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The Bridging Tree

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Hope

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Where We Are Now

By Barbara L. Overby, President of The Lifebridge Foundation

On the precipice, at a crossroads! Certainly in a crisis, and yet we are told by most spiritual teachers that crisis is an opportunity for growth and transformation. We could be at the edge of a great spiritual awakening or a monumental catastrophe; or both!

This issue of *The Bridging Tree* explores hope and spirituality largely in the context of money and work; signs toward wholeness in our future, synthesis in our present.

For most people, going to work and making money are unpleasant but necessary tasks. What if they weren't? What if going to work was a blessing and a joy and the tasks we performed were productive and spiritually meaningful? What if our work was contributing 100% to a just and sustainable society, one in which all members were free of fear and want? This could

(and should) be where we're going and Corrine McLaughlin's article, *Spirituality at Work* is a fruitful exploration of this emerging trend.

There are many hopeful signs in the field of money as well. Many of you have heard of a group called Responsible Wealth. A project of United for a Fair Economy, RW is a membership organization of people in the top 5% of wealth (\$500,000 net assets per couple OR \$125,000 annual combined income) who have joined to try and use their influence to change the current rules that help the rich get richer at the expense of everyone else. Recently, with some degree of press coverage, scores of wealthy members pledged to give the money they saved from the 1997 capital gains tax cut to organizations working for greater economic justice. To date, there has been

AND

UN Report

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Lifebridge named United Nations NGO

On Human Rights Day, December 10, 1997, The Lifebridge Foundation was named a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations. For background and an update on the current financial crisis at the UN, see Dr. Ida Urso's UN Report on page 11. For a calendar of upcoming UN and UN-related events, see page 12.

Where We Are Now



well over one million dollars pledged. These people are serious, and although it is a sort of “man bites dog” scenario, maybe this type of action is a seed of a more equitable system, one geared toward global sharing and the eradication of poverty.

Within the professional and generally traditional philanthropic community, there is a vital and growing group of funders who are seriously examining the question of spirituality in the context of philanthropy. At a recent gathering in Sedona entitled, *Spirituality and Philanthropy*, many speakers presented examples of funding groups that are fashioning models of real collaborative projects with overtly spiritual messages such as our essential unity and oneness as a human race.

For decades, many groups have been participating in a potent meditation for the purpose of attracting money into the hands of those who could be termed the new group of world servers. This meditation is found in the book *Discipleship in the New Age, II* by Alice A. Bailey. So the discussion of money as a spiritual energy and what it can do to meet human need is

becoming a lively debate.

It is interesting to recall that the primary definition of the word *philanthropy* is “loving mankind”, which has nothing to do with money. It only acquired that connotation in the 100 years since the Industrial Revolution. So if you love another person or love people in general, you are a philanthropist! No matter what you have to give to another, if it's truly from your heart, you are a philanthropist.

In fact, having money and being wealthy may be two different things. See David C. Korten's article below for that discussion and read his brilliant book *When Corporations Rule the World*. Yes, hope is in our midst, and visualizing synthesis for a healthy world is one way of uncovering the beauty waiting to be revealed.

For more information contact: United For A Fair Economy, Responsible Wealth, 37 Temple Pl., 5th Fl. Boston, MA 02111

Books by Alice A. Bailey available from Lucis Publishing, 120 Wall St., 24th Floor, New York, NY 10005

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The Lifebridge
Foundation



Money Versus Wealth by David C. Korten

What is this madness? The economy is booming. The stock market is setting new records. The US is again heralded as the world's most competitive economy. We are assured that we are richer than ever before and getting richer by the day.

Yet we are also told there is no longer enough money to provide an adequate education for our children, health care and safety nets for the poor, protection for the environment, parks, a living wage for working people, public funding for the arts and public radio, or adequate pensions for

the elderly. According to the official wisdom, even though richer, we can no longer afford what we once took for granted. How is this possible? What's gone wrong?

A quick hint. The problem most definitely is not lack of money. The world is awash in it. The world's 450 billionaires alone have combined financial assets greater than the combined annual incomes of half of humanity.

The problem is this: a predatory global financial system, driven by the single imperative of making ever

more money for those who already have lots of it, is rapidly depleting the real capital--the human, social, natural and even physical capital -- on which our well being depends.

The truly troubling part is that so many of us have become willing accomplices to what is best described as a war of money against life. It starts, in part, from our failures to recognize that money is not wealth. Wealth is something that has real value in meeting our needs and fulfilling our wants. Modern money is only a number on a piece of paper or an electronic trace in a computer that by social convention gives its holder a *claim* on real wealth. In our confusion we concentrate on the money to the neglect of those things that actually sustain a good life.

Healing the Money System

To heal society we must heal the money system. This will involve a two-fold process of reducing money's importance in our lives and restoring its appropriate role in service to the creation and protection of real wealth.

*** It will be necessary to de-myth money.** I earned MBA and Ph.D. degrees from one of the world's leading graduate schools of business, but I was never taught the differences between making money and creating wealth, nor how to distinguish between productive and predatory investments. Such lessons should be a basic part of education for business or responsible citizenship.

***We need to reweave the social fabric.** In a society in which relationships are defined by love, generosity and community, the importance of money in mediating personal exchange and allocating resources is likely to decline markedly. This will require reducing monetary dependence and restoring non-monetary exchanges through a process that selectively delinks individuals, families, and communities from dependence on the predatory institutions of a global economy, downscaling consumption to reduce dependence on paid work, increasing reliance on local produces to meet basic needs, and strengthening the engagement of all persons in the productive life of family and community.

*** The truly monumental task** will be to redesign the money system to make money the servant of the

creation and protection of real wealth. Among other things, corrective measures will need to: 1) make speculation unprofitable; 2) limit the growth of financial bubbles; 3) increase incentives for cooperation among people and communities; 4) reward productive work and investment; 5) create a just distribution of claims to real wealth; 6) provide incentives for patient and locally rooted investment in real assets; and 7) strengthen the social fabric of family and community.

