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The Bridging Tree

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for a New
Millennium* —



**Happy New
Millennium**

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Hope & Vision

By Barbara L. Overby, President

What kind of a world is it where the dominant species of the planet pollutes its habitat and kills its own members? Well, it's our world folks, and we're the ones who will have to fix it. This doesn't sound too hopeful I know, but perhaps if we take an eagle's view with our mind's eye, individual insights will combine and appropriate solutions will emerge to create a sustainable world.

As we enter this new millennium and bring to a close the bloodiest, most violent century ever, Lifebridge is completing seven years of grant making. As I review these years, the overwhelming impression I carry into the new century is one of deep gratitude and hope. This is because of YOU; our grantees, friends and supporters. It is you, being your *higher* selves, who recognize that spiritual values are permeating the fabric of every day life and it is you, using the tools of your compassion and common sense who are selflessly building a healthy world fit for all forms of life.

We're using this millennial edition of *The Bridging Tree* to celebrate you; your projects, your ideas and your successes. You, the visionaries, are building a new world of health and joy, and for us, this is a great reason for hope. Your vision provides security for the planet and generations to come will

reap the rewards of your efforts. We can already see evidence of this new life in all fields of human endeavor as religion and science move closer, as business grapples with its own spirituality, and American politics is attempting to remove money from its midst. Spiritual discussion and meditation groups are popping up all over the United Nations and world leaders are "confessing" their own spiritual values.

So, relax, sit back and enjoy as you read about many innovative projects in the following pages and please take this inspiration back out into your world and spread it around. We *can* do it! We *can* succeed and we *will* live! Welcome to the New Millennium!



Small Packages

By Larry Auld, Editor of *The Bridging Tree*

The Lifebridge Foundation is not a large institution. We have an office staff of exactly two and a very small Board of Directors. Compared to many other independent foundations, our financial resources are modest.

One reason many may think we are a large institution could be the wide range of disciplines represented by our grantees. Another reason might be that we are a non-governmental organization affiliated with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations, which has allowed us to attend UN briefings and to become involved with world-wide initiatives such as The Hague Appeal for Peace.

Our files are burgeoning with letters that introduce us to projects, programs and organizations from around the world. We read about people, hear about people, and meet with people who are "accentuating the positive" in a variety of venues. It has been an incredible privilege over the past seven years to have contributed in small part to the diverse work that dedicated people are doing to make this planet a better place in which to live.

Lifebridge operates on the underlying concept that money is potential energy, fueled by intention. We so often watch in awe as grantees use what little we're able to give them, run with it and do eye-opening research, create inspiring artistic exhibits, produce enlightening, entertaining performances, and engender all manner of visionary, compassionate programs, a number of which have influenced people throughout the world. This column is not long enough, nor is this newsletter big enough to tell all the stories.



We try though, in *The Bridging Tree* and on our website, to tell some of the stories; to make people aware of each others' work and thereby to, as we say in our statement of purpose, promote an awareness of "the interconnectedness of all life".

In March, June, and August of 1999, we tried to enrich the grant-making process further by bringing nearly 70 grantees together during three gatherings, representing grant-giving from 1993-1997.

During most conferences, the cliché goes, the real communication happens in the halls and in after-hours meetings rather than in the usual panel discussions and workshops. We wanted these Lifebridge grantee gatherings to have the feeling of the after-hours meetings all the way through --- and in a way, our smallness probably made this more possible. At each of these gatherings, a kind of magic occurred. People met across disciplines and established their commonality as human beings while relaxing and enjoying the natural surroundings of the Hudson River Valley. (See pages 10-11)

These then are the things that Lifebridge is doing in its little corner of the foundation world and we are painfully aware that we can't do it all. We can only do as much as we can by being who we are and by allowing ourselves to grow and change as we continue. In fact, this is all any of us can do. But because of intentional energy in its many guises and through honoring the uniqueness of the roles that each of us play in the world drama, no matter how small we may think the gift packages are, together we can and will make a positive difference in the world of the 21st century.

The Bridging Tree

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Foundation



SOKONI

by Charles G. Overby II

Treasurer & CFO of The Lifebridge Foundation

The Sokoni Conference was convened during late October at the Whidbey Institute on Whidbey Island, Washington by three of The Lifebridge Foundation's grantees. In Swahili, the word "Sokoni" means "in the marketplace," a place where there is an exchange of ideas and information as well as goods, a place where everyone can benefit. The conference organizers, International Communities for the Renewal of the Earth (ICRE), Bridges to Community and the Whidbey Institute, brought together people from Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Mexico, Canada and the United States with the vision of creating "...mutually beneficial intercultural relations and alliances of solidarity between peoples of the U.S. and Kenya as part of a just and sustainable global community." A fourth Lifebridge grantee, The Green Belt Movement of Kenya was the grassroots organization featured at the conference.

The presenters at Sokoni included Wangari Maathai of The Green Belt Movement, Professor Stephen Ndegwa, a Kenyan currently at the College of William and Mary, Margaret (Peg) Snyder, the first Director of UNIFEM and a co-founder of the African Centre for Women of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as many distinguished others.

