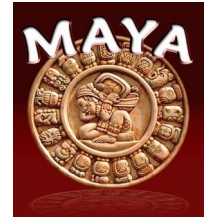


## Press Release

Toronto, February 14, 2011

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## The Mayan Vision of the Cosmos

### *An encounter with the spiritual roots of a living culture*

During a well-attended seminar at the Centre for Social Innovation on January 22 and an entertaining and informative interview on the *Liquid Lunch* program on ThatChannel.com<sup>1</sup> on January 24, guest lecturer Professor Denis Bricnet outlined the foundation of the Mayan vision of life, which focused on living in harmony with the natural world. Professor Bricnet drew parallels with such key figures as David Suzuki, who are increasingly calling on people around the world to reconnect with nature in order to recover the “Sacred Balance” that is essential for any culture and civilization to thrive.



As Professor Bricnet explained, the cornerstone of the Mayan vision of life was the cyclical nature of time. They organized their culture around a series of calendars that represented time at the different levels reality, recognizing that the end of one cycle marked the beginning of another. The transition from one cycle to the next was understood as a “period of crisis,” a time to reflect on what was learned during the cycle that was ending, to let go of things that had outlived their purpose and to imagine and plan for the coming cycle.

As was seen in the Mayan culture – and can be found in all spiritual traditions throughout human history – humankind is able to truly move forward when it can renew how it connects with the natural world during these times of transition and crisis.

The wisdom needed to recognize when a cycle is ending, what to let go and what to project into the coming cycle can be gained by comparing all of the traditions of our shared human heritage in order to draw out the essential values that serve human development. The School of Philosophy at New Acropolis offers courses that enable students to do just that so that they can live a better life and support the growth and development of those around them.

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(1) The entire interview is available for viewing at <http://www.blip.tv/file/4688648#>, with Professor Bricnet appearing at approximately 22 minutes into the program.

(2) For those who would like to learn more about the Maya, see this very good and accurate video presentation of the *Popol Vuh* on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMMo0-kEFis>.

## **New Acropolis International Organization - Toronto**

### **Upcoming events at New Acropolis Toronto**

(For information about of the activities listed below, visit <http://toronto.newacropolis.ca/> or call 416-486-7198)

#### **Café Philo: About Love...**

So many questions about love!

*(Ages 18 to 30)*

More than opinions, more than debate, Cafe Philo offers original perspectives and an optimistic vision from the wisdom of East and West

Monday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Mirage Supper Club

117 Eglinton Avenue East (at Lillian)

#### **Hypatia: A Light in the Face of Ignorance**

##### ***Theatre-Café Tribute for International Women's Day***

Philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer of the 4th century, Hypatia illuminated the School of Alexandria with her wisdom, intelligence, and inquisitive free spirit.

Tuesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Centre for Social Innovation

215 Spadina Avenue (between Dundas and Queen)

#### **Dance with Confi-DANCE!**

Workshops with internationally award-winning professional dancer & instructor Jozsef Parragh  
*One Day only in Toronto!*

*Experience the person-centred teaching style, precision, sophistication, depth of technique and excitement of Jozsef Parragh!*

*Singles, Couples, & all levels welcome – beginners & seasoned*

Saturday, March 19

10-12 : Waltz & Tango

1-3 : Cha Cha & Swing

585 Productions Dance Studio

585 Yonge Street (between Wellesley and Bloor)