The life of Dr. Martin Luther King shines like the sun through the clouds which hover over this nation, casting a beam of light whenever darkness seeks to envelope us, illuminating our way over the rocky, perilous ground until we can envision the upward path towards social and economic justice.

In his speech thirty five years ago at Riverside Church in New York City, Dr. King created the synthesis of peace and civil rights. "Somehow this madness must cease," Dr. King said then of the annihilation of the Vietnamese people and their nation. "I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted."

Once again the hopes of people of two nations are being smashed by weapons in the name of eliminating weapons. Let us abolish weapons of mass destruction at home. Joblessness is a weapon of mass destruction. Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction. Hunger is a weapon of mass destruction. Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction. Poor health care is a weapon of mass destruction. Poor education is a weapon of mass destruction. Discrimination is a weapon of mass destruction.

Let us abolish such weapons of mass destruction here at home. Let us use hundreds of billions of our tax dollars, which some would cast upon Iraq in bombs and warring troops, instead for the restoration of the American Dream, to rebuild our economy and to expand opportunities for all. We have a duty to assert our human needs as a people and not to yield them for the base concerns of an unresponsive government: We have a right to a job. We have a right to decent housing. We have a right to health care. We have a right to food fit to eat, air fit to breathe and water fit to drink. Peace is a civil right which makes other human rights possible. Peace is the precondition for our existence. Peace permits our continued existence.

"I speak as a citizen of the world," Dr. King said, "for the world, as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our nation: The great initiative in this war is ours, the initiative to stop it must be ours."

In his exploration of the philosophical underpinnings of America, in a work entitled "To Begin the World Anew," Bernard Bailyn writes of that long ago moment of democratic ferment which produced the world's grandest experiment with democracy through "the recasting of the world of power, the re-formation of the structure of public authority, of the accepted forms of governance, obedience, and resistance, in practice as well as in theory."

Such was the creativity of our Founders. They used the creative energy of their hearts and spirits to change the world. Why has our creativity turned destructive? We need no longer to be destructive with war. It is time to be creative in peace.

Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. It is time to make his dream a reality. It is time to take the revolutionary life of Dr. King and make nonviolence an organizing principle in our society. It is the practical and pragmatic thing to do in order to continue life on this planet. We can do so. And we must do so. Legislation to create a Department of Peace would build not only a structure for peace within our government, but infuse a consciousness for peace within our society, as has the Department of Defense reflected a consciousness of war.

It is time to create new possibilities in human relations, in economics, in governance, in politics and in all areas of endeavor. We can make war and poverty archaic and usher in a new era of human dignity by making peace and prosperity our daily work.

This day [Martin Luther King Day, 2003] is a day to reflect on the ability of one person to make a difference. This day is a day to reflect on how one person can change the thinking of a nation and the world. This day is to celebrate our human potential to transform any condition, to change darkness into light, slavery into freedom, poverty into prosperity, war into peace, let us honor America's apostle of nonviolence by truly rededicating ourselves to his work. Let us make the vision of Dr. King, that vision of liberty and harmony, a reality. Let us confirm our commitment to all civil rights and let us declare peace a civil right in a democracy, a human right in this world.

Dennis Kucinich is Ohio's 10th Congressional District Representative to the US House of Representatives. The above is excerpted from a speech given by Rep. Kucinich on Martin Luther King Day, January 19, 2003.
Peace Is Not a Dirty Word - by Louise Diamond

Some weeks ago I was a guest on a call-in talk radio show based in Washington DC. I was asked to give my views on the war in Iraq, which was just then winding down. The show’s host was a moderate, and his questions were thoughtful and non-inflammatory.

Imagine my surprise, then, when callers began hurling angry and mean-spirited comments at us both. They seemed to have two major gripes: that anyone supporting peace must be unpatriotic, and that the Arab world was an inferior member of the human family and required America’s help to bring it into the 21st century. I left that show wondering when peace had become such a dirty word, and how such blatant and unabashed prejudice could so mar our public discourse.

In these last months I have heard from many people that to be against the war in Iraq is to be a traitor. I have heard from business leaders that they have to be very careful what they say and do, and that they may lose customers if the very word ‘peace’ appears in anything associated with their business, because peace is ‘anti-commercial.’

Some years ago I had my first peek into the mindset that holds peace in a negative light. I was talking with a businessman about the work of peacebuilding and conflict resolution around the world, and he reacted strongly to the word ‘peace.’ When I asked him why it had such negative connotations for him, he replied that he had fought in World War II, and was proud of his military service, but that during the Vietnam War era, his son, in protesting World War II, and was proud of his military service, but that during the Vietnam War era, his son, in protesting the war, had demeaned and discredited the armed forces. In other words, what he valued was repudiated in the name of ‘peace.’ At that moment, I committed myself to reclaiming the word ‘peace’ in our society.

Many people associate peace with being soft and wimpy; impractical and unrealistic; or downright irrelevant. In times of war, it is our soldiers who are revered and honored. Yet as one who has worked in places of deep-rooted ethnic and communal conflict around the world, I can tell you that those who work for peace are my true heroes and heroines. They are the most courageous people I know. It is not only soldiers who risk their lives in war. The peacebuilders also put their families, their jobs, their standing in their communities, and often their lives on the line by reaching out to the ‘enemy’ for dialogue and understanding, by seeking win/win solutions, and by offering a vision for a better future for all.

Peacebuilders are also among the most practical and relevant people I know. They protect human rights, build bridges for healing and reconciliation, work to liberate and re-integrate child soldiers, seek justice where injustice thrives, and defy their communities’ propaganda machines by educating the people (and especially the children) in ways of peace and conflict resolution. They practice nonviolent resistance to despotism, and may be imprisoned, jailed, tortured, and executed for their beliefs and their actions.

Peacebuilders do not collude with the mindset that dehumanizes and demonizes ‘the other,’ seeking instead to listen, to discuss, to learn, to feel compassion for, and to see themselves in the other, the other in themselves. They realize that violence only begets more violence, that polarization only splits us further apart, and that ‘either/or’ thinking eliminates creative possibilities, and so they seek alternatives to violence, refuse to be caught in the limiting web of ‘us versus them’ rhetoric, and will not tolerate the categorizing or labeling of people based on their group identity (of race, nationality, gender, religion, etc.).

