

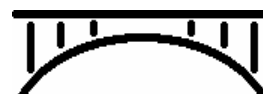
**Summer 2001
New York, New York
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**Focus on
Youth**



The Bridging Tree

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The International Youth Movement



Youth and Change *by Barbara L. Valocore*

Energy, change and surprise. These are the predominant qualities that come to mind when I think about youth and the vigorous, growing global youth movement. We are all familiar with the old adage that the only constant in life is change and resistant though we “adults” may be, we eventually learn to accept this fact of life. Young people have much to teach all age groups and with this issue of *The Bridging Tree*, we are focusing on the energetic and dynamic youth movement and the transformational changes young people are attempting to implement in the world. These days, youth-led organizations are sprouting up everywhere. Many are working for human rights, environmental sustainability and in general, a just and sensible world based on ethical and inclusive values. They know they are faced with clean-up of the environmental and economic mess left by the industrialized West and they are aggressively searching for the best ways to do this. We hope the articles and reports in this issue will inspire, uplift and move you to help deepen your commitments toward the efforts of the young people in the world who are working to create a *better* world for us all.

Formerly Barbara L. Overby, Ms. Valocore is President of The Lifebridge Foundation.

BUILDING A GLOBAL VOICE FOR - AND WITH - YOUTH

By Peter Raducha

Youth are the future?

Many adults too easily agree that young people are the important future leaders for our nations and the planet. Yet, over 70% of young people believe that their voices and ideas have little or no impact in adult society. How can youth feel empowered to create greater impact on our collective future and what will it take for "adults" to truly listen to their issues and ideas?

Youth are NOT the future.

Ask them. Many young people will tell you that they are here and now. They are taking action to improve their communities and our world *TODAY*. Youth activists from around the globe are taking extraordinary measures to make our planet safer, saner, more just and sustainable. Unfortunately, the media tends to seek out those youth who are creating problems. The youth who are instead problem-solvers have to work extra hard to get their issues, ideas and solutions heard. Yet, the number of those seeking to make positive contributions far outweighs the number of young people acting out destructively.

The advent of the internet has brought forth a new tool for young people and the world. Connectivity. And through this connectivity, we are gaining a greater understanding of our cultural differences as well as our similarities. We are seeing areas that reflect our common concerns as well as solutions to address these concerns. Young people are



connecting in a way that has never before been possible on this planet. As they continue to connect, their numbers are growing into a force that has the potential to shift the focus, resources and evolution of our planet. Through the internet they have an exponentially greater understanding of what this can mean for the evolution and guardianship of our planet. But what are they doing with all this interconnectivity?

The Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) has been designed to maximize the recognition and support available for young peoples' voices, ideas and solutions. It provides a way to share (through a resource database) some of the best ideas and practices that are creating positive impact. This network is composed of a growing number of organizations and individual youth leaders who are working together to assure that young people are a part of solving the challenges our world is facing today. Through the network, tens of thousands of top issues and solutions of young people are being collected worldwide so that national leaders truly begin to recognize the collective power of the voices and vision of youth towards developing a working partnership that respects and values their ideas and positive actions.

The GYAN has a diverse, geographically represented Global Selection Committee who each year review youth-initiated projects that are

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Bob Silverstein

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Barbara L. Valocore,

Peter Raducha, Sarah Ghiorse



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improving our planet. The Committee gives out \$1,000 USD "Global Youth in Action Awards" for the top projects worldwide. They are using our interconnectivity to share knowledge and provide support for youth-led planetary improvement on a community-by-community basis.

In the United States, the GYAN has worked to bring youth leaders (as delegates) together with presidential candidates in interactive dialogues focused on the solutions of youth for improving America. To develop this process - and maximize the responses from youth - they realized they could not rely on the internet alone. As such, Youth in Action (the fiscal agent for the GYAN) has worked to develop an interactive model for collaboration that provides support for like-minded organizations to work together for a common purpose. They integrated this collaborative partnership with schools and youth organizations to gather youth issues and ideas from across the US. This data was then shaped by delegates into a National Youth Platform (representing the top issues and solutions of youth). The Platform is then distributed across America to challenge and reward youth who take action on these issues and ideas.

The **Lifefridge Foundation** and **UNESCO** first recognized the importance of turning ideas into action and provided support for the Global Youth Action Network and awards program. Singer **Jewel's** organization **Higher Ground for Humanity** and **Lauryn Hill's Refugee Project** have also committed funding support for the awards program and expansion of the Global Youth Action Network. To date, organizations in over 120 countries have become a part of this network and over 800 youth led community improvement projects have been received, resulting in \$80,000 in awards. But this is just the beginning...

This summer, youth issues and solutions will be gathered at the UN Youth Forum in Dakar, Senegal. This data will be used to create further focus on the global youth perspective and encourage further youth actions for planetary improvement. As more and more young people add their voices and ideas, youth are confident that national and world leaders will begin to truly understand the power and benefit of a cooperative partnership that works *with* youth to improve our world and future. A partnership that respects and values their voices and ideas here and now. A partnership that is necessary because our future and the future of our planet depends on it.

Peter Raducha is the Executive Director of Youth in Action, the fiscal agent for GYAN. Believing that youth are NOW, and in response to the majority of youth not believing their ideas matter in adult society, he has worked for the past seven years to design programs that provide opportunities and sustainable resources for youth to positively impact our future and world. His background includes a business and an engineering degree from F.I.T. Mr. Raducha is 42 years old and resides in Ojai, California. For more information on GYAN, write 211 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017, call 212-661-6111 or email gyan@youthlink.org.

