

The Vine

A Message of Hope from World Leaders

Book Overview

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year. It has been a time to reflect and as S.A. Sachs once said, "Hope rises like a phoenix from the ashes of shattered dreams." Amid these great moments of change, disappointment and tragedy, every human being has the ability to find their message of hope in the chaos of suffering. This is critical as we guide the next generation to do the same. The arrival of the global pandemic in 2020 was the first time in history that something of this magnitude had affected every living being on Earth and in a way, there was some sense of comfort that we are all in this together. The virus did not care about our class or country, our political or religious affiliation, our skin color or gender and it taught us that we cannot succeed without the cooperation of others and that most importantly we are fallible. During this year the Flower of Life came to my mind many times and if you are not familiar it is a geometric pattern of overlapping circles that has been used for over 6,000 years and is said to represent the cycle of creation, a sort of blue print for all of life with everything from atoms, to plants to whole planets and everything in between. It reminded me of the unity of everything and how we are all built from the same blueprint.



Adria L. Dunn

Adria is known as a super connector for philanthropy. Over the years she has built up a global network and enjoys being a bridge for various philanthropic causes. In her spare time, she has coordinated bespoke events and experiences related to polo, balls and galas as well as private super yacht events to facilitate positive impact and cultural diplomacy.

Adria grew up in Wisconsin and moved to Chicago to study Journalism at Columbia. She started her career as a futures and foreign exchange broker at the Chicago Board of Trade.

She moved to Singapore in 2009 to ride the wave of growth in Asia and spent 10 years in the region. It was there that she shifted her career into private wealth management and joined Coutts & Co. While in Asia she also created her own beverage company, 108 Tea and exited. As a result, she learned a lot about entrepreneurship.

Adria currently works in financial services in Miami, Florida. She is a lover of all things equestrian and is passionate about writing, good tea and travel.

“SO POWERFUL IS THE LIGHT OF UNITY THAT
IT CAN ILLUMINATE THE WHOLE EARTH.”

BAHA'U'LLAH



Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace (RFP) is an official supporter of our book and have committed to helping us spread a message of hope from their vast network of global religious leaders.

RFP was founded in 1970 and is headquartered in New York City, with regional conferences in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa and the Americas. They enjoy consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UNESCO, and UNICEF.

They have 90 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils that bring together not only the vast influence and resources of all faith traditions, but also their spiritual commitment to achieve solutions that leave no one behind. Since inception they have been changing the world and challenging the status quo through their mutual conviction that religions are more powerful, inspiring and impactful when together.



Authors Unite Tyler Wagner

Tyler Wagner has helped countless individuals become globally successful authors. Over a decade ago Tyler founded Authorsunite.com, a publishing company that helps people, write, publish and market their books.

After publishing his first book in his early 20's, "Conference Crushing", Tyler made it his mission to help aspiring authors achieve success in the world of literature.

Since then Authors Unite has helped over 1,000 people become bestselling authors. His authors have been seen on The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, INC., USA Today, Entrepreneur, Fast Company, ABC News, The Huffington Post and more.

Tyler resides in Miami Beach, FL. In his spare time, Tyler enjoys reading, doing podcast interviews, and taking long walks around South Pointe Park.



Brazil: The Amazon Forest Chief Ninawa Huni Kui

Chief Ninawa Huni Kui is the President of the Federation of the Huni Kui People in Acre, Brazil. He is the spokesperson for nearly 15000 Indigenous people in 104 villages across 12 indigenous territories. Ninawa is also a medicine student at the Amazonian University of Pando, in Bolivia. Ninawa is a defender for the forest and supports the young generation on valuing and living from their culture, on also creating bridges with the modern time we live in.



Palestine

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, born in Gaza, was the first Palestinian doctor to work in an Israeli hospital. He was active in promoting Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. His daughters attended a peace camp with Israeli children in the United States.

During the Gaza War in January 2009, his three daughters and a niece were killed by Israeli tank fire directed at his home. After this tragedy he wrote a book called, "I Shall Not Hate".

Abuelaish established the Daughters for Life Foundation, which provides scholarships and awards for young female students in the Middle East. The foundation aims to invest in the potential for young women's leadership, and to foster their success.



Israel Rabbi David Rosen

Rabbi David Rosen, AJC's International Director of Interreligious Affairs, has been advancing understanding and good relations between religious communities for more than forty years – from the time he served as rabbi of the largest Orthodox Jewish congregation in South Africa, during his tenure as Chief Rabbi of Ireland; and throughout the last more than thirty years based in Jerusalem.

In addition to interreligious representation and education, his work involves mediation and peace building and he is heavily involved in multi-religious engagement on ecological issues.

