



Praxis Peace Institute presents

# TRANSFORMING CULTURE **From Empire to Global Community**

**Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 3–9, 2007**

"Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

—From the Earth Charter

## Dear Friends,

When we began Praxis Peace Institute nearly seven years ago, with a focus that was primarily on the task of building cultures of peace, we could not foresee where our explorations would lead. There has been an innate trust by the board and supporters of Praxis Peace Institute to encourage inquiry and allow us to continually re-discover our purpose and value as an organization. I am personally grateful to the Praxis Board for their willingness to sail in uncharted waters and their trust in the journey and vision we develop along the way.

Since 2000, Praxis has created programs, workshops and roundtable working groups that focused on democracy, peace, species extinction, culture and mythos, progressive values, conflict resolution, and the process of activating responsible citizenship.

As we assemble the pieces of peace—environmental integrity, social justice, sustainable economics, and becoming peace through conscious communication and conflict management skills—we weave together the threads of a new cultural story. Yes, it is a lot more complicated than we originally thought, but as our understanding deepens, our commitment to cultural transformation takes root, and our ability to become the peace we seek grows, there is an exponential increase in our ability to manifest cultures of systemic peace. If we can imagine it, we can co-create it!

Our ability to manifest systemic change is determined largely by what we believe is possible, balanced by a realistic understanding of the challenges we face. Holding this delicate balance allows an ever-deepening creative perspective that changes us with the changes we manifest. The interaction between the imaginal and the concrete and the spiritual and the material, is the heart of cultural transformation.

Please join us on the exquisite Adriatic Coast to explore creative ideas, inspiring projects, and the company of outstanding thinkers and activists!

In peace,  
Georgia Kelly, Founder/Director  
*Praxis Peace Institute*

**“The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating.  
The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them  
changes both the maker and the destination.”**

—John Schaar

## Is Culture subject to transformation?

**Or, does society through unconscious social blueprints, simply recycle the same patterns century after century in updated packaging?**

Our history is replete with recurring stories of war, exploitation, and empire. If there a season for everything as Ecclesiastes proclaims, are we simply pushing a revolving door with no escape?

Or, can the season of war and empire be challenged with cultural interventions that replace the stories of domination with examples of partnership and respect?

We are at a crossroads in human history. On the verge of rendering our planet uninhabitable within a century or less, it is time to ask the hard questions about the accepted norms in society, religion, economics, politics and cultural identities. It is the purpose of the 2007 Praxis Conference to examine the stories that will transform culture from the myths of empire to the stories of respectful global community.

“The transformation of our world requires a new story . . .

**It must be a story in which our desire to settle differences is more exciting than the willingness to die for the rightness of our cause.”**

—James O’Dea

### Conference Sponsors:

The Institute of Noetic Sciences,  
 YES! Magazine,  
 The Institute of Imaginal Studies,  
 DESA (Dubrovnik),  
 Quantum Seminars (Denmark) and others.

Small photos from the last Praxis Conference in Dubrovnik.





## Dubrovnik and Cavtat

Dubrovnik has a long history of tolerance and freedom. Outlawing slavery in 1416, long before any other European state, Dubrovnik also managed to avoid the travails of war. Deciding that a monarchy or long-term presidency would threaten the peace, Dubrovnik's City Council elected the city Rector for a term of only one month. Proficient in the ways of diplomacy and intent on long-term stability, Dubrovnik's City Council maintained peace and well-being for nearly six hundred years!

Although we will spend one day and evening within Dubrovnik's walled city, our actual conference site is about 9 miles south of Dubrovnik, in the lovely village of Cavtat (pronounced Tsoftot). Cavtat is 3 miles from the Dubrovnik Airport and is a five-minute drive to our hotel.

Cavtat is the ancient city of Epidaurum, founded by Greek seafarers in the 4th century B.C. It was named, along with several other cities of that period, after the healing sanctuary of Asclepius in the Peloponnesus. In 1427, Cavtat passed under the jurisdiction of the Dubrovnik city-state. Cavtat remains part of Dubrovnik-Neretva County today. Public transportation to Dubrovnik by boat or bus is available all day and evening.

