



Agora eBuzz

Institute for 21st Century Agoras

June 2011

New Movie

Laura Harris informs us of a new film about her mother and Agoras Board member. It is now in mid-production: [LaDonna Harris: Indian 101 by Julianna Brannum](#).

LaDonna Harris: Indian 101 is a documentary film about Comanche activist [LaDonna Harris](#), who led an extensive life of Native political and social activism and is now passing on her traditional cultural and leadership values to a new generation of emerging Indigenous leaders around the world.

Harris' efforts as a trailblazer began when President Lyndon Johnson assigned her to educate the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government on the unique role of American Indian tribes and their relationship with the federal government. This course was affectionately called "Indian 101" and was taught to members of Congress and other federal agencies for over 35 years.

In addition to her work in civil rights, world peace, the environment and women's rights, Harris is best known for introducing landmark legislation that set the tone for greater civil rights in the U.S., including land return claims to the Taos Pueblo Tribe and native tribes of Alaska and returning federal recognition to the Menominee Tribe.

Held in the highest regard by her colleagues for countless social and historic achievements, Harris is now passing her knowledge to a new generation of emerging Indigenous leaders not just in the U.S. but all over the globe. Her latest offering is a cutting-edge program that trains Native professionals to incorporate their own tribes' traditional values and perspectives into their work while building a global Indigenous coalition.

LaDonna Harris: Indian 101 explores Harris' achievements, the personal struggles that led her to become a voice for Native people and her contemporary work to reshape Indian Country in America and abroad. A longer trailer of the film can be viewed on the film's official website, www.indian101movie.com. This is a definitive documentary about "the first lady of Indian country" and one of America's most trailblazing women.

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Laura on behalf of Americans for Indian Opportunity asks for our help in raising the necessary funds to complete *LaDonna Harris: Indian 101* during a 30-day challenge via <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1267158071/ladonna-harris-indian-101-30-day-challenge>. She asks that we share this request with our online networks.

If we donate \$1, \$5, \$25 or \$100 online within the next 30 days, Juliana will be able to finish the movie so that it can be shown on PBS and distributed worldwide! There are some wonderful acknowledgement gifts for each giving level, including dinner with LaDonna! Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you so much for your help! You can watch the trailer at www.indian101movie.com. If you need more information, please contact me at AIO (505-842-8677 or lharris@aio.org). We look forward to the premiere of this timely film. I hope you will become a backer by making a donation today.

New Books

Two new books have just been published. They are: ***A Democratic Approach to Sustainable Futures – A Workbook for Addressing the Global Problematique***, by Flanagan and Bausch, and ***Masks of Demons*** by Board member Yiannis Laouris.

The workbook, ***A Democratic Approach***, supports scholarly role playing in the arena of global diplomacy and human system planning. Audiences include students, faith-based groups, and community members who like to grapple with the big picture -- arguably the biggest picture -- or our times: global sustainability. The modular 4 or 5 week course can be extended as different groups might choose. Through role playing, audiences will collaborate with others in an authentic engagement with the world's complexity through participatory democracy. This experiential learning opportunity has the power to change lives, and the promise to save the planet. ...Endorsements for the book can be found later in this eBuzz. To order the book, go to <https://www.createspace.com/3571032>

Masks of Demons interweaves Cypriot history with the author's own personal story and polymath knowledge of conflict resolution and technology. It takes inspiration from tragic historical events that have happened in Cyprus over the past half-century.

Can 30 peace builders from opposite sides of the green Line effect change for an entire country divided by war and fear? This poignant and searching tale spans the origins and history of a tiny island gem found at the cultural crossroads of the world, and tells of how the author, one of those 30, strives to demolish the walls of ignorance and open doors to peace and freedom.

In the summer of 1974, everything changes for this native of Cyprus. Separated from his parents and family, who were forced to flee their homes and leave everything behind, Yiannis makes his way to his uncle's farm. With his unique perspective, Yiannis recalls the days of fear and confusion that follow with humor, sensitivity, and a clarity that puts the reader in the shadowy arbor of the farm, where men and boys huddle around and old radio for news. From the mythic stories of the creation of Mount Pentadactylos, to his adoption of technology, philosophy, and science in the quest for peace and unity, *Masks of Demons* is the story of a man who hopes to scale the walls standing between him and self-actualization just as he fights to blast the barriers that divide his beloved island.

Masks is available at www.masksofdemons.com.

Board member David Loye has published **Darwin on Love**. Long scattered throughout Darwin's writings are ninety five stories of the love and sex life of an intriguing range of animals. Through the charm and delight of Darwin's own love story — and the insights and humor of these ninety five stories of love and sex for the first time brought together here — this book provides an engaging introduction to the new story and theory of Darwin for readers of all ages. To order this book, go to <http://www.benjaminfranklinpress.com>.

More Book News

***Body Wisdom – Interplay of Body and Ego* won a bronze medal** at the Independent Publishers' (IPPY) Awards competition in the Classical/Philosophical category. *Body Wisdom* derives from our physical unity with the universe and our body's access to its silent wisdom and power. Our bodies construct our egos and cognitive wisdom through their creation of language. In important ways, body wisdom is superior to cognitive wisdom. The theme of the book can be expressed as follows:

Body is wiser than Ego.

Ego is cleverer than Body.

When Ego catches Body's tune, a song happens.

When Ego catches Body's intuition, magic happens.

An idea is born.

