Since September 11th, the reality of interconnectedness and the simple “ability to respond” have truly been on display here in New York where thousands of people are missing or dead from the attacks on the World Trade Center; not only Americans and New Yorkers -- but people of many ethnicities, religions, and nationalities. Women, men, and animals have responded to the crisis by giving tirelessly of themselves in search, rescue, and consolation. Former Mayor David Dinkins once called New York City a “gorgeous mosaic” of humanity. That image has never been so starkly manifest than during these last few months. The City has banded together in a community of spirit made even stronger by the overwhelming expressions of love, support and concern from around the rest of the country and the world.

Now, as “we the people” of the earth are forced once again to contemplate the mysteries of an unknowable future, there seems to be a growing awareness among many of a "universal rhythmic movement" revealing itself through the synergies and synchronicities occurring in everyday lives. In this issue of The Bridging Tree we will explore some of those “blessed moments” that came to light during these last few months, as well as some of the ways in which “we the people” of the earth have shown the ability to respond to the crisis at hand.

Because the destruction and pain of war have been endured by so many for so long all over the world, The Lifebridge Foundation pledges its continued dedication to creating a culture of peace and to building bridges of understanding among all people across the globe. Meanwhile, we salute the vibrant courage of all those who innovate, create, educate, and serve. They perform the daily miracles that lead the way to a sustainable, inclusive, and better world for US ALL.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

From the Board of Directors and Staff of The Lifebridge Foundation:
Evelyn Hancock, Barbara L. Valocore, Jane Southall, Larry Auld and Robert Alan Silverstein.
Our world has changed and everyone knows it. The September 11 attacks have generated responses as diverse as humanity itself. While some reactions were predictable, such as that of the U.S. government, many individuals have responded by deepening their spiritual practice and profoundly searching for a meaningful life. To me, this spiritual response is the most significant factor in determining a sustainable future for our planet. Based on responses I’ve observed in the last few months, I hold great hope and confidence for the success of life on Earth. Is crisis truly opportunity as ancient Chinese philosophy states? Paradoxes are those fascinating mysteries that permeate our lives and seem to become highlighted in times of deep crisis. The following Lifebridge “diary” entries are indicative of some of those paradoxical, serendipitous moments on our recent journey here in New York.

**September 6** Resurgence Magazine responds to the current environmental crisis, opening a conference called “The Century of the Environment”, focusing attention on the need to restore the Earth (see pg. 8). I went to this meeting on the beautiful campus of Omega Institute and was filled with the luminous quality of heart energy deeply palpable there. It had a feeling of something new. People became ignited with vigor and determination to restore a planet on the brink of devastating environmental catastrophe.

**September 8** During a breakfast conversation with Jane Goodall, a presenter at Omega, I was struck by her considerable ability to respond to world need. She has dedicated herself to promoting the cause of a whole earth and to carrying the message of a clean and healthy environment into prisons, schools and elder homes. She travels ceaselessly all over the world talking to as many people as possible and establishing the Jane Goodall Institute network of “Roots and Shoots” volunteers.
(www.janegoodall.org). She influences thousands of lives and the measure of her soul is reflected in the number of people she is able to reach with the message of hope and spirituality.

**Sept. 10** The United Nations 54th Annual NGO conference begins on the theme, “The International Year of the Volunteer.” The Decade of the Culture of Peace also officially begins. Many groups from around the globe are gathered in anticipation of a rich experience. The spirit of giving is strong, and those countless thousands gathered are working tirelessly on the cause of a just and peaceful world — for free! They love and literally care for humanity and are therefore philanthropists in the truest sense of the word. Their “response-ability” is awesome and the weather is stunningly clear. Little do we yet know of the significance of a gathering on volunteerism (see pages 14-15).

**Sept. 11** 9:15 a.m. The United Nations. The International Day of Peace begins on another gorgeous day and several of us are gathered in the Japanese Peace garden waiting for Kofi Annan to ring the Bell of Peace prior to the opening session of the General Assembly. We now know the Trade Center has been hit, but continue with the meditation in progress even though we can see the smoke in the south. Kofi Annan never arrives and soon thereafter, the entire building is evacuated. From this moment on, life seems different. A little while later, many of us are gathered in a hotel room meditating amidst a city in chaos and dread. What else can we do?

**Sept. 12** As I drive home late afternoon, I am struck by the quality of the light. The trees on the Palisades Parkway are shimmering with golden vigor. The sky is gleaming and radiant. How is it possible that only a few miles away there is a toxic cloud of dust and debris under which thousands of people have instantly perished?

**Sept. 20-23** Talking with Angels, a one-woman play based on the experiences of 4 friends during WW II, (see pg. 10) is due for a limited run in New York. Shelly Mitchell, the producer/actor lives in California but decides indeed it’s the perfect time to present this inspiring piece to the New York audience. Being unable to fly, she drives alone across the country to make the opening. The setting of the play is Nazi occupied Hungary during the Holocaust and is eerily reflective of the current state of uncertainty and fear in New York. This profound piece of drama encourages the audience in their spiritual searching.

