ALIENVOICESANDT

There is a currently a great deal of anticipation and speculation regarding the coming date of December 21, 2012, which is said to be the final day of the current world age according to the ancient Mayan calendar. One of the primary proponents of this idea is scholar and author José Arguelles, who has long championed the notion that the Mayans understood the true nature of time much better than those of us governed by the Gregorian calendar and the inadequate, linear passing of our days.

Arguelles is the subject of a new biography, 2012: Biography of a Time Traveler, The Journey of José Arguelles (New Page Books, 2009), written by a journalist named Stephanie South.

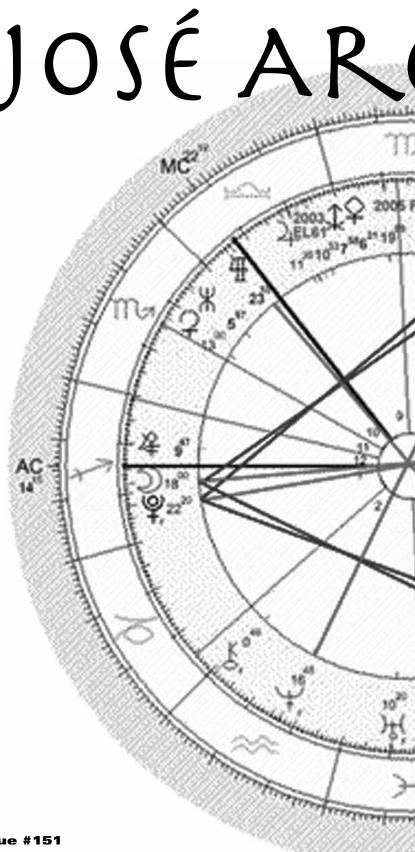


South's interest in the paranormal, in worlds beyond our own, began in her childhood. "For as long as I can remember," she said, "I have always felt this waking reality was a dream; it never felt truly real. I knew there must be something else. I've always been on a quest, of sorts, to understand this feeling. I was always interested in dreams and time-travel."

In 1992, South had a near-death experience (NDE) which involved the familiar moment of the life review in which she was shown her every word and deed of her life up to that point. "I experienced all the effects each of those words and actions had on others around me," she said, "When I viewed something good I had done or said, I enjoyed tremendous bliss, seeing that I had created a positive effect on the world around me. When I viewed something bad I had done or said, I would begin writhing in the worst pain imaginable. I saw that everything we do or say is filed on a record that we all have to account for."

The NDE also included being taken before a gathering of entities who imparted a sense of mission to South. "I was taken to some type of council," South said, "and put in the center of what appeared to be around twenty elders seated in a circle around me. Then I was shown a vision of my mission on earth.

"Although much of the vision was erased when reentry to the body occurred, the main message was very bright. The elders telepathically showed me a vision of earth-something about telepathy among humans and the transformation of the earth. I saw a new world, regeneration, new beings, the future."



THE COMING OF 2012



South told no one about what she had seen and began to read every book she could find on NDEs and the paranormal. That was followed by a period of depression, anxiety attacks, and an overall feeling of hopelessness. She dropped out of college for a year, but returned to finish her bachelor's degree in journalism and began working as a features writer in Pasadena, California.

She continued to have paranormal experiences she was unable to explain and sometimes had trouble differentiating between her nighttime dreams and her waking reality. She relocated to Portland, Oregon and began to cultivate relationships with people of similar interests.

It was at this point that she began to cross paths with Arguelles, although from a distance, at first. In 1998 an acquaintance of South's named Paul Levy, who was the head of a Tibetan Buddhist center in Portland, suggested she accompany him to The Whole Earth Festival in Davis, California.

Arguelles had started the annual festival twenty-eight years earlier and was present at the 1998 event as well. South and Arguelles met briefly at the time.

"Before meeting José," she said, "I had had a series of dreams where a man was teaching me time-travel via telepathy. When I finally met José, I recognized that he was the one in my dreams. When I first heard José speak, it felt like some sort of transmission.

"It took all of my concentration and exertion to actually 'hear' what he was saying underneath the words. It felt to me as if he were speaking through a higher dimensional frequency, so I had to raise my frequency in order to hear him. This was done intuitively. A phrase he used stuck in my head: Who owns your time, owns your mind. This phrase repeated through my head when I returned to my day job, and I began to contemplate how much of our lives are spent living on someone else's time."

