



Whew!! We ARE almost there! Just over a week and the Virtual Villagers will gather together in mind, body and spirit and CONNECT across the globe through movement and dance!

We are sending this to **registered participants** to give you a **“pre” Festival update** to help get ready for the adventure! I know most of you have been contacted by one of our Participant Support Workers – Jennifer (from Ottawa, Canada at pr@sacreddanceguild.org) or Elaine (from Boston, MA at prog2@sacreddanceguild.org) so if you have specific question, issues or concerns you can be in touch with them and they will either answer your question or find someone else who will!

Remember – this is YOUR adventure and YOU make the choices! DO familiarize yourself with the information on the **Website** and identify the workshops/events that you want to attend and check the times to see if they are in the realm of possibility for you! You are NOT intended to try to attend everything. Come and go as the spirit moves you for different classes and events (with the caveat that you get to the class on time – we will close the door for the sake of the Presenter and the other participants about 5 minutes after the start time)! We know that because of different time zones, different commitments in our lives and different preferences that we will all embrace this in our own unique and wonderful ways! That IS what Festival is all about! Bringing the unique YOU to interact with unique OTHERS and thereby creating our own synergies in community and recognizing that collectively WE ARE ONE! That is the story of dance as an expression of the sacred!

There are still some spaces available so if you have others who would like to dance on over do send them the link to the website and invite them to join us for this unique journey.

SO – here’s a whole lot of words to start you on your Dancing Journey! Most of these details are on the **WEBSITE** but we’re adding extra details for you! We WILL be sending out a final update next Thursday so DO check your email to make sure you receive those details.

Time: - **Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)** (EST when Daylight Savings in place). So – while we have presenters and participants from MANY time zones **ALL workshops and events will be showing in EDT**. This is the time where the Sacred Dance Guild office is located (in Maryland) and currently where a majority of the participants reside. PLEASE make sure to check the local time for workshops and events that you want to attend. We wouldn't want you to miss them. Click [THIS LINK](#) for a time converter – you can use New York City as the convert FROM city!

Tech Tips: Will we have technical issues? I so wish I could say NO – it will be perfect! But if my experience is anything to go by that is rarely the case! There are so many variables – the device that each person is using, the person's comfort level and knowledge with technology, the microphones, the speakers, the environment, the bandwidth, the other people in the world using the system, the music, the videos...and on and on! Do check out the [TECHNICAL NOTES](#) on the Website. We are all at different stages of the “on line” learning experience so if we can help one another that will be one more way we can dance together!

We WILL do everything we can in advance to reduce the issues. We WILL, to the extent possible, be there to support you if you run into problems during the Festival. We WILL extend our deepest prayers to the Divine to be there with us!

BUT – we all know that sometimes things are what they are! In advance, we thank you for your patience and persistence! We suggest, if (not gonna say “when”!) something goes wrong technically for you or for us – get up and dance it out – and maybe even video that dance! We would LOVE to see the collective experience through the lens of movement and dance! That could be a fun future Post Festival “Sharing” time all by itself!!

Recordings – We WILL be recording each session, and as long as technology serves us well, we do hope to be able to make those available to participants after the Festival. It will; however, take some time and considerable effort to get those reviewed, converted and ready to share. We will let you know if/when these will be available for you to access. You are NOT permitted to record or take photos during workshops – same as at an inperson Festival. We have permission from attendees to take photos and record for SDG use ONLY and SDG organizers will be doing this. Thank you for respecting this requirement.

Day 1 - Friday, July 31st – OPENING (depending on where you are! Check your local time!) There is **ONE workshop** (5:00 pm with Marilyn Green of NYC) before the ‘Opening Celebration’. IF you think you might like to be part of the Festival Concert “*The Way of the Phoenix*” taking place on Sunday at 7:30 pm you can attend this workshop and decide if that's something you would like to do. You CAN attend the workshop for the experience and NOT participate in the concert (other than as the audience)! The choice is yours.

The **Opening Celebration** starts at 7:00 pm. We will come together in community, have some time to acknowledge and meet some of the presenters, join breakout rooms to chat with other participants, and then Maria Sangiorgi (from Victoria, Australia) will lead us as we dance together

setting our personal and collective intentions! This will be a wonderful experience to begin our adventures together!

Post Opening Celebration **Workshop** – 9:30 pm. A unique opportunity to attend a workshop **“Cry of the Dove”** facilitated by Carla DeSola (from Berkeley, California) – one of the Sacred Dance Guild’s Honorary Members - and a pioneer in dance as an expression of the sacred. Details are on the [Website](#).

Day 2 & Day 3 – Sat., Aug. 1st and Sun. Aug. 2nd - WORKSHOPS

We are so blessed to have over 20 workshop presenters representing many different forms of dance as an expression of the sacred, from 4 continents, 7 countries! We know that you will NOT be able to experience them all – unless a few of you are superhuman of course – and if you are we DO want to hear from you!! Whatever screen door you decide to enter, we are certain it will be an experience that is special for you and for all of the others who will be joining you – including the presenter! Take some time to read the information on the [Website](#) so you’ll know where you need to be! BUT – be open to surprises! Sometimes we end up somewhere unexpectedly – maybe you’ll click on a different link – that could be just the place you need to be!!

Day 2 & Day 3 – Sat., Aug. 1st – 4:30 pm and Sun. Aug. 2nd - 6:00 pm - SHARING

YEAH!! One of the Sacred Dance Guild’s most loved Festival experiences! A time when participants come together and share with each other. Offerings can be live (you will be spotlighted) or video (you provide us the video) and can be works you have been offering for years or a work in progress or something spontaneous! Maybe you have a video of a Sharing from a past Festival (yours or someone else’s) that you want to share.... Lots of possibilities!! Do be in touch with our Sharing Coordinator Mary Kamp (from Cincinnati) at res@sacreddanceguild.org if you have questions or want to “book” a time to present at one of the two Sharing times.