A string of cafes, restaurants, and locally owned boutiques line the horseshoe-shaped bay that is Cavtat's main street. Because all the restaurants have abundant outdoor seating and are situated next door to each other, our long lunch break is an excellent time for networking.

**"Dubrovnik is the embodiment of its own epiphany....**

**There is a real Dubrovnik, made of stone, tangible, historical,  
with a place in space and time, measurable; but  
there is also a Dubrovnik that is timeless,  
immaterial and infinite."**

*—Luko Paljetak, Dubrovnik writer and poet*



"The future belongs to those who believe  
in the beauty of their dreams."  
—Eleanor Roosevelt



## The Hotel Croatia

The Hotel Croatia, our conference site, is one of the masterpieces of modern architecture. Its unique design has incorporated all the amenities of a modern 5-star hotel in a magnificent setting of natural beauty. Recently renovated and fully air-conditioned, the Hotel Croatia is a complete conference center. Situated amidst the beautiful Mediterranean vegetation of the Sustjepan Peninsula, the hotel is surrounded by the crystal clear Adriatic Sea. The world famous walled city of Dubrovnik is visible from most hotel balconies.

## Frequently Asked Questions Answered

**Dates and Time** The conference begins with dinner on Sunday, June 3rd. The opening program will start at 8:30 p.m. The conference ends at lunch on Saturday, June 9th. Post-conference excursions will be available through our travel agent, Adriatic Sunshine Travel. Information is available on Adriatic Sunshine Travel's website and on the Praxis website.

**Location** Croatia is a modern European country. It is NOT a third world country. You can drink the water (although Croatian bottled water is excellent and will be supplied in your room daily). You need only a passport—not a visa—to enter Croatia.

**Money** Unless you are stopping in other Croatian cities before the conference, you will not need to change money before reaching the Hotel Croatia. Your transport from the airport to the hotel is paid. You can exchange money in the hotel, airports, banks, and at post offices. The monetary unit is the Croatian kuna. It is not advisable to change U.S. dollars or other foreign currency into kuna before arriving in Croatia.

**Climate** The Dubrovnik region enjoys a pleasant Mediterranean climate. Date-laden palms, colorful vines of bougainvillea, pine and cypress trees, and sub-tropical vegetation are characteristic of the Dubrovnik region. The Adriatic Sea, which is warm in summer months, is clear and unpolluted — fabulous for swimming, boating, and windsurfing. Temperatures in June range between 80 and 90 degrees during the day. The air is dry and nights are balmy and warm. No heavy jackets needed. All hotel rooms have individually controlled A/C units.

“To save the democracy we thought we had,  
we must take it to where it’s never been.”

—Frances Moore Lappe





**Ivo Banac** Member of the Croatian Parliament and historian. Banac was co-chair of the Open Society Institute in Croatia and is the author of *The National Question in Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics* and several other books. He is also a professor of history at Yale University and is the Director of the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik.

**Riane Eisler\*** renowned for her best-seller, *The Chalice and the Blade*, which Ashley Montagu cited as “the most important book since Darwin’s *Origin of the Species*,” she has also written other seminal books on culture: *Sacred Pleasure*, *Tomorrow’s Children*, *The Power of Partnership*, and her most recent book, *The Real Wealth of Nations*. Eisler has degrees in sociology and law from UCLA, where she was also a professor.

**Johan Galtung** is recognized internationally as the pioneer of peace and conflict studies. He founded and directed the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway, was the recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, and is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means*. He has mediated major conflicts in all parts of the world.

**Thom Hartmann** popular Air America talk show host and author of several books, including *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* and *Screwed: The Undeclared War Against the Middle Class*. He has set up hospitals, famine relief programs, and schools in third world countries. He has also been a reporter, news anchor, and program director for commercial radio.

**Tom Hayden** was an 18-year member of the California State Legislature, a co-founder of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and is now a leading voice for ending the war in Iraq. A lifelong activist—both inside and outside the system—Hayden has been called “the conscience of the senate,” and credited with creating “the blueprint for the Great Society programs.” He is the author of 13 books and writes for *The Nation* magazine, where he serves on the editorial board.