International Youth List Top Current Issues in the World Today

Discrimination/Tolerance/Hatred
Environment
Violence
Poverty
Human Rights

For more information on this and other youth surveys, visit www.youthlink.org



Global Kids leaders in Croatia

The Power of PAWA

By Sarah Ghiorse



Members of INIYA with Isaac Ashenika and his brother playing music together at the February, 2001 meeting in Brazil.

The word Pawa in the Ashenika language means sun - or the life source of all things. The Ashenika people live on land which spans the borders of two countries known to the modern world as Peru and Brazil. In the centuries since contact with European peoples, the Ashenika continue holding strong to their traditional ways; making exceptions for modernity only when it comes to matters of survival. The will of the Ashenika people is visible in the beauty of their traditional clothing and the firm sound of their ceremonial flute.

Isaac Ashenika is a member of high standing in his tribe. Along with his role as a community activist and liaison, he is a professor at the *Comissao Pro Indio* (CPI) in Rio Branco, Brazil. The Center for Information is a meeting place in Rio Branco which hosts workshops on both Indigenous Pedagogy and Restorative Agroforestry for indigenous representatives from the Amazon Basin. Isaac is one of the forty-two representatives who spent two months at the Center learning and teaching.

After one particularly devastating conversation with Isaac about the multitude of cow pastures that are eating away at "La floresta" (the rainforest), I remember thinking, "How does he remain loving and full of beauty in the face such destruction?" "Pawa," he reminds me, referring to the sun god, the Creator in the Ashenika culture. "Pawa is the one with the true power. For ultimately Mother Nature cannot be controlled."

I have come to Brazil because I was called here. The songs of the birds and the voices of the shamans

sang a dream into being. This made manifest the resources necessary to send myself, my sister and eighteen other youth activists from INIYA (Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Youth Alliance) to this sacred land. The song that sang us here, to this place - to this Rio Gregorio, this body of water which flows through the Amazon basin, to this home of the Yawanawa tribe, is called Kanaro. It tells a story of the people who are trying to cross the river. Due to the presence of a crocodile, only half of the people get to the other side. Lovers are separated along with family members and relatives. Employing their creative genius and their connection to the animal spirits, the people call upon Kanaro, the beautiful jungle bird, to carry their messages across the river to relatives for whom they are lonely.

I have come to this land to remember what teacher and author, Angeles Arrien refers to as "the face we wore before we were born". I have come to remember the face of the plants, the face of the four elements, the face of the animals, the face of our ancestors. I have come, to the Amazon rainforest, to the lungs of the earth, to listen deeply and to observe. Perhaps if we listen closely we can remember the face we wore before we born. Perhaps we can heal the wounds of a people separated from their Mother.

The story of Kanaro sung by the Yawanawa people, speaks to the contemporary human condition of separation from which those of us living in "modern society", suffer. The separation from the earth that has occurred in Western culture is devastating and has resulted in crisis both at the personal and collective levels. A vision to address this crisis at the roots is one that led INIYA to Brazil. In the language of the Yawanawa INIYA means balance in the water. This network of young activists from North and South America is a movement to regain balance in a world of extremes. INIYA is an alliance committed to intercultural healing and justice. INIYA sponsors workshops, trainings and capacity building for young indigenous and non-indigenous youth in an effort to heal this destructive psychic (soul) separation at all levels. INIYA is committed to establishing authentic cross-cultural relationships. The February Brazil gathering, sponsored by **ICRE**,

The Pachamama Alliance, the **Angeles Arrien Foundation**, the **Nawa Insitute** and many others was the first official INIYA circle which came together in the spirit of justice to participate in the creation of true reciprocity between peoples.

INIYA went to the rainforest to dream, to remember and to listen. "La floresta" received us intimately. She offered us her moist body, as our feet treaded on her muddy red veins. She sent us her mosquitoes who took to our skin and immunized our blood. She held us gently through meetings and ceremonies. She invited us to her table to feast on her beauty - a deep green, floral beauty that mystified us. She guided us down her rivers and called us to her waters. She waited and watched as we struggled to find balance and to recognize the face we wore before we were born.

As we shared our stories in the INIYA circle, the pain of not having economic resources for our projects, for our communities, for our life dreams surfaced over and over. The word economics is derived from the word *oikos* meaning "house". It also refers to the science dealing with the production and distribution of commodities or wealth. As a collective we are obsessed with economics. This concept taps deep into our sense of survival and creativity as humans. Western discourse has compromised our trust in the *oikos* through the daily bombardment of advertising and media. As a culture we have subscribed to the myth of scarcity. It is easy to buy into this myth of "not enough" - time, money, love, food, beauty etc. - especially if we are disconnected both internally and externally to the earth, our true *oikos* - our precious Mother.

The survival of humans on the planet is based upon our ability to manage the *oikos* - the home and the resources she provides. At this time, we must take inventory on our individual and collective relationships to economics. To what kind of resources do I have access? How much do I take? How much do I give? Do we hoard? Do we destroy? Do we receive? The nature of our healing work at this time on a collective level is grounded in economics. As we become more conscious of our *oikos* we might begin to trust the generous spirit of the earth. Recently a high school student with whom I work reminded me that "we are all a bunch of humans hanging out on this mother earth." Access to the abundance she provides is the birth right of us all.

