



The Philippines



Japan



The United Nations

The 2010 International Day of Peace

Report to the United Nations

Activities related to the work of the World Peace Prayer Society,
uniting the hearts of humanity through the prayer,

“May Peace Prevail on Earth”



New York



Pakistan



Nepal



Afghanistan



United Kingdom

The World Peace Prayer Society
is a proud member of the
Culture of Peace Initiative (CPI).

The material contained in this report
has also been submitted to
Pathways To Peace for inclusion in its
"Annual Report of the Culture of Peace Initiative,"
dedicated to the United Nations and to UNESCO's
**International Decade for the Culture of Peace
and Non-Violence for the Children of the World
(2001-2010).**

www.cultureofpeace.org

The 2010 International Day of Peace

Report to the United Nations

**Activities related to the work of the World Peace Prayer Society,
uniting the hearts of humanity through the prayer,**

“May Peace Prevail on Earth”



**Compiled by Deborah Moldow
Representative to the United Nations
THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER SOCIETY
26 Benton Road
Wassaic, NY 12592
www.worldpeace.org**

2010 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE COMPILATION

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

UNITED NATIONS

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul

ARGENTINA

Bariloche

Buenos Aires

ARUBA

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND

SYDNEY

AUSTRIA

LAKE ATTERSEE

SALZBURG

CANADA

MONTREAL

VANCOUVER

CHINA

HONG KONG

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA

INDIA

LUCKNOW

JAPAN

HADANO CITY

JORDAN

MALAWI

MEXICO

IXTAPA ZIHUATANEJO

PAKISTAN

LAHORE

SIALKOT

PALESTINE

BETHLEHEM

THE PHILIPPINES

BAGUIO CITY

SILANG

MANILA

QUEZON CITY

NEPAL

NEPALGANJ

ROMANIA

NEPALGANJ

SIERRA LEONE

CONGO CROSS BRIDGE

FREETOWN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNITED KINGDOM

LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND

OLDHAM, ENGLAND

DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MT. SHASTA, CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

WILTON, CONNECTICUT

CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA

LAKEWOOD RANCH, FLORIDA

HONOLULU, HAWAII

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DES MOINES, IOWA

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY

BEARSVILLE, NEW YORK

BEDFORD HILLS, NEW YORK

CROTON FALLS, NEW YORK

HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK

SAYVILLE, NEW YORK

WASSAIC, NEW YORK

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

CAMPBELLSPORT, WISCONSIN

CELEBRATE WORLD PEACE DAY, OR HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN PEACE POLE

HUMANITY'S TEAM

SING PEACE AROUND THE WORLD

SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

ODE MAGAZINE:

THE WEEK AFTER PEACE DAY – PLANTING PEACE POLES

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH: The World Peace Prayer Society and The International Day of Peace

The World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) has been promoting the International Day of Peace (IDP) at the United Nations and with the United Nations since 1996. Inspired by the work of our sister NGO, Pathways To Peace, to bring this day, originally designated by the UN General Assembly in 1981, to worldwide recognition and observance, WPPS saw Peace Day as a perfect opportunity for people of all nations and religions to join in the common prayer, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

At the United Nations

The student observance at the United Nations - involving more than 6,000 school children over the past thirteen years - developed as a collaboration between the Dept. of Public Information and its NGO partners, including the World Peace Prayer Society, Pathways To Peace, and The United Religions Initiative. The World Peace Flag Ceremony grand finale, with its inspiring theme of “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” has been a highlight of the event since its inception in 1997.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has given his full support to the day since his first International Day of Peace in 2007, by issuing an inspiring message for the 100-day countdown, offering a powerful message at the ringing of the Peace Bell, and attending the student observance to greet the young people.

Around the World

The World Peace Prayer Society and our partners, Pathways To Peace and the United Religions Initiative, has helped to spearhead an exponential increase in celebration of the International Day of Peace around the world.

The WPPS encourages a Moment of Silence at 12 noon with the prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” as well as planting Peace Poles on the International Day of Peace, and then gathering there on subsequent IDPs for a Moment of Silence or prayers for peace. The World Peace Sanctuary in Amenia, NY also holds its annual A Call To Peace with its own beautiful World Peace Flag Ceremony on or around the IDP, while our offices in Japan, Scotland and Germany also organize or support events – as do our volunteer Peace Representatives in many countries.

2010 was a great year for growing partnerships between WPPS and organizations such as Odyssey Networks, the WE Campaign, Humanity’s Team, difrent, and others.

The Spirit of the International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace has now become a peoples’ celebration with thousands of concerts, vigils, gatherings and other events for peace in every UN Member State. Every time even one individual pauses for a Minute of Silence and says a prayer for peace, humanity comes one step closer to achieving a culture of peace.



In the pages that follow is a sampling of events in the United States and around the world where people observed the UN International Day of Peace with a Peace Pole, a World Peace Flag Ceremony, or simply the prayer, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

*Deborah Moldow
Representative to the United Nations
The World Peace Prayer Society
www.worldpeace.org*

2010 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE COMPILATION

REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS

International Day of Peace Annual Student Observance

United Nations Headquarters, September 17, 2010

“Youth, Peace and Development”

“Youth, Peace and Development” was the theme of the student observance for the International Day of Peace (IDP) held at United Nations Headquarters on Friday, September 17. The theme highlights the importance of peace in the International Year of Youth, launched on August 12, and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were reviewed at the High Level Summit taking place September 20-22 at UN headquarters. Peace enables development, which is critical to providing opportunities for youth, particularly in countries emerging from conflict. Healthy and educated young people are crucial to sustainable development and peace, which are integral and mutually reinforcing pillars of the Millennium Development Goals.

The annual UN Department of Public Information student observance for the International Day of Peace began in 1997 and is organized in collaboration with Pathways To Peace, United Religions Initiative and the World Peace Prayer Society. Over 500 students and guests attended this year’s program and the Ringing of the Peace Bell by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, immediately preceding the program.

UN Under-Secretary-General Kiyotaka Akasaka welcomed the students and moderated the UN panel. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon greeted the students, encouraging them to build peace by taking actions that support the MDGs and the international Year of Youth.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (second from left) with the UN speakers.

The video screen shows students who joined the conference from the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

Students were then introduced to three United Nations Messengers of Peace. Environmentalist Jane Goodall spoke to them from China by video while members of her organization, Roots and Shoots, displayed a giant Peace Dove puppet. Nobel Laureate Professor Elie Wiesel shared the importance of stories and stressed speaking for those who are not able to share their important testimonies. Renowned violinist Midori Goto emphasized the importance of the arts in building peace.

Several UN Goodwill Ambassadors joined the IDP program this year to link with the MDG Summit. They included Olympic figure skating champion Kim Yu-na (UNICEF), Belgian television host Goedele Liekens (UNFPA), Portuguese actress Catarina Furtado (UNFPA) and singer/songwriter Anggun (FAO). The Goodwill Ambassadors have also been appointed MDG Champions to advocate for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ajarat Bada from Nigeria and Catherine Peter from South Africa served as youth moderators for the second part of the program. They are part of the One Young World team promoting “The Missing MDG: Interfaith Cooperation for Peace” and have presented this idea to the Alliance of Civilizations in Rio de Janeiro and in Mexico City for the Year of Youth. These young women worked with Monica Willard as URI interns in July. Their connection with URI was mentioned in their introduction by Under-Secretary-General Akasaka.



Ajarat Bada and Catherine Peter



UN Student Observance of the IDP

Young people participated by videoconference from United Nations peacekeeping missions in Liberia (UNMIL) and Sudan (UNMIS). Liberian students addressed the African Union’s Initiative “2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa” with a powerful and thoughtful theater performance to show peace as the future.

The presentation of One Young World from UN Headquarters was by high school student, Lilly Day, and was titled “Voices for Faith in Conflict.” This is the first time interfaith cooperation for peace was mentioned as an official part of the student program! As an issue, interfaith cooperation for peace is rarely addressed within the UN system language. Lilly’s presentation included a video clip from the One Young World Conference held in London in February 2010, which made a powerful statement about prayer. A follow-up questioner asked the presenter if she thought prayer mattered. Lilly gave a wonderful response, sharing that “billions of people throughout the world hold that belief and that it helps them greatly in time of need.”

Just hearing this conversation at the UN was, for me, both a surprise and an impressive recognition of interfaith cooperation for peace. I was impressed that these young people could get the UN to recognize the important work done by people of faith and the contribution needed from us in resolving conflicts. I look forward to connecting them more with the amazing work being done by URI youth around the world.



Mrs. Ban (seventh from left) with young people from the UK, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Jamaica and the United States working on interfaith cooperation for peace.

This program supported the International Year of Youth, which was launched at the United Nations on August 12, 2010. The Year is designed to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world’s youth in overcoming the challenges facing humanity. It seeks to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights, freedoms and solidarity, as well as to encourage young people to dedicate themselves to fostering progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

A Japanese Youth Choir from Ritsumeikan Uji High School, Osaka, Japan, joined a choir from Brooklyn to sing during the IDP conference. They were accompanied by two pianists who played a 'Hibaku' piano, which survived the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The piano has since been restored for use in special concerts and events that promote peace.

At noon, there was a Minute of Silence, introduced by Monica Willard, who reminded everyone to repeat this activity on September 21 to link with the Million Minutes of Peace Campaign. She introduced three youth who accompanied Mrs. Ban as she rang the Peace Bell in the room that was made from recycled weapons.

This annual student conference culminated with the World Peace Flag Ceremony, beautifully led by Deborah Moldow of the World Peace Prayer Society. The flags of all the Member States and the UN flag are held high by participants as country names are read from the screen in the room. That way, everyone participates in sending loving thoughts and prayers for peace to each country. One group of youth from Cercle de Paix who traveled from Canada to attend the UN event wrote a chant and taught the room to repeat "May Peace Prevail on Earth."



Waving flags and the Peace Dove highlight the World Peace Flag Ceremony

Some parts of this report were taken from the UN Press Release issued on September 16, 2010.

This event will be part of the UN video archive and available at: <http://www.un.org/webcast/2010.html> and <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>.

17 September 10	<p>Special Event: International Day of Peace</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Peace Bell Ceremony 2) Musical Performances by a Japanese Youth Choir joined by students from the United States. 3) Student commemoration of the International Day of Peace. Theme: Youth, Peace and Development. Remarks by the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Messengers of Peace Elie Wiesel and Midori, Goodwill Ambassadors Yuna Kim (UNICEF), Goedele Liekens (UNFPA), Anggun (FAO), and Catarina Furtado (UNFPA). [Webcast: Archived Video - 3 hours and 27 minutes] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. [At the Peace Bell Ceremony] [Webcast: Archived Video - 4 minutes] • Statement by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. [At the Student Commemoration Event] [Webcast: Archived Video - 7 minutes]
----------------------------	---

Monica Willard
Representative to the United Nations
The United Religions Initiative

International Day of Peace Youth Conference at the United Nations, New York 2010

Each year Vermont Peace Academy and Children of the Earth invite students and teachers to the United Nations to attend a world-wide ceremony on International Day of Peace. This year's gathering was on Friday, September 17th. This special UN day not only marked an international day of "global cease-fire and non-violence," it also involved the United Nations Messengers of Peace.



In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly established the International day of Peace (IDP). It was in 2001, that the GA modified the resolution and designated September 21st as the annual date of the International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence. Each year, the day grows as more nations plan events and vigils. At the United Nations in New York City the day was especially meaningful to 34 Vermont students. Past years, Vermont students have witnessed the peace-building work of students from Liberia, Pakistan, Iraq, Rwanda and Ireland, to name a few.

On September 16th the group left Montpelier on a bus for New York. We arrived in NY at approximately 10:00 pm and registered at the International Youth Hostel in Manhattan. Early the next morning the group drove to the UN. The day started out with 40 high school students from Vermont, Children of the Earth board members and youth activists from South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, and Columbia chatting sleepily outside the UN as they waited to pass through security. Upon our entrance in to the building we were immediately invited to take part in the Peace ceremony. The spirit and meaning of the day began to sink in to each individual as each of us held a flag from a different country in the world while we listened to the songs of Peace by an international youth choir, and the gong of the Peace Bell, which was gifted to the UN by the people of Japan more than 50 years ago and forged from coins of over 60 different countries.

Following the ceremony we entered the conference hall, where the focus of the panel was Youth, Peace, and Development. 200 youth were in attendance as well as a number of youth from Somalia and Liberia who joined via live video feed and brought their unique voices and perspectives to the day.

The panel held such illustrious names as Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, as well as UN goodwill ambassadors Midori, Catarina Furtado, Goedele Leikens, and Anggun. They all shared inspiring words and stories that the youth took with eager ears and hearts. When questioned the youth from Vermont all agreed that Elie Weisel was the most moving in his testimonials to the importance of Peace in our world. Midori spoke words that especially echoed COE's vision when she said "Being a part of this world comes with the responsibility to take part in it" and "Peace is a state of being, it must start within us, so that we can bring it out to the world.



The conference concluded with the flags of all the countries of the world being raised alongside a giant dove of peace, and we lifted our voices together to sing a Peace anthem. The UN general assembly has declared this year to be the International Year of Youth, so how fitting that Children of the Earth was in attendance on this very special day!

The state of Vermont has taken a leading role in promoting Peace Day programs and activities state-wide. Governor James Douglas signed an executive proclamation in support of the International Day of Peace stating, "Vermonters share a common interest with people around the world in promoting a more peaceful way of life for ourselves, our families, communities and nations."

Vermont students have been empowered and inspired by this event. Amelia Hagen-Dillon was encouraged to work for peace when she saw the UN dignitaries believing in the student's power to change the world. Amelia stated, "To see them believing in us as young people—they just had so much faith in us." The world flag ceremony caused Nora Parker to realize just how small our shared world is, "Just to be with people from other countries that were clapping while we were clapping gave me a better sense that we're all connected."

Teachers too have been inspired and have led their students into rich discussions upon returning from the UN Peace Day. Jane Hill, a chaperone from Orchard Valley School expressed the fact that the eighth grade students "were inspired by the brave and selfless deeds of their contemporaries working in different ways toward peace and a higher quality of life for the world's poor. We have begun a dialogue with each other and within our own hearts on how we can make a difference and promote world peace."



Kelly Ramer & Emina Burak
Children of the Earth, Vermont

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL

Connecting with the Afghan people on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2010, will be remembered as highlight of my deployment. Here's how it all started...

While our Battalion was still at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, I sent a letter to our Battalion Commander to introduce him to the idea of allowing me to present the Afghan people with a special gift of good will if the opportunity would arise. You see, since the events of 9/11, I have made a personal commitment to create one new Peace Pole garden on a school campus each year. Well, I'm on track so far but I would be deployed to a combat zone for the next several months. I told him about the mission of the World Peace Prayer Society and their message: "May



Peace Prevail On Earth", inscribed in any language chosen on all four sides of a seven foot post, called a Peace Pole. I explained that I had already completed 15 such dedications in Connecticut, Vermont, and California but would his need help to pull this one together in Afghanistan. Once we were settled into our mission, Lieutenant Colonel Harris asked me about my ideas for a Peace Pole in Afghanistan and gave me the "green light" if I could find the proper coordination.

In the meantime, Headquarters Company Commander, Captain Rodeck, had the distinct task of coordinating the visit of a local Arts and Humanities school onto Camp Phoenix to show and sell their beautiful work. Well, there you have it... in July, I meet with Aziz Royesh, a Marefat School founder, teacher and member of the Board of Trustees. I presented him with a small desktop Peace Pole and told him about my vision for gifting a full-sized Peace Pole to the Marefat School perhaps as a celebration of the International day of Peace. He was very moved and certain that this project should go forward.

In early September the Marefat Peace Pole arrived on camp Phoenix all the way from upstate New York in perfect condition! From there, everything fell into place. Several of our Brigade brothers from the 1-101-FA provided the security convoy from Camp Phoenix to the school on the morning of September 21. Once I walked into the school courtyard, I was just overcome with joy seeing hundreds of Afghan community members, teachers, poets, artists, students, and young children there to share the one hope; MAY PEACE BE IN AFGHANISTAN, May Peace Prevail On Earth.

I was invited to speak to the attendees with a translator. At one point I asked, "If you will stand for peace in Afghanistan, please stand with me and we'll call on peace together." We said the prayer in the Dari language three times: "Bar Qurrar Bot Sol Dar Jahon". I received many gifts that day but the one I cherish most is exchanging lasting eye contact while speaking the prayer, in their language! Their appreciation for our presence that day was so clear.



"The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war"

– General Douglas MacArthur.



Very Respectfully,

CPT, Reneé Marie
Commander, CO C (MED) 186 BSB / 86 IBCT (MTN)
Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan



ARGENTINA BARILOCHE

Septiembre 2010, Dia Internacional de Paz, Bariloche Alicia Milstein

Plantamos un polo de Paz, con los amigos, para recordar este día. Estuvo divino!

The photos speak for themselves: joy, singing and music, community. Alicia Milstein met with friends and neighbours for Peace Day in LOS COIHUES, BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA, in the Andes area in Patagonia.





Love,
Elena Becu
Byakko Shinko Kai

ARGENTINA BUENOS AIRES

Dear friends,

It is 12:20 in Argentina. I have just blown the candle I lit to pray for peace in my URI office. I have you all in my heart and prayers. To prepare myself for the minute of silence I revisited Henri Nowen's *The Path to Peace*. I felt inclined to the title, "A cry for peace," which was introduced with Psalm 130. I want to share it with you:

Psalm 130

A song of ascents.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

2 O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

May Peace prevail on Earth!

Love,

María Eugenia Crespo
CC Global Support Coordinator
The United Religions Initiative

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES

Celebracion del Dia Internacional de la Paz – 21 sept' 2010 – BsAs

Luminoso encuentro por la paz en Bs.As., junto a Ale, Gloria, Adri, Maria, Soledad y Mare..Gracias a todos los q' se unieron con su intencion a distancia...sentimos su fuerza y energia!!!! "El camino de la Paz en el mundo emerge cuando c/ser humano despierta a la verdad trascendente. Los pensamientos de las personas guiaran al mundo hacia la Paz sin excepcion, en la medida que sus elecciones sean de PAZ...en lo que Creemos nos convertimos" – Masami Saionji.



Andrea Jacqueline Solana
Byakko Shinko Kai

ARUBA

Invitation to Walk the Aruba Peace Labyrinth on the International Day of Peace, September 21st, 2010



The labyrinth is a pattern and a symbol passed down through the centuries dating back over 4,000 years. The design describes a meandering path that leads from the outside into the center and back out again. The Aruba Peace Labyrinth, dedicated on September 18, 2005, is known as an eleven-circuit Chartres style labyrinth, an exact replica of the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. Its distinguishing features are: 11 circuits, the turns arranged in four quadrants, and a 6-petal rosette in the center. Walking a labyrinth helps quiet the mind, open the soul and evokes feelings of wholeness and unity. Modern pilgrims walk the labyrinthine path as a tool to enhance prayer, contemplation, meditation, and/or personal growth.

In anticipation of the first Congress for the Awakening of the Soul force in Aruba, September 2007, the Aruba Peace Labyrinth was completely rebuilt. The previous narrow pathways (30 centimeters) were widened to their actual width of 60 centimeters. Upon completion a beautiful name sign was placed at the entrance of the labyrinth, made by the well-known Aruban artist Mr. Stan Kuiperi.

On 21st September 2008 the nine years old Aruban UCI BMX world champion Ms. Shanayah Howell on behalf of all the children of Aruba unveiled a Peace Pole of the World Prayer Society at the entrance of the Aruba Peace Labyrinth.

These Peace Poles with the text “May Peace Prevail on Earth” can be found all over the world to create awareness for Peace.

The Aruba Peace Labyrinth was walked for the first time in conjunction with the International Day of Peace on September 21st, 2005.

This Tuesday, September 21st, 2010 as of 5:30 p.m., we will for the fifth time walk the Aruba Peace Labyrinth to celebrate the International Day of Peace and to commemorate 5 years Aruba Peace Labyrinth.

So if you have not had the opportunity yet to visit The Aruba Peace Labyrinth, then you are most welcome to join us and to experience your own contemplative journey. The Aruba Peace Labyrinth can be found on Facebook, and it is listed on the World Wide Labyrinth Locator. This web site, sponsored by The Labyrinth Society and Veriditas, Inc., is a database of labyrinths located around the world. Visit the site www.labyrinthlocator.com.



AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND

International Day of Peace with United Nations Peace Ambassador J. Reuben Silverbird

Date: **Tuesday 21st September 2010**

Location: **The Peace Pole of “Kupidabin Wilderness”, The Lyell Deer Farm, 6 Lyell Court, Mt Samson Qld 4520, Sunshine Coast Friends**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE Opening Ceremony with Nedhni Apache/Cherokee and United Nations Peace Ambassador J. Reuben Silverbird. In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring September 21st of each year as the International Day of Peace and to be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, inviting non-governmental organisations and individuals to commemorate in an appropriate manner.