Peacebuilders understand that we all have to live together on this one planet we all call home, despite our many differences, and so they look to honor those differences instead of making them the cause for conflict or coercion. They refuse to see violence as the way to solve problems, or to be caught up in cycles of hatred and revenge, preferring to keep their hearts and minds open to finding common ground and shared interests with their so-called opponents.

Who are these peacebuilders I speak of? You will likely never hear their names or see their faces on television; they will not receive medals or awards. They come from all walks of life, and can be found in every country I have ever been to, including our own. They are old and young, poor and rich, highly educated and barely literate. They number in the millions. They work for religious rights in China; they reach across the Green Line to hold dialogues between Israelis and Palestinians; they offer peer mediation programs in our schools. Peacebuilders work for peace inside themselves, for civil discourse in society, and for global comity and community.

What drives them to stay on the peace path – sometimes at great personal risk – is that they have somehow touched the ideal of peace – that same ideal that is held in every one of the world’s major religions as one of our highest spiritual values.

It is this above all that fuels my incredulity when I meet...
people who hold such a negative view of peace. Peace is what all our religions teach us is the goal of human life, the outer expression of our spiritual heritage as beings made in the image of God. Our great religious figures, past and present, are revered as peacemakers. Jesus is the Prince of Peace; he reminds us that 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.' His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a Nobel Peace Laureate. Similar messages and figures can be found in other religions as well.

Our country was founded on principles that are synonymous with peace – liberty, justice, and equality. Peace values and nourishes life; it builds rather than destroys; it appreciates rather than denigrates. Peace is inclusive, embracing everyone as beautiful and unique and necessary to the whole circle of life. It speaks to the brotherhood and sisterhood of all, leaving no child behind, nor any elder either. Peace is about the open heart, an expression of compassion, empathy, and love. It exists as a living spirit within us, a template of who we can be, all we can be, if we so choose. Finding inner peace, and creating peace on earth, are the two greatest journeys we can take as human beings.

I believe the peacemakers and peacemakers of our world are the leaders of our human family, taking us to our evolutionary edge and showing us what it means to be responsible world citizens and dignified human beings, able to transcend the baser elements of our nature and work instead from our highest values and principles. I feel privileged to be counted among their number. I am proud to use the word ‘peace’ every chance I get: to own a business called The Peace Company, and to write books called The Peace Book and The Courage for Peace. I am fervent about supporting legislation that will create a cabinet-level Department of Peace in our government. I am unwavering in seeking a culture of peace in our society, rather than the current pervading culture of violence, and in supporting the UN Decade of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World.

In short, because of my values and my life experiences, I celebrate peace in all that I do, and I choose it as a way of life. The next time someone demeanes me or others as ‘peaceniks’ I will refer them to the New Testament, the Torah, or the Koran. The next time someone calls me unpatriotic because of my work for peace, I will refer them to the US Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Pledge of Allegiance. And the next time someone tells me peace is for wimps, I will remind them of the man who stood alone, in front of the tank in Tiananmen Square in 1989. For me, that picture says it all.

Louise Diamond is the author of 3 books about peace, the Chancellor Emeritus of the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy and the President of The Peace Company. (ThePeaceCompany.com)

War and Peace
by Barbara L. Valocore

The recorded history of humanity has been marked by wars; we remember where we were during a war, how our lives were impacted, and on what "side" our countries stood. We sing about wars in our national anthems. Wars are the historical benchmarks of our collective memory, are testaments to our cruelty, our illusion of separateness and our inability to see ourselves as a single human race and part of the greater whole. And yet, in the 20th Century, some of the most repressive regimes have fallen without long and brutal wars. Gandhi freed India from a long domination by the British Empire through an unshakable policy of nonviolence, the Berlin Wall fell suddenly amidst cheers and joyous weeping, and the brutal era of Apartheid ended with much less violence than expected.

War and peace are generally considered opposites, but wouldn’t conflict and peace be more accurate? After all, war is the result of an irresolvable conflict, the final "solution" to a perceived stalemate. We’ve all experienced conflict of some kind and can well remember the feeling when the conflict was resolved, when our tension eased and there was "peace". Peace can be thought of as a state of equilibrium, of balance and free flowing energy, not stagnant, but a dynamic and useful condition made all the more sweet because of the difficulty preceding it.

The articles in this issue of the Bridging Tree present reasonable and practical peace building solutions. Universal peace education, the concept of peace as a human right, and yes, the abolition of nuclear weapons are all sound and achievable objectives to which every person can contribute their energies. There are countless groups, large and small, working for peace at the local and international levels. Departments of Peace are being formed in many countries and the International Day of Peace, September 21, may very likely become the first real international day of recognition. Most importantly, public opinion is demanding that nonviolence be a powerful and effective tool for positive change and an organizing principle in national affairs. Let’s make war illegal and begin to heal ourselves and our planet.

"World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just the absence of violence but the manifestation of human compassion."
— His Holiness, the Dalai Lama

Barbara L. Valocore has been President of The Lifebridge Foundation Board of Directors since 1992.
Ten Reasons to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

1. Fulfill Existing Obligations
2. Stop Nuclear Weapons Proliferation
3. Prevent Nuclear Terrorism
4. Avoid Nuclear Accidents
5. Cease the Immorality of Threatening Mass Murder
6. Reverse Concentration of Power
7. Promote Democratic Openness
8. Halt the Drain on Resources
9. Heed Warnings by Distinguished Leaders
10. Meet Our Responsibility

1. Fulfill Existing Obligations. The nuclear weapons states have made solemn promises to the international community to negotiate in good faith to achieve nuclear disarmament. The United States, Russia, Britain, France and China accepted this obligation when they signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and extended their promises at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and again at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. India and Pakistan, which are not signatories of the NPT, have committed themselves to abolish their nuclear arsenals if the other nuclear weapons states agree to do so. The only nuclear weapons state that has not made this promise is Israel, and surely it could be convinced to do so if the other nuclear weapons states agreed to the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The International Court of Justice, the world's highest court, unanimously highlighted the obligation to nuclear disarmament in its 1996 Opinion: "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control." This means an obligation to reduce the world's nuclear arsenals to zero.

2. Stop Nuclear Weapons Proliferation. The failure of the nuclear weapons states to act to eliminate their nuclear arsenals will likely result in the proliferation of nuclear weapons to other nations. If the nuclear weapons states continue to maintain the position that nuclear weapons preserve their security, it is only reasonable that other nations with less powerful military forces, such as North Korea, will decide that their security should also be maintained by nuclear arsenals. Without substantial progress toward nuclear disarmament, the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be in jeopardy when the parties to the treaty meet for the NPT Review Conference in the year 2005.