**Oct. 11** Heather Foxhall, director of the Rainbow Ark Foundation, with help from the Lifebridge staff, has been swiftly organizing a “wisdom council” on board the visiting Dutch tall ship, Europa. Within a few days, 27 people gather in New York Harbor for a few evening hours to probe the group wisdom. Participants share their deepest heart impressions while breathing toxic smoke from downtown. (See pgs. 13-14)

**Nov. 8-10** Corporate Strategy Summit. The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom presents a 3-day meeting designed to formulate strategies to curb the rights of corporate “persons” at the expense of human persons. It’s one of many efforts to build a true democratic movement which puts human welfare before corporate welfare. (See page 10)

**Nov. 22** Thanksgiving Day. American families gather to give thanks for their blessings. Prayer and quiet contemplation dominate as acts of grace stand side by side with unspeakable violence and “blessed moments”. People may feel less physically safe but seem more spiritually attuned and attempting to live in the moment. We have free will and can choose how we will live each moment. Do we choose joy and love or fear and terror? Spiritual “response-ability” is a quality of soul. In the realm of soul, we are all ONE. My prayer is that humanity will emerge transformed and ready to build a true global family based on the spiritual values of inclusiveness and respect for ALL life.

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The magnitude of grace is equal to the magnitude of the task, the voluntary, free-willed task.  
GRACE IS NOT KIND CHARITY,  
GRACE IS NOT RANDOM MERCY.  
GRACE IS A FACT:  
A RESPONSE: A CROWNING OF THE PURE ACT.  

*From Talking With Angels, transcribed by Gitta Mallasz*
A Sculpture Arrives in New York City  
— Before September 11th

About a week after the attacks on the World Trade Center, this large sculpture of a kneeling fireman appeared, seemingly out of nowhere, atop a makeshift wagon between West 45th and West 46th Streets on Eighth Avenue in midtown Manhattan — just two miles north of Ground Zero. New Yorkers began to gather around the sculpture, to light candles, leave flowers at its base, and read the story of how it got there. Following is that story, taken from a press release posted at the site.

The statue, originally commissioned by the Firefighters Association of Missouri in October 2000, was recently completed. It was custom manufactured by the Pittsburgh-based Matthews International Corporation’s plant in Parma, Italy for shipment to Missouri. The Missouri association said “yes” to Matthews’ request that they donate the work of art to New York with Matthews to supply the Missouri organization with another statue at a later date.

“We hope that this statue will serve as a source of inspiration to the numerous firefighters, police officers, emergency services personnel and volunteers who are working tirelessly in the rescue and recovery efforts at the site of the World Trade Center destruction,” said David J. DeCarlo, the president of Matthews’ Bronze Division.

“It was fate that the 2,700-pound statue entered the United States on September 9 at Kennedy Airport. The statue, which was originally intended to be shipped by ocean freight for a mid-October delivery, was air freighted to the United States to ensure the October delivery.” As it turned out, the statue arrived two days prior to the national disaster and was detained in customs during the closure of Kennedy Airport. It was released on September 17 and had it in midtown Manhattan by September 18. Another coincidence occurred when, on the day the bronze statue was released, The New York Post published a full-page photo of a fireman - in the same pose the statue depicts at “Ground Zero.”

Jane Goodall Speaks Out  
On “Ordinary People”  
— Before September 11th

In early September, 2001 — Barbara Valocore met with Jane Goodall on the occasion of a conference launching Resurgence Magazine in the United States (see pgs. 2,3, 8 & 11). At that time, Ms. Goodall made some statements about the valiant contributions of ordinary people.

“Success is measured by business skills, making money — it’s measured by success in the arts or some who act in show business and like that, sport. But where is that label of success given to somebody who’s a really decent human being? … We have to go to University, we have to go to business school, we have to get into the top sports thing, otherwise we’re just...OK...or we’ve totally failed and we’re down in the sort of lost area. But there are whole great masses of people in the middle who make the planet work. People who are good mothers and good fathers, and they’re good employees. They’re never mentioned and it’s so important. They’re what makes life continue. If everybody was a prima donna sports star or pop singer or multi-million dollar person, business executive, the world would be horrible! They’re forgotten!”
Ten Things You Can Do to Shape History
by Fran Korten

Millions of Americans, in shock over the terrorist attacks of September 11, are now watching in apprehension as our leaders call for war and the curtailment of our civil rights. What can we do? Let your voice be heard! The Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES! Magazine, have compiled a list of 10 things you can do. Remember, every time you speak up, you give courage to others to do the same.

1. **Reconnect with your spiritual foundation.** Let yourself experience your full range of feelings at this time. Reconnect with the spiritual force that animates the best in you. Then let your every action flow from your strength and compassion. The prayers on [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org) may help.

2. **Write or call your congressman and local government officials.** Handwritten faxes and letters are the best; phone calls next; emails third in effectiveness. Be succinct. To learn how to contact your U.S. representative go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov); to contact your U.S. senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

3. **Write letters to the editor.** Bring your own unique experiences to bear to make a simple point. See links on [yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org) for sample letters to the editor.

