



Vessels of Peace

Women Embodying Peace ...
Inspired by the Sacred Feminine ...
Serving Divinity, Humanity, Earth

VESSELS OF PEACE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2004 - ISSUE #9

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EXTENDING OUR LIGHT: VENUS, INDIA, VOP

My original topic for this month's feature was to be about all the theories, information and general "to-do" about the Venus transit of the sun, June 6-10. Many feel that this rare event signifies the return of the Sacred Feminine to the planet -- and to human consciousness -- in a big way, as well as the opening of an eight-year window of time during which great global transformation will occur. I have absolutely no astrological or other credentials to offer an informed opinion, but I do know that something is going on - don't we all know that? Don't we sense that profound change is in the wind - not only in the world but in our own being, as we experience the higher vibrations of Divine energy that come with choosing and radiating the light of peace?

As I sat down to write about this, an email came through from the women's peace organization, Peace x Peace (<http://peacexpeace.org>). It was from their Global Network executive coordinator, Jennifer Green, telling me that they finally had found a women's circle in India for Vessels of Peace to link with, and we would be connected with them in a few days! (For those of you new to VoP, I signed us up to be linked with a circle last year, and we've been waiting for one to be available.) As I absorbed the implications of this news - the chance to expand the service of Vessels of Peace halfway around the world, the chance to communicate and create community with these women - a knowing arose within me that the significance of the Venus transit lay right in front of my eyes, in that email.

Since the fall of 2002, we have been quietly exploring and living the experience of Vessels of Peace, with our main focus on the (inward) spiritual nature of our mission. That continues to be our foundation and inspiration. But with the movement of Venus across the sun, as one source described, "like a lens pouring across the Earth the concentrated rays of the Goddess," it feels to me that the light of Vessels of Peace now is to pour forth in new ways. I believe the Venus transit is our cue to take this work more "into the open," to more actively share our perspective, our peace and our gifts with the world. Offering our time and support to this group of women in India is a beautiful way to extend our light. I hope you will agree and choose

to become involved in this circle relationship. I also hope you will suggest other ways we might share the message, energy and vision of Vessels of Peace in the world.

MORE ABOUT THE PEACE X PEACE GLOBAL NETWORK PROGRAM

The women we will be getting to know are from the state of Uttar Pradesh, in Northern India, bordering on Nepal. They have formed a large network, called NEED, in which they work together to generate income through micro-credit programs. I am familiar with these programs through my volunteer work with The PRASAD Project (www.prasad.org), which sponsored similar programs for women and farmers in the Tansa Valley region. They can be incredibly successful in helping people improve their individual and family circumstances while also strengthening their communities.

Here are excerpts about the Global Network from the PEACE X PEACE website:

"The Global Network is the heart of PEACE X PEACE. The Network is an Internet-based hub connecting and supporting women's circles in the United States in one-on-one relationships with women's circles outside the United States for dialogue, support, collaboration, mentorship and education across cultural divides and misunderstandings."

"Women, and men, in the US in all varieties of 'circles' - book and cooking clubs, grief support groups, parent associations, environmental and neighborhood groups, extended families, members of churches, mosques, and synagogues - are matched one-on-one with groups outside the US working for at least one of the conditions of cultural harmony ... Once matched, the circles are given guidance and tools of communication by PXP. This is where things start to happen, where support is born, where education occurs, where changes in perception are made in both directions. The effectiveness of the Network relies on the response of the human spirit when, through connection, it recognizes 'other' as 'self' and chooses to embrace and support the needs and visions of our common humanity..."

"The Global Network has no political agenda except to build sustainable cultural harmony, create deep democracy that supports the voice of all citizens of the world, and bring together a force for peace through creating a global 'family.'"

Note: As soon as our connection has been made "official," I will send out an email with more details about how it will work. In the interim, you can find out more by clicking on this link to the PEACE X PEACE website.

<http://www.peacexpeace.org/globalnetwork.htm>

NEWS AND EVENTS: JUNE

TRY CHERI HUBER'S EMAIL CLASS, "PEACE FROM THE INSIDE OUT"

Zen Buddhist meditation teacher Cheri Huber, author of "There Is Nothing Wrong With You" and other books, is offering this three-week email class beginning June 14th. Here is the class overview from her website: "What is your experience of peace and where does it reside? Is peace easily accessible or do you struggle to find it? Much has been said and written about peace since the beginning of recorded history, yet lasting peace remains an elusive experience.

Inner peace, world peace, universal peace, peace of mind - lofty ideals or attainable reality? All are recognized as desirable states. So what gets in the way of manifesting peace in daily life?"

