

A [sample entry](#) from the

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Further Reading

- Harjo, Joy. *A Map to the Next World*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2000.
- Harjo, Joy and Gloria Bird, eds. *Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writings of North America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997.
- Harjo, Joy. *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1994.
- Harjo, Joy, and Stephen Strom. *Secrets from the Center of the World*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1989.
- Harjo, Joy. *What Moon Drove Me to This?* New York: Reed Books, 1979.
- Harjo, Joy. *The Last Song*. Las Cruces: Puerto del Sol, 1975. See also: *Memoir and Nature Writing*.

Harmonic Convergence

If not one of the largest, as its organizers claimed, the Harmonic Convergence was probably one of the most widely dispersed religious (or spiritual) events of recent decades. Organized primarily through word of mouth and through New Age, holistic-health, art, and alternative media channels, this coordinated day of prayer, meditation, and ritual was instigated by art historian and New Age philosopher José Argüelles. According to his calendrical calculations and idiosyncratic decodings of ancient texts, the dates 16–17 August 1987 marked the synchronous occurrence of several significant events: the beginning of the final 26-year period of the Mayan calendar's 5200-year Great Cycle, the return of Quetzalcoatl, the Mayan god of peace, and the culmination of the Aztec calendar; the "dancing awake" of 144,000 Sun Dance enlightened teachers (according to the Rainbow People of the Intertribal Medicine Societies); the return of the Hopi Indians' lost white brother Poha'na; a Grand Trine in the astrological fire signs and the first time since the early 1940s that the seven planets have been so closely aligned; an anchoring of divine energy into the power points of the planet for their subsequent transmission through the "planetary grid system," and a "calibration point in a galactic and planetary harmonic scale."

To mark this convergence, Argüelles called for 144,000 people to meditate, pray, chant and visualize at sacred sites and power spots throughout the world in order to create a "complete field of trust" by "surrendering to the planet and to the higher galactic intelligences which guide and monitor" it. Humanity would thereby launch the final 25-year transition into a new age of peace, harmony, solar energy, spiritual enlightenment, and galactic convergence with other civilizations, all to begin in the year 2012. Argüelles' vision combines a Gaian ecological sensibility with a cosmic New Age eschatology: humanity's role as planetary stewards – a role we have allegedly abdicated through the misguided application of technology and

inaccurate sciences (to which Argüelles counterposes new ones) – is subsumed within a larger community of benevolent overseeing galactic intelligences.

According to media reports, by 17 August 1987, some 6000 people had gathered at Mount Shasta, California, more than 1500 came together at a site in New York's Central Park, and analogous numbers converged at sites including Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, the Cahokia Mounds outside St. Louis, England's Glastonbury and Stonehenge, Machu Picchu in Peru, the Great Pyramid in Egypt, and Mount Olympus in Greece. New Age celebrities, including Shirley MacLaine, John Denver, and Timothy Leary, were among the convergers, and the mainstream media took note, albeit with a gentle sense of humor. Though total numbers only reached a fraction of Argüelles' projected 144,000, the event was generally proclaimed a success within New Age media. Actual numbers, of course, are impossible to know, since participation could have included simply meditating or linking thoughts in the privacy of one's home or backyard.

A second Harmonic Convergence was organized in August 1992, with minor follow-up attempts since then, but these have only managed to rally much smaller numbers of participants. In recent years Argüelles has been vigorously advocating that global institutions (such as the United Nations) replace the current Gregorian calendar with a 13-moon, 28-day calendar. "The religion of truth is the religion of the Earth," he has argued, and the latter requires, as a moral imperative, to be based on a "natural" and galactically calibrated method of measuring time. Though Argüelles' ideas have not galvanized the mass movement he has hoped for, any final judgment regarding the success of the 1987 convergence remains premature until the 25-year transition period comes to its prophesied end.

Adrian Ivakhiv

Further Reading

- Jose Argüelles. *The Mayan Factor: Path Beyond Technology*. Santa Fe, NM: Bear & Company, 1987.
- See also: *Celestine Prophecy*; *Earth Mysteries*; *Harmonic Convergence and the Spiritualization of the Biosphere*; *Maya Religion (Central America)*; *Maya Spirituality (Guatemala Highlands)*.

P **Harmonic Convergence and the Spiritualization of the Biosphere**

The Harmonic Convergence Global Peace Meditation occurred on the dates 16–17 August 1987. Widely publicized in the world media, especially in the United States, the event called for a massing of a minimum of 144,000 people at dawn of August 16. An emphasis was placed on