4. **Get on talk shows.** Phone into local and national shows—not just NPR, but commercial stations as well, to tell of your own reactions, a relevant incident, what an organization you belong to is doing. You can also add your comments on many websites. Visit [yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org) for some helpful talking points.

5. **Gather in groups.** Don’t let the television paralyze you into passivity. Gather at your place of worship, in your neighborhood, at work, at school to discuss your reactions. Give everyone a chance to speak and affirm the legitimacy of everyone’s feelings. Plan actions that contribute to the relief and advocacy efforts of others and develop your own unique activities. This is a great time for singing an inter-faith celebration of compassion and goodwill can help a lot!

6. **Talk to the kids.** Talk to them straight at the level they can absorb and show your compassionate side. Turn off the TV and strictly limit their exposure to the endless images of violence and pain. A terrific book for the 10-15 year old set is Jingo by Terry Pratchett.

7. **Sign a petition, join a rally.** Numbers count! On [yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org) you'll find a link to several excellent petitions. You may know of others. Sign on to something and join in events that send a big message.

8. **Show support for people of color.** People who look foreign are especially vulnerable at this time. Go to a Middle Eastern restaurant; talk with people of Arab descent; go to a mosque; join the growing movement to establish Hate-free zones in cities and towns across the country (for more information on Hate-Free Zones, see [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)).

9. **Learn more.** Learn about the Middle East, about responses to international crises, about international law and the appropriate responses to acts of terrorism. See analyses on [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org); also the website of the Institute of Policy Studies ([http://www.ips-dc.org](http://www.ips-dc.org)) ; and you can find much more at [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org) and [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org).

10. **Take time to play, to laugh, and to enjoy the exquisite gift of life, to let your own soul be a source of goodness in this universe.**

Fran Korten is Executive Director of The Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES! Magazine. If you would like to know more about The Positive Futures Network visit [www.futurenet.org](http://www.futurenet.org). To obtain information about YES! Magazine, visit [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org), write The Positive Futures Network, PO Box 10818, Bainbridge, WA 98110, email yes@futurenet.org or call 206-842-0216
Throughout these past several weeks, I, like many others, have had to live with a range of feelings as I work at integrating the events of 9/11—a frightening emergency call that announced that our lives as we know them have changed forever. The question that has haunted me since that day still remains: “What shall we say to the children?”

Let me explain. The children I’m talking about are the 150,000 in the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program who believe and try to follow the words of Gandhi, that it is possible to live in peace. They attend schools that are committed to making social and emotional learning an integral part of their curriculum frameworks. Rather than metal detectors, these schools have developed a different set of weapons against violence—ones that I have come to call “weapons of the spirit”: identifying and managing emotions, practicing nonviolent communication, using relationship-building skills when problem solving and negotiating, perspective taking, and appreciation for diversity.

When this crisis hit, I knew one thing for certain—that these RCCP teachers and administrators, who were already committed to creating caring and respectful learning environments, would have a better chance of creating the kind of climate needed for helping children through crisis. These classrooms were already places with a high degree of physical and psychological safety, where children could share their questions and fears openly. These students were equipped with some of the critical skills needed for such a situation. They already possessed some of the skills that strengthened their capacity to listen to one another and be able to explore multiple perspectives around different issues.

Furthermore, I suspect that many of the children of RCCP know that September 11th is the UN International Day of Peace, as well as the anniversary of the Camp David accords. They know that the UN had proclaimed 2001-2010 as the Decade of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World. Our children have been taught when conflict escalates on the playground, that there are many options for resolution, including finding a mediator. They’ve learned that retaliation usually leads to the other person getting angrier and even striking back, escalating the situation even more. They know the difference between justice and retaliation and that emotions such as anger and even rage can be changed into constructive moral action and expressions of caring and support. So what shall I say to the children when they ask me, “could no mediator be found? Is there not some International Court of Justice that can prosecute such crimes against humanity?” What can we say to children about the messages they are hearing from adults in our world about answering this astounding bout of violence with more violence? How can I tell these children that we have given up on the power of nonviolence as a viable force?

Our children have learned how to deal with feelings of anger without harming others. They know that anger is an appropriate response when reacting to horrible atrocities and that it is important to acknowledge and recognize these feelings. They are also aware that many other feelings hide beneath the surface of “the anger iceberg,” including shock, fear, guilt, despair. Yet they have learned between the stimulus for their emotions and a knee-jerk reaction we have the option to choose how we might respond.

Our children have learned the healing power of love and respect and understanding. They see the connection between the way they treat one another and the way they will treat the world when they are in charge. They have learned that violence has its root causes in such things as poverty. These children who have been learning the skills of peacemaking since they’ve been in kindergarten also understand how hate grows—how it counts on us not knowing our targets and therefore ignoring their needs and cries. They also know about stereotyping and scapegoating. And
they know how to interrupt the acts of bias and discrimination they witness. They have come to celebrate and respect the diversity in their schools and communities.