3. Prevent Nuclear Terrorism. The very existence of nuclear weapons and their production endanger our safety because they are susceptible to terrorist exploitation. Nuclear weapons and production sites all over the world are vulnerable to terrorist attack or to theft of weapons or weapons-grade materials. Russia, due to the breakup of the former Soviet Union, has a weakened command and control system, making their substantial arsenal especially vulnerable to terrorists. In addition, nuclear weapons are not helpful in defending against or responding to terrorism because nuclear weapons cannot target a group that is unlocatable.

4. Avoid Nuclear Accidents. The risk of accidental war through miscommunication, miscalculation or malfunction is especially dangerous given the thousands of nuclear warheads deployed and on high alert status. Given the short time periods available in which to make decisions about whether or not a state is under nuclear attack, and whether to launch a retaliatory response, the risk of miscalculation is high. In addition, the breakup of the former Soviet Union has weakened Russia's early warning system, since many parts of this system were located outside of Russia, and this increases the likelihood of a nuclear accident.

5. Cease the Immorality of Threatening Mass Murder. It is highly immoral to base the security of a nation on the threat to destroy cities and potentially murder millions of people. This immoral policy is named nuclear deterrence, and it is relied upon by all nuclear weapons states. Nuclear deterrence is a dangerous policy. Its implementation places humanity and most forms of life in jeopardy of annihilation.

6. Reverse Concentration of Power. Nuclear weapons undermine democracy by giving a few individuals the power to destroy the world as we know it. No one should have this much power. If these individuals make a mistake or misjudgment, everyone in the world will pay for it.

7. Promote Democratic Openness. Decisions about nuclear weapons have been made largely in secrecy with little involvement from the public. In the United States, for example, nuclear weapons policy is set forth in highly
classified documents, which are not made available to the public and come to public attention only by leaks. On this most important of all issues facing humanity, there is no informed consent of the people.

8. Halt the Drain on Resources. Nuclear weapons have drained resources, including scientific resources, from other more productive uses. A 1998 study by the Brookings Institution found that the United States alone had spent more than $5.5 trillion on nuclear weapons programs between 1940 and 1996. The United States continues to spend some $25-$35 billion annually on research, development and maintenance of its nuclear arsenal. All of these misspent resources represent lost opportunities for improving the health, education and welfare of the people of the world.

9. Heed Warnings by Distinguished Leaders. Distinguished leaders throughout the world, including generals, admirals, heads of state and government, scientists and Nobel Peace Laureates, have warned of the dangers inherent in relying upon nuclear weapons for security. These warnings have gone unheeded by the leaders of nuclear weapons states.

10. Meet Our Responsibility. We each have a responsibility to our children, grandchildren and future generations to end the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity and all life. This is a responsibility unique in human history. If we do not accept responsibility to speak out and act for a world free of nuclear weapons, who will?

David Krieger is president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (www.wagingpeace.org), an organization that envisions “a world at peace, free of the threat of war and free of weapons of mass destruction.”

FindingHope by Richard Falk

There are some extraordinary things happening in the world that should give us at least vectors for the struggle to create a better world, should give us a sense of what is possible. To begin with, we have the unfolding of the first genuinely global peace movement that is mobilizing large segments of the population of free societies everywhere. It is unprecedented to have countries opposed to the American war policies directed at Iraq by between 85 and 90 percent, even when these countries are led by governments supportive of Washington, as in the case of England, Italy and Spain. These governments, ignoring the overwhelming sentiments of their own people, are for various reasons supporting the war policy being pushed so hard by the White House. So we have unfolding, I think, a great popular movement of global scope that subscribes to a vision of a better world that is not addicted to militarism and violence as the path to global security. It is perhaps an occasion of perverse encouragement that the United States Government felt so isolated that it had to boast of acquiring a new ally, Bulgaria, to demonstrate that it was winning over uncommitted governments throughout the world. I would, in contrast, say with enthusiasm, “Thank God for the ‘old Europe.’” Let us wish for the return of “old America”!

There are other encouraging things happening in reaction to this growing sense that it is a time to begin to propose alternative ways to arrange the world, that it is not enough to oppose the American global design. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, gave an extraordinary speech of welcome on February 24, 2003 to the Non-Aligned Movement that was meeting in Kuala Lumpur and brought together the representatives of more than a hundred countries from the south. Mahathir said that it was time for the countries of the world, led by the countries of the south, to mount a campaign to make war conditionally illegal and that it would be a contribution to world order if the non-aligned states would take the lead by repudiating war as an instrument of national policy. He also said, “Isn’t it time that all the countries in the world were put under the same constraint as Japan and limited to spending one percent of their GNP on military budget?” When Mahathir put forth this bold proposal, he reportedly received huge applause from the assembled leaders of the 116 member states of the Non-Aligned Movement. I believe we live increasingly at a time when there exists a renewed receptivity to bold ideas that might have been dismissed as utopian just a few years ago. Jonathan Schell has an eloquent essay in the March 2003 issue of Harpers Magazine on the futility of war as a way of solving the problems confronting humankind.

More and more people here and abroad are turning away from their fears of terrorists to their fears associated with the pursuit of global dominance by the sole remaining superpower. Such a dramatic turn of mind can help us here to build our own movement that will represent a commitment to a future based on liberty at home, peace with equity abroad, and a restored confidence in the continuing viability of our constitutional arrangements.

I also feel strongly that we have an opportunity, at this time of challenge, to turn toward the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, adopting the tactics and values of nonviolent struggle, a type of faith and militancy that can truly claim Jesus and the Buddha as spiritual forebears. We need to infuse our educational experience from start to finish with the
relevance of a nonviolent pedagogy, from the earliest moments of schooling to the last hours of our lives. We need to purge our own political culture of the violence that finds stockpiled at home or collectively expressed by the deployment of weapons of mass destruction around the world. I am convinced that if we are able to disseminate this nonviolent pedagogy, that good things will begin to happen in ways we cannot now anticipate. Such an altered climate will also affirm a culture of human rights as integral to the quest for an alternative to the kind of future that the Bush Administration is offering us.