A Peace Pole is an internationally recognised symbol of Hopes and Dreams of the entire human family. It is an eight-sided pillar with “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in different languages on the plaques. There are more than 250,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries, proudly standing in silent vigil for world peace. Join in Prayer for Peace

around the World, attending a special ceremony at The Peace Pole at Lyell Deer Farm, Mt Samson on 21 September 2010 from 10.00am.

Experience a Native American Flute Blessing conducted by Peace Ambassador J. Reuben Silverbird as part of the opening ceremony, which will be followed by Native American Drumming and Celtic Music. Connect to your true values and be part of making our world a better place. An extraordinary day not to be missed. Donations are appreciated. J. Reuben Silverbird is touring Australia between 26 Aug and 10 Oct 2010, holding spiritual retreats, lectures, concerts and book talks.

International Day of Peace with United Nations Peace Ambassador J. Reuben Silverbird
The Peace Pole of "Kupidabin Wilderness", The Lyell Deer Farm, 6 Lyell Court, Mt Samson Qld 4520
21/09/2010

Annual event with once only appearance of J. Reuben Silverbird from Arizona.

Commences 10.00am - concludes 2.00pm. Free event – donations are appreciated.

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY

A day-long celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace was held in Martin Place in downtown Sydney on September 21. Many different community organizations and schools were involved, and a great deal of energy and goodwill was engendered, making it a most successful day. We say "May Peace Prevail on Earth" at the beginning and the end of the day.

The organizers, the Ministry for Peace Australia, prepared for weeks for this day-long program. The official opening included the representative of the Lord Mayor of Sydney and representatives of the major religions, who each offered prayers and blessings on the event.

We began the event with the usual crowd i.e. Uncle Max Eulo and a didgeridoo player then we had the World peace flame ceremony whilst a young Quaker called James Eccles played the viola. I then asked if he could play the viola together with the didgeridoo they both said yes and it was wonderful, exotic and unusual but beautiful sound.



Multi Faith Blessing and Peace Message from the City of Sydney Cr. Di Tomai....representing Lord Mayor of Sydney... left to right - Imam Asarogou, Head of the Indonesian Association of Australia, Rabbi Paul Jacobson, Mr. Greg Stone UPF, Cr Di Tomai and me.



Secretary General Peace Day message. Christopher Woodthorpe, Executive Director UNIP and SG representative in Australia and New Zealand... introducing the SG and his peace message. On stage Valerie Weekes UNAA NSW division President...and yours truly.



Knox Grammar school Pipers all under 17yrs.



6 year olds from Masada (Jewish) College



And here the 16 year olds... yr 10 dance troupe Youth Song Group



Australian International Academy - Islamic School -



Indian Bollywood Dancers courtesy Indian Consul



Balinese Dancers courtesy Indonesian Consul



Bhangara Dancers courtesy Indian Consul. We had Turkish and Moroccan dancers, too.



Conga Line



USA Consul's rep Christine Getzler-Vaughan calling the USA Flag in the Nations of the World Ceremony... Consuls for (right to left) Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Spain, Switzerland & USA



May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Biannca Pace - Chair

Ministry for Peace - Australia (Ltd) www.mfpa.org.au <<http://www.mfpa.org.au>>

A nonprofit organisation part of a global initiative to establish Ministries or Departments of Peace worldwide.

*Vice President UNAA (NSW) www.unaansw.org <<http://www.unaansw.org>>

A branch of the United Nations Association of Australia.

AUSTRIA

LAKE ATTERSEE

The 2nd Lake Attersee Festival 17th to 19th September was inaugurated with a WPPC.

An Austrian sponsor picked my large flags and me up and drove to Austria. It rained from Friday to Saturday and I was very concerned about rolling up wet flags on Saturday....as Gudrun the organizer made no PLAN B in a sheltered place, but prayed a lot to the guardian angels of her festival. You can see on the below photos that I worried for nothing.

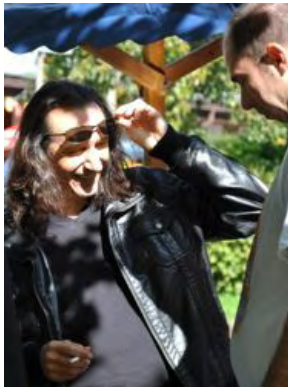
At noon on Saturday I explained that the Flag Ceremony is a simple and powerful one and is based on the belief that our words have energy. So we can either go to a country and help there in person, donate for the country or pray for peace & happiness and all the three are equal ways of support.

The children were the ones with most courage and started to stand up and grab a flag. Once the adults understood that it is easy and wonderful, they came too. Everybody prayed into a mic so he or she was well heard.



I was told afterwards that in the beginning it is hard to imagine why there is power behind the ceremony and how beautiful it was and that it was a highlight of the day. And I felt the same, one cannot explain the power of a flag ceremony, you have to experience it. It was so nice to use my large flags once again! Yes, there could have been

more audience for the whole day, but the ones who came, were PARTICIPATING and not being entertained.



The smaller children were very cute because they tried so hard with country names they had never heard of, that is why you see me making a sign of "Yes, well done" with my hands on one of the photos.

The Mayor of Weyregg - where the main stage for the day was located - prayed with several flags and in the end for the Austrian flag and and Sebastian, a 9 year old boy, carried the flag of the earth because he was honoured to have saved the life of his mum a couple of weeks earlier.

The cool gentleman in the photo in the leather jacket, sunglasses and long hair is the spiritual mentor behind the festival, Bruno Würtemberger from Switzerland. He provokes and shakes you up, but all in a loving and caring way and in excellent humour. He had 2-near-death-experiences and tells everybody since then that we should not see the person but the shining being BEHIND the person and told us to try it out with our tax consultant when we hand in our tax declaration and see happens with that person across the desk..... would be interesting to see who dares to hug his tax consultant and tell him that it is wonderful to have him on this planet....

The whole event was filmed by an internet TV named JEET TV, so it will be in the internet too.

I got a lovely e-mail last night from a lady in Graz, and how much it meant for her to carry Indonesia and pray for Indonesia and other countries. She said her prayer in Indonesian language, a Spanish lady in Spanish and one person in English.

It was a great Ceremony indeed.

May Peace Prevail on Earth
Dagmar Berkenberg
The World Peace Prayer Society Germany Office

AUSTRIA SALZBURG

IDP celebration at the Salzburg Rudolf Steiner School 21st September

The IDP celebration in Salzburg in 21st September 2010 took again place in the large theater room of the Waldorf School Salzburg, with a lovely programme of music, dances, honouring the world's religions, art and for the first

time food as well. About 200 people attended. As a popular Austrian musician, Hubert von Goisern, had announced his appearance, the audience came in larger numbers than in previous years.

The event started with music, saxophone and bass violin at the entrance gate. Ms. Romy Seidl of the Austrian State TV ORF led through the event, as in previous years. Statements of Austrian politicians were read (1st mayor), the message of the Secretary-General at the UN was read in German.

Children performed dances, the Oikumenia Gospel choir sang and the project for which funds were collected this year was introduced to the audience. Children representing the world religions came forward with the religious symbols, and the center for all the symbols was a desktop Peace Pole.



They have their own flag set and did the mandala flag ceremony for all countries all by themselves, which got everybody active and participating in the event. I enclose photos of the flag card ceremony for peace.

New was a caterer, as the celebrations usually take more than two hours, so this year empanadas were served and a quinoa drink to honour the South America's Inca people. Everybody ate, drank and listened to Austrian-Cuban guitar music with a wonderful feeling of peace.

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

Dagmar Berkenberg
WPPS Munich

CANADA MONTREAL

"PEACE BUS TO THE UN"
celebrating the International Day of Peace
Student Observance, 17 September 2010

"Youth, Peace and Development"



CERCLE DE PAIX
CIRCLE OF PEACE

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information *in association with Pathways to Peace, United Religions Initiative, World Peace Prayer Society, and Cercle de Paix – Circle of Peace.*

Premise

24 Youth from across Canada and 6 adults made the trip to the UN, leaving Montreal on the evening of September 16, and arriving at the UN the next morning for the celebrations. The group came from various Canadian cities such as: Nanaimo BC, Winnipeg MB, Toronto ON, Ottawa ON, Québec QC, Montréal QC, Halifax NS. The group was honored by the presence of Hereditary Algonquin Chief T8aminik Rankin, and Kokum Marijo Tardif, who came along to inspire the Youth and to give an important message to the UN: the birth of a white buffalo calf.

Partners

in association with: Pathways to Peace, United Religions Initiative, World Peace Prayer Society, Alliance Jeunesse, Ambassadeurs de la Paix, Atelier Bleu M'ajjjiik, Centre Ethno Culturel Kanatha-Aki, Circle of all Nations, Citoyen-ne-s pour un ministère de la Paix, Dalai Lama Foundation Canada, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, Institut pacifique, Maison de l'amitié, National Aboriginal Youth Council, Peace in your lifetime, Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba, Mennonite Central Committee Quebec

Cercle de paix – Circle of peace is a non-profit NGO created in July 2004 to help promote UN's « International day of peace » and UNESCO's « Decade of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World » in Canada and beyond. See: www.circleofpeace.ca

A brief ceremony was held at Montreal City Hall, with Mayor Gérald Tremblay, who was presented with a special gift from T8aminik.



Both the Mayor and T8aminik spoke to the youth before sending them off on their mission to the UN in New York. The youth posed with organizer Jean Trudel anticipating the special ceremony in the Rose Garden, at the Peace Bell.



They were then led outside to participate in the Rose Garden ceremony with dignitaries from around the world. T8aminik Rankin had a brief special moment in the Rose Garden, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



The group was then led inside, where they participated in the Flag Ceremony led by Deborah Moldow of the "World Peace Prayer Society". They offered a special "May Peace Prevail on Earth" chant that they had rehearsed on the Peace Bus, in English and in French.

After the ceremony, we took a group picture outside, as we prepared to get back on the "Peace Bus" and head back to Montreal.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!
Que la Paix règne sur Terre!
Jean Trudel, Cercle de Paix - Circle of Peace

"C'est notre voyage à NY et la cérémonie des drapeaux qui reste gravé à jamais dans ma mémoire... Nos jeunes flottent encore, les adultes aussi... ;-)"



I'm Dominique, working with Jean for Circle of Peace.

I take the opportunity today to wish you a happy and peaceful day, and show you what we are doing with the poster that was given to us last Friday: every kid in our school who is raised in another language is writing "peace = future" in their own language ! By the end of the day we should also have Amharic, Russian, Bulgarian and Latin. I also wanted to tell you how grateful I feel to have been there on Friday. The flag ceremony you led in the student room, with all country named loudly and all the flags raising one by one as standing for Peace was very strong and moving. Your energy is very inspiring and I hope to be there next year.

*Kind regards, and May Peace prevail on Earth,
Que la Paix règne sur Terre.*

Dominique Owen

CANADA VANCOUVER

Peace recipe booklet released for free for the UN International Peace Day 2010

Vancouver, Canada, September 21, 2010 — Vancouver, Canada - **Peace recipe - International Peace Day 2010** is AmAre Way humble contribution for the International Peace Day 2010. It shows that living peacefully is the way to Peace, and provides a recipe for that. **Peace recipe - International Peace Day 2010** can be downloaded for free from: <http://www.amareway.org>



The **International Day of Peace** is a United Nations-sponsored event originally scheduled to coincide with the annual opening of the General Assembly, which takes place in September. Organizers have long hoped that the fusion of these two events will put promoting peace at the forefront of international discussions. In 2001, another UN resolution permanently dedicated Sept. 21 as the official International Day of Peace, with its mission to provide a common moment for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date, and bring together efforts from around the world whose ultimate focus is promoting peace.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced earlier this year that the theme for the International Day of Peace 2010 is “Youth, Peace and Development,” using the slogan “Peace = Future”. Nations and governing bodies the world over are joining the call for peace through a range of activities including ceasefires, official proclamations, and pledges for humanitarian aid.

Although the observances of Peace Day focus on one day, Sept. 21, many organizations use this occasion as an opportunity to promote their year-round Peacebuilding efforts, whether their focus is on human rights, the environment, education, humanitarian relief, poverty, health care, disarmament or international cooperation. This creates long-term impact, beyond the annual observance.

For more information about UN celebrations, observances and activities, go to <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/2010>

Other events and groups set to mark Peace Day include:

Culture of Peace Initiative (CPI), International Positive Week, PeaceDay TV's Global Broadcast, UNICEF, The Millennium Campaign, The United Nations Development Programme, The Elders, The World Peace Prayer Society, The United Religions Initiative, The UN Foundation, We the World / The WE Campaign, The Barka Foundation, Bluewater Entertainment, Peace One Day, Water.org, Jane Goodall / Roots and Shoots, The Peace Alliance, The Global Alliance for Depts. and Ministries of Peace, The Student Peace Alliance / Youth Promise Action in partnership with Ben & Jerry's, UNIFEM, Friends of the United Nations, The One Campaign, EarthDance, CARE, The UN World Food Program, Action Against Hunger, The Unity Foundation, The Peace Pole Project, The World Economic Forum, Amnesty International, The Rainforest Action Network, PeaceWeek online, Circle of Peace, The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Service for Peace, Pinwheels for Peace, The IDP Vigils, The Universal Peace Federation, The Global Peace Film Festival, ENO (Environment On Line), PeaceJam, Paz con Todo, The Odyssey Networks, Mayors for Peace, The Global Mala, Celebration Earth, the 11 Days of Global Unity, and the London Week of Peace.

CHINA HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Peace Festival 2010 Hosted by Peace International Foundation, Hong Kong

The inaugural Hong Kong Peace Festival 2010 was held from September 19 to 23 and included not only an Official Ceremony to observe the International Day of Peace but also a Peace International Youth Conference, themed 'Youth for Peace and Development'. The Festival culminated in a Peace Festival Dinner and Concert.

For the past two years, Peace International Foundation (PIF) has marked this special day through the UN International Day of Peace Ceremony, but the Peace Festival 2010 represented a new opportunity for the people of Hong Kong to demonstrate their passion for peace and their hope for a better future.

On September 19th, PIF invited a group of peace supporters from different walks of life who have come together to celebrate a true spirit of peace at the International Day of Peace Ceremony held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Dr. Vanessa Farr, UNDP



Jane Goodall Institute Peace Dove

The Peace Day Ceremony started at 1.00 pm with the Hong Kong St. Andrew's Pipe Band escorting the guest speakers onto the stage. Ms. Ann Herbert, Director of International Labour Organisation (ILO) for China and Mongolia, officiated the opening of the ceremony by reading the peace prayers: '*May Peace Prevail in Hong Kong, May Peace Prevail on Earth*' inscribed on the Peace Pole, Observance of One Minute Silence, Ringing the Peace Bell, followed by raising of the UN flag by Dr. Vanessa Farr, Senior Social Development and Gender Advisor (UNDP) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Jane Goodall Institute, Hong Kong members flew the giant peace dove and joined by the students of Li Po Chun United World College who participated in the International Flag Parade.



The Founder and Chairperson, Maria Ying-Matthews gave a welcome speech and introduced the Hong Kong Peace Festival 2010. She appealed to the young volunteers to set an example to inspire other young people to also contribute their efforts to spreading the works and messages of peace and that a better world will become reality.

Ms. Ann Herbert gave a keynote speech which stated it is with the future in mind that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has chosen to call on young people around the world to take a stand for peace – to become agents of peace – as they prepare themselves to play an increasingly important role in the development of their societies and, eventually, setting the direction for the future. In 2010, the celebrations focus on the theme “Youth for Peace and Development” which is a good year for young people to take up the challenge of peace building.

She urged that each of us to exercise the “extraordinary capacity” – by respecting the fundamental dignity of all people, by recognizing and prizing diversity, by practicing tolerance, by reaching out to those in need, by living in peace with one another as good neighbors and as responsible members of the global community. She also addressed the young women and men present at the ceremony, and to all those who participate in the Peace Festival, that the future is theirs. The Peace Festival offers an opportunity for reflection on what each one of us can do to become agents of peace and development. Her speech encouraged our spirits and certainly resonated with the whole audience, especially all the young people who were present.

Video message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was shown. This year, his message was dedicated to young people. September 2010 marked the beginning of the International Year of Youth. Its theme of dialogue and mutual understanding captures the very essence of peace.

Her Excellency, the Hon Nomatamba Tambo, Consul-General of South Africa in Hong Kong, spoke on the African Heads of States and Governments of the African Union have declared 2010 ‘*The Year of Peace and Security in Africa*’. She also shared with us her views of creating and nurturing peace from a completely different background and opened our eyes to the challenges faced by Africa in the task of peace-building.

A video message from Dr. Jane Goodall was also shown.

Ms. Ida Lam, chairperson of Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong shared their vision that “Arts are for Everyone”, and their Association has been bringing arts to all corners in society, among persons with and without disabilities. Social inclusion is the first step for peace and care on earth.

To end the Ceremony, PIF Theme Song, ‘Our Song of Peace - a song specially commissioned from a renowned local composer, Prof. Chan Wing Wah and lyric writer, Prof. Rupert Chan and was performed by PAOC Ka Chi Secondary School Choir under the baton of choir conductor Florence Cheng.

Following the Ceremony, Dr. Vanessa Farr, opened the Peace International Youth Conference and enriched the gathering by sharing her experience and contributions to peace awareness effort. The Conference which boasted a number of leading international speakers that included Dr. Margaret, Dr. Shahla Ali, Dr. Connie Wong, Dr. Gracemary Leung, Mr. Andrea De Angelis, and Professor Eugen Eoyang who also closed the three day Conference.



Dr. Shahla Ali, Youth Conference Speaker



Dr. Wu Sheng Zhong, Pianist



To close the Peace Festival, a charity Dinner Concert, 'In Praise of Peace' for the first Peace International Centre was held. The concert opened by guest performances led by Mr. Wong Sze-hang - violin recital, accompanied by Ms. Shirley Lo, and piano recital by Dr. Wu Sheng Zhong, followed by choir singing from the children of Hong Kong Treble Choir and conductors Prof. Chan Wing Wah, Prof. Leon Tong Shiu-Wai and Kevin Lo. The entire evening was a great success, with both guests and performers promoted the significance of peace.

Maria Ying-Matthews
Peace International Foundation
<http://peace-intl.org/hong-kong-peace-festival>

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA

URI Africa & Interfaith Peace-building Initiative present the 2010 Peace Award



Answering to the call of the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate annually September 21 as International Day of Peace and a day for global ceasefire and non-violence which United Religions Initiative (URI) and Interfaith Peace-building Initiative (IPI) have been observing every year and in welcome with great interest the initiative of the African Heads of States in declaring 2010 a Year of Peace and Security in Africa under the motto of "Make Peace Happen" to draw attention to the scourge of war and to call all African Citizens, stakeholders, institutions, partners for action in favour of peace and security in Africa United Religions Initiative Africa, the Interfaith Peace-building Initiative and Ethiopian Religious Institutions - in partnership with the African Union Peace and Security Commission - organized a peace event at the African Union in the presence of Religious Leaders, Government Officials, Representative of African Union and United Nations agencies, Diplomatic Corps, Council of Elders, Business Communities, Representatives of NGOs, Women and Youth Associations and the Media. The Peace award of the year was also the highlight of the peace event.

The event started with the peace payer of religious leaders and faith representatives in Ethiopia. On the occasion all religious leaders also read their very inspiring peace message. The message of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Day was also read.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Mussie Hailu, Representative of URI at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Board Chairman of IPI, welcomed all the participants on behalf of URI and IPI members and said, "The International Day of Peace is a day on which we reaffirm our commitment for peace and it is a day dedicated to ceasefire and non-violence. It is a day in which citizens of the world could join hands together and stand for peace. It is also a day in which we nurture a culture of peace in the world, as nurturing a culture of peace calls for efforts at all levels to promote intercultural and inter-religious understanding and this is what URI and its member organization in Ethiopia IPI is doing since their establishment."

He added that, "URI & IPI believe that inter-religious dialogue and intercultural understanding are integral part of the effort to translate shared values into actions and constitute important dimensions of the constructive Dialogue among civilizations."



H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of African Union Commission, through H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, said peace must be fostered through innovative and inclusive partnership at all levels. The chairperson said "in Africa, conflicts have caused a combined economic capital loss of around 300 billion U.S. dollars since 1990." He said, "It is only when women and men, civil society and the private sector, join hands with governments and relevant international institutions that permanent peace would be reality. Though the picture is improving because of major strides by African leaders, a lot should be done to bring peace to every corner of the continent."