A common currency exclusive to the members of one city or geographic region is one means of moving towards these goals. Another is to introduce zero - or negative - interest money. We should also consider whether it makes sense for private banks, rather than government or communities, to create money, and seriously consider substantial taxes on short term speculative gains.

The purpose of such measures is not to promote global growth and competition, but rather to create healthy and prosperous societies that provide economic security and just rewards for productive contribution to their members, have a strong and caring social fabric, and live in balance with their natural environment. Because we have so little experience in designing money systems to create societies that benefit people and nature, we will need to be creative; there are no tested guidelines

Many of the best minds of our time are engaged in finding ways to use the finance system to claim ever more of the world's real wealth for those who already control much of it. But there are also those who are concerned with how we might redesign money to serve a society that works for all people and preserves the natural environment.

This article is excerpted by permission of David C. Korten. To read the full article, which is highly recommended, see the Spring, 1997 *YES! A Journal of Positive Futures*. To subscribe: PO Box 10818, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-0818.



Hope Off-Broadway – Tyne Daly in

By Larry Elwood Auld, Editor of *The Bridging Tree*

When I first read *Mystery School*, I laughed and I cried and I thought, this is what we need in the arts now, honest voices, voices unafraid to examine the many ways in which people are coping with the “millennium jitters”, voices without a trace of watered down “political correctness”, voices that offer hope and not despair when all is said and done.

Others on The Lifebridge Foundation Board of Directors had similar reactions. So when a production in New York became possible, there was little discussion as to whether or not Lifebridge would help.

Mystery School was produced in March and April of this year in an apt setting — a 150 year-old synagogue in lower Manhattan.

The five disparate characters in this series of dramatic monologues include an indignant fundamentalist Christian cleaning woman; a deceptively flaky “new age” public-access TV hostess; a caustic, but desperately searching lesbian alcoholic; an upper crust society matron on a symbolic archaeological “dig” into her own soul; and finally, a dedicated, flamboyant, and life-affirming teacher named Dr. Edie Kelvin, who gives a commencement speech that could warm and invigorate even the most jaded graduate.

Dr. Edie sends the audience off into what she calls “the forest” to experience whatever they must in order to unravel the mysteries of their own souls and spirits. She gives everyone permission to live life fully on the “wide path”. “Wend your ways, babies!” she says with gusto, “Wend your ways!”

On the page and as incarnated by the Tony and Emmy award-winning actress Tyne Daly, Dr. Edie is the embodiment of pure, unconditional love.

Paul Selig, the playwright, remembers that Dr. Edie Kelvin was the first character to insist upon expressing herself through him. “I was asked to do a commencement speech at Goddard College in Vermont and I was having trouble writing it. But there was this insistent voice rumbling around inside my head that wouldn’t quit until finally it said, ‘Let me do it’...and Dr. Edie started speaking.”

“After that, the other characters emerged, I guess, as a natural progression,” Mr. Selig said.

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Tyne Daly, who was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle award for her performance, says that she was inexorably drawn to taking on the characters in *Mystery School* even though she had once made the vow that she would never do a one-woman show.

“Well, it’s not a one-woman show anyway,” mused the down-to-earth Ms. Daly on closing night of the limited run. “It’s a five woman show.”

When asked how she had prepared for the *tour-de-force*, she said that her performance in the age-old synagogue in New York, (long since fallen into disuse as a place of worship) was greatly informed by her reading of Philip Larkin’s poem “Church Going”, in which he uses the image of musty, vacant churches as a symbol for the spiritual emptiness of late twentieth century society.

The poem’s narrator moves from feeling no connection at all to the dead, museum-like structures, into thoughts about their possible meaning in history, and finally to the last stanza’s description of the historical church shell as a place where “all our compulsions meet/Are recognized, and robed as destinies”. As such, the poet seems to conclude, they also represent modern humanity’s longing for a regeneration of faith, and “never can be obsolete”.

One inspired audience member echoed the poet’s final observation after crying and laughing her way through a rousing performance of *Mystery School*, saying “This is how we should all feel after attending church!”

Yes indeed, and what a hopeful sign for theatre in general, which began anciently as a religious rite. In this production at least, it seemed to be coming full circle.

Mystery School, a series of dramatic monologues by Paul Selig, was presented in New York by En Garde Arts and Long Wharf Theatre. It was developed in part with the support of Sundance Institute Theatre Laboratory and Showtime Networks, Inc. The production was funded by AT&T, Dorothy Johnston, and The Lifebridge Foundation.

The Lifebridge Foundation Grantee Section Summer, 1998



Hope New Grantees – Arts & Culture

Roger Blonder

Agoura Hills, CA

Email: rblonder@ix.netcom.com

Roger Blonder's *The Common Sense of the Wisdom Tree* is a short animated film in which the Wisdom Tree enchants a young man into an understanding of the role that trees and the environment play in making life possible and into an appreciation for the interconnectedness of all life.

En Garde Arts

New York, NY

Co-producers of Paul Selig's *Mystery School* in New York, with Tyne Daly.
(See adjoining article, Pg. 4)



Second Year Grants

The Foundry Theatre

New York, NY

(See article on this page)

Heron Dance

Burlington, VT

Intuition Network

San Rafael, CA

Twin Cities Public TV

St. Paul, MN

Yakoana

San Francisco, CA



A Conversation on Hope

It was not a traditional theatre piece, yet it definitely had its theatricality. It began on a Friday night with a luscious dinner for 300 invited guests, from artists to journalists to labor unionists, to political activists — and it ended the next afternoon with specialty drinks served by waiters from the Rainbow Room. Dr. Cornel West and other well known “hosts” were onstage from time to time but *A Conversation on Hope*, presented by The Foundry Theatre, was truly an ensemble piece.