A couple of years later South was invited by a woman named Chris Coleman to visit Mexico for three weeks to see the pyramids, with Arguelles having mapped the main power points on a map for the group beforehand. The trip was to climax at Palenque, in Chiapas. They arrived there on June 6, 2000 and intended to see the pyramids the following day after spending the night in some rural cabanas. There was a huge thunder and lightning storm under way.

"When it cleared a bit," South recalled, "I heard someone yell, 'Ships!' I went outside where the others were and the sky was filled with what appeared to be a fleet of ships. It was incredible. I had never seen anything like it. The sky was scattered with what looked like orbs moving in irregular patterns, disappearing and then reappearing all over the sky. The energy emitted was palpable; the thunder crashed.

BY SEAN CASTEEL

"Then three of us," she continued, "felt drawn by an inexplicable force and ran across the muddy field in our bare feet. We looked up into the sky and, lo and behold, there was the biggest ship in the sky. It seemed to be the mother ship, a huge glowing orb that seemed to turn in strange positions as if to communicate something. A sound that I had never heard before reverberated throughout my body and I could not tell if it was coming from within or without."

When South and her traveling companions visited the Temple of Inscriptions at Palenque the next day, she felt drawn to the temple next to it, called the Temple of the Red Queen because an unidentified female was found in a sarcophagus covered in red cinnabar there.

"I was drawn to the steps of this tomb," she said, "and lay down on them and closed my eyes. The UFO experience was still very much reverberating through me and I had several quite extraordinary experiences which were difficult to verbalize. It seemed like a kind of activation or remembrance that was occurring."

All of which served to reinforce the reality of the paranormal to South and to prepare her for her current day job, working with José Arguelles in an effort to wake the world to a cosmic sea change that will alter the fabric of our reality to an extent that we can only imagine at this point. But first, a little more on the dreams South had before beginning her professional relationship with Arguelles.

"Prior to meeting José," she said, "I had dreams where a man was teaching me time-travel, generally in remote locations. I dreamt that I was walking along a vacant street in a large city filled with empty buildings. A strange desolation filled the air. It was as though the city had been deserted for some mysterious reason, or like time had stopped. Everything was communicated telepathically.

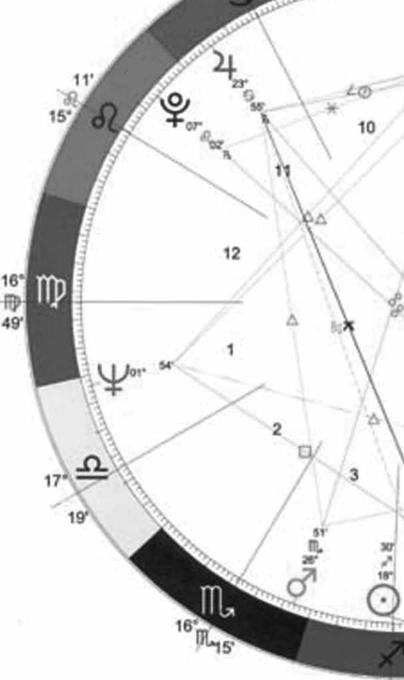
"In my inner journey," she continued, "these dreams very much correlated to my earlier near-death experience. These dreams continued after I met José, only now in the dreams the man had a face. Through the dreams, I would meet him in various locations—forests, classrooms, pyramids, caves, Tibetan monasteries, on spaceships and on other planets."

South describes her current relationship with Arguelles as being like an apprentice. "I have learned a great deal from him," she said. "My connection with him feels destinal and born on another world. This is the way I experience it.

"In writing his biography, I felt a type of transference, like entering into his mind. I felt beings or other forces all around directing and guiding the words. So it felt almost as if it were some sort of template or blueprint of synchronicity perhaps. I am only trying to describe to you the best I can what the experience felt like."

José Arguelles is of course no stranger to those kinds of ineffable experiences. He is perhaps best known in some quarters for spearheading the Harmonic Convergence of 1987, one of those pivotal events in the history of the New Age. The reasoning and calculations by which the date for that watershed moment was set are complicated and refer back again to the Mayan calendar.

"The dates for the Harmonic Convergence," South explained, "were given to José in the early '70s by Lakota author and poet Tony Shearer as the conclusion of the prophecy of the thirteen heavens and the nine hells. The heaven and hell cycles refer to a sequence of 52-year cycles that began in the year AD 843."



The heavenly cycles are ominously said to be periods of "decreasing choice," while the hell cycles of "increasing doom" began when Cortés landed in Mexico in 1519. When translated into our own calendar system, the relevant days for the ending of the hell cycles were August 16 and 17 of 1987.

