



**Immediate Media Release**

The Light Millennium - <http://www.lightmillennium.org>

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Date: Monday, November 24, 2014

**H.E. Ambassador Carlos E. Garcia Gonzalez joined The Light Millennium Board as V.P.**



New term Board Members, Speakers and guests of the Annual Meeting at Julie Mardin Photography Studio, NYC, Nov. 21, 2014. Photo: Jose Pinto Stephen

[Lightmillennium.org] The Annual Meeting for the Light Millennium’s Board of Directors for the term of July 2013-November 2014 was successfully completed, along with a reception provided by Mújgan Hedges and Julie Mardin for a special event entitled “**CONCEPTUAL DIVERSITY: *Water, Conservation, Timing, Poetry,***” on November 21, 2014 at Julie Mardin Photography Studio in New York City.

The Annual Meeting began right after the last Board Meeting of the current term with the participation of H.E. Ambassador Carlos Garcia Gonzalez and other guests. Elections for the new term have been successfully completed.

**The new and re-elected Board of Directors are (with voting capacity):**

**Bircan Ünver**, Founding President, (Re-elected), TV and Web Producer, Head NGO Representative at the United Nations Department of Public Information since 2005;

**Ambassador Carlos Garcia Gonzalez**, Vice President (New Board Member), Former Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations and Director of United Nations Relations at Enviro Board Corporation;

**Sultan Catto**, Vice President (Re-elected), Professor in the Ph.D. Program in Physics at the CUNY Graduate School, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist in Henry Krumb School of Mines, Columbia University, and a visiting Professor at the Rockefeller University;

**Hande Subaşilar**, General Secretary (Re-elected), Art Historian, PhD Istanbul Technical University and NGO Representative at the United Nations Department of Public Information;

**Mújgan Hedges**, Treasurer and Sponsorship Coordinator (Re-elected) and NGO Representative at the United Nations Department of Public Information, Heart Care of Virginia Medical Office Accountant (*Retired*);.

**Isa Alemdag**, *On-line* Board Member, IT Consultant (Re-elected - *emailed his Renewal Form on Nov. 18, 2014*), Entrepreneur, Founder/CEO of Horon Solutions, Information Technology (U.K.).

**Status on Advisory Board Members** (*No voting capacity*):

\* **Etem Erol**, Professor in Middle Eastern Studies, Yale University, CT. (TBC for the new term)

\* **Edward Foster**, Professor, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey. (Continuing)

\* **Aysegül Durakoğlu**, Professor in Music, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey. (Continuing)

\* **Talat S. Halman**, Professor in Literature Department of the Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. (TBC for the new term)

**Professor Durakoğlu**, as continuing Advisory Board Member, **Kadhy Sylla-Ba** as continuing observer both were present at the Annual Meeting of the organization.

**Dr. Sebahattin Devocioğlu** (Firat University, Elazig) proposed his idea of forming a **Youth and Sport Committee** under the LM that he will be coordinating which is approved by the Board during the meeting.

## **The “Conceptual Diversity” special event uniquely illustrated how different concepts can be interwoven...**

Since its *Manifesto* and *Introductory* issue in 1999, The Light Millennium, which was officially formally in Queens, New York in 2001 as a non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit (501-c-3), has been operating as a non-governmental (NGO) public benefit multi-media and culture organization, and it has been associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information since 2005.

In order to highlight activities of the organization in its Annual Meeting and to celebrate the result of the elections, the organization presented “**CONCEPTUAL DIVERSITY: Water, Conversation, Timing, Poetry...**” The highly successful special event began with welcoming remarks and an introduction of the new term board of directors by **Julie Mardin**, Artist, Independent Researcher, Content Coordinator of The Light Millennium (Issue#30 and 31), who shared her experience with the organization and described its unique approaches that enabled her to be involved with the 65th UN/DPI NGO Conference through the LM for a panel. **H.E. Ambassador Carlos E. Garcia Gonzalez**, Former Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations and Director of United Nations Relations at Enviro Board Corporation, in his acceptance speech as a newly elected Vice President to the organization, H.E. Garcia expressed his appreciation of the organization’s openness to El Salvador even though the organization is Turkish-based. Further, H.E. Garcia has touched on the UN’s Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals that it should be “human” centered.