If you'd been there, among many other things during those two days, you might have found yourself 1) backing into a stand-up, lifelike cutout of Bob Hope (and excusing yourself), 2) engaging in intense conversations on bio-ethics, the implications of corporate power, or 3) down on your hands and knees in an improvisatory game with teenaged members of the Global Kids.

Melanie Joseph, artistic director of The Foundry Theatre, conceived the production as an outgrowth of the theatre's series of smaller Roundtable discussions. But this was a *conversation*. It aspired to “explore a contemporary understanding of hope and hopelessness and their relationships to the actions we do and do not take in our everyday lives.”

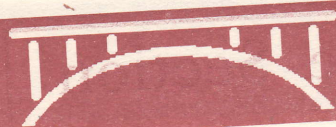
Asked for her observations on the event three months after the fact, Ms. Joseph simply stated that it “seemed to create a safe space for genuine discourse and dialogue.” She continued, after a pause to reflect on the enormous undertaking for herself and her small, dedicated staff, “Cornel West said that it filled a great void in people's lives today—the opportunity to come together to communicate honestly. That struck me too. People weren't there to network and it wasn't even that hope was the issue. It provided a venue for deep,

candid inquiry into our levels of commitment. In fact, once we got started, it was hard to stop.”

Did this *Conversation* produce any *action*? For one thing, it inspired the theme of this issue of *The Bridging Tree*. And Melanie Joseph is discussing the possibility of similar biannual events in partnership with other organizations. The Foundry has also commissioned a musical theatre piece based on the event, by two talented theatre artists who were there, Carl Hancock Rux and Toshi Regan.

But the most unique thing of all was the communication between people who rarely find themselves in the same setting — artists and grantmakers, adults and teenagers, journalists and activists — not only willing to talk, but to listen.

“I think the conversations are still going on,” Ms. Joseph said. And that in itself spells hope.



ACIAR

Asociacion para la Integracion
y Accion Regional
Moravia, Barrio La Guaria
De la entrada principal 150
metros al este y 100 metros al sur
Moravia, San Jose, Costa Rica
Tel: 506-240-7670
Fax: 506-235-8506

Email: associar@sol.racsa.co.cr

Project Director: Guillermo
Rosabal Ramirez

ACIAR is a non-governmental and
nonprofit organization, dedicated
to formulating and executing
development projects in areas of
Costa Rica with low social and
human development rates. ACIAR
received a grant for a project to
educate people across Costa Rica
about the abuse of children.

East Harlem Tutorial Program

2050 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10029

Tel: 212-831-0650

Fax: 212-289-7967

Director: Carmen Vega-Rivera

EHTP provides education, literacy,
training and employment programs
for East Harlem's African-American
and Latino children, teenagers and
parents.

Schumacher College Foundation

The Old Postern, Dartington,
Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EA UK

Tel: 011-44-1803-865934

Fax: 011-44-1803-866899

Email: schumadmin@gn.apc.org

Web: <http://www.gn.apc.org/>

[schumachercollege/](http://www.gn.apc.org/schumachercollege/)

Anne Phillips, Director

Schumacher College was founded in
1991 by the Dartington Hall Trust

Hope

New Grantees - Youth/Education

upon the twin convictions that
the world view which has
dominated Western civilisation
has serious limitations and that
a new vision is needed for
human society and its relation-
ship to the earth.

Second Year Grant

One Day Foundation
Sedona, AZ

Third Year Grant

The CityKids Foundation
New York, NY



Youth — Is There a Movement Afoot?



There seem to be many reasons for
concern about young people today. High
school and grade school murders of kids by
kids, gangs and drive-by shootings, and all
of the other dire media reports are disturb-
ing and should be.

But as with all fear-driven media hype,
these terrible happenings are not even close
to the whole story. The evening news
seldom leads with a segment on youth who
are energetically involved in community
service or world goodwill.

Nevertheless, those young people are out
there in ever-growing numbers. There even
seems to be a movement, not a movement
against but a movement for — for
communication, for understanding, for
awareness — for peace.

A perfect example of this occurred during
the opening session of the Season for Non-
violence at the UN on January 30. Four
young people, representing the Inter-

national Youth of Unity's *Peace by Piece*
program, moved the entire audience to a
standing ovation. Following are some ex-
cerpts from that inspiring presentation.

"While we honor the courageous work of
previous generations, WE, as the new
generation, intend to make the vision of
world peace a reality in our lifetime...
Peace has to start now within each one of
us...

Are you willing to take time to cultivate
your own spirituality? As we are.

Are you willing to find the inner strength
to be peaceful? As we are.

Can you honor the dignity and inherent
worth of every human being?

We need to educate ourselves to be
peaceful... We need curriculum that
teaches understanding. Understanding of
different religions... different lifestyles...
different cultures... customs... beliefs...

Can you make your everyday inter-

actions peaceful, positive,
uplifting?

We are the new, dynamic
generation ready to change the w
But we don't want to wait until w
in charge. We want it to start
Right here. With you. We invit
to join us in our vision.

We the youth of the world
globally united as the leaders
only tomorrow, but today... We a
cultivators and facilitators of
change, empowering othe
achieve greater levels of awa
and responsibility.

We come together to love,
learn, serve, speak, and live pe

We are the Peacemakers. We
Dreamers. We are the Doers.
the Generation for Peace!"

For more information: Cherie
Association of Unity Church
Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO
816-524-7414 ext 327, you@u

Hope New Grantees - Science



Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine University of Cambridge

Cambridge, England

Investigators:

Dr. Rupert Sheldrake

Dr. Anthony L. Podberscek

Dr. Podberscek will conduct experiments at Cambridge, in association with Dr. Sheldrake, on the extraordinary senses of animals. This research is an important follow-up to research already conducted by Dr. Sheldrake.