Following an inaugural dinner on Thursday, the conference began Friday with ritual, followed by presentations on the roots, history and background of The Green Belt Movement and the issues facing them within the framework of the Kenyan system. The poverty, corruption, massive national debt, environmental degradation, racism, pressures from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, apathy, and 'good intentions' with which they must contend seem monumental and the fact that there has been any progress at all is miraculous.

On Saturday, focus was placed upon response from the indigenous community and steps that *they* have found to work best *for them*. That evening Wangari gave a presentation open to the public which was well attended by members of the local community.

On Sunday morning the conference came to a climax with what I'd call a "circle of commitment" in which all of the attendees offered all of the skills, time, and



resources at their collective disposal for the continuation of the work begun during this, our own "marketplace" exchange. Numerous attendees representing women's organizations, grassroots movements, corporations, and not-for-profits, began the process of networking, leading to collaboration on this and future projects. Among the most favored and promising suggestions came when Peg Snyder suggested a "Green Belt International" organization to be formed in this country for the purpose of providing support to the Kenyan Green Belt Movement, especially as it reaches out to the international community at large who have expressed great interest in forming groups of a similar nature. Mary Davidson pointed out that in the mean-time, there is a "flow-through" fund already setup within the Marion Foundation which goes directly to the Green Belt Movement.

Another major contribution came after Wangari described her experience with Vice-President Al Gore, who invited her to come with him to Haiti to suggest how best to help the people of that troubled nation. The project to aid Haiti in forming its own movement, a product of the trip with Mr. Gore, has been stalled for lack of support. But as a result of a pledge from one of the attendees at Sokoni, a group will be brought from Haiti to Kenya for training and the project will proceed.

We at The Lifebridge Foundation are greatly encouraged by the collaboration of these four grantees. It is our hope that more and more groups and organizations from all over the world will begin the process of reaching out to one another to work together for the good of all.

(For more information on the "flow-through" fund, email lb457@aol.com)

The Lifebridge Foundation Grantee Section

Winter 1999-2000

The Lifebridge Foundation pre-selects all of its grantees. However, we are currently overwhelmed with worthwhile projects and no new projects can be considered and until late Spring 2000.



Hope and Vision — New Grantees – Arts & Culture

ARTSGENESIS, Inc.

Roger Shea/Kathleen Gaffney
310 East 46th Street, Suite 26J
New York, NY 10017
Tel: 212-696-ARTS
Fax: 201-434-8072

ARTSGENESIS believes that the arts can teach, reform and heal. Their interactive programs in music, dance, theatre and the visual arts ignite creativity and accelerate learning. More than 120 Artsgenesis artists reach thousands of general to special to gifted and talented students every year.



Richter Productions

330 West 42nd Street/ 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 212-947-1418
Fax: 212-643-1208
Email: RRProd@aol.com

The May 11th-15th Hague Appeal for Peace in the Netherlands was the world's largest Peace Conference ever, with nearly 10,000 participants from 100 countries. Robert Richter coordinated a dozen volunteer camera teams to help document this monumental event for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. From 150 hours of footage, a 20-minute video highlight was produced to inform and mobilize other peace activists around the world. A one-hour documentary that will give substance and depth to the many issues discussed in The Hague is also being developed for television, and for use in colleges and libraries.

"Sixth House of Virtue"

Chuck Schultz, Producer
c/o New York Foundation for the Arts
155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10013-1507
Tel: 212-366-6900 / Fax: 212-366-1778

The documentary film "*Sixth House of Virtue*" tells the story of Auburn University's Rural Studio - an innovative educational program that promotes solutions to rural poverty through community collaboration and student achievement. The film will look at the families and students involved with the program since its inception in 1992 and will chronicle the 1999-2000 academic year when the studio's sixth "charity house" will be built.

Youth United

By Benjamin Quinto

Young people from over 100 countries have been involved with the Youth Assembly Project of the ONE DAY Foundation. The Project began in 1996 and is dedicated to providing youth with a permanent representative body to work cooperatively with the United Nations in solving the critical issues of today.

ONE DAY's United Youth Conference brought youth leaders together earlier this year to design an integrative strategy for effective collaboration in establishing such a body. The action plan that emerged, which has since been further developed through a series of follow-up meetings, calls for a Global Youth ACTION Network to help increase cooperation among youth-serving organizations and represent the true diversity of youth in building a Global Youth Assembly.

The Network and Assembly, which are collaborative efforts with Youth In Action, Nation 1 and many other youth-led organizations around the world, are designed to give every young person a voice, connecting and empowering them to make a difference. The Network will also give away \$1,000 (US) Youth In Action Awards to youth-initiated projects that create results as incentive for young people to take action on their ideas.