Greed and the myth of scarcity are destroying our planet and wearing away at our ability to relate to one another. INIYA, in its small way, is focused on transforming this mentality of dearth and destruction. Through the creation of circles and gatherings, through

ceremony and capacity building, INIYA is attempting to regain balance by providing space for honest exchange of resources and information.

Considering the challenges and complexity of this intercultural work, I think back to my question in Rio Branco "How can you remain loving and full of beauty in the face of such destruction?" I remember Pawa. Pawa is unconditional and generous. The sun rises each day to give us life. The rainforest provides us with nourishment, medicine, and beauty. The oceans, the deserts, the forests, the wetlands have much to teach us in the way of giving. Our work is to be open, to listen and to act wisely. Ultimately the earth cannot be controlled. Ultimately she knows how to heal herself. Standing in this age of transformation, it is high time we bow to her wisdom and invite her to guide us to true justice and right relations. For how else will we remember the face we wore before we were born?

Sarah Ghiorse is an educator and community activist living in San Francisco. She works locally and internationally creating spaces for groups to reconnect to the self and to the land. Sarah is committed to young people, justice and inter-cultural healing. She is a member of INIYA (Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Youth Alliance) which is a new 2001 grantee of The Lifebridge Foundation. See page 9 for contact information.

SENTIENT EXPERIENTIALS

(Experiencias Convividas)

presents an

Intercultural Wilderness Journey into Ecuador

October 2 (Full Moon) - October 13, 2001

Behold the majesty of the Ecuadorian Rainforest.

Act in solidarity with her survival.

GUEST TEACHER: Pablo Amaringo, Visionary Artist and co-author of *Ayahuasca Visions*.
NATURALIST GUIDE: Jonathon Miller-Weisberger, Ethnobotanist, Grupo Osanimi. Proceeds benefit Grupo Osanimi, a rainforest and cultural heritage conservation organization of volunteers, activists, scientists and indigenous people working at ground level. For more information, call Dahlia at 510 235-4313 or visit www.experientials.org.

New Grantees 2001

The Lifebridge Foundation pre-selects all of its grantees.

Brief letters of introduction are accepted throughout the year and are kept on file, but generally invitations to submit full-proposals for first-time funding are extended by June 1. Re-grants are usually considered during the second half of the year.

Arts & Culture

Theatre

Christopher Eaves

Brooklyn, NY

Email: christopher.eaves@verizon.net

Web: www.eavesdrop.net

Christopher Eaves' play *TrueMyth* chronicles the life of writer, painter, photographer and political activist, David Wojnarowicz. It premieres in New York at Blue Heron Studio Theater on August 3, 2001. Mr. Eaves' objective is "to transcend...the minutiae of the 'everyday' and open hearts to great messages...the signposts and blueprints that unify us..."

Primary Stages Company

Casey Childs, Artistic Director

131 W 45th Street

New York, NY 10036

Tel: 212-840-9705 / Fax: 212-840-9725

Email: primarystage@ix.netcom.com

John Henry Redwood's play, *NO NIGGERS, NO JEWS, NO DOGS*, set in 1949 North Carolina, refers to the type of exclusionary signs that were common at the time. The play tells the story of a sharecropping family and their friendship with a Jewish man who has come to town to investigate prejudice. It premiered in New York in April 2001.

Yara Arts Group

Virlana Tkacz, Artistic Director

306 East 11th Street, 3B

New York, NY 10003

Tel: 212-475-6474

Email: yara@prodigy.net

Web: www.brama.com/yara/

For the past 5 years, The Yara Arts Group has been involved in cross-cultural theatre collaborations with artists from Siberia. In March, 2001 at La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York, artists from the Buryat Republic in Siberia created a new experimental theatre performance

piece, *Obo Our Shamanism*. In Siberia an obo is a sacred place atop a mountain. The piece explores one of the oldest forms of spiritual belief and how the artists integrate experiences with shamanism into their modern lives.

Print Media

Spirituality & Reality

Center for Psychology and Social Change

Nancy B. Roof

PO Box 398080

Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: 617-497-1553

Web: www.cpschange.org

Spirituality & Reality is a new publication for both professionals and the general public. Articles in the first issue include: Morality and Values in Foreign Policy; Embracing Spiritual Economics; Spiritual Negotiations between North and South Korea; An Integral Approach to Global Affairs; and Spiritual and Secular Approaches to Poverty in Africa.

Resurgence Magazine

Satish Kumar, Editor

Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, UK

Tel: 00 44 (0) 1237 441 293

Fax: 00 44 (0) 1237 441 203

Email: ed@resurge.demon.co.uk

Web: www.resurgence.org

The Century of the Environment :

Resurgence Comes to America

Since 1966, the British magazine *Resurgence* has been a beacon of optimistic, yet hard-hitting discussion about challenges facing humanity and the planet. In September, 2001 a 3-day conference at the Omega Institute for Holistic Studies brings together some of *Resurgence's* most celebrated contributors to help us think through current ecological challenges, and to inspire us to solve them in stunningly creative ways. See the opposite page for information.

Environment**Earth Celebrations****Felicia Young, Executive Director****638 East 6th Street****New York, NY 10009****Tel: 212-777-7969 / Fax: 212-505-7303****Email: mail@earthcelebrations.com****Web: www.earthcelebrations.com**

Earth Celebrations is a not-for-profit community-based organization on the Lower East Side of New York City dedicated to fostering ecological awareness through the arts. Their programs engage people to learn about the importance of community gardens, the need to preserve them, and their unique contribution to the ecology and diverse cultural life of the neighborhood.