**Hazel Henderson\*** evolutionary economist, futurist, and consultant on sustainable development. She is the author of *Beyond Globalization* and the co-author of the *Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators*. She is a fellow at the World Business Academy, and her articles on economics have appeared in most major American newspapers. She is also a TV producer and the series creator of Ethical Markets Media.

**Georgia Kelly** is the founder and director of Praxis Peace Institute. She has produced four international conferences and directs the events and workshop programs at Praxis. She recently co-produced a roundtable on species extinction and is actively involved in creating educational events. She also teaches conflict resolution and has organized cross-cultural dialogues. Before founding Praxis, Georgia was a professional musician (harpist, composer and recording artist).

**David Korten** author of *When Corporations Rule the World* and *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. He co-founded the Positive Futures Network, which publishes YES! Magazine. After receiving a Ph.D. from Stanford University School of Business, Korten taught at Harvard. His work as a regional advisor for USAID opened his eyes to the consequences of economic globalization.

\* Video Conference

**Additional Speakers to be confirmed, including:**

- U.S. Political Representative

- A member of the European Parliament
- Alternative Energy and Sustainable Economics



**Dubrovnik Chamber Orchestra** concert with Maestro Djelo Jusic, Dubrovnik composer and conductor.

**George Lakoff** is a professor of cognitive science at UC Berkeley and is a senior fellow at the Rockridge Institute, a progressive think tank. He holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and is the author of several books, including *Moral Politics*, *Metaphors We Live By*, *Don't Think of an Elephant*, and the most recent *Thinking Points*. Lakoff has become well known for framing progressive issues and values. He has appeared on numerous TV and radio shows.

**Frances Moore Lappe** is the author of the best-seller, *Diet for a Small Planet*. Her most recent book, *Democracy's Edge*, focuses on how to transform a "thin democracy" into a vibrant effective democracy. She and her daughter, Anna Lappe, founded the Small Planet Institute, a non-profit network for research and education. Lappe is a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award.

**Ervin Laszlo** is the Founder and President of the Club of Budapest. He has been a professor of philosophy, systems philosophy, and future sciences in Europe, the US and the Far East. He has also worked as program director for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and is the former President of the International Society for Systems Sciences. A native of Hungary, Laszlo now resides in Italy.

**Mikel Lezamiz** Director of Dissemination at the offices of the Mondragon Cooperatives in Bilbao, Spain. Mondragon has developed a way of making companies more humane and participatory. It is an approach that places more value on workers themselves as the principal asset and source of competitive advantage in modern business. This system fits well with the latest and most advanced management models while offering an alternative to business as usual.

**James O'Dea** is the President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Petaluma, CA. Previously, he was Director of the Washington DC office of Amnesty International, where he represented Amnesty to the US State Dept., the White House and Congress. For five years he was the Director of Seva, a non-profit organization dedicated to international health and development issues. O'Dea has lived and worked in Turkey and Lebanon and is a native of Ireland.

**Aftab Omer** is the Founder and President of the Institute of Imaginal Studies, a graduate school and research center in the San Francisco Bay Area. His work focuses on assisting organizations and learning communities to tap the creative potentials of diversity, conflict, and chaos.

**Marilyn Schlitz** is the Director of Research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and is a senior scientist at the Complimentary Medicine research Institute at the California Pacific Medical Center. She has conducted research at Stanford University, the Mind Science Foundation, and the Institute for Parapsychology. She has published many articles on consciousness studies and creativity, cross-cultural healing, and psychophysiology.

**Swami Beyondananda** (aka Steve Bhaerman) is an internationally known humorist and author. For the past several years, he has written books and performed as Swami Beyondananda. Steve also taught history at Wayne State University and started an alternative high school in Washington, D.C. He is currently writing a book on science, spirit and the body politic with cellular biologist Bruce Lipton.

**Workshops Facilitators:** Stephen Ducat, Osprey Orielle Lake, and others, including some of the speakers.

Detailed biographies are posted on our website and will be in the conference program.