It is essential that activists around the world revitalize these elements of a global campaign for a more democratic world. And, finally, I think if we genuinely want to restore our security and our sense of democracy, we have to reinvent what it means to have a functioning representative democracy that isn’t distorted by money, isn’t distorted by a sense of electoral impotence. We have a problem within this country that is far deeper than the dangers posed by the Bush administration. We have a Democratic Party that is scared to act as an opposition party even when the country is deeply divided and confused, and on a matter as vital as the ultimate choice of war or peace. We have a Congress that is awkwardly impassive and largely silent when it should be impressively active and impassioned. We have a media that is orchestrating the society for war and conformity, rather than facilitating an invigorating debate about what policies are in the best interests of the country. We must address these issues in a spirit of civic urgency if we as a people and as a world are to reinvent the kind of democracy we all need if the 21st century is to become a success eventually, overcoming this most disturbing of beginnings.

I continue to hope and pray that there are richly imaginative forces of resistance and change that will halt this drift toward the sort of political catastrophe that I have identified with global fascism. I think more and more of us do understand that this is a moment where we have to accept a share of responsibility for the future. It will not be easy to change the course of world history or to rein in the exercise of American power. There are formidable obstacles arrayed against such a change of direction, but we should be engaged on the basis of what we believe is right and necessary, not by a sober calculation of the odds of success.

Some words of W. H. Auden express, with a shriek, our dire circumstances: "We who are about to die, demand a miracle."

Professor Richard Falk is the Albert G. Milbank Professor Emeritus of International Law and Practice at Princeton University and Visiting Distinguished Professor of Global Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He serves as the chair of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Excerpts above are from Professor Falk’s remarks on the occasion of the 2nd Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity’s Future, A project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. For further information visit www.wagingpeace.org

...The Hague Appeal for Peace is not satisfied with making it safe for children during conflict, although that also must be done. We believe that children will only be safe if war is outlawed, and violence reduced. We are committed to infusing the atmosphere with the idea that a new century requires new ideas. Every century has a description, a definition, is known for its accomplishments. What an opportunity we have to create a century of reconciliation, a time to abolish war. “War is not an instinct,” said Spain’s playwright, Ortega y Gasset, “but an invention”. The institutions of slavery, colonialism and apartheid were once accepted, coveted, supported by laws and paid for by taxes. But they became so repugnant to society, so outrageous, that people became outraged and overturned them. So, too, the time has come for war to go. It will take time, but we can begin to create the institutional changes that are necessary to enable peace to be a respected human right, to move from a culture of violence which defined the last century to a culture of peace which must define the 21st century.

1. School. For those children who go to school, it may be the most organized time of their life. School years are a time when parents and children have a common focus, when most children around the world, irrespective of their language, geographic location or culture, study at least three skills: reading, writing and arithmetic, known in English as the three "R’s". I believe a new century requires a new skill, peacemaking. It is time to think of peace education, or reconciliation as the 4th "R".

2. Teachers may be the most important people on earth. Every future head of state, every ambassador, every foreign minister, and every CEO of every corporation will pass through teachers’ hands. Yet they are underpaid, saddled with classes too big to handle and their own training is limited. Teachers need more attention, better preparation, better pay and smaller classes. Then they can be asked to take on a new subject, peace education. Without additional resources and support, teachers have every right to resist being asked to increase their teaching load. But we can not expect to have a peaceful people without teaching peace. Peace does not come with our DNA. We need to learn to confront our biases, to control our aggression, to reach out to those who are "different" or strange to us. We need to go beyond "talk, don't fight". We need to train teachers to understand Dr. Martin Luther King's idea that, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

3. Where there are no schools, where girls are denied formal education, or where adults gather to learn outside the classroom, community or non formal education needs
support. Of course everyone should have schools and girls should never be denied an education. Peace education is a natural for community consideration. Conflict resolution programs often begin in the non formal sector, and indigenous peoples have developed their own resolution mechanisms, which we would do well to learn. The community is home to local initiatives to re-integrate former combatants into society, as is happening now in Sierra Leone even as the fighting continues. But conflict prevention must also be taught so people on the ground can become whistle blowers, warning the world of impending dangers.

4. Women who represent the majority of the poor, the majority of the illiterate, the majority of refugees, and the majority of the population, are not a party to any negotiation where the fate of humanity is at stake. No peace agreement, no negotiation, can be sustained without women at the table. If an agreement is to be implemented we need women to implement it, and to do that women need to be at the negotiation. Not just one woman, but a significant number.

Are these dreams? Is it a dream that fighting isn’t requisite? Is it a dream that we could introduce a new required course on peace in all schools? Is it a dream that women should be at all negotiating tables? “When we dream alone it is just a dream, but when we dream together it becomes reality.” Dom Helder Camara, Brazil. Our own poet, Carl Sandburg said, “Nothing happens unless first a dream.”

It is time to infuse the atmosphere with ideas to which people will say, why not? Why not abolish nuclear weapons? Why not add peace education to the curriculum? Why not put women at all negotiating tables? Why not make it illegal for any nation to spend more on their military than on health and education combined? If Costa Rica can survive without an army, without an air force, without a navy - they say the ants are their army, the fish their navy and the birds their air force - why not other countries follow their example? Why not seek the participation of young people in everything we do, after all, the world will soon be theirs. They fight our wars, we bury them and glorify the war. Why not abolish war? Why not?

5. Peace will ultimately depend on more than disarmament. There can be no peace without gender equality. No peace with poverty. No peace with environmental degradation. Peace will require the elimination of land mines. And the end to impunity. Peace requires respect for human rights including economic rights. Peace requires human security, not national security.

Finally, it will be civil society, not governments, that will lead the way, propose the route, design the steps, and press the governments and inter-governmental agencies like the UN, to adopt the measures needed. Otherwise, humanity is at stake, and our future is in doubt. The 21st shall be the century of organized civil society. Governments have failed. It’s going to be up to us to create the models, to be sure we are democratic, gender balanced, inclusive with youth, the elderly, faith based people, and victims. We will invite interested governments to send representatives to our deliberations, and especially, we will invite people from the United Nations and its remarkable agencies. Bringing these three categories of humanity together is now known as the new democratic diplomacy. We watched at the Hague Appeal for Peace conference as this troika method worked. Decisions about peace making can not be sustained without the active participation of the three groups.

I am persuaded that we will prevail. One day we will see our grandchild give birth to a baby who will look up at its mother and ask, Mommy, what is war?

