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# The Bridging Tree

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## FACES

Tell the Story



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## Faces of Unity

By Barbara L. Overby and Larry Auld

Defining "unity" is like trying to describe the faces of all the people on the planet. In essence though, the quality of unity is characterized by diversity --- and in this we are beginning to find our strength.

Late last year, many people in the West were preparing for *something* to go wrong with global computer networks during the switch to the year 2000, but nothing happened. The world is still connected by the internet, things are speeded up and everything is changing and growing at an extremely rapid pace here in the technologically wired western world. But the fact remains that half the people in the world today have never even made a telephone call and may possibly never receive one -- let alone be on the internet. Most people in Africa have little or no access to clean and safe drinking water -- let alone electricity.

Many feel that this thing called "globalization" is unifying the planet, but others feel it will be our undoing. One definition of globalization infers corporate control over all products and even governments (see David Korten's book, *When Corporations Rule the World*). But we prefer to think of globalization as a kind of world-wide "self-discovery" and planetary integration. This is truly the first time in history we've had an opportunity to view ourselves as a whole, and, unfortunately, what we are seeing is

a huge disparity in living conditions as the horror of the poverty in which most of the world's population lives is revealed.

Western countries are hugely rich while many of the world's people are going hungry, dying of AIDS, barely surviving in sub-human conditions. How can we let this continue? The wired, wealthy countries must find a way to share their bounty (much of which has been gained from the sweat of those living in the poorest countries). How else can we have a healthy planetary organism?

In this process of global self-discovery and planetary integration, there may be some progress. In the United States, people who own stock or have investments in pensions and retirement plans, are beginning to see how they can leverage their money in what is called "social investing". This movement calls for corporations to act as responsible global citizens and to institute fair labor standards and abolish what is commonly called a "race to the bottom". Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called for a set of corporate ethics to guide company policy in this way.

If you don't live in the United States or you don't own stock, how you can make a difference? You might get some ideas from the website of The New Group of World Servers ([www.ngws.org](http://www.ngws.org)), a

## Faces of Unity *continued*

network of people and organizations dedicated to making a difference. Their online June newsletter has a great deal to say about the ethical use of money.

But a lot of the hope we seek lies with our youth, many of whom are beginning to emerge and demonstrate a sense of wholeness and unity unlike any previous generation -- perhaps because of increased global communications possibilities. Groups such as Youth for Environmental Sanity (see page 3), International Youth of Unity (see page 7), Global Youth Connect, and Global Kids (all Lifebridge grantees) along with countless others, are working energetically to bring the important perspective of their constituents to the table for larger, institutionalized discussions of global issues. Young people want a voice in world affairs and they should have a voice that counts. They are not just future leaders, but leaders NOW; well informed, aware, and committed to building a planet that's habitable, just, and fair for their children's children. We need to support their efforts and find a way to bring them into decision-making bodies where they can have direct participation in shaping their own futures.

Global Youth Action Network, a new Lifebridge grantee (see page 7), is providing a great service to young people internationally. Through the internet and through other means of communication, GYAN brings an awareness to youth who are seeking positive change all over the world; that they are not alone and directs them to those of like mind nearest their localities.

As responsible adults, we need to regain our individual and collective spirit -- that youthful spirit that tells us anything is possible. Last spring, three important conferences were held on the theme of universal ethics and values. At The Universal Ethics Millennium Conference at the United Nations, each speaker without



exception noted that spirituality is a common element in our humanity and one that we need to include in all policy debates. (See page 14.) In Washington, D.C., another Lifebridge grantee, The Center for Visionary Leadership, convened a summit on "values, spirituality and governance" entitled *Re-Igniting the Spirit of America*; and in New York, *Lapis* magazine (launched in 1994 with a Lifebridge grant) in collaboration with *Tikkun* magazine, hosted a meeting entitled *Re-Imagining Politics and Society*. All three of these conferences explored the relationship between spirituality and government and how we must elect compassionate leaders who express that compassion in their policies and programs.

Finally, unity can never be achieved without transparency. Systems of government, multi-national corporations and institutions must be open with regards to their motivations and operations. Many large corporation and institutions are beginning to see that without this quality they will have a hard time surviving in a world where individuals are able to communicate with one another on a global scale-- individuals who may well be their employees, the ones who keep them going, the one who make things happen. Secret agendas are more and more difficult to conceal.

The faces of unity then, are transparent faces. Faces that let the light shine through, faces that manifest a youthful spirit. You can see them everywhere, these faces -- whether they are worn by a little child in Asia, a young, vibrant man or woman in North America, a middle-aged mother or father in Africa, a single person working for community in Europe, or an elder in South America, the South Pacific or the Caribbean. Whatever color, whatever nationality, whatever orientation -- the faces of unity are OUR faces and we are beginning to recognize each other.

*Barbara L. Overby is President of the Board of Directors of The Lifebridge Foundation. Larry Auld is Secretary of the Board and Program Director of The Lifebridge Foundation.*

### The Bridging Tree

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## The Power of Synergy

by Ocean Robbins

For about a year, I have been an increasingly active member of the Social Venture Network — which brings together socially responsible leaders active with business, philanthropy, investment, and non-profits to network and support one another. SVN members are by definition the leaders of companies, foundations or organizations that help to channel millions of dollars into positive directions every year. The organization holds 2 conferences annually, and at the fall, 1999 conference, I noted that of the 300 inspiring people in attendance, only 3 were under age 30.

