

# WaterSongline and Its Council Members Have Been Busy

*From United Nations to Launch GIWA*

*Calling All Nations: Of Water and Belonging Ceremony to*

*WaterSongline Full Moon/Water Blessing Prayers*

## The United Nations, New York

On Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2013 Omileye Achikeobi-Lewis co-founder of YeyeOsun Institute of Sacred Balance and Humanity4Water Awards joined other world spiritual leaders at the UN, New York for the launch of UNICEF's Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) formed by Rabbi Soetendorp and Pujya Swamiji of the Ganga Action Group. This beautiful alliance blossomed out of the UN March 2012 Wings of Water Conference which Omileye participated in along with other notable guest such as the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. The atmosphere at both conferences was one of powerful spiritual collaboration. Omileye says,



“One of the most beautiful things was the launch of the alliance with the water blessing that was led by Pujya Swamiji. Seeing the water pour over the clear frosted world globe just moved every part of my spirit. There was something serene and powerful about the water pouring over the globe knowing that it represented all nations working together.”

The experience was all the more moving because the water used was the waters of 20 sacred rivers that had been collected from the WaterSongline Council members who are women of prayer and ceremony from various continents, cultures and faith.

“It felt as though the magic of the waters we as a council had collected was already starting to work,” says Omileye.

## Calling All Nations, San Francisco

Picture from left to right: Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, Grandmother Mona, Elder, Grandmother Agnes, Omi, , Kazumi, Mahealani Uchiyama



From the United Nations in New York Omileye joined other representatives from the WaterSongline Council: Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, Mahea, Lis Addison, Kazumi, and Rosencranz (Program Director of the Center of Sacred Studies and The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers) two weeks later to another United Nations event. This time it was a different type of United Nations. It was the Calling All Nations: Of Water and Belonging event which took place on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 on the grounds of Sonoma State

University, Calling All Nations: Of Water and Belonging. This event was made possible by Susan Coleman following her calling where many years ago she had a vision of bringing the nations together to pray for earth healing. Years latter this vision came full circle back around, and was able to be brought to bear with the help of Jyoti, Ann Rosencranz and other colleagues from the Center of Sacred Studies and support of representatives of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers.



Picture from left to right: Lis Addison, Zenju, Omileye, Ann, Zenju

Many people in various ways had heard callings that the nations need to come back together to help with the Earth Healing. The ancient Hopi Prophecy says that in the beginning of time all nations had agreed to look after each other and earth (a pact sealed through a secret handshake which was eventually forgotten by the nations). Therefore, with the nations coming back together again on that fateful day it was as though this pact was renewed.

The day started of cold, but warmed up as the prayers warmed up. The Medicine Nations rocked the medicine wheel with a grand opening and beautiful water ceremony. Many nations contributed to making the event a high spirited success. The four directions were called in by representatives from the WaterSongline Mother of Water Council: Omileye, Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, Mahea, Kazumi, Liz Addison, and Ann Rosencranz (also a the Program Director at the Center of Sacred Studies); Members of the Center of Sacred Studies; the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. After the opening prayers and songs to call in the four directions waters from all over the world, including the WaterSongline Council Members water from 20 sacred rivers, were joined, placed in four buckets which were carried to the four

directions. Once everyone had blessed themselves with the waters they were carried against the background of drum rolls and poured into the lake of the Sonoma State University grounds by Grandmother Agnes, who prayed over the waters. Other members of the WaterSongline: Mbali, Cynthia Sterling, Dawn Ferguson, Robin Youngblood, Ellen Whiteside, Akiko, Masako, Remah Joseph – all supported these prayers from their various continents and locations. A summary from Ann Rosencranz of the Center of Sacred Studies and WaterSongline Council sums this event up well:

- When our Wailaki brother Kenny lit the fire, a Great White Heron flew over and landed on a towering pine in the West, and remained there, watching over.
- Pomo elder Cynthia Daniels opened the ceremony, her daughter sang to call us all together.
- Jackie Lynn Telia Lauth received a sacred name from her Haida people who traveled from Canada to adopt her, dance and sing.
- We called in the Ancestors of four directions-- Ochun blessed us with Her golden compassion.
- Our children passed the waters of the world hand over hand to the center vessel,
- Kazumi poured it over a replica of our Mother Earth.
- Overflowing waters of the world united, the Tibetan Thepo Tulku called in Chenrezig, bodhisattva of compassion
- Many peoples sang and prayed and a hawk circled three times when Natem from Equador offered his Shuar water blessing.
- The Northern River Bear Drummers and Turtle Women Rising sang their honor songs and held the heartbeat throughout the day.
- The Pomo feather dancers brought all their generations out to dance.
- All this in honor of Lucky Pinola, a humble man of unity.

