

DREAMTIME

M A G A Z I N E



Inside This Issue

- Wanda Burch
- Art Funkhouser
- Markku Siivola
- Janet Mast Boerema
- IASD Conference
Wrap Up!

*An Abundance of
Conference Photos
Inside!*



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
STUDY OF DREAMS

IASD Presidential Address 2016

Laurel Clark

Laurel Clark, approved as IASD President for 2016/2017, addressed the annual Membership Meeting at Rolduc Abbey in Kerkrade, The Netherlands. This speech is summarized below.

It is a great honor to speak to you as the new president of IASD. In some ways, it seems like a dream to be chosen for this position when I feel like a relative newcomer.

I heard of IASD many years before becoming a member. I have been keeping a dream journal since 1977 and interpreting dreams since 1979. As a teacher in a non-traditional educational program, I use dreams for personal growth and to aid my students. In my work as a counselor and minister, we use dreams for spiritual direction.

I was introduced to IASD in the early 1980's. It seemed that any time I read an article about dreams in a popular magazine, the quoted experts were from IASD. That sparked my curiosity although other commitments kept me from pursuing membership until years later.

In 2008, I joined IASD and attended my first conference in Montreal. From the beginning, I became a volunteer. At that conference I was a first-timer, a volunteer, and a presenter. Since then, I have continued to volunteer and serve the dream community through participating in this wonderful organization.

This last year, I served as Vice President and in the previous two years was IASD's Secretary. Being a part of the Executive Committee has helped me become more aware of the incredible contributions of the people whose minds, hands, and hearts make this organization what it is. I want to thank the Executive Committee and Advisors for their investment and wisdom.

Some of you may not know that IASD lives through the support of dedicated people who devote considerable amounts of time and energy to make it work. We enjoy this conference, for example, through the tireless effort of Bob Hoss, Robert Gongloff, and so many other people that I can't name them all.

From the beginning, I have been impressed with the generosity, kindness, and humbleness of the members of this organization. IASD includes some of the world's greatest experts and pioneers in the world of dreams. These teachers, authors, scholars, scientists, researchers, artists, therapists and other professionals treat everyone who is a part of this organization as valuable.

And indeed, we are valuable. The fact that we all dream brings us together.

Where else but at an annual conference can you find neuroscientists, artists, intuitives, scholars, psychotherapists, clergy, students and everyday dreamworkers sitting side by side, sharing with each other and learning from each other?

Where else can you strengthen your understanding of lucid dreaming, visitations from the other side, and learn how improvisational jazz engages the same brain activity as nighttime dreaming? Where else can you meet people who have



healed cancer and other illnesses through dreams, and converse with doctors who are changing the medical community by listening to their patients' dreams? Where else can you meet a group of dreamers who intentionally incubate dreams to bring about world peace?

We are a multidimensional dream community with so much to learn to enhance our understanding of ourselves and each other. I believe that as people develop greater self-understanding through their dreams, they become better at harmonizing with other people.

Dreams are a great equalizer. We all dream and we all have something important to contribute.

I hope that if this resonates with you, you will decide to invest yourself to greater degrees so that IASD can fulfill its mission in the world. You can read this mission in our program book and on our website. Our name, International Association for the Study of Dreams, highlights the international character and educational purpose. In part, IASD exists to provide a forum for the eclectic and interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and information.

This conference clearly reflects our mission. What fun it is to meet people from around the world who study dreams from many different perspectives, and to find that among

all the diversity we share one thing: we are all dreamers.

In the United States where I live, there seems to be more and more focus on what separates us, what makes us different, and how to resolve conflict that arises from these differences. I wonder if our world might become more just and peaceful when people recognize that in our common humanity we share this bond of dreaming.

To this end, IASD strives to educate people and spread the word about the nature of dreaming in a number of ways. Our outgoing president Susannah Benson mentioned that this year we are launching the first IASD book, *Dreams that Change Our Lives*, for the purpose of spreading dream knowledge to the world. I hope that this book encourages the people who read it to share their dreams, so that increasingly people recognize the value of dreams for understanding themselves and others, for healing, and for community.

Susannah also mentioned the new online dream research conference coming in November. The online PsiberDreaming conference is a different kind of virtual conference.

For two weeks, you can read extraordinary papers about all aspects of dreams and “psi,” and engage in lively discussions with people around the world. You can contribute and view dream-inspired art. You can participate in group dreaming and through psi dream contests develop abilities such as precognition, telepathy, and remote viewing.

You can also engage in creative pursuits like sharing imaginative dream foods and relaxing in a room dreamed up specifically for you at the virtual Outer Inn.

In my first year as a member of IASD, someone suggested that I try out the PDC. I did, and became hooked. I

have participated in some capacity every year since then. This is truly an international endeavor. Some of the friends I met through that first conference I finally connected with in person the last time our annual conference was in the Netherlands. If you have never attended, I encourage you to join us this year and invite your friends. New members get to attend this conference for free, so it is a great way to bring new members into our midst.

In the last year, Education Chair Scott Sparrow has continued to develop our online dream education program. Currently, we have 27 online courses that provide continuing education credits for professionals as well as some non-credit courses. This provides the opportunity for anyone to learn more about dreams wherever they live.

Also, with the guidance of our new Membership Chair, Sherry Puricelli, we are exploring avenues for increasing membership and providing additional benefits for those who become members or renew their membership to IASD.

I would ask everyone here to look for people you know, or people you have yet to meet, to let them know about IASD and invite them to become members. If each one of us brings in just one new member, we will double our numbers.

That means more people to share and learn with, and greater resources so that we can continue to thrive. You might consider giving an IASD membership as a gift.

There are so many people to thank for the wonderful ways that IASD serves the world. I wish I could name them all, but I have a time limit, so please receive the appreciation anyway. I do want to name our excellent staff people, Richard Wilkerson and Laura Atkinson, to whom we owe gratitude for the office management and web

presence.

And I want to thank Susannah Benson, our outgoing president, for her leadership and guidance.

This morning I remembered a long, involved dream. Often I don't remember dreams during the annual conference because there is so much going on and not much time for sleep! So when I do remember a dream it means I must pay attention.

If you want to hear the rest of the dream, please feel free to ask. This part I will share with you:

I am giving a lecture in a large hall. It appears to be a college because the audience is mostly young people. One young man comes up to me, saying respectfully and firmly,

“Can you say what you are going to say and then give us [the audience] time to talk?”

I say okay, that it is good to talk because you get questions and it helps you to think things through.

This dream fits with the message I want to impart to you today.

I encourage and empower you to invest yourself in this organization. Whether you volunteer your time in a committee, contribute money so we can continue to provide awards and scholarships, make a commitment to bring in new members, write articles for our publication *DreamTime*, or find other ways to participate, the IASD is as strong as its people.

Sometimes it seems that a well-established organization doesn't need anyone or anything new, but believe me, the influx of new people, new ideas, and new energy is most welcomed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as president of IASD.