



Petalë Juliet McDowell - World Citizen

Retired Geriatric Medical Social Worker. Married to a Cultural Anthropologist who teaches up & down the 101 & on-line. Life-long world citizen, if pressed---Human - "person of color - medium beige", work for social & distributive justice, curious about all representations of humanity. Learned from my mother at an early age, the importance of advocacy for social justice for the greater good, rather than being consumed by one's own present circumstances. Born into an Armenian (Marashi from Turkey)/American (Daughter of the American Revolution) Bahá'í family. Raised a pacifistic, multi-talented son who chose to become a Tibetan Buddhist monk living the monastic life in the Himalayas---rather than adopting from his Armenian/Turkish/American/Canadian/Danish/Dutch/Baha'i or Quaker heritages. Especially passionate about the Middle East after traveling there from Paris half a century ago on a Vespa. Worked on a Kibbutz along the Gaza Strip. Flirted with the U.N. guards, but they wouldn't let me cross over & meet the Palestinian Shepherds. Saw 24 countries---mostly with no middle class as a teenager & became a life-long socialist---"from each according to his ability, to each according to his need". Tireless advocate, assisting to help build the W.O.B. Hopeless bibliophile, currently interested in the Great Cultural Minority cities of note in the Middle East during the heyday of the Ottoman Empire---especially Aleppo, Salonika, Smyrna, Alexandria, Adrianople, Acre/Haifa, etc. Interested in Women's issues in the M.E.: The multi-faceted Veil/Hijab (its' infinite meanings & symbolisms, life within it, & individual/societal choices) the social aspects of the Harem, modesty in all forms of expression, the male dominance of public areas in Islamic societies, the allure of and growth of Islam in the West, how M.E. Muslim & Minority women run their households & educate their children, all forms & implications of the Hospitality/Revenge Dichotomy, the role of the Family, and the institution of the Hadith. Great personal library (history, cultural studies, world religions, international cuisines, care of mind, body, & soul, international mysteries, design & aesthetics). Persistent sense of the aesthetic, thanks to my father (a designer) who was the 1st believer in Bahá'u'lláh in our family---via Greenwich Village artist Juliet Thompson taught by May Boles Maxwell & 'Abdul-Bahá. Heritage via cuisine. Comparative Hospitality Norms of Minority M.E. Cultures. Dream of cooking with the grandmothers of the mountain villages in the Middle East. The importance of oral histories & storytelling. Writing life-story vignettes that somehow always become comedies. Assisting in raising strong World Citizens. Always ready for a new idea... Drawn towards those with positive energy, a creative mind, and a ready laugh!