Among the various awards and recognition he has received, Rabbi Rosen was granted a papal Knighthood in 2005 for his contribution to Jewish-Catholic reconciliation and in 2010 he was made a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II for his work promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation.



Afghanistan

Dr. Mina Ehsan Leghari

Dr. Mina Ehsan Leghari belongs to an eminent political family of Pakistan. She hails from Afghanistan and she lived most of her early life in America. Dr. Leghari graduated from San Francisco State University with Master's Degree in International Relations. During this time, she got married to Jaffar Khan Leghari, a prominent figure of Pakistan's leading political family. Since that time Dr. Leghari is permanently settled in Pakistan.

Dr. Leghari has played a significant role in the local and national level political activities along with her husband. She remained MNA (Member of National Assembly) in General Musharraf era. She worked as Chairperson Tourism for five years. Dr. Mina Ehsan Leghari has formed an NGO, Gul e Fatima on self-financed basis.

She is motivated to bring about a positive change and awareness amongst the women of Southern Punjab. Her PhD thesis, which now published in book form, is also on the "Power Politics of Southern Punjab". Currently, Dr. Leghari is associated with the University of the Punjab as Foreign Faculty Member and on political front she is occupied with the Committee constituted by the Chief Minister of Punjab for the establishment of Separate Province of Southern Punjab. Dr. Leghari is keen to bring about change and awareness among the masses in general and in the people of Southern Punjab in particular.

Armenia

Armen Arzumanyan

Armen Arzumanyan is a public and political figure. Experienced professional in international, political and economic relations, with a proven track record in the areas of international cooperation, negotiations, economic diplomacy, public affairs and government relations. Strong political and economic ties in more than fifty countries.

Mr. Arzumanyan received his Master's degree with honors in Economics from the Armenian Agricultural Academy in 2005. Later he did his Academic research at M. Kotanyan Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and earned his PhD in Economics in 2012. He has gained valuable management experience in governmental, non-governmental organizations, private sector and international organizations – developing and managing multi component and complex projects.

Dr. Arzumanyan served as the Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Armenia. He is a founder of FinStab, a business development and management company, He is also a visiting lecturer of economic diplomacy and business negotiations in Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia, International Scientific-Educational Center of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and other educational institutions. He is an author of numerous analytical and research publications.





South Africa Ivor Ichikowitz

Ivor Ichikowitz is a South African, founder and executive chairman of Paramount Group. He is also an executive chairman of TransAfrica Capital and the Ichikowitz Family Foundation. During the past twenty years, Ichikowitz has developed a number of businesses including defense and aerospace, mining, oil and gas, agriculture and sustainable development, property retail and tourism.

Ichikowitz is the founder of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, established in 2010. The Foundation is actively involved in wildlife conservation of endangered species, especially the protection of Africa's rhinos and elephant population.



Georgia

Prince Juan Jorge de Bagration-Mukhrani

Prince Juan Jorge de Bagration-Mukhrani is a Spanish-born Georgian prince and member of the House of Mukhrani of the Bagrationi dynasty. Prince Juan Jorge de Bagration-Mukhrani was born on 18 August 1977 in Madrid to Prince Bagrat de Bagration y de Baviera and Doña María del Carmen de Ulloa y Suelves.

His paternal grandfather, Prince Irakli Bagration of Mukhrani, was exiled from Georgia during the invasion of the Red Army, living in Germany, Italy, and finally settling in Spain. His paternal grandmother, Infanta María de las Mercedes of Spain was a member of the Spanish royal family and the German House of Wittelsbach; she was the daughter of Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria, granddaughter of Alfonso XII of Spain, and niece of Alfonso XIII of Spain. His maternal grandfather was Gonzalo Maria de Ulloa y Ramírez de Haro, Marqués de Castro-Serna, Count de Adanero. Prince Juan is a member of the House of Mukhrani, a branch of the Bagrationi dynasty that ruled Georgia from the Middle Ages until the nineteenth century, when Georgia was annexed into the Russian Empire.

The family was recognized as part of the Russian nobility until the rise of communism in Russia. Prince Juan studied at Collège Alpin International Beau Soleil, a boarding school in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland and was a schoolmate and childhood friend of Cayetano Rivera Ordóñez.

Ethiopia

Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie



Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie is the only son of Prince Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia and Princess Mahisente Habte Mariam. He is the grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

Currently the prince is ninth in the line of succession to the vacant imperial throne. Prince Ermias was educated in Ethiopia, Great Britain, and the United States. In England, he received his education Old Ride Preparatory School and then at Haileybury College. He obtained a BA degree in the social studies, with an emphasis in economics, from the University of California, in Santa Barbara. He continued his education at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy between 1983 and 1985.

