

Special Message

True recovery requires profound personal transformation of everyday life that includes the cultivation of spiritual awareness, appreciation of the world, celebration of human existence, rekindling of healthy emotions, and the expression of creativity.

On behalf of the International Transpersonal Association (ITA), we are pleased to announce the 1991 International Transpersonal Conference entitled *The Yearning for Wholeness: Addiction and the Spiritual Quest*, to be held on September 17-21 at the Stouffer-Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, GA. In organizing this conference, the ITA is responding to the enthusiastic reaction to its last years historic meeting in Eugene, OR, that brought together for the first time representatives of transpersonal psychology and people from the addiction field and the Twelve Step programs.

Transpersonal psychology is a discipline which emphasizes the importance of the spiritual dimension and of the transcendental needs in human existence. During the last two decades, the pioneers of the transpersonal movement have made successful attempts to reintroduce the spiritual perspective into psychology and other disciplines and integrate it into the new scientific world-view. The Twelve Step programs, which offer the most successful and promising approaches to alcoholism, chemical dependence, codependence, and other addictions, have been using spiritual principles for more than half a century and contain many elements of a clearly transpersonal nature.

However, in spite of this obvious kinship, the two movements were until recently developing separately from each other, with very little exchange and interaction. Combining the experience and efforts of these two endeavors holds great promise of opening up exciting new perspectives in the area of addiction. The main objective of this forthcoming conference of the International Transpersonal Association in

Atlanta is to further explore and develop the creative exchange of information and experience between the two fields that was so successfully begun in Eugene.

The Twelve Step programs and comprehensive treatment for addictions emphasize that successful recovery must offer much more than control of addictive behavior. True recovery requires profound personal transformation of everyday life that includes the cultivation of spiritual awareness, appreciation of the world, celebration of human existence, rekindling of healthy emotions, and the expression of creativity. This will be reflected in the program of the conference, which will include lectures and experiential seminars, as well as films, art exhibitions, concerts, dance, and rituals, focusing specifically on spiritual and transformational aspects of addiction.

We are very excited about the upcoming event. We invite all of you who share this vision to come and explore it with us intellectually and experientially. It will be an opportunity for all of us to reconnect with old friends and meet many new ones.

Hosts:

Christina and Stanislav Grof, M.D.

Conference Coordinators:

Stuart and Debra Funke-d'Egnuff

Program Coordinators:

Tav and Cary Sparks

Logistics Coordinator:

John McKenzie

The International Transpersonal Association

The International Transpersonal Association (ITA) is a scientific organization that unites individuals of different nationalities, professions, and philosophical or spiritual preferences who share the transpersonal orientation. By using the specific methods of their disciplines and the results of their observations, they are moving toward or have arrived at the recognition of the fundamental unity underlying the world of separate beings and objects and are applying this new understanding in their respective fields.

The ITA is interested in bridging the gaps existing at present between various scientific disciplines and seemingly disparate or contradictory approaches, such as ancient wisdom and modern science, or the Eastern spiritual philosophies and Western pragmatism. In practice, the ITA tries to facilitate the application of the new principles and conceptual frameworks to therapy, scientific research, education, spiritual practice, economy, ecology, politics, and other areas of human life.