So what shall I say when they ask about an Arab-American’s pizza store that has been torched to the ground, or countless other Muslim people who have been beaten? What about when they hear about Arab-American children their age who feel so intimidated and afraid they want to change their names to hide their ethnicity?

These children attend peaceable schools where there are no metal detectors or surveillance cameras or locker searches. Their safety is being created not by attempting to decrease violence, but by increasing the culture of nonviolence. They know there is little connection between high technology defense systems and increased safety in schools. These children know that any defense against violence in school or elsewhere begins with an intentional and courageous effort to find nonviolent solutions to conflict. So what shall I say to the children when they wonder why our country believes that military action can stop terrorism rather than accelerate its growth?

I want to tell our children that I strongly feel the dilemmas of our times are deeply spiritual ones that our children need to be prepared to meet.

I want to celebrate those in our country who, in spite of such a challenge, are keeping hope alive and deepening our inner lives through connection and soul searching. Across the United States, we are gathering in community events, prayer vigils, and taking moral action. We are reclaiming our sense of meaning and purpose, community, and connection, as individuals and as a country.

I want to say to our children that there are many of us who have not given up on the power of nonviolence. Nor have we given up on providing a safe, caring, and supportive school environment that welcomes all of who children are into the classroom. I want to say to our children that I will continue to pray and struggle and work for a world where their thoughts and feeling are heard; a world in which thoughtful dialogue about complex and controversial issues is welcomed; a world in which prejudice, discrimination, and hatred have no place; a world in which there are many opportunities for children to engage and actively participate in our democratic process as we meaningfully contribute to improve the lives of others and improve the world around them.

I want to tell our children that I believe in and will struggle and work for Gandhi’s words to become a living reality: “If we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children; and if they grow up in their natural innocence we won’t have to struggle. We won’t have to pass fruitless, idle resolutions but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which the whole world is hungering.

Linda Lantieri is the Founding Director of the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program of Educators for Social Responsibility, which supports the program in 400 schools at 16 sites in the United States. Started in 1985, RCCP is now one of the largest and longest running research-based school (K-8) programs in social and emotional learning in the country. She is also the Director of the New York Satellite office of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) whose central offices are at the University of Chicago (UIC). CASEL’s mission is to promote social and emotional learning as an integral part of education in schools. She is the co-author of Waging Peace in Our Schools and editor of the new book, Schools with Spirit.
I WAS IN NEW YORK. I was staying only two miles from the World Trade Center. I saw with my own eyes the second plane hitting the south tower of the World Trade Center, the fireball, the buildings collapsing and that horrible mushroom of black smoke and dust. Standing on 7th Avenue, watching it all, I was horrified. Using innocent people to destroy innocent people is criminal to a degree that simply cannot be articulated. Cries of "Oh my God, Oh my God, Oh my God" went out. Yet, I also knew that in the midst of the horror, grace and wisdom must prevail.

The lives of the great Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. show us, from East and West, examples of what nonviolence can accomplish. But these are only examples: The full power of nonviolence has yet to be explored. Faced with this crisis, we can begin to discover the full richness of that potential. The power of armies and the might of the atom bomb have been found wanting. A razor blade used with deep hatred has left nuclear weapons impotent.

Violence has been used throughout human history and still, it does not bring us worthy results. If the American people could only choose a nonviolent response, their action would be seen throughout the world not as weakness, but as the deepest and most purposeful moral strength.

The destruction of the World Trade Center is the tip of an iceberg, the visible demonstration of a terrible hatred and fear in the world against the wealthy, powerful and rich countries, epitomized by the United States of America. In Seattle, in Genoa, in the bombing of the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, we have seen how the frustration of the weak and dispossessed manifests itself in violent protest. If we do not take the path of nonviolence, there will be other terrorist attacks. This fact is utterly predictable. Violence begets violence. We must unearth the roots of terrorism and commit ourselves to resolving the causes of such hatred.

Governments must provide for the security and defense of their citizens. But parallel with that protection, we must create a new international culture of peace. Peace is the ultimate security, greater than that provided by any government or any armed entity. We spend so much money on our armed forces and weapons. If half of those resources could be devoted to resolving conflicts peacefully, then we might see some good coming out of this tragic act.

Violence must be overcome with nonviolence; love must overcome hatred. A terrible fire now inflames the heart and soul of America. But when such a fire rages, we must quench it with the cooling waters of compassion. Only in this way can we create a lasting testament; that the sacrifice of so many will not go in vain but will be used to lead people into a new flowering of peace and nonviolence. This is statesmanship, this is true leadership.

America was unable to resolve the situation in Vietnam through war, but only by negotiation. Peace was brought to Northern Ireland also by talking. Therefore, let there be a conference of all aggrieved parties under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva, where Saddam Hussein, Bin Laden, Hizbullah, Hamas, Taliban and other organizations forced into pursuing the path of terrorism can come face-to-face with the governments of the USA, Israel, and other nations of the world. Parallel to the efforts against terrorism, let us try to remove the causes of terrorism. As Tony Blair once said, "Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime."

