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**“CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: ONE SPIRIT, MANY FACES,”  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILLY MICHELS TO SHOW IN  
TAI SOPHIA INSTITUTE’S HIMMELFARB GALLERY**

**Laurel, MD (May 14, 2009)** – “Children of the World: One Spirit, Many Faces,” photographs by Maryland artist Billy Michels, will be on display from June 3, 2009 to September 2, 2009, in the Himmelfarb Gallery on the Tai Sophia Institute campus. **An artist reception, which is open to the public, will be held from 5:00–7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2009.**

“Children of the World” features color and black & white photographs that reflect the innocence, joy, compassion, and energy found in children all over the world. Throughout his global travels, Michels has observed just how similar human beings are, especially children. Drawn to the smiles and pure curiosity of kids, Michels has captured this commonality of the human spirit. These images, representing five continents and all socio-economic conditions, tell a story, evoke emotions, and simply make you smile.

Billy Michels is a Mid-Atlantic-based photographer and a fifth grade teacher in the Baltimore City public school system. Michels began taking pictures as a child and has been capturing life through photographs for 25 years. After the events of September 11, 2001, Michels left a lucrative career in advertising for his present career, intending to give back and to promote diversity, global awareness and cultural tolerance. He holds degrees from Gettysburg College and Wilmington University. His photographic works are inspired by Reza, Ansel Adams, and Robert Capa. He won Best of Show in the “Through Voyager’s Eyes” Semester at Sea Alumni Association photography competition. His artworks can also be seen at [www.billymichels.com](http://www.billymichels.com).

**Regular Himmelfarb gallery hours are:**

**Monday—Thursday: 8:00 am–7:00 pm**

**Friday: 8:00 am–5:00 pm**

**Saturday: 8:00 am–4:00 pm**

Call 410-888-9048 for additional weekend hours. Please note that The Himmelfarb Gallery will be closed July 4th. Artworks are for sale through the Meeting Point Bookstore, adjacent to the gallery.

The Tai Sophia Institute campus is located at 7750 Montpelier Road, Laurel, Maryland (off Rt. 29 and Johns Hopkins Road – 5 miles south of Columbia). For more information, please contact John Wilson at Tai Sophia Institute at 410-888-9048, ext 6619 or at [jwilson@tai.edu](mailto:jwilson@tai.edu).

Digital images are available by request.

**ABOUT TAI SOPHIA INSTITUTE**

Tai Sophia Institute, a private, nonprofit organization based in Laurel, Maryland, is a center for wellness-based education, client care, and public policy discourse. Founded in 1975 as a small healing arts clinic, the Institute has evolved into a diverse resource providing graduate academic programs, continuing education, community wellness programs, and clinical services in acupuncture, nutrition, and herbal medicine. Its 12-acre main campus also houses a bookstore, library, herb and meditation gardens. Tai Sophia is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and offers three graduate degrees in Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, and Applied Healing Arts. The Master of Acupuncture program was the first in the United States to be accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. The Institute's faculty, staff, and students donate more than 15,000 community service hours to a variety of projects, and its practitioners provide more than 35,500 treatments and consultations yearly. The Institute empowers wellness leaders, business executives and communities to learn the art of caring for and serving one another.

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