Solar Electric Light Fund**c/o Innovative Frontiers in Philanthropy****Marion Foundation****Jennie McCann****3 Barnabas Road****Marion, MA 02738****Tel: 508-748-0816 / Fax: 508-748-1976****Email: IF@marionfoundation.org****Web: www.marionfoundation.org**

Innovative Frontiers in Philanthropy (IF), the Marion Foundation's grant making initiative, identifies and supports carefully selected not-for-profit organizations that have an immediate and direct impact and work to create new systems to address social, economic and environmental challenges. The Lifebridge grant was directed to the Solar Electric Light Fund which brings safer, cleaner and more ecologically sound solar electric power to remote villages in developing countries that have no access to an electricity grid.

Aimee Morgana**Co-sponsored by The Lifebridge Foundation**

*Jane Goodall - Hazel Henderson - Anita Roddick
Satish Kumar - Peter Matthiessen - Amory Lovins
Lester Brown - James Hillman - Catherine Sneed
Francis Moore Lappe - Gunter Pauli*

The Century of the Environment***Resurgence Comes to America*****at The Omega Institute****Rhinebeck, New York****3-Day Conference – September 6-9, 2001****To register, call 800-944-1001****Science****The N'kisi Project, New York, NY****Email: nkisiproject@earthlink.net****Web: www.sheldrake.org/nkisi**

Aimee Morgana is studying psychic phenomenon in animals. Her parrot N'Kisi (a Congolese word meaning "Forest Spirit") has shown an uncanny ability to read its owner's mind. In a month-long video experiment conducted in conjunction with Dr. Rupert Sheldrake, a British scientist noted as an authority on unexplained animal behavior, N'Kisi was able to psychically identify 32 out of 70 pictures Aimee was looking at in a separate room. According to Dr. Sheldrake, the odds of these results happening by chance are one in a billion.

Roger D. Nelson**Princeton, NJ****Email: rdnelson@princeton.edu****Web: <http://noosphere.princeton.edu>**

Roger Nelson received a grant to support the writing of a book proposal and related articles that document the Global Consciousness Project (GCP), a collaborative experiment created with an international group of researchers who believe it may be possible to record the first faint signs of a world mind awakening.

Stichting Milieubewustzijn**(Foundation for Environmental Consciousness)****Lisinka Ulatowska, Conference Coordinator****Noordereinde 56****1243 JJ's - Graveland****The Netherlands****Tel: 011 31 35 655 9359****Fax: 011 31 35 655 9360****Email: info@milieubewustzijn.nl****Web: www.milieubewustzijn.nl**

The objective of an upcoming conference in the Netherlands, *Seeds of Wholeness, Inspiring Science for a Globally Interdependent World*, is to nudge Western Science in the direction of a holistic and spiritual paradigm shift, which will empower people worldwide to meet the challenges of a globally interdependent world. It aims to strengthen the work of scientists who explore holistic dimensions of science and act upon their insights in their work and in their private lives. (These 'holistic' experiences are referred to as "Seeds of Wholeness".)

Community Service

Sacred Space
Amshatar H. Monroe
PO Box 26426
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202-232-6158 /Fax: 202-232-4220
Email: alolodi@bellatlantic.net

Sacred Space received a grant for its work in addressing the controversial issue of racial division among and between Native and African Americans, particularly those of mixed ancestry. Small reconciliation focus group dialogues comprised of Native and African American cultural, tribal, community and spiritual leaders are coordinated on a regular basis to develop trust, engage in honest reconciliatory dialogue and to strategize and initiate concentrated grass-roots reconciliation work among Red and Black peoples.

Fundacion PEA (Paz, Ecologia & Arte)

World Goodwill

Nancy B. Ducuing, President
Av. Cordoba 2069 Piso 13 Depto. A
Buenos Aires 1120 ARGENTINA
Tel/Fax: (54 11) 4961 7941
Email: info@fundacionpea.org
Web: www.fundacionpea.org

PEA Foundation's mission is to contribute to attaining peace in the world; a sustainable peace in which systematically we work to help create a consciousness for a Culture of Peace among all of earth's inhabitants. Fundacion PEA's activities aim to awaken and leave as a legacy a consciousness of peace and unity and to promote the expansion of the principles and values of love, respect, ethics, cooperation and unity.

**THE HYGIEA FOUNDATION for Health,
 Science and the Environment, Inc.**
John Clausen, President
67A East 77th Street
New York, NY 10021-1813
Tel: 212-737-1011

The Hygeia Foundation was founded to support initiatives that promote holistic health education programs; foster a common respect for all life on earth and foster respect for the earth itself. Hygeia contributes to pre-selected organizations only, which have included: the Gaia Foundation, the Findhorn Foundation, Trees for Life and People

First International.

The Jifunze Project
Jennifer Carrie Oelberger, Director
Box 15
Kibaya – Kiteto – Arusha
Tanzania, East Africa
255-27-255-2187 / Fax: 255-27-255-2170
Email: jifunzaproject@yahoo.com

The mission of the Jifunze Project is to enable individuals living in an under-served part of rural Tanzania to attain a quality education which will open their minds, expose them to other worlds and create possibilities for self-sufficiency. Named after the Swahili word for learning, "Jifunze" directly translates as, "to teach oneself."