International Consciousness Research Laboratories Princeton, NJ

Tel: 609-258-5950 / Fax: 609-258-1993

Email: bjd@princeton.edu

Web: <http://www.icrl.org>

Brenda Dunne, Executive Vice President

International Consciousness Research Laboratories (ICRL) was established in 1990 as an informal, multi-disciplinary consortium of established scholars, all of whom share a commitment to collaborative exploration of the role of consciousness in physical reality. This organization has four primary goals: 1) strengthening the relevant empirical databases; 2) Developing effective theoretical models; 3) Communicating research results; 4) Encouraging the interest of young scholars

Penny Sartori

Swansea, South Wales

Mrs. Sartori is a staff nurse in a busy Intensive Care Unit. Her research project is under the supervision of Professor Paul Badham, Director of the Graduate Programme in Death and Immortality at the University of Wales, Lampeter and Dr. Peter Fenwick, consultant psychiatrist at Maudsley Hospital, London and President of the UK branch of the International Association for Near-Death Studies. Mrs. Sartori will monitor and interview a total sample of patients who have been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit to establish definitively what percentage of resuscitated people really do have the NDE experience and how those experiences relate to their medical conditions. The project will address the previous difficulty in NDE research, in that so far it has all been based only on following up cases of people who report NDEs.



Third Year Grants

**Division of Personality
Studies**

**University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA**

Dr. Rupert Sheldrake
London, England

PEAR Lab

Princeton, NJ

(See article below)

**Society for Scientific
Exploration**

Princeton, NJ

The PEAR Lab and Kids



The PEAR Lab at Princeton University "pursues rigorous scientific study of the interaction of human consciousness with sensitive physical devices, systems, and processes common to contemporary engineering practice."

This description might be daunting to a great many college educated adults but, says Brenda Dunne, the lab manager at the PEAR Lab, "We've been getting hundreds of letters every year from kids even at the grade school level, who have heard about our work and want to know more."

"We just don't have the room or the staff to accommodate all of them," she went on, "but we do what we can. Last year, a high school junior from North Carolina spent two weeks as a volunteer intern in the lab. He will be returning this year to complete a project he started - writing an informational brochure about PEAR geared towards kids his age."

This summer that student will be joined by three other interns. "We can't provide them with any amenities," says Ms. Dunne. "They come at their own expense to carry out projects of their own design and to obtain a feel for how research in this area is carried out."

Nevertheless, the International Consciousness Research Laboratories, and the Society for Scientific Exploration, both professional organizations with which PEAR is associated, are developing programs for educational outreach. "It's long overdue," Brenda Dunne states from first hand experience, "But funding is hard to come by, even for the schools these kids attend."

The interest is there though, and the youngsters keep writing. "One grade school student won a prize at his school science fair with some help from us via the Internet," said Ms. Dunne, "and I think we were more thrilled than he was."



Hope — New Grantees - Community Service

A Season for Nonviolence

1565 Maple Ave, Ste 204-205

Evanston, IL 60201

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

Email: Season NV@aol.com

Web: www.GandhiKing.com

(For more info see page 12)

High Tor Alliance

823 Chestnut Ridge Road

Spring Valley, NY 10977

Tel: 914-426-1293

Fax: 914-425-1083

Email: hta@hightor.org

Web: www.hightor.org

Director: Christopher Schaefer

High Tor Alliance is a research, educational and networking resource for individuals, groups and organizations. It exists to support and promote the search for effective practices that integrate soul and spirit into the working life of organizations, communities and society.

Patrick L. McNamara

Fredonia, NY

Mr. McNamara will apply his experience as an organizational change consultant to the shift in the overall business community by acting as liaison between three major Spirituality in Business conferences this summer. His goals are to share insights and energy and to set up a meeting of major players to decide how to consolidate and coordinate what has been shared for the beginnings of a Center for Spirituality in Business in North America as well as to create a Guide which future conferences can use in their local areas.

Patricia L. Ryan

Lynchburg, VA

Email: us014118@mindspring.com

Psychological science has been paying a lot of attention to adults who were wounded somehow in childhood. However, very little of this research addresses the spiritual dimension of wounding and healing. Ms. Ryan, a therapist, has begun a project with the aim of integrating spiritual and psychological understanding, through surveying and interviewing female survivors of childhood violence regarding the role spirituality played in their healing. Her goal is to provide understanding of the spiritual dimension of the healing process for survivors of childhood violence.



SECOND YEAR GRANTS

First Nations Development
Institute

Fredericksburg, VA

Healing Works

New York, NY

Dr. Dorri Jacobs

New York, NY

THIRD YEAR GRANTS

Center for Visionary

Leadership

Washington, DC (See article by
Corrine McLaughlin on Pg 13)

Hope — Workers in the Field

By Ann Crutchfield

The Door of Hope, Inc. in Greensboro, North Carolina is a manifestation of the dreams of several exceptional human beings; exceptional in their sensitivity to the silent tears falling from the eyes of ordinary struggling souls. Our goal is simply to express unconditional love and become "doorways to hope" ourselves.

This extended family of over one hundred people is in the marketplace daily, touching hearts with no judgements. The group is diverse in race, sex, age, religious preference, education, and economic status. We have one basic thing in common: sharing Love in service to all life. All of us have come to believe that faith alone cannot produce the glory of the unseen until the fire of hope begins to burn in every human heart.

Success is measured by one miracle at a time. Each new day brings surprises as to where the teardrops may be falling. We do everything from holding hands in death, illness, financial disaster, and imprisonment to saving those who have no voice to speak from the death chambers of the city pound. Our greatest challenge is to aid in transforming self hatred into appreciation for life and replacing fear with love.

We see the difference we make in the lives of people who would otherwise be forgotten or demeaned and this is our reward. Many thanks to The Lifebridge Foundation for believing that catching the silent teardrops of ordinary people is cosmic work.

Ann Crutchfield is Executive Director of The Door of Hope.