Speaking on his part, H.E. Mr. Lamtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, said although the African continent still wrestles with the challenge of winning permanent peace for its people, substantial gains have been made in the pursuit of peace for Africa. "This year alone we have celebrated peaceful popular participation in a number of AU member states, such as the elections in Burundi, Guinea Bissau, Ethiopia, Sudan and Rwanda," he said.

H.E. Amb. Mohamoud Drir, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Ethiopia, said Ethiopia is a blessed country where different religions co-exist peacefully, in mutual respect, and supporting one another. The minister appreciated the effort of Interfaith Peace-building Initiative and United Religions Initiative Africa for organizing the event.

In her message sent for the occasion, noted Comparative Religious Studies Scholar Karen Armstrong, who is also a Goodwill Ambassador of The Golden Rule, said "I want to thank Ambassador Mussie Hailu for his energetic and dedicated work in spreading the news of the Charter for Compassion, which was launched last year. He has been a noble and tireless envoy. Thanks to him, April 5th will henceforth be Golden Rule Day, an annual opportunity to reflect on the principle that lies at the heart of all religious, spiritual and moral traditions."

URI Africa & IPI established the Peace Award of The Year program to recognize the committed, effective leadership that is currently being exercised to bring sustainable peace in the continent. The Africa Peace Award celebrates,

acknowledges and honors the accomplishments of individuals or organization who have exhibited extraordinary leadership to build a culture of peace, reconciliation and harmony. The Award helps to create role models of peace-builders throughout Africa. This year the award was presented to:

1) Ato Mammo Wudenh in appreciation and acknowledgment of his life time social contribution and commitment in promoting ethics, moral values, culture of peace, trust building, creating awareness in all aspect of life through his writings and for being a living example in walking the talking.



2) Rotary International, in appreciation and acknowledgment of the outstanding voluntary service under the motto of service above self in working together across borders and culture locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health & sanitation, provide education, promote peace, world understanding, goodwill and eradicate polio.

3) African Union in appreciation and acknowledgment of its outstanding effort in promoting peace, security, good governance, defending the common positions on issue of interest to the continent and for its work in peace keeping mission, the settlement of existing conflict and pursuing conflict prevention efforts and early warning systems, combating terrorism and disarmament issue.

4) Mr. Jeremy Gilley (a British peace activist) in appreciation and acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution in promoting the culture of peace and for his tireless efforts to create an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence on the UN International Day of Peace, fixed in the global calendar on 21st September which we also celebrate every year. Jeremy couldn't make it to come as he is organizing in UK a peace event.

On this occasion URI & IPI would like to reconfirm their partnership with the United Nations and the African Union to work for peace, interfaith cooperation and development and both organizations upholds strongly the purpose of the United Nations and the African Union. URI and IPI would like also to register their thanks to the UN for its commitment in promoting dialogue on Inter-religious and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace. Both organizations also would like to thank and express their appreciation to the African Union and The Council of African Religious Leaders for launching the African Interfaith Dialogue Forum

URI Africa and IPI express their commitment to work closely with Africa Union and its members' countries to bring religions, faith-based organizations, interfaith organizations to work toward building trust, conflict resolution, promoting the Golden Rule, a culture of peace, reconciliation, environmental protection, and creating awareness on the need of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

Mussie Hailu
URI Africa Coordinator
WPPS Peace Representative

INDIA

LUCKNOW

International Day of Peace, 21 September 2010

To celebrate the International Day of Peace, peace educator and motivational speaker, Shishir Srivastava organized a Slogan Writing Contest for students on the theme of *'My vision for a Peaceful World'* at Personality Development Seminar held at CMS Gomti Nagar Auditorium, Lucknow, India.

'Peace = Future. The Math is Easy.' is the theme of International Day of Peace 2010. This theme focuses on the role of youth in building a peaceful world. United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-Moon, in his message for the 100 day countdown to the Day of Peace, beginning June 13, urged young people to plan and take part in projects that will help bring peace to their own neighborhoods, schools and countries.



Mr Shishir Srivastava explains why we celebrate International Day of Peace to students

Speaking on the occasion, Shishir encouraged children to become active peacemakers in and outside their classroom. While addressing students of his alma mater, Shishir said, "it is a different feeling when I connect with students and peace education activities such as this." He inspired students to take initiatives to be the change makers for saving the planet earth by doing whatever they possibly can with whatever available means. Shishir told students that the world is now a global village and in this village, it is no longer possible for the diverse people to live in isolation. So, in a sense, its advocacy of "globalism" is simply a response to today's reality.

For over a decade now, Shishir has been organizing many events at national and international levels to celebrate days such the International Day of Peace.

During the slogan writing contest, children came up with beautiful slogans such as:

"May peace prevail on earth. Today, we hear news of bombing and destroying human life daily. We waste so much money on bombs, if we utilize this money for the poor, we will change the world and all will live peacefully"

"Maintain peace all over world as I am a world citizen and I also want to finish selling of child as well as child labour. We should help children who are working in factories and homes."

"Terrorism and peace are like the two parties contesting in a general election, only one can win and rule. And it is people who have to decide who should rule."



Participants of Slogan writing Contest with teachers

The event culminated with a group photograph of students with the teachers.

JAPAN

HADANO CITY

Hadano Peace Walk on August 24th Promotes International Day of Peace

More than 300 people participated in the annual Peace Walk in Hadano City, Japan on a hot day in August 2010. The Hadano Peace Messengers, a group of members of the Goi Peace Foundation and the World Peace Prayer Society, participated in the event with a banner that proclaimed, “UN International Day of Peace, September 21,” “Think about Peace” and “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

Hideko Kurihara and Nobuko Yamaguchi led the 14-member group. They were all singing a Japanese peace song together and called out, “May Peace Prevail on Earth, and May Peace be in Kanagawa, May Peace be in Hadano city” from time to time.



The Peace Walk started at the Hadano City Office and ended at the Hadano Cultural Hall. At the destination, the group handed out origami peace dolls with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” – along with a big smile – to people who gathered there.

Hadano city is a member among 100 cities of Mayors For Peace. In addition to hosting the annual Peace Walk, Hadano has declared itself to be a City of Peace.

(See http://navi.city.hadano.kanagawa.jp/foreigners/english/heiwatosi_sengen.html.)

Yashio Mochizuki
The Goi Peace Foundation

JORDAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the international day of peace. I pray for all people in all over the world to feel peace, because peace is in our hearts...God is peace.

Lets start from ourselves, let's love each other, respect each other, learn how to feel the inner peace...this is the begging to spread it around.. May peace prevail in our hearts...may peace prevail on Earth.

Let's pray....also let's work....act...be proactive and be a Peacebuilder.

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful.

Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things.



And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

May Peace prevail on Earth

In Peace,

Nancy Momany

URI Mid-East and North Africa (MENA) Office Manager

MALAWI

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ACTIVITIES by Cooperation Circles of the United Religions Initiative

As the world commemorated the international day of peace, Malawi took part by doing several activities during a one-week activism of peace. Among other activities:

- Public debates
- Traditional dances
- Interfaith Youth forums and festival
- Rallies
- Football bonanzas
- Donations of clothes and school materials to orphans and the needy

Some of the participating CCs were:

- Chigumula cc
- Bvimbwe cc
- YADA cc Mlunguzi cc
- Makungwa cc

Activities in Highlights:

Chingumula cc conducted a Football Bonanza, Public Debate (is it necessary for people to get married to people of the same religion or not?), and the women group of the aged donated hand made clothes to needy children. During the discussions people agreed to have these activities frequently not on occasion. And people were happy to see the old women who are doing making clothes by hand sewing to donate to the orphans and asked well-wishers to support the work so that they can train others. They are teaching young people how to make clothes without using machines.



Bvumbwe cc conducted public meeting with (focus groups Discussions) opinion leaders, chiefs, religious leaders and the youth respectively. Then they conducted an open rally where several activities were done that includes Drama, traditional dances, speeches and donations of school items (note books and pens) As a summary of the

meetings people agreed that young people needs to be educated to promote peace and tolerance since more violence activities are motivated and perpetuated by the elders and young people are being used as weapons.



Mulunguzi cc conducted a public rally. Among the activities were drama, poem reciting, comedy, and traditional dances. The chief for the area who graced the function recommended URI for the activities and asked the organizers to do more activities for the promotion of peace since a peaceful community produces a peaceful Nation. And he asked URI to promote more activities that have a focus on young people. So that young people can grow with the mind of tolerance and peace for the development of our Nation and the world.

Below is one of the selected poems

Peace, Peace, Peace. You are so precious
Without you peace Things do not work normally
Fathers run into the bush with guns
Mothers go astray looking for asylum
Children become orphans and desperate for support and protection
Peace, Peace, Peace. You are so precious.
Peace, Peace, Peace Without you peace
People die of hunger People die of thirst People live a miserable life
Peace, Peace, Peace you are so precious

By Atupele Kambalam, 12 years old

Makungwa cc organized open rallies to sensitize the communities on the importance of promoting peace at all levels. Among the activities were drama, songs, speeches and traditional dances.

YADA cc conducted a youth interfaith meeting and festival. Among the activities were: Group discussions, Debate, Prayers from different religions. After the meeting young people realized the importance of having an interfaith youth Network where young people will be able to share different issues and promote unity among the youth from different faith backgrounds.

During the meeting for all the CCs who took part in the meeting to evaluate the activities on IDP, recommended that the activities for the International Day of peace should be done throughout the year.

May peace prevail on earth!

Report was produced by CC Chairpersons and compiled by Ian Wisiki
URI Malawi

MEXICO

IXTAPA ZIHUATANEJO

United Nations Day of Peace Celebration Kicks-off the 2010-2011 International Season

Residents, students, tourists and international guests joined together in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace in September and to rededicate the community's Peace Pole Monument. The 4-day Peace Event held last month, included seminars, community activities and tours based on the themes of Nature, Community Diversity, Education and Economics.

The Peace Event was co-hosted by the City of Zihuatanejo and the Detroit West District Peace Center of Southfield, Michigan, USA. Representatives from the Peace Center and the City of Southfield, the Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force, and the Boeing Airline Company of Los Angeles, California attended.



Over 30 local community members, businesses and organizations volunteered their time, resources and facilities for over 5 months to plan and organize the Peace Event. Amstar Destination Management Company conducted the tours. Peace Seminars and cultural activities were held at Zi Restaurant in Club Intrawest, Dorado Pacifico Beach Resort in Ixtapa, Instituto de Lizardi and La Universidad Tecnológica de La Costa Grande in Petatlán. Students from Instituto Montessori, Conalep and Facultad de Turismo de Zihuatanejo also participated. "The community worked together and people formed new relationships – that's the most important thing," says William Tucker, Publisher of *Imagine! On-Line Magazine*, the event sponsor. "We were so impressed with the language skills and presentations from our local students!" said Mr. Tucker. Some of the student speeches are included in this issue.



Professor Barbara Seldon, 1st Vice President of the Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force and an instructor at the University of Detroit Mercy summed it up: "I am impressed with the warmth and hospitality of the people, the diverse and rich culture, the students, who were absolutely unbelievable, and the food was great!"



PAKISTAN LAHORE

Greetings of peace!

On 21st of September, 2010 an International Day of Peace was celebrated at URI Regional Office in Lahore, Pakistan. I am sending you a report on this event which is written by Mr. Yuel Bhatti, Executive Secretary of URI Pakistan. I was in Rome on that day so I was not able to participate in this personally, however, I was very much present spiritually and offered peace prayers from Rome.

As you will find in the report it was a very successful program in which Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Baha'i participated. There were a good number of women, youth and children also present.

May Peace Prevail On Earth!

In peace,

fr James Channan OP
URI Regional Coordinator Pakistan

Report: URI Pakistan Celebrated – International Day of Peace 2010

It is my great joy and I would like to share the report of International Day of Peace 2010 celebrations on 21st September, 2010 at URI Regional office. The event was organized by United Religions Initiative Pakistan in Collaboration with Minhaj Ul-Quran International, Lahore Pakistan. A number of all faith dignities, women, Youth, children and Coordinators Lahore based participated.



Fr. Abid Habib OFM, CAP, President of the Major Superiors Leadership Conference of Pakistan presided over the IDP celebration.

Guest of Honor was Mr. Raja Jamil Ajmal, Director, Foreign affairs Minhaj UI-Quran International,

Guest Speakers were: Dr. Kanwal Feroze prominent poet and journalist; Mr. Suhail Ahmed Raza, Director Interfaith Relations-Minhaj-UI-Quran; Mr. Victor Daniel, Editor Catholic Naqeeb (Christians); Yousaf Bejnori (Bahai Community); Pandat Lall Khokar (Hindu); Taraget Singh (Sikh).



Women Speakers: Sr. Sabina Rifat; Mr. Elishba Yuel; Ms. Lubna Nazar.

Youth Leaders: Miss Sadia; Fr. James Samuel; Mr. Shahbaz Khan; Ms. Nazia Habib; Miss Hamid (singer); & Miss Shumila Bhatti

Mr. Yuel Bhatti, Executive Secretary URI Pakistan and Sr. Sabina Rifat, Coordinator, URI Pakistan Women Wing were the masters of ceremony. Interfaith prayers were offered.

Mr. Yuel Bhatti welcomed all the guests and participants and reflected the history of the International Day of Peace and briefly the URI Pakistan work. He said that Fr. James Channan OP, Regional Coordinator for Asia/Pakistan, was at this moment at Rome for very important meetings and he sent his greetings, best wishes and blessings for celebration of the International Day of Peace and Maulana Abdul Khbair Azad (Global Trustee) is at Nashawera for distribution of flood relief packages.



Fr. James Samuel read out the messages from Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President PCID, the Vatican and Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, Secretary PCID, the Vatican to Muslim brothers and sisters on the eve of Eid-ul-fitr.

Mr. Sahabaz Khan read out the message of the UN Secretary General Ban-ki-Moon on International Day of Peace.

Sr. Sabina Rifat, Coordinator Women wing, URI Pakistan read out the special messages of Ms. Monica Willard, URI-UN Representative, and Ms. Fumi Stewart, Executive Director World Peace Prayer Society, in celebration of International Day of Peace in so hard a time.

A Better Community for All-CC's school children presented a beautiful tableau on peace and unity that the audience admired very much. Ms. Ameena Hamid, prominent singer sang Muslim and Christian faith peace songs, which were admired by the participants.



All women and children lit the candles and gents held the country flags while Fr. Abid Habib prayed for world peace by recalling the Saint Francis of Assisi Prayer, "O God let me be the source of peace."

The guest speakers said that today the URI Pakistan is celebrating the International Day of Peace, which is very unique — due to the present situation of country it is very essential and time of need for such activities. Every religion teaches about reconciliation, tolerance, acceptance and spreading the message of love and peace. Any conflict can be resolved with dialogue. The dialogue is the only source of reconciliation of any dispute and conflict. In all religions some elements are disturbing the peace as in previous day, so-called Pastor Terry John disturbed the situation and relations between Muslims and Christians. We all Christians condemned such kind of mischief role in the name of religion.

A female speaker said that education is the best way to promote peace and harmony among religions and disabled children must be part of society. All parents must urge their children to have education. Women's role in the society is the backbone for sustainable peace and harmony in the world. In Pakistan there are certain cultural barriers not to come forward for promotion of peace. Besides they have potential to do so, hence they can start from their children to educate them with values of respect, love, tolerance and acceptance — then their children create peace when they grow up.

Youth speakers said if we all youth may be involved in such kind of peace program with commitment, the day will come when we will create a peaceful environment in society. The role of youth is very important in all respects.



Raja Jamil Ajmal, Guest of Honor, said, "It is a great privilege to me that I am addressing on this special occasion," and was thankful to the United Religions Initiative Pakistan who organized this wonderful and memorable World Peace Day event. To invite all faiths on one platform is historical. I extend my congratulations to the organizers. All speakers, especially the children's presentation, were great and their vision for a peaceful society is a dream. He quoted a historic example of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as He invites the Christian delegate in Masjid-e-Nabvi and said that you may worship of your faith in this Mosque. With this tradition, we the community of Minhaj-Ul-Quran celebrate the Christmas in our Mosque and love to celebrate our Eid in Churches. Our Chief Dr. Tahirul Quadri has given a Fathwa about the suicide attacks are not Islamic at all and condemned at large.

Fr. Abid Habid OFM Cap said, “I congratulate the URI Pakistan who has organized a very important celebration of the International Day of Peace. It is great honor for me that I preside over this great event. URI, promoting inter-religious harmony among the religions, is unique and timely indeed. I am feeling that all participants are enjoying this celebration of peace.” We have to be in justice, to change our self to develop peace and love in our inner heart and our presentation with others be in respect and love with sacrifice. He gave as an example that the Buddhists never believe in war and the peaceful persons can bring peace. All speakers spoke well; the children’s presentation was main theme of celebration.

At the end Mr. Suhail Raza Ahmed thanked Fr. James Channan OP, Mr. Yuel Bhatti and Sr. Sabina Rifat for organizing this wonderful celebration of the International Day of Peace and said that in the future Minhaj-ul-Quran will be the part of such celebrations. All participants joined in a festive dinner.

Yuel Bhatti
Executive Secretary
URI Pakistan



PAKISTAN LAHORE

Greetings of peace from ABC4ALL-CC Pakistan!

A Better Community for All Pakistan–CC celebrated the International Day of Peace 2010 in remote areas with collaboration of Theonenesslovefoundation.org and Minhaj-ul-Quran International. The event was held at ABC4ALL School, an education project of ABC4ALL–CC, on 25th September 2010 evening at Khaliq Nagar, Ferozepur Road, Lahore.

Mr. Suhail Ahmed Raza, Director Interfaith Relations-Minhaj-UL-Quran International was the Chief Guest. Mr. Rizwan Paul and Mr.Kashif from “Life for ALL,” Mr. Barkat Gill, Director of Teacher Training Center, Mr. Hanif Ahmed and Rev. Khalid Maish were the Guests of Honor. Interfaith Prayers were offered.

Miss Sajida Rose, Youth Coordinator of ABC4ALL-CC and teacher in school, performed the event as Master of Ceremony. She welcomed all the guests and participants and invited Mr. Yuel Bhatti, Principal of ABC4ALL School, to introduce about the Guests of Honor and the history of the International Day of Peace.



Mr. Yuel, introducing about the guests of honor, reflected the history of the IDP and the Message of UN Secretary General Ban-Ki- Moon, and said in the present situation of the country such a program and awareness about peace and harmony among the religions in this time of need are very essential and the students, parents of this school, and community around here in slums and remote areas must know the about human values. We are determined that, besides the school’s academic activities, we celebrate the International Days. In the past we celebrated the Mother’s Day. We are facing so many challenges to providing facilities to these innocent, underprivileged students

who don't have the means to have education. As Education is the Way to Peace, I am so glad that a number of Christian and Muslim children, youth and women are in this program.



The children presented meaningful and fabulous presentations in tableaux, recited peace poems and peace songs while holding beautiful placards and slogans prepared by the students and teachers beautifully:

We want Love. * We want Peace. * We want Education. * Peace not war and Say no to war.
Let's bring peace to our world. * May Peace Prevail on Earth!

"The world needs the active creation and not passive destruction to be healed," was the message of YUBUPAT-PAT, Founder of Theonesslovefoundation.org's.



The presentations of children and youth were admired and got appreciation by the participants.

Mr. Rizwan, Mr. Kashif, Muhammad Manzoor, Rev Khalid, and Mr. Barkat said we are so glad that we are participating in the International celebration of Peace Day. We appreciate the efforts and struggle of Mr. Yuel and his staff of the school in teaching the students for spreading peace, love and harmony, which are the great need of our time in deed. The community around here is so glad for such celebrations and festivals. We congratulate the students and teachers for their tremendous performances and presentations on the International Day of Peace as these innocent children are the true peace ambassador.

Mr. Suhail Ahmed Raza said it is great honor for me that I am celebrating the International Day of Peace with children. The efforts and dedication of Mr. Yuel Bhatti and his staff of the school is so great and am proud to be the

part of this celebration. Our Organization Minhaj-ul-Quran International will continue to hold such celebrations with A Better Community for ALL Pakistan in future. I appreciate that they always involve other groups/organization it is true example of Oneness. We all are one humanity and our religion is our own faith. I spiritually endorse and enhance such celebration in a remote area is so great and timely indeed to spreading peace, love and harmony. I salute all children who presented fabulous presentations of Peace Day. All speakers spoke well at this event. God Bless You All!



The children, youth and women and gents lit peace candles and joined in a peace walk around there.



The children were refreshed with juice and snacks and all participants were served refreshment and tea. Mr. Suhail Ahmed Raza sponsored the refreshment items.

At the end Mr. Yuel Bhatti thanked and admired all teachers, students, and participants. Special tribute was extended to Miss Sajida Rose for her excellent arrangements and preparation of presentations of the students.