We are looking for organizations and young people who want to work together to help build National Youth Platforms, which are building now in over 45 countries! These Platforms, coming from every nation in which



young people speak up, will be presented to world leaders in September 2000 at the UN. Interested organizations and enthusiastic young people are invited to join! Contact us: ONE DAY Foundation, P.O. Box 1052; Sedona, AZ 86339 USA; tel: (520) 282 0605; fax: (520) 204 1216; e-mail: info@oneday.org; web: www.oneday.org

Hope and Vision — New Grantees — Youth



Oxford Research Group

Scilla Elworthy, Director

51 Plantation Road

Oxford, OX2 6JE UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 242819 / Fax: +44 (0) 1865 794652

Email: org@oxfrg.demon.co.uk

Web: www.oxfrg.demon.com.uk

A secure and sustainable world depends on nuclear disarmament, prevention of war, inequalities in wealth, threats to the environment, over-population, and migration. Over the next 3 years, ORG will select 500 of the world's young emerging leaders to a) learn to think and act from a holistic and cooperative perspective; b) work personally with global security experts; and c) create an internationally networked learning community.

The Temple of Understanding

Sister Joan Kirby

Executive Director

720 Fifth Avenue, 16th Floor

New York, NY 10019

Tel: 212-246-2746

Fax: 212-246-2340

Email: JCKtemple@prodigy.com

At Baruch College in October, The Temple of Understanding hosted the second in a series of conferences on "Education as Transformation: Religious Pluralism, Spirituality and Higher Education." A consortium of colleges is envisioned arising out of the ongoing process to pursue issues of transformation through respect for diversity.



Hope and Vision — New Grantees – Environment

Wilderness Volunteer Corps

Derek Churchill, Program Director

4649 Sunnyside Ave N #242

Seattle, WA 98103

Tel: 206-498-1516

Fax: 206-633-1996

Email: wildvols@theglobe.com

Web: www.wawild.org/youthvolunteer

The Wilderness Volunteer Corps consists of a three week outdoor education and conservation service course followed by a year long community service and leadership program. Eighteen students (9 girls and 9 boys, ages 14-17) from economically, racially, and socially diverse groups participated in this summer's three-week program. Most had little to no experience in volunteerism but together they did 750 hours of volunteer trail work, climbed mountains, swam in freezing rivers, and enjoyed back-packing in deep wilderness, sighting bear, elk, coyote, and hawk along the way. After this life-changing experience, students are not abandoned, but continue to receive help and encouragement from the Wilderness Volunteer Corps.



Hope and Vision — New Grantees – Community Service

Friends House in Rosehill

Jill Clockadale, Executive Director

130 East 25th Street

New York, NY 10010

Tel: 212-995-5000 X 106 / Fax: 212-995-5317

Email: nbernard@rosehill.org

Web: www.rosehill.org

Friends House in Rosehill opened in April of 1997 to serve the special needs of 50 formerly homeless adults living with AIDS. Sponsored by the New York Society of Friends (Quakers), Friends House provides a home where every resident can live fully and independently in a supportive community, based on respect for the dignity of each individual.

Northwest Regional Facilitators

Resilient Communities

Robert L. Stilger

East 525 Mission Avenue

Spokane, WA 99202

Tel: 509-484-6733 / Fax: 509-483-0345

Email: rstilger@nrf.org

Web: www.resilientcommunities.org

Resilient Communities is an action/learning network inaugurated in 1998 by Northwest Regional Facilitators in response to Y2K issues. The network invites people to examine the quality of their personal and community life, encouraging and engendering positive action in the service of both.

Hope and Vision— New Grantees - World Goodwill



Center on Violence and Human Survival / John Jay College

Charles B. Strozier, Co-Director
555 West 57th Street - Suite 601
New York, NY 10019
Tel: 212-237-8432 / Fax: 212-237-8468
Email: Strozier2@aol.com

The Citizens Panel on Ultimate Weapons is an international panel of more than 20 scholars and policymakers. It draws on the expertise of its members to critically evaluate the psychological, ethical and political impact of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons on global society.

NGA Wahine Pasifika

Joan Macdonald/Pauline Tangiora
PO Box 47-189
Ponsonby, Auckland NEW ZEALAND
Tel: 64-9 360 8001 Fax: 64-9 360 8005
Email: joanmac@pl.net

NGA Wahine Pasifika is a charitable trust set up by women of the Pacific in Aotearoa/New Zealand to hold a Human Rights Court, where women of the Pacific can give their testimonies about the violence that has been done to them by militarism, nuclear testing, colonization, environmental degradation, loss of land, and culture and related issues. Reports will be written for the Human Rights Commission.

Pathways To Peace

Avon Mattison, President
P.O. Box 1057
Larkspur, CA 94977
Tel: 415-461-0500
Fax: 415-925-0330
Email: pathways@igc.org
Web: <http://pathwaystopeace.org>
www.wethepeoples.org

Pathways to Peace does international peace-building. Its educational efforts seek to expand the comprehension and expression of "PEACE" and peace-building practices; to build cooperation by uniting and enhancing the strengths of existing organizations and programs along eight paths to peace, and to contribute, through consultation and direct participation, to the evolving mission of the United Nations and to citizens' worldwide participation in the International Day of Peace. Pathways To Peace coordinates "WE THE PEOPLES", a UN-designated Peace Messenger Initiative.