Emails are sent out on Mondays and Thursdays of the three weeks. Participants do the assignments and send an account of their experience/questions/observations, if they choose. Cheri responds to representative emails (anonymity is assured), which are then sent back to the class. The sign-up deadline is midnight, Thursday, June 10th PST. For more information or to register, see her website at:
<http://cherihuber.com/peaceclass.html>

PEACE X PEACE PROGRAM TO AIR ON PBS

Check the program schedule of your local PBS station for the June airing of "Peace by Peace: Women on the Front Lines," a one-hour version of the documentary about the peace work women are doing in war-torn countries. In some areas, PBS affiliates will organize "town hall" events in connection with the airing to invite people to dialogue about peace building. Our sister peace group, Circles of Ten, has partnered with Peace X Peace to create the discussion guide for these events, allowing participants around the country to use the Circles of Ten "peace process" to identify what peace is for them and what action they will take in the name of peace. For more information, go to the PEACEXPEACE website at:
<http://www.peacexpeace.org/documentary>

THE 2nd ANNUAL VoP SUMMER RETREAT: EMBODY ... INSPIRE ... SERVE ...

SATURDAY, JULY 17TH, NOON - 6 P.M.
STILL WATERS RETREAT HOUSE*, CARLISLE, PA.

There still is time to reserve your space at the VoP Summer Retreat! In this retreat, the three elements of our Vessels of Peace motto will be the "pillars" supporting our day. Together, we will:

- Discover which aspect of Divine Feminine energy wishes to partner with us at the retreat and let her energy INSPIRE us through guided meditation, visual journaling, music, movement, and nature;
- Support one another in uncovering our sacred identity and learning how it infuses the ways we EMBODY peace;
- Discover, share and honor the unique ways we SERVE as a vessel of peace in our lives and in our world.

It's going to be a wonderful day; I hope you will join us!

Registration Details: Cost is \$15, not including lunch. Please bring a lunch dish or snack to share. Bottled water will be provided. RSVP if you WILL be attending: Call 717-651-1528 or email lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com. Space is limited, so do get your reservation in early. Local driving directions will be sent out by email just prior to the retreat date. If coming from out of the area, contact me regarding travel directions/places to stay.

About the retreat site: Still Waters Retreat House is owned by Spiritual Director Sanford Alwine and his wife, Lois, and is located at 501 West Slate Hill Road, Carlisle. Situated on the banks of Conodoguinet Creek, the grounds include both wooded and open areas and paths for walking. The house is a beautiful, rustic multi-level structure with lots of natural wood, glass, tile and

stucco, and can accommodate overnight as well as day retreats. For more information about Still Waters, call 717-243-8774.

MEDITATION GROUPS INFO/UPDATES

HARRISBURG VESSELS OF PEACE MEDITATION GROUP

Cancelled for the summer.

GETTYSBURG AREA VESSELS OF PEACE MEDITATION GROUP

Third Tuesday, Monthly, 7 p.m., Carroll Valley

Date for April: the 15th

For more info: Peggy Fitzpatrick, 717-642-6760 or Carol Donovan, 717-642-9378

Note: Have a peace and/or women's meditation group in your area? Let me know so we can list it here and on the website.

TENDING THE VESSEL: INSPIRATION, SHARINGS AND SUPPORT

This space is for sharing experiences, thoughts, favorite quotes, etc. that speak to our day-to-day intention to embody peace. Please send your contributions to me at lyndaht@superpa.net

EMAIL SHARINGS:

I am so touched and inspired by all the sharings received this month! We begin with your responses to the "Just START" article in the May newsletter:

From Julie H., Mass.:

I read your wonderful and inspired newsletter yesterday. I, too, got chills when the Atlantis reference was made. Over the years, conversations with people, etc. have led me to think that many, many of us are here 'yet again' to try and get right what we weren't able to do back in Atlantis. Exploding crystal weapons or nuclear weapons have the same results; they lead us to the misuse of power, invoke the same human weaknesses. So, whether we were the peacemakers then or the troublemakers, this is apparently a very poignant time to be on the planet. Perhaps that is why so many of us around the world are so very passionate about pursuing the peace way.

From Karen L., Colo.:

What a wonderful and inspiring newsletter! They're always good, but this one was special. I especially enjoyed reading about how well-received your message was in Orlando and how the word about Vessels of Peace is now out in more public forum. I really liked the way you told your story of connecting with women there as you talked about your own spiritual journey. Thank you for sharing, and may your work continue to ripple out to all the women who need to hear your message.

From Marti T., Pa.:

AMEN, Sister!!!!

Thank you so much for STARTing! This is beautiful. This is the same thing I'm feeling - that it's time to incarnate my purpose selflessly on the earth - that it's urgent and that I need to imbue every single thought, action and no-action with every ounce of Divine Feminine consciousness I can open to. This is ripping me apart and building me anew at the same time....

The urgency to show up in peace, in full expression of the Divine feminine within, has overwhelmed my habitual clinging to fear and can no longer be held back. I no longer wish to hold it back and be a slave to fear. There is so much beautiful co-creation that happens when I surrender to HER. I witness it in the everyday, mundane. I can feel how She loves [my family] through me. I can participate in how She honors our deepest desires and our silliest whims. She is me and I am She. There is no separation....