Hope — New Grantees - Environment



Rethinking Tourism Project

PO Box 581938

Minneapolis, MN 55458-1938

Tel/Fax: 612-521-0098

Email: RTProject@aol.com

Deborah McLaren, Director

RTP's mission is to strengthen Indigenous People's capacity to critically analyze tourism development, create self-development strategies and projects that protect bio-diversity, culture, traditional economies, and to create a network.

practices from traditional as well as newly emerging sources. Integrating the arts, science, religion and the humanities, the Institute links intellectual pursuit, personal creativity, and inner development with action strategies to bring about the change of heart, mind, and spirit now needed in a time of significant cultural transition. Based in the Pacific Northwest, in the heart of the Cascadia bioregion, they are linked to an international network of collaborating organizations and projects.

The Whidbey Institute

PO Box 57

Clinton, WA 98236

Tel: 360-341-1884

Fax: 360-341-1899

Email: whidinst@whidbey.com

Web: www.whidbey.com/Whidbey_Institute

Frederick L. Hull, Director

The Whidbey Institute is an educational center dedicated to personal spiritual formation, kinship with the Earth, and new patterns of cultural and environmental sustainability. Interfaith in its perspective, the Institute embraces life-affirming spiritual values and

Third Year Grant

Trees for Life

Wichita, KS



A DIFFERENT KIND OF
PEER GROUP

Hope — New Grantee - Interdimensional

PEER

Program for Extraordinary Experience Research

PO Box 398080

Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: 617-497-2667

Fax: 617-497-0122

Email: PEER1492@aol.com

John E. Mack, M.D., Director

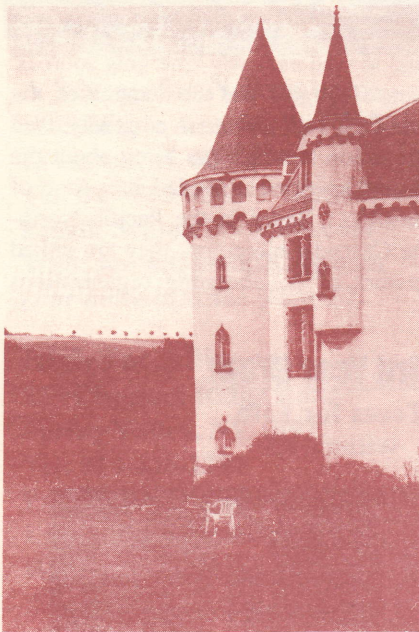
The Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) contributes to the philosophical and scientific exploration of experiences that do not fit our usual understanding of reality. PEER was founded in 1993 by Harvard professor of psychiatry John E. Mack, M.D., as a research and education project of the nonprofit Center for Psychology and Social Change. The Center is working to understand how individuals and societies might experience a greater sense of interconnectedness with themselves and the natural world. Center researchers and affiliates work with people on the front

lines of social problems to discover practices that create solutions at deeper more effective levels.

In addition to PEER's work, the Center runs programs in 1) values for a global society (as a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations), 2) leadership in a new worldview (the Camp for Young Healers and the Institute for Transforming Leadership), and 3) changing the understanding of what it means to be an individual (the Ecopsychological Institute).

As a project of the Center, PEER seeks to investigate anomalies that challenge the structures by which we have understood and perceived reality, including the perception of ourselves as separate identities. Specifically, PEER is currently conducting research with individuals ("experiencers") who describe anomalous interactions, usually against their conscious will, with non-human intelligences, an experience often called "alien abduction."

Hope — New Grantee — World Goodwill



Hague Appeal for Peace 1999
co World Federalist Movement
 777 UN Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-599-1320

Fax: 212-599-1332

Email: hap99@igc.apc.org

Web: www.haguepeace.org

William R. Pace, Sec. Gen.

The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 is an international coalition of over 400 non-governmental organizations. The Appeal is a global initiative to define an agenda for the advancement of international justice and peace for

the 21st Century. Organized around the centennial of the 1st International Hague Peace Conference of 1899, the Hague Appeal will be highlighted by a major civil society peace conference in May 1999. The Appeal's conference immediately precedes the intergovernmental conference planned for 1999.

SECOND YEAR GRANT

THE DANDELION TRUST

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Hope is Believing....

By Robert Alan Silverstein, Associate Editor



We feel hope when we believe there's a chance for our dreams to come true. All I've ever wished for is peace on earth—a seemingly impossible dream. So why am I so hopeful about our future?

When I decided to live my dream and try to make it come true, I saw that there were millions, in fact billions of people who were trying in little and big ways to create a better world. Every act of compassion makes the world more peaceful. This gives me great hope.

With the advent of the Internet, people are understanding even more that we are all connected and we are not alone in our efforts to make a difference. Networks and coalitions are focusing on the New Millennium as a symbolic opportunity for a Positive beginning for humanity - the emergence of a New Paradigm based on respect for ourselves, each other, and the planet we share. Here are just a few of the MANY alliances for a better world that fill me with hope:

ACTION WITHOUT BORDERS

Action Without Borders is a network of more than 14,000 organizations in 120 countries. Their website is searchable by topic and location, helping to link people

who want to make a difference with groups and organizations of similar concerns. Whichever "peace" of the puzzle your organization is addressing, please list it at: www.idealists.org

LIGHT WORKER COALITION

A new Coalition with over 200 consciousness networks from 20 countries was recently organized on the Internet. Representing over 100,000, the Coalition was created as an "emergency alert system" in which thousands of light workers around the world can be activated quickly to use interdimensional tools (meditation, prayer, etc.) to bring healing to planetary crisis situations. For more info, email: Lightweave@aol.com