To learn more about this book, or to buy it, go to its blog www.bodywisdombook.com.

Surprise Endorsement

Agoras received a surprise endorsement *sent on February 17th from Prince Hassan bin Talal, Royal Palace, Amman Jordan*. He wrote:

Thank you very much for providing me with a copy of "How people harness their collective wisdom and power to construct the future through co-laboratories of democracy."

The notion of democracy as a "co-laboratory" – something participatory, a negotiated concoction – is one I very much like. I also was particularly drawn to the discussion about the importance of "Dialogos" in ancient Athens and its role in helping to create democracy – I often say that conversation, or true 'dialogue', is a noble if somewhat forgotten art.

Your thoughts on web-world – on 'hierarchical' or 'web-like paradigms' – also gave pause for thought, although I do wonder if the digital world will one day become more tightly ordered than the 'clockwork' one."

The friction between freedom and control was a thread which seemed to run throughout the book, and its historical and modern dimensions are very much relevant to the West Asia North Africa region today.

I wish you every success with this publication. Kind regards, El Hassan Bin Talal

Prince Hassan is uncle to the present King Abdullah II of Jordan. He is a longtime advocate and worker for Peace and Humanitarian issues. For info on the book, www.harnessingcollectivewisdom.com.

[Our heartfelt thanks go out to Heiner Benking who was able to deliver the book to Prince Hassan.]

Endorsements for *A Democratic Approach*

A Democratic Approach to Sustainable Futures requires students to guide their own learning. This is one of the most effective means of learning, and students following this workbook can expect to feel like they have accomplished significant gains at the end. This is an excellent workbook for serious students who are not satisfied by simple theory or impractical practice. This is the book to prepare for the messy, multi-layered, multi-faceted, personal, political, real world of applied global activism

From the Preface by Ambassador John W. McDonald
Founder (1990) and CEO, The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy
Four-time Ambassador under Presidents Carter and Reagan
Leader of development efforts in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Kenya
Past Secretary General of the Club of Rome

To link the hopeful new wave of students fed up with the status quo and wanting to work for change with an effective method for doing this is one of the most urgent tasks of our time. This need is powerfully addressed by Flanagan and Bausch in *A Democratic Approach to Sustainable Futures: A Workbook for Addressing the Global Problematique*. The key to their approach is to at last provide the new activist wave with a computer-aided way to effectively deal with the complexities that currently so quickly—and tragically—turn too many of them off.

David Loye, award-winning author of *The Healing of a Nation* and *Darwin's Lost Theory*
Publisher, Benjamin Franklin Press
Co-founder with Riane Eisler of *The Partnership Way*

Flanagan and Bausch have offered humankind a real gift by revisiting forty years later the original prospectus of the Club of Rome on the "Predicament of Mankind." They managed to excavate its architectural wisdom and enable us all to internalize it by rediscovering individually and collectively the Global Problematique. People from all walks of life studying this workbook will be able to appreciate our contemporary predicament and the challenges of authentic, participative, and sustainable democracy.

Alexander N. Christakis, Founder, Institute for 21st Century Agoras

Our Plans – Your Assistance Requested

We plan to approach numerous universities and professors in the fields of diplomacy, ecology, sustainability, and systems thinking to present them our ideas and offer a free copy of *A Democratic Approach* if they will consider offering a course as described in the book. We ask your assistance. If you know professors who might be interested in teaching this course, please send their names and contact information to either ken@globalagoras.org or trflanagan@aol.com.

3rd International Facilitators Training School

Future Worlds Center in collaboration with the 21st Century Agoras is holding the 3rd International Facilitators Training School in Structured Dialogic Design (SDD) Process. July 25-27, 2011 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The school is for persons interested in the professional certification scheme, those who wish to become active SDD Facilitators and Mediators as well as for individuals who want to learn more about the science of structured dialogic design and eventually become certified SDD facilitators. The 3rd International Facilitators Training School intends to offer 3 credits towards the professional certification program.

The training will include theoretical foundations, practical applications, re-discovering the science, role playing, as well as face-to-face and virtual lectures including a webinar.

Instructors include:

- Prof. Aleco Christakis, Founder of Global Agoras and Father of the science of Dialogic Design
- Prof. Tom Flanagan, President of Institute for 21st Century Agoras, co-author of Talking Point
- Prof. Nikitas Assimakopoulos, President of Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies
- Dr. Yiannis Laouris, President of Future Worlds Center and member of 21st Century Agoras Board
- Prof. Ken Bausch, co-author of Harnessing Collective Wisdom
- Marios Michaelides, Long-standing practitioner

Participation Fee: €350.00

This fee includes:

- Registration fees and certificate
- All coffee and snacks (lunches and/or dinners not included)
- All reading materials on CD
- Two books:

1. Christakis, A.N. and Bausch, K. (2006). How People Harness Their Collective Wisdom and Power to Construct the Future in Co-Laboratories of Democracy. Information Age Publishing, Inc.
 2. Flanagan, T. R., and Christakis, A. N., (2009). The Talking Point: Creating an Environment for Exploring Complex Meaning. Information Age Publishing Inc.
- Access to the Members' pages of the SDD International School Website (for full access to all materials)
 - Limited version of Cogniscope software
 - Gala Dinner

If you wish to receive a seasonal eBuzz, please go to <http://www.globalagoras.org/about/get-in-touch> and sign in. We will add you to the eBuzz mailing list.



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