Philanthropy & Inner Life Fund
Tides Foundation
Idelisse Malave, Executive Director
The Presidio, PO Box 29903
San Francisco, CA 94129-0903
Tel: 415-561-6400 / Fax: 415-561-6401
Web: www.tides.org

The Working Group on Philanthropy and the Inner Life, a project of the Tides Foundation, is a diverse group of institutional grantmakers and individual donors who are committed to "exploring ways to deepen and integrate what we value most in our inner life with what we value most in our philanthropic work." By fostering dialogues on philanthropy and the inner life, convening workshops and gatherings and publishing materials to support ongoing conversations on these issues, they hope to inspire the philanthropic community and catalyze more effective and just solutions for society's most critical problems.

Operation Peace Through Unity
Anthony & Gita Brooke
Te Rangi 4 Allison Street
Wanganui, 5001 New Zealand
Tel: 64 (6) 345-5714
www.isleofavalon.co.uk/manymany

Operation Peace Through Unity provides a global networking service to 50 countries through its quarterly publication "Many to Many", providing an instrument for the furthering of better relationships based on deepening mutual understanding.

Youth & Education

Active Element Foundation

Gita Drury, Co-Director

532 Laguardia Place #510

New York, NY 10012

Tel: 718-783-6856

Fax: 718-783-1927

Email: activelement@aol.com

www.activelement.org

Organized by young activists and philanthropists, The Active Element Foundation's mission is to provide financial and human resources to a national network of youth activists who are engaged in addressing a broad spectrum of social and political issues. The foundation is organized around the belief that the creation of a more humane, just and equitable society remains a necessary possibility, and that relationships between young community activists, professionals, artists, and philanthropists are essential to achieving this objective.

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Youth Alliance (INIYA)

c/o Pachamama Alliance

Levana Saxon, Co-ordinator

San Francisco, CA

Email: levana@martnet.com

INIYA is an international alliance of indigenous and non-indigenous youth working together as stewards of the Earth. (See Pages 6-7)

The Power of Hope

Charlie Murphy, Co-Director

PO Box 57

Clinton, WA 98236

Tel: 360-341-4828 / Fax: 360-341-1899

Email: poh@powerofhope.org

Web: www.powerofhope.org

The Power of Hope is an arts-based program that empowers teens to live positive, engaged lives through discovering their own sense of purpose and creative potential. Using a unique intergenerational learning model, The Power of Hope offers seven-day summer conferences and programs during the school year that bring young people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds together with dynamic groups of artists, naturalists and community activists.

The Rockwood Fund's Art of Leadership Training

In the spring of 2001, The Lifebridge Foundation selected a number of young youth activists from three of our youth-led and youth-oriented grantee organizations to attend The Rockwood Fund's "Art of Leadership Training" in Rhode Island. The weekend retreat was facilitated by Robert Gass. Following are some excerpts from comments we received from the activists after the retreat.

During the weekend we looked at everything from managing our own emotions and finding our place of power, to clarifying our personal and professional objectives. We worked through topics ranging from unlocking our inner-knowing to having ourselves evaluated by our co-workers, an insightful exercise. Activities ranged from team-building games to practicing different forms of listening, from presentations made to the group, to discovering how others perceive us through honest feedback.

-Benjamin Quinto, Co-Director, Global Youth Action Network

The training was an incredibly wonderful and valuable experience both on a personal and professional level. Although I often listen to my inner guidance in my everyday life and in my decision-making, after participating in this session, I feel better able to isolate this voice and more willing to trust in the importance of its wisdom. And I liked that this workshop focused on the "art" of leadership. I feel more confident in my ability to grow, take on new challenges and to "be the change" as a result of participating in the workshop.

-Jennifer Kloes, Executive Director, Global Youth Connect

The Rockwood [training's] emphasis on building our work for the long haul is right on target. This training will help make me a better supervisor, co-worker and activist. Those of us who develop strong skills early in our careers will be more effective, and more happy in our work and life. Even better, we will be able to share those skills with others, building a stronger movement for peace and justice.

-Tracy Moavero, Policy Director, Peace Action Education Fund

For more information on The Rockwood Fund training, visit www.rockwoodfund.org or call 510-527-3582.

Youth Grantee News *by Larry Auld*

Since 1993, The Lifebridge Foundation has extended grants to many youth-led and youth-oriented groups, representing a wide range of approaches to working among, with and for young people. For instance, one project of **ACIAR** (Asociacion para la Integracion y Accion Regional, an NGO in Costa Rica) is to educate lower socio-economic groups on child abuse and the rights of children, while the **TE WAHNAU O RONGOMAIWAHINE TRUST** and **P.E.T. SOUTHERN STAR** in New Zealand create bonds between the younger and elder indigenous Maori in Aotearoa. **BARRIOS UNIDOS** in the US seeks prevention of violence among youth by teaching spiritual methods of coping with the "madness" of the streets.

From London, **THE DANDELION TRUST** arranges summer holidays in southern France for traumatized young people from the Balkans; in Louisville, Kentucky, **BLUE APPLE PLAYERS** continue producing and touring original musicals for kids based upon serious social problems; and in Harlem, the **EAST HARLEM TUTORIAL PROJECT** provides education, literacy training and employment programs for African American and Latino kids as well as their parents.

New York's **CITYKIDS FOUNDATION** provides "safe space" for kids to create their own solutions for community and has sprouted similar branches around the US. Likewise, **ARTSGENESIS** has expanded out of New York with its unique brand of improvisational workshops that inspire and "recharge" teachers so they can engage and inspire their students.