Yuel Bhatti, Coordinator
A Better Community for All Pakistan-CC

Miss Sajida Rose, Youth Coordinator
A Better Community for All Pakistan-CC

PAKISTAN SIALKOT

I am pleased to share herewith the report "Peace Seminar Organized by PCSW&HR" to celebrate the International Peace Day on 21 September 2010

The **International Day of Peace**, also known as the **World Peace Day**, occurs annually on September 21. It is observed by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples. Like every year since the inception of the organization, for Peace and Development Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights (PCSW&HR) an active **Cooperation Circle** (CC) of **United Religions Initiatives** (URI) in Pakistan also observed the International Day of Peace on 21st September 2010. A Seminar was organized by the PCSW&HR on 21st September 2010 at Sialkot. Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli, Member Punjab Assembly and Chairman Standing Committee for Health was chief

gust, where as Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman PCSW&HR presided over the Peace Seminar. Hundreds of people from all walks of life in which politicians, educationists, lawyers, religious leaders, trade union representatives, Governmental and non governmental officials, media both electronic and print media representatives, PCSW&HR's officials etc participated in the seminar.

There were two sessions in the seminar; during the first session various persons addressed the participants and second session was questions & answers on various issues like peace & human rights, peace & women empowerment, peace & present scenario, peace & Justice etc. Seminar started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Qari Imran recited the verses of Holy Quran. While addressing the peace seminar Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori warmly welcomed the honorable guests and participants of the program. He said that today we are celebrating the International Peace Day and on this momentous day, my heart is over flowing with gratitude and respect toward the peace-minded organizations, civic and religious leaders, peace workers, lawyers, media representatives and young people who have gathered among us to celebrate the International Day of Peace (IDP) 2010. He further added that I am really thankful to all of you for sparing time from your busy schedules, you have traveled from near and far to join this meaningful event. Your presence here serves as a beacon of light and a source of peace not only for Pakistan but also for the world serves as a beacon of light and a source of hope for the global world.

Chairman PCSW&HR Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori further said that Islam presents the best practical model of tolerance. It is a baseless fabrication that Islam is not disposed to tolerating people belonging to other creeds, ideologies and religions. The history of Islam offers models of religious tolerance, equality, justice, peace, interfaith harmony, universal brotherhood, safeguard of the minorities' rights, democracy and best treatment of persons belonging to different faiths. Unfortunately at the moment most of terrorist's acts are happening on the name of Islam, but in fact the master mind and implementer of these acts are very far from Islamic ideology and practices, even they have no religion they are just terrorists. According to a tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) 'Peace is Islam' (*Al-Bukhari*). This means that peace is one of the prerequisites of Islam. Similarly, a *Hadith* states: A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands people are safe. One of the attributes of God described in the Quran is '*As-Salam*', which means peace and security.' That is to say that God's being itself is a manifestation of peace. Indeed, God is Peace (*Al-Bukhari*).



Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli, Muhammad Ijaz Noori, Mushtaq Ahmed Qadri, Mansoor Ahmed and others

He further said that if we want a real peace in our country or around the world then every one needs to take part in that, and we need to promote social justice and harmony to promote peace. We need to take care of each other to promote peace. We need to sensitize each other to respect and accept every one in whatever capacity he/she belongs to. He concluded his speech with the following words: "May God make us an instrument of His love, peace, and joy. May Peace Prevail in Sialkot, May Peace Prevail at Pakistan, and May Peace Prevail on Earth."

While addressing during the Peace Seminar as Chief Guest Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli Advocate Member Provincial Assembly and Chairman Standing Committee for Health Govt. of Punjab thanked the PCSW&HR for inviting him and giving him time to observe International Day of Peace with them. He said that no can survive without peace, He added that Islam as a religion is totally committed to peace and security. It views with great contempt, breach of peace, anarchy, rioting and terrorism. Muslims as *Ummah* are a peace-loving community. The acts classified as terrorism have been strongly condemned by Islam, Islamic teachings preach that every possible step should be taken for their eradication. Islam has prohibited everything that may pose threat to social harmony, cause breach of peace or may endanger peace and security of citizens. Islamic Shariah stands for maintenance of peace and

prevention of riots and disturbances. Islam is against drunkenness, rape, adultery and scandal- mongering about innocent women. Islam strives for elimination of oppression, rioting or anything which adversely affects the culture and civilization of the country.

He further said that Terrorism ruptures social peace; Islam strictly forbids terrorizing peace- loving citizens. Religion desires peace, tranquility and social harmony. Acts of terrorist's violence destroy the moral principles, meant for the welfare of human beings. That is a crime and has no place in a religion like Islam, which is deeply committed to peace and security of human beings. He also said that type of terrorism has no place in Islamic Shariah. The Holy Quran makes it explicit that killing an innocent person is equivalent to killing the whole humankind. He urged that it is need of hour to explain the actual Islamic teaching in effectual manners to eradicate this negative expression that terrorism and extremism have relations with Islam. In this regards we have to play our important role to promote inter religious harmony and socio-religious peaceful co-existence for durable peace, justice, elimination of poverty, protection of human rights and human development.



Chairman PCSW&HR Muhammad Ijaz Noori answering the participants questions during the Peace Seminar with Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli MPA & Chairman Standing Committee for Health and Mr. Mansoor Ahmed on stage.

Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli also said that Justice and fair play are pre requisite for a healthy and peaceful society. Disruption of peace is the reaction of terror, injustice and atrocity. In view of that Islam has placed great emphasis on adhering to justice and fair play irrespective of distinction of creed and community. Islam has prohibited partiality in the matter of justice, even if it concerns your blood relation. According to Islamic ideology all human beings stand equal for respect and kind consideration. Therefore, a human being who is respectable should not be subjected to atrocity and unfair treatment because that is disrespect and dishonor to him. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) declared that the protest of the victim of atrocity, irrespective of his creed and religion has the prospect of being heard by Allah. Discrimination among human beings is against humanitarian considerations. He further said that we should struggle collectively for the durable peace, elimination of terrorism, human development and protection of human rights at grass roots level with out any discrimination. He encouraged all the people who work for peace and unity. He said that even a small act of Love, Peace and Unity is very effective and beneficial to bring peace on earth. May peace prevail in earth. May peace prevail on earth.



A female participant questioning during the Peace Seminar Question Answer Session organized by PCSW&HR on the eve of International Peace Day. A youth organization representative questioning during the Peace Seminar Question Answer Session organized by PCSW&HR on the eve of International Peace Day.

During the Seminar Arshad Ali Bhatti, Emanuel K Gill Vice Chairman PCSW&R, Directors Mushtaq Ahmed Qadari, Mansoor Ahmed, Muhammad Ramzan Mustafie, Shakeel Younis and others also addressed and threw light on importance of peace in the present scenario. At the end of seminar a collective prayers were offered for durable peace on earth. Participants also comments regarding peace seminar organized on the eve of International Peace Day.

With kind regards and good wishes,
Muhammad Ijaz Noori
Chairman, Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights

PALESTINE BETHLEHEM

Volunteering for Peace International day of Peace Celebration.

Volunteering for Peace organization in cooperation with its partners AL-Rowwad Society for Theatre and Culture and United for Palestine CC organized a celebration of UN International Day of Peace on September 21st at Aid Refugee camp, Bethlehem, Palestine.

The activities took place in a marginalize area at Aida refugee camp which is located in the city of Bethlehem. The activities started with a special event for children under the theme “Let’s Draw Peace” in which children were given drawing papers and colors and were asked to draw what does peace to you, the children were creative and used different methods to reflect what does peace mean to them, followed with a discussion with the children about the international day of Peace and the importance of this day to reflect the need of peace in Palestine and around the globe, the activity took place in a closed theatre room inside Al-rowwad center.



The second activity were mixed which included youth and adults who shared together some open space games at the open theatre which included also an open discussion about peace and International day of Peace and the United Nation role in Peace building. International Volunteers from interfaith organizations participated in the event as well as representatives of local and International organizations. Tareq Altamimi, URI Global Council member described the role of URI in Peace building and the role of URI in MENA region interfaith work. In the evening a demonstration under the theme “March for Peace” were organized in the streets of the refugee camp under the Key of Return Gate near the Israeli wall, with the presence of Dr. Abed Alfattah Abu Srou and others local leaders from different organizations.

In the evening the activities were finished with a special folklore Night and Dabka dance with a great performance of Al-rowwad Theatre group at the city of Beit Jala in Bethlehem.



Tareq Altamimi
United Religions Initiative Global Council

THE PHILIPPINES

The International Day of Peace 2010 in the Philippines was celebrated through several public activities throughout the Peace Consciousness Month of September.

Peace Celebration in Baguio City (September 17, 2010)

In line with the Peace Month and World Peace Day the Baguio City constituents held a program to celebrate the anniversary of the Peace Pole installation at Upper Session Road.



Annual Peace Celebration at Our Lady of La Salette Shrine (September 18, 2010)

Celebrating Peace Day annually the religious community of the La Salette Shrine in Silang, Cavite Province held a program around the peace pole with a special participation of World Peace Prayer-Japan representative, Ms. Yoshie Hagiwara and WPPS-Phils. Peace Representative, Mr. Mario "Toots" Fungo.



Earth Dance Manila - Global Peace Festival (September 18-19, 2010)

On the weekend before World Peace Day, Manila joined countries in the global peace celebration called Earth Dance Festival that brought together artists, performers, ritualists, dancers, cultural creatives, peace workers,

environmentalists, youths and different earth-lovers from all walks of life in an over-night gathering at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Monument in Quezon City.



The World Peace Prayer Society & Mandala Peace Arts Initiative had booths among the activity and advocacy booths, as well as a green market enlivened the venue and engaged the public as they enjoyed music from a night-long concert that kicked-off with interfaith prayers and ritual dances, followed by performances from different traditions and genres. Ritualists offered chants and prayer dances to open the event, and there was community dancing and music-jamming for unity and solidarity amidst diversity of traditions.



People wrote peace prayers on a big mandala cloth, and the booth of The Peacemakers' Circle and United Religions Initiative (URI-Southeast Asia-Pacific) includes free healing by the Shinji Shumei Kai. A highlight was the night-long concert. With its theme: "Embracing All Traditions" — the event highlighted an Inca Fire Ceremony at 3:00am and a global synchronized prayer for peace at 7:00am in the morning.



GenPeace Youth Peace Day Celebration (September 21, 2010)

With its theme for the year: "Sustaining the Youth's Engagement, Bridging the Peacebuilding Gaps" — the Generation Peace Youth Network, with partner organizations — including the World Peace Prayer Society Philippines and The Peacemakers' Circle led the celebration of World Peace Day in Manila at the Peace Bell Area of the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Recognizing the different gaps (i.e. between youth and elder advocates, between apathetic and socially-active youth, etc.) the celebration saw a wide participation of different groups, civil society organizations, academe, government agencies, performing artists from all over Metro Manila and even as far as Visayas and Mindanao.

The program opened with interfaith prayers led by The Peacemakers' Circle and representatives from Christian, Muslim, Indigenous, Hindu, Brahma Kumaris, Tibetan Buddhist, Baha'i and Shumei faiths.



Solidarity messages, honoring grassroots peacebuilders, exhibit booths, poetry reading, cultural presentations and musical renditions for peace — offered by both youths and elders — enlivened the program.

One of the highlights of the program is the presentation of a special Peace Pole by volunteers of World Peace Prayer Society Japan (WPPS) for the president of the Philippines through the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).



Mr. Mario "Toots" Fungo (WPPS-Phils) introduced Ms. Yoshie Hagiwara (volunteer representative from WPPS-Japan) and Asec. Romie Halabaso (OPAPP) receiving the Peace Pole on behalf of the president. Representatives from different peace organizations and government institutions posed with the Peace Pole.



United Nations Information Center youth volunteers



Grassroots youth group rapping for peace



Dr. Loreta Castro,
Miriam College Center for Peace Education



Quezon City Brass Band



Origami peace doves and peace
message mosaic



Ms. Karen Tanada of GZO Peace Institute



Youth presentations



The youngest performer, a Muslim girl

The celebration culminated with potluck "community" lunch shared by everyone.

Peace Day celebration at National Kidney & Transplant Institute (NKTi) (September 21, 2010)

In the afternoon of the 21st September the World Peace Prayer Society representatives, Ms. Yoshie Hagiwara (Japan) and Mr. Mario "Toots" Fungo (Philippines) joined the celebration with the NKTi medical staff and community at their Peace Pole garden in Quezon City.



Posted By World Peace Prayer Society Philippines to [World Peace – Pilipinas](#).

Mario "Toots" Fungo
Peace Reps-Phils.
World Peace Prayer Society

THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

Peace Day Prayers in Manila

A beautiful Peace Day celebration took place in Metro Manila yesterday morning -September 21, by the Peace Bell area at the Quezon Memorial Circle with the presence of several prominent personalities including the Vice Mayor of Quezon City, an Undersecretary from Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP), UNDP Country Director and representatives from various civil society, faith groups and the academe. It was wonderful to see so many youths in the gathering and also actively participating in the program. Congratulations to GenPeace for spearheading the celebrations!

The festivities opened with the ribbon cutting ceremony performed by the Vice Mayor Ms. Joyce Belmonte and Under Secretary Romulo Halabaso from OPAPP, to declare open the Exhibition/Booths set up by various participating organizations.

The Peacemakers' Circle led the interfaith Prayers. The opening address by the Vice Mayor was very supportive of the celebrations and the significance of the day for peace in the country. She announced that a "green building" will be rising in the Park in the near future which will serve as a showcase of cultures in the country and invited us to hold next year's IDP celebration there. The message of the UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon was read by Mr. Renaud Meyer of UNDP.



Shakuntala Vaswani the SEAPAC Regional Coordinator took the opportunity to introduce the Golden Rule as a means to promote mutual respect and to achieve peaceful coexistence and solidarity among different faiths and cultures. She presented a framed Golden Rule poster to the vice Mayor Ms. Joy Belmonte.

The program included messages the presentation of a Peace Pole from the World Peace Prayer Society Japan to the President of the Philippines (received on his behalf by Mr. Halabaso from OPAPP) sharings the war evacuees from Mindanao and solidarity messages from various concerned organizations. The song and dance presentations from various groups were entertaining as well as inspiring. A minute of silence was observed at mid-day to reflect on and pray for Peace.

The festivities ended with sharing of potluck foods brought by the different organizations. It was a perfect sunny morning for the occasion but within a short time of the conclusion of the festivities the skies opened up and there was a great downpour of rain, as if in blessing!

MAY PEACE PREVAIL IN THE PHILIPPINES!

MAY PEACE PREVAIL IN SEAPAC REGION (The United Religions Initiative SEAPAC Region)

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH!

NEPAL

NEPALGANJ

We organized a peace party to celebrate UN International Day of Peace 2010 in a city called Nepalganj, a town located in south west plains of Nepal bordering India. Students, doctors, human rights and peace activists, teachers, nurses, journalists, leaders, politicians, lawyers, joined to celebrate UN International Peace Day. The highlight of the program was a big 15 kg cake in a design of globe was made and it was cut by the victim of war in Nepal, a young guy who lost his father during the war.



We prayed *May Peace Prevail on Earth*, chanted various slogans, signed for peace and non-violence. We also appealed for Peace in Nepal and for drafting the constitution in Nepal on stipulated time. Nursing students sang peace songs while leaders and activists and representatives of various professional organizations expressed solidarity and wished for peace.

Peace Cheers!!



Sushil Koirala
WPPS Peace Representative
Nepal

ROMANIA



**The International Day of Peace Celebration
Into the Dream of Peace we walk together!**

On September 21, 2010 students, teachers and staff of AHI will celebrate The International Day of Peace with the following scheduled activities:

11. A.M. till 11:30 A.M.

- Establishing AHI Peace Garden
- Planting "Jasmine for Peace"
- Solar cooking.

11:30 A.M. till 12:00P.M.

- Guest Speaker
- KG "Butterfly song and dance"
- Poems about Peace written by AHI students.

12:00 P.M. till 12:45 P.M.

- An international potluck
- Decorating Cupcakes for Peace
- Announcing first AHI "Peace Baby"

We will be saying, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in many international languages! Our school is very international. Our native speakers are from Syria, Jerusalem, Taiwan, China, Greece, and Poland.

Best Regards,

R.Banaszczyk M.Ed, Principal

ROMANIA

SIGHETU-MARMATIEI

What I did this year to promote the International Day of Peace was:

1. I wrote to the chief editor of the electronic portal of news of my town (Sighetu-Marmatiei) SIGHET-ONLINE, to mention this event on their website, and I saw published there an article on the International Day of Peace
2. I went to the office of the local TV, SIGHET TV, and bought space for 3 days to be placed the next announcement: 21 September the International Day of Peace:

Join in offering an thought, and prayer for Peace.
May Peace Prevail on Earth (in Romanian, Hungarian and English).

This TV channel is present in many localities of the Maramures region, and I spoke with peoples who observed this announcement.

On 26 November this year, on TVR 2 (Romanian Television Channel 2*), in the emission UTOPIA, was presented a sequence in which I am speaking about the importance of promoting the International Day of Peace which is celebrated on 21 September, and said, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" and "May Peace Prevail in Romania." I also spoke about the importance of promoting a culture of peace.

*this channel diffuses at national level, so for sure many have seen/heard the emission.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!
Tatomir Ion-Marius
WPPS Peace Rep. for Romania and Hungary

SIERRA LEONE

CONGO CROSS BRIDGE

On World Peace Day...National Youth Coalition Unveils Peace Pole

Written by Ayodele Deen-Cole

http://exclusivepress.net/app/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2825

Saturday, 25 September 2010

As part of the global commemoration of the International Day of Peace, the National Youth Coalition on Tuesday 21st September 2010 (World Peace Day) unveiled a Peace Pole at Peace Bridge commonly called Congo Cross Bridge, West of the Capital.

At the unveiling ceremony, Ishmael Al Sankoh-Conteh, Coordinator of National Youth Coalition stated that the Peace Pole was erected to signify peace, prosperity and cohesion across the whole country. Mr. Al Sankoh-Conteh went on to explain the importance of peace to the country's development process while dilating on the major roles Sierra Leonean youths have played in this drive though he said, they are currently faced with some challenges.

Mr. Alfonso Manley, the Presidential appointee to the National Youth Commission Board and also a senior youth activist explained to school children the importance of peace and how they as children would help to consolidate global peace. Mr. Manley enlightened the children about how they can use their Peace Clubs in their various schools to help others especially some of the youths that are now engaged in violence.

September 21st every year was declared as the international Day of Peace by the United Nations (UN) in 1981. As part of their activities to commemorate the International Day of Peace, the National Youth Commission together with APPYA and other youth groups organized a march pass from Congo Cross Bridge to the National Stadium. The

procession attracted participants from different primary and secondary schools, civil society organisations, youth groups, cultural organisations and other supporters of peace in Sierra Leone. There were also football matches at the National Stadium practicing field where some Sierra Leoneans have the first opportunity to see the Sierra Leone Amputee team in action.

Hamidu Kargbo, a member of Tabenu Cultural Group said their participation in the procession was exhibit of the passion they have for Global Peace. Aminata Senessie, a pupil at Cathedral School said that they as children are glad to participate in the event as according to her, they want to grow up in a peaceful environment.

SIERRA LEONE FREETOWN

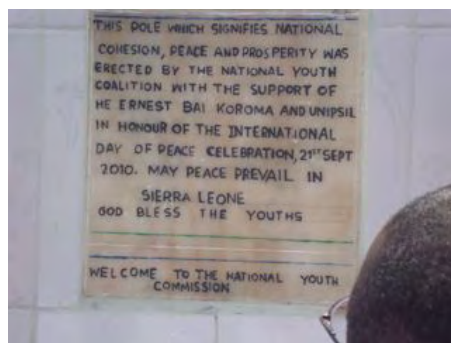
International Peace Day celebrations in Sierra Leone sponsored by UNIPSIL

<http://unipsil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2217&ctl=Details&mid=2793&ItemID=10507>

21 September 2010 - In Sierra Leone, which in 2002 emerged from a decade-long civil war, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) partnered with the National Youth Coalition to celebrate the International Peace Day. Activities included live morning and evening radio debates, a peace march, football matches, and the unveiling of a peace pole.



Reflecting the spirit of this year's theme, approximately 500 young men and women marched through town, carrying banners of peace and playing traditional music. The march went to the "Peace Bridge" in Freetown, which is up to where, during the civil war, the rebels managed to intrude and devastate Freetown. At that location, the youths had erected a peace pole to commemorate the day and remind citizens of the need for peace. Mindful of the need to overcome divisions, youth leaders from the ruling and the main opposition political parties pledged to work together irrespective of tribal and political affiliation for the continued peace of the country and the common good of its people. Finally, a peace pole was solemnly unveiled by the Deputy Minister for Youths and Sport and UNIPSIL OIC.