So, supported by a special grant, YES! brought six of the alumni from our 1999 World Youth Leadership JAM! to the following (Spring, 2000) Social Venture Network conference in New York.

We six young people were given 1/2 hour for a presentation during the Friday night plenary. Our presentation included performance of a spoken word piece that gives a youth perspective on the world, followed by each of us sharing from the heart a bit about our work and message, and then in turn introducing the next young speaker. Because we had formed a deep and lasting bond of respect and trust at the JAM!, and shared profound appreciation, we introduced each other with enormous feeling and enthusiasm. The audience felt it, and was moved by the depth of our mutual support and synergy.

The response was phenomenal. There were three standing ovations, the third lasting for five minutes. Many people told me in tears that it was the most meaningful thing they'd experienced in all their years of SVN conferences.

Towards the conclusion of our presentation, Hafsat Abiola spoke. Hafsat is the 26 year-old daughter of M. K.O. Abiola, who was elected President of Nigeria and then jailed by the military regime. He died in prison in 1998. Hafsat's mother, Kudirat, had already been shot to death in the streets of Lagos by anti-Democracy forces in 1996. Despite these enormous tragedies for her as well as for her nation, Hafsat is doing brilliant work facilitating democracy in her country by empowering women and children. Near the end of her 3 minute speech, she mentioned softly that she had gotten 30 computers donated and needed to raise money to fund creation of a building that could



function as a computer training center to empower Nigeria's people.

After Hafsat finished, I thanked her and said a few closing words. There was a thunderous standing ovation as we returned to our seats. But the MC of the evening had barely begun to introduce the next speaker when an audience-member shouted out: "How much money does Hafsat need!" I responded that she needed to raise \$160,000. Someone else in the room called: "Auction!!" The MC tried to put a quick end to this outburst and keep things moving on schedule, but the audience began to chant with increasing volume; "Auc-tion! Auc-tion! Auc-tion!!!"

One of the SVN members jumped up on stage and the MC reluctantly surrendered, allowing him to conduct an "auction," collecting pledges from the audience. In the ensuing eight minutes, \$160,000 was raised. Hafsat, as you can imagine, was in tears, and so were the rest of us. When it was announced that the tally had reached the necessary level, the youth delegation swarmed Hafsat in a group hug, and carried her around the room, all of us crying, as the audience, most of them in tears too, stood and cheered. It was one of the highlights of my life.

YES!'s programs bring together some of the most inspiring young leaders of our times, and help them build a web of support and connection that makes a profound difference to them and their work. This summer, we will educate, inspire and empower youth from 20 nations with support, skills and resources to take positive action for healthy people and a healthy planet. I wish you could see the faces of the hundreds of young people who leave our camps every summer rich with enormous capacity to make a difference in the world. The sense of meaning and purpose that they carry forward is profound.

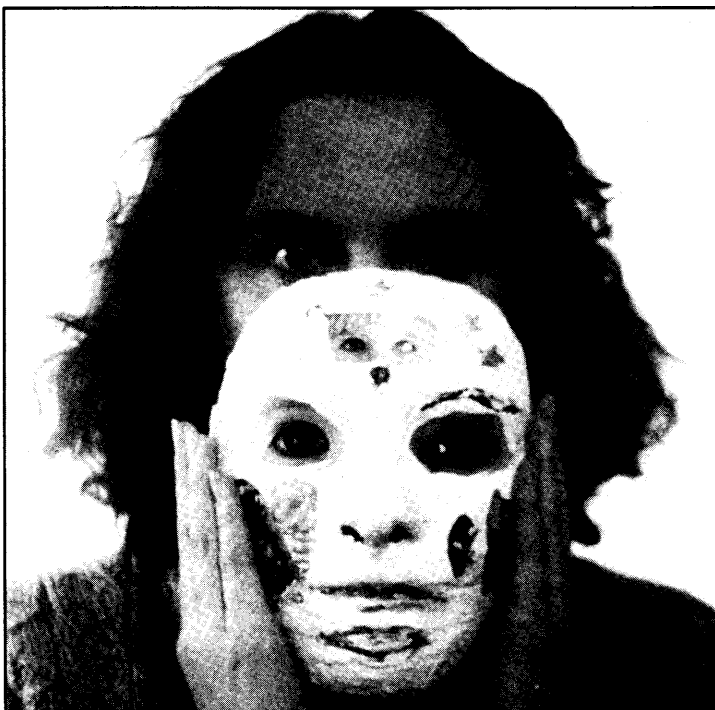
*Ocean Robbins is co-founder and President of Youth for Environmental Sanity.*

## *The Face of the 1990s*

*By Jim Lovensheimer*

The 1990s are impossible to write about in the past tense if only because they aren't yet over. Despite the numerical change in years, the decade won't really end until after the next presidential election at the earliest, and nothing indicates that life will be much different after that, despite what the candidates might want us to think. Perhaps it will take as long to get to the twenty-first century as it did to the twentieth. We can only hope the turning point is less horrifying than World War I, which truly marked the end of the nineteenth century.