## Full Moon/Water Blessing Prayers, World Wide

Straight after the Calling All Nations Prayer the WaterSongline had a monthly Water Blessing prayer and Full Moon Prayer which was held by nations and individuals all over the world. Sacred fires were by bodies of water such as a bowl, lake, river etc. The prayers were upheld by the Mother of the Waters Council from their various locations and also by teleconference. The teleconference prayer was led by Ann Rosencranz who had other WaterSongline Mother of the Waters Council members on line with her: Omileye, Lis Addison, Remah Joseph, and Derrick Lewis. Several individuals joined the council on line. Other members of the WaterSongline Mothers of the WaterSongline council had beautiful ceremonies: Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, Mbali, Mahea, Robin Youngblood and others. The teleconference prayer talked about the unity of the divine masculine and feminine in order to create wholeness in the world. Once again, the waters of the WaterSongline Council were used to pray for healing of our waters, earth, and humanity.

Those from the WaterSongline Council who could not make the teleconference prayer sent in various reports about their ceremonies

Zenju Earthlyn Manuel's report on her ceremony was as follows:

*We had a wonderful Watersongline-water/full moon ceremony at Crown Beach in Alameda CA. We sung, prayed and drummed. I chanted a well being prayer and used the bells of the East gate. I drummed on the Udu, a women's ceremonial drum Skye Ward introduced me to and it has created a magnificent gateway for me.*



*What I heard from the ancestors was similar to Omi's and Camagu's (Mbali) reading. I heard that there is much trouble in the world but that will be and we must not focus on it, not speak on it so much, consider it but not raise it above the truth of the moon, the water, the sun, the natural order of things. It said for us to truly consider that we are home, not in a place, but home on the planet. We will be taken care by the Earth as always. Trust that all that is taking place around the waters, upon the land, no matter how horrendous, will shed light on what we have neglected as human beings. It will show us our work, not social, political, psychological work, but our work as human beings, the places in which we must harmonize with all things—that which feels good and that which does not, because it is truly not about our feelings as much as it is about our understanding of life. We are to move from the polarities and opposition of things and follow the harmonic work modeled to us by the sun and the moon, each one interconnected, one working in the light and the other in the dark, but on one plane.*

Mbali's report on her ceremony was as follows:

I'm 9 hours ahead my prayers I've just read this yesterday the prayers for unity a Word which kept coming up feminine And masculine but the unifying of all. Waters credos prayer is for a spiritual Unity. The prayer all waters of our life and others to unify. I am at the mouth of the Xhora river and the ocean a powerful vortex staying in a bright pinknrondaival in rural Africa paradise I call it Fir 2 months to integrate the last 9 months of traveling this part of the journey coming to a close I have 2 new names so 5 in total 1 is Xhosa vusamathongo awakner of the ancestors. Yesterday at the ceremony I offered unto the water two hearts joined and carved in obsidian I've carried it for many years within the natural stone if the hearts are. More rainbow colored hearts. Here's to the unity and unifying of a rainbow world.



Mahealani Uchiyama's report on her ceremony was as follows:

As for me, the mbira ceremony was indeed powerful. Many came wanting a deeper connection with the Ancestors. This morning I was also in a very different ceremony with my students. Twice a year we go either to the water or forest to dance for Spirit. It is part of their hula training. Picture of Mahea's Ceremony



Robin Youngblood's report on her ceremony was as follows:

I'm currently in Alice Springs with all the Aboriginal Grandmothers. Two days ago, we did a water ceremony at the Bellingen River near Coffs Harbour, where it hasn't rained for four months. There are pics on my FB page of the children making offerings in the river. It began raining just as we finished!

It is our prayer that the waters of Mother Earth's WaterSonglines keeps on flowing. Water is the blood of the earth, it is getting weaker and us with it. Let's keep on praying for peace, collaboration, and compassion for our waters and planet.