Then Mardin invited **Bircan Ünver**, (founder) as the re-elected President of the organization to briefly introduce of The Light Millennium. Ms. Ünver is also the Head NGO Representative at the United Nations Department of Public Information, and Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill for Anuvibha (Jaipur, India). Ünver started off referring to H.E. Garcia’s appreciation point for welcoming non-Turks to the LM as a Turkish organization. She elaborated on that in the following lines: “I am a Turkish native, I am proud of it, and the organization has a Turkish texture, yet it is also a globally seeded organization to promote ‘cultural diversity,’ ‘Global connectivity’ and ‘freedom of expression’ that which took its root both from my own Turkish experience as well as from the US Public Access TV and UN experience as well.” Further, she replied to a prior question in reference to the title of the special event, “Conceptual Diversity.” She explained that it actually describes all the practices and visions of the LM. Water, conservation, women or poetry might be isolated in our professional lives, but in real life, they cannot be separated from one another, as we cannot separate air and breathing. With that the title of the event is also a reflection of the LM and life itself. She concluded thanking H.E. Garcia for his joining to the organization’s Board, and Julie Mardin, for hosting the Annual Meeting at her studio along with her prior contributions, announcing that Julie has been one of the Angels of the LM in the 2014. Further, she thanked board member **Müjgan Hedges** for providing the reception, and secretary general **Hande Subaşilar**, for her tedious work and support for the preparation of the Annual Meeting and Special Event.

The first speaker of the *Conceptual Diversity* section of the program, **Dr. Scott Carlin**, of Long Island University, presented the “water issue” from the global perspective and presented “The Water-Peace-Climate Nexus” theme, and indicated that “water is a global connector” during this time of climate change. Dr. Carlin brought the attendees’ attention to the fact that the water issue will be on top of the agenda next to energy in the coming decades, which may directly or indirectly lead to local or global conflicts, and that the right to water for everyone is crucial. He presented a vision to which the LM feels particularly bound of non-violent solutions that engage women and direct community involvement.

**Murat Eyuboglu**, Director, is also working to illuminate water resource problems though another angle. He started off by showing the preview from an unconventional documentary that is currently being filmed, “The Colorado,” in which, music plays

a fundamental role that replaces conventional narration and builds sensation and emotional points throughout, with the musical compositions shaping the story of the social and geological history of this crucial waterway.

**Jane Bernard**, Philosopher, presented her “Sensual Thinking” philosophy through the following three key words “Passion, Character and Timing,” which was also the title of her speech. Bernard focused on the different points between “conventional thinking” and “sensual thinking” which leads to her definition of “passion.” Then, Bernard centered her presentation around another key concept “courage.” Her definition of “courage” within the “Sensual Thinking” context is as follows: “Courage is a global value that is a kind of intuitive glue that permeates our lives. It holds us together when times get rough. We find courage at the center of great communication and contentment. In crisis, we find it unexpectedly. An attitude of courage is the natural way to take advantage of change. It is how we maintain open connections and momentum in business and in personal relationships. Courage gives us vision and a sense of possibility. It comes from a solid place of knowing what’s right.”

**Prof. Edward Foster**, Stevens Institute of Technology, (continuing) Advisory Board Member of the LM, was not able to attend in person but he sent a recording of his poem "*Donskoy Monastery and the Tourist*," sharing a very personal feeling and transporting the audience to a tense scene from Russia.

The dedication section of the special event was presented by Hande Subasilar, Secretary General (continuing) of The Light Millennium and NGO Representative at the United Nations Department of Public Information, via a brief introduction of the early generation of Turkish-American women who have been an inspiration to the Turkish-American Community such as **Aliye Aydagül Ak, Lâtife Öniş Mardin, Şirin Devrim Trainer** and **Sara Ertuğrul Korle**. With this section, the organization also included another spectrum to the “Conceptual Diversity” from “women” perspective as well as brought in their contributions onto the surface as part of the program. Because, they affected the role of women in society with their knowledge and performed and lived through as if they were appointed as Honorary Ambassadors in between the Turkish and American communities. They served both in Turkey and the U.S as ‘untitled’ honorary cultural ambassadors, who presented a bright face of Turkey to the world and set an example with their lives. Rezan Höcek, who came to the US in 1950s, was one of the guests of the event, who expressed her appreciation of the dedication theme to the members of the board of the organization.

During the interactive session speakers and guests had an opportunity to share their thoughts in a very dynamic, inspiring and warm atmosphere. To support The Light Millennium Organization a raffle of an art work by Julie Mardin, three LMTV programs, three original dervish design necklace-bracelet sets and small artifacts from Anatolia, were presented to the winners.

For the concluding remarks, the President of the organization thanked and congratulated the new term board members once again, thanked the speakers of the special event as well as the guests of the program for their support and for being there.

**Photo Album of the “Conceptual Diversity” event is available in the following link:**

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/gallery/index.php/Annual-Meeting-of-The-Light-Millennium-Conceptual-Diversity---Water-Conservation-Timing-Poetry?page=2>

**Even Photographer:** Jose Pinto Stephen

**PROGRAM with Brief bios of the Speakers:**

[http://www.lightmillennium.org/501\\_c\\_3/2014-nov21-annual-program-rundown-w-bios.pdf](http://www.lightmillennium.org/501_c_3/2014-nov21-annual-program-rundown-w-bios.pdf)

**For more information, please visit us at** [www.lightmillennium.org](http://www.lightmillennium.org) or email to [CONTACT@lightmillennium.org](mailto:CONTACT@lightmillennium.org).