

## What we are about

When you look at the night sky, are you filled with awe at the beauty and power of the universe? In nature, do you feel a sense of the sacred, like being in a vast cathedral? Are you sceptical about a God with a mind like ours, separate from, and outside, the universe? If you answer yes to these questions, then you are already a Pantheist.

Natural/scientific pantheism transcends both theism and atheism. Its central tenet is that the Universe is the ultimate reality and the highest object of human reverence, while nature and each one of us is a sacred part of the totality. Our naturalistic approach accepts and reveres the universe and nature just as they are, and promotes an ethic of respect for human and animal rights and for lifestyles that sustain rather than destroy the environment.

We do not believe in supernatural entities or personal creator gods. This earth is not a temporary stage that God will soon destroy, it is a paradise we must restore, preserve and cherish. Life is not a passageway to an imaginary world after death: it is all we have, and each moment must be celebrated for itself. We humans must create our own ethics and purposes, to explore and appreciate reality, to save the planet, and to ensure a life of dignity for all its inhabitants.

The World Pantheist Movement opened at the Spring Equinox 1999. Our goal is to promote natural/scientific pantheism as an alternative option to traditional religions. We aim to create local pantheist groups in as many places as possible, for mutual support, shared celebration and action – and to provide a network of celebrants so that pantheists can have weddings and funerals in harmony with their beliefs.

The WPM grew from the Scientific Pantheism mailing list, set up in 1997, which now has members in 47 countries and all US states. We have a quarterly magazine PAN and a growing number of mailing lists, bulletin boards, and local groups. We are a vibrant international community of lively, spiritually aware folk, from high-school students, gardeners and busdrivers to computer programmers and university professors. Join us today, or find out more at our web site <http://www.pantheism.net>.



## What we believe

■ We revere and celebrate the Universe as the totality of being: past, present and future. It is self-organizing, ever-evolving and inexhaustibly diverse. Its overwhelming power, beauty and fundamental mystery compel the deepest human reverence and wonder.

■ All matter, energy, and life are an inter-connected unity of which we are an inseparable part. We rejoice in our existence and seek to participate ever more deeply in this unity through knowledge, celebration, meditation, empathy, love, ethical action and art.

■ We are an integral part of Nature, which we should cherish, revere and preserve in all its magnificent beauty and diversity. We should strive to live in harmony with Nature locally and globally. We acknowledge the inherent value of all life, human and non-human, and strive to treat all living creatures with compassion, empathy, and respect.

■ All humans are equal centers of awareness of the Universe and nature, and all deserve a life of equal dignity and mutual respect. To this end we support and work towards freedom, democracy, justice, and non-discrimination, and a world community based on peace, an end to poverty, sustainable ways of life, and full respect for human rights.

■ There is a single kind of substance, energy/

matter, which is vibrant and infinitely creative in all its forms. Body and mind are indivisibly united.

■ We see death as the return to nature of our elements, and the end of our existence as individuals. The forms of “afterlife” available to humans are natural ones, in the natural world. Our actions, our ideas and memories of us live on, according to what we do in our lives. Our genes live on in our families, and our elements are endlessly recycled in nature.

■ We honor reality, and keep our minds open to the evidence of the senses and of science’s unending quest for deeper understanding. These are our best means of coming to know the Universe, and on them we base our aesthetic and religious feelings about reality.

■ Every individual has direct access through perception, emotion and meditation to ultimate reality, which is the Universe and Nature. There is no need for mediation by priests, gurus or revealed scriptures.

■ We uphold the separation of religion and state, and the universal human right of freedom of religion. We recognize the freedom of all pantheists to express and celebrate their beliefs, as individuals or in groups, in any non-harmful ritual, symbol or vocabulary that is meaningful to them.

## Join the World Pantheist Movement today...

### Personal benefits:

- Quarterly 'Pan' magazine.
- Free e-mail forwarding address at our domain, eg: Yourname@pantheism.net
- Membership of associated mailing lists and bulletin boards.
- Membership of a rapidly growing, vibrant international community.

### Public benefits:

- Helping promote earth-honoring life-affirming natural/scientific pantheism as a religious option and alternative to traditional religions.
- Supporting the creation of a network of celebrants for pantheist weddings and funerals.
- Making possible an expanding pantheist presence in all media.
- Helping to promote the formation of local groups.
- Making possible free associate membership for under 17s, hardship cases, and people from developing countries and emerging economies.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level (please tick box and write in amount sent):

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low income (£8)                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Family* (£40)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (£100+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (£10)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (£35-£99)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (£450)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic (£20)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer (£60-£99) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation (please write amount here) £ _____ |  |  |

\* Family provides one copy of the magazine plus up to four e-mail forwarding addresses @pantheism.net and four memberships of the World Pantheist Movement bulletin board.

Please mail with your cheque to:

**World Pantheist Movement,**  
PO Box 18687,  
London NW3 2FG  
United Kingdom

Local contact:

**Email:**  
**Phone:**

Please photocopy double sided and give to friends.

## WORLD PANTHEIST MOVEMENT



# Revering the Universe, Caring for Nature, Celebrating Life

*A religion that stressed the magnificence of the universe as revealed by modern science, might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths.*

*Sooner or later, such a religion will emerge.*

*Carl Sagan, Pale Blue Dot.*

<http://www.pantheism.net/>