The decade of the '90s had a beginning, however, and that was the fall of the Eastern Bloc and the demolition of the Berlin Wall. One of the primary conflicts of the twentieth century was that between the communist East and the predominantly democratic and capitalist West. This conflict was permanently altered when the East crumbled under the pressures of its own bloated systems. Much of the world's political and economic way of life was changed almost in the blink of an eye, an eye focused on the omnipresent images of the event broadcast and televised in almost unprecedented abundance. After all, the fall of what President Reagan called the "Evil Empire" was good business, especially since what had long been called the



"American Century" was ending with the triumph of the American ideal of democracy and its companion, the American system of capitalism.

Like many American successes, however, capitalism soon began to believe its own publicity. The 1990s have become the age of what has been appropriately called Hyper-Capitalism, in which nearly every human experience, or some part thereof, is a commodity in a for-profit system. Few are the spaces around us not in commercial use, and the homogenized manner in which these spaces often are exploited has made even Times Square develop mall-like characteristics. Since the early 1990s, even public schools have profitably contracted deals with newscast providers that result in educational television with commercials, and corporate names are attached to most new "public" structures. The deregulation practices of the 1980s allowed mergers and/or takeovers on an unprecedented scale in the 1990s. An almost constantly rising stock market has made the decade thus far a profitable one for those with the means to invest in it, but this has also predictably widened the gap between those of substance and those barely hanging on, their work at more than one job making employment figures seem rosier than they really are.

As the Hyper-Capitalist economy booms in America, however, less optimistic events are happening at home and away from it. As the order of the East fell apart, struggles once hidden beneath the gray facade of Communism have reared their ferocious faces, and the former Yugoslavia, among other places, broke up into small and warring factions. A part of the world so vulnerable during the last turn-of-the-century again has become a demonstration of humankind's inability to live at least in tolerance, if not community. At home, an increasingly disenfranchised element of our own population has sprung up, firearms in hand, to seize the headlines and numb our collective consciousness. And this element is very young. Columbine is a watchcry, Littleton a warning, a terrifying reminder of the anger that the outsider can harbor and, in a moment of bleak desperation, express. The violence of young people directed at other young people is now a part of our collective identity, and of our collective guilt. The age of Hyper-Capitalism, it would appear, is like a polished rock, under which



the same unpleasant world exists as under any other rock.

With once-fixed values now seen as relative, and with history no longer viewed as a linear sequence of events but as a network of relations affecting each other (Post-History, anyone?), much popular entertainment has embraced a self-referential, nihilistic irony without becoming involved in it. Jerry Seinfeld and David Letterman are the gurus of irony, their humor eventually reaching a final conclusion of, "Why bother?" Furthermore, popular entertainment knowingly and, even more often, unknowingly embraces irony with, dare it be said, ironic results. The difference between a show like *Friends*, a very well-performed if voyeuristic fictional look at a group of young people living together, and *The Real World*, a voyeuristic look at a group of actual young people living together, is minimal. The only thing differentiating fact from fiction is a laugh track. Voyeurism is voyeurism, the message goes. We are all each other's entertainment. (If we can sell it to each other, that is!)

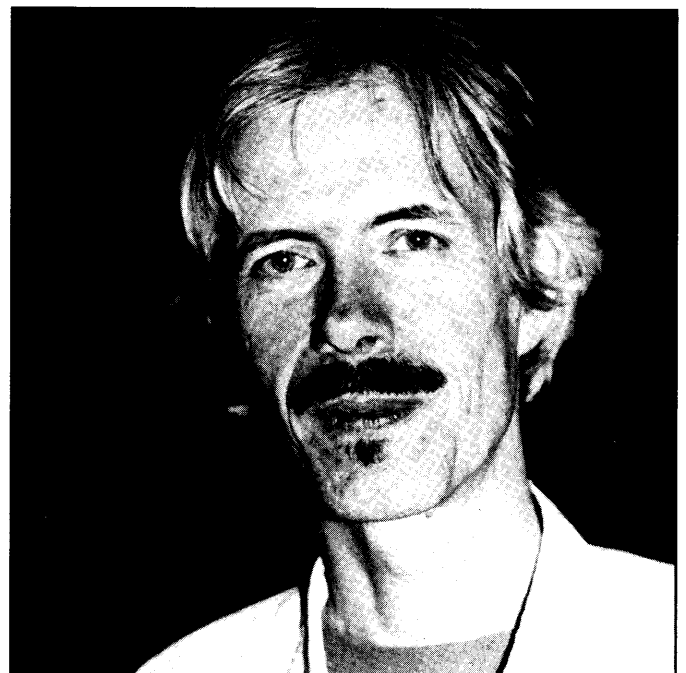
Yet while this face of the still-with-us decade seems bleak at first glance, like many faces it takes on a new visage after closer inspection. As scholar Jacques Barzun has written recently of our current malaise in his majestic *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*, "Ridicule, denial, anti-art and sensory simplicity mean that culture and society are in the decadent phase, when it is everybody's duty to do his share of ground clearing." This ground clearing has already begun: the charges of monopoly against Bill Gates and Microsoft have raised issues about the age of Hyper-Capitalism that are resonating throughout our culture. How much is too much? Likewise, privacy issues are increasingly important to people who realize