## Culture and Mythos

We will explore:

- the depths of cultural roots, belief systems, and social cyclic patterns
- the emerging stories that promise hope for our future
- the role of the shadow, the scapegoat and the disowned parts of culture that are projected onto others
- the roots of empire and internalized qualities of the dominator system

## What is Transforming Culture Today?

We will showcase projects and businesses that demonstrate seventh-generation, life-affirming values. The Mondragon Cooperatives in Spain are an inspiring example of an alternative business model that has been successful for over half a century.

- Alternative energy projects in Europe
- Multi-party democracies that represent a spectrum of ideas and coalitions
- The role of non-profits and alternative media in transforming culture
- Artistic projects that create a cultural intervention and provide a vision for the future

## Peaceful Conflict Transformation

The Praxis Conference will offer a day-long workshop, “Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means” for all conference participants. This workshop will be led by internationally acclaimed peace negotiator and peace studies professor, Johan Galtung, Ph.D. Participants will:

- map conflict formations and develop personal and social peacebuilding skills
- heighten sensitivity to cultural differences in conflict transformation
- build skills for effective communication, negotiation, and mediation
- distinguish between direct, structural, and cultural violence
- learn creative ways of generating solutions
- engage in practice sessions designed to integrate these skills into your life

This is a life-changing workshop!

## Economics, Culture and Democracy

Effective peacebuilding cannot occur in a context of social injustice, environmental degradation, and what financier George Soros calls “market fundamentalism.” We will explore Economic Democracy—both ideologically and practically—and present viable alternatives to the economics of empire and business as usual.

## Language and Framing

George Lakoff (UC Berkeley), one of the world’s leading cognitive scientists, has provided us with an awareness of language, conceptual framing, and the role of think tanks in determining political perceptions. Facts alone are not convincing if our worldview has no frame in which to evaluate them. What is real, possible, and credible depends on our frames of reference. At the Dubrovnik Conference, Lakoff will explain how this works and what we can do to promote the integration of progressive ideals and values more fully into the mainstream.



"You never change things by  
fighting the existing reality.  
To change something,  
**build a new model**  
that makes the existing  
model obsolete."

—Buckminster Fuller





**Café Discussions** In June 2000, Praxis created the idea of cafe discussion groups as a way to deepen the experience and share ideas. Since it is a tradition in the Balkans to have lengthy, meaningful discussions in outdoor cafes, we happily adopt the custom of our conference location. The small groups have an opportunity for in-depth explorations of conference themes and inquiries, and they meet in actual cafe settings. Serious ideas, shared stories, or collaborative projects are stimulated by cappuccino, tea, juice, or even ice cream and cake. Most cafe groups meet outdoors, but there is an indoor option.

**Soul Food** The Praxis conference integrates poetry, music, art, dance, comedy, meditation and yoga into the daily fabric of the conference experience. These presentations are not viewed only as entertainment but are an integral part of the conference experience.

**Free Time** You didn't travel all this way—to one of the most beautiful places on earth!—to sit indoors all day. We take long lunch breaks and allow time for swimming, reflecting, networking, or just enjoying paradise. We also spend one day and evening in the walled city of Dubrovnik, a once thriving city-state. There will be time for a guided city tour or a hike up and around the walls above the city streets and the sea. Or, you may choose to poke around the shops, churches, museums, and open-air market on your own.

