

THE 13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ITA  
CONFERENCE



MAY 22-27, 1994

KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY, IRELAND

The Board of Directors of the ITA and I heartily welcome you to Toward Earth Community: Ecology, Native Wisdom and Spirituality.

From the moment we accepted Ralph Metzner's proposal to address these urgent and challenging themes at a conference in this beautiful and inspiring land, it has seemed that this meeting was being enthusiastically — somehow even magically received. That, indeed, has been the case. Many of you told us that you experienced a deep internal calling to make the pilgrimage to be here; others, that you had long shared our concerns and looked forward to the opportunity to participate with individuals from around our greater global community. And still others, especially those from the ecological and indigenous communities, had never been to a transpersonal conference but felt inspired enough to come see what it is all about.

We thank each of you for the generous response that has made this meeting so successful, and, for your ongoing willingness to explore, with us, the transpersonal perspective. I invite you to participate and celebrate with us fully and hope that you will remember this conference as the one that significantly enhanced your awareness of your own personal relatedness to all human beings, all other animals, and all of our environment — our glorious Mother, Earth.

*Patricia Ellerd, President  
International Transpersonal Association*

The time is the end of May, half-way between Beltane, with its purifying fires and merry dances, and Mid-Summer Equinox, with its fruitful warmth and exuberant growth. The Sun moves from Taurus into Gemini and the Moon is full. The gates to the Otherworld have opened, and if we are lucky, the *sidhe* and spirits of the land, the sea and the air, may gift us with their benevolent presence.

Women and men from all the continents, some with their children, have come together to honor and celebrate the Earth — to sing, to dance, to hear poems and stories, to share food and drink and the laughter of true friendship. More seriously, we have also come to contemplate together and to mourn the overwhelming loss of so much of the diversity of life and culture that is occurring in our time. And thirdly, we have come to counsel and to strategize together, on how best to resist and transform the techno-industrial production-consumption monster that is mindlessly devastating the biosphere.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A large number of people — not to mention the invisible helpers — have contributed to bringing the vision of this conference into manifestation — some with material support, others with invaluable counsel, contacts, and suggestions.

The ITA gratefully acknowledges the following financial contributors, without whose support the conference could not have come into being: John Buchanan, Michael Currier, Peggy Hitchcock, Andre Carothers, Ella Alford, Bokara Legendre (Tara Foundation), Marjorie Kiewit, Pocket Ranch Institute (Barbara Findeisen, President), Rock River Fund, Schweisfurth Stiftung (Franz-Theo Gottwald, Executive Director), The Fetzer Institute (Robert F. Lehman, President), and other donors who prefer to remain anonymous. We gratefully acknowledge as well those who contributed to the scholarship fund, allowing us to facilitate the attending of several dedicated but indigent participants.\* A special thanks is due to Patricia Walsh for initiating and funding the ITA award for Outstanding Transpersonal Contribution to Solution of the Global Crisis; and also to Elinore Detiger, for supporting the presence of several Irish and European attendees and for organizing a gathering on "Celebrating Women's Work", in Dublin just prior to the conference.

In putting together the conference program, I very much appreciate the many advisors who have shared their knowledge and experience. I'm particularly grateful: to Nina Wise, for her suggestions early in the planning process and many outstanding contacts; to Elisabeth Sahtouris, Roger Walsh, Chungliang Al Huang, Jack Kornfield, and Angeles Arrien, for their excellent recommendations of speakers and presenters; to James Thornton, Will Keepin, Christina Desser, Randy Hayes, and Andre Carothers, for their counsel, contacts, and support in bridging mainstream environmentalism to psychological and spiritual concerns; to David Haenke, for very helpful suggestions and contacts from his experience as organizer of bioregional congresses; to Michelle Syverson, for connections to several outstanding

environmentalist presenters, and her advice on publicity outreach and media relations; to Joan Marler and to David Whyte for excellent suggestions and contacts for speakers and artists from Ireland; to Paul Devereux, for many very valuable connections and recommendations for presenters in the earth mysteries field from Britain and Ireland; to Thomas Browne, for serving as liaison and advisor with Irish presenters, public officials, media, and film production people; to Nuala McDowell Ahern also for valuable counsel on certain nuances of Irish society and politics; to Winona LaDuke, for courteously drawing my attention to an inappropriate imbalance in the representation of native speakers; to Patricia Cummings and Jerry Mander for their assistance in correcting this situation, and for other valuable suggestions concerning indigenous speakers and issues; and to Gigi Coyle, for her wisdom and support in dealing with sensitive ecological and cultural issues.

Last but not least, I am profoundly appreciative of my colleagues on the ITA Board of Directors, who actively supported and facilitated the process of the conference from vision through to realization. In particular, I thank Stan and Christina Grof, old friends and co-founders of the ITA, organizers of many past conferences, for their generous encouragement; Robert McDermott, also president of CIIS, for his unstinting commitment and wise counsel; Patricia Ellerd and Lauren Artress, for their willingness to collaborate whole-heartedly and with gentle persistence in the sometimes daunting enterprise of planning a conference. I can hardly express the respect and appreciation I feel for the superb work of my colleagues on the conference staff: Laura Hanson, ITA Executive Director and effortless manager of office chaos; John McKenzie, Conference Coordinator and multi-channel logistics wizard; and Cathy Coleman, Children and Youth Conference Coordinator, who is also my wife and takes care of a household and a full-time job besides.

Ralph Metzner



# Come celebrate earth and spirit in mythic Ireland.

**I**reland – known to travelers  
as the Emerald Isle, and to European  
environmentalists as the vanguard of  
green consciousness – is the ideal setting for  
this conference on ecology, native wisdom and  
spirituality. We will explore, through  
presentations and post-conference  
tours, the earth-honoring  
spiritual traditions of Celtic  
and megalithic Eire and  
the British Isles. Irish poets, story-  
tellers and musicians will share  
with us something of what Brendan  
Kennelly calls "...the blend of a child's sparkling  
enthusiasm with an old survivor's gritty wisdom."



I am the wind on the sea  
I am a wave of the deep  
I am the hawk on the cliff  
I am a tear of the sun  
I am the greenest of plants  
I am the wild boar  
I am a salmon in the river  
I am the fire in the head

*Song of Amergin*