that they have been given a choice between privacy or freedom, but not offered both. The predominant affluence of our society is reflected against the face of the sub-Saharan African continent being decimated by AIDS, a disease at least temporarily controllable in the West. But the drugs that control the disease are exorbitantly over-priced, and the Hyper-Capitalist pharmaceutical companies that grant life only to those who can afford it are being shamed by society into making their products available to the indigent and otherwise hopeless. In the face of a completely for-profit future, individuals are bonding together, sometimes seemingly without even knowing it, and slowly challenging the inevitability of the status quo.

Although everything may seem to be governed by the marketplace, perhaps we are slowly beginning to understand that the marketplace is a human invention that can serve humanity, not enslave it. Perhaps as we painstakingly crawl towards the awareness that we are all one, we will eventually undo the excesses of our current condition. Perhaps not. But it's important that we remember we *can*.

Now if we could just figure out how to make that idea go public. That would be very '90s.

*Jim Lovensheimer is a freelance writer. He is a PhD candidate in musicology at The Ohio State University and his specialty is modern American musical theatre.*



## Grantee Section: Summer 2000

*The Lifebridge Foundation pre-selects all of its grantees.*

*Brief letters of introduction are accepted throughout the year and are kept on file, but generally invitations to submit full-proposals are extended by June 1 for new grantees.*

*2nd and 3rd time grants are usually considered during the second half of the year.*



### *New Grantees — Faces of Arts & Culture*

**Carmella B'Hahn**  
South Devon, England

**Email:** [carmella@appleonline.net](mailto:carmella@appleonline.net)

Carmella B'Hahn is preparing *Mourning Has Broken* for publication. It is a book about transformation through trauma - dark nights of the soul that awaken to a new kind of morning. It is a source of inspiration for those seeking wholeness and transformation in their lives, and offers patterns and possibilities for healing to those who grieve.

**Chapel of Sacred Mirrors**  
725 Union St.

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**Tel:** 718-789-2576 / **Fax:** 718-789-5985

**Email:** [cosm@alexgrey.com](mailto:cosm@alexgrey.com)

**Web:** [www.alexgrey.com](http://www.alexgrey.com)

**Contact:** Alex Grey

*"The Sacred Mirrors, like all great transcendental art, are not merely symbolic or imaginary: they are a direct invitation to recognize and realize a deeper dimension of our very own being." — Ken Wilber.*

The Chapel of Sacred Mirrors will provide a permanent public exhibition of Alex Grey's most outstanding and widely appreciated works of transformative art, fostering a vision of the fully awakened human potential, the interconnectedness of all life and promoting the healthy integration of body, mind, soul, and spirit in self, culture and nature.

**Dragonfly Films**  
4312 St. Dominique  
Montreal, Quebec H2W 2B1 CANADA  
**Tel:** 514-282-4569

**Email:** [sadlerandrea@hotmail.com](mailto:sadlerandrea@hotmail.com)

**Andrea Sadler, Producer**

*The Sacred Run* is a feature documentary about

The Sacred Run event organized by Native American Indian leader, Dennis Banks. First Nation peoples from Canada, the United States and Japan, joined by individuals from 13 countries traveled 4,000 km along the Sea of Japan on a spiritual run, to carry the message that all life is sacred.

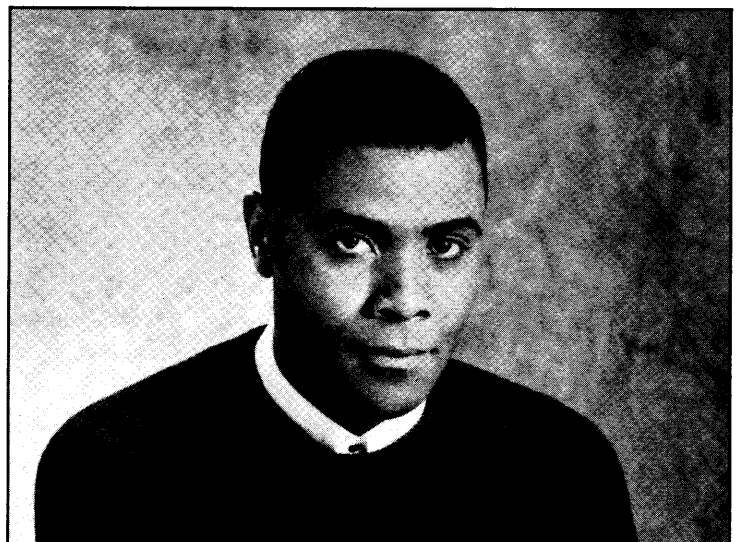
**Jennifer Muller / The Works**  
131 West 24th Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10011

**Tel:** (212) 691-3803 / **Fax:** (212) 206-6630

**Email:** [theworksnyc@compuserve.com](mailto:theworksnyc@compuserve.com)

**Stephanie Tack, Executive Associate**

The Works is a contemporary dance company devoted to creating dance that matters: work that is ground-breaking in both form and content, expressive of contemporary society's concerns and performed with artistic integrity and excellence. The Works introduces audiences to the exciting experience of dance/theater: a mixture of dance and spoken word that reaches out to people of all cultures and walks of life. Now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, The Works has toured 37 countries on 4 continents.