WE THE PEOPLES

"We The Peoples" is a United Nations-sanctioned Peace Messenger initiative devoted to uniting the strengths of existing organizations to help make peace a practical reality for the 21st century. The cornerstone of this initiative is the United Nations' International Day of Peace - on the third Tuesday in September, the opening session of the UN's General Assembly. It is a time of rededication to working

towards peace on earth and for celebrating all of the victories for a better world that have been won throughout the year. Each year on the International Day of Peace a publication will be presented to the UN and to the world to show how much is really being accomplished. Your organization is invited to submit a 100-200 word description of your achievements towards a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. May Peace Prevail On Earth! Send to: Robert Alan Silverstein, UN NGO Representative, Pathways To Peace, Box 570, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Email: PforPeace@aol.com

www.WeThePeoples.org

ONE DAY IN PEACE, JANUARY 1, 2000

The United Nations declared the year 2000 as the International Year for a Culture of Peace. What better way to begin this year of education and transformation than with a worldwide day of peace - in our homes, our communities and between nations. So far 20 leaders have pledged their nation's support, and more than 400 organizations in over 100 countries are co-sponsoring this campaign. There is no financial obligation to be a co-sponsor! To join this worldwide coalition, send your name, title, organization, address, tel/fax, email & web to: ONE DAY Foundation, Box 1052, Sedona, AZ 86336, oneday@sedona.net / www.oneday.net.

UN REPORT

By Dr. Ida Urso



Can the "Hope of Humanity" Survive?

As the dream that arose from a nightmare, the United Nations gave hope to the world at a time when people were in despair. Pronouncing an end to the scourge of war and envisioning a world of justice, peace and progress for all peoples of the earth, the UN has been called the hope of humanity—its most far-sighted and significant undertaking.

Nevertheless, as any historical account will attest, the founding of the United Nations was not easy of attainment and certainly not the result of a unanimous decision. The forces opposing the creation of the United Nations were mighty indeed. In 1945, many were strident in their assertions that the 51 nations attending the "United Nations Conference on International Organization" could never be brought to agreement and that a third world war by 1970 or 1975 was inevitable. However, as we know, the voices of reason prevailed.

Today, a half-century later the opposing forces are vociferous and the existence of this world body is very much at risk. In an editorial that appeared in *The New York Times* this past March, Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General stated that for all practical purposes, the United Nations is in a state of bankruptcy. This remark was echoed at a press briefing in which Joseph Connor, the Under-Secretary-General for Management at the UN announced that the organization's cash position was weak and getting weaker. Mr. Connor added, "We're hanging on by our fingernails."

Appallingly, it is the United States who owes over 60 percent of the funds due for past and current years for the UN's regular budget and peacekeeping—over \$1.5 billion of a total \$2.6 billion debt. This is an ironic turn because during the mid-sixties the United States, who then enjoyed a steady majority in the General Assembly, was the great defender of prompt and unconditional payments. In fact, Washington prepared a strong legal brief that argued in favor of assessed payments as a treaty obligation.

Since the UN's creation, the apportionment among member states of the organization's expenses has been based on the principle of capacity to pay. The essential measure of capacity to pay is each country's share of world income, using a base period of six years. Because of a ceiling cap, the U.S. is assessed 25 percent of the UN regular budget even though its Gross National Product stands at 26.16 percent. By way of comparison, the 15 member states of the European Union who account for 30.8 percent of world income, are assessed a combined total of 36.2 percent of UN costs. Japan's assessment is 18 percent.

Relative to the rest of the U.S. budget, the UN dues are quite insignificant. Including peacekeeping, child survival and assistance to refugees these equal one-tenth of one percent of the yearly budget. This figure equates to just over \$7 per person annually. By contrast, over \$900 per person is spent annually on U.S. national security.

However, in the '70s as the U.S. control over the UN weakened and the Third World block began rising in prominence, the U.S. approach to UN finance began to change. Throughout the '80s fiscal austerity was demanded from the Secretary General. When paid, dues were delayed by a period of nine months, 20 percent of UN appropriations were withheld on condition that the UN establish weighted voting on budgetary matters, and funds were withheld from specified programs.

In the early '90s the Clinton Administration sought to define a new U.S. policy towards the UN and its expanding role in conflicts around the world. As a result, in Congress, in the Pentagon and among the National Security policymaking establishment, opponents of the new policy stepped up their attacks on the UN. The opposition led to budget cutting, sharpened rhetoric about waste and inefficiency and constant and merciless pressure on the UN and especially its budget. Thus, by January 1995 when the new Republican Congress came into office the then serious UN financial problem turned into a full-scale crisis which, after some twists and turns deepened in March of this year.

At that time, the Republican leadership in the US House of Representatives announced that it would

link anti-abortion provisions to a funding package that included UN arrears. Immediately, the White House announced that it would veto any such linked legislation. However, in an alarming turn of events, on April 28th, the Senate narrowly approved the sweeping legislation -- including the anti-abortion provisions -- to pay \$819 million in back dues. The Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott has stated that if this bill is not signed by the President, "the UN issue is probably dead for the year."

Many are those who are and have been attempting to bring a resolution to the crisis. In February of this year, former presidents and cabinet members, as well as corporate CEOs signed their names to a two page political ad that in the name of global leadership, responsibility and American interest, called for U.S. payment of its UN arrears. The ad appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other major outlets. Some, such as Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, have called the linkage between family planning and other U.S. foreign policy priorities "legislative blackmail."

Robert Schiffer in a recent issue of *The Earth Times* (April 1-15), refers to the adopted legislation as a "Capitol Hill scandal" whose "after-effects will have a global fallout for generations to come." And many agree with UN Ambassador Richardson who has recently pointed out that America only succeeds when the rest of the world succeeds.

For further information, the reader is referred to the websites of the Global Policy Forum at www.globalpolicy.org which includes "A Call for Action on the UN Financial Crisis" that can be signed; and the United Nations Association at www.unausa.org/ which includes a "Washington Weekly Report."

Ted Turner's recent pledge of \$1 BILLION for UN-related causes will not help alleviate the UN's debt, but it does bring great hope and an inspiring vote of confidence for the United Nations. Please urge your leaders to support the UN!