7th Annual Prayer Vigil for the Earth

The Circle

Sharon Franquemont, Executive Director
6114 La Salle Ave #166
Oakland, CA 94611
Tel: 510-366-0223
Fax: 510-531-7478
Email: oneprayer4@aol.com
Web: www.oneprayer.org

The Prayer Vigil for the Earth has occurred on the Mall in Washington DC annually since 1993, and has become an icon of spirituality in our nation's capital. People of diverse faiths, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and all ages gather to pray for harmony with the Earth and each other, to share knowledge, celebrate, and participate respectfully in multi-faith ceremonies. Since its inception, the Prayer Vigil has broadened and deepened its scope and now embraces participants, indigenous and non-indigenous, from all over the world.





Some Grantee News

First Nations Development Institute, based in Fredericksburg, Virginia, is devoted to the economic development of North American indigenous communities. The Institute has initiated many programs to engender economic progress according to native needs, but one of the most potentially exciting is **The Oweesta Fund**.

"Oweesta" has always been the Mohawk word for money but in the next century, it might also connote balanced, sustainable communities where consumerism has yielded to environmental responsibility, where what we have does not outweigh what we are, and where the test of an economic system is not the quantity of goods it produces but the quality of life it sustains.

The Oweesta Fund serves as an intermediary between the establishment holders of capital and the capital distribution system of Native organizations. With training and technical assistance from Oweesta, the Fund can extend small loans at low interest rates to these organizations which will in turn capitalize Native American start-up businesses. As organizational creditworthiness grows, further capital infusions and fundraising assistance can follow, says Patrick Borunda, newly installed Director of Oweesta.

Rebecca Adamson, Founder and President of First Nations Development Institute, hopes that in time "and with recovery, Indian communities will be seen for what they were -- model communities, worthy of respect, with a world of stored up understanding to share." It is also hoped that networks will continue to develop as Oweesta encourages the creation of relationships among Native and non-Native financial stakeholders, independent of First Nations.

As Borunda says, "We're literally building the bridge between Native entrepreneurs and financial institutions that want to make a difference." For more information contact First Nations Development Institute, The Stores Building, 11917 Main Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408 Phone: 540-371-5615 Fax: 540-371-3505 website: firstnations.org Email: info@firstnations.org

In June of this year, **The International Collaborative for Science, Education and the Environment (The ICSEE)** was given a grant by Lifebridge to help coordinate an International Symposium on Religion, Science and the Environment. Known as the Halki Ecological Institute, the symposium, made up of scientists, journalists, educators, students and clergy met in Turkey to address the Black Sea environmental crisis and was a highly inspiring, successful gathering - one of many current prototypes for world-wide problem solving through learning and communicating across disciplines. For more information on The Halki Institute, contact The ICSEE at 508-358-7661 or email lange@brandeis.edu.

Similarly, in Dharamsala, India an interdisciplinary group met at the invitation of the Dalai Lama for **The Synthesis Dialogues** during five days in September, 1999. This meeting was coordinated by the **Association for Global New Thought**. The Dalai Lama served as both participant and guide, addressing the group on the foundational concepts of synthesis and dialoguing formally and informally on the subject, especially as it applies to East-West thought. For more information on the Dialogues, contact Association for Global New Thought at 1565 Maple Avenue, Suite 204-205, Evanston, Illinois 60201; email: agnt@aol.com; web: www.agnt.org.

Global Youth Connect, another recent grantee, has moved its main offices to New York City. Led by and for young people, GYC encourages and supports youth activism for human rights and social transformation and is dedicated to the principles of activism, community-building, reconciliation, and non-violence. For more information: GYC, 220 East 25th Street, Suite 5B, New York, NY 10010-3113 USA, Email: jennifer@globalyouthconnect.org, Web: www.globalyouthconnect.org, Tel: 212-696-9281.

Finally, last summer, the **1999 World Youth Leadership JAM!** (produced by **Youth for Environmental Sanity**) brought 30 of the world's most outstanding young environmental and social justice leaders to Soquel, California to support, encourage and inspire them in their work. As a result, an amazing number of innovative and cooperative projects have been born. Plans are currently underway for the 2000 World Youth Leadership JAM! Contact: TOLL FREE#: 888-YES-6946; email: camps@yesworld.org or on the web www.yesworld.org

Publicizing Other Transformative Actions

Pioneers of Change

A few years ago, a dynamic Brazilian business executive connected with a former President of the world's largest student-run organization and a Swedish provider of learning solutions. Together they agreed to create a network that would support young visionaries to bring their values and creativity to the world of work. Pioneers of Change supports young people in channeling their passions, ideals and unique talents into the most effective work for a more compassionate world.

The network is based on the following four founding ideas: 1) the future is created by how we live NOW; 2) young people more naturally bring their talents and passions to the present. 3) in the process of preparing for a working life, young people often lose touch with their passions and ideals...the deeper self. 4) a more compassionate world will depend on the capacity of all people to express themselves—their passions, ideals, and unique talents—through innovative and effective work.

It is a global network with nine meeting places on five continents, providing vocational workshops for young people to help them identify their unique talents, and searching for companies and organizations open to innovative collaborations.