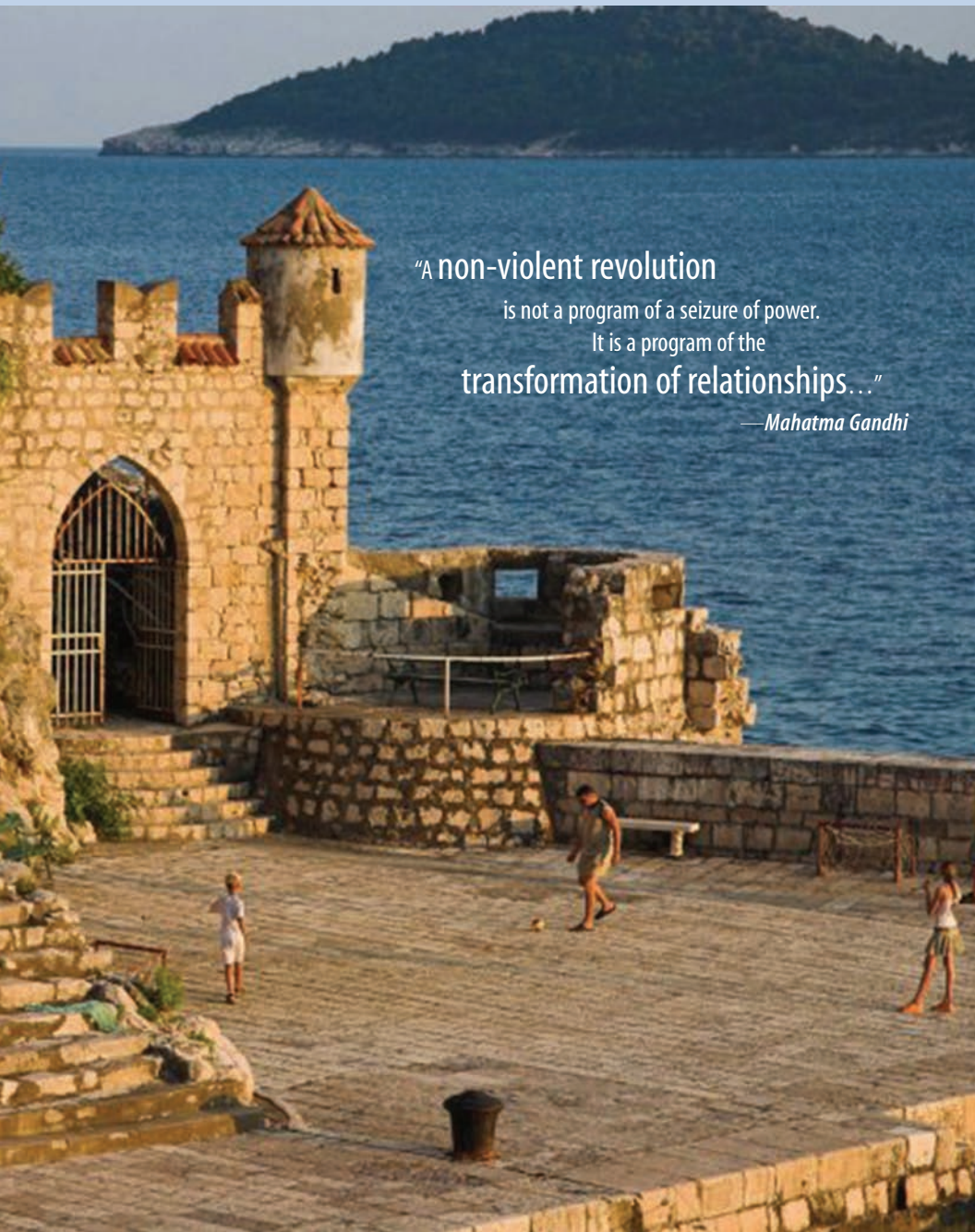
On our day in Dubrovnik, we also visit the shop and headquarters of our Dubrovnik co-sponsor, DESA, a women's non-government organization. Handcrafts made by local women have been very popular with our conference participants. Housed in the original quarantines of the Dubrovnik city-state, their office is now a short walk from the gates of the walled city. In the evening, we have a magnificent concert by the Dubrovnik Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Djelo Jusic, who also composed the music that we will hear. An incredible musical experience not to be missed!

**Outdoor Sessions** Many of our conference sessions take place outdoors. In addition to the discussion groups, we also enjoy lunch in outdoor restaurants that line the Cavtat Bay. The frequent and extended time outdoors prevents conference fatigue.

**Participants' Workshops** Participants of Praxis conferences are aware, educated, active and involved. Most could be speakers in their own right. Recognizing this resource, we have invited a few conference participants to conduct workshops during one afternoon of the conference.