In a festive mood, the participants walked back to the National Stadium, where a series of football matches were held. Two teams of amputees played against each other, during the civil war, rebels had hacked off one of their legs. Lucky were those that survived those barbaric acts, but today many of them lead lives of misery and destitution. With remarkable ease, energy and swiftness they pitched the ball across the field. Cheered on by the spectators, the match ended 3 to 0. After this truly graphic display of the consequences of the absence of peace, a team by the All Political Parties Youth Association played against a team under the banner of the National Youth Coalition. Maybe conspicuously, the match young politicians vs. civil society ended in a draw.



Throughout the country, radio and TV brought the events into peoples' homes. While similar events were hosted also by other organizations, they offered a welcome respite for some Sierra Leoneans from daily routines, and an opportunity for all to reflect on peace, as a precondition for development and prosperity. It was uplifting to see how eagerly Sierra Leoneans grasped that opportunity.

SOME PHOTOS COURTESY OF:

Bockarie Enssah
WPPS Peace Representative, Sierra Leone

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Day of Peace in Trinidad & Tobago

UPF-Trinidad and Tobago commemorated the International Day of Peace on September 21 at S Early Learning Kindergarten School in South Trinidad. This school consists of children from ages 3 to 5 of different races and religions. We chose this age group because we believe that within children lie the hearts of innocence, but society also helps shape them into what they can become in the future. Hence it is important to nurture and instill in the hearts and minds of these young children the importance of creating a peaceful world of mutual respect, harmony, cooperation, freedom, and prosperity for all. Therefore through this initiative we can also support the concerted global efforts towards fostering a better world and establish lasting peace.



Prior to the event, the rain was pouring down, but the weather became calm and sunny just a few hours before the event. The atmosphere became just right and the spirit of peace was present. As special invited guests, religious leaders, parents, and children all gathered to commemorate this special day, brotherly and sisterly love filled the air as we greeted and embraced each other.



People from Trinidad and Tobago are known around the Caribbean as a rainbow people, a rainbow nation, rich in culture, and ethnic diversity. It is a true cosmopolitan nation where we all live together in peace. But as a small country of 1.3 million people we have our hurdles to overcome as we strive towards the status of a developing nation. To curb crime and foster interreligious harmony, greater efforts are needed. As Rev. Alvin Best, Imam Neezam Mohammed, and Pundit Rishi Kowlessar hugged and embraced each other as brothers joy filled the air as people caught the spirit that we are all members of one human family under God.

The young students kindled the hearts of everyone in the audience with their performance of the songs “Carry Your Candle” and “This Little Light of Mine.” They sang angelically with buoyancy, and as they held candles in their tiny hands they represented the hope and future of our nation. A minute of silence was offered at noon followed by a keynote address explaining the importance of this occasion and the need to unite all people in order to bring about a world of lasting peace.

The peace pole was planted outside the school yard, engraved with words “May peace prevail on Earth” written in English, Hindi, and Arabic, representing our main religious and ethnic backgrounds. It was also written in Korean as a symbol of hope for North and South Korea becoming one nation and uniting with the rest of the world.

Earnest, heartfelt prayers and peace messages were offered at the peace pole by prominent religious leaders in Trinidad and Tobago: Rev. Best, Imam Mohammed and Pundit Kowlessar. Then followed by a prayer by Lisa Cowan. Their messages and prayers were sent out to the world in different languages but they all reflected the same purpose and meaning: “We are all brothers and sisters, and we long for a world of everlasting peace.”

At the end of the world peace ceremony white doves were released into the air as a symbol of hope and the dawning of a new era for Trinidad and Tobago.

UNITED KINGDOM LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND

On Tuesday 21st September we celebrated the International Day Of Peace by holding a concert and flag ceremony in a cathedral in a nearby town, it was a great success on many levels!

It was a time of gathering a lot of light workers together (many of the performing artists are spiritual people) and spreading the message of peace through song, music and the beautiful flag ceremony.



Everything flowed easily and we received a lot of help on all levels. The concert had performers from various cultural backgrounds, for instance – we had a woman playing guitar and singing from the USA; a group of Indian singers and musicians (who live in Birmingham); a man who lives in Lincoln who played violin (he made the violin him self) with four tunes taken from the Celtic tradition England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales; to finish a wonderful four piece band playing African drums with Gregg Chapman on didgeridoo. The performers played music to reflect each of the continents, north and South America, Asia and the Middle East, Africa and Oceania and Europe.



There was also time for a Native American song, which our M.C. Jackie led with audience participation.

We were honoured to have the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Nottingham at the event they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, singing along with everyone else.



The flag bearers were the local girl guides and scouts. Over the last several months we have created a nice contact with them. There was a wonderful choir that sang a song at the beginning of each of the continents. All thirty-three of them put everything into their singing and it really was beautiful.

We completed the flag ceremony with a minute of silence. The cathedral at that time was over flowing with so much light and love it was palpable. Everyone was so touched and overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. It was time for the last song, the choir involved all the audience, and it was fantastic!



We are filled with so much deep gratitude and love for the commitment and dedication of all the volunteers who gave their time for the success of the Global Peace Concert on Tuesday 21st September.

In Oneness, peace and gratitude
Diana Joy and Antonella Villa
Lincolnshire
United Kingdom

OLDHAM, ENGLAND

21st September – World Peace Flag Ceremony in Oldham, England!

Jessica and I traveled to Oldham, near Manchester in England to hold a Flag Ceremony involving 7 primary schools. We have been working towards this Ceremony for 18 months – and it was an amazingly, beautiful event.

Each school took responsibility for one of the continents – and presented the flags, then performed a song or dance or recited a poem.

These schools have truly embraced 'May Peace Prevail on Earth.' In fact, one school is having a new school sign designed with 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' all around it in different languages!!! The children from each school come from very different religious – or non-religious backgrounds and this is the first time that they have come together for an event, so it is a huge achievement for Community Cohesion.

We were blessed with a very helpful 'IT' person, who is going to send us a DVD of the event, also, the 'hosting' school will be putting the event up on their web-site, so we will forward the 'link' so that you can all have a look.

One of the head teachers composed some beautiful music especially for the Ceremony, and a choir consisting of 3 children from each school (21 in total) are going to record this next week, so, hopefully, we will get a copy of this music.

The 'vision' now for the Oldham schools is IDP 2012. We have a strong core group of schools – 14, and we are now working towards having a major Flag Ceremony in Oldham with as many schools as possible that would like to take part.

Infinite Success
Infinite Wonder
Infinite Love

May Peace Prevail on Earth
Glenda Thornton
Allanton Sanctuary
WPPS Scotland

DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND

International Day of Peace events, Allanton Sanctuary

Global Peace Concert

On 16th September, we held our '3rd Global Peace Concert,' and this year the venue was the beautiful St John's Church, Dumfries.



The concert was a benefit in aid of those affected by the floods in Pakistan, and we had so much support from both the church and the local community, it was lovely.

Once again, Masayuki Kino – the Solo Virtuosa Concert Master of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra gave of his time and energy in a stunning performance, and this year Reiko Fujisawa, one of the top concert pianists in the UK, also treated us to an outstanding performance.

Local musicians included Caroline Uchima's very talented daughters, Clare and Rosa and their friend, Jamian, also Susi Woodmass, who sang and played the guitar for us all.



More than half of the audience participated in the Flag Ceremony, we were very pleased, it was so beautiful. The music for the Ceremony had been especially created by Stano (Allanton staff) and Keith (a friend) to represent each continent. Clare and Rosa and Jamian played with Stano and Keith to accompany the Ceremony.

A choir, which included members from different organisations including ourselves, performed in the finale.

May Peace Prevail on Earth
Glenda Thornton
Allanton Sanctuary
WPPS Scotland

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MT. SHASTA, CALIFORNIA

I organized a Global Peace Celebration in our community on Tuesday, 9/21/2010 with the theme of "Plant a Rock for Peace". I promoted the event on my Facebook page with invitations and an Event page and I also sent press releases to the local newspaper and a popular social networking page in our community.

We had an incredible evening up at the Shasta Dam Vista Point and the weather was just perfect, with a beautiful sunset and full moonrise! We asked everyone to bring a "peace rock" to share with the group and there were some very creative contributions to our "PEACE ROCKS !" display. We made peace luminaries and placed them in a peace sign shape in the parking area and then said a peace prayer with everyone participating around the circle.

It was an awesome experience and we all made new friends. We left the peace rocks on the ledge at the Dam Vista Point as an offering to those who came after us. We wanted others to know peace, and we hoped that they would take a "peace of the dam" with them. I live nearby and returned the next day to find just a few of the peace rocks gone, but I was so pleased to see that a new peace rock had already been added! MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH!

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2066639&id=1379040936&l=9b5aa8b99c>

This link will take you to my FB photo album so that you can see what a beautiful evening it was. I'm also attaching the promotional flyer that I used to invite friends and family with, a calling card I used as a reminder, and the prayer card that we read from. There were about 35 of us attending and we all agreed to make this event happen every year on September 21st, so that we can help to make peace grow in our community.

Peace Out,
Janice Powell

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Dear friends,

Greetings of love and peace.

It is wonderful sharing this International Day of Peace hand in hand with you - it's grown in vitality around the world this year, especially in our URI network.

We joined all the earlier time zones in a minute of silence at noon today, and held you all in our prayers around the Peace Pole.



May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Love,

Barbara Hartford
Peacebuilding Programs Manager
URI Global Staff

WILTON, CONNECTICUT

An International Day of Peace Posted on 09/23/2010

By KARA O'CONNOR
Villager Staff Writer



WILTON -- Five inspirational words could be heard throughout the entire School Sisters of Notre Dame campus in Wilton on Tuesday afternoon: "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

More than 50 School Sisters, Wilton residents and staff members at the Belden Hill Road campus gathered together around a Peace Pole on Tuesday to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace.

"Today we take the opportunity to come together and take the time to pause for a second," said Sister Claire Bonneau during the ceremony. "To celebrate and invite world peace."

According to Bonneau, this is the sixth year the School Sisters have celebrated the International Day of Peace. The U.N. event was established in 1981, and in 2001, the U.N. General Assembly designated Sept. 21 to be observed annually as a "day of global ceasefire and nonviolence," she said.

"This day of peace is celebrated all over the world," said Bonneau. "Unfortunately, our country doesn't really make a big deal about it. That is why we want to try to create public awareness about this very important day."

Sister Maryann Calabrese, who spoke during the ceremony, said world peace isn't something that can come easy, but it has to start somewhere.

"It would be naive to think that we can change the entire country overnight," she said. "But change has to start somewhere -- and this day is a small step, but it is still a step."

During the ceremony, 14 staff members at School Sisters of Notre Dame repeated the words 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' in their own native tongue. This exercise sends a very powerful message, said Bonneau.

"Having each staff member say this peace prayer in their own language makes quite a thoughtful reflection," she said. "It shows that a day of peace is everywhere and for everyone."

Buttons that read "May Peace Prevail on Earth" were also given out to everyone at the ceremony.

"We want these buttons to represent that a day of peace should be everyday," said Bonneau. "When they wear them, it reminds themselves and other people. And our hope is that they pass the buttons along to another person who will then raise awareness for world peace."

Bonneau said she was very pleased with the turnout at this year's ceremony, and her goal for the future is to have everyone in the Wilton community celebrate this International Day of Peace.

"Our dream is to have the Wilton community and maybe surrounding communities come together to celebrate this day," said Bonneau. "We envision a world of peace and every step counts."



Photo/Alex von Kleydorff. Sister Kyllene Bodum, right, pins a "May peace prevail on Earth" button on Sister Vitoline Wolf as the School Sisters of Notre Dame observe United Nations international Day of Peace.

Photo/Alex von Kleydorff. Sister Dominica Michalke from Germany proclaims in her native language "May peace prevail on Earth" as others do so in their native language during a Peace Pole ceremony

CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2010-09-17/news/fl-cspf-peace-0916-20100917_1_peace-pole-pinwheels-peace-garden

International Day of Peace celebration in Springs

September 17, 2010 | ARUN SIVASANKARAN asivasankaran@tribune.com

One Planet United and Coral Springs' Multicultural Advisory Committee are joining hands once again to celebrate International Day of Peace, and to remind people in the community about the importance of peaceful coexistence.

The first leg of the celebration, which will be at 7:45 a.m. Friday at the International Peace Garden near the Coral Springs Center for the Arts, will mainly feature school students in the community who will plant peace pinwheels at the garden. The highlight, however, will be the installation of a hand-crafted "Peace Pole" for permanent display in the garden.

On Sunday, the focus will shift to the Coral Springs Charter School, where youth speakers will lead a panel discussion on peace and their concept of it. The event will end with a question-and-answer session on the subject.

For Coral Springs Vice Mayor Claudette Bruck, a regular participant at One Planet United's "peace walks," the celebration is one of the most important events of the year.

LAKEWOOD RANCH, FLORIDA

May peace prevail: Students rededicate peace pole at Gullett Elementary

By JAMES A. JONES JR. — www.lakewoodbranchherald.com

LAKEWOOD RANCH — May peace prevail on earth.

Those words, a statement of an elusive dream for a war-weary world, are printed in 12 languages on the peace pole at Gullett Elementary School.

Wednesday morning, seven students stood before 500 of their classmates in a ceremony to rededicate the peace pole, and said those words in Hindi, Hebrew, Tagalog, Spanish, Creole, French and Chinese.



Languages, school guidance counselor Monica Rice said, that the students speak at home or that are part of their heritage. "It's always good to hear those special words in different languages," Rice said. Rice told the students that the International Day of Peace is dedicated to young people this year. "You are our future," she said.

Robert Rodd, president of the Rotary Club of East Manatee, said the peace pole was presented by his club to Gullett Elementary when it opened in 2007. "Peace begins in the hearts and minds of each person," Rodd told the children.

Worldwide, 200,000 of the peace poles have been installed in many countries, and Sept. 21 was the International Day of Peace, he said.

Principal Kathy Hayes said the theme of the International Day of Peace this year, "This is the future — peace one day," and read a list of goals from Gullett students. The goals, striving toward a better world through self-improvement, included everything from improving handwriting skills, to making better grades and saving to buy a computer.

Students celebrated the peace pole rededication with speeches, songs and artwork.

Abby Zion, a fifth-grader at Gullett Elementary, said violence is tearing the world apart, but each person can strive to reduce conflict through compromise and listening to others.

James A. Jones Jr., East Manatee Editor, can be contacted at 745-7021.

HONOLULU, HAWAII

UN Peace Day Event at KCC Tuesday, September 21, 2010

The International Cafe will be hosting the following events to commemorate the UN Peace Day at KCC. Please join us with your hope for peace.

12 noon:
KCC Cafeteria, writing messages of peace

6PM KCC Great Lawn, Oli at the Peace Pole
by Ms. Lauhela Oberle (in front of the KCC Cafeteria)

6:30 PM KCC Ohia 118
Showing of the movie GATE, a true story of 3 Buddhist monks carrying the flame of the atomic bomb from Nagasaki to its origin in Trinity, New Mexico, to close the cycle of destruction. Join us on the 25-day, 1,600 mile pilgrimage of transformation and hope of peace for humanity.

Discussion and a silent peace lantern walk around the KCC Great Lawn after the movie.

* * *

Thank you for your outstanding efforts to continue the path of peace. We are honored to be on this path together and I just sent some photos of the recent UN Peace Day events taken by my student. Also we continue on this path by integrating international education into all of our curriculum rather than as a separate entity.



Also in my Japanese 290, Japanese Language and Culture, Learning in Application and International Cafe, Kapiolani Community College, international service learning program I coordinate, peace through awareness and understanding through sharing of knowledge and most importantly the one to one interaction of person is always our goal. This semester, we have continued the UN Peace Day event with the viewing of the most recent movie of the 442nd Japanese American Infantry Battalion Movie, "Live with Honor, Die with Dignity," visit to Pearl Harbor, and presentation of Diverse Pathways to Peace, Peacemakers and World Fiesta during the International Education Week. Also we try to develop peace within the environment and community with service programs with focus on care of the environment, visits to Leahi Hospital, interaction with senior residents, and domestic violence and homeless and AIDS prevention projects.

Let us continue our pathway together with peace in our heart.

Let us cross over the walls of self,

To build upon the heart of humanity.

with the sincere prayer from our hearts of May Peace Prevail on Earth...



May Peace Prevail on Earth and Aloha,

Linda and KCC Students

Kapiolani Community College

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Chicago's Peace Day Celebration

Friday, September 17, 2010 - 12:00pm

For thirty years and counting, Chicago has officially celebrated **Peace Day**. First proclaimed by Chicago's Mayor on September 7, 1978, Peace Day began with an idea: to set aside one day each year for people of all backgrounds, faiths, cultures and ages to focus on peace for the entire planet. Four years after Peace Day in Chicago was

established, the United Nations designated September 21 the *International Day of Peace* and Chicago began celebrating *Peace Days* from September 7 – 21. Themes include *Make a Minute for Peace Every Day* and *Let's Make Every Day Peace Day*.

Join us at noon in Daley Plaza on Friday September 17, 2010! Chicago's Peace Day Celebration is a free, public event and always includes One Minute of Silence for World Peace, cultural performances of music and dance to celebrate the diversity of our city and world, and brief remarks by some of Chicago's prominent peacebuilders.

The celebration features the Call to Peace and World Peace Flag Ceremony. Flags of world form a colorful procession, world music plays, and as each country is named, its flag is respectfully presented on stage. Everyone joins in sending heartfelt wishes, thoughts or prayers for peace to each country equally by saying together, "Peace in [each nation, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe]!" Flags are carried by members of the Chicago Consular Corps, representatives of ethnic and cultural institutions, students and volunteers.

The Call to Peace is an inspiring and deeply touching experience. Many are moved to tears. Others open their minds to the world and marvel at the number of countries in existence. "This is so important to the world that I wanted to be there myself, and to carry my country's flag personally," said the Honorable Lesly Conde, Haiti's Consul General in Chicago. "We don't realize how many people in other countries are praying for peace like we are," remarked a Chicagoan who lent her voice to the Call to Peace.

Last year the Chicago Build the Peace Committee (CBTPC) was formed to expand Peace Day activities in honor of the event's 30th anniversary. The Committee meets monthly at The Peace School and is working to make the 2010 celebration Chicago's most successful yet. In addition to the September 17th Celebration in Daley Plaza, the CBTPC is working with Chicago Public Schools to commemorate Peace Day through a variety of peacebuilding activities. A *Music for Peace Festival* is also in the works. The long-term goal of the CBTPC is to **mainstream a Culture of Peace in the City of Chicago** – for every individual, family, school and neighborhood – thereby creating a Model City of Peace.

DES MOINES, IOWA

Mandala Center

Our International Day of Peace Event!

Our International Day of Peace Event took place Saturday September 18th through Tuesday the 21st, 2010. It was a huge success and a wonderful event for those who attended. Peace and blessings were sent out to those who were unable to make it. We want to share some photos and recap all that took place.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE has been celebrated on September 21st each year since its establishment in 1981 by the United Nations Resolution. In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21st as the International Day of Peace. This effort encourages humankind to cooperate in acts of peace and provides opportunity for individuals, organizations, and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. The Mandala Center wanted to act and become one place where people could gather to be part of this global effort. The Mandala Center provided a space for a variety of ages, races, faiths, and backgrounds to come together to celebrate our shared interest in promoting peace for the good of all. (www.internationaldayofpeace.org)

Our special guests for the event were the monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery (www.mysticalartsoftibet.org). These are genuine monks who are taking time off from their lifelong devotion of contemplation and study to participate in this tour (co-sponsored by Richard Gere Productions) and share their cultural traditions. It is their hope to make some small contribution toward world peace through their teachings and art.

We asked the monks to come and create a sand mandala of conflict resolution – called Akshobya Mandala. It seemed appropriate for The Mandala Center to have a mandala created for peace and for the spiritual and creative process of this art to be dedicated on International Day of Peace.

Mandala in Sanskrit means sacred cosmogram. In Tibetan the art of the mandala is called dul-tson-kyil-khor, which literally means “mandala of colored powders.” This practice has roots extending back 2500 years.

The Monks performed an opening ceremony, a healing Buddha Puja, and a closing ceremony where the mandala was swept up – a reminder of the impermanence of life and an act to release the healing energy into the world.



The Monks on our deck under the Rainbow that appeared one day!



Monks performing healing puja



The COMPLETED MANDALA

Rinpoche told us that the Mandala is like a road map – something for our minds to follow when dealing with negative emotions or situations in our lives. The symbols and images are teachings and guidance for how to let go of our attachments and how to maneuver violence in the world. The monks study 5-7 years in preparation for this task. It is believed that the healing energy of the mandala is released into the world – and to those who view it and stand in its presence – regardless of our understanding. It is a portal – a visual prayer for peace.