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- ☐ 2-7: World Youth Forum in Braga, Portugal
- ☐ 9: International Day of Indigenous Peoples
- ☐ 19: 500 Day CountUP to One Day In Peace

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ 8: International Literacy Day
- ☐ 14-16: UN DPI-NGO Conference
- ☐ 15: International Day of Peace

OCTOBER

- ☐ 1: International Day of Older Persons
- ☐ 5: World Habitat Day
- ☐ 6: International Teachers Day
- ☐ 16: World Food Day
- ☐ 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- ☐ 24: United Nations Day
- ☐ 31: UNICEF Day

NOVEMBER

- ☐ 11: International Week of Science & Peace
- ☐ 17: International Day for Tolerance

DECEMBER

- ☐ 1: World AIDS DAY
- ☐ 2: International Day for Abolition of Slavery
- ☐ 3: International Day of Disabled persons
- ☐ 5: International Volunteer Day
- ☐ 10: 50th Anniversary of Human Rights Day
- ☐ 29: International Day for Biodiversity
- ☐ 31: 1 Year to One Day In Peace celebration

1998: International Year of the Ocean
1999: International Year of Older Persons
2000: International Year for a Culture of Peace

One Day In Peace January 1, 2000

Worldwide Nonviolence Movement Launched

A Season for Nonviolence (January 30 – April 4, 1998), commemorating the 50th and 30th Memorial Anniversaries of Gandhi and King, brought together nearly 500 organizations in over 115 cities. Hundreds of events and activities took place during the 64-day Season, launching a continuing worldwide Nonviolence Movement.

Spirituality At Work

By Corrine McLaughlin

Some would say that it's about time that we returned to a more sacred view of work and money.

Are spirituality and profitability mutually exclusive? A growing movement across the country is promoting spiritual values in the workplace and pointing to many examples of increased productivity and profitability. A proliferation of book titles reflects this: *The Soul of Business*, *Liberating the Corporate Soul*, *Working from the Heart*, *The Stirring of Soul in the Workplace*, *Jesus CEO*, *Spirit at Work*, *Redefining the Corporate Soul*, *The Corporate Mystic*, *Leading with Soul*, etc. Some books on this theme, such as Stephen Covey's pioneering *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, have sold millions of copies. There are several national newsletters on spirituality at work, as well as over 20 conferences this year on this theme, including one we are organizing in Washington on June 27-28, 1998 with over 50 leaders in business and government.

To the surprise of many, this movement is beginning to transform corporate America from the inside out. Growing numbers of business people want their spirituality to be more than just faith and belief -- they want it to be practical and applied -- to bring heaven down to earth. They want to bring their whole selves to work -- body, mind and spirit. Many business people are finding that the bottom line can be strengthened by embodying their values-- "doing well by doing good."

People at all levels in the corporate hierarchy increasingly want to nourish their spirit and creativity, and to bring a greater sense of meaning and purpose into their work life. When employees are encouraged to express their creativity, the result is a more fulfilled and sustained workforce. Happy people work harder and are more likely to stay at their jobs. A study of business performance by the highly respected Wilson Learning Company found that 39% of the variability in corporate performance is attributable to the personal satisfaction of the staff.

Some would say that it's about time that we returned to a more sacred view of work and money.

After all, the word "money"-- from the Latin "moneta" meaning "mint" or "money"-- has a spiritual origin, as Moneta was the name of the Roman Goddess in whose temple money was originally minted.

What is spirituality at work? There's a wide range of perspectives. Some would say that it's simply embodying their personal values of honesty, integrity, and good quality work. Others would say it's treating their employees in a responsible, caring way. For others, it's making their organization socially responsible in how it impacts the environment, serves the community or creates social change. And for still others, it's holding religious study groups or using prayer, meditation, or intuitive guidance at work. Some see God as their business partner or even their CEO. However, some people fear the corporation has begun to co-op the function of churches. Others fear spiritual beliefs or practices will be imposed by employers, but to date this has been extremely rare.

Spiritual values that are widely embraced in business include integrity, honesty, accountability, quality, cooperation, service, intuition, trustworthiness, respect, justice, and service. Perhaps spirituality is not so much "the answer" to corporate problems, but rather a way to prompt an inquiry about them.

Why all the sudden interest in spirituality at work? Researchers point to several key factors. Corporate downsizing and greater demands on remaining workers has left them too tired and stressed to be creative -- at the same time that globalization of markets requires more creativity from employees. To survive into the 21st Century, organizations must offer a greater sense of meaning and purpose for their workforce. In today's highly competitive environment, the best talent seeks out organizations that reflect their inner values and provide opportunities for personal development and community service, not just bigger salaries.

Also, spending more time at work means there is less time available for religious activities. *The New York Times*, recently reported that a growing number of companies are allowing employees to hold religion classes at work. This accommodates busy professionals

Spirituality At Work—(cont'd)

who are pressed for time and afraid they have abandoned their faith. Many people are feeling more comfortable in the public expression of their faith. For some people, though, religion seems too structured and dogmatic, whereas the word "spirituality" emphasizes how one's beliefs are applied day to day.

Another factor in the popularity of spirituality at work is the fact that there are more women in the workplace today, and women tend to focus on spiritual values more often. The aging of the large baby boom generation is also a contributor, as boomers find materialism no longer satisfies and fear their mortality.

Using spiritual values as guiding principles has many positive effects on business. *Business Week* reported that 95% of Americans reject the idea that a corporation's only purpose is to make money. A recent study in *Management Accounting* found that companies committed to ethical business practices do better financially and have significantly greater representation among the top 100 financial performers than companies that don't make ethics a key management component. 39% of U.S. investors say they always or frequently check on business practices, values and ethics before investing. *The Trends Report of 1997* reported that 3 out of 4 consumers polled say they are likely to switch to brands associated with a good cause if price and quality are equal.