If we can resolve conflict in Vietnam and Northern Ireland through negotiation, we should be able to do so in the Middle East and elsewhere. So, let us establish a new Commission for Conflict Resolution under the umbrella of the UN. Perhaps Mikhail Gorbachev could be invited to be the head of such a Commission: well-funded and well-resourced, working towards peaceful solutions to all the outstanding causes of terrorism. Such a Commission should have total impartiality and moral authority so that it can command the respect of all parties, in order for justice, compromise and compassion to be promoted throughout the world. This is constructive leadership.

This article is reprinted from the November-December, 2001 issue of Resurgence magazine by permission. To subscribe to Resurgence visit their website at <www.resurgence.org>, call 011-44-1237-441-203 or email: ed@resurge.demon.co.uk
This past summer I decided that my life in New York had finally panned out in a series of dead ends and closures. With no clear options opened to me in New York, I decided to move out to Seattle where my father had been encouraging me to join him for the past year. I had never been close with my father and I had begun to feel that it was now or never. In the wake of 9/11, however, there was an even more heightened awareness of the fleeting nature of the universe.

For years I have traveled back and forth through the states visiting relatives. I have always dreaded the antagonism that I have faced on the road since the acquisition of New York license plates. On this trip, taken less than a month after the Twin Towers disaster, I found a far more sympathetic and sentimentally friendly America. The nation it seems had discovered a deeper and more human New York as it watched the volunteers scrape up the rubble. America seemed less focused on the greed and arrogance of the City, and for the first time in my living memory, focused on its humanity.

As I drove down Highway 87, I could not see the skyline of Manhattan to the East, but I contemplated the missing towers in my mind’s eye. I visualized a tarot card called the “tower” that depicts a tall building struck by lightning, in flames, and crumbling to the ground. The card represents a destruction of outmoded forms in our lives to make way for the creation of new more useful structures. Moving away from New York, my home for the last 16 years, was without doubt a collapse of my personal towers of familiarity. The World, New York and I had awakened to a new world in which the familiar could no longer be taken for granted.

I pulled into the small college where I would sleep on the couch of a young student that I had met last summer. The college was bustling with activity. There were kissing couples, knapsack packing youths, girls bemoaning grades one minute and skipping down the hill the next. The only visible signs of war was a U.S. flag entirely blocking the view of a dorm window and a poster for a candlelight vigil that had occurred shortly after 9/11. I asked my friend Laura how she was responding to the bombing. She said, “I’m taking my studies more seriously.” She is studying the history of religion, but they haven’t yet touched the history of Islam. When she asked me about my response, I cracked, “So far, three tension headaches, a fever blister, and a bad case of acne. Do you think it’s anthrax?” But as I drifted off to sleep that night, I thought of Afghan refugees walking through the dust. Despite the anxiety I felt over all the changes that I was facing personally, I was thankful to be safe and warm and clean.

The next day I headed off through the Appalachian mountains. I saw smoke filling three valleys before I drove by an entire half a mountain on fire. The fire came right up to the edge of the highway. There is no tarot card for burning mountains and I wondered what the meaning could be. Later in a hotel room outside of Lexington, Kentucky, I heard a news report stating that arson was suspected. I thought of all the explosions in the mountains of Afghanistan and I wondered if they were on fire. I could understand being angry with The World Bank, the World Trade Centers, the Taliban, and many other things, but I could not understand being angry at a mountain.

Later, in Kansas, a woman with Vermont plates drove by me and waved. I think I reminded her of home. In Utah an older woman asked me if I had heard about the plane crash in Queens, New York. She said she thought that it was Armageddon and that I am smart to be getting out while the getting is good. Should I have said that no one gets “out” of something like Armageddon? Should I have said that my Dodge Coronet is not a chariot and that Utah isn’t heaven? No. Instead I just helped her fuss with her broken gas pump.

In a town called Mountain Home, Idaho I met a man named Mark. He is employed by the U.S. government to design jets. He said he has sacrificed his life for this nation and has never gotten any respect for it. He is ostracized in his small town. The townsfolk fear him, he thinks, because he is a world traveler. It didn’t seem to me that he would ever find comfort from his loneliness in a town that he saw full of “little” people that he disdained. Sometimes it’s appropriate to cut down the overly full and to heap praise upon the modest. As I headed out on the final day of my journey I was aware that it had been days since I had seen green vegetation. I thought of all the explosions in the destruction of roads in dusty Afghanistan and I began to wonder what would become of me in Seattle. How would I sustain myself? But about fifty miles outside of that city, there in the sky before me stretched a broad-banded rainbow. I should say of course that Seattle gets a lot of rainbows. Instead I’ll just say that I am chasing rainbows. After all, it may be now or never.

For the past number of years, Melissa (“Annie”) Wood has been employed by The Lifebridge Foundation as a much needed and much loved staff liaison for the Lifebridge Grantee Gatherings. Hopefully she will be joining us again next year for the Spring, 2002 Gathering.
The Lifebridge Foundation pre-selects all of its grantees. Brief letters of introduction are accepted throughout the year and are kept on file. Beginning in 2002, re-grants will be considered during the first half of the year. Decisions will be made on new grantees as conditions warrant.