**Praxis Think Tank** The Praxis Think Tank will pose questions and present issues to the small group meetings. We will compile the most compelling ideas and stories that emerge and publish them on our website and in an article in the fall 2007 issue of The Praxis Axis.

The Institute of Noetic Sciences will present "*Evidence of a World Transforming: From Disintegration to Re-enchantment*," a morning plenary session with James O'Dea, Marilyn Schlitz, and Ervin Laszlo.



“A non-violent revolution

is not a program of a seizure of power.

It is a program of the

transformation of relationships...”

—Mahatma Gandhi



### All conference packages include the following:

- Conference programs, all sessions, including workshops
- 6 nights accommodation in the 5-star Hotel Croatia
- Daily buffet breakfast and daily buffet dinner (one dinner excluded)
- Transportation from airport to hotel upon arrival
- Round-trip A/C bus service to walled city of Dubrovnik from our hotel
- Dubrovnik Chamber Orchestra concert

All rooms are beautifully appointed and include furnished balconies with sea or park (bay) views, well-stocked mini-bars, TV, phones and data ports, ample shelf and closet space, hair dryers, room service, indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center, tennis courts, beach, and restaurants (including pool and beach restaurants). Free Wireless Internet access is available in the lobby, cafe, and in public areas on two floors. Our hotel is the ONLY hotel in the Dubrovnik area where wireless connection is free. Croatian hotel rooms do not include irons or ironing boards. However, ironing service at the hotel is prompt, or you can bring a travel iron.

### Registration Payments

To confirm registrations and hotel accommodations, a 50% deposit is required upon submission of registration form. All registrations after April 1, 2007 must be paid in full at time of registration. All balances due by May 1, 2007.

**Important:** We encourage early registration as prices could increase by as much as \$100 after April 1, 2007, depending on the euro/dollar exchange rate at that time. Anyone registering by April 1, 2007 will NOT be subject to any price increases.

### Cancellation and Refund Policies

Refunds for cancellations will be issued as follows:

- Full refund, minus \$75 processing fee, to March 5, 2007
- Between March 6 and April 5, 2007 — 70% refund
- Between April 6 and May 5, 2007 — 50% refund
- 30 days or less — No refund.

**Important:** Paid Registrations ARE transferable, but you must make the arrangements yourself with the party replacing you. Then, you MUST inform us of this change. Refunds will be made after the conference and no later than July 15, 2007. However, cancellations made prior to March 5, 2007, may be refunded within 2 weeks.

### Travel to Dubrovnik

Travel is not included in the conference package. However, discounted fares are available through our conference travel agent. Most online fares—even discounted ones—will be considerably higher than the fares our travel agent will find for you.

**Adriatic Sunshine Travel** (800) 247-5353

[www.adriaticsunshine.com](http://www.adriaticsunshine.com) [info@adriaticsunshine.com](mailto:info@adriaticsunshine.com)



Praxis Peace Institute Conference/Dubrovnik Conference

Sunday, June 3 to Saturday, June 9, 2007

**You can register online at [www.praxispeace.org/conference07](http://www.praxispeace.org/conference07)  
or mail this registration form to us.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check Package Option:**

- A** Sea View, Single \$2,200  
 **B** Sea View, Double \$1,750 (per person)  
 **C** Park View, Single \$2,000  
 **8** Park View, Double \$1,600 (per person)  
 Youth Package, Double \$1,500 (per person, 25 or under)

**If choosing a Double Room, please supply Name of Roommate:**

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are seeking a roommate, please call our office at 707-939-2973, and we will try to accommodate your needs.

**I prefer:**  Vegetarian meals  Vegetarian with Fish  Meat

**Payment Options:**

VISA  MASTERCARD  CHECK (checks save us money in bank fees.)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to Praxis Peace Institute and sent to:

**Praxis Peace Institute**  
**P.O. Box 523, Sonoma, CA 95476**

Or faxed to:  
**FAX: 707-939-6720**  
**Tel: 707-939-2973 [www.praxispeace.org](http://www.praxispeace.org)**





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