Cora Weiss is President of The Hague Appeal for Peace. The above article is excerpted from a speech entitled “A New Century Calls for New Ideas: The Role of Civil Society and Peace Education” given by Ms. Weiss on June 1, 2000 at the Foundation for Peace and Child in Athens, Greece. For more information visit www.haguepeace.org
The United Nations established the International Day of Peace in November of 1981 and first celebrated it on the opening day of the General Assembly in September of 1982. Pathways To Peace was there when it began and continues to work with the UN and many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to keep observing the International Day of Peace. Through publications, informal consultations and events, the International Day of Peace has been continuously celebrated in communities throughout the world.

In 1983, Robert Muller, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations at the time, designated Pathways To Peace as the "International Secretariat" for a coalition of international NGOs, which later became the WE THE PEOPLES' Initiative. This initiative is designed to build international cooperation for the International Day of Peace. Each member organization reports its International Day of Peace activities and compilations of these reports are submitted each year to the United Nations.

In its early years, until 1985, International Day of Peace efforts were concentrated in San Francisco, as it is the birthplace of the United Nations and Pathways to Peace headquarters. A network of dedicated community leaders was developed. People from faith communities, schools, businesses, the military, the arts, the handicapped and the homeless gathered to plan events. Activities took place at City Hall, in schools, universities and businesses, and Grace Cathedral housed 18-hour International Day of Peace Vigils in 1984 and 1985. In 1987, Pathways To Peace had been granted the special honor of "Peace Messenger" status by Secretary-General Jose de Cuellar.

In 1997, the UN Department of Public Information introduced an annual youth program into its commemoration of the International Day of Peace. Pathways To Peace and the World Peace Prayer Society began working closely with the UN DPI on this new project and initiated additional world-wide involvement through Internet outreach and the WE THE PEOPLES network.

There are some core elements to the annual UN youth event: 1) Mrs. Nane Annan, wife of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, welcomes the youth; 2) The World Peace Prayer Society organizes a Flag Ceremony that sends messages of peace to each Member State as their flag is presented by the participants; and 3) at noon, the program has a Minute of Silence that ends with the ringing of the peace bell and a rousing chorus of "May Peace Prevail on Earth," thus emphasizing the Minute of Silence for the International Day of Peace that annually opens the General Assembly Session.

In 1998, the 50th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping Operations, the youth program had special guest appearances from newly named Messenger of Peace, Muhammad Ali, along with drummers from the Broadway musical, "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk."

In 1999, the International Day of Peace linked Pathways to Peace's program with UNESCO, to launch the Year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace and declare 2001-2010 as the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World. By September 19, 2000, Millennium Peace Day had over 800 participants and many new collaborators. Special guests included Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Betty Williams from Ireland, First Lady of Columbia Mrs. Nohora Puyana de Pastrana and Mexican artist Jacqueline Ripstein. Young people from Brazil, Colombia, India, France and Algeria symbolically delivered more than 60,000 Signatures for the Manifesto 2000, a peace pledge developed by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and UNESCO, to the President of the General Assembly. Music, dance and art combined with messages from the speakers left everyone hopeful for a Thousand Years of Peace! But as most now know, The International Day of Peace in 2001 was September 11. The youth program was canceled in New York as the world joined us in mourning those who died in New York City, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania.

In 2002, September 21 was declared as the set date for the International Day of Peace and also proclaimed as a Day for cease-fire and non-violence. Along with the new date and resolution came an increased interest from NGOs and the UN. Pathways To Peace promoted the International Day of Peace Vigil (see page 12) and helped bring additional publicity to the observance of the Day by facilitating TV appearances by Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall and Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Information Sashi Tharoor. The youth event at the UN on September 23, 2002 involved teleconferencing with youth at 6 different Peacekeeping areas: Sarajevo, Kosovo, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Bosnia Herzegovina and Ethiopia, and Pathways To Peace presented Mrs. Annan with a beautiful Lithograph for the 20th Anniversary of the International Day of Peace.

In March of 2003, an International Day of Peace NGO Committee was formed to work with the United Nations Steering Group for the observance of the International Day of Peace. The NGO Committee is co-chaired by Pathways To Peace and The World Peace Prayer Society and represents the NGO community on the UN Steering Group. As part of the work of this committee, Pathways is hosting www.internationaldayofpeace.org. On this site you can find many ways to participate.

Avon Mattison is the President of Pathways to Peace, an NGO associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. Monica Willard is Pathways' UN Representative.
Secretary-General Kofi Annan rang the Peace Bell in the United Nations Garden for the 2002 International Day of Peace, launching an International Day of Peace Vigil organized by non-governmental organizations and supported by the United Nations. UN offices, groups and individuals in countries around the world joined in celebrating the International Day of Peace in many ways. Following are some of the many activities that took place.

“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE
For 20 years, this UN Peace Messenger/NGO Initiative has focused on the International Day of Peace. Activities among more than 200 organizations worldwide included a minute of silence observed at noon in each time zone and inter-generational community activities building a Culture of Peace. (www.WeThePeoples.org)

PAKISTAN AND INDIA
1200 children from eight schools observed the Day by holding special assemblies and by painting the school wall.

UN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
The Peace Bell on the grounds of the UN headquarters in Geneva was rung, linking with the UN in New York. Afterward, staff and NGOs proceeded to a sacred site, where trees had been marked for peace, for a moment of silent reflection in memory of all the victims of inner and outer violence.

TOOWOOMBA CITY, AUSTRALIA
The 800 students of Wilsonton Primary School celebrated the International Day of Peace with a special parade, paper peace cranes, the presentation of Nobel Peace Prize winners and a Tai Chi demonstration. A Peace Pole was donated by Wilsonton High School, and the schools joined in a dove release.

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
Groups and the public joined at the seat of the Government, Plaza Murillo. A Peace Pole was the center of the celebration, as well as signs and symbols of peace. The 189 flags of the countries of the world were carried by young people and the simple prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth” was prayed as each flag was raised and the country’s name called out.

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A.
A Native American Prayer Vigil took place on September 21 on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the White House. (See page 13) Prayers for peace from many traditions were offered at this annual two-day event.

SERREKUNDA, THE GAMBIA
An International Day of Peace event was held in the SOS Kinderdorf International Peace Garden, in Bakoteh, The Gambia. The leader of the Peace Pals Club told the students to practice living in peace with one another to achieve a world full of harmony.

CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.
On Sept. 21, a Vigil was organized by Nickolai Parker in New York City’s Central Park to join the prayers of people in over 40 countries. There were prayers for peace from religious leaders, cultural performances from youth and international groups, and the Peace is Possible Chorus, headed by Victoria Christgau, led the audience in a flag ceremony for peace.

Deborah Moldow is Executive Director of the World Peace Prayer Society. Visit www.worldpeace.org

Sampling of This Year’s Plans

USA – New York: Thousands will gather during the 13th Annual World Peace Festival at the World Peace Sanctuary north of New York City. (www.worldpeace.org). The Dalai Lama will address thousands more in Central Park.


USA – California: The annual conference of the Institute of Noetic Sciences and the Association of Global New Thought will conclude on the International Day of Peace with a World Peace Flag Ceremony.

USA – Ohio: Community groups are joining with government officials to plant a Peace Pole.

Afghanistan & Tajikistan: International Day of Peace program in Afghanistan, with cross-border participation from Tajikistan.

Pakistan: International Day of Peace programs in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Azad Kashmir.

Switzerland: Program at the UN in Geneva.

Japan: Plans to distribute International Day of Peace material to over 10,000 school children.

United Kingdom: Peace One Day concert in London.

Australia: Program at Brisbane city square. Nationwide plans are underway in The Philippines and Nigeria.

For more complete listings all around the world visit: www.InternationalDayofPeace.org
Spiritual Perspectives on Globalization, by Ira Rifkin, is subtitled “Making Sense of Economic and Cultural Upheaval.” The book seeks to do what its subtitle suggests. Mr. Rifkin makes use of story-telling and in-depth interviews to present an overview of contemporary spiritual thinking in easy-to-read, flowing prose.

Through scrutinizing the perspectives of informed and involved individuals within the major world religious traditions and other spiritual disciplines, the author endeavors to make sense of the seemingly inherent upheavals brought on by fast-track globalization. Full chapters are dedicated to examinations of Roman Catholicism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Protestantism, Baha’i, and the tribal, earth-based religions which are part and parcel of ‘new age’ thought.

Mr. Rifkin writes with no perceivable religious or spiritual bias and much of the book reads as carefully researched, compelling journalism. The book’s value lies in its noble attempt to create understanding through providing information, to nurture an atmosphere in which interfaith cooperation can flourish and religious tensions subside. The author believes, rightly so, that creating such an atmosphere will make the probable inevitability of globalization quite a bit less agonizing all the way around.

The following quote from the final chapter, entitled Conclusion: “Nowherian” Concerns, is indicative of the book’s general tone:

We all share the need for communal membership, and if the harmful effects of globalization – which is likely to proceed in any event – are to be minimized, the spiritual as well as the material needs of the world’s plurality must also be addressed. The first step is to show respect for these needs. This means respect for the ways that others structure life, for their values and beliefs, and for the land upon which their ways have flourished. It does not mean claiming more territory for Disney and McDonald’s in the short run while hoping barbed wire and armaments will keep us safe over the long term – a strategy that too many in the West confuse with genuine globalization.


Larry Auld is Editor of The Bridging Tree, Program Director of The Lifebridge Foundation, and Secretary of its Board of Directors.

Peace Proclamations

Peace Proclamations are a powerful tool to help spread awareness about the International Day of Peace. Heads of State, Governors and Mayors, City Councils and State Legislatures have declared Proclamations and Resolutions for the International Day of Peace. In many cases all you have to do is ask (Don’t forget to include sample text for the proclamation). Once it’s issued, please send a copy to the International Day of Peace NGO Committee, 211 E 43rd Street #905, New York, NY 10017, Fax: 732-810-0404.

Sample Proclamation for Peace Day, September 21

Whereas, the issue of peace embraces the deepest hopes of all peoples and remains humanity’s guiding inspiration; and

Whereas, the United Nations asked that the International Day of Peace be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, and invited all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day; and

Whereas, there is growing support within our city for the observance of the International Day of Peace, which affirms a vision of our world at peace, and fosters cooperation between individuals, organizations and nations; and

Whereas, global crises impel all citizens to work toward converting humanity’s noblest aspirations for world peace into a practical reality for future generations,

Now, Therefore, I ___________, Mayor of the City of ________, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2003 as Peace Day

Throughout the City of _____ and urge all government departments and agencies, organizations, schools, places of worship and individuals in our city to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace. This may include community service projects, cultural exhibits and performances, a moment of silence, ringing of bells, sharing the universal wish ‘May Peace Prevail On Earth’ at noon, vigils, religious services in our places of worship, and other education and public awareness activities in order to help establish a global day of peace in our homes, our communities and between nations.
The International Day of Peace
by Robert Alan Silverstein

Since 9/11, the world's attention has been focused on terror, fear and war. But behind the scenes, a worldwide movement for a better world has been growing, bringing us hope for a more peaceful, just and sustainable future.

The United Nations has proposed a tangible goal that will help unite our global community and shift our consciousness. The world is joining together to create a Global Ceasefire and humanity's first day of peace in our homes, our communities and between nations on the International Day of Peace, September 21, 2003. If we can create one day of peace, we will realize that we can work together to create a culture of peace, one day at a time. Each of us can help create a better and safer future by working together to make Peace Day the biggest event in history. Last year, Peace Day events and activities on the International Day of Peace took place in 98 countries. This year, the United Nations, governments, states, cities, groups, organizations and ordinary citizens aim to inspire more than 1 billion people to be involved in Peace Day activities on September 21.

The International Day of Peace Vigil is a 24 hour vigil for peace and nonviolence organized in places of worship, neighborhoods and communities all around the world. A major effort is being made to convince governments and the peoples of the world to heed the United Nations call for a Global Ceasefire on the International Day of Peace. A global Proclamations for Peace campaign is creating a tangible way to measure support of the International Day of Peace on the international, national, state and local levels. A simple Peace Pledge is empowering both young and old to be involved in helping to create this day of peace, inspiring the theme of a culture of peace to become the center of dialogue in our communities and between nations. How will you share the spirit of peace on September 21?

Organizations and groups around the world are urged to become supporters of the International Day of Peace.

There are so many ways that you can help to spread hope for humanity's first day of peace.

Help build a better world one day at a time. Join the Countdown to Peace Day today.

Robert Alan Silverstein is associate editor of The Bridging Tree, Communications Manager of The Lifebridge Foundation, and President of the US Peace Day Committee (www.PeaceDayUSA.org).