## New Grantees – Faces of Youth



**International Youth of Unity**  
401 Southwest Oldham Parkway  
Suite #210  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081  
Tel: 816-524-7414 X1327  
Email: [you@unity.org](mailto:you@unity.org)  
Web: [www.unity.org/you/](http://www.unity.org/you/)  
[www.websyte.com/unity/iyou/index2.htm](http://www.websyte.com/unity/iyou/index2.htm)  
**Pat Anderson-Williams**  
Intl. Y.O.U. Coordinator

*Peace by Piece:*

*One person, one community, one country at a time...*

The International Youth of Unity, established in 1996 has helped empower young people in more than 30 countries. Their world peace project, Peace by Piece, emerged with a vision to help young people (ages 14-19) work for world peace by raising consciousness and expanding awareness of spiritual truth on a global level. Their goal is to create, nurture and sustain informed and active worldwide groups of young people devoted to global relationships and reverence for all life. Peace by Piece provides scholarships for young world citizens to participate in a two-week, youth-led, interactive learning program in an atmosphere of love and friendship.

### **Global Youth Action Network**

211 E. 43rd St., Suite 905

New York, NY 10017

Tel: +1 (212) 661-6111 / Fax: +1 (212) 661-1933

Email: [gyan@youthlink.org](mailto:gyan@youthlink.org)

Web: [www.youthlink.org](http://www.youthlink.org)

Contact: Benjamin Quinto

*"Connecting & Empowering all Young People to  
Be the Difference that Makes a Difference."*

The Global Youth ACTION Network is a collaboration among youth and youth-serving organizations to share information, resources and solutions. Its purpose is to promote greater youth engagement.

The Global Youth Action Network creates the opportunity for every young person to be heard, leverages their voices to impact national and global agendas and provides tools, recognition and financial support for youth who take positive action to improve our world - community by community.

The Youthlink.org website contains a database that lists all the organizations, publications and events that have been registered with the GYAN. You will also find links to Major web sites in the fields of Youth Action and Human Rights, as well as information on how to organize groups, projects, and National Youth Conventions.





## *New Grantees Faces of the Environment*

**Rocky Mountain Institute**  
 1739 Snowmass Creek Road  
 Snowmass, CO 81654  
 Tel: 970-927-3851 / Fax: 970-927-4178  
 Web: [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org)  
**Amory Lovins**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that fosters the efficient and restorative use of resources to create a more secure, prosperous and life-sustaining world. Their staff shows corporations, communities, individuals and governments how to create more wealth and employment, protect and enhance natural and human capital, increase profit and competitive advantage, and enjoy many other benefits – largely by doing what they do far more efficiently.



## *New Grantees Faces of Community Service*

**Minuteman Media**  
 32 Allen Road  
 Norwalk, CT 06851  
 Tel/Fax: 203-846-1109  
 Email: [mcollins2@home.com](mailto:mcollins2@home.com)  
**William A. Collins**  
**Director**

Minuteman Media places peace-and-justice type commentaries and editorial cartoons in nearly 600 small, mainstream newspapers nationwide. Most pieces come from a stable of 30 national social-change advocacy groups, including Council for a Livable World, Center for Defense Information, Union of Concerned Scientists, Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities, National Urban League and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This project has provided a vast new outlet for these social-change partners, allowing their important messages which challenge popular notions of greed, prejudice, pride, fear and mistrust to reach a much wider audience.

**United for a Fair Economy**  
 37 Temple Place, Second Floor  
 Boston MA 02111  
 Tel: 617-423-2148 / Fax: 617-423-0191  
 Email: [stw@stw.org](mailto:stw@stw.org)  
 Web: [www.stw.org](http://www.stw.org) / [www.responsiblewealth.org](http://www.responsiblewealth.org)

United for a Fair Economy (UFE) is a national non-profit devoted to putting a spotlight on the dangers of excessive inequality of income and wealth in the United States. Responsible Wealth advocates are leaders in business, community, government, philanthropy, academia and finance. They are among the wealthiest 5% of Americans, the primary beneficiaries of the robust growth of the American economy, united by a common concern that despite a booming economy, many are not sharing in the prosperity. Their work is focused on: 1) advocating fair taxes; 2) supporting a living wage for all; 3) calling for greater corporate accountability; 4) promoting broadened asset ownership for all Americans.



## *New Grantees Faces of World Goodwill*



**Center for Ethics in Action**  
**University of New England**  
**716 Stevens Avenue**  
**Portland, ME 04103**  
**Tel: 207-797-7261 / Fax: 207-878-4889**  
**Anne Broderick Zill, Director**

The Center for Ethics in Action, is part public policy and part women's leadership institute endeavoring to be a 21st century beacon for well grounded programs based upon sustainable development principles. CEFA believes that whether it is a WTO that lacks adequate standards or a superpower that is equated with "big stick" posturing, *it is time to change our understanding of power and "how to lead"*.