Day 2 – Sat. Aug. 1st – 9:00 pm – NOT SO SILENT AUCTION

Another Sacred Dance Guild Festival favourite! But – with a “twist” to work in our virtual reality world! So – IF you have something that it is time for you to pass on to another – here’s an opportunity to do that! The idea is you would bring your item to this Social time. Have information about it available to “show and tell” to the others. The Bidding will be done via the Zoom “Chat”. The successful bidder will pay for the time by making a donation to the SDG in the amount they bid. A few suggestions to keep it realistic! If YOU are bringing something, best that it be fairly small and fairly light! Your “Gift to the Guild” is to donate the item AND to get it to the successful bidder! So mail rates (particularly those out of country!) will be something to consider. We will suggest the bidders be from the same country as the owner of the item so that will be one of the “conditions”! Sorry – we know that limits the items you can bid on and/or donate – but at this time in our collective experience probably the best way to manage the challenges!!

To help us coordinate, if you know that you will bring something to auction, do send a note to our Coordinator Dawn Harris (from Ottawa, Canada) at prog@sacreddanceguild.org so she can have an idea before the session. If; however, you “find” something just at the last minute – do bring it along! If we run out of time at the Saturday session we’ll maybe add it at a Sunday event!

Day 3 – Sunday – Aug. 2nd - 4:30 pm – LIVING LEGACY INTERVIEW - BANAFSHEH

Take an hour from your dancing journey to sit back and listen to what we know will be an amazing Interview with Banafsheh Sayyad (currently in Topanga, California) being interviewed by Susan Beayni (from Toronto, Canada) asking the FIVE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS!! This is the 4th interview in the series and if the first 3 are any indicator – it is something not to be missed!! Do see details [HERE](#). Note – this session is OPEN to Festival Participants and other registered guests.

Day 3 – Sunday – Aug. 2nd - 7:30 pm - CONCERT

We are grateful to Marilyn Green and the Trinity Movement Choir (from New York City) for offering this as our Festival Concert. The group, along with guests from a number of places, have been workly weekly on this offering for a number of months. As noted above – Festival participants can also be part of the concert by attending the Friday workshop and the Sunday rehearsal. *“The Way of the Phoenix”* is a dance ritual addressing three deep social wounds: racial injustice, the pandemic and poverty. See additional details [HERE](#).

We have decided to present this as a public offering available on YouTube. Details will be sent out next week with the “links” to the Festival sessions so do watch for that. Festival participants and other guests will watch the concert on YouTube and then Festival Participants will be invited back to the ZOOM ROOM for a post concert reception. Unfortunately you’ll have to bring your own libations and refreshments – but we can enjoy them together!

Day 4 – Monday – Aug. 3rd - Mini “FILM FESTIVAL”

SO – after two and a half dancing days you might want to find a comfy chair and mellow out! We’ve put together an amazing Day 3 for you to do just that! AND – if you want to invite someone else – either in your space or elsewhere – this day is OPEN to all Festival participants but also to others who register by email to pres@sacreddanceguild.org. There is NO cost to invited guests who join us for the day or any part of the day. This is our gift to everyone! If you have questions about this special day program contact the coordinator Marylee Hardenbergh (from Minneapolis) at vp2@sacreddanceguild.org.

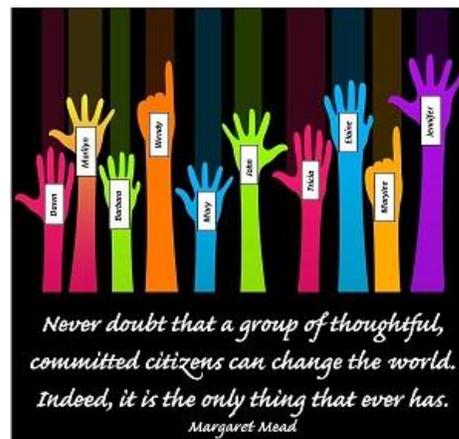
Do check out the films and presentations on the Website for a time to relax and breath in deeply! DO send this [LINK](#) along to friends and family who might want to pop in for one or more of these sessions!

Day 4 – Monday, Aug. 3rd – 5:30 pm - CLOSING

WHEW! I don’t know about you – but that is a LOT happening!! We truly have no idea how this will all unfold but we are looking forward to the adventure with you all! Our Closing Celebration will give us time to reflect personally and collectively as we continue to *“Draw the Circle Wide”!*

Day 4 – Monday – 8:00 pm – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

Somewhat anti-climactic we know – but – our ByLaws say we MUST have an Annual General Membership Gathering so – when better than following our first Virtual Festival! DO join the Board of Directors as we reflect on this past year and gaze forward to 2020/21. At this time last year in California we could not have predicted where the world would be now. We keep our hearts cracked open and our hands up to commit to being the best that we can be and to continuing to be an advocate for dance as an expression of the sacred!



Ah.... LAST BUT NOT LEAST! So How do I actually GET to this Festival!!

Good question! Our Tech Team – led by Pulelehua Quirk (from Hawaii – pulermq@gmail.com) and Jessica Abejar (from New York City – themovingprayer@gmail.com) are madly zooming to work out all of those details! You WILL receive an email with links to all of the workshops and events. That email is scheduled to be sent to each of you on Thursday, July 30th – so DO watch for that – it will be your ‘entry’ to all of the screen doors!

We are looking forward to continuing to dance on waves of grace with you....

Wendy

Wendy Morrell
President
Sacred Dance Guild