Through various projects, Global Voice hopes to raise awareness about the significance of indigenous traditions and to educate individuals of all ages about current and future cultural issues around the world.

**SELECT PROJECTS COMPLETED**

- Speaking engagements at over 40 schools across the US.
- Windows to the World – published one story, “Who is the Greatest of them All?” from Why Ostriches Don’t Fly to demonstrate moral values through storytelling and cross-cultural understanding.
- Sacred Forest of the Lost Children (2007): Short film highlighting Dr. Lewis’s healing experiences with the Maasai Warriors.
- Music that Floats From Afar (2002): Short film comprised of images and music of the Kalahari Bushmen.
- Why Ostriches Don’t Fly (1997): Young adults’ book chronicling the history, stories and myths of the Kalahari San Bushmen, accompanied by a short film, both by Dr. I. Murphy Lewis.

**GLOBAL VOICE HOSTED LECTURES AND MEETINGS**

- Rupert Isaacson, author of The Healing Land, lectured about his visit to the Kalahari San Bushmen with featured guest, Gloria Steinem, NYC, 2002. Global voice also hosted Isaacson in Santa Barbara at the home of Rebecca and Tony Allina, 2003.
- A poetry reading for David Krieger, founder of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and author of Today is Not a Good Day for War and Dr. Barry Spacks, Santa Barbara Poet Laureate and author of The Hope of the Air.
- Cross-cultural exchange between the Shona and the Ndebele of Zimbabwe and the Kikuyu and the Maasai Warriors of Kenya.
- Rupert Isaacson, author of The Healing Land, lectured about his visit to the Kalahari San Bushmen with featured guest, Gloria Steinem, NYC, 2002. Global voice also hosted Isaacson in Santa Barbara at the home of Rebecca and Tony Allina, 2003.
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**PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT**

- Myths for Children: Film series for adults and children.
- Podcasts and distance learning.
- Return to the Kalahari: A Healing Journey (2009): A documentary film on the interaction between the San bushmen and the healing work of Dr. Lewis.
- Quetzalcoatl Myth (2009): Television special explores the myth of the Mesoamerican god Quetzalcoatl and his relevance to contemporary Mexican culture.
- Notes from Afar (2009): Kalahari San Bushmen photographs by Herbert Brauer, music recordings published by Willem Barnard and the memoir of Dr. Lewis.
MISSION OF GLOBAL VOICE FOUNDATION

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he mission of the Global Voice Foundation is to produce educational programs that promote cross-cultural understanding.

Political and environmental pressures have threatened the stability of many of the world’s indigenous cultures in recent decades. Ancient sources of wisdom, primarily held through oral traditions, are vanishing. The goal of the Global Voice foundation is to share these valuable insights of cultural sustainability with our children before it is too late.

Global Voice produces documentaries, writes and publishes books and has conducted more than 40 lectures for children and adults. We explore cultural myths to understand how these stories hold a society together. There is tremendous value for children to understand and learn from people of different cultures, and Global Voice believes the values and lessons contained in these stories can make a real difference for our children, especially in today’s technology driven society.

Global Voice’s Executive Director, Dr. I. Murphy Lewis, has spent eighteen years documenting the cultural wisdom of indigenous people with an emphasis on the San Bushman and Maasai Warrior communities in Africa. Author and illustrator of the book, Why Ostriches Don’t Fly, and Other Tales From the African Bush, she continues to research, document, and communicate their wisdom, as well as other sources of indigenous wisdom around the globe.

Between 1993 and 2001, Dr. Lewis was Vice President, Director of Sales for Badgley Mischka, Vice President, Director of Sales for Halston Signature Collection and Director of Sales for Mary McFadden. An early trip to South Africa changed her life and laid the groundwork for her founding the Global Voice Foundation in 2001.

Dr. Lewis holds a Masters and Doctorate degree in Mythological Studies from Pacifica Graduate Institute, a BA from the University of Kansas, and an Associate Degree in Fashion from Parsons’ School of Design.

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Global Voice operates as a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt public charity in order to support our activities and mission. To date, Global Voice has provided sustainable gifts totaling more than $150,000 to the indigenous communities we have worked with.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings! Over the past 18 years it has become my life’s work and objective to share the stories and myths of indigenous culture and their invaluable wisdom with children. This is Global Voice Foundation’s aim as well. I wish to share with you the tremendous growth that Global Voice Foundation has undergone in recent years.

Over the past eighteen years I have been studying the stories of indigenous peoples. In 1995, I began traveling to southern and eastern Africa to document the Kalahari San Bushmen and Maasai Warriors stories, music and rituals. Later, in 2004 and 2008, I took trips around the world to record and note stories of other indigenous cultures. Simultaneously, Global Voice has put together and worked with a group of expert colleagues and advisors. Global Voice is documenting the great myths and looking at their lessons and healing practices through all media: in short and long format film; television pieces; lectures; books; articles; educational materials; and web-based outreach.

For Global Voice’s work comes at a critical time in society. For example, while many kids in North America prefer video time to outdoor playtime, there is now concrete evidence that our children are being damaged by the lack of nature and imagination in their lives. Being away from nature robs a child’s life of a sense of connection and a sense of wonder. Global Voice believes that what children learn from nature, from one another, and from different cultures provides them with a sense of balance, compassion, and respect. In fact many of these important themes will be dealt with in a new Global Voice project called Myths for Children.

Through our programs, Global Voice unites and teaches different audiences about the common threads that link all cultures together. I also passionately believe that these stories are our stories; and that by documenting and sharing these myths and traditions we are giving our children the roots they need to be successful in the 21st century and beyond. Global Voice can help lead this next generation towards more balanced, healthy, and productive lives, both individually and collectively.

I sincerely hope that you will continue to support and keep a close eye on Global Voice as it grows and expands its reach into the future and into your lives.

–I. MURPHY LEWIS, PH.D.
Founder and Executive Director
Global Voice Foundation

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LECHUGA

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