International Day of Peace
Resolution 55/282, Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, by which it declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,

Recalling also its other relevant resolutions, including resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000, Reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict,

Considering the unique opportunity it offers for a cessation of violence and conflict throughout the world, and the related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community,

Desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly,

1. Decides that, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;
2. Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;
3. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional 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.
What is a “Vigil”?
A Vigil is a period of “watch” or “wakefulness.” In the context of the International Day of Peace Vigil, it could be done in the form of prayer, meditation or other form of spiritual observance with an objective on peace awareness. It could also be a commitment to peaceful thoughts and acts of kindness and love throughout the day.

Why a “24-hour vigil”?
The IDP Vigil idea corresponds with The United Nations resolution that calls for an entire day of global cease-fire and non-violence and invites "all nations and peoples to honor the cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day". A global day-long spiritual observation focused on peace would be a powerful force in promoting the cessation of violence and creating a more peaceful state among peoples.

What is the meaning of "peace" in the context of the Vigil?
The International Day of Peace has a very tangible goal of a day-long period of global cease-fire. The cessation of conflict for that day is one form of peace. The resolution also states, however, that the day should be focused on strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict among peoples and governments. In its broader sense it is more than just alleviating violence, peace is an internal state of concord and tranquility.

How can my group participate in the Vigil?
Groups are asked to participate by focusing the group's awareness on the cessation of violent conflict throughout the world and in promoting peaceful behavior for the entire 24 hour period on 21 September 2003. The group may wish to observe the Vigil by designating different individuals at different times to pray, meditate or otherwise celebrate the day in that group's house of worship or other suitable places.

How can I, as an individual, participate?
An individual can participate in many different ways. She/he might perform a day-long prayer, meditation or fast. One might also complete his/her daily Vigil by keeping an awareness of peace in all daily activities and by striving to think peaceful and loving thoughts throughout the day.

For more information: www.idpvigil.com

Dear Friend,
I am writing this letter to ask for your support and participation in an important grassroots peace initiative being conducted by civil society groups and individuals throughout the world.

On 7 September 2001, the United Nations adopted a resolution designating 21 September of each year as an "International Day of Peace." The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a full day of "global ceasefire and nonviolence." All peoples and organizations are invited to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner.

As one way of observing the Day, many peace based NGOs and individuals representing a wide variety of religious and spiritual traditions, are advocating an "International Day of Peace Vigil" with the following objective:

"To encourage worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for peace and nonviolence on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2003 in every house of worship 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."

These global 24-hour observations for peace are meant to demonstrate the power of prayer and other spiritual observations in promoting peace and preventing violent conflict. They will also help raise public awareness of the International Day of Peace and can directly support the establishment of a global ceasefire. You can personally support this worldwide initiative by committing to conduct a spiritual observation and promulgating the Vigil idea among religious and peace-based groups in your community. You may register your commitment to participate in a spiritual observation on the International Day of Peace Vigil website at: www.idpvigil.com, or mail it to: International Day of Peace Vigil, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 575, New York, NY 10017. Indicate the name of the individual or group participating, a contact person and the number of people participating in the Vigil. All commitments will be posted on the website.

Your participation in this worthwhile effort is most appreciated. Please assist by passing this on to other individuals and groups that might be interested in participating in spiritual observations. Find below the United Nations Resolution passed by the General Assembly on International Day of Peace, as well as frequently asked questions and ideas about spiritual observations.

Sincerely,
A Prayer Vigil for the Earth

WHAT: 11th Annual Prayer Vigil for the Earth
WHEN: Sunrise September 20, 2003 to 3:00 pm September 21, 2003
WHERE: Along the Potomac River in the northwest corner of West Potomac Park; corner of Independence Avenue and Ohio Drive, just south of the Lincoln Memorial and just North of the FDR Memorial.

At sunrise, on Saturday, September 20, 2003, just north of the Washington Monument, the Native Americans and other spiritual leaders will open the “11th Annual Prayer Vigil for the Earth” with ceremonial prayers. The 33-hour “Prayer Vigil for the Earth” is created by leaders from diverse spiritual and religious traditions, who will pray and share their traditional ceremonies. A sacred fire will burn in the center of the prayer circle, surrounded by 20 tipis and other sacred structures such as the Buddhist Stupa, Jewish Sukkah, African Ancestral Altar, Hindu Yantra and Labyrinth.

Throughout the weekend, a circle of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Bahais, Buddhists, Native American Elders, African American Elders, Shinji Shumeikai representatives, and members from other great traditions will offer prayer, songs, chants, and lead dances for the healing of the Earth. Attending will be Native American spiritual leaders William Commanda, Lilly Cummings, and the Mayan Staff carriers from the Grand Ajqi’ jab Confederation. Spiritual leaders from other traditions include Baba Ngoma, Baba Olutunji, Sacred Space, Shinji Shumeikai (Japanese), the Buddhist group Kunzang Paljul Choling (KPC), the John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth, the World Peace Prayer Society, Rabbi David Shneyer of AmKolel, the World Peace Flame (Life Foundation) and many others. There will be opportunities to help set up tipis and other structures on Friday, September 19. The public is invited to participate actively. The smaller talking circles will provide a more intimate setting for discussion with teachers, storytellers, and prophecy keepers from Native America, the African and Asian diaspora, and those from other spiritual paths. Also, a tipi will devoted to silent prayer and meditation.

For more information, please visit www.oneprayer.org

Thank You to Our Donors

The Lifebridge Foundation Is Grateful To This Year’s Generous Donors.

Join them if you can!

Linda B. Kinne
Ruth Ray
Jean W. Wightman

See Back Page For Information on Contributing

Share the Spirit of Peace by Dorothy J. Maver

Peace is a dynamic, progressive state of awareness that manifests in “an environment of sustainability” within which is found that living substance from which we may create a new world, a new culture, wherein progress is assured for every person, indeed for every form of life on the planet.

A call goes out at this challenging moment in time to all who have an understanding of our One World shared by One Humanity. We know that we all have common needs and common goals within a rich diversity of expression on a planet that has abundance aplenty for all. We know that Peace lives in how we relate to one another, with the recognition of our fundamental unity bringing cooperation among individuals and the nations of the world.