**Lydia Project**  
**6 Upper Dean Terrace**  
**Edinburgh EH4 1NU**  
**Tel: +44 131 332 6127 / Fax: +44 131 332 0175**  
**Email: fionaly@compuserve.com**

The Lydia Project helps provide training to enable women to establish new community projects in Central and Eastern Europe. Named after the Biblical dealer in purple cloth, this Scottish charity was launched in response to urgent requests from women for training and support to establish grassroots programs following the social upheaval after Communist rule. Women in 13 countries have been empowered by these trainings and many have gone on to train other women to initiate new projects. The social projects run by Lydia trainees have helped homeless children and families, the unemployed, alcoholics and women helping women.

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**Phone: 212-803-2522 / Fax: 212-803-2561**  
**Email: mngof@bic.org**  
**Web: www.millenniumforum.org**  
**Estelle Perry, Treasurer**

*See article on page 14 for information.*

**Witness**  
**333 Seventh Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10001-5004**  
**Tel: 212-845-5243**  
**Fax: 212-845-5299**  
**Email: witness@lchr.org**  
**Web: www.witness.org**  
**Gillian Caldwell, Director**

*"Armed with cameras, front-line activists are letting the truth do the talking." -- Peter Gabriel*

Witness, a project of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights founded in partnership with musician Peter Gabriel, harnesses the power of video and digital technology to expose human rights abuses, uphold human dignity, and demand justice. In hundreds of locations around the world, WITNESS video cameras are being used to turn the tables on abusive authorities, capturing undeniable images of violations that can be used to rally community activism, influence policymakers and remove the barriers of isolation that powerful governments brutally impose. WITNESS is the way for a new generation of human rights defenders to "speak truth to power."



## Some Grantee News



**The Re-thinking Tourism Project** helps promote awareness of how best to visit and learn from indigenous cultures around the world. RTP's **Crescencio Resendiz, Deborah McLaren** and **Kristyna Bishop** traveled to Nairobi, Kenya in late May to participate in the "Conference of the Parties" where governments from around the world met to continue work on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). RTP focused efforts on making language changes in the policies under "sustainable use" which includes tourism. Working cooperatively with other NGOs, RTP was able to introduce numerous language changes in the final document that specifically protect Indigenous rights and communities. A final document is available at [www.biodiv.com](http://www.biodiv.com). To receive RTP's online newsletter, contact them at [RTPProject@aol.com](mailto:RTPProject@aol.com)

**Fran Korten**, Executive Director of **The Positive Futures Network**, which publishes *Yes! - A Journal of Positive Futures*, writes that they are moving from the basement of a house on Bainbridge Island [in Washington State], to a "downtown" office on the island. Fran says she is "still high from an extraordinary retreat" they held in May which

brought together 34 social movement leaders, all of whom share a life-long commitment to the common good. The retreat was the second in their "State of the Possible" series. ([www.futurenet.org](http://www.futurenet.org))

On June 1st, **John R. Stowe's** book, *Gay Spirit Warrior*, won the Lambda Literary Award in Chicago. John's book was chosen in the category of Gay Spirituality and was among 1,000 nominees. And from **Melanie Joseph**, Artistic Director of **The Foundry Theatre** in New York City, comes word that The Foundry recently received FIVE Obie awards, (the Off-Broadway equivalent of the Broadway Tony). Four of these awards were for *Gertrude and Alice: A Matter of Loving*, and the fifth was for continuing excellence in production.

On June 16th, in New York, **Martita Goshen's Earthworks (Turtles, Inc.)** presented a multi-media production, incorporating film, the spoken word, dance, and movement. The evening, entitled *Nostos*, is based on journeys that the company took to Ireland and Greece to ceremoniously "re-awaken" ancient sacred sites for all humanity and Mother Earth. It is the first in a continuing series of works.

**Michael Lightweaver** tells us that **Network 2012** is now putting out *World Report and Global Resources*, a monthly email publication. For more information about this and other N-2012 projects (including the Planetary Awakening Network, Light Link Summits, the World Service "Bank", the Publishers Directory & Network, and the Alternative Income Idea Bank) visit [www.n2012.com](http://www.n2012.com).



## Faces at the Gathering

*By Kathleen Gaffney, Co-Founder, Artsgenesis*

A most remarkable event occurred the weekend of May 4th, 5th and 6th. I am not talking about the once in a lifetime planetary configuration. I am referring to a configuration of human beings brought together by The Lifebridge Foundation at a retreat in the serene and beautiful Wainwright House and surroundings in Rye, New York. The individuals came from countries all over the earth; the U.K., New Zealand, Sweden, Greece and the United States. The twenty-four represented organizations that had been funded by The Lifebridge Foundation. Although the organizations they lead are widely diverse in the methods they employ to serve humanity, all were united by a common burning passion.