The monks brought many blessings during their stay and The Mandala Center is very thankful to them. It was an honor and a pleasure to host them here.

The monks were NOT the only attraction at our event! So much more took place! Students from area schools and some adults made Pinwheels for Peace (www.pinwheelsforpeace.com). These are created by writing a prayer or poem for peace on one side and creating a mandala of peace on the other. Pinwheels are then created and placed outdoors to send our wishes for peace into the world! We loaded our pinwheel photo on the international site – contributing to over 5 million pinwheels made world wide!

Peace Pole Unveiling on Sunday

The Mandala Center was graciously gifted with a Peace Pole – funds donated by Bob and Phyllis Stice. This peace pole is part of an effort beginning back in 1955 when Masahisa Goi dedicated his life to spreading the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in response to the bombings of Hiroshima.



Lori, Kim (and Anna taking photo) Planting the Peace Pole

The Mandala Center was also – synchronistically – gifted with a Declaration of Peace document by two guests, Jerry Bozeman and Lon Jones, who attended the memorial celebration in Hiroshima this August. Blessings were bountiful all weekend!!



Christina Boyce at our peace pole

Our Peace Pole says “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in four languages. Although there were many languages to choose from we picked the four that seemed to be most appropriate to our region. We have English, Spanish, Navajo and the fourth side has animal paw prints – for recognition of our relationship with the earth.

Rocks were piled at the base – testimony to our rocky and volcanic landscape and guests wrote prayers of peace on rice paper and placed them amongst the rocks along with flower petals and other offerings for the dedication.

Christina, an artist in our local community brought flowers on International Day of Peace during our peace pole meditation for peace on Tuesday.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Bandstand on the Common

In memoriam to my beloved father, Henry Solomon Gaffin.

On Tuesday, September 21st, 2010 it was my immeasurable blessing and privilege to host an observance honoring the UN International Day of Peace, 2010 at the Bandstand area on Boston Common. The UN IDP is one of the most sacred holidays in the secular calendar for me, and historically, I have made it a pivotal part of my peace efforts to honor the energy of the day. Typically, I look to collaborate with others, but this particular UN IDP was especially significant, as well as poignant for me, as I had buried the second father that I had in this lifetime in April and I decided to host my own event in tribute to him. This year, it felt especially important for me to offer an opportunity to those wishing to honor the essence of the UN IDP - in a public space - out of doors - at noon - which is THE pivotal moment around the globe to celebrate the essence of the UN IDP. To my knowledge, this event was

the only one of its kind in Greater Boston, and I feel especially proud to have taken the lead for the first time on my own UN IDP event, as well as having dedicated this to my late father, Henry Solomon Gaffin.

I'd like to share some information about my dad here, before I describe the event, itself – because my Henry was both the ultimate warrior, as well as the ultimate peacemaker - in my life. As a very young man, my Henry enlisted in the navy immediately after Pearl Harbor, and served in the Pacific until Japan surrendered. As a result of his service, my Henry was awarded many honors, including the Purple Heart, but suffered terribly from PTSD all of his adult life. Consequently, my Henry could not be the kind of father he wished he could be, and on his death bed apologized for the pain he had caused me. He became, for me, the supreme peacemaker. Understand, as well, that he was aware of my affiliation with the WPPS, which has its roots in Japan, but felt only great pride in my need to serve my G-d, and my efforts to serve the path of peace.



Tuesday, September 21st, 2010 was an absolutely gorgeous day here in Boston. It was truly G-d's day. The focal point for our observance was a World Peace Pole which I had dedicated in honor of the UN International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, at the New Year's Eve Interfaith Service for First Night Boston, 2008-2009. Our Interfaith Service theme that year was "Reconciliation."

This World Peace Pole being the very first World Peace Pole which I, personally, dedicated means the world to me. And as it temporarily stands in the Sanctuary of St. Paul's Cathedral directly across the street from the Bandstand area, I walked it over to bless our event. In addition, I decorated the space with two WPPS banners that read MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH, and my dear friend, Peter Smith, head of the Coalition for a Strong UN, brought his UN flag to display, as well. I displayed a poster with the official beautiful, blue UN International Day of Peace logo, and secured WPPS balloons that read MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH to the Bandstand railings. Linnie, the Giant Peace Dove, an honored guest from Roots and Shoots New England, the local affiliate of the Jane Goodall Institute, graced us from her perch on the Bandstand.

I opened the event at 11am with some brief introductory remarks about my role as Peace Representative, and the World Peace Prayer Society. As I welcomed people of varying ages (including a baby) and ethnicities to our community of peace, I dedicated the observance to my beloved Henry.

I had invited my dear friend, Richard Gandiva Lorcan, an international sound healer, to support the essence of the day, and share his unique instruments; thus, throughout the event, he graced us with lovely, spiritual tones from a beautiful gong, horn, and special bowl.

I read aloud remarks that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had made at the student observance of the UN IDP at the UN, as well as his general message honoring the UN IDP. Next, I read a Proclamation from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a Resolution from the Boston City Council - both honoring the UN IDP. As we moved towards noon, I asked our gathering to hold hands with one another, in efforts to build a community of peace, and I offered a prayer for World Peace. At noon, we honored the UN IDP 2010 with a moment of silence, and in doing so, offered our collective contribution to the Million Minutes of Peace Appeal.

At the conclusion of our observance, I offered gifts of tea lights and WPPS stickers to everyone in our peace community. And I am delighted to say that the baby received one of the WPPS balloons that decorated our space!

I express my deepest appreciation to the pivotal people who supported my efforts to honor the sanctity of the UN IDP 2010. In particular, I want to thank my dear friend, Gandiva, for being such a gift and a blessing; for his generosity of spirit, and all the love and energy that he contributed towards the beauty of our event. I also want to thank Christine Barton and John Utter for seeming to be Spirit-sent to volunteer to take lovely pictures of our observance – at no charge.

I also want to express my infinite gratitude to both my G-d and my Henry. I know they were both there with all of us - at the Bandstand on Boston Common, on September 21st, 2010, the UN International Day of Peace, 2010.

"May Peace Prevail on Earth"

Ms. Penny Joy Snider-Light
Peace Representative, World Peace Prayer Society

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Hillel Reform Yom Kippur Service
Harvard University
Memorial Church, Harvard Yard

In memoriam to my beloved father, Henry Solomon Gaffin

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, it was my infinite blessing to be a featured presenter at Harvard University Hillel's Reform service of Yom Kippur. I was privileged with the opportunity to offer a prayer for World Peace in honor of the UN International Day of Peace, 2010.

Yom Kippur is the most sacred holiday in the Hebrew calendar. This particular Yom Kippur felt especially holy, as it occurred on Saturday, which is the Jewish Sabbath, and came just three days prior to the UN International Day of Peace, 2010. Yom Kippur is the second of the Jewish High Holidays (the first being Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year) and concludes the Ten Days of Awe, a period of deep introspection, and reflection. Yom Kippur, or Day of Atonement, encourages Jews to atone for transgressions occurring over the past year, to forgive others and ourselves, and to conclude the holiday feeling refreshed, and renewed. Yom Kippur graces us with the profound opportunity to release any negativity we may be holding - so that we feel free to enter the New Year "at peace" with all of life.

This is the third year that I have been invited to offer a prayer for World Peace in honor of the UN International Day of Peace at Harvard University Hillel's Reform observance of the Jewish High Holidays. This year was particularly poignant for me, having buried the second father that I had in this lifetime in April. My beloved Henry was very proud of being a Jew, and undoubtedly, he was with me this Yom Kippur as I stood on the pulpit and offered a prayer for World Peace in honor of the UN IDP 2010.

PHOTO: Rabbi Lisa Eiduson, Rabbinic Advisor to the Reform Minyan at Harvard Hillel; myself; Nell Hawley, Chair of the Reform Minyan at Harvard Hillel; and Sara Piazza, the cantor at our Yom Kippur service.



"May Peace Prevail on Earth"

Ms. Penny Joy Snider-Light
Peace Representative, World Peace Prayer Society

DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

UMass Dartmouth Receives a Peace Pole September 27, 2010 by *Beth Ayer*

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth received a Peace Pole last week on Tuesday, September 21st, the International Day of Peace.



Check out some photos from the event including members of the UMass Dartmouth community and UMass Dartmouth's Chancellor Jean MacCormack (*center*).



FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Fall River Celebrates International Day of Peace 2010 September 22, 2010 by *Beth Ayer*

Fall River was out in force for the 29th Annual International Day of Peace on Tuesday, September 21 with events including peace pole ceremonies and a youth peace summit.

Bristol Community College (left) accepted a Peace Pole yesterday in demonstration of the college's continued commitment to peace and civic engagement. BCC looks forward to painting the new Peace Pole with the phrase "May Peace Prevail" in English and three other (student selected) languages. Mark your calendar for BCC's Peace Pole dedication ceremony on March 31st from 10 am - noon.



UMass Dartmouth also celebrated with a Peace Pole Dedication, peace flag project and a viewing and discussion of the film *The Day After Peace*. Students, faculty, staff and guests enjoyed observing International Peace Day on campus.

Meanwhile, the **Increase the PEACE** youth summit brought together 75 youth to discuss community issues and plan community service projects.

Hosted By YOUth Voices, the event included students from B.M.C. Durfee High School, Bishop Connelly and Diman Regional High School. Students sat together, voicing their thoughts on everything from cross-generational cooperation to bullying and peer pressure.

The youth came with a desire to be heard and respected; they left with the tools to improve their community.

Beth Ayer

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Roots and Shoots New England - Jane Goodall Institute Boathouse on Jamaica Pond

On Sunday, September 19, 2010, I was a featured presenter at "Peace Day," a celebration honoring the UN IDP 2010 held at the Boathouse on Jamaica Pond in Jamaica Plain, hosted by Roots and Shoots New England, the local affiliate of the Jane Goodall Institute. This is a sweet event with an emphasis on children and youth – highlighted by a participatory parade of Giant Peace Doves, music, speakers, crafts, and games. This was the third year that I've been invited to read aloud the Proclamation from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts honoring the UN International Day of Peace. My warmest appreciation to Belinda Jentz who always takes lovely pictures of me here pro bono.



"May Peace Prevail on Earth"

Ms. Penny Joy Snider-Light
Peace Representative, World Peace Prayer Society

NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Giving peace a chance

By Lori Berkey

http://www.communityadvocate.com/news/2010-12-03/Northborough/Giving_peace_a_chance.html

Northborough - The late John Lennon, who wrote the 1969 hit song, "Give Peace a Chance," would likely have been pleased to see members of the Northborough community heeding his plea Sept. 21, when a Peace Pole was installed at the town's Assabet Park.

According to Linda Hurni Hardy of the Northborough Junior Woman's Club (NJWC), the town's Department of Public Works (DPW) planted the pole that day for a ceremony the club had organized to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. NJWC conducted a peace poem contest at the Robert E. Melican Middle School, and the winners recited their poems there that evening. Others read quotations from famous peace proponents, and still more contributed voices in song.



Photo by Lindsay Corcoran

The World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) believes a Peace Pole is a hand-made monument that exhibits the message and prayer, "May Peace Prevail on Earth®" on each of its four or six sides, usually in different languages. The Peace Pole at Assabet Park displays the trademarked words in eight languages, including sign language. WPPS indicates on its website, www.worldpeace.org, that the message can be used freely to promote peace. One of the society's programs is called "The Peace Pole Project."

The pole at Assabet Park joins tens of thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries that have been proclaimed as peace monuments. The structures were established to be perpetual prompts for people to envision and pray for world peace. A bronze plaque provided by the NJWC that commemorates the United Nations International Day of Peace is due to be set in stone and placed at the Assabet Park pole site by the DPW.

According to the book, "Images of America Northborough," compiled by Robert P. Ellis and Ellen Racine of the Northborough Historical Society, Assabet Park was endowed by Cyrus Gale Jr., who died in 1907. Currently, besides housing the peace pole, Assabet Park also contains an area for peaceful lay at the facility's splash pad, preschool playground and basketball courts.

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Sunday, September 19, 2010
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm EST
Pet Pantry of MI, Kruse Park

On Sunday, September 20th a group of families will gather in the children's garden to build a Giant Peace Dove Puppet. On Monday, September 21st there will be a Day of Peace Celebration in the garden of the Early Childhood Center. Each class will host an activity station including, Pinwheel making and Origami Crane Folding, and a school-wide peace mosaic will be created using broken china from every household. The finale of the celebration will be the planting of the Peace Pole, the flying of the Giant Peace Dove and eating lunch together in the garden.

DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY

At the Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest, New Jersey, the school community began their day by gathering in the auditorium to pray for peace and to rededicate their Peace Pole. During lunch everyone was invited to the Peace Pole to sign the peace pledge—to do all they can to keep peace in their hearts and share the spirit of peace in their homes and community. Teachers incorporated meditation exercises and the theme of peace into their lessons.

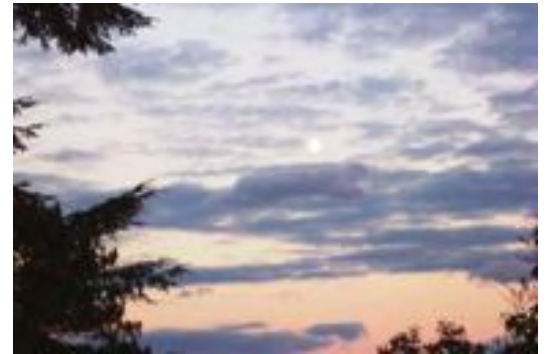
BEARSVILLE, NEW YORK

Green Chi Cafe
<http://www.greenchicafe.com/the-autumn-equinox-and-the-harvest-moon>

The Autumn Equinox and the Harvest Moon
Submitted on Wednesday, 22 September 2010

By Reverend Betsy Stang, on behalf of all our relations and all sentient beings.

The days are getting colder in the Northeast, where I live most of the year. Darkness comes noticeably faster as the luxurious late summer days come to a close. Suddenly I am no longer complaining about the unrelenting heat and am stacking wood. The autumn equinox is near and the Harvest Moon is coming.



On Planet Earth, West is the direction of the setting sun. It signifies evening, twilight, autumn and the coming of night. In the Indigenous traditions of the Northern Hemisphere, it is a time of harvest and preparation for the winter. The fall equinox also represents maturity and the coming of wisdom. This year, the Harvest Moon comes



on September 23. What are we harvesting? Look back over the summer season. What have we learned. How have we grown? What can we give to feed all who are hungry in the coming months?

In the time of autumn, the time of sunset, we have been tempered by the seasons of life. Summer, the season of growth, is over. The fruit is ready for harvest, the seeds begin to fall to the ground, our winter approaches and we come to the realization that our time on Earth is short and that all things pass away. The question arises, what do we leave behind, what is our legacy? What will take root and grow when the spring equinox comes to awaken the Earth?

In the tradition of the Native Americans, all decisions are made with the idea of how they will impact the generations to come. Wisdom comes from turning away from our personal needs and desires, to caring for the future and all our relations.

Soon enough, winter comes and we will return to the Earth who gave us our life and all our substance. Before we do that we can ask how can we use our resources, talents and energy to leave our world a better place for the generations to come?

Standing in the direction of the West, we are asked to harvest, not just for ourselves, but for the many. At this time we can choose to gather our wisdom, talents and resources to leave this world better than when we arrived. If we leave for our children and the generations to come a depleted Earth with polluted water and air, what sort of legacy have we bequeathed?

The directions remind us that we are part of a greater whole on the wheel of life. At the autumnal equinox, the direction of the West, we can pause to thank our ancestors and the Earth and take some time to pay it forward to the generations to come.

Happening on the Equinox, on Sept. 21, is the International Day of Peace. Please take a moment at noon to join with millions around the planet and, in your tradition, spend a few moments in praying or meditating for peace for this magical world, all the generations to come and all our relations. May peace prevail on Earth.

For more information on the International Day of Peace go to <http://www.idpvigil.com>.

By Reverend Betsy Stang, on behalf of all our relations and all sentient beings.

Betsy Stang is an Interfaith Minister, spiritual counselor and Earth Activist. She is the Founder and Executive Director of The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources in Bearsville, NY.

For more information please go to www.wittenbergcenter.org or www.betsystang.com

BEDFORD HILLS, NEW YORK

Unity Made Visible, a cooperation circle of the United Religions Initiative, hosted a rededication ceremony of the Peace Pole at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills, NY on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. A beautiful interfaith ceremony on the theme of "Rededicating Ourselves to Peace" was hosted by Pastor Paul Briggs and members of Antioch, which was celebrating its 116th anniversary. Sunera Rahman of the Upper Westchester Muslim Society offered remarks on the meaning of light in Islam. Everyone gathered read a different inspiring quote from various peace leaders and sang together, "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin With Me."



Deborah Moldow, who also leads the United Religions Initiative cooperation circle at the United Nations, led a moving World Peace Prayer Ceremony with prayers sent to many nations of the world as each flag was raised in turn. As the dusk grew deeper, everyone lit a candle for a circle of silent prayers.



The event closed with a song about love and peace.



Unity Made Visible has become known in the area of Northern Westchester for its learning series about different faith traditions, its popular Food and Faith event, and its joyful community sings.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Deborah Moldow
 Unity Made Visible
www.unitymadevisible.org

CROTON FALLS, NEW YORK

Our Chapel celebrated *The International Day of Peace* with a special multifaith prayer and candle lighting service, with participants including:

- Ven. Jixing, President, Buddhist Association, Carmel, NY (Buddhist peace meditation)
- Sunera Rahman, Representative Westchester Muslim Society (Islamic message and prayer)
- Suzanne Ironbiter, PhD (Vedic peace prayer chant)
- Bear Walker (Native American Four Direction's peace prayer and drumming)
- Rona Levine (Jewish reflections on the light)
- Hans Hallundbaek, Pastor (Christian – St. Francis peace prayer)



Religion

Briefs

Service celebrates international day of peace

On Sunday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m., the Chapel at Croton Falls will celebrate the International Day of Peace in an interfaith service including representatives from the Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Islamic faith traditions.

The service will include readings and prayers on peace from various faith traditions. It will culminate in a festive rededication of the Chapel's Peace Pole with flags from many countries, led by the chapel's interfaith minister, the Rev. Deborah Moldow, who is the World Peace Prayer Society's representative to the United Nations.

Visitors are encouraged to join in this local effort for peace and reconciliation.



The original planting of the peace pole in 2006.

The service culminated in a festive rededication of the Chapel's Peace Pole with flags from many countries, led by Interfaith minister Rev. Deborah Moldow, UN Representative for the World Peace Prayer Society.

Friends and visitors joined in this local effort for global peace and reconciliation.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Hans B. Hallundbaek, Pastor
Croton Falls Presbyterian Church

HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony Honors Theater Founder

A peace pole was planted in the Cinema Garden to honor the late Vic Skolnick, co-founder of the Cinema Arts Centre.

By Steven T. Nicastro

In honor of World Peace Day and in loving memory of the late Vic Skolnick's work for peace, the Cinema Arts Centre planted a peace pole in the Cinema Garden, which was dedicated during a special ceremony this past weekend.

Friends of Skolnick, co-founder of the Cinema Arts Centre who passed away in June, as well as members of various community and peace organizations, came out Sunday and were greeted with refreshments, music and poetry after the peace pole with the inscription, May Peace Prevail on Earth, was unveiled in the Cinema Garden.

Charlotte Koons, a member of the Cinema's Circle of Friends, donated the pole in honor of Skolnick and in recognition of the day of peace. She said she thinks Skolnick would have been proud of what went on at the ceremony.

"It was his vision that created this entire place," said Koons, who said her donation of the pole was her first to the Circle of Friends. "That art, song and dance, poetry, and visual arts can fill the human soul, so that there is no more room for war."

Koons coordinated the peace pole project after she learned the story of Elizabeth Casey, a mother whose daughter Emma passed away at the age of 15. Koons said Elizabeth had a vision to plant 21 peace poles across the country in honor of Emma's 21st birthday, in what she called the Emma Casey Peace Pole Project. When Skolnick passed in June, Koons said the pole became a dedication to both Casey and Skolnick.



"The peace pole project is planning to have one planted in every school in Sayville," Koons added.

Denise Romas, a singer/songwriter and elementary school teacher in Longwood, was on hand to sing and to honor Skolnick. "I'm just honored to be here, to be apart of this," Romas said. "To honor Vic, Emma, and peace. It's a perfect setting and perfect weather today."

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Vigil for International Peace & Ecology in Central Park

Every year, UN staff member Susana Bastarrica organizes a Vigil for International Peace in the park on a weekend close to the UN International Day of Peace. This year's vigil was held at the Central Park band shell on Saturday, September 18th from 9:00-5:30 pm.