GLOBAL KIDS, **GLOBAL YOUTH CONNECT**, and **GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION NETWORK** (see pg. 2) have world-wide impact. **GLOBAL KIDS** can boast a number of prestigious awards, and recently won the third Gandhi/



Global Youth Service Day 2001 in Armenia

King Award for Non-violence following previous recipients, Kofi Annan and Nelson Mandela. **GLOBAL YOUTH CONNECT's Learning Community** brings together young human rights activists from all over the world in the service of peace and justice.

Other internationally oriented groups include **I*EARN** (International Education and Resource Network) where youth cooperate on international projects through telecommunications; **ONE DAY FOUNDATION**, founded by teenagers, which successfully lobbied the UN to resolve that January 1, 2000 be celebrated as One Day In Peace, convincing the US Congress to follow suit in November, 2000 with a resolution to set aside every January 1 as One Day in Peace; and **YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SANITY (YES!)** which is totally youth-led and holds the annual **World Youth Leadership JAM!** giving young people of many nationalities the support and skills they need to work cooperatively and effectively for positive change all over the world. As well, the **Peace by Piece** program (ages 14-19) of **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY** is raising expanded awareness of spiritual truth among youth on a global level.

PEACE ACTION EDUCATION FUND and the **WORLD FEDERALIST ASSOCIATION's Youth For Global Change Forum**, both based in Washington, are attracting growing numbers of young activists. The Lifebridge Foundation supported scholarship funds for both of these organizations to send young people to **THE HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE** in 1999 where much youth networking began and expanded. **RICHTER PRODUCTIONS'** one-hour documentary, **Five Days to Change the World** narrated by **Martin Sheen**, follows these and other extraordinary young people at the Hague Appeal as they worked together and with others to create an agenda for action.

In the field of higher education, **SCHUMACHER**



Global Youth Connect Learning Community

COLLEGE in Totnes, Devon, England, was founded on the conviction that the world view which has dominated Western Culture has serious limitations and that a new vision is needed for human society and its relationship to earth. Similarly in Sweden, **CANHELP** supports the emergence of a new world view and is working on creating an NGO alliance for an international **UNIVERSITY FOR GLOBAL WELL-BEING**. And the **OXFORD RESEARCH GROUP**, based in the UK, is selecting 500 of the world's emerging young leaders to learn to think and act holistically, work personally with global security experts, and to create an internationally networked learning community. In the US, the venerable **NATIONAL COUNCIL of TEACHERS of ENGLISH** is sponsoring what might have heretofore been considered an unorthodox assembly of teachers to explore *holistic* teaching methods and **THE TEMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING** has been hosting a series of conferences with young people towards creating a consortium of colleges to pursue issues of transformation through respect for diversity.

In Scandia, Minnesota **GROWING COMMUNITIES FOR PEACE** has developed *Compassionate Rebel*, a new book, CD and video that helps kids see how the powers of love and anger can be merged to create positive change in the world; **ART FOR INDIGENOUS SURVIVAL**, based in Durham, North Carolina has recently implemented its own mentoring program for young indigenous artists; **THE LINEAGE PROJECT** in Mt. Vernon, New York works with at-risk and incarcerated youth through the use of mindfulness meditation; and the **WILDERNESS VOLUNTEER CORPS** in Seattle engages youth (ages 14-17) from racially and socially diverse groups in three-week outdoor education and conservation service courses.

Individual grantees **CECILY MILLER** and **GABRIELLA OLDHAM** are also doing their projects with, for and among young people. Ms. Miller is editing a compilation of visual and written expressions from children all over the globe for a book entitled *Children's Messages to the World*, and Ms. Oldham is putting the finishing touches on her musical play for children, *As Flowers Grow*, based on the diaries, poems, and letters of children who have lived through both war and peace.

The Board and staff of The Lifebridge Foundation are continually energized by the vitality and ebullience of the many young people and adults whose projects are mentioned above – and as well by the work of our 2001 youth grantees, **ACTIVE ELEMENT FOUNDATION**, **POWER OF HOPE** (see pg. 9), and **INIYA** (see pgs. 4 – 5, & 9). It is a privilege to play even a small part in their inspired and inspiring initiatives. For contact information on any of the grantees mentioned, visit www.lifebridge.org and click on Grantees, email us at lb457@aol.com, or call our office at 212-757-9711.

Larry Auld is Program Director of The Lifebridge Foundation and



Global Kids at the UN for the Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence

University for Human Goodness

The University for the Study of Human Goodness and Creative Group Work, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is not a typical university. Students of all ages come from around the world to learn *practical applications* of spiritual principles. Through service to others they discover magical connections between the soulful and the mundane, and they come away with powerful lessons on the deeper meaning and purpose in life; spiritual and practical entrepreneurship; interpersonal, leadership and group work skills; clear thinking; and financial savvy.

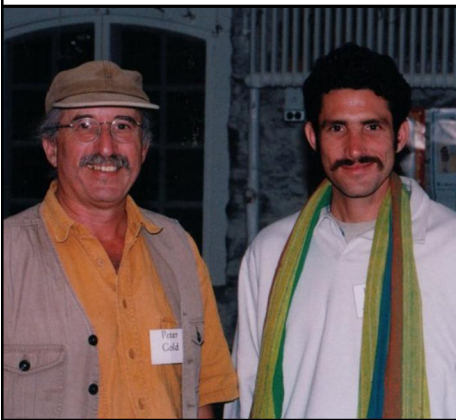
"Service" is not a new concept in religious or spiritual paths, but it is rare to find non-religious institutions where that concept is put into daily practice. The University is not a religious organization. It grew out of 14 years of all-volunteer work--which received international acclaim--caring for terminally ill adults and severely disabled children, all at no charge. Now other forms in the University's "learning laboratories" include a popular restaurant; a state-of-the-art video, audio, graphics and production studio; and the lovely campus and facilities.