The easy yet purposeful structure of each day served to introduce, then link these leaders and their work to others of like mind and purpose. These maverick individuals who have labored, many in solitary, to try to make a difference in the quality of life on this tiny watery planet, found that they are not alone. Here was a community of individuals just like them. Whether committed to physics, the arts, youth empowerment, the peace movement or the search for living in new harmony with mother earth, most participants felt a deep river of synchronicity running through the weekend. We marveled at one another's creations. Drank from a well of new ideas and inspiration. Internalized the tremendous value of the wisdom of both elders and the youth. We saw a preview of possibility and became infected with it.

The days began with ceremonies and rituals of different cultures that moved our bodies to sometimes ancient rhythms, lifted our voices and stirred our souls ultimately forming our own community. On the last morning there were tears at the thought of separating from our 'new family.'

The Lifebridge Founders, Board of Trustees and staff will probably never fully realize the positive power unleashed in the world by this incredible



coming together as the results may not be evident for a time. But I can truly say that all who had the privilege to attend were deeply enhanced, nourished and transformed by the gathering. To give the opportunity to transform to those involved in transforming the world is a mighty and worthy undertaking. And to succeed is a tribute to Lifebridge and their mission.

**Each took themselves a different path  
Into the clearing in the woods.  
Each called unto the sacred task,  
Unknown and yet chosen still.  
Each brought them forth a vital facet,  
Placed their one inside the circle  
Weaved their one into the others  
Like a gathering of Shaman.**

*By Kathleen Gaffney*

*The fourth Gathering of Lifebridge Grantees was held at the Wainwright House in Rye, New York from May 4 – 7, 2000. Kathleen Gaffney and her partner, Roger Shea, are co-founders of Artsgenesis in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The Lifebridge Foundation would like to thank Kathleen for this retrospective, and all the other "gatherers" too, whose comments can be found on page 13.*

## *The Lifebridge Grantee Gathering – May 4-7, 2000*

### **Thank You!**

*Many people are involved in making the Lifebridge Gatherings work. The Board of Directors would like to thank the Lifebridge staff and the staff of the Wainwright House for the care they took with everything and everyone. Special thank-yous to Annie Wood for her antics, and to Puja A.J. Thomson, whose dulcet tones and soft touch as facilitator gave the weekend an extra glow.*

### **The Participants**

**Carole Artigiani**

Global Kids  
New York, NY

**May East**

Findhorn Foundation  
Scotland UK

**Chi Baker**

Wilderness Volunteer  
Corps  
Seattle, Washington

**Drossoula Elliott**

Olympia Project  
Kifissia, Greece

**Ron Bryan**

Physicist, Texas A&M  
College Station, Texas

**Kathleen Gaffney**

Artsgenesis  
New York, NY

**Jill Clockadale**

Friends at Rosehill  
New York, NY

**Bill & Cynthia Groom**

Cynergetics Institute  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Jennifer Kloes**

Global Youth Connect  
New York, NY


**Charles Light**

Green Mountain Post  
Films  
Turners Falls, MA

**Levana Saxon**

Youth for Environmental  
Sanity  
Soquel, California

**Will MacAdams**

CityKids@Safe Space  
New Haven, Connecticut

**Roger Shea**

Artsgenesis  
New York, NY

**Laraine Mai**

The Interfaith Center of  
New York  
New York, NY

**Bob Stilger**

New Stories  
Spokane, Washington

**Dylan Mathews**

Oxford Research Group  
London, UK

**Chief Jake Swamp**

Tree of Peace Society  
Hogansburg, New York

**Tracy Moavero**

Peace Action Education  
Fund  
New York, NY

**Pauline Tangiora**

NGA Wahine Pasifica  
Aoterera, New Zealand

**Ingemar Wärnström**

CANHELP  
Hoor, Sweden





## *In Restropect – Their Own Words*



I really learnt and felt the spirit of the many others who have dedicated their lives and works for a better/well community. --**Pauline Tangiora**

...the...circle we created was really special, out of which came many deep connections and future collaborations. (We're going to do a YES! camp at Findhorn). --**Levana Saxon**

...I just wanted to thank you again for the blessing of the gathering - I was worried that all the light that I absorbed there would disappear when I returned to the day to day of work, but...it keeps coming up in unexpected moments, continuing to expand my mind and heart anew. --**Will MacAdams**

As a young person who often feels overshadowed at conferences and trainings, I want to thank Lifebridge for providing the safe space for the younger participants to speak up and speak out...It is rare that I don't want to leave a gathering and get home. Indeed, we "young ones" continued to hold onto the spirit of the retreat well into the days afterwards... --**Jennifer Kloes**

...I was inspired by the people we met--by who they are and what they are doing...It's reassuring to see once again that the world is filled with the spirit of hope and love. --**Carole Artigiani**

...You are supporting a wonderful group of individuals....Thanks to Bill Groom's talk and subsequent discussion with Laraine Mai, I even thought of a paper I could write on the survival of personal identity....I realized that the electron can... go through a series of traumatic interactions, yet always survives... --**Ronald Bryan**

...The very idea of a gathering of grantees with the possibilities of cross-fertilization is such a unique and innovative approach for the foundation world. And truly Lifebridgean. --**Chuck Light**