Prince Ermias currently serves as the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia in exile. The Crown Council has pursued a mission devoted to the promoting a cultural and humanitarian role. Prince Ermias is also patron of the Haile Selassie Fund for Children in Need which continues to sponsor student scholarships, and the St. George of Lalibela Foundation.

United Kingdom

Lord Simon Reading



Lord Simon Reading, 4th Marquess of Reading, Simon was educated at Eton and was a Cavalry Officer in the early 60's. He led a prestigious career and went on to become a member of the London Stock Exchange and of Lloyds in the 70's, also he was a member of the House of Lord's in the 80-90's.

Simon has been a director of several companies including Anglo Brazilian Company and Warner Cosmetics as well as having worked for the Brazil Government.

He is a member of several clubs: State Park, MCC and Wimbledon. Simon is currently the Chairman of the Barnabas Fund, a philanthropic organization looking after persecuted people from around the world and he is highly active in philanthropy in Israel.



El Salvador

Ambassador Margarita Escobar

Ambassador Margarita Escobar, El Salvador: Career Diplomat, Ambassador Margarita Escobar has accumulated more than 20 years of International experience, serving as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Ambassador in Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Switzerland; represented El Salvador in the Summit Process of the Americas and in numerous International Conferences.

Ambassador Escobar is currently a member of congress and is active in the Promotion of Peace, Conflict Resolution, and the consolidation of Democracy. As Permanent Representative to the OAS for five years, she was the Salvadoran main negotiator of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; Chaired the OAS Permanent Council and worked directly with the Secretary General, the Permanent Council and Civil Society, to restore the Constitutional Order in Venezuela in 2002 by applying the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

She is committed to the rights of women, emphasizing at the Interamerican Democratic Charter, the importance of the participation of women in democracy.

Barbados

Dr. Andre Thomas



Ambassador Thomas is a UN Peace Ambassador, Leadership Coach, Strategy Consultant, Bishop, and Prolific Author of 26 books. He is the founder and President of the Ideas and Solutions Group a not-for-profit company that mines the leadership gold in people. He also serves as the President of the Caribbean Israel Leadership Coalition, an NGO organization with a mission to bring sustainable development to the Caribbean through Israeli technology and expertise.

He is the Founder and CEO of Caribbean Israel Venture Services Inc., an organization with a purpose of mining, and developing the resources in the people, lands and seas of sovereign nations. He is the founder and CEO of Caribbean Israel Finance, an organization that brings financing to the development projects in nations.

Dr. Thomas is also an Advisory Board Member of the Abrahamic Business Circle, a global network of contacts that raise capital, buy and sell companies, locate potential investments, conduct joint-ventures, connects distributors and new clients. He is the Founder and Bishop of Fresh Anointing and Wisdom Network which is a community of churches, ministries and organizations that unlock the greatness in people.



Mexico

Gina Diez Barroso

Gina Diez Barroso is the President and CEO of Diarq Holdings, Mexico. Gina is an entrepreneur and philanthropist committed to the development of design and innovation projects in Mexico with more than 30 years of experience. She is an enthusiastic business and motivational speaker, having spoken at numerous conferences across the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

She is an active board member and advisor for numerous international organizations including C200 Global Women's Executive Leadership Organization and is Mexico's representative at the W20 women's initiative of the G20.

Over the past 30 years she founded numerous businesses, initiatives, and philanthropic organizations including: Grupo Diary, CENTRO, Dalia Empower, The Diary Foundation and the Por-Education CENTRO Foundation.



Ecuador

Eduardo López Robayo

Eduardo is the Group CEO & Chairman SERTECPET. With more than 30 years of experience, engineer Eduardo López has served in various positions in both the public and private sectors. In the private sector he has founded several companies including SERTECPET oil, mining, and energy industry which is present in several continents.

He is currently the Director of the Advisory Board of Alliance for Integrity, a global, multi-stakeholder anti-corruption initiative promoted by the business sector and the Government of Germany. In addition, he is an Advisor for the Association for Management Progress (APD, in Spanish) in Spain, for making significant decisions on business and social productive development.

As a representative of the President of the Republic, he led the Executive Board of Petroecuador, where he managed to implement an efficient rating system for companies applying for tenders. He also represented the Executive Power at the Fund for Stabilization, Social and Productive Investment and Public Debt Reduction (Feirep, in spanish), which was in charge of renegotiating the external debt.

As Minister of Energy and Mines in 2004, he stood out for designing a State Policy on energy issues. He implemented a management strategy with a 2 to 1 reserve-production relation, with a 25-year-term vision in which oil production would double, allowing a significant growth of the country's GDP. In addition, to stimulate the participation of the national industry as a strategy to achieve technological self-sufficiency and turn the country into an exporter of high added value.