"The prophecy says that when the hell cycle is over something new is going to occur," South said. "But it was for the humans to decide. At least 144,000 people were necessary to observe the ninth hell cycle closing on August 16, 1987. These dates stuck with José. Then, in 1983 he had his first vision about the Harmonic Convergence. I think it is interesting to note that this vision occurred just a few days after [former NASA scientist] Richard Hoagland showed him the pictures of the Face on Mars."

The name Harmonic Convergence came to Arguelles in 1984 when he was writing *Earth Shaman*, an unpublished text about interdimensional travel. The next year he began to write down detailed visions of the event, which was followed in 1986 by



his book *The Mayan Factor: Path Beyond Technology* (Bear & Company, 1987) which drew much interest to the Harmonic Convergence and helped to gather the kind of massive crowd energy necessary for it to be a success. Arguelles spent the first half of 1987 conducting meetings, making phone calls and sending faxes to let people know about the event, resulting in a saturation of media coverage at the time.

"He put a tremendous amount of highly directed will into it," South said, "but once it caught on it was very magnetic, like some kind of time-release program. José felt the entire event was choreographed by extraterrestrial intelligences. He also saw that 1987 is 25 years before 2012. He felt this signified a 25-year window when humanity could decide which direction to go—either return to living within the cycles of nature and the cosmos or continue with the destruction of the earth.

"The Harmonic Convergence was a huge point of collective synchronization," she continued. "Many people reported that

their entire life course changed at that time. Some reported a type of frequency shift. It was around this time that more and more people opened up to things like channeling, higher dimensions, and crystals. Many people, of course, now label this type of thing as New Age, but the fact is that a new mindset seemed to enter. José was often labeled as New Age by the media, although this is not at all how he perceived himself."

Arguelles believes that the Harmonic Convergence was merely a dress rehearsal for a bigger type of event—the Harmonic Convergence of 2012. He also feels that everything happening on the world stage today is a result of forces set in motion at the 1987 happening. And what should we expect to see when the long-awaited date comes around in a little more than three years?

"Of course," South said, "no one knows for certain precisely what will occur. As you know, there are so many theories out there. But my feeling is that whatever it is, it is already happening now. We are part of some grand time-release program, and we are mutating or becoming something else. I think it is important that we not project our conditioned conceptions too much on that which is to come, but be open for anything.

"According to José," she continued, "this date marks a kind of frequency shift. He perceives a type of intervention, extraterrestrial or interdimensional." The frequency shift will liberate us from some of the more negative constraints of civilization, such as the fiction of a society based on money that is a slave to linear time.

"The current world hologram," South said, "consists of a belief system held together by money, banking, political systems, religious institutions, chemical agriculture, and mass media. It is a hologram or civilization made up of nine-to-five, Monday through Friday. People's perception of the world and themselves is largely colored by this system."

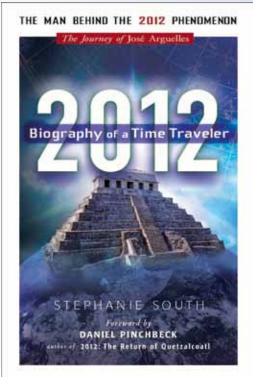
The world system we now live in will be dissolved and a new one will replace it. Something akin to cosmic consciousness will occur. Arguelles explained this in a little more detail in a 2006 article called "Galactic Culture and Cosmic Civilization."

"The present global crisis," Arguelles wrote, "is being guided or observed by a divine hierarchical intelligence operating interdimensionally and perhaps also extraterrestrially. As awful as they may be, current events are both the consequence of historical karmic effects, and at the same time they are being orchestrated, as it were, for purposes of a divine or supramental descent. This intervention is needed because, by its current operating standards and steadily lowering state of consciousness, humanity could never otherwise get out of its irrevocable slide into total global catastrophe."

Of course, this fervent belief in some kind of last-minute rescue by extraterrestrials is nothing new. Contactees have been receiving and relaying much the same kind of message since the 1950s. The sheer consistency of that message may be a testimony to its truthfulness, although the attempt to foresee the future by relying on information allegedly obtained from the aliens is rarely successful.

Arguelles adds to the mix a complex mathematical interpretation of the Mayan calendar which works with a base-20 system rather than our base-10 system. The Mayans were said to be employing a more highly evolved way to crunch the numbers that also maps out the synchronic order of things—a way to

continued on page 56



If there is an overriding theme to planetary histories and reconnection first and foremost by raising aware synchronicity and getting as many

decode the past, present, and future through numbers that live and speak.