A wide array of performers participated on a grand stage festooned with white umbrellas painted for peace.

THE VIGIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND ECOLOGY is a grassroots transformational effort dedicated to promulgate peace through participation in art, song, dance, music, prayer, and ecological awareness.

The purpose of the VIGIL is to awaken humanity to harmony and peace through the power of intent and celebration. Our vision is to heal and bridge our lives and communities in order to achieve divinity alignment and recognize the oneness in all.



In its 9th year, the VIGIL was inspired by the United Nations' 2001 Resolution 55/282 designating September 21st of each year as an "International Day of Peace", and to have the entire world observe a full day of "global ceasefire and nonviolence."

We are advocating an "International Day of Peace Vigil" with the following objective: To encourage the observation of a worldwide, 24-hour Vigil for Peace and nonviolence and ceasefire on the International Day of Peace, 21 September of each year, in every house and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world." All Peoples and Organizations are invited to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner.

Participants this year included:

James Cannings, Music Director
Dan Matas, Videographer/Web Design
Gary Spolansky, Stage Manager
Lynnae Davis, M.C.

Paul Sladkus, M.C.
Cecilia St. King, M.C.
S. Mazarella, M.C.
L. Placencia, Stage Coordinator

Martin Aelred – Opera Singer
The Sainato Bros.
Guillermo Silveira
Yuri Zak
Diego Costas

Dominican Folk
M. Lublin-Fuze
Katlin
Edward Leung
Crystal Tones
Lia Lungu
Anna Dagmar
Harry The Poet
Didge Project
Michael Hall
Katlin
Edward Leung
Crystal Tones
Lia Lungu
Anna Dagmar

Harry The Poet
Didge Project
Michael Hall
Sharon Benson
Mana
Inma Heredia
Happiness – Nigeria
Adam Collett
Queen Mother
Su Polo
Vistar Foundation
Overground
Ken Davis
Bronwyn Calcutt
Jay Emmanuel

Roger Ansanelli
Parrots For Peace
UPF - Ambassadors For Peace
We The World
Odyssey Networks – Million
Minutes For Peace
Anna Rank – Umbrellas For Peace
Marisa Van Pol Latin American Art
Ribbon International
Hug-A-Planet
Benny Zable's Flags
World Peace Prayer Ceremony
World Water Rescue Foundation

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

difrent: Launch Party & International Day of Peace Celebration, Sept. 20th le Poisson Rouge, NYC

Launch party for **difrent**: the global broadcasting platform for music for social change, marking the United Nations International Day of Peace, and "Take A Stand," the new single by Iraqi American singer Stephan Said, being released in an unprecedented global video collaboration with international organizations working for social change.

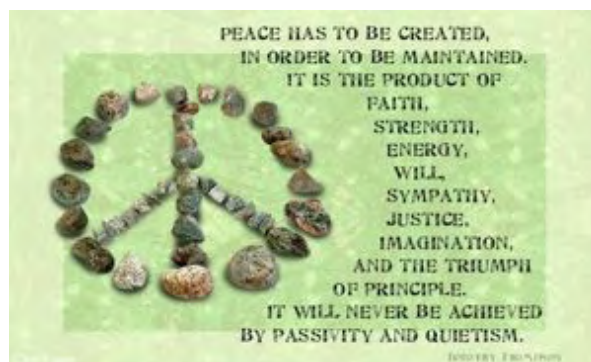
Featuring renowned musicians and activists, including Ghanaian-American hip-hop rising star Blitz The Ambassador, Stephan Said, an all-star band with Cindy Blackman, Kevin Hunter, Art Baron, Earl Gardner, Yousif Sheronick, Lenny Pickett, and surprise guests!



difrent is the global broadcasting platform for music for social change, a one-stop where artists, activists, and organizations come together to advance local initiatives around the world on a constant basis through music and video releases. **difrent**: is music that's making a difference, the soundtrack of our generation!

We Have A Dream - by creating a global platform for music and culture for social change, **difrent**: promotes young, upcoming voices that are taking a stand and creating music and using culture to change our world. When the world's majority of young voices singing and working for peace and equality are heard more loudly than the few extremists who fill our tv's and headlines, we will win!

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



Peace Now ! May it prevail on Earth !

In honor of International Day of Peace September 21st, 2010

We walked in a mindful zen meditation from the United Nations to Times Square in single file behind our leader Josh Adler... an experience not to be forgotten... 4 of us carefully stepped one foot one, and then another... in unison and with hand mudra in place.

...I thought of how turtles walk over 9,000 miles to their place of migration, through rain sleet, snow and predator. I thought of people walking in landmines amongst war...I thought of those who had lost their lives for peace....of the girls that walk miles for a jug of water each day with their lives threatened...I thought of those who move with disability in the world without limbs, without The silence of the world became prevalent to me after the first 5 minutes of the 90 minute walk...taxis – people bustling – bicycles- horns – lights flashing – pigeons – nyc alive and ticking -- all became part of the citi landscape...wherever you were on September 21...we included peace for all sentient beings in our effort.

...peace is now+ that included all of you our friends and strangers as well.

Thank you to Josh Adler of the Independence Project, Patrick and Liliane for stepping to the silent drum of universal peace. Deborah+Rick+Monica for all your support in promoting Youth power in this year's United Nations Peace Celebrations.

May peace prevail on earth...and mostly within your heart and life!

Georgina Galanis

PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK



September 21st is the International Day of Peace. Peace at Pace will be a three-part-event, including a vigil and two events supporting not-for-profit organizations.

The first event will be a candlelight vigil on Gottesman Patio at 9 pm on Monday, September 20. Following the vigil will be a Light Up The World Video Session, where students will be able to participate in the Light Up The World Campaign.

Light Up The World is a project that brings together people from all over the world in a chain of peace. Each person is asked to film themselves grabbing a candle from out of the frame, lighting their own candle, and handing it off to

someone outside of the frame. (Examples can be seen here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WorldWideWaveOfLight>)

At the end of the year, a master video of all videos uploaded will be sent to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. What a great opportunity for the Pace Community to support such a wonderful campaign.

After the candlelight vigil, a camera will be set up and Pace students, faculty, and staff members will have the opportunity to be filmed lighting a candle and be part of this campaign.

The following day, Tuesday September 21, is the International Day of Peace. There is a campaign known as A Million Minutes of Peace. Pace Alumnus Jocelyn Dupre is spearheading this campaign which offers people the opportunity to take a pledge to dedicate a minute of silence at noon on the day of peace. At Pace University we will have a campus wide moment of silence at noon on the 21st.

If you'd like to take the pledge, you can go to <http://www.amillionminutesforpeace.org> or look for the table in Kessel with laptops open to that very website.

Please join us in celebrating a very important day, the International Day of Peace (at Pace!).

For the beautiful peace holiday, PEACE AT PACE held a 3-part event. On Monday night, I held a candlelight vigil. At the vigil, students each received a candle and a piece of paper containing a fact about the world. The fact was some type of tragedy in any given country across the world. I had about a total of 12 facts; there were multiple copies made of each. I then addressed the students and eventually began to read each fact out. As I did, the students who had that fact would proceed to the front of the patio (this was held outside! it was beautiful out) and they would light their candles from 3 candles that were already burning (the whole idea of the Light Up The World video project). It ended with a little speech from me about spreading peace. It was all video taped, but the montage is up on Facebook and I don't know if you'll be able to access it. What I will do is get the montage sent to myself as an attachment and I will forward it to you!

The following day, on the actual Day of Peace, we held a campus wide moment of silence at noon. Professors were asked to pause during their classes and remain silent for one minute. It was beautiful.

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH! (I was sure to incorporate this into my vigil!)

Danielle Cosgrove
Pace University PLV

SAYVILLE, NEW YORK

International Peace Day and Peace Pole Dedication in Honor of Emma Casey

sayville.com - 9/23/2010

Sarah Elsesser

International peace day was on September 21st and people of all ages came out to promote peace. At the Grange Park a ceremony was held in the recognition of not only peace but also for a woman named Emma Casey.

Emma was a peace activist since early age and some called her a "peace baby." She took to the streets for all different causes and she even raised money for children in different parts of the world that were in need. It's very unfortunate that Emma had to die at a young age, but she will always be remembered. Emma's story has been spread throughout our community thanks to the Ladies in Black, a group of women who non-violently promote peace on Fridays in our community. Emma was actually the granddaughter of one of the members; and because of this, all the women became familiar with Emma's story. Her devastating death five years ago made the women want to celebrate her whenever possible.

One way in which they are celebrating peace and Emma is by dedicating a peace pole to her. A peace pole is a silent visual of humanity and can be found throughout the world. This year Emma would have been turning twenty-one and since peace day is on the 21st of September the Ladies in Black and Emma's family wanted to do

something special. The pole that was dedicated to Emma will be staying at the Grange and five others will be put up in all of the Sayville Public Schools.



Rick Sackett who led the sing-alongs



Peace pole dedicated to Emma Casey

The whole ceremony was amazing. It started off with an introduction and was followed by sing-a-longs with Rick Sackett. Before the dedication of the peace pole to Emma, there was an announcement of who won the peace essay. The topic of the composition was entitled "How will I promote peace in my Community." Each winner received 100 dollars for their favorite charity and the runners-up received 25 dollars for theirs. The winner from the 9-12 age group was Renata Morales and her Charity is the Sleepy Hollow arts program. The runner up was Cassidy Elizabeth Higgins and her charity is the food bank in Westchester. In the 13-15 age group Meghan LaBell was the winner and her charity is Holiday Magic. The runner up was Paige Kolar and her charity is Shwachman Diamond Project. Congratulations to all.

Throughout the different portions of the ceremony, boys from one of the local little league football teams and other people were holding flags and others had "honk for peace" signs to the passing cars. The entire day was a huge success and there seemed to be no better way to end it than by a final song around the peace pole. Everyone joined hands and swayed to the wonderful music not only thinking about peace but also Emma Casey.



Kids protesting for peace

Sarah Elsesser is a fun-loving, Junior at Sayville High School. She enjoys trying new things, writing and being around people. When she is not spending time with her friends or babysitting she is cuddling up with a new book. During the school year you can find her playing Bass Clarinet in the Wind Ensemble or sitting in the bleachers cheering on her high school's football team.

WASSAIC, NEW YORK

A Call To Peace gathering at The World Peace Sanctuary

September 25th, 2010

A Call To Peace in honor of the International Day of Peace (IDP), is an annual peace gathering held at The World Peace Sanctuary, headquarters of The World Peace Prayer Society and home of The Peace Pole Project. September 21st marks the United Nations' International Day of Peace, designated by resolution in 1982 for the purpose of highlighting efforts to end conflict, ceasefire and promote peace.



We felt that this year is a particularly important year to recognize the absolute necessity of everyday peace work in our lives. The emphasis reflected in A Call To Peace 2010 theme, in relationship to IDP, with offering 4 Peace Poles, handcrafted at The World Peace Sanctuary designated for Afghanistan. Attendees were invited to submit written prayers for the people of Afghanistan. The prayers were sent along with the Peace Poles that will be dedicated in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The day in its entirety was truly a magnificent! Mother Nature blessed us with a perfect summer-like day, as did the 74 plus youth who participated in our Program, such as the Nepalese dancers and young Chinese singers, the local Hudson Valley Girl Scouts and Peace Pals group from Connecticut! The grove area was sprinkled with a variety of non-profit organizations and its members who came to share their work and contribution toward Peace and Harmony for All Life on Earth.

Each year, our gathering is held under the canopy of a century-old Walnut Grove, where people join in prayer ceremony for the indigenous peoples of The United States of America. More than 200 Native American Nations were honored as each tribal name was announced and blessed by the attendees, praying May Peace Prevail On Earth for the ancestors of USA, followed with prayers for the 50 USA states and its territories.





Entertainment featured peace songs and music by Chris Farrell, Aliza Hava, Caitlin Keeler, Cecelia St. King and Nathan Mandracchia, Nepalese Drums & Dance, Japanese dance and Hawaiian dance, and special songs and peace message from Chinese-American children.



The activities for children and adults included Tea Ceremony, Beading, Piece by Peace, Origami Peace Cranes, Face Painting, Pinwheels for Peace, and a Peace Pals Presentation from Black Rock School and Longfellow School in Connecticut.



The finale was a beautifully orchestrated World Peace Prayer and Flag Ceremony, in which flag bearers carried a national flag representing the 195 countries of the world, as participants proudly proclaimed May Peace Prevail On Earth for the people and land in each country. The finale also included the release of the beautiful Monarch Butterflies by Pat du Plessis, from Rainbow's End Butterfly Farm.

It was a very sacred ceremony and symbolic to our existence, enveloping humanity, nature and mother earth in the process of metamorphosis, reminding us that transformation is possible, as is manifesting the Universal Prayer and Message,

May Peace Prevail On Earth!

Ann Marie Robustelli
The World Peace Prayer Society Headquarters

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

International Day of Peace celebrated at Good Counsel September 21

Students and faculty at Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary and High School in White Plains celebrated the International Day of Peace today, as designated by the United Nations.

Students of the elementary and high school explored the obstacles to peace in their lives, such as—according to the school—bullying and intimidation, spreading rumors, responding to anger with anger, hating people who are different, holding grudges, and putting themselves or others down.

There is a Peace Pole on the campus, installed in 2008, a hand-crafted monument that displays the prayer May Peace Prevail on Earth on each of its four sides, in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic.

This year, Good Counsel's Peace Pole was re-located to a more prominent spot near the front of the campus. Students followed behind, some wearing native costumes, while flags of different countries were planted around the pole and the students and faculty exchanged Gandhi's Universal Greeting of Peace.

Noreen O'Donnell, for the Hall Monitor

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

International Day of Peace event in Asheville on Tuesday, Sept. 21

Posted by Aiyanna Sezak-Blatt in [News](#) |

Peacetown Asheville and the Mountain Area Interfaith Forum invite the public to participate in a celebration at the "peace pole" near the Asheville City building in recognition of the International Day of Peace on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

ASHEVILLE—Peacetown Asheville invites all persons to participate in a community-wide celebration of peace on the International Day of Peace at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, September 21 at the City/County Plaza in Asheville. Area faith communities and others are asked to ring bells at 6:30 PM for five minutes to commence the program. Also included in the event will be the reading of the International Day of Peace proclamations issued by both Buncombe County and the City of Asheville, designating the day as a Day of Peace. International Day of Peace was initiated by the United Nations in 1981. Communities and organizations have been commemorating the ideals of working for peace annually since then. "We felt that this year is a particularly important year to recognize the absolute necessity of everyday peace work in our lives," says Judith Hallock, a longtime area peace activist. "All of us with Peacetown want to see our country de-escalate in Afghanistan, just as it's doing now in Iraq. As a community, we cannot afford to lose any more lives or important local funding here at home because of conflicts in the Middle East." Organizers plan to recognize special elders who have consistently worked for peace, and to encourage youth of the area as they take on peace work in their own way.

Joining Peacetown in planning the event are members of the Mountain Area Interfaith Forum, who want to promote the importance of religious tolerance as one road to peace. Participants will also focus on the Community

Peace Pole near the Plaza, originally placed there by the Girl Scouts. Members hope to begin to landscape around the Peace Pole in the future. Everyone is asked to bring a small stone to leave at the Peace Pole as a symbol of our collective commitment to continued work to promote peace. SpiritWings will release white doves to conclude the program.

Peacetown is a network of organized groups and individuals that works to guide, support, and connect, the local peace, antiwar and non-violent movements in WNC—promoting awareness of healing communications, mediations, & other positive behaviors—while creating a visible peace culture within our region.

JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

News Release: International Day of Peace to be celebrated at Lake Junaluska

September 16, 2010

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. – In conjunction with the 2010 Lake Junaluska Peace Conference, Lake Junaluska invites the community to attend a Gathering for Peace Tuesday, September 21, to celebrate the International Day of Peace with prayer.



“The International Day of Peace occurs during our annual Lake Junaluska Peace Conference,” said Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director of Lake Junaluska. “We invite all who hope for peace to join us as we gather to celebrate and pray for peace in our community, our individual lives, our nation, and the world.”

For Our World, a poem written in response to the events of September 11, 2001, by Mattie Stepanek (1990-2004), will be read at the Lake Junaluska Peace Pole gathering. Mattie, who was born with a rare disorder known as Dysautonomic Mitochondrial Myopathy, was a bestselling author, publishing six collections of his Heartsong poetry and one collection of peace essays that all became New York Time bestsellers. Mattie’s mother, Dr. Jeni Stepanek, will lead the Lake Junaluska Peace Celebration for Youth and Children, September 18-19.

“This poem was written by Mattie on 9/11/2001, as he watched his personal friends perish during terrorist attacks,” said Jeni Stepanek. “It is his response to universal questions of ‘What now? What next?’ He hoped that one day, these words would serve as an international poem for peace. It is my hope that these words now be spread around the world...and that they serve as a catalyst for changing mottos of ‘revenge’ into credos of ‘rebuild.’ We must rebuild the mosaic of humanity.”

“The International Day of Peace is a long-standing United Nations initiative, now celebrated globally on September 21,” commented Rev. Roger Dowdy, Director of Ministry Events at Lake Junaluska. “This connects Lake Junaluska to global peace, and we look forward to sharing this special event with persons from the surrounding communities.”

The Gathering for Peace will take place at 8:15 a.m. at the Lake Junaluska Peace Pole, which is located between Memorial Chapel and Stuart Auditorium. For more information and to read For Our World, please visit www.lakejunaluska.com/peace-celebration.

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH CELEBRATION Stories of Resilience and Inspiration from Young People

BETHLEHEM, Pa., September 19, 2010 - From Kyrgyzstan to Bethlehem, from Souderton to Poland, and throughout the Lehigh Valley, youth are engaged in meaningful and inspirational projects to promote peace in their lives, in their communities and throughout the world.

On **Sunday, September 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem**, inspirational young people shared their stories in a panel discussion. Dorothy J. Maver, Ph.D., President of the National Peace Academy shared an inspirational message and moderated the panel discussion. International performers Jackie Tice and Robbi Kumalo performed at this celebration.



The keynote youth speaker was Sayid Abdullaev who came to the USA to attend the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Since he was 10, Sayid has been involved in peace-building and human rights activities in his native Kyrgyzstan. He shared his story of growing up as a member of a minority ethnic group, Uighur, and the choices he made to help himself and others. Sayid's commitment to community involvement and leadership exemplifies the goals of both the International Year of Youth and the International Day of Peace.

Fifteen young people from Calvary Church of Souderton, PA joined with 200 additional youth from around the world for a week of 'Real Action' service projects in Łódź, Poland. Their pictures and stories showed how they made a difference for the town and for themselves.

Victoria, a recent graduate of the KidsPeace program, shared some of her challenges and how she has now changed her life and set goals. KidsPeace provides hope, help and healing to children overcoming crisis.

Young people in the audience were asked to share what inspires and supports them. The discussion included family, friends, the arts, education and community service.

Monica Willard, United Religions Initiative NGO Representative at the UN, led the group in a Minute of Silence for Peace and had the group together chant, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." She encouraged people to repeat this practice again at noon on September 21.

"Stories of Resilience and Inspiration" was presented by the United Religions Initiative and All Nations Peace for the International Year of Youth and for The International Day of Peace, September 21. The event was hosted by the Banana Factory. People of all ages came and were inspired by the accomplishments and dedication to peace of our youth!

Monica Willard
Representative to the United Nations
The United Religions Initiative

STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Students Observe International Day of Peace

September 22, 2010 at 3:14 pm

<http://olvchurchschool.wordpress.com/2010/09/22/students-observe-international-day-of-peace>

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School was the only local school to celebrate International Day of Peace on Sept. 21. The school hoped to spread Jesus' message of peace and his life as peacemaker to students and the community through the celebration.

The students were given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of programs during the school day. Morning prayer service and Peace Pole dedication in the morning. Students prayed and welcomed each other in peace as a group before closing with the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth".



Students gather in courtyard for International Day of Peace

Two assemblies were held by Officer T. J. Stec of the State College Police on anti-bullying. Students in grades 1-4 attended a morning assembly while students in grades 5-8 came later in the day. In the classroom, students created illustrations of the lyrics of "Let There Be Peace on Earth". During the evening, parents and community members were invited to "Sticks and Stones", a program presented by the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, to learn more about social and emotional effects of cyber-bullying.

There is also a new peace pole in the courtyard at OLV with the word "peace" written in several languages. "This is an effort on the part of the school to blend the mission of Catholic teaching with school learning and to bring awareness to students of world conflict," said Marjorie Plosky, of Catholic Charities of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese. "Celebrating International Day of Peace gives a platform for talking about Jesus as a peacemaker and teaching students to treat others as they would like to be treated."

