

Honorary Member Carla De Sola

In her own words 12/2011:



I believe it was in the 80's that I was first invited to lead a workshop for The SDG, held in Endicott, MA. It slowly dawned on me that I had come home to family. It was a wonderful feeling! I remember taking in a lot of what was for me exciting and new, but also facing aspects that would take me much later to appreciate, for we represented many different traditions. (As I get older I become more inclusive of all steps and stages.) That same festival I met Dr. Doug Adams, then President of the Guild, and was inspired by his incisive comments, such as inviting us to look at dances from a lens of whether they were inspirational or prophetic. I realized I wanted to be nurtured by more formal study in theology, spirituality and the arts, and found myself years later with an MA in Religion, and teaching at his invitation both at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, and later through the Center for the Arts, Religion & Education, founded by Doug, and celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Before coming to California I had founded the Omega Liturgical Dance Co., which was in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC for more than 25 years. It was from our studio in the crypt that many of the dances I performed during The Sacred Dance Guild Festivals were developed. The company is still in existence, currently at Middle Collegiate Church, also in NYC, and I had the privilege of setting excerpts from *Beyond Words: An Interfaith Ritual for Peace*, for their 9/11 service. The dance sections of this ritual were performed for the SDG Festival '07, *Many Faiths...Many Forms... Dancing the Sacred Together.*"



I am currently teaching a variety of classes around themes in sacred dance, including co-teaching with David McCauley Spirit in the Art: Perceiving the Sacred in the Performing Arts - The Many Faces of Dance. This course was requested by Doug Adams before he died. Doug's memorial service brought together many members of the SDG over the years, and we were dancing throughout the service. I have danced since for quite a few memorial



services inspired by that event, including for my late husband, Arthur Eaton (see picture of danced recessional at St. Gregory of Nyssa Church in SF), as well as creating a dance in his memory performed only once, for the SDG's 2008 festival.

There are ongoing opportunities to dance at liturgies, both with Omega West Dance Co. and by myself, leading congregations in movement prayers. I constantly see new depths to this sacred path of dance and life and prayer - I pray I have time to write them as on-going reflections to be shared.

I bless my "family."

Carla

PS. See "The Spirit Moves...My Soul Responds", for a more complete article on highlights of key moments in my journey as a Sacred Dancer. ARTS, 2009, www.artsmag.org