The ABC Evening News recently reported that The American Stock Exchange has a Torah study group; Boeing has Christian, Jewish and Muslim prayer groups; Microsoft has an on-line prayer service. There is a "Lunch and Learn" Torah class in banking firm of Sutro and Company, Woodland Hills, CA. and Koran classes at defense giant Northrop Grumman. Wheat International Communications in Reston, Virginia has morning prayers open to all employees, but not required. Spiritual study groups at noon are sometimes called "Higher Power Lunches"--replacing the usual "power lunches."

The Los Angeles Times recently reported that Marketplace Ministries of Dallas placed freelance chaplains at 132 companies in 38 states. Fellowship of Companies for Christ International based in

Atlanta has 1500 member companies around the world. They promote "The importance and practice of prayer in company decisions; a commitment to excellence; following Jesus' example of focusing on people, not things" and "do unto others in the workplace as you would have them do unto you."

In addition to prayer and study, other spiritual practices at companies include meditation; centering exercises such as deep breathing to reduce stress; visioning exercises; building shared values; active, deep listening; making action and intention congruent; and using intuition and inner guidance in decision-making. According to a study at Harvard Business School published in *The Harvard Business Review*, business owners credit 80% of their success to acting on their intuition.

Medtronic, which sells medical equipment, set up a meditation center at headquarters 20 years ago that remains open to all employees today. Executives of Xerox go on week-long retreats to learn a Native American model of council meetings and to go on vision quests to see their work in a deeper, more meaningful way.

Aaron Feurenstein, CEO of Malden Mills in Lawrence, MA, producer of polar fleece fabrics, believes labor is the best asset a company has. He says a company has an equal responsibility to its community and to itself, and since Lawrence, MA has high unemployment, he kept all 3,000 employees on his payroll after a major fire destroyed 3 out of its 4 factories.

Tom Chappell, CEO of Tom's of Maine, stays mindful of profit and the common good by giving employees four paid hours a month to volunteer for community service and by using all natural ingredients that are good for the environment.

Managers and union workers of Southern California Con Edison attend sessions called "The Heart Shop" with pianist Michael Jones to cultivate compassion for each other, creativity and a new intelligence of the heart. Boeing set up a series of weeklong trainings with poet David Whyte for 600 of its top executives to unleash feelings, take risks, and be excited by change--instead of terrified of it.

NYNEX established an Office of Ethics and Business Conduct to encourage employees to live by a set of core values: quality, ethics and caring for the

individual. This new focus led to increases in profits, productivity and product and service quality, as this affected how the company is perceived by customers and stakeholders.

In 1986 The Caux Round Table, based in Minnesota, pioneered a list of Principles for Business, an international code of business values formulated by senior business leaders from Japan, Europe, the United States and Canada. Businesses for Social Responsibility, based in San Francisco, has many Fortune 500 companies as members (as well as pioneers such as The Body Shop and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream) who promote socially responsible policies and practices that honor the needs of all stakeholders--workers, suppliers, shareholders -- as well as the community and the environment..

The spirituality in business movement is one of the encouraging signs that corporations, as the most powerful institutions in world, may finally be transforming from within. Not only are they realizing the importance of nourishing the souls of their employees--but also important-- remedying some of the problems they've created in the world, such as environmental pollution, the loss of local jobs, and valuing profit over people. What is emerging is a new attitude towards the workplace as a place to fulfill our deeper purpose. As Kahlil Gibran reminds us in *The Prophet*. "Work is love made visible."

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Corinne McLaughlin is Executive Director of The Center for Visionary Leadership, which offers public educational programs, values-based leadership training and consulting services. The Center sponsored a major conference on Spirituality at Work in June, 1998 at The Washington Marriott Hotel. Keynote speakers included Mary Ellen Withrow, Treasurer of the United States, Tom Chappel, CEO of Tom's of Maine, and Hazel Henderson, author of *Building a Win/Win World*.



TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

The Winter 1998-99 issue of *The Bridging Tree* will be devoted to the concept of "transformative action". We will continue to examine the actions of visionary individuals and organizations engaged in projects that contribute to the integration of an emerging holistic consciousness into daily action. Among other articles and reports, the winter issue will review the following events.

- ☐ **Tree Island Millennium Gathering -Klamath Falls, OR**
August 18-20, 1998 – Celebrate the 500 Day Count-Up to *One Day in Peace, January 1, 2000!* A grass-roots meeting of hearts, minds, and spirits to celebrate, communicate and cooperate. For information on lodging, camping, and transportation, contact: Linda Grover, 300 Grant Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601, 514-882-9760, www.treeisland.com or contact Steve Diamond by email: ommm7@rain.org
- ☐ **State of the World Forum – San Francisco, CA**
October 27-November 1, 1998 – A unique international gathering which convenes leaders in diverse fields, such as politics, science, business, religion, and the arts with active citizens from around the world, united in their willingness to contribute to humankind's search for a new, truly global and humane civilization. *By invitation.*
- ☐ **Connecting and Community Conference – Union, WA**
October 29-November 1, 1998 - Sponsored by The Foundation for Community Encouragement and supported in part by The Lifebridge Foundation, this conference will bring together representatives of diverse organizations around the USA to build community and connectedness. Among those attending will be well-known authors Dr. M. Scott Peck (the founder of FCE) and Gary Zukav. This conference is also *by invitation.*

For more information on Lifebridge Grantees

- ☐ Contact them directly through the addresses, emails, phone numbers provided in this issue.
- ☐ Visit our website at www.lifebridge.org
- ☐ Write to: The Lifebridge Foundation
PO Box 793
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108

for a copy of the Winter, 1997-98 issue of *The Bridging Tree*, which lists contact information for many of our grantees from 1993-97.

- ☐ For individual grantees, write to The Lifebridge Foundation or email us at: LB457@aol.com



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 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

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