[The] Lifebridge Foundation is pioneering in establishing new ways through which universal abundance could flow from the unmanifest to the manifest, in a creative process through which the dreamer manifests the dream... --**May East**

...We're still talking about this person and that project and what happened when....We came back wiser, happier, and renewed in our commitment to our work. You build fine bridges! Thank you for inviting us to cross over one. --**Bill & Cynthia (Jaya) Groom**

...The gathering was well done and brought a delightful and very interesting group of folks together....I very much enjoyed hearing about all the various projects - especially those of the younger participants....I believe that bringing people together like this is very important...to strengthen leadership, to encourage and remind us all that there is a great deal of good work going on. -- **Laraine Mai**

...Thank you, thank you, thank you for working a small miracle over those four days! --**Dylan Mathews**

...with a few days perspective I feel that meeting with all you wonderful, dedicated people at this beautiful place under the caring hands of the Lifebridge family, brought to me an immense inspiration. It is like having received an injection of mental and spiritual vitamins...I get especially inspired by the great job done by the young generation. --**Ingemar Wärnström**





## UN REPORT

### Millennium Meetings



### The Millennium Forum

**"We the Peoples..."** These are the first words of the United Nations Charter. They symbolize that the United Nations, at its heart, reflects and represents the highest hopes and aspirations of all the peoples of the world.

From May 22-26, 2000, the Millennium Forum brought together 1350 civil society representatives from all over the world to consult about our future – the future of all the peoples of the world – in relation to the great global challenges that must be confronted by the United Nations in the 21st Century.

Held at the United Nations headquarters as part of the preparations for the Millennium Assembly at the UN in Fall 2000, the main outcomes of the Forum were a *Millennium Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action*, as well as a number of specific papers and documents on the main sub-themes of the Forum.

The Declaration addresses many global issues such as: 1) eradication of poverty; 2) peace, security and disarmament; 3) facing the challenges of globalization: equity, justice and diversity; 4) human rights; 5) sustainable development and the environment; and 6) strengthening and democratizing

the United Nations and international organizations.

For the full text of the declaration, including specific agenda for action for the UN, governments, and civil society: [www.millenniumforum.org](http://www.millenniumforum.org)

### UNIVERSAL ETHICS MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE

On April 12, 2000 The United Nations held a day long "Universal Ethics Millennium Conference." Sponsored by twenty-seven countries, this event was designed to deepen the discussion on universal ethics not only within the United Nations, but also within any and all governmental institutions. Whether in talks on business, peace, security and disarmament, women's rights or the environment, almost without exception the speakers addressed the notion that spiritual values must be included in all dialogues among nations and groups. Following are excerpts from some of the hopeful comments made by speakers at the conference.

"All spiritual values are perpetual and everlasting..." — **Dr. Rodrigo Corazo, former President of Costa Rica**

"We believe that by considering the ethical and moral dimensions of the missions of the UN, unprecedented change can occur." — **Rev. Dr. Chung Ok Lee, Chairman of the Planning Committee**

"There is also such a thing as interdependence of hearts." — **Dr. Abdelkader Abbadi, Former Director of Political Affairs, United Nations**

"By incorporating human rights, the environment, and the interests of NGOs into corporate codes of conduct, business will benefit from the goodwill of employees and the positive associations attached to their brand names." — **Mr. Richard Blum, Chairman of Blum Capital Partners**

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





## Celebrating Our Donors



*The Lifebridge Foundation  
is inaugurating this section of  
The Bridging Tree to thank our donors for  
their generous contributions.*



*Campbell C. & Eleanor M. Groel  
Evelyn W. Hancock  
Barbara G. & Benn W. Jesser  
Julie G. MacKay  
Philip & Alice H. Matthias  
Old Greenwich Lions Club  
Roberta W. Southall  
George R. Webster*

*Celebrating the Life of  
Paul M. Hancock  
(Principal Donor to The Lifebridge Foundation)*

*Dr. Pat Bradley, DVM  
Celebrating the Lives of  
Harold Herrick  
Bill Reinhardt*

*And To ...*

**The Borowsky Family Foundation  
John Clausen  
Anne-Michelle Marsden**

*Dr. Pat Bradley, DVM*

*Celebrating the Lives of Animals  
Peter – Beloved cat of Larry Auld  
Fetcher– Beloved cat of Janine Gilles*



*If you would like to contribute to the work  
of The Lifebridge Foundation, contact us  
at P.O. Box 793, Times Square Station,  
New York, New York, 10108. If you would  
like to consult with us on a possible  
contribution, call us at 212-757-9711 or  
email us at LB457@aol.com. We welcome  
contributions of any amount.*



# The Lifebridge Foundation

## Statement of Purpose



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

The Lifebridge Foundation, Inc. was established in 1992 for the purpose of supporting organizations and individuals who, through cultural, educational, and/or scientific means, are dedicated to creating bridges of understanding among all

people by bringing to realization the concepts of one humanity and the interconnectedness of all life.

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

We support groups and individuals whose

innovative projects reflect these concepts; whose work exemplifies a global vision, demonstrates a spirit of inclusiveness, and fosters transformative action in a changing world.

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

### ***The Bridging Tree***

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