

WATER, WILDNESS, & THE FREE HUMAN SPIRIT

Plymouth Church - 4126 Ingersoll - Des Moines

Friday and Saturday March 3-4, 2006

"It is vain to dream of a wildness distant from ourselves."

Henry David Thoreau

Friday, March 3, 2006

7-9 p.m.: Offerings to the Wild: Art as Medicine for Earth and Ourselves - by Conceptual Artist, Author and Photographer, Daniel Dancer (a visual presentation)

With stunning images of natural beauty, destruction and healing art; from the Arctic Circle, to the Kansas Tallgrass Prairie; from Art For the Sky to art in the forest, this presentation helps viewers connect with the special gift they have to offer Earth during this critical time. Leading with an old Irish prayer: "May you be alive at the end of history," Dancer guides his viewers on a powerful and poetic journey from the land of sorrow to the circle of hope.

This week, Daniel Dancer has been an artist in residence at Capitol School where he is facilitating the creation of a gigantic living painting of a mountain lion. The huge picture will be made of 900 children and teachers. Images of this creation will be a feature in this unique presentation. Dancer's sky art is a wonderfully potent way to learn through experience, getting first hand, the power of collaboration, seeing the big picture, and art as a gift to The Mystery. (see: www.ARTFORTHE SKY.com)

Daniel Dancer is a man who lives and breathes reverence for Earth. Daniel currently lives and plays in Hood River, Oregon where he founded the environmental community, Rowena Wilds. This man thinks big... as a conceptual artist he creates art with human paint drops, offering images hundreds of feet long, to the sky. He is author to the fascinating book, Shards and Circles: Artistic Adventures in Spirit and Ecology which will be available for purchase and signing. Dancer will open and close with a song from his CD, Wild is the Way.

"Dancer's images cut heartstrings like a surgeon's knife." --Galen Rowel

Saturday, March 4, 2006

9-11:30 a.m. *Wildness and the Radiant Self* - David Thomas
(an interactive presentation)

Omaha educator, Dr. David Thomas, joins us with an original view of the wild self and the ethics of choice. Seeing human wildness as the movement away from the self-destructive and toward the self-transcending or life-honoring.

This presentation is about the path to that kind of wildness. It is about the ethics of self-realization and of human development. David is passionate about this kind of wildness because he sees that choice as encouraging the individual to take his or her growing and radiant achievement into the "fine grain" of everyday life where it can do so much to amuse, delight and awaken.

For the past twenty-five years, David Thomas, PhD. has focused on creativity, human potential and ethics. Dr. Thomas has created "The Five Levels of Being", a system for conceptualizing the stages of human potential; he has developed a gallery installation anchored to the Five Levels formulation; he has co-created a dance performance based on his interpretation of the "Dance of the Seven Veils" and in 2001, he was a semi-finalist for the Innovations in American Government Award from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard for his work in creating the Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless. Dr. Thomas is the author of *The Ethics of Choice Training Program, a program for evolving the self through the organizations of which we are a part.*

For more on Dr. Thomas, go to www.ethicsofchoice.com.

Lunch at Restaurants along Ingersoll

"...To be human is to be become visible while carrying what is hidden as a gift to others..."
-David Whyte

1-3:30 p.m. *The Language of the Wild...recovering the forgotten voices of your own wild psyche* - Jade Sherer
(an experiential and interactive presentation)

Cougars show up in Iowa now and then. Ambassadors of authentic nature, wild and shy; they are a lot like our own human souls. Running wild at the edge of our domesticated worlds, the cougar is a reminder of the wilderness within, a beckoning to what is most true and unique about each of us: our souls.

In the mirror of wild nature, we see reflected, and have the opportunity to reclaim our wholeness...as individuals, when we retrieve an intimacy with our souls we begin to uncover the special gift we have to offer the world. When we have the courage to explore what we've lost and forgotten that is most real to us, we glimpse our truest belonging.

Join Des Moines born and raised , Jade Sherer in a unique afternoon of soul-tracking, mystery, exploration and reflection. Jade is a wilderness guide, teacher, artist, and bodyworker. She has led vision quests and wilderness journeys in California, Hawaii, and the American Southwest. She supports inner transformation through respectful interaction and deep communion with nature. Jade currently lives in Washington state on a 1300 acre horse ranch that is primarily in an sacred earth trust...a journey toward rewilding and protecting our sacred earth. For more info on her journeys see www.earthsecho.com and www.animas.org.

"...Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" -Mary Oliver