The year-long, residential program is called Soul-Centered Education for a Lifetime. It is **free of charge**, providing classes plus room and board for serious seekers ready for an intensive year of learning and application. The program combines three elements: service, study, and reflection. All faculty and staff are volunteers--none are paid, and they work daily in every project alongside the students. Because of a willingness to adhere to financial principles, debt has been absent, and money issues haven't impeded or diverted the University's work. For information about applying to be a student, or to explore services available for groups and non-profit volunteer organizations, visit the website at www.ufhg.org. You may also write University for Human Goodness (UfHG), 3983 Old Greensboro Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 USA; call (336) 761-8745, fax (336) 722-

The Lifebridge Grantee Gathering – May 31-June 3, 2001

It becomes increasingly clear to the Board of Directors and staff of The Lifebridge Foundation that the Lifebridge mission is only fully accomplished by bringing our cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-generational grantees together to meet face to face. The inspiration they give to us and to each other is a fitting complement to the grants they receive. Many people are involved in making the Lifebridge Gatherings work. So the Board extends many thanks to the Lifebridge staff and to the staff of the Wainwright House, with special thank-yous to Annie Wood for her invaluable and unconventional support, and to Puja A.J. Thomson for her open, insightful, and inclusive facilitation.

The Participants



Pat Anderson Williams
International Youth of Unity
Lee's Summit, MO

Carmella B'Hahn
"Mourning Has Broken"
Devon, England

Gilbert Carmichael
Radio For Peace International
Santa Ana, Costa Rica

Bruce Davidson
Sirius Incorporated
Shutesbury, MA

Heather Foxhall
Rainbow Ark Foundation
Ojai, CA

Peter Gold
Ancient Ways Project
Chinle, AZ

Sam Gregory
Witness
New York, NY

Alex Grey
Chapel of Sacred Mirrors
Brooklyn, NY

BeLynda Fay Hardin
"Ties That Bind"
New York, NY

Rebecca Janke
Growing Communities For Peace
Scandia, MN

Brenda Keesal
Jack & Ella Productions
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Linda Lantieri
Fetzer Foundation Fellow
New York, NY

Debra Latham
Radio For Peace International
Santa Ana, Costa Rica

Shirley Frey McConahay
Art for Indigenous Survival
Durham, NC

Pamela Meidell
The Atomic Mirror
Port Huemene, CA

Jonathon Miller-Weisberger
Grupo Osanimi
Quito, Ecuador

Jennifer Muller
Jennifer Muller/The Works
New York, NY

Gracy Obuchowicz
International Youth of Unity
Lee's Summit, MO

Dorina Răbu
The Lydia Project/Fundatia A.R.M.S.
Bucharest, Romania

Linda Elena Reimer
Sirius Incorporated
Shutesbury, MA

Andrea Sadler
"The Sacred Run"
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Anne B. Zill
Center for Ethics in Action
Portland, ME





In Retrospect – Their Own Words



The gathering was extraordinary. I have rarely felt so entirely stimulated and haven't even begun to assimilate all of what I have gained. Thank you for this amazing experience. I am dazzled and finally, speechless.

— **Brenda Keesal**

What a group! I felt we had a shot at changing the world's mindset if we just stayed together and kept our creativity flowing. I so appreciated all the musicians, artists and filmmakers who are essential in the better world mix.

— **Anne B. Zill**

Our experience at the gathering was very inspiring...the quality and integrity of the people and projects bears witness to your good works. Thank you for doing something for the planet that is clearly making a difference.

— **Bruce Davidson & Linda Elena Reimer**

Spiritual Philanthropy showed its true colors at the gathering...I want to thank all who were present for mirroring my wholeness by your standing in your own...

— **Carmella B' Hahn**

There are things that one could never forget, and I, with my spirit, can always go back with pleasure because I felt like home with you. My LIFE is still on the BRIDGE, only, this time at the Romanian end of it

— **Dorina Rabu**

Finding a group of worthy like-minded people with great programs facilitated by a spirit guided person like Puja made for incredible energy and synergy. Again, thank you so much for the Lifebridge gathering. It was a truly memorable experience..

— **Debra Latham and Gil Carmichael**

I had a wonderful time at the gathering.....very full.....very rich.....so much to take in. I love the image of

the rainbow...etheric field of the Earth that we're collectively holding in our hands as our parting gift to and for each other. — **Heather Foxhall**

Thank you Lifebridge for not only supporting us financially, but for nurturing us, and allowing me to meet some very dynamic people, who share my goal of world peace through unconditional love. — **Pat Anderson Williams**

Thanks so much for a multifaceted, fun and profound time at the gathering...we grantees often feel that we are operating in a "vacuum" with regard to our activities and their results. The gathering gave us a much needed validation and inspiration in our work. Thanks again for the wonderful and valuable time. — **Peter Gold**

To be with a group of people, all of whom have soul-filled passion and found a way to bring that passion to life, was a sacred experience in itself, but then to witness how each project is positioned to uplift humanity, was one of the most powerful week-ends of my life. What an incredible human vortex! Thank you for your love, support, affirmation and skills in creating and facilitating a truly transformative experience.— **Rebecca Janke**

Inspiring projects, exceptional people, no longer feeling alone in trying to help our world, what a blessing, thank you. — **Shirley Frey McConahay**

I just wanted to say thank-you to all of you for organizing a really powerful and inspiring weekend. Over the four days I felt I grew connected-in to a community of fellow 'expansive idealists' whom I would have never expected otherwise to meet. The sense of shared purpose and spirit was palpable and refreshing, and I enjoyed it immensely!