We have begun a series of Global Peace Summits that are circling the globe as people respond increasingly to this new realization of Peace. The initial inspiration emerged as the We the People Summit for Peace in Vermont, USA on September 28, 2002, where youth and public forums featured the Earth Charter and the Department of Peace. That Summit inspired a second Summit called Share the Spirit of Peace in Sydney, Australia on March 1, 2003, where politicians from the four major parties shared the platform with United Nations Association of Australia President Margaret Reynolds and young people in a united appeal for peace (www.sharethespiritofpeace.com) The Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit, honoring the International Day of Peace, will begin in New York at the United Nations on September 19, 2003, where youth will participate in a satellite teleconference with young people in war-torn regions. The Summit will include the youth raising their country’s flag at the World Peace Prayer Festival on Sunday September 21, 2003 (www.worldpeace.org). The fourth Summit will be in London on the International Day of Peace 2004, followed by Peace Summits in Geneva, Darjeeling and Tokyo.

The primary focus of the Global Peace Summits is a shared vision of Peace, creating together a Culture of Peace and nonviolence with Peace as the organizing principle. Included in this shared vision is the proposal for a national Department of Peace, as presented by Dennis Kucinich in HR Bill 1673 in the U.S. Congress (www.house.gov/kucinich) and the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org) a global document promoting peace and sustainability. Each Peace Summit is organized by youth and adult volunteers working hand in hand, and attracts donations of professional services and expertise along with the material resources required. Let us summon the courage to Share the Spirit of Peace – to make a difference in our own lives and to help to bring more light into dark places everywhere.

Dorothy J. Maver, Ph.D., is founder and director of the Vermont Peace Institute and one of the international faculty with Polaris College, Denmark where she teaches Transformational Kinesiology.
I came away from the weekend feeling greatly reenergized, motivated and inspired to carry forward my piece of the “Great Work” we’re all involved in. I very much look forward to continuing the dialog we all started at the gathering. We only scratched the surface of what we have to teach and learn from one another. I really do feel like I made some important connections that will have a lasting positive influence on my life and work.

Steve Smith, US Coordinator
Earth Charter Initiative

How do you manage to find and bring together such a group of deeply interconnected people? Genius, that’s what it is! Thank you for including me in a transformational weekend. There is real hope for the paradigm shift.

Joan Kirby, UN Representative
The Temple of Understanding

The weekend was rich with people who care about one another, nature and spirit. It was an honor to be invited and to be treated with such reverence. I commend your work and your commitment to furthering the efforts of all your grantees by bringing them together. It would be interesting to see all that has been birthed in these weekends and how they have grown. You are a rare treasure.

Marianna Cacciatore, Executive Director
Bread For The Journey

I flipped through all of your pictures today and you were all so very familiar to me. It was such a special weekend and you all crept your way into my heart. Keep on loving and creating.

Ryan Eliason, Development Consultant
Challenge Day

I’m now back in Johannesburg, safe and sound. I wanted to thank you again for inviting me to the gathering...it was a really fantastic trip, both for me and our community. Everyone highly values our relationship with Lifebridge.

Mille Bojer
Pioneers of Change

I felt like I had gone home. Each person embodied similar qualities of inclusiveness, service, love and humanity. It was like being wrapped in a common blanket of heart and mind and spirit.

Gigi Van Deckter,
Filmmaker

Many thanks to the staff of The Lifebridge Foundation, and to the staff of the Wainwright House. Special thanks to Puja Thomson and Melissa Ann Wood.

The Lifebridge Grantee Gathering
May 29-June 1, 2003
The Wainwright House - Rye, New York

Left to right from the top: Aimee Morgana, Bob Silverstein, Melissa Wood, Gary Ferdman, Woody Vaspra, Iris Spellings, Peter Raducha, Catie Johnson, Rene Theberge, Barbara Valocore, Michael Coffey, Ryan Eliason, Margaret Lloyd, Mille Bojer, Todd Larsen, Puja Thomson, Joan Kirby, Pamela Kraft, Marianna Cacciatore, April Kunze, Rick Ulfik, Gigi Van Deckter, Steve Smith, Lisinka Ulatowska (not pictured: Larry Auld)
### UN CALENDAR

**September 2003 - March 2004 : Special Days and Weeks**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>International Literacy Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21 September</strong></td>
<td><strong>International Day of Peace</strong></td>
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<td>22-30 September</td>
<td>World Maritime Day during this week</td>
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<td>1 October</td>
<td>International Day of Older Persons</td>
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<td>4-10 October</td>
<td>World Space Week</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day</td>
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<td>6 October</td>
<td>World Habitat Day (1st Monday of October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (2nd Wednesday of October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 October</td>
<td>World Post Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>World Development Information Day</td>
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<td>24-30 October</td>
<td>Disarmament Week</td>
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<td>6 November</td>
<td>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict</td>
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<td>16 November</td>
<td>International Day for Tolerance</td>
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<td>20 November</td>
<td>Africa Industrialisation Day</td>
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<td>20 November</td>
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<td>21 November</td>
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<td>25 November</td>
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<td>29 November</td>
<td>International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</td>
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<td>1 December</td>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
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<td>2 December</td>
<td>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</td>
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<td>3 December</td>
<td>International Day of Disabled Persons</td>
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<td>5 December</td>
<td>International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development</td>
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<td>7 December</td>
<td>International Civil Aviation Day</td>
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<td>10 December</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
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<td>18 December</td>
<td>International Migrants Day</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
<td>International Mother Language Day</td>
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<td>8 March</td>
<td>United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 – 27 March</td>
<td>Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination</td>
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<td>22 March</td>
<td>World Day for Water</td>
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<td>23 March</td>
<td>World Meteorological Day</td>
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#### International Years

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>International Year of Freshwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and Its Abolition</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>International Year of Rice</td>
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<td>International Year of Micro-credit</td>
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#### International Decades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1993-2003</td>
<td>Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-2004</td>
<td>International Decade of the World's Indigenous People</td>
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<td>1997-2006</td>
<td>United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003 – 2012</td>
<td>United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All</td>
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UN Days & Years Meditation Initiative, PO Box 58, Paekakariki, New Zealand.  
www.unmeditation.org / info@intuition-in-service.org
Our assets are invested in a socially-screened portfolio, bridging the gap between the existing corporate culture which calls for profit at any cost and a new, emerging economy which is based on a healthy respect for the earth.

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The Bridging Tree
The Lifebridge Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 327
High Falls
NY 12440
Tel: 845-338-6418
Web: www.lifebridge.org
Email: info@lifebridge.org