Specific collaborations with companies and organizations include designing in-house programs to help young employees identify their unique skills and supporting companies and organizations in creating channels to use those skills, as well as designing focus groups to foster intergenerational cooperation that allows the alignment of personal values with organizational values. Contact: Marianne Bojer, Colleen Bowker or Marianne Knuth. E-mail: pioneers@pioneersofchange.net Tel: 55-11-3741-4567 Fax: 55-11-3741-5619, Web: www.pioneersofchange.net

The Columbine Peace Labyrinth Project

In the aftermath of the Columbine massacre, a project has been conceived that will not only be dedicated to the students, faculty and families of Columbine High School, but will be a place for spiritual reflection and meditation for peace in the world community. Sponsored by the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church, with the support of The Labyrinth Society, and located in Littleton, Colorado, the project is to construct a labyrinth modeled on the famous Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral near Paris, France, and surrounded by a Meditation Garden. Current plans are to have the Labyrinth and Garden dedicated on the first anniversary of the massacre, April 20, 2000. For information

on donating to this project, call 303-972-1716 or send a tax-deductible contribution to: CUUC Labyrinth Fund, 6724 South Webster Street, Littleton, Colorado 80128

Harmony Foundation

Harmony Foundation was established in 1985 on the principle that cooperation and education are the cornerstones of a successful transition to a sustainable society; one committed to development based on sound environmental practices and progressive social programs. In May, 1999, Harmony Foundation presented a three-day leadership Training Session as part of its Building Sustainable Societies Program, inviting representatives of school and community groups interested in learning to run a community action workshop to support the development of innovative environmental projects. For more information on future programs and projects, contact Harmony Foundation 1183 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8V 3L1 Email: harmony@islandnet.com Website: www.harmonyfdn.bc.ca/-harmony Phone: 250-380-3001; Fax: 250-380-0887



Lifebridge Grantee Gatherings

June
17-20, 1999

Roger Blonder
Animated Filmmaker
Woodland Hills, California

Sue and Jon W. Blouin, Jr.
NW Delta Choral & Arts
Sardis, Mississippi

Meryl Ann Butler
Artist
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Joanne Camp
The Pearl Theatre Company
New York, New York

Jack Hunter Cohen
Video Producer
Santa Monica, California

Martha Crampton
Psychotherapist
New York, New York

Gordon Davidson & Corinne McLaughlin
Center for Visionary Leadership
Washington, D.C.

Rinchen Dharlo
The Tibet Fund
New York, New York

Steve Diamond
One Day in Peace
Santa Barbara, California

Samantha Doane-Bates
Author
Lexington, Kentucky

Thomas R. Fuld
Healing Works
New York, New York

Dorri Jacobs
Psychotherapist
New York, New York

Satish Kumar
Schumacher College
Devon, UK

John Mack
PEER
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Patrick McNamara
Change Consultant
Fredonia, New York

M. Carroll Owen
The Door of Hope
Greensboro, North Carolina

Beverly Rubik
The Institute for Frontier Sciences
Oakland, California

Rupert Sheldrake
Scientist/Author
London, UK

John R. Stowe
Author
Decatur, Georgia

Bill Thatcher
Foundation for Community
Encouragement
Seattle, Washington

John Anthony West
Author
Athens, New York

Ralph White
New York Open Center
New York, New York



August
19-22, 1999

Brenda Dunne
PEAR Lab
Princeton, New Jersey

Regina Foehr
Assembly for Expanded
Perspectives on Learning
Normal, Illinois

Sharon Franquemont
The Circle
Oakland, California

Jane Glitre
The Dandelion Turst
London, UK

Chris & Jane Hildred
World Peace 2000
Surrey, UK

Melanie Joseph
The Foundry Theatre
New York, New York

Robin & Stephen Larsen
Center for Symbolic Studies
New Paltz, New York

Arnold Lettieri
Scientist/Author
Hopewell, New Jersey

Balbir & Treva Mathur
Trees for Life
Wichita, Kansas

Deborah McClaren
Rethinking Tourism Project
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sukie Miller
Institute for the Study of the
Afterdeath
Penngrove, California

Jeffrey Mishlove
Intuition Network
San Rafael, California

Stuart Pimsler
Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theatre
Columbus, Ohio

Anthony Podberscek
Veterinarian
Cambridge, UK

Diane Reed
Media Arts Foundation
Indio, California

Patricia L. Ryan
Psychotherapist
Lynchburg, Virginia

Nancy Seifer
Author
Falls Church, Virginia

Laura Morningstar Wolfe
Ti Ospaye
Wanblee, South Dakota

Rebecca Yates
Esplanade Productions
Montreal, Quebec, Canada



Some PerspectivesIn Their Own Words

June

...it was an amazing three and a half days and very, very high. Even in the 'unknown' quality, of 'what's going to happen' when you bring all these folks together, there was magic afoot. **Steve Diamond**

I...came away much richer, having experienced many beautiful shared moments...I resonated deeply to the labyrinth and our walking it as a group. **Samantha Doane-Bates**

What a joy to meet so many people with hearts wide open taking so many fascinating, transformative, loving actions to benefit all people. **Tom Fuld**

I'm impressed with the intelligence, creativity and integrity of my fellow pioneers. And our diversity--of backgrounds, disciplines, projects, paths to transforming the world. **Dorri Jacobs**

...precious was the rich opportunity to chat informally in such an intimate "house party" atmosphere... **John Mack**

I greatly enjoyed the gathering and was inspired by the variety of activities that Lifebridge is supporting, all of which were positive and life enhancing. **Rupert Sheldrake**

...there were many moments that made the trip worthwhile. Talking late into the early hours with John Anthony West about everything under the sun; hearing Rupert's discourse on the uncanny abilities of animals; listening to Satish tell of his amazing youth as an itinerant Jain monk in India... the many delightful meals and of course the chance to simply be in a beautiful and peaceful nature setting. **Ralph White**

August

Our time together has been deeply moving to me. I expect many things will unfold from this. **Jeffrey Mishlove**

I have found myself on a high from the weekend--on the plane ride back home and at many other moments since...I still am humbled by the work each of you is doing... **Regina Foehr**

Here's to a thousand such occasions which renew our courage and sanctify our madness! **Melanie Joseph**

Just loved the weekend with all you wonderful, wacky, whimsical, beautiful people out there changing this world for the better. **Deborah McClaren**

I am grateful for the definite heart energy generated from our conference group...How much greater is the strength and encouragement we may share as a result. **Diane Reed**

So many memories, so much meaning, so many moments of glad grace. **Arnold Lettieri**

...the gifts of your selves, your spirits, your dreams, offered so openly and unreservedly...have been resonating within me all week and making my heart sing with a sense of profound privilege. **Brenda Dunne**

Amazingly, it seems the "bubble" has not yet burst.... it is so hard to put into words exactly what transpired at the gathering...maybe it has something to do with recognizing parts of ourselves in each other. **Nancy Seifer**

We are just getting over both jet lag and brain lag! What an amazing time. Wonderful inspiring people, new friends, wonderful location and wonderful food - cabaret - all free - we are just blown away by it all! **Chris and Jane Hildred**

Words will fail to express how wonderful the conclave was... Gathering of so many angels at one place. **Balbir & Treva Mathur**

What an extraordinary miraculous time we shared! I feel refreshed, renewed, reinvigorated and so grateful for having got to know each and all of you. Thank you all for your wonderful energy, vitality and passion. **Rebecca Yates**



Recommended

Reading and Viewing in the 21st Century

Books

(Unless otherwise noted, the following books and videos can be found in bookstores or through Amazon.com)

Dogs That Know When Their Owner is Coming Home

by Rupert Sheldrake

Crown

Not only provides fascinating insight into animal and human behavior, but also teaches us to question the boundaries of conventional scientific thought. "At times delightful, at times outrageous, this provocative book might well be onto something that nobody ever imagined before. If true, this book will turn our understanding of animals inside out." (*Jeffrey Masson, author of When Elephants Weep*)

Finding Hope When a Child Dies

by Sukie Miller, Doris Ober

Simon & Schuster

Encourages us to understand the shift in our universe that occurs after the death of a child by showing us how this terrible event, common to people worldwide, is experienced differently in other cultures. "...the best book on parental grief that I have seen." (*Wingate Packard - The Seattle Times*)

Gay Spirit Warrior

By John R. Stowe

Findhorn Press

Spirituality at its most practical—a radical, invigorating adventure in self-transformation. "This book is a valuable resource for any gay man interested in spirituality and self-discovery." (*Franklin Abbott, author of Boyhood: Growing Up Male*)

Old Souls: The Scientific Evidence for Past Lives

by Tom Shroder

Simon & Schuster

Pulitzer Prize-winning author follows Lifebridge grantee Dr. Ian Stevenson through some of his investigative scientific research into the theory of reincarnation. "From Lebanon to India to suburban Virginia, Shroder follows Stevenson into the lives of children and families touched by this phenomenon and struggling to grasp its meaning. The result is a spell-binding true story." (*Amazon.com*)



Books And Videos For Kids

Gandhi for Youth - by Arun Gandhi

A publication of M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
Told by his grandson, the story of Gandhi's life for children, with pictures.

M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

650 East Parkway South

Memphis, TN 38104

Fax: 901-452-3775

gandhi@odin.cbu.edu

Stop the Violence

Produced by Blue Apple Players

Louisville, Kentucky

Engaging video drama by Geraldine Ann Snyder, that encourages youth to manage anger, accept differences, and consider alternatives to reduce violence at home, in school, and within their communities. 1-800-587-7990

The Common Sense of the Wisdom Tree

A poemation by Roger Blonder

Through poetic dialogue and stunning imagery, this award-winning video animation brings children --- and all who experience the story—to a new appreciation of not only trees, but the interconnectedness of *all* life.

Poemation Productions

PO Box 1804

Agoura Hills, CA 91376

Web: www.poemation.com

Email: wisdomtree@poemation.com

Path Without Destination: An Autobiography

by Satish Kumar

Eagle Brook

Satish Kumar became a Jain monk at the age of nine. This is the story of his leaving home when still a child to take up that life. "Satish Kumar's story is stranger than fiction. The life of this vigorous, wise, compassionate and humble man is an example to all of us about how to make the most of our gifts and create our own opportunities to serve humanity's future." (Hazel Henderson, author of *Building a Win-Win World and Creating Alternate Futures*)

World Without Violence

Edited by Dr. Arun Gandhi

M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

Many world leaders share their commentaries on World Harmony, Peace and Justice. (M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, 650 East Parkway South, Memphis, TN 38104, Fax: 901-452-3775, Email: gandhi@odin.cbu.edu)

You Already Know What To Do

by Sharon Franquemont

J.P. Tarcher

A book filled with insights on the use of intuition in daily life. "...rings with the depth and resonance that only long and intensive experience with the subject can provide." (*Intuition Magazine*, April, 1999)

Videos

The Altruists

from the Hartley Foundation

An inspiring story about four ordinary people who set out to do good and as a result did very well. (*The Hartley Foundation*, 59 CatRock Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, Tel: 800-937-1819 www.hartleyvideos.org)

On The Edge...a Wake-Up Call

Produced and Directed by Douglas Gillies

EastBeach Productions

This winner of the Best Global Documentary Award at the NY International Independent Film and Video Festival features Mikhail Gorbachev, Ted Turner, Deepak Chopra, Carl Sagan, and Jane Fonda, among others, all of whom draw upon their ingenuity, courage, and compassion to paint a picture of a better world, as they issue a stirring summons for dramatic change. (*East Beach Productions*, 3463 State St. #140, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, Tel: 805-965-0200, Email: EastBeach2@aol.com)

Messengers

Written, Produced and Directed by

Jack Hunter Cohen

An inspiring look at one man's journey, allowing his inner voice to take him toward the various "messengers" he finds along the way, who in turn lead him to understand the meaning of the interconnectedness of all life. (*Inside Out Productions*, 824 Sixth Street #10, Santa Monica, California 90403 Web: www.insideoutprods.com)

Jane Goodall: Reason For Hope

PBS Home Video

Twin Cities Public Television

Recently premiered on PBS, this video is a portrait of one of the world's most admired women – Jane Goodall. It is the first program to look beyond Jane's scientific career at the woman herself, her remarkable life, and her deeply held spiritual beliefs and concern for the environment.

The Straw Bale Solution

NetWorks Productions

Produced and Directed by Catherine Wanek, this award-winning video shows how building with straw bales can produce ecological, empowering, and affordable housing. (*NetWorks Productions*, HC 66 Box 119, Hillsboro, NM 88042, 505-895-5400, Email: thelaststraw@zianet.com, Web: www.NetworkEarth.org)

Yakoana: The Voice of Indigenous Peoples

A Documentary by Anh D. Crutcher

The authorized, award-winning documentary of the First World Conference of Indigenous Peoples held in the jungles of Brazil one week prior to the UN Earth Summit in Rio. (*Parabola Magazine*, 1-800-560-MYTH, 650 Broadway #615, New York, NY 10012, Web: www.parabola.org)

NEW CD RECORDING OF MESSIAH

New York City's Trinity Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Trinity Church Organist/Director of Music and Lifebridge grantee Owen Burdick, is featured on a new CD recording of George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* on the Naxos label. This beautiful rendering of the 257 year-old classic oratorio has been critically acclaimed and is selling fast. On a historical note, Trinity Church was founded in 1697 and *Messiah* received its New World premiere there in October, 1770, only twenty-eight years after it was written.



UN REPORT

Millennium Gatherings *by Rob Wheeler*

UN Millennium Assembly, Summit, and NGO Forum

Just before the opening of the Millennium General Assembly next year, it is expected that the largest gathering of heads of state ever will meet for three days during the UN's Millennium Summit beginning on September 6, 2000. The themes that this gigantic summit of world leaders will address are peace, security, disarmament; development, poverty eradication, and the UN in the 21st century.

An NGO Millennium Forum will also be held at the United Nations from May 22-26, 2000 with 1400 delegates representing NGOs and civil society. It will cover the same issues that the Summit will address but in addition will examine human rights, sustainable development, facing the challenges of globalization, strengthening and democratizing the UN and other global institutions, as well as UN funding.

Leading up to the Forum in May, some thirty thematic working groups have been developed to draft program and policy recommendations for solving our global problems. Local, regional, and national Millennium Forum events are also being held around the world.

For a calendar of these events, visit the Forum web site at <www.millenniumforum.org>. If you are interested in joining a thematic working group or in attending a regional hearing, the website also offers information on how to become involved.

To apply to participate in the May Forum in New York City, check the above website or contact the Millennium Forum Secretariat at 1-212-803-2522; fax: 1-212-803-2566; E-mail: mngof@bic.org.

Creating a Permanent Global People's Assembly

The Millennium People's Assembly Network (MPAN) was formed in response to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's invitation to civil society and the NGO community to hold a companion event to the UN's Millennium General Assembly and Summit in 2000. MPAN, along with a number of other organizations, is now helping to organize the companion Millennium Forum and related events, to be held at the UN in New York next May.

However, the Network's primary focus is on establishing a permanent Global People's Assembly (GPA) to represent the voice of the people on an on-going basis. An inaugural GPA session will be held in April, 2000 as a lead-up to the Millennium Forum in May.

