

New Dimensions Radio and Media
Changing the World, One Broadcast at a Time
newdimensions.org

For Immediate Release

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Passing of the Torch: ‘New Dimensions’ Michael Toms Dies at 72

For over four decades, Michael Toms has broadcast his dialogues with the world's leading-edge thinkers on *New Dimensions Radio*, co-founded and managed with wife, Justine Willis Toms. Known as "The Socrates of Radio" their widely acclaimed interviews with such luminaries as H.H. the Dalai Lama, Joseph Campbell, R. Buckminster Fuller, President Jimmy Carter, J. Krishnamurti, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Dr. Andrew Weil, Huston Smith and many others helped bring innovative consciousness ideas into mainstream culture. Toms' sensitive and engaging interviewing style was heralded by many in the industry.

"In this day of fortune-cookie philosophies and bumper-sticker politics, it is refreshing to find a sanctuary for sustained conversation where two people truly communicate, with a large audience leaning across the electronic sofa eavesdropping. 'New Dimensions' is a safe haven for that kind of sharing." - Bill Moyers

In 1973, after leaving a successful advertising career, the Toms were inspired to broadcast a six-week public lecture series, *Horizons of Consciousness*, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco, to bring attention to the powerful grassroots revolution of consciousness taking place at that time and continuing today. From that series, Michael was invited to host a radio program series on San Francisco's public radio station, KQED-FM which soon evolved into *New Dimensions* and by 1979 the series had been nationally syndicated. Relying on listener contributions alone, the Toms produced and distributed the series, broadcast online and on public radio stations in over 300 communities worldwide, with over 1.3 million monthly listeners.

Recognized as providing audio recordings *"whose guests rank among the world's leading voices of wisdom, learning, faith, science, the arts, social change, hope and healing, and having been responsible for the launching of trends, revealing wisdom of the ages, and pushing the boundaries of form, language and spirit"* in 2007, Stanford University Libraries acquired the entire audio collection of Toms' audio interviews of approximately 3,000 individuals.

Toms served on the board of directors of *KQED, Inc.*; was a founding director of *KZYZ-FM*; and co-founder/executive director of *Audio Independents, Inc.*, a national organization supporting the interests of independent radio producers and audio artists. He served as board chairman emeritus for the *California Institute of Integral Studies*; and as senior acquisitions editor for *Harper San Francisco*, acquiring more than 50 titles, including *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Lama Sogyal Rinpoche.

He is the bestselling author of *A Time for Choices: Deep Dialogues for Deep Democracy* and *An Open Life: Joseph Campbell in Conversation with Michael Toms*, as well as seventeen additional books based on his interviews, including *The Well of Creativity*, *The Soul of Business*, *The Power of Meditation and Prayer*, *Buddhism in the West*, and *At the Leading Edge*. He joined Justine as the co-author of *True Work: Doing What You Love and Loving What You Do*.

Toms received numerous awards for his broadcast endeavors, including an honorary *Doctor of Humane Letters* in 2009 from the *Institute of Transpersonal Psychology*. In 2011, both he and his 40-year business partner/wife, Justine Willis Toms, were inducted in the *Broadcasting Hall of Fame*.

The work of *New Dimensions* continues under the sound guidance of Justine, who survives Michael, with grandchildren Meghan and Jeremy Toms of North Carolina, and stepson Robert Welch of Mandeville, Louisiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to *New Dimensions Radio* www.newdimensions.org to continue the important work that Michael started. A public memorial will be held to honor Michael on March 9, 2013, at the place it all began, the First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco. Please contact Suzanna Gratz of Inspiring Promotions for more information about the event, and to coordinate media for Justine Willis Toms.

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