When She shows up in me, peoples' hearts melt, suffering ceases for a moment, tenderness cancels harsh judgment. The world changes instantly, like a single stone thrown into a pond. This is what it means to me to be a vessel of peace!

From Lisa M., Nev.:

I have read the newsletter and found the eighth day of creation to be a very interesting concept and one that makes a great deal of sense to the world.

It answers a lot of the questions regarding free will and destiny all at the same time God has a plan, but we must help to make the plan a reality. It also allows for the concept of an ever-evolving universe and provides a foundation for my belief that just as we learn and move through the world, constantly changing and growing, so too does Spirit, learning through our experience and exploration. And if we deny our calling to grow, then the universe must set up another to fulfill that particular path so a full understanding of all is possible. I think the message is connected specifically to women, as we are the facilitators, the bridge builders, the multi-taskers who can focus on many aspects not just what we are learning, but what we are teaching to Spirit and to the world. Women embody the interconnectedness that the eighth day of creation requires, we are the ones to bring the concept forth into the world.

I also find it interesting that you were bringing this concept forth to the community of Atlantis a community of beings intricately connected to water what substance on earth is more associated with interconnectedness than water? It assimilates and transforms by integrating that which it dissolves into itself, sometimes gently, sometimes forcefully. Water actually melds with the substance it touches, and they become a united entity moving through the world. At times, water will deposit some of the items it touches along the way, but never far from where it can reconnect when the time is right.

From Karen H., Pa.:

Your introductory message is so beautiful and inspiring. It is truly a message of how we can embody peace by simply surrendering and spontaneously sharing our talents and gifts. We are so blessed in this realm that you have not given up your efforts.

May you always find the courage and strength to move as your heart guides you. May you always know your physical needs are provided at the perfect time and in the perfect way. May you always know you are loved. May you always remember to just ask when you need something. There is no need to struggle.

OTHER EMAIL SHARINGS:

From Michele K., Pa.:

Last night I attended the annual end of the year dinner for AAUW and I was asked to give the convocation with a focus on world peace. I made a beautiful prayer relating the hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me," St. Francis' prayer "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" and of course incorporated the Vessels of Peace ideals. It was a very beautiful way to address world peace to a group of women while gently introducing the idea that we can literally be a vessel of peace! I love the idea of the weekly meditations on each Goddess!

From Peggy F., Pa.:

I didn't take the time to send my thoughts this week but did sit with Sophia. I found this chant and dance [to share], which I have used in my women's circles:

SPIRIT OF PEACE (hands folded like a dove and then opening up)
TO YOUR CAUSE WE GIVE OUR STRENGTH (hands on shoulders)
THAT LOVE MAY REIGN AND WAR MAY CEASE (turn in place)
MIR MIRU MIR* (bowing into center of circle)

*Note: I did a Google search on the meaning of this phrase and the origin of this chant and dance. The phrase is Russian for "peace, peace on earth, peace." Apparently, the dance and chant came as an inspiration to a member of the Dance Network of The Dances of Universal Peace, while traveling in the Soviet Union in 1985. It's a lovely moving meditation/prayer to the Spirit of Peace don't you think? - LT

And Peggy also sent, on May 28th, this beautiful reflection of her meditation on Mary:

Dear Lynda and all blessed women, As I sit with Mary today, on the 8th year and 3rd month of the anniversary of the death of my daughter, I feel Mary's unconditional love embracing my grief and sorrow. Mary was selected to be the mother of one who was sacrificed and I was chosen to be the mother of Rebecca Ann Heaps, who was sacrificed at 33 as Jesus was. I feel a kinship with Mary today as I feel the sorrow of a mother who surrenders her co-creation. Somehow I am strengthened by this kinship and am grateful.

PURCHASE VOP GUIDED MEDITATION CD!

The Vessels of Peace Guided Meditation CD is a wonderful way to do peace embodiment practice, to connect with the energy of the Sacred Feminine, and to connect with the collective energy of Vessels of Peace women everywhere! To order your copy, email me at lyndaht@superpa.net or call 717-651-1528. Cost: \$15.

PURCHASE LYNDA'S CD!

My guided meditation CD/tape, "Meditating for Life One: Breath Meditation," is available from me and also, at The Inner-Connection Bookstore, 308 Market St., New Cumberland, Pa. 17070. To purchase directly from me, see contact information above. For the Inner-Connection, stop in to purchase or you can call them at 717-774-4874 to order by mail. CD: \$15. Tape: \$10.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VESSELS OF PEACE

Vessels of Peace is an informal network of women committed to choosing peace in all areas of their lives. For more information, go to our website at www.vesselsofpeace.com.