— **Sam Gregory**





UN REPORT

Financing for Development by Barbara L. Valocore

The gift of a healthy world is a legacy all parents wish to leave for their children. Today, there's little chance of that unless we transform our global economic and environmental crisis into a (literally) golden opportunity. If we think creatively of an ideal world-view where global financial institutions and governments are characterized by unity of purpose, peaceful relations and material abundance, there would most likely be many scenarios we could invent and something to interest everyone.

Humanity is finally waking up to the devastating social problems caused by industrial globalization and corporate dominance of governments and markets, and we are only just beginning to build new global relationships in the aftermath of the Cold War. Ever sensitive to international trends and the needs of the most underserved populations, the United Nations is mounting what could be one of the most important conferences of this decade, *Financing for Development*.

Designed primarily to alleviate the considerable suffering of one billion people living with starvation and abject poverty, the *Financing for Development* conference will convene at the highest governmental and ministerial levels and has all the elements of a complete global financial overhaul. Its agenda suggests more appropriate alternatives to many of the current institutional corporate structures and the meeting as a whole promises to stimulate a vigorous debate. It will take place in Monterrey, Mexico March 18-22, 2002.

The *Financing for Development* process is definitely not simply meant to be a meeting of government appointed bureaucrats debating economic theory, but a dynamic and controversial process which includes, in fact relies on, the voices of civil society, business leaders and all relevant stakeholders. This open process is made possible by the broad-minded and transparent climate encouraged by the current Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

Financing for Development will attempt to engage donor countries, Bretton Woods institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, and large transnational corporations in a commitment to end poverty and hunger and to craft long term economic solutions that benefit all of humanity. It will seek to transform these entities at the most basic and systemic levels



Jifunze Project in Kibaya, Tanzania

attempting to build "robust international global growth" and sound fiscal stability for all the world's population. *Financing for Development* seeks to fight corruption, money laundering, and financial crime; stabilize and regulate international currency transactions, simplify tax laws and combat tax evasion internationally; "improve women's access to mainstream sources of funding" and reach all people living in poverty. It seeks to "provide duty-free, quota-free market access to all non-arms exports (textiles and agricultural products primarily) of Least Developed Countries and Highly Indebted Poor Countries" and "call for a strengthened United Nations to play a key role as a central pillar of the international system".

In short, *Financing for Development* would like the key players to commit to institutions responsive to people and their needs; to effective, participatory, transparent and accountable governance; to increasing allocation of world resources for social protection and to supporting universal coverage. This is quite an ambitious wish list!

The general purpose of the United Nations is to maintain peace and security for the world and today, humanity is entering into a new phase of self awareness: life in a global community. We know there are still enough natural resources and plenty of money to sustain the current population, but adequate distribution and equitable sharing hasn't quite been worked out. The United Nations is the only true global institution in place today, so who

better to lead the way toward true global economic justice?

The good health of any living system depends on the free and unimpeded circulation and distribution of the life sustaining elements for that system. In 1998, Nobel Prize winning Indian economist Dr. Amartya Sen demonstrated that there is enough food for the world's population and that inconsistent distribution can be blamed for world hunger. Isn't it time for wealthy nations, corporations and individuals to share their accumulated wealth more appropriately?

The call for global transparency, accountability and cooperation is repeatedly sounded throughout the Secretary General's recommendations on *Financing for Development*. Humanity is ready for an aggressive action plan that will replace parasitic corporate and financial systems racing to the bottom, with life sustaining institutions that include all the Earth's people, not just the wealthy and privileged. To achieve this, *Financing for Development* needs as much public support and input as possible - it needs your voice.

This article draws heavily on information provided by the Secretary-General in his report on Financing for Development. To find out more about the conference, visit www.UN.org/esa.



Global Youth Connect Learning Community

Celebrating Our Donors

Many, many thanks to the following persons for their generous contributions to The Lifebridge Foundation:

Louise Marr
Laurinburg, North Carolina

Linda Morrow
San Francisco, California

Anne W. Shafer
Memphis, Tennessee

Jeanne W. Wightman
New York, New York

Other Transformative Youth Groups

The Lifebridge Foundation greatly admires the following organizations, whose work with, for, and among young people is estimable and exemplary. Visit their websites!

Do Something
DoSomething.org

**Perhaps...Kids Meeting Kids
Can Make A Difference**
www.kidsmeetingkids.org

PEACEWAYS/Young General Assembly
peaceways@igc.org

Peace Child International
www.peacechild.org

Pioneers of Change
www.pioneersofchange.net

Youth Venture
www.youthventure.org

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 Statement of Purpose



***“Promoting the oneness
of humanity and the
interconnectedness of
all life...”***

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.

***“Bridging the chasm
between the spiritual
and the so-called
mundane...”***

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.

***“Facilitating the
integration of an
emerging holistic
consciousness into
daily action...”***

The Bridging Tree

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