International Day of Peace was founded by the United Nations in 1981 as an observance of peace and ceasefire around the world. Celebrated for the first time in 1982, the United Nations declared September 21 as the celebration's permanent date in 2002.



To learn more about International Day of Peace 2010 visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/2010/>.

STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



International Day of Peace Events at ESU Announced -

http://www4.esu.edu/aboutesu/univ_relations/news_media/releases_2010/release091510_2.cfm

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania will recognize and celebrate the United Nation's International Day of Peace on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. This year's theme for the Day of Peace is, "Youth for Peace and Development," and it is designed to be a call to young people around the world to take a stand for peace. Several university events surrounding the theme and day are planned and will be open to the general public at no cost unless otherwise noted.

ESU's observation of the Day of Peace will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a ceremony to dedicate a campus Peace Pole, a hand-crafted monument displaying the message and prayer, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on each of its sides in different languages. This event will take place in the pocket park between Linden Residence Hall and Shawnee Residence Halls on Normal Street and will feature guest speakers including: ESU President, Robert J. Dillman; Student Senate President, Emily Ward; Assistant Professor of Library Sciences, Ramona Hylton; and a member of ESU's ROTC program. The highlight of this ceremony will be the readings of the Peace Pole engravings in four languages – English, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese.



In conjunction with the Peace Pole Dedication, children from Mekeel Child Care Center at ESU will participate in the "Pinwheels for Peace Project." Each child from Mekeel will prepare a pinwheel for the ceremony. During the Peace Pole Ceremony, the children will place their pinwheels in the ground surrounding the Peace Pole. Additional pinwheels will be available for guests to place around the pole.

From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ESU will host a variety of "Creating Peace Workshops." These practical workshops are interactive so that participants walk away with methods, techniques or understanding to bring about internal and external peace.

The events for ESU's International Day of Peace are co-sponsored by The President's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity (CORED), Student Senate, Department of Residence Life, Student Art Association, Office of Enrollment Management, Office of Student Affairs, Service-Learning Initiative Committee, ARAMARK, the Campus Activities Board, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

Here in Southeast North America, Rev. Jacqueline Luck of the NE Tennessee CC and I drove to Charlotte, NC (a distance of 200 miles) to hear Charles Gibbs' keynote address at the IDP celebration of the IDP. As always, I learned from him both in the content of his talk as well as in the powerful way he presented it. We were joined with about 100 others from the greater Charlotte area, so we got in some productive networking with our colleagues in peace.

After a too-brief visit, Jacqueline and I drove back to Tennessee just in time to take part in our local CC's participation in the planting of a new Peace Pole at the Carver Park Community Garden.

<http://www.johnsoncitypress.com/News/article.php?ID=81517> We were delighted to have good media coverage <http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2010/sep/21/carver-recreation-center-dedicates-peace-pole-ar-518179> of the event, which gave URI strong visibility in this, my new home town. May the seeds of peace we have all planted on IDP this year grow and blossom around the world.



Blessings to all,

Sandy Westin, Regional Coordinator
United Religions Initiative in North America

Peace day: Carver, St. Mary's mark day with hopes of better world

By Madison Mathews
Press Staff Writer

At first glance a community garden and a Peace Pole don't seem like they would go together, but Sam Jones couldn't think of a better way to spread a message of religious tolerance and cooperation — especially when the pole was being dedicated on the International Day of Peace.

"It just fit well with this garden tonight and this setting, simply because ... when you break bread with someone, it's difficult to be angry with them. We all share that need for food in our lives," she said.

Jones, coordinator of the Carver Community Garden, and a small crowd of people gathered at Carver Park Tuesday evening for the dedication ceremony of the Peace Pole in observance of the Day of Peace and to honor the hard work of the gardeners and other members of the community who helped in creating the garden.

When Jones discovered the Day of Peace was being held on the same day of the planned community garden harvest potluck, she jumped at the opportunity to pave the way for religious tolerance within the community. "What better thing to plant in a garden but a Peace Pole. ... We're bringing people together here that are diverse," she said Tuesday before the ceremony began.

In addition to initially starting the community garden project about three years ago, Jones also is a member of the United Religions Initiative Cooperation Circle of Northeast Tennessee.

URI is an organization that has been around for about 10 years and reaches into 75 countries, representing about 475 Cooperation Circles around the world.

Given recent controversies, such as the proposed Islamic community center in New York, Jones said the installation of a Peace Pole, which features the phrase, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," written in Arabic, Spanish, English and Swahili, is exactly what people in the area need in order to spread the message of tolerance and peace.

"We're coming together tonight in hopes that all of that would just dissipate and we can just come together as human beings that love good food," she said.

Sandy Westin is the North American regional coordinator for URI and was on hand during Tuesday's ceremony. She said the installation of the pole was even more important due to the recent controversies.

"I'm learning every day what it means to be Baha'i, what it means to be Jewish, what it means to be Muslim. That enriches my life. That's something that we need to learn, especially as our world is shrinking," she said.

Westin said the Carver Peace Pole is something that will stand the test of time and the children who helped plant it would be able to reap the benefits of having a tolerant, peaceful area.

"Like here in Johnson City, people decided this was something that their town wanted and needed. Something that was a symbol of unity and diversity. And with four different languages here representing four of the subcultures, subcommunities of our area, it represents exactly that," she said.

The observance of the Day of Peace also spread to St. Mary's Catholic School where a group of students placed their wishes and prayers for peace on the limbs of a tree outside the school during a peace tag ceremony. Celebrating the Day of Peace is something St. Mary's has done for the past six years, and Principal Randi McKee said taking the time out of the students' day to reflect on peace is an important aspect of the school. "We work very hard here at St. Mary's creating peace among students, among faculty and staff. We have a very strict bullying policy, and we think peace is very important here at school and hopefully if all schools and all communities work towards peace then eventually it will be all over the world," she said.

Wishes ranging from worldwide peace to peace in third world countries were among the many wishes hung in the tree by students, including eighth-graders Kevin Stanhope, Clayton Mirage and Madison Jones.

"I think it's really powerful when you see all these people wishing for peace, you know. It's nice," Stanhope said. Both Mirage and Jones said having a day devoted to observing peace is an important thing for everyone. "If everybody does this, then there might be more peace than violence," Mirage said.

Jones agreed. "If our school can do this, we can get more people to do this and that will be good," she said.

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

Spiritual Directors International donated a peace pole to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace in Bellevue, WA, on International Peace Day, September 21, 2010.



CAMPBELLSPORT, WISCONSIN



Father Neil Zinthefer, pastor at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Campbellsport, and Michael Kurtz, administrator at St. Joseph Convent, Campbellsport, served as emcees at the convent's 2010 peace pole dedication ceremony.

The newly dedicated peace pole (2010) at St. Joseph Convent, Campbellsport, has "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight languages, representing the various ministries of the SSSF over the last 136 years.



Srs. Mariet Vattampurath and Ranita Madassery, employees at St. Joseph Convent, Campbellsport, participated in the combined unveiling of the peace pole and celebration of the convent being named an International Peace Site on Peace Day 2010.

CELEBRATE WORLD PEACE DAY, OR HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN PEACE POLE

Posted by Rose on July 30, 2010 · www.finecraftguild.com/celebrate-world-peace-day

I love World Peace Day. It's September 21, and hopefully every day hereafter.

While the UN initiated a world peace day as 'early' as 1981, it was not until 2001 that the date was set: The International Day of Peace is September 21.

- The UN "declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day.
- "Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire."



OK, world, let's unite to craft a Peace Pole.

I first saw these 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' poles in Canada, and thought it was a spin-off of its First Nation (aboriginal) totem poles. I learned since that these poles are part of the worldwide UN initiative.

I like these totem poles as they are so literally a stake in the ground for the best 'good cause' I can think of. Most peace poles are planted ceremonially on International Peace Day. Usually the ceremony includes prayers for world peace as well as peace poems and songs.

Here is your free online tutorial and free template to make your own peace pole for your family, football team, entire town, and ... global community.

I am posting this tutorial early, so that you have plenty of time to involve your community and purchase the lumber. I am always interested in final results, so send me your final peace pole pictures.

World Peace for All!

HUMANITY'S TEAM



57 Fairmont Avenue • Kingston, NY 12401 USA

www.humanitysteam.org

Humanity's Team — a 7-year-old NGO with more than 60,000 of supporters in more than 150 countries “awakening the world to oneness” through education, community-building and sacred activism — was proud to participate in the International Day of Peace.

Globally, Humanity's Team was a co-sponsor of PeaceWeek, organized by the Shift Network, and was responsible for arranging for Anwarul K. Chowdhury and Pete Seeger to be special guest speakers in the global telesummit. We were also an organizational partner in A Million Minutes for Peace. We promoted each event on our global Web site and through e-mail blasts to more than 70,000 people. Many teammates and Humanity's Team supporters told us they listened to the PeaceWeek conference calls and signed the Million Minutes for Peace pledge (in Spanish as well as English).

We also encouraged teammates around the world to pause for at least one minute on the International Day of Peace — we suggested 11:11 a.m. but said of course that any time would work — and invited them to pray or meditate for peace. “You can light a candle, sit in silent meditation, join with your Humanity's Team community or with co-workers — whatever works for you!” we said. We believe teammates in almost every Humanity's Team country participated.

Approximately 30 Humanity's Team countries had organized group events on the International Day of Peace. Here is a sampling:

Humanity's Team Canada asked its 2,500 teammates nationwide to pause at noon local time to pray that Peace May Prevail on Earth! Humanity's Team Quebec also participated in a four-day Festival of Peace in Victoriaville, central Quebec, which began on Sept. 18 and culminated on the International Day of Peace. All IDP activities were

promoted nationally through e-mail, the English and French Humanity's Team Canada Web sites and Facebook, Twitter and other social networks.

Photos of the Festival of Peace from Humanity's Team Canada:



Humanity's Team Deutschland invited its teammates to meditate, envisioning individual and collective peace, on the International Day of Peace. The meditation, done in people's homes and in small groups, was followed by a three-day "visioning" meeting with 15 Humanity's Team Deutschland coordinators and teammates in Fulda, central Germany's Hesse state. The meeting focused on how the movement could foster peace through oneness. Ideas generated in a brainstorming session included creating new ways of living together, developing new values in the economy and politics and other transformative thoughts. A follow-up meeting is planned for January or February to create a clear vision for peace through the movement.

Humanity's Team España created a program for young people, based on this year's Youth for Peace and Development theme, in which it brought several dozen young people together in Madrid and a similar number in Valencia and asked them to share "your vision for a sustainable world at peace in your lifetime." The exercise followed discussions about peace as meaning more than "a cessation of violence" and how embodying the Humanity's Team message of oneness is key to peace. The youth groups also heard Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message that day and watched the Peace One Day Celebration webcast. In the weeks before the International Day of Peace, Humanity's Team España had a special signature drive for teammates to sign the Million Minutes for Peace pledge.

As follow-ons to IDP, Humanity's Team Sevilla participated in the Culture of Peace's International Day of Peace Avalon Project on Sept. 25, joining more than 3,000 people in making a giant human peace sign with torches at Torre de los Perdigones in Seville's Macarena neighborhood. And a Humanity's Team España teammate represented Humanity's Team in early October at a University of Peace seminar in London.

Humanity's Team USA's Colorado community had a meeting and meditation in Boulder followed by a talk by Dr. Chavanna King, who spoke about a shift in consciousness as necessary for peace. In sharp relief, she also discussed her travels to Iran as a medical doctor to help children affected by chemical warfare.

Humanity's Team Venezuela had a Celebration of the International Day of Peace at its Havona Center in Caracas with meditations, lectures, children's paintings and poetry, songs, magic and other festivities. About 50 people participated. Another Humanity's Team group collaborated with Peace Promoters and "A Course in Miracles" students on a gathering at Caracas's Café Hogar Center that included meditation, songs, dance, a magic workshop and a peace workshop facilitated by artist-healer Silvia Jastram. Nearly 50 people participated in this too.

Following on to the International Day of Peace, about 60 people from Humanity's Team Venezuela participated in a peace meditation followed by free hugs and other forms of celebration at Parque La Llovizna in Puerto Ordaz, eastern Venezuela, on Sept. 25. Humanity's Team Venezuela promoted all three events on local radio and TV and through e-mail and social networks.

Photos of the Celebration of the International Day of Peace at the Havona Center from Humanity's Team Venezuela:



Photos of the gathering at Caracas's Café Hogar Center (the date-stamp from the camera in some photos is incorrect):



Photos of the peace meditation followed by free hugs and other forms of celebration at Parque La Llovizna in Puerto Ordaz:





Thank you very much for allowing Humanity's Team to provide this report on our activities to support the Culture of Peace on the International Day of Peace.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Love,
Gerry Harrington

SING PEACE AROUND THE WORLD

Come and join Montessori Schools from around the world as we sing for peace on the United Nation's International Day of Peace...

SING PEACE 2010!

<http://singpeacearoundtheworld.blogspot.com/2010/09/welcome-to-sing-peace-around-world-2010.html>

Come and sing the song that goes all the way around the world. From New Zealand to Hawaii, with over 80,000 children in 35 countries.

What a glorious day it will be!

All you need to do is learn the song and sing at 11am on September 21st 2010.

Then . . .

Leave a comment in the message below here and let us know you joined in the fun!

Kinder Haus Montessori in beautiful Mandeville, LA, in the USA will be singing the Peace Song around our Peace Pole at 11:00 a.m. central time on Tuesday, September 21st. We join with others across our state, country and world to declare that our wish for world peace will one day come true!

Blessings and love from the children and staff of Kinder Haus Montessori!

Chiaravalle Montessori School in Evanston, IL kept the song going at 11:00 a.m. Led by Middle School students and their peace banner, the younger students paraded with paper doves to our peace pole. We shared some quotations, placed peace rocks around the pole, then sang and signed together, 150 children and adults in all. (The Peace Pole was installed in front of the school in September 2009.)



SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

Reflections from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
<http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking>



Celebrate the International Day of Peace

How will you celebrate the International Day of Peace?

September 21 is set by the United Nations General assembly as the International Day of Peace - a day when the world is called to observe a ceasefire, practice nonviolence, and reflect on the benefits of peacefully resolving disputes. Here are some ideas for ways to celebrate this day:

- Ring your church bells
- Pray
- Create a peace prayer wall
- Organize a vigil
- Study nonviolence

Be one of A Million Minutes for Peace on September 21

Invite children, youth and young adults (and older adults!) to share their ideas for how peace can be pursued in writing, drawing, speaking, film or whatever media is appropriate

Invite peacemakers to reflect on their experiences and share their stories

Make origami cranes and display them

Dedicate (or rededicate) a peace pole

Clean up a portion of God's creation

Offer seminars and lectures about peace

Advocate on behalf of the START treaty (if it has not been ratified yet)

Tell the world that children are children, not soldiers

Address gun violence in your community

Use your imagination!

Share your ideas and information about your celebration with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

<http://www.squidoo.com/internationaldayofpeace>

This site is filled with colorful, information IDP resources. Here are some samples:

All About International Day of Peace

"Twenty-four hours is not a long time. But it is long enough to look over the barricades, or through the barbed wire, to see if there is another path."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan
New York, 21 September 2005

At United Nations Headquarters in New York, International Day of Peace is marked each year with a special ceremony near the Peace Bell.

During the opening ceremony, at noon local time, the President of the Assembly invites the delegates to stand for a minute of silence in observance of the Day.

Dedicate a peace pole, make peace flags, take a moment of silence at noon, text a message or join a concert. One voice, your voice CAN make a difference.

What Is Peace Day?

Read more about the history of this day and United Nations' involvement in fostering acts of peace, globally and locally.

Find or Organize an Event

Events all around the world are scheduled for September 21. Join one or start your own.

Join in via the Internet on Sept 21

Join others from around the world in celebration of this day of peace.

Become a Fan on Facebook!

International Day of Peace has it's own Facebook Fan page.

Peacebuilding

Peace building is different from peacemaking or peacekeeping. Find out more here.

The Peace Flag Project

Based on Tibetan prayer flags that cast their prayers to the winds, the peace flag project fosters making flags that hold people's dreams and wishes. Find out more here.

The Peace Pole Project

"May peace prevail on Earth" is the prayer and mantra used on Peace Day. More than 200,000 peace poles have been planted around the world. Find out more here.

Culture of Peace News Network

The Culture of Peace News Network is THE place to find out what is going on around the world and join in discussions with others. Readers exchange information about events, experiences, books, music, and web news that promote a culture of peace. It's a self-sustaining community with input by its creators including YOU.

Plant a Peace Pole

Many of the activities planned on Peace Day involve dedicating a Peace Pole and standing in silence for a minute at noon.

There are over 200,000 peace poles in 190 countries. Some of the unique locations of peace poles are:

Confucius grave in Taiwan

North Pole in Canada

Baghdad, Iraq

Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

Site of 2006 Winter Olympics

Ground Zero in New York

Diamond J Ranch, Ennis Montana

and so many more!

Peace poles are made in metal or wood and come with 4, 6, and 8 sides. Each side has the official prayer/mantra, **May peace prevail on Earth**. There are a gazillion languages you can choose from to have your mantra printed in...including animal pawprints!

Consider dedicating one in your neighborhood. You can quickly get a desk model peace pole from this [link](#), but otherwise your order will take 4-6 weeks.



We dedicate a Peace Pole at the Diamond J Ranch where I live



Planting peace poles

http://www.odemagazine.com/blogs/readers_blog/22589/planting_peace_poles



It's the week after Peace Day, and it's never too late to plant a peace pole. The photo above is the peace pole at Gizah.

I have one in my living room. Oh, not one of the big ones sunk into the floor! A small one on a stand. Here's the wiki:

"A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth," usually in a different language on each side. The message is referred to as a peace prayer.

"The idea of Peace Poles was brought up by Masahisa Goi. The Peace Pole Project today is furthered by The World Peace Prayer Society. Since then, more than 300,000 have been placed around the world, in 180 countries. There are a number of websites on the Internet that map the locations of Peace Poles around the world, such as May Peace Prevail On Earth.

"Peace Poles are made of many materials in varying sizes, from tall granite poles to small wooden ones. The text might be carved or etched or painted. In some cases it merely is a plastic sign attached with screws.

"Most people purchase their Peace Poles, but there are some who feel strongly that they should be made by hand by the owners. Some even feel that the materials should be found, as in trees that have fallen of their own accord. But others want a skilled artisan to create for them a work of art that will last for centuries, as with a stone peace pole for a public park.

"Peace Poles have been placed in such notable locations as the North Magnetic Pole, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, and the site of the Egyptian Pyramids in Giza, as well as numerous community parks. Frequently they are placed near the entrances of churches or schools. In one case, a garden, created for a wedding, was designed around the Peace Pole that was its center piece. The Republic of Molossia, a micronation, has a Peace Pole in eight languages.

"Perhaps the world's largest Peace Pole, at 52 feet, is located in Janesville, Wisconsin at the site of a KKK rally. The initial inspiration for planting Peace Poles often is as a response to a local issue like a KKK rally. Another of the largest Peace Poles in the world, as measured in tons if not height, is the granite Peace Pole in Beech Acres Park near Cincinnati, Ohio. The original inspiration for it was hate literature left in the driveways of Jewish residents."

To join the Peace Pole Project visit: www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html

Masahisa Goi founded The World Peace Prayer Society. He wrote:

"Words of the Founder: May Peace Prevail On Earth

"If you fling all of your thoughts into these simple words, and, from this prayer keep living your lives anew, before you know it your individualistic or cliquish feelings will diminish, and you will feel yourselves wishing for the happiness of mankind, with a feeling of humanitarian love welling up from within. Gradually, the individual's character will be approaching wholeness, and the person's lifestyle will strike a harmonious note - which is the greatest thing an individual can do for world peace.

"I believe that prayer for world peace is the single most needed good action in today's world for bringing peace to the individual life and, at the same time, for playing a larger role in the achievement of world peace.

"There has never been a time when each person's thought activity has been as important as it is today. One human being's thoughts, whether he or she is emitting light waves of love and sincerity or dark waves of egoistic desires, can move humanity either toward complete peace or devastation.

"Therefore, I encourage us all: Through prayer for world peace, let the original blueprint for a peaceful world be carried out to perfection as soon as possible, with the smallest amount of suffering. This is the desire of the great spirit of hope which lives deep within each human being. It was in the great design of the universe for this world peace prayer to come forth at this time and place. By means of this spirit of prayer, the dark waves surrounding humanity will gradually be purified and transformed into waves of bright light.

"I would like to ask each one of you to contemplate this truth, and to join in the movement for world peace through prayer, May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Oh, indeed may it!

For spiritual nourishment, please visit www.susancorso.com

posted by PeaceCorso on 9/27/2010



MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH