#### Summer 1999 New York, New York Volume 2 Issue 2

Interconnectedness
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The Hague Appeal
for Peace 1999 and
more———



## The Bridging Tree

Published by The Lifebridge Foundation, Inc.





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## You Gotta Have Heart

By Barbara L. Overby, President of The Lifebridge Foundation

"You gotta have Heart, all you really need is Heart..." so goes the catchy and upbeat song standard. What is this quality, this heart energy? We hear of a big heart, an open heart, a heart rending story and countless examples of this mysterious something called "heart", but do we really think about what this means? We know when we feel it, contained within ourselves, as well as when we feel it emanating from others. Heart is obvious and clear during the good times and if we can learn to access its energy, it helps us through the bad times. But what is it?

Heart energy means life, the affirmation of life enhancing values and activities, and the shift toward peace and justice. To me, the recent historic conference. The Hague Appeal for Peace, was a powerful example of 10.000 people expressing, sharing and invoking heart energy. The devastating issues facing our planet and menacing humanity were not minimized or trivialized, but were examined with candor and courage. People came together, looked at hard facts and dire statistics, and searched for concrete and workable solutions to end war as well as to identify the root causes of war. Individuals who normally would not meet together, deeply debated and discussed the issues at hand: primarily,

abolition of nuclear weapons, land mines, child soldiers and large and small arms. The strengthening of the International Criminal Court was also high on the list of agenda items.

Strongly supported by The United Nations, the aim of The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century is to mobilize ordinary citizens to take the kind of action which will make war an unacceptable practice and to defend justice and accountability as a normal condition. Public opinion and political will brought about the end of Communism and the Cold War, and it is the stance of the Hague Agenda that ordinary citizens must demand a permanent change of their governments to create peace and eliminate the root causes of war: economic disparity, greed and unbridled corporate power being among some of the most One dedicated heart can important. accomplish miracles, but think of the effect of millions of hearts working toward positive change!

What is holding us back? Why do we feel so powerless as individuals? Singer/songwriter Judy Collins, a shining and eloquent example of heart, poured out hers in the opening plenary at The Hague with a musical story of a young man in war who was dreaming of peace: but only with closed eyes could



he imagine this. As her crystal voice rang out in the hall and tears streamed down the faces of most people present. there was a clear sense that it is possible to change the world and that we can triumph over this evil called war. We are called to courage; to act with heart.

Children always demonstrate a particular type of heart quality. The musical production, Peace Child, was performed twice by local youth during The Hague Appeal, much to the pleasure of many. The strong, united voices of children singing straight to the audience. "We want to live, we want to love!" embodied an urgent demand for a change, a change toward a world characterized by safety and security. Can't we listen to them? Can't we work for their future? How can we allow them to be used as soldiers?

These questions are also being raised by the many youth delegations who are clamoring to be heard by their own governments. In many meetings of energetic young people, the issue of direct participation in the formation of government policy was a consistent theme. If we were to actually give young people a say, how would that change the way governments make decisions? Perhaps there would be less money in the defense budget.

#### The Bridging Tree

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The Lifebridge



One individual, a great world leader. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, was the recipient of a spontaneous outpouring of heart from the audience at the closing plenary. He was greeted by a five minute standing ovation as he shook the hands of all the speakers on stage making the place he holds in the hearts of thousands of people clear. He is loved and respected. How can we help him to strengthen the work of the United Nations? How can we help manifest the dream of world peace in the face of so many problems?

It doesn't take much work to see that with global annual expenditures of \$780B on armaments versus \$13B spent on human services, that something isn't right. Judy Collins said, "What the heart can imagine. the will can achieve." Surely, several billion people have enough will between them to work to set things right and demand peace as a basic human right. Let us discover why we feel powerless, turn that around and work to change the world, with heart.

We as the human race are only just beginning to explore our interconnectedness. We know that wars and violence adversely affect everyone in some fundamental way and we are beginning to believe that we have the power to demand that there be peace on Earth. Let us unite our common hearts and put a stop to this madness! We must look into the face of love and let it clearly reflect the horror and greed we see before us and say, "NO! We no longer agree with the current agenda! We demand the agenda of peace and cooperation, of tolerance and goodwill." Let us strengthen The Hague Appeal, for it has only just begun. Let us live from the heart!

## Awful & Wonderful

By Larry Auld, Editor of The Bridging Tree

In this issue of *The Bridging Tree*, we continue to report on a phenomenon that seems to indicate that the "natives of earth" are restless, want to be heard, and want somehow to come together to create positive change in the world. The year 2000 approaches quickly and we are all gathering.

At The Hague Appeal for Peace, Bishop Desmond Tutu mused that we have basically learned two things about ourselves in the past two thousand years: one, that human beings are awful, and two, that human beings are wonderful.

If we clearly recognize this rather profound but simple

truth, we could have a solid beginning for the better world we all long to create. It is a truth that doesn't just apply to this or that group or nation or bunch of radicals or conservatives. It is a truth that applies to each and every one of us. Human beings are both awful and wonderful. But think of this. The word awful in itself, at its root, connotes wonderful. Awful simply means full of awe which is almost synonymous with wonder-ful. Semantics, yes. But wars are most usually fought because of a breakdown in communications. Words have connotations depending on perspectives.

Combatants in any war (or in any argument) believe themselves to be on "God's side" from their relative perspectives. One side is wonderful, the other awful, depending.

These past 2,000 years have certainly produced some horrendous atrocities. But where does the fault lie? There are as many answers to that question as there are religions, ideologies, philosophies, nations, groups, people. Here is just one. With due respect to, and not quite quoting Shakespeare, the fault lies not in the times (dear Brutus), but in us.

Could the fault just be in our human reluctance to accept the fact that we are all awful and we are all wonderful? Each and every one of us? If we *could* accept that about ourselves as human beings, we might very well be on the road to a kind of guiltless unity.

The bottom line is always that each of us (awful and wonderful), whether individually or in groups, wants to be free to live and love as we choose. The step to madness is taken when we try to impose our own styles for life and love on everyone else. If we become aware that there are potentially as many ways to live and love as there are human beings on the planet, then we might be able to live and love *peacefully* amongst ourselves rather than to insist upon making others do it one or another particular way. (Always the *right way*, of course.)

If we could give up being just wonder-ful, we might go further and become awe-ful. Then we'd have an endless array of awe-ful, wonder-ful possibilities for life and love. The world would become rich with creativity and eternally open to more.

What causes prejudice? Fear. Fear of the unfamiliar, fear of what is forbidden by this or that ideology, philosophy, religion, or national authority, fear of ourselves and our awe-ful, wonder-ful potential as human beings on planet Earth, flying at great speed through the Universe.

Eradicating fear as an oppressive concept in our lives is a process. It is a process of uncovering and looking at

each and every person, group, or thing that frightens us. Reactions will vary -- from inspiration, to anger, to shrinking back and closing off. But if the effort is made to look, to listen and to try and understand, the next time is easier and yes, even familiar. Fear might then be replaced by a tentative curiosity, curiosity could lead to knowledge, and if the process is followed through, knowledge could then become wisdom.

The gatherings of human beings all over the planet right now may signify a desire by many thousands, even millions of people, to face their fears and to somehow come to understand one another and share potentials. But the process can be painful and discouraging. People, being awful, tend to shout each other down sometimes, leaving respect behind. But people, being wonderful, sometimes form circles, pass the talking stick and learn to listen.

The Lifebridge Foundation is having its own gatherings this year, made of up grantees from 1993-1997. The gathering in March was wonder-ful, at times even awe-ful. (See page 13.) We have two others coming up. in June and in August. Those will be reported on in the next issue of *The Bridging Tree*.

The Hague Appeal for Peace was a gigantic gathering of people from every corner of the earth. Drums were beaten, banners were held, protests were mounted, songs were sung, and chaos was common. But there was an incredible energy, a strong creative vibration and a richness of potential in the air that one could almost reach out and touch.

One of these days, the media will take notice of the growing number of these "native" gatherings. It hasn't yet. But if we keep facing our fears, keep opening those doors, and keep coming together, the voice of collective humanity will be so loud, it will hear itself! With universal goodwill in our hearts we *can* unite to make the world a more peaceful, creative, and gentle place in which to live and love. Boy, are we trying! Awfully and wonderfully.



## To Whom It May Concern

by Charles G. Overby II

Treasurer & CFO of The Lifebridge Foundation

The thousands of people and hundreds of groups that gathered during The Hague Appeal For Peace in The Netherlands from May 11th – 15th of this year are now creating a strong network around the world to support each other in a joint Appeal to all governments for Peace on Earth.

This development is greatly encouraging but there was little to no coverage of this historic meeting in the world media. In this article I'd like to bring attention to some of glaring concerns that were addressed in The Hague. The issues I'm dealing with here are far from comprehensive. There are many more that need to be addressed and there are also many, many more solutions and paths to healing the wounds of humanity than those listed at the end of this article. But if you are concerned about war, peace, the environment, and the world economy, the list of groups will provide you with ways to be involved.

#### WAR

There are currently over forty armed conflicts raging in the world -- generating profit from the sale of weapons without regard to the damage done on the planet or to the suffering of humanity. Nuclear disarmament is proceeding at a snail's pace and new countries are adding themselves to the list of those armed with nuclear capability. Land mines kill and maim children while they walk to school and play in fields near their homes.

On a particularly alarming note, the United States military has developed weapons made from "depleted" uranium. Depleted uranium is a waste product from the process used to create weapons and energy production grade "enriched" uranium. It is still radioactive! When a depleted uranium shell is fired from one tank and impacts another, it burns its way through the armor, incinerating any occupants. It also gives off up to seven pounds of breathable, radioactive dust, which is blown by the wind and contaminates soil, water and living things. These weapons were used during the Gulf War, in Bosnia, and are capable of being delivered by the Apache helicopters now in Kosovo. Our country is a "first-user" of these weapons; no one has used them against us.

There are hundreds of peace groups and thousands of activists supported by millions of people from across the globe working for world peace. If you add your voice to this network, we can put an end to war. The voice of the people is the only voice that can do this! One program

enables a community to "adopt" a land mine field and collect money for safely removing the hazard. Together we can stop the production of weapons of war, especially these depleted uranium weapons and land mines.

But peace begins within and at home. Violence in the media and in the family is a cancer that eats away at our sensibilities. Teaching the horrors of war and oppression without glamorizing or glorifying it and practicing tolerance and non-violence in the home and at school is a necessary start on the road to world peace.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

As we have been warned for years, we are attacking our own life-sustaining ecological balance. Vast acres of forest are cut each day and many will eventually become little better than desert. Fossil fuels and other natural resources are extracted and consumed at astonishing rates. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other pollutants are climbing and contributing to global warming. Acid rain poisons large tracts of land. Toxic chemicals used in manufacturing processes and nuclear waste from weapons manufacturing are not being disposed of safely.

Now, the practice of genetically engineering crops and the development of the "terminator gene" threatens our very survival with the potential of widespread, self-induced, food poisoning and/or crop failures.

The situation is shocking and probably at or beyond a critical stage. But there is hope. There is much that is being done and more that can be accomplished. We can encourage sustainable forestry which would contribute to the reclamation of a vital part of our global eco-system. We can discourage "clear-cutting" in environmentally sensitive areas, begin massive campaigns for global reforestation, creating tree farms and nurseries in rural areas unsuited to agriculture, and support the setting aside of protected forest tracts in all countries, keeping them safe from commercial development.

There are numerous sustainable technologies to be explored and developed. We can support research and development of alternative energy sources: more efficient solar power, geo-thermal power and other non-polluting fuels, battery and electricity storage technology. With sufficient progress in these areas, we can begin to phase out the use of "non-renewable" fossil fuels and the use of nuclear power.

Recent advances have given us cars, boats and motors that use electricity instead of gas and diesel, as well as the newest "zero pollution" car which runs on compressed air and can be driven 120 miles with a single "charge"! Other sustainable practices which we can encourage include low-cost building materials such as straw bale; the use of wood

heat where appropriate; organic farming; and increased recycling programs to reduce the rampant consumption of resources.

But, in my opinion, the menace of genetic engineering in the hands of those who feel that they are "helping" the world has the potential of devastating agriculture on the planet. If we are to avoid this, the practice of genetically engineering foods has to be addressed openly and honestly. I feel we have to discourage and stop export of genetically engineered foods, stop the development of the "terminator gene" and the use of potentially dangerous growth hormones.

#### **GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS**

We have a global financial system based solely on debt. The money at our disposal is created by debt. If one borrows \$100,000 at 10% interest with a 30-year mortgage, at the end of the 30 years, \$300,000 will have been re-paid. From one, comes three. The problem is that there is more debt than there is money to repay that debt. Due to this system, poor countries around the world are in the grip of economic collapse and ordinary people are little better than slaves to it. Only some few are wealthy and they consume the resources of the planet to an inordinate degree. Rich countries export their debt and their hazardous wastes to poorer countries whose leaders are either unaware of the total consequences or are only interested in personal wealth and power.

What can be done to insure a just and equitable economic system sensitive to the greater good and to the individual as well?

We can determine methods of equable global sharing of resources and guarantee fair trade based upon the best use and preservation of those resources. Some of the current practices aimed at modifying the system of debt is that of "Local Exchange Trading Systems" or LETS, which are, in effect, community currencies. Instead of debt, these currencies are created through the exchange of goods and/or services rendered.

Stockholders can also demand that multi-national corporations provide the payment of a "living wage" regardless of geographic location; that there is "transparency" in all corporate actions; that hazardous waste producers and end-users maintain ultimate responsibility for the proper handling and disposal of all their products; and that the "good of the environment and humanity" be considered over company profits when decisions are being made. We can develop a system that recognizes and embraces the interconnectedness and dependency of all nations, and the value of each and every individual.

The following is a list of references. & contact information

The Hague Appeal for Peace, c o WFM, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA; (212) 687-2623; hap99 a igc.org

Depleted Uranium. A Post-War Disaster for Environment and Health by the Laka Foundation, Ketelhuisplein 43, 1054 RD Amsterdam. The Netherlands: laka a laka.antenna.nl

From Nuclear Deterrence to Nuclear Abolition, an address to The National Press Club by General Lee Butler, USAF (Ret), for copies contact Jim Howard, 245 South Avenue, ABINGDON, Oxon OX14 1QT, England

Citizen's Watch, a publication of Tri-Valley CAREs, 2582 Old First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 USA; http://www.igc.org/tve

Fast Track to Zero Nuclear Weapons, a briefing kit by The Middle Powers Initiative, 727 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Susan Walker, 4400 Upton Ave. South. Apt. 401, Minneapolis, MN 55410 USA

Ridding the World of Landmines, Center for Defense Information, 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 615, Washington, DC 20036; www.ediorg/adm; adminfo/a/edi.org

International Action Network on Small Arms, Box 422, 37 Store Street, London, WCTE 7BS England

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, Peace Tax Foundation, 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008-1923; www.nonviolence.org peacetax; peacetaxfund *a* igc.org

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951; www.nonviolence.org/wtr; nwtree a igc.ape.org

The Peace Taxpayers, PO Box 333, Nellyford, VA 22958 USA; Peace Tax $a\,\mathrm{AOL}.\mathrm{com}$ 

Monsanto Files: Can We Survive Genetic Engineering!, Volume 28 No 5 of The Ecologist. Unit 18 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ England; ecologist a gn.apc.org

Coalition for an International Criminal Court, c.o WFM/IGP, 777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017 USA; cicc \( \tilde{a} \) ige.org

International Criminal Court Alliance, 8124 West Third Street, Los Angeles, CA 90046 USA



Nobel Laureates at the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999: Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and José Ramos Horta

## A Youth Perspective on History's Largest Peace Conference

#### By Benjamin Quinto



Some youth participants at the Hague Appeal: Terah DeJong, Nick Moraitts, Felipe Garcia , Steven Sutton, Vincent Villay

Surely you've been to conferences before. Ever been to a convention? The Hague Appeal for Peace was what I would call a little of both. Heralded as the largest peace conference ever held, this event sure made a wave. Nearly 10,000 peace activists representing civil society and hundreds of non-governmental organizations gathered at The Netherlands Congress Center in early May with one goal in mind: to define and present the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice to the United Nations and the people of the world.

As one of approximately a thousand young people lucky enough to attend the historic event. I found it extremely exciting to be at this pinnacle of energy and enthusiasm just before the turn of the millennium. Youth had come there to play an active role in calling for peace and justice and I felt honored to be the coordinator for 3 core youth sessions on the program. So the stage was set but what was to happen was beyond all expectation.

Our first session was a roundtable discussion on how to develop partnerships with the many initiatives currently dedicated to increasing the participation of children and youth within the United Nations. The discussion illustrated well the duplication of effort and the possibility for greater impact through collaboration. Ideas were shared on specific actions organizations could take to help achieve the larger goal.

The second session was entitled Youth in Global Governance and took place in two parts. The first session

began as a panel dialogue with 6 leading youth activists from different world regions. Expanding on the discussion from the roundtable the day before, these activists helped demonstrate the need for collaboration and shared their thoughts on how to effectively move towards a common goal: giving young people a voice in governance.

'Anarchy', as someone called it, soon followed. What happened was not anarchy, in my opinion. It's true that the panel was abruptly disrupted by a young man from England who expressed his own frustration at having to listen to endless dialogue when there was such a great need for action. And this was something that rang true for everybody, including me. As moderator though, I felt we might have reached the same conclusion through the panel dialogue -- without the disruption. As it turned out though, we all agreed on one thing: we were high on energy, but short on time and because of this, desire for action became the key component.

You see, the Hague Appeal for Peace offered an unprecedented opportunity for people to unite behind a common cause — a cause that deeply affects each and every one of us today; a cause that has deeply affected us for years, decades and even centuries! Thousands of people showed up at the Hague to explore what we could do together for Peace on Earth. Yet, the opportunities for us to act were not there and if they were, they were not clear enough, especially to young people.

The reason I felt the HAP resembled a convention was the fact that here we had over 1,000 organizations represented, each lobbying and pushing their own cause. The lack of cohesion throughout the whole event was the cause of frustration for many and I found out that the session I moderated was not the only one interrupted as a result. Everyone was tired of talking and writing statements. People wanted to act — *now*.

But the session on Youth In Global Governance, when "overthrown", ended up providing young people with a forum to freely express their concerns and ideas. This in itself fulfilled a great need. And it was a priceless learning experience, not only for me, but I think for everyone involved. Consensus came on the fact that, although everyone should have the opportunity to speak their minds, we needed to go further by identifying clear action steps that we could take collectively.

After that first session, many of us stayed on to develop an agenda for the second session the following day and we effectively laid out our goals and objectives. All of us agreed on one thing: we wanted and needed to be heard. What we lacked was effective communication and a structure from which to have our voices represented on the global level and in decision-making processes. We defined three areas of focus for the second session: 1) Communication and Networking, 2) Local Action & Community Development and 3) Creating a Global Youth Assembly and Secretariat.

The second session went incredibly well, given the challenges presented during the first one. We broke out into the three focus groups, took the discussion to a deeper level, identified next steps and explored development of an integrative plan. The young Englishman who interrupted the panel the day before even helped to lead the discussion when I invited him.

As a result of our sessions, the 400+ youth who participated together developed a clear and concise document outlining the steps we were going to take in achieving our newly defined goals.

Even though the Youth of the World were only given 5 minutes to speak in the closing plenary, our objectives were publicly stated and the document we drafted was presented to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who also spoke at the closing plenary session.

Our current goal is clear and simple. We, as young people, are coming together to be heard and to work in partnership with each other to make a difference in the world today. We are not waiting or looking towards tomorrow. We are acting right now. The outrageous amount of duplicating effort only hinders individual efforts. This does not have be so.

Our discussions continue on-line, through a discussion board on the Hague Appeal for Peace youth site (http://youth.haguepeace.org) as well as through a list-server (youthmovement@egroups.com). The action we are taking revolves around the three focus areas we identified in The Hague and we invite all interested young people to join in the discussion and the action. The list-serve can be joined by sending a blank message to this address: youthmovement-subscribe@egroups.com

I couldn't finish this article without extending heartfelt thanks to Cora Weiss, the woman behind the Hague Appeal. She pulled off an amazing gathering or 'family reunion', as I like to call it. And certainly as well to Jo Tyler and Adam Berry, who together coordinated the entire Youth Program for the Hague Appeal and demonstrated extraordinary leadership in making youth participation an integral part of the larger event. Their endless hours and dedication offered a large number of young people the opportunity to share an

experience that won't be forgotten any time soon – to be a part of something that we know will grow beyond all boundaries.

The commitment made in The Hague by hundreds and now thousands of young people throughout the world to join forces and work together can be the driving force behind the change we all wish to see. And it is happening — now.

This extraordinarily passionate meeting fanned the fire that burns in each of our hearts and rekindled our spirits. The new youth movement begins... Be involved!

Benjamin Quinto, age 21, is the Youth Development Director of the ONE DAY Foundation and Director of the UN Youth Assembly Project.

### **One Day In Peace, January 1, 2000**

The UN declared 2000 as the International Year for a Culture of Peace. What better way to begin this year of education & transformation than with a day of peace. Celebrities, more than 25 world leaders, nearly 1000 organizations in over 130 nations & ordinary people in schools and communities throughout the world are asking us to declare & celebrate One Day In Peace. January 1, 2000 - a Global Ceasefire & a worldwide day of peace in our homes, our neighborhoods and between nations!

This is a simple campaign, but when we live in peace for ONE DAY, we'll see that a more peaceful planet IS possible if we work together, one day at a time. With "peace on earth" as a priority for our global community, we will be able to properly address all of the injustices that endanger our future. During the CountUP to One Day In Peace (and Beyond...) we can make EVERY DAY COUNT for a better world!

Please support this global campaign, chaired by Dr. Robert Muller, Chancellor of the UN's University for Peace. Urge your city or town to declare a Proclamation for One Day In Peace, January 1, 2000. Copy this form & invite other organizations & institutions to Co-Sponsor the One Day In Peace campaign. There is NO financial obligation!

May Peace Prevail On Earth

We support One Day	In Peace, January	1, 2000!
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Organization/City:_		
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:	Fax:	
Email:		
Web:		

Send to: ONE DAY Foundation
Box 1052 \* Sedona, AZ 86339, USA
Email: info@oneday.org \* Fax: 609-443-4307
Web: www.oneday.org \* www.oneday.net

Web: www.oneday.org \* www.oneday.net

## The Lifebridge Foundation Grantee Section **Summer 1999**



#### Interconnectedness New Grantees - Arts & Culture

#### Green Mountain Post Films

Charles Light PO Box 229

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Tel: 413-863-4754 / 863-8248 (fax)

Email: info@gmpfilms.com Web: www.gmpfilms.com

Green Mountain Post Films was awarded a grant for a documentary, tentatively titled Peace Warriors, about the people and events surrounding the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999. Green Mountain Post Films has been producing and distributing social issue documentaries since 1974.

#### The Hartley Film Foundation

Elda Hartley, President Cat Rock Road

Cos Cob, CT 06807 Tel: 203-869-1818 / 800-937-1819

Fax: 203-869-1905

Email: HartleyFilm@MSN.com Web: www.hartleyvideos.org

The Hartley Film Foundation is dedicated to producing videos on personal growth and global perspectives. They were awarded a grant to help support the distribution of the video. The Altruists to social studies teachers. The Altruists is "an inspiring and challenging video! A great reminder that the key to our survival will always be found in human relationships among people who dare to take care of each other." - The Human Kindness Foundation.

## **RE-GRANTS**

**Bridges To Community** 

**ONE DAY Foundation** Sedona, AZ

Chappaqua, NY

**PEAR Lab** 

**Hague Appeal for Peace** New York, NY

Princeton, NJ

Network 2012 Asheville, NC **World Citizen Diplomats** 

Princeton, NJ

#### N.Y. International Children's Film Festival

Eric Beckman, Festival Co-Director

532 La Guardia Place #329

New York, NY 10012

Tel: 212-674-4165 / Fax: 212-674-5692

Email: ebeinc@inch.com / Web: www.gkids.com

More than 6000 children, parents. filmmakers, educators and media professionals attended the second New York International Children's Film Festival in February, 1999. For New York families, NYICFF combines the values of art. education and exposure to world culture with the excitement of Sundance or Cannes. The NYICFF Archive makes films available all year for schools and educational programmers.

#### Fred Stern - The Rainbow Maker

Silver City, NM

Email: Fred.Stern@zianet.com Web: www.zianet.com/rainbow

Fred Stern creates natural rainbows in the sky - up to 2000 feet across - in support of Global Unity and World Peace. He believes that if our planet were to have a flag, it would not be made of cloth; it would be the rainbow. So, every time he creates one, he is raising our planet's flag. Fred has found that there is a transformation when people stand in front of a rainbow - they are energized and sense a spirit of unity. In 1992 he created a series of rainbows at the UN's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. For the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. he created a rainbow over the UN. Fred received a grant to create a rainbow for the opening ceremonies at the Hague Appeal for Peace, 1999.



## Interconnectedness New Grantees - Youth



Global Kids, Inc.

Carole Artigiani Nichols, Executive Director 561 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10012

Tel: 212-226-0130 / Fax: 212-226-0137

Email: globalkids@igc.apc.org Web: www.globalkidsinc.org

The mission of Global Kids is to prepare urban youth to become community leaders and global citizens. Working with at least 10,000 students, teachers and educators from 30 schools, Global Kids has enriched the school environment through global education, community building, leadership development and personal skills building. A network of several hundred Global Kids Leaders make presentations and conduct workshops for hundreds of their peers, as well as teachers and other adults, in New York City, at the United Nations and in such countries as Croatia, Sweden and Northern Ireland.



#### Global YouthConnect

Judith Thompson, Project Manager P.O. Box 1018, Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel: 781-646-1276 / Fax: 781-646-9205 Web:www.globalyouthconnect.org

Global YouthConnect is led by and for young people which supports, activates and encourages youth leadership for human rights and social transformation. They are dedicated to the principles of activism, community building, reconciliation and non-violence. They believe in addressing human rights violations as well as their root causes in order to build a world-wide community of compassion and justice. GYC was featured as the cover story in the February 28, 1999 issue of *Parade Magazine*.

#### **Peace Action Education Fund**

866 UN Plaza, Room 4053

New York, NY 10017-1822

Tel: 212-750-5795 / Fax: 212-750-5849

Email: paintl@igc.org / Web: www.peace-action.org Tracy Moavero, International Office Coordinator

The Peace Action Education fund received a grant for scholarships for student activists to attend the Hague Appeal for Peace. Peace Action, its sister organization, is the United States' largest grassroots peace and justice organization with over 100 chapters and 60,000 members.

## Youth Caucus Scholarship Project for the Hague Appeal for Peace

Supriya Baily, WFA-HAP Project Coordinator

World Federalist Association

418 7th Street, SE

Washington, DC 20003-2796

Tel: 202-546-3950 (800)WFA-0123 / Fax: 202-546-3749

Email: wfa@wfa.org / Web: www.wfa.org

The World Federalist Association is working towards the establishment of an effective and just system of world governance, based on individual dignity and national responsibility to peace. The WFA Youth Caucus has been successful in involving college students and other young professionals towards this end. WFA has been a leading proponent of the Hague Appeal for Peace as a major launching for a global movement. Young people were vital participants in the Hague Appeal's forums and programs. The WFA Youth Caucus was given a grant so that scholarships could be awarded for WFA Youth Caucus representatives to participate at the Hague.



## Interconnectedness — New Grantees – Environment

#### Eco-Village Project

May East, Eco-Village Education Coordinator Findhorn Foundation

The Park, Findhorn

Forres, IV36 0TZ, SCOTLAND

Tel: 01309 690311 Fax: 01039 691301

Email: eastgibsone@findhorn.org

Web: www.findhorn.org

Findhorn is one of the world's largest intentional communities. Since 1962, the Findhorn Foundation has been experimenting with new models for holistic and sustainable living. It is also a major center of adult education, welcoming over 14,000 visitors a year from over 50 countries. Since the 1980s, the Findhorn Foundation has been involved in building a demonstration Eco-Village. An Eco-village is a small community of 50 to 2000 people united by a common ecological, social or spiritual perspective. Working on the simple principle of not taking more away from the Earth than one gives back, eco-villages are potentially sustainable indefinitely. The training provides all the essential tools and techniques to enable participants to practice Eco-village concepts in their own homes and communities.

## Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Timothy Smith, Executive Director

Timothy Smith, Executive Director 475 Riverside Drive, Rm 550

New York, NY 10115

Tel: 212-870-2295 / Fax: 212-870-2023 Email: info@icer.org / Web: www.icer.org

ICCR's Energy & Environment Program continues to focus on helping interfaith investors challenge companies on their detrimental environmental policies and the economic impacts of irresponsible corporate citizenship. Using the power of their shares, companies are pressed to listen to interfaith stakeholders' concerns in developing responsible corporate behavior.





### Interconnectedness — New Grantees – Science

#### Olympia Project

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization

46 Middle Neck Road Great Neck, NY 11021

Tel: 516-773-0971 / Fax: 516-773-0976

Email: newyork@bkwsu.com / eliot@start.gr Contact: (New York) Sister Kala Iyengar Coordinator in Greece: Drossoula Elliott

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and the Institute of Noetic Sciences as co-organizers, brought together an international group of 100 scientists to explore the theme of "Consciousness and the Original Spirit of Science" April 27 to May 2, 1999 at the International Olympic Academy in Ancient Olympia, Greece. This was the fifth in a series of symposia focusing on the relation of science and consciousness.

Ronald A. Bryan College Station, TX

Email: MarvLBryan@aol.com

Ronald Bryan, physicist, in collaboration with Joe McMoneagle, remote viewer, proposes to investigate the space-time continuum. Elementary-particle theory suggests that extra dimensions exist. If so, they might permit connections between human consciousness that are not deemed possible in the three recognized dimensions. Mapping out this extra space-time could eventually lead to an understanding of how we are all connected and could promote a sense of spiritual unity among all peoples, much the same as the astronauts' photographs of Earth floating in space gave us a sense of world community.

## Interconnectedness — New Grantees - World Goodwill



International Communities for the Renewal of the Earth Inc. (ICRE) Daniel Martin, President PO Box 194 Cross River, NY 10518 Tel: 914-763-5790 / Fax: 914-763-3715

Email: danann0305@aol.com

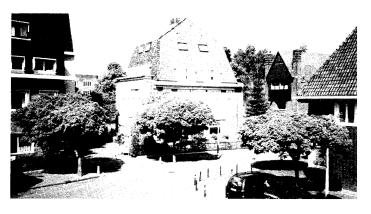
The purpose of the Africa Project is to develop a more creative model of intercultural relations between the people of the U.S. and Kenya. Past and present relations are at the roots of many of the problems experienced in Africa: environment, poverty and health, as well as corruption oppression and violence. Any effort that wishes to make a significant difference in Africa must first address these foundational relations. The Africa Project hopes to do this by engaging people from the West in a catalyzing experience that will awaken them to the values and assumptions behind present relations, and assist them in translating this awakening into new thinking and creative action, both private and public, that will lead to mutually enhancing relations between the two worlds.

#### Milenio

Catherine Margerin, President 163 Fairmount Street San Francisco, CA 94131 Tel: 415-206-0262 / Fax: 415-206-9620

Email: milenio@igc.apc.org / Web: www.milenio.org

Milenio's mission is to enhance the visibility. development and effectiveness of peace initiatives worldwide through recurrent and newsworthy gatherings of world leaders. Nobel laureates, musicians, artists, environmentalists. spiritual leaders, grassroots organizations, youth and local citizens dedicated to peace, justice and sustainable life. Their first major event will take place in June 2000 at the University for Peace in Costa Rica.



Peace Tax Foundation, Inc.
Marian Franz, Executive Director

2121 Decatur Place, NW Washington, DC 20008-1923

Tel: 202-483-3751 / 888-732-2382 / Fax: 202-986-0667

Email: peacetaxfund@igc.org Web: www.nonviolence.org/peacetax

The International Peace Tax movement is a global initiative in which people who cannot conscienciously participate in the destruction and killing of war are seeking a way by which they can legally pay their share of taxes. without contributing to the military. The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of War Tax Resisters and Peace Tax Campaigns will take place in Washington DC on July 6-9, 2000. This conference will help build bridges among the representatives of the 18 nations with active Peace Tax campaigns and will help the Peace Tax movement continue to spread.

#### The Synthesis Dialogues

The Association for Global New Thought Barbara Fields Bernstein, Executive Director 1565 Maple Ave, Suite 204-205 Evanston, IL 60201

Tel: 847-866-9525 / Fax: 847-866-9545

Email: AGNT2000@aol.com

Web: www.agnt.org

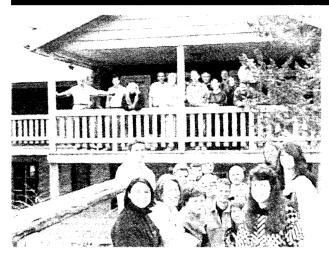
Countless individuals all around the planet are working to increase understanding between and among nations, groups, religions, professions, and individuals. Common to their endeavors is some point of shared understanding (spirituality) which acts as a bridge to a new stage of discovery. Synthesis is at the core of all genuine advances in knowledge, and it presupposes the interconnectedness, or unity of all reality, life, being, and other worlds of experience. The Association for Global New Thought was invited by the Dalai Lama to inaugurate The Synthesis Dialogues at a small symposium to be convened in Dharamsala, India, September 11-16, 1999.

#### US Committee for UNICEF 333 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016 Tel: 212-686-5522 www.unicef.org

A grant was given to UNICEF to support relief efforts in Kosovo. UNICEF is at the front lines of this difficult and painful conflict. We wholeheartedly support UNICEF's efforts along with those of other similar humanitarian organizations working to restore world peace and security.

### Lifebridge Grantee Gathering March 18-21





The Grantee Gatherings inaugurated this year are meant to provide a venue for the people—behind the individual projects and organizational work that we have supported in previous years, to come together and deeply share their diverse and unique pathways in a relaxed atmosphere.

All of the Gatherings this year are made up of 1993-97 grantees. The first was held in Rosendale, NY last March. For a glimpse into what the March Gathering was like, in the words of some who were there, see the opposite page.

The Lifebridge Foundation extends warm thanks to the staff of CedarHeart Lodge in Rosendale: Manager Annie Wood, master chef Laura Ziman, and the whole crew including Gayle Two Eagles. Dawn, Samantha, Jack, Dean, and everyone else at the Lodge who added so much to the weekend. And much appreciation to Catherine Wanek, who graciously volunteered to videotape some memories for the group.

Last but certainly not least, many, many thanks to Julie Glover whose facilitation of the Gathering was close to invisible—the greatest compliment any facilitator can receive. She guided the schedule beautifully, allowing the group to take on its own rhythm with ease. Great job, Julie!



## Interconnectedness

#### The Lifebridge Foundation Grantee Gathering March 18-21, 1999

**Phillip Berman** – Penn Valley, Pennsylvania Author-*The Journey Home* 

**Barbara Fields Bernstein** – Evanston, Illinois Project Director. A Season for Nonviolence

**Anh Crutcher** – San Francisco, California Producer, *Yakoana* 

**Douglas Gillies** – Santa Barbara, California Coordinator, La Casa Maria Invitational

Martita Goshen – Sea Cliff, New York Choreographer & Director – Turtles, Inc.

**Guy Grand** – Sedona, Arizona
Executive Director, The ONE DAY Foundation

Fritz & Vivienne Hull – Clinton, Washington Founders, The Whidbey Institute

William F. Kaufman – Shepherdstown, West Virginia Author – The Transforming Power of Illness: Healing Through AIDS

Joseph Kulin – New York, New York Executive Publisher, *Parabola* magazine

**Michael Lightweaver** – Asheville, North Carolina Coordinator, Network 2012

Scott London – Santa Barbara, California Producer/Interviewer, *Insight and Outlook* (NPR)

**David Lorimer** – Leven, Fife, Scotland, United Kingdom Executive Director. Scientific and Medical Network

**Rod MacIver** – Burlington, Vermont Publisher/Editor, *Heron Dance* 

Mark and Regina Macy – Louisville, Colorado Instrumental Transcommunication Researchers

Lois Ann Nicolai – Princeton, New Jersey Executive Director, World Citizen Diplomats

**Regis Obijiski** – Poughkeepsie, New York Executive Director, New Horizons Resources

**Judith Petry, MD** – Westminster, Vermont President, Vermont Healing Tools

Richard Pierce – Brooklyn, New York Head Chef Director, Whole Foods Project

Benjamin Quinto – Sedona, Arizona Director, UN Youth Assembly Project

Penny Sartori – Swansea, South Wales, United Kingdom ICU Nurse/NDE Researcher

Catherine Wanek – Kingston, New Mexico Director, Networks Productions

## We Gather Together...... Some Perspectives.



"Never before have I been in a room with so many idealists who acted on their dreams with such passion, persistence, and heart. I came away from the [weekend] inspired, refreshed, and thankful." — *Phillip Berman* 

"The eye-contact in this community of peers renewed my passionate faith in the soul-to-soul conversation we are all longing to have." —Barbara Fields Bernstein

"It was like a romp in heaven where suddenly you meet a bunch of kindred spirits who ASTOUND you with their intelligence, goodness and conviction to work to make the world a better place." --- Anh Crutcher

"I think the concept is brilliant and visionary: grantees meet, rejuvenate, leave, get inspired, network...I vote for 2 or 3 year re-unions!"—Martita Goshen

"I knew...that the trip was going to be a rebirth of sorts. I was not let down, being in the presence of so many wonderful, incredible, passionate and dedicated people gave me the recharge I was looking for."—Guy Grand

"The camaraderie, bonding, and networking continue! My...impression was one of balance of feeling, intellect, spirit and body. There were certain times when I felt we were all one...e.g. when Judith Petry read her essay and when Richard spoke of his heart being opened..."— Joseph Kulin

"....Sometime in the future, when you least expect it, you will learn about some spectacular thing which occurred which could be traced back to a couple of folks who spent [that] weekend together..."—Michael Lightweaver

"I feel the...gathering brought together some of the most fascinating creative artists and social innovators around today in a very inspiring setting, one that lent itself not so much to formal presentations or grand strategies for changing the world as to the simple act of sharing -- to strengthening the bonds of trust and mutuality." - Scott London

"The overall abiding memory is the warmth of the exchange we created between us - and the depth of connection. I think that this owed a great deal to the maturity and experience of those present.... I loved the light up there, especially on the trees on Saturday afternoon and the view from the cliff top - a sacred feeling there." — David Lorimer

"The profound moments for me were personal — my own journey towards my potential...and the confrontations I experience with myself in my efforts to make progress. They all came out at the gathering... a general gestalt of gentleness and good energy comes to mind when I think of [it]..." Rod MacIver

"I experienced a feeling of being one with everyone there amid the diversity. The weekend fed me the fuel to carry that oneness into other aspects of my own life and service..." — Regina Macy

"Being among these world-servers helped my own mission... come into clearer focus. Some of my priorities for near-term projects shifted in a very healthy way, thanks to what the others shared during the meetings and over meals. - Mark Macy

"I would like to [say] that I believe "THE STRAW BALE SOLUTION" video produced and directed by Catherine Wanek has had a very big influence on me. I have already started to communicate with the OSCE and NATO offices to see if WCD can bring a crew of volunteers into Kosova to help rebuild towns, once it is possible to move the refugees back home. We want to use the Straw Bale project." —Lois Ann Nicolai

"My personal revelation was encapsulated in Lois' words: "If you think one person can't make a difference, you're wrong. You can make a big difference." She embodied this in her deep faith, courage, boundless energy and effective action. So did every other Lifebridge grantee in that room!" *Regis Obijiski* 

"The...weekend was the spiritual counterpart of the most abundant Christmas morning of my life. The holding and honoring of my personal path by the group (after I read my article) was a nurturing of such magnitude that I am still suspended in it's embrace."—Judith Petry

"What a wonderful way to promote the interconnectedness of all life... The gathering reassured me of that and is why it reinspired me so - knowing that there are others out there who care as deeply as I do and are doing something about the current state of the world." — *Benjamin Quinto* 

"[It was] the most memorable weekend of my life... [ICU was] as busy as usual but I seemed to bring the weekends energy with me...and the whole mood became very positive and happy - even the sad patients smiled!" —Penny Sartori



# UN REPORT By Deborah Moldow

#### The Voice of the People

The United Nations headquarters in New York City is known worldwide as a hub of activity designed to advance the human agenda by creating and maintaining peace, protecting the environment, promoting health among children and adults, monitoring the respect of human rights and fostering sustainable development. But not all of the delegates who gather to address these issues are representing governments, nor are they employed by the various specialized agencies whose quiet, dedicated work the world has come to rely upon. Many belong to NGOs, non-governmental organizations. Their representatives serve as the arms, legs and voices of civil society, non-profit groups committed to a better world.

NGOs have played a significant role at the United Nations since its first charter-writing conference in San Francisco in 1945. They are invited to enter into a formal relationship with the UN either in consultative status (with the Economic and Social Council or with one of the UN agencies), or as a vehicle for disseminating information through the UN Department of Public Information. NGO representatives, who have permanent passes to UN buildings, suggest language for documents, lobby for various causes, receive briefings on current issues and conduct meetings and conferences among themselves. NGOs organize themselves into formal committees, under the auspices of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status (known as CONGO), and into less formal caucuses around such issues as human rights, peace and values.

The presence of the NGO community has grown stronger over the past decade, due primarily to two phenomena. The first is the series of international conferences organized by the UN around such pressing concerns as children, the environment, population, food, women, and cities. Every conference has had a parallel NGO Forum, as well as lively interchange between government delegations and NGOs. This spirit of partnership has continued beyond these international conferences, with the number of NGOs in active participation on the rise. There are currently 1068 NGOs in consultative status and 1460 associated with the Department of Public Information.

Every NGO is born of an urgent need to improve conditions for others. Although governments welcome NGO expertise and NGO services "on the ground," many

feel threatened by their voice of conscience. This brings us to the second reason for the recent flowering of civil society organizations: the rise of democracy. As a country's citizenry becomes empowered at the local level, groups come together to express specific concerns. A strong web of civil society organizations is known to be a stabilizing factor in a democratic state.

Yet it is looking more and more as though the United Nations, originally conceived as an alliance of governments, may prove to be too small a container for the emerging voice of the world's peoples. Meeting rooms at UN headquarters are in scarce supply and as NGO numbers increase, the UN is having greater difficulty accommodating their needs. At the same time, the technology that is shrinking the globe is enabling groups on different continents to share information and realize the commonalties of their agendas. And so one of the great challenges at the turn of this millennium is how to create a unified vehicle for the world's people to express their common desire for a peaceful, healthy, abundant planet for all to share.

The NGO community is preparing for its first major initiative in this direction, the Millennium Forum, which will take place in May 2000 with the theme of "The UN in the 21st Century." The Forum is a confluence of two projects: Secretary-General Kofi Annan's invitation to NGOs to hold a forum parallel to the Millennium General Assembly planned for September 2000, and a longstanding effort to create a permanent People's Assembly.

As regional and thematic groups prepare around the world, a number of important conferences are helping to set the stage. The first was the Hague Appeal for Peace, organized by NGOs working with the government of The Netherlands. This conference brought together peace activists, conflict resolution specialists, educators, religious groups and world leaders to examine what needs to be done to put an end to warfare as an acceptable means of resolving disputes. This was a bold step toward building "A Culture of Peace," a theme the General Assembly has designated for the year 2000.

The next multinational meeting among NGOs will be the 52nd annual DPI/NGO Conference in September 1999, with the theme of "Globalization," a word that is coloring activities among NGOs, businesses and governments alike. This yearly gathering of NGOs from around the country and around the world has long been the primary occasion for networking and consensus building, as well as learning about the the work of the UN through its most distinguished speakers.

October will see the 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs in Seoul, Korea, where the focus

will be "The Role of NGOs in the 21st Century: Inspire, Empower, Act!" Hosted by Kyung Hee University, this conference will include assessment of commitments made by governments at the UN world conferences from the 1990 World Summit for Children in New York to the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome. It will also provide an excellent opportunity for Asian NGOs to create stronger networks in the East.

In December, the Partnerships for Global Governance Conference will be held in Montreal, Canada, providing the last NGO networking opportunity of this century. As the new millennium dawns, NGOs will prepare for the Millennium Forum, the first attempt in history for the people of the world to organize themselves into one voice. Without the financial resources of either governments or businesses, the logistical problems seem almost insurmountable. There is no central coordinating organization, no means of attaining equal regional representation, no agreement on which issues will take precedence. There is no room large enough to hold representatives of all the world's peoples. And yet the call has been sounded, and human ingenuity will rise to the occasion. The voice of the people will be heard. The only remaining question is: what kind of world will we create?

Deborah Moldow is the Representative to the United Nations for the World Peace Prayer Society, which promotes the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" around the world. She is the current chair of the Values Caucus and serves on the DPI NGO Executive Committee.

The United Nations will launch
Its year 2000 observance as
The International Year for a Culture of Peace
On The International Day of Peace
September 14, 1999
www.worldpeace.org/peaceday

### World Peace ... Inner Peace

Directly following the Hague Appeal for Peace, another conference was held in The Hague, this one focusing on Inner Peace as the necessary prerequisite to World Peace. The concept for this conference was initiated by Dr. Robert Muller, a former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations (pictured at right in The Netherlands with his wife, Barbara Gaughen-Muller). In an inspiring keynote address to the *World Peace Inner Peace* gathering of over 300 visionaries and indigenous peoples from around the world, Dr. Muller sounded the call to use the moment in time for unparalleled thinking and dreaming and to educate the human heart; and "as the heart awakens, and as people in all walks of life are inspired to live their heart's dream, a shield of peace will envelop the earth and all life upon it." A second, follow-up meeting to this conference will be held at the University for Peace in Costa Rica in September, 1999.

## **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	М
Town/Country			
Email:			
Signature/Date:			
Sand to: Po	onla For Page	i.	

P.O. Box 570, Roosevelt, NJ 08555, U.S.A.

Fax: (609) 443-4307 Email: PforPEACE@aol.com
Or sign online at: www.nobelweb.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 dedicated are means. creating bridges o f 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 seek to find those 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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One Day in Feace \* January 1, 2000!