Grantee Section – Winter 2001-2002

Constructing a path of Peace Poles at the Olympic Village for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. One Peace Pole for each of the 80 participating countries will remain in Salt Lake City as a lasting reminder of the Olympic Games and the universal message and prayer “May Peace Prevail On Earth.”

WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM, NY METRO BRANCH
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Molly Klopot, Chairperson
WILPF, the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, sponsored a US Strategy Summit on global corporate power and democracy on November 8-10 in New York City to “create space for activists with a broad range of knowledge, skills, ideologies, and experiences to share their vision” so that more effective strategies could be found to replace the stranglehold of global corporate power with true democracy.” The progressive activists assembled and agreed that “…solidarity is a word that indicates a form of global connection in which difference is respected, autonomy is preserved and power is developed as a shared process of collective creation. It is a positive word indicating not simply what we oppose, but an alternative way of being-in-common.” The participants also agreed that global corporate exploitation was an absolute obstacle to “free, highly individuated individuals living in free, highly communal societies”. For more information on other outcomes of the US Strategy Summit and to find out about future activities, meetings, and events, visit http://www.nowto.org/summit/ or contact the WILPF.

TALKING WITH ANGELS
Shelley Mitchell
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Actress/playwright Shelley Mitchell adapted Gita Mallasz’s book for the stage, and won “Best Show of the 1999 San Francisco Fringe Theatre Festival.” Talking with Angels is based on a true story about four Hungarian friends on a spiritual search during the darkest days of World War II who find meaning through some extraordinary communicators which they called ‘angels.’ Talking With Angels will have a return engagement in New York from April 24-May 19, 2002.

WORLD PEACE PRAYER SOCIETY
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The World Peace Prayer Society will be
Time now seems to be measured in terms of “before” and “after”. The date of September 11th is stamped indelibly on our collective psyches. A return to “normal” seems only dimly possible — if by “normal” we mean ordinary, typical, or routine. The times we live in are by no means ordinary and call for extraordinary responses. Here are only some of those.

In New York, Healing Works (www.healingworks.org) immediately instituted bereavement counseling, stress reduction, and trauma counseling workshops free of charge to anyone in need. Global Kids responded by providing workshops to educate teachers and youth workers about the issues behind the shocking events so that global perspectives can be integrated into ongoing educational programs. GK also created a space on their website for kids to respond to the tragedy (http://www.globalkids.org/youth_center/911.html).

Similarly, Global Youth Connect’s website (www.globalyouthconnect.org) lists a compilation of actions, educational resources and articles to help activists begin to make sense of the tragic events of September and provide ideas for taking action. As well, both of the above-mentioned youth organizations, along with Global Youth Action Network, joined other young people on October 12th in a peace demonstration in front of MTV studios in Times Square (see photos on pgs. 2 and 7). And I*EARN, a computer networking youth organization, canceled its awards gala benefit in order to concentrate resources on linking American schools with those in Muslim and other countries.

Within one hour of the attacks, The Interfaith Center of New York became a spiritual “ground zero” fielding over 80 calls from media, local government agencies, libraries, colleges, individuals seeking guidance or offering help. Similar requests continue and long-term programs are in the works. In Manhattan, the Center on Violence and Human Survival, whose work focuses on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, responded within a week by initiating a comprehensive psychological study of the World Trade Center attacks. The study is headed by Robert Jay Lifton and Charles B. Strozier. Lifton has intelligently analyzed and reported on the psychology of traumatic events such as Hiroshima and Strozier’s recent book Apocalypse: On the Psychology of Fundamentalism in America was based on a major study on the psychology of nuclear threat.

The 9th Annual Prayer Vigil for the Earth, a grassroots, volunteer event, took place on the Mall in Washington DC, only eleven days after the terrorist attacks. Says Sharon Franquemont of The Circle, “It was a miracle we were given permission. Although the fear factor was large and we had to reschedule all the air reservations...everything went smoothly. Prayer was the only thing given approval and actually happening on the Mall or on the Hill that weekend. We had the largest turnout ever.”

Coincidental to the events in September, (if anything is ever simply “coincidental”) Minnesota’s Growing Communities for Peace released The Compassionate Rebel – Energized by Anger, Motivated by Love, a collection of interviews and stories about people who create change not simply through rebellion, but also because they care. And, as reported elsewhere in The Bridging Tree (see pgs. 2-3), just days before the tragedy, the Resurgence magazine conference gathered activists of all kinds to listen to and engage with the wisdom of such well known presenters as Jane Goodall, Hazel Henderson, James Hillman, and Amory Lovins. So many of our grantees have been working for so long on making a better world that their readiness to respond has not been surprising. Neither are the serendipitous incidents surrounding the Rainbow Ark Foundation’s wisdom council of October 11th (see pg.12-13) nor the fortuitous appearance of relevant projects from new grantees Talking with Angels, World Peace Prayer Society, and USA Strategy Summit - at exactly the right time. There is solace in knowing that somehow, pieces of the “big puzzle” do fit together.
In response to the urgent desire of people to commune, to exchange thoughts and feelings, and to “do something” positive after the attacks of September 11th, Heather Foxhall, of The Rainbow Ark Foundation in Ojai, California, in association with The Lifebridge Foundation, precipitated a spontaneous, serendipitous “wisdom council” on board the Europa, a Dutch Tall Ship which just “happened to be” docked in New York’s Hudson River harbor on October 11th, the one-month anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. That evening, the synergy in the air was palpable.