MPAN held a number of Millennium People's Assembly sessions during the recent Hague Appeal for Peace. Participants there created a provisional Delegate's Council for the on-going Assembly and elected the Presidents of the United Nations Associations from Samoa and New Zealand to be co-chairs of the Delegate's Council and GPA. The Council then endorsed the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice; approved a summary draft of the People's Agenda for the 21st Century; and agreed to hold the inaugural Global Millennium People's Assembly in Apia, Samoa this coming April.

This inaugural session of the GPA will focus on developing the form, structure, selection, representation processes, and thematic issue areas for the permanent People's Assembly. The primary theme for the Samoa event is "Make Peace, Stop Wars"; and a primary goal for the on-going Assembly is to build grassroots and public support for the UN; to strengthen its funding base; and to renew, reinvigorate, and democratize it.

More than 80 supporting organizations and delegations from around the world have joined the provisional Delegate's Council for the GPA. As a result, many other General People's Assembly events are being held over the next year or two in various countries.

For more information on becoming involved in the Millennium People's Assembly Network or on the upcoming General People's Assembly in Samoa, contact: Rob Wheeler, MPAN Chair & Coordinator at 1-212-973-9835; email: robineagle@worldcitizen.org; or visit the web site at <www.ourvoices.org>.

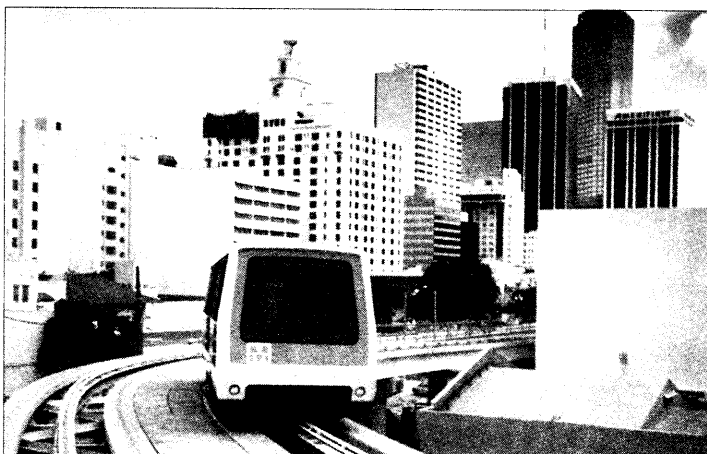


Spirituality, Values and Ethics at the Seoul International Conference of NGO's, October, 1999

Never before have so many workshops on the subject of spirituality, ethics and values been presented at United Nations International Conferences. Over sixteen workshops on the theme were conducted on such subjects as *New Millennium and New Paradigm*, *Right Human Relations in Action*, *Universal Values and Common Good*. Dr. Abdelkader Abbadi, Rev. Chung Lee and Dr. Nancy Roof presented *Spirituality for a New Civilization* and *A Common Framework for the Ethics of the 21st Century* in conjunction with UNESCO. The group presented ideas for the Universal Ethics project of UNESCO in conjunction with the Dialogue of Civilizations which will begin as a major theme at the UN in 2001. Abbadi presented views of the new civilization from a political and African perspective, Lee from a spiritual and Asian perspective, and Roof from a psycho-spiritual and Western perspective.

The theme of ethics, values and spirituality is gaining momentum among NGOs and increasingly among other members of the international community. Some are recognizing that the old methods of solving international problems are no longer effective, and only a transformative change of mind and methods will help us survive the challenges of the 21st century. NGOs are called upon to support decision makers who recognize the balance between material and spiritual values. (Information provided by Dr. Nancy Roof.)

*The United Nations has declared
The Year 2000 as
The International Year for
the Culture of Peace
And the first Decade of the 21st Century as the
International Decade for the Culture of Peace
and Nonviolence for the Children of the World*



Commitment 2000

The Appeal of the Nobel Laureates
was written by all of the living Nobel Peace
Laureates. The goal is to present 100 million
signatures during the special UN Millennium
Assembly in 2000 in honor of the
*International Decade for a Culture of Peace &
Nonviolence for the Children of the World.*

Recognizing my share of responsibility for the future of humanity, especially for today's children and those of future generations, I pledge - in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region - to:

Respect the life and dignity of every person without discrimination or prejudice;

Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;

Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;

Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity giving preference always to dialogue and listening rather than fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;

Promote responsible consumer behavior and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;

Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

Name _____
Date of Birth _____ Sex: ____ F ____ M
Town/Country _____
Email: _____
Signature/Date: _____

Send to: People For Peace
P.O. Box 570, Roosevelt, NJ 08555, U.S.A.
Or sign online at: www.nobelweb.org

*United Nations Resolution 54:29
invites all the world
To celebrate
One Day In Peace, January 1, 2000...*
* * * *

*Peace on Earth begins with each of us
ONE DAY at a time...*

www.oneday.net www.worldpeace2000.org



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

The Lifebridge Foundation, Inc.
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***The United Nations
Has invited the world
To celebrate
One Day in Peace, January 1, 2000!
(as included in UN Resolution 54:29)
... a worldwide day of peace in our homes,
our communities and between nations ...
May Peace Prevail On Earth!***