asking the ancestors for a vision of a vibrant future for our world. Participants were then invited to share their visions with the group—with many touching, inspiring, and hopeful contributions.

### SHAMANISM FOR INSPIRED LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE

The FSS is pleased to announce a new

workshop, *Shamanism for Inspired Local & Global Change*. In these challenging times, shamanic work, when combined with ordinary reality knowledge and action, can make an immense contribution toward effective long-term solutions for community and global problems. This workshop offers practical methods to gain and apply wisdom from the spirits to resolve persistent problems facing humanity, our precious Earth, and its inhabitants.

The course was offered for the first time in the San Francisco Bay Area in April 2019. FSS Faculty are in training

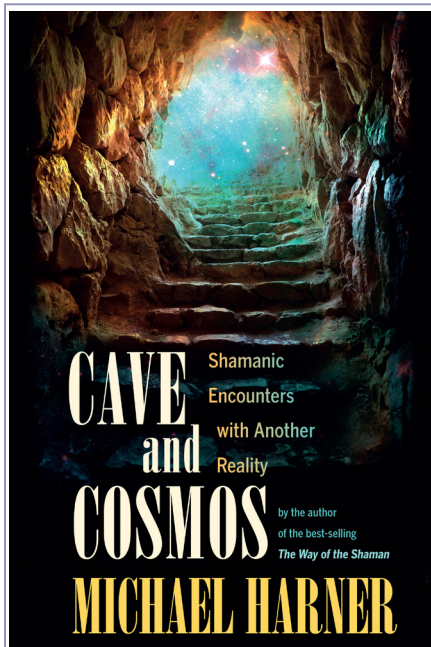
now to teach this transformative method throughout the USA and Canada. (Please visit [shamanism.org](http://shamanism.org) for workshop schedule.)

FSS President Susan Mokolke was invited to teach *Shamanism for Inspired Local & Global Change* in Ohlstadt, Germany, to participants and FSS Europe faculty members. In September 2019, a large group of participants from various European countries successfully completed the training. In the coming year, Roland Urban, Director of FSS Europe, plans to train the faculty there to teach this method to students throughout Europe.



### FSS PRESENTS AT IONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Susan Mokolke, FSS President, presented at the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) 2019 International Conference, held July 18–21, 2019 in Santa Clara, California. On July 18 Susan facilitated an all day pre-conference workshop, "The Shamanic Journey, Pathway to Another Reality," introducing Michael Harner's core shamanism journeying method to enthusiastic participants from around the world. Attendees had the opportunity to experience the shamanic journey using drumming to alter consciousness, enter into another reality, make contact with compassionate spirits, and gain help for their lives. (More about the conference: <http://noetic.org/conference/>)



### 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](http://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 Foundation for Shamanic Studies in support of its work.



*Available for free online streaming at [shamanism.org](http://shamanism.org)*

#### REVIEW, SACRED HOOP MAGAZINE

You know, probably, if it wasn't for the work of Michael Harner you wouldn't be reading *Sacred Hoop Magazine*, in fact you probably wouldn't even know the word "shamanism," or what it means, and might not have idea that the spirits exist and interact with humanity.

Born in 1929, Michael was actively studying shamanism back in 1957—the year I was born in—making you and I Johnny-come-latelies, and mere infants. He has devoted his life to bringing shamanism to the West, and created the concept of core shamanism. If you have ever learned to do a shamanic drum journey, or read a new-age book about shamanism, you have to thank Michael, he is the root of everything we—in the shamanic community—do today, whether you have worked with him, or the Foundation for Shamanic Studies, or not.

This is a lovely film, chronicling his life and work, from the 1950s, when he was an anthropology researcher in the Amazon, working with the Jívaro (Shuar) people, through his first tentative steps teaching people in the West, and on to the establishing of his organization, the Foundation with his wife Sandra.

Made up of a series of interviews with Michael and Sandra, along with friends and colleagues—and interspersed with film clips of workshops being taught, and traditional shamans in practice—this film not only shares the history of Michael's work, but is also an excellent "stand-alone" basic guide to modern Western core shamanism in its own right. Core shamanism—which is a sort of de-cultured, extracted kernel of the essence of shamanism, hence its name "core"—is not for everyone, but it's a really important gateway, through which people in the West can contact the spirits. People here can't all go and take a traditional apprenticeship with a shaman in a faraway land, but through learning and practicing core shamanism, a relationship with the spirits can be developed, and through that, the spirits can lead you to who knows where.

I think this film should be watched by anyone with an interest in practicing shamanism, and it is also ideal to share with people who don't know what you are involved in, but who would like to know.

Nicholas Breeze Wood, editor  
*Sacred Hoop Magazine*, Issue 97, September 2017

#### ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

The story of Michael and Sandra Harner in the history and development of core shamanism, the universal, near universal, and common practices of shamanism worldwide. This documentary movie takes us through Michael's early expeditions as a young anthropologist in the jungles of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon and his life-altering insights into shamanic power. The Harners established the Foundation for Shamanic Studies to preserve, study, and teach shamanism for the benefit of all, leading to a worldwide renaissance of shamanism and shamanic healing through the Foundation's premiere international training programs. The film is an informative and inspiring look at the people behind the evolution of this groundbreaking spiritual healing methodology that honors and builds upon the ancient knowledge of the world's shamans. Through these methods, thousands of students have discovered hidden spiritual resources, transformed their lives, and learned how to help others and our precious Earth.

#### INTERVIEWS

in order of appearance

Michael Harner  
 Jack Kornfield  
 Amanda Foulger  
 William S. Lyon  
 Sandra Harner  
 Roger Walsh  
 Jeffrey D. Ehrenreich  
 Stanislav Grof  
 Susan Mokolke  
 Larry Peters

Producer: Wisdom Streaming  
 Director: Coleen LeDrew Elgin  
 Running time: 1:07:42  
 Released: July 2017