### The Council Circle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Aguilar</td>
<td>Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>Larry Auld</td>
<td>The Lifebridge Foundation</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Penn Priscilla Barry</td>
<td>Writer, artist, film/theater director</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>John Beck</td>
<td>New York Open Center</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Kymbali Craig</td>
<td>Playback Players</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Donna DeSalvo</td>
<td>Filmmaker – Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>Craig Eisendrath</td>
<td>Author - National Insecurities</td>
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<td>Gary Ferdman</td>
<td>Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities</td>
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<td>Heather Foxhall</td>
<td>The Rainbow Ark Foundation</td>
<td>Ojai, California</td>
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<td>David Gandy</td>
<td>Playback Players</td>
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<td>Maureen Garrett</td>
<td>Actor – New York, NY</td>
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<td>Andre Gregory</td>
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<td>Marguerite Hamden</td>
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<td>Sheila Hixon</td>
<td>Member - Roshi Bernie Glassman's The Peacemakers Community</td>
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<td>Pam Lippe</td>
<td>Executive Director – Earth Day NYC</td>
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<td>Artistic Director – Playback Players</td>
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<td>Miriam Miedzian</td>
<td>Author – Boys Will Be Boys</td>
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<td>CEO, Media Minds/AMR</td>
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<td>Flash Rosenberg</td>
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<td>Alice Slater</td>
<td>The Grace Foundation</td>
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<td>Barbara Valocore</td>
<td>The Lifebridge Foundation</td>
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<td>Gigi Van Deckter</td>
<td>International Business Consultant</td>
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And also participating with the utmost in hospitality, good nature and support ——

**The Crew of the Dutch Tall Ship Europa**

—-docked beside the USS Intrepid in New York on October 11th, 2001
On October 11, 2001, The Rainbow Ark Foundation and The Lifebridge Foundation gathered a council of peacemakers and media makers on board a symbolic Rainbow Ark (The Dutch Tall Ship Europa, docked beside the USS Intrepid on the Hudson River) in order to attempt to heal a part of the ancient collective broken heart at the core of it's most recent break, New York City. It is an ancient broken heart that has suffered so many losses ... that has experienced so many terrors. During the two hour council, many emotions rose to the surface of our collective chalice. Anger...sorrow...fear...and hope...yes...even hope.

"I feel so hopeful, right now," said Alice Slater of The Grace Foundation, as she hugged me right after the council, "...so incredibly hopeful."

red...whatever ideology we hold and insist is right, whatever our ethnic group, when someone is suffering, a touch of a hand, a prayer or a kiss can generate a greater healing than a banner or a demonstration.

"I wasn't sure at first if my prayer was well received in the circle," said minister Louise Riskin of the Mount Nebo Church in Harlem. "I'm so used to gathering with groups that come together with an [overt] spiritual intention. This Council was so varied...people coming from all walks of life...and yet there was this togetherness, those of science with those of us that are more spiritually oriented...I think that's the importance of these kinds of Councils...this togetherness."

"I was able to access and process such deep grief and finally feel some closure," said filmmaker Donna DeSalvo about her experience of the Council.

"I was able to access and process such deep grief and finally feel some closure," said filmmaker Donna DeSalvo about her experience of the Council.

Our individual pain slices right through the illusion of righteousness to show us the fragility of life.

"I felt so fed," Jennifer Muller said, "fed and wanting more...more time together, more contact. It all went by too quickly."

Yes, the time was indeed short and there is a definite need to hold more of these Councils...now...right now. But no matter what the actual amount of time was, it allowed our hearts to speak and hopefully, begin to heal — as well as to seed the intention for a greater collective healing.

In this Age of Information, in a society of “experts“ always looking outside for the answer, we are able to download facts from the internet at lightning speed, yet this enormous expansion of knowledge has not allowed us the time or the space to tap into our own inner wisdom...the truth of our hearts.

Diane Periman, a psychotherapist from Philadelphia, was able to access some inner wisdom on that warm October evening. "I was able to get to a level of clarity about how to possibly heal the collective trauma."

Whether Jew, Buddhist, Christian, black, white,
I slept and dreamed that life was joy,
I awoke and saw that life was service,
I acted and behold, service was joy.
- Rabindranath Tagore

**NGOs Today: Diversity of the Volunteer Experience** was the theme of the United Nations 54th Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which was held (in association with the UN Department of Public Information) on September 10-11, 2001. The conference highlighted the spirit of volunteerism that provides the people power, the energy, and most of the funds required to carry out the diverse activities that help create a better world and build a culture of peace.

Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his opening remarks, thanked NGO representatives for embodying the ideals of service and solidarity and for daring to believe that together, we can make the world a better place. During the conference, many workshops addressed how volunteers are making a difference.

Two primarily NGO groups, the Spiritual Caucus and the Values Caucus, prepared a workshop for the conference to help infuse the UN community with positive energy, to experiment with new ways of working with each other, and to model what we can be to promote the evolving goals of the UN. The workshop also was to explore how volunteering expands resources and increases synergy when one takes a service-oriented approach. Because it was scheduled for September 11, the workshop quickly took a different form. The surprising events of the day instead led participants into two days of meditation and inspirational gatherings to hearten those directly affected by the crisis and to support each other both spiritually and emotionally.

These two caucuses have met in community since September 11 to process how the events of that day impacted each member and to explore how priorities and work have changed in light of the cultural shifts.

The members of the Spiritual Caucus at the UN continue to work together by meditating twice monthly in support of the good work and the spiritual foundations of the United Nations. Other NGO volunteers around the planet are also responding to the shifts and changes in very positive ways. Airline Ambassadors, a group of flight attendants and airline personnel continue to deliver emergency aid worldwide despite increased risks. On the ground, United Nations Volunteers programme (www.unv.org) is adding volunteers in Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan to help with water and sanitation, public health, food distribution and other relief activities. At the local level, countless volunteer efforts are also having great impact.

The United Nations system is recognizing the importance that volunteers play in making the world a better place. To support the efforts of volunteers, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (www.iyv2001.org) with the objective of enhancing the recognition, promotion, facilitation and networking of volunteer contributions worldwide. Their hope is to unleash a new movement which creates a better understanding of how local voluntary efforts have a chain effect and a wide impact at the global level.

Those of us who were involved in the conference and the workshop on Volunteering: A Path of Joyful Service now invite you to join us, as if we were all there at the UN, in a virtual workshop — to explore how your own volunteer work energizes and inspires you in a joyful way.

If you would like to join us, imagine you are at United Nations Headquarters in New York with 100 volunteers from around the world. The room is a-buzz with people speaking in different languages and very excited to learn from each other about mutual endeavors to build on what is working in the world.

The workshop begins with a moment of silence and each participant says his/her name and country. Next everyone gets a chance to introduce themselves to members of a smaller group by telling what they value most about their volunteer work. If you’d like to participate in a virtual way, think about a time when you were
engaged in joyful service as a volunteer - a time when you were truly energized and fulfilled by your service, when you felt resourceful and “in sync” working synergistically with others. With that “volunteer” experience in mind, take a moment to answer the following questions:

♦ What about your volunteer service energized and inspired you?
♦ How did you feel during this service?
♦ What sustained your work?
♦ What were some tools and techniques you used as an individual or as a group that made it a successful, energizing, experience and expanded your work of joyful service?
♦ In what ways did your work contribute to creating a better world and building a culture of peace?
♦ What did you learn from this experience?

Please send your answer to these virtual workshop questions to The Spiritual Caucus at the UN, 320 East 42nd Street #2401, New York, NY 10017, or email patrickun@aol.com. We will send a summary of the answers to each participant in this virtual UN/NGO workshop!

Patrick McNamara is an organizational consultant working with spiritual and social transformation organizations to help them “live” their mission statements. He would like to thank May East, Martha Gallahue, Avon Mattison, and Nancy Roof for their input into this article.

UN CALENDAR
January – June 2002
Special Days and Weeks

February
21  Mother Language Day

March
8  Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace
21  Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21-27  Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
22  World Day for Water
23  World Meteorological Day

April
7  World Health Day
23  World Book and Copyright Day

May
3  World Press Freedom Day
15  International Day of Families
17  World Telecommunication Day
25-31  Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
27  International Day for Biological Diversity
31  World No-Tobacco Day

June
4  Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5  World Environment Day
17  World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20  World Refugee Day
26  Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
26  Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Information Provided by:
Steve Nation
UN Days & Years Meditation Initiative
PO Box 58
Paekakariki, New Zealand.
Web: www.intuition-in-service.org
Email: info@intuition-in-service.org

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Ralph C. Meyer
Brooklyn, New York
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To contribute to the work of The Lifebridge Foundation, contact us at P.O. Box 327, High Falls, New York, 12440 or call 845-338-6418. We welcome contributions of any amount. Checks should be made payable to The Lifebridge Foundation.
The Lifebridge Foundation, Inc. was established in 1992 for the purpose of supporting organizations and individuals who, through cultural, educational, and/or scientific means, are dedicated to creating bridges of understanding among all people by bringing to realization the concepts of one humanity and the interconnectedness of all life.

We support groups and individuals whose innovative projects reflect these concepts; whose work exemplifies a global vision, demonstrates a spirit of inclusiveness, and fosters transformative action in a changing world.

“The Bridging Tree

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