South said that Arguelles acknowledges that most of this information comes to him from an extraterrestrial source whom he calls the Galactic Maya. "The majority of his contacts," South said, "are received in the early morning, around 4 A.M. He receives much information through mathematical forms which sometimes put him in touch with extraterrestrial intelligences. But to him, this is normal—not extraordinary. He feels it is the future of the human race that we should all experience contact or communication with the Star Beings."

Arguelles questions the consensual reality about UFOs and extraterrestrials and feels that what he has to say on the subject is often misperceived and that the mass perception of UFOs is generally shaped by a civilization following a distorted and materialist timing frequency. "That is, we only see what we've been conditioned to know," South said.

"People become frightened when something manifests outside their conditioned knowledge base. But yes, José does receive these communications on a regular basis. He has vast notebooks filled with communications—both visual drawings and sketches of what he sees—as well as written words and many mathematical computations.

"He feels his contacts are from a galactic federation. Principle among the star councils are those of Arcturus and Sirius. He feels he is a member of these councils, like being designated to parachute in for a mission as part of their communication system. He feels more people will soon be contacted."

In the meantime, there is an alien program of preparation under way in an effort to make the transition less mentally and emotionally traumatic for the masses. People may be taken onboard alien spacecraft according to their personal frequency so that they can continue their planetary education, or there may be a literal rearrangement of the molecules of people's earthly form that cleanses the planet from negative energy.

"José believes that we are involved in a universal order," South said, "and also a process of cosmic evolution. As a species, we have to raise our truth consciousness as a whole. People have to realize we are going into a new state of being and reality. Individual consciousnesses have to be moved to the wayside so that we can come together as a group planetary consciousness. This is what is being called for in the cosmic evolution."

One aspect of this collective transformation will include earth becoming a completely telepathic world. The question was then asked: Why is that necessarily a good thing? Who would want their inner, private thoughts exposed, even for the sake of cosmic evolution?

South replied by asking another question. "What is a private thought?" she asked. "Do aliens have private thoughts? If you have genuine goodwill for all, then what is a private thought? Humans think the world revolves around them and their thoughts. But it doesn't.

"There is a much larger plan; higher intelligent forces. The way José describes it, we evolve through telepathic attunement. As the collective becomes the individual, the individual becomes the collective. This means that no one is interfering with your personal growth, but we are all growing together as a single planetary organism.

"The clearer the mind, the better it is able to be in telepathic rapport with what we might term *alien*. Of course, those operating on lower vibrational frequencies can also attract aliens, but oftentimes those are perceived as darker forces. Our minds are very powerful, and we have not yet even begun to tap the incredible potential."

Along with receiving alien transmissions telepathically, Arguelles also claims to be able to travel in time, hence the subtitle of South's book. Just what does the term *time traveler* mean in this context? "The best way I can think to describe it," South said, "is that time travel is akin to telepathic teleportation or the ability to extend yourself through the mind into other dimensions. Some are dimensions of form, and some are not. Time is faster than the speed of light.

"Time is instantaneous throughout the universe. This is similar to what yogis or Buddhists describe, traveling to different places in the astral body while the physical body remains in a fixed spot. Sometimes this occurs spontaneously and sometimes through meditation, hypnogogic reverie, or dreams and astral travel.

"When most people think of time travel, they think of some type of machine or technological device. Basically, Iose's work, it is that of reconstructing theinterng the cosmic memory circuit of the human being,
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people reconnected or hooked-up as possible by 2012.

José believes we are all time travelers visiting this planet, although most of us have amnesia."

South said that the primary theme of Arguelles' work is time. "Exploring the meaning of time, revising our relationship with time, and contemplating what it means that time is radial rather than linear. This means everything is present now.

"He refers to time as 'the universal factor of synchronization.' In this sense, clock time means nothing, cosmically speaking. For example, if it is 1 P.M. in California, it is 6 A.M. the following day in Australia. But if you communicate with someone, it is still the same synchronic moment regardless of what the clock says.

"If there is an overriding theme to José's work, it is that of reconstructing the interplanetary histories and reconnecting the cosmic memory circuit of the human being, first and foremost by raising awareness to the nature of time and the function of synchronicity and getting as many people reconnected or hooked-up as possible by 2012. If we can all remember and retrieve our star memories and reclaim our paranormal powers, then we will be able to enter cosmic consciousness and we won't do the destructive things we are now doing to the earth and to each other."

Such unbridled optimism comes with a built-in time limit, of course. One can only hope that if we have somehow been mistaken in buying into some of the many predictions made about 2012 that we are at least no worse off than we were before when the date finally rolls around.

In the meantime, South and Arguelles are hard at work on the fifth volume of a planned seven-book series called *The Cosmic History Chronicles*, while *2012*, *Biography of a Time Traveler* will soon be followed by a second volume that picks up Arguelles' story in the early 1990s and brings it up to the present.

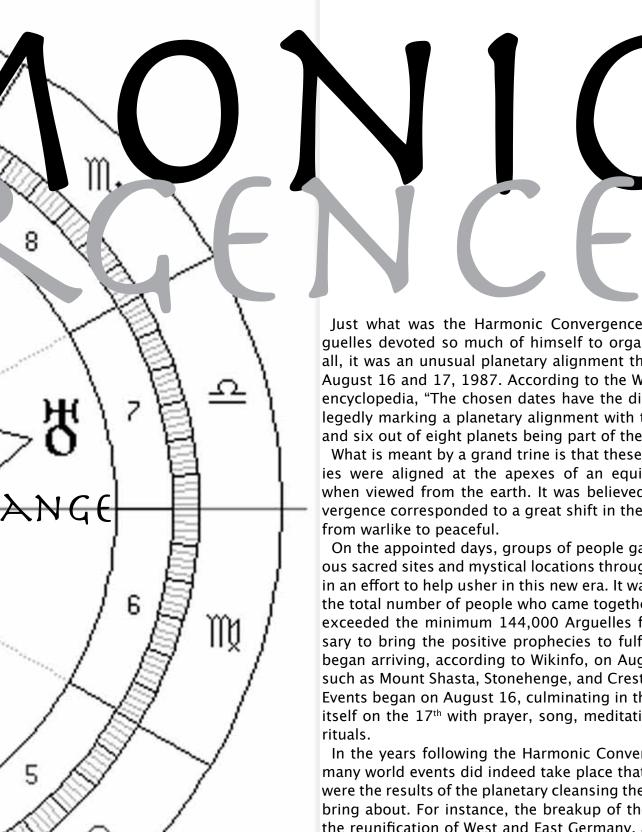
"I feel this biography is multidimensional," South said. "It shows the life struggle of a visionary or contactee and the human struggle entailed in following the inner vision in a world designed, in many respects, to throw you off course or make you conform. José has followed his inner path and visionary experiences, which is not always valued in our society." **UFO**

Visit Sean Casteel's *UFO Journalist* website at www. seancasteel.com. Casteel is the author of *UFOs, Prophecy and the End of Time, Signs and Symbols of the Second Coming,* and *The Excluded Books of the Bible,* all of which are available at his website, Amazon.com, or Filament Books.

STEPHANIE SOUTH







Just what was the Harmonic Convergence that José Arguelles devoted so much of himself to organizing? First of all, it was an unusual planetary alignment that occurred on August 16 and 17, 1987. According to the Wikipedia online encyclopedia, "The chosen dates have the distinction of allegedly marking a planetary alignment with the sun, moon, and six out of eight planets being part of the grand trine."

What is meant by a grand trine is that these heavenly bodies were aligned at the apexes of an equilateral triangle when viewed from the earth. It was believed that the convergence corresponded to a great shift in the earth's energy

On the appointed days, groups of people gathered at various sacred sites and mystical locations throughout the world in an effort to help usher in this new era. It was believed that the total number of people who came together for the event exceeded the minimum 144,000 Arguelles felt was necessary to bring the positive prophecies to fulfillment. People began arriving, according to Wikinfo, on August 15 at sites such as Mount Shasta, Stonehenge, and Crestone, Colorado. Events began on August 16, culminating in the convergence itself on the 17th with prayer, song, meditation, dance, and

In the years following the Harmonic Convergence, a great many world events did indeed take place that adherents felt were the results of the planetary cleansing they had hoped to bring about. For instance, the breakup of the Soviet Union, the reunification of West and East Germany, and the ending of apartheid in South Africa were all felt to be evidence that the massive spiritual gathering had accomplished its purpose.

But for José Arguelles, another countdown had already begun that day in 1987: the 25-year march to December 21, 2012, when the evils of the modern world—such as war, materialism, violence, injustice and oppression—will end once and for all. The clock is still ticking. UFO