



Vessels of Peace

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

VESSELS OF PEACE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2006 - ISSUE #28

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A NOTE FROM LYNDA

Dear VoP Community,

Today is my last day in Crestone before resuming the book tour in the morning. I've one last event in Salida, Colorado, and then it's a stop at Mesa Verde, site of the Native American cliff dwellings and other sacred sites, then by Sunday, to Santa Barbara for three days, and then on to Santa Rosa and my wonderful husband Brad on the 21st!

Since my last update, I spent several days in Ohio, visiting my family and a dear friend from high school, and then offering two evening programs. Thank you to Barbara Dulmage, in Toledo, for assembling such a wonderful group of women, and for the great brown rice casserole recipe! And a big thank you also to Maya Scherer, in Troy, and her wise and empathic (part wolf-part huskie) dog, Gaia. The women who came to Maya's lovely home continued the trend of diversity in age and background that has been typical of all of these gatherings. It's inspiring to have women ranging from their twenties to their seventies all excited about the VoP-11 Intentions message and looking at how to take it into their lives.

It spent a relaxing Memorial Day weekend in Somerset, Kentucky, hosted by the Jones Foundation for Education, founded by dear friend Sonya Jones and her mother in honor of Sonya's late father. I stayed in the Foundation's beautiful retreat house, Slate Branch, and was deeply moved by a trip to Yahoo Falls, where the earth and rocks tell tragic stories of Native women and children slain by white men in the early 19th century. When I began to offer the peace mantras there, one boulder, as large as a house, drew me to it. I placed my hands on this boulder and felt my entire body tremble with the force at which this rock literally drew the mantras through my being and into its dense and ancient core. I stayed there a long time, holding the space, being a conduit for the great healing that was occurring. Later, as I gazed up at the falls, the sun shone through them, transforming the cascading water into a column of Light that seemed to fall in slow motion from the top to the bottom of eternity. It was as if the

peace mantras had transmuted their vibration from sound to liquid Light, pouring down from the heavens into the earth. I will carry within me, that extraordinary image of the falls as Light forever.

While in Kentucky, I also gave a program at Nature's Temple, a lovely space where women's circles meet to study and practice Native philosophy and spirituality. My thanks to Connie Willis, founder of Nature's Temple, for so graciously opening her space and heart to me.

Then it was on to Normal, Illinois, where Carolyn Treadway hosted another delightfully diverse and interesting group of women. Thank you, Carolyn, for your warm hospitality and your steady commitment to Vessels of Peace and your own journey of service.

After Illinois, it was about putting 1,200-plus miles behind me in 2 1/2 days to get to Colorado for a much-needed rest and retreat. I will save more about Crestone for a future post on The Vessel blog (see link below).

For now, I invite you to be inspired by Karen Latvala's article on transmitting the vibration of peace and to consider signing up for the Affirmation of Peace teleconference call series I will offer beginning July 10th ... See also our other VoP events, especially the fall retreat, "Holding Space: The Sacred Practice of Serving Through Stillness and Presence." Holding space is at the heart of the Vessels of Peace work, but what does that really mean? What is its purpose, how does it help move our world closer to a universal peacefulness, and how does this sacred practice expand our own spiritual evolution and service? I hope you will join us in observing the UN International Day of Peace and experiencing a loving, peaceful, transformative weekend together!

Holding the space for each of you as we walk this path of peace, grace and service,

Lynda

FEATURE ARTICLE

TRANSMITTING THE VIBRATION OF PEACE TO THE WORLD By Karen Latvala

"Peace.... Om Shanti.... Salaam.... Shalom." In December 2004, when Lynda shared the Walking with Peace vision in which these peace mantras played a key role, we had no idea how many ways we would be shown to use them. They are, of course, a wonderful resource for inner work, for centering ourselves in stressful situations and as a focus for meditation. Beginning about a year ago, however, the Visioning Circle was guided to consciously offer them as a transmission of the vibration of inner peace into the outer world.

This simple chant can be said out loud or silently. The important factor is our belief and intention that the peace mantras literally affect the world around us. As Lynda says, we offer the peace mantras as a "soothing balm or oil that heals and transforms the energy of a place or situation."

Here is a sampling of the diverse locations where our small circle has walked the land to offer the peace mantras so far. Imagine how expansive and powerful it is when we consider all the VoP women around the world offering the peace mantras in this way!

Laurel offered the peace mantras recently in Manassas, Virginia, where the first battle of the Civil War occurred. She said, "Walking the fields was a very powerful experience. I was led to the top of a hill and offered the mantras. Numerous swallows appeared and began flying in

circles around me. I like to think they were swooping down and catching the peace and flying off with it to other parts of the land in need of healing.”

Valerie has offered the mantras on walks through her neighborhood in Gainesville, Florida; at the Civil War site in Charleston, South Carolina; in San Francisco and in Yosemite National Park, California.

Jo says the mantras every time she walks out her door, and recently, she felt compelled to offer them at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, homelands of Native Americans.

Nitya has offered peace mantras at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France; in Berlin, Germany; in Nikosia, Cyprus; and at the Blood River and Drakensburg Mountains in South Africa.

Karen offers the mantras every time she goes for a walk, sending it throughout her valley and beyond. She also has offered them at Trinity Site, New Mexico (atomic bomb test site); at Davis-Montham Air Base in Arizona (thousands of “retired” military aircraft) and at an inactive missile silo near Tucson, Arizona, as well as at various Native American sites in Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

During Lynda’s current book/speaking tour around the country, she offered the peace mantras in many places: Yuma, Arizona, in a hotel room when she sensed the next guests were in need of peace; in Benson, Arizona, at a construction site which she sensed was disturbing energy from long-ago Native American activities there; in El Paso, Texas, where she sensed an energy of woundedness relating to gang violence and racial tension; in San Antonio, Texas, at The Alamo shrine; in the Baton Rouge-southern Louisiana area, to soothe both the physical and energetic trauma from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; in Kennesaw, Georgia, at Kennesaw Mountain and civil war battlefield; in Charleston, South Carolina, where slaves were brought in from Africa for auction; in Alexandria, Virginia and the outlying DC area, to help transmute energy left from the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon; on the battlefields at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; along the Southern Lake Erie shoreline in Northeastern Ohio; at Yahoo Falls, near Somerset, Kentucky, reported to have been the site of a massacre of Indian women and children in 1810; in Crestone, Colorado, the San Luis Valley and surrounding areas, which are stressed by extreme drought conditions.

You can see that the potential for sending the healing balm of the peace mantras has no limits. We’ve offered it in regions while driving and to planeloads of people while flying. It’s not important to know the reasons why we feel compelled to offer this transmission of inner peace to a particular place, group or situation, nor do we need to have tangible evidence of what the results may be. Just be open to the guidance to offer it anywhere and everywhere, especially during this travel season! Imagine your peace vibrations blanketing the world. It’s our experience as a circle that the power of this practice to transform is real and lasting. What is needed is for more and more VoP women to commit to this service.

Will you join us in offering this transmission of peace into our world? If so, please send us word of the places and situations where you feel guided to offer the peace mantras. We will periodically post your sharings on our blog, The Vessel. Send your emails to lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com. And thank you for being willing to walk with peace with us!

Karen Latvala is a member of the Visioning Circle and a Certified Life Coach who lives in Colorado. Learn more at www.consciouslifequest.com or email karen@consciouslifequest.com.

NEWS & EVENTS

CHECK THE VESSEL FOR LYNDA'S POSTS FROM CRESTONE

Lynda posted a new audio blog message on June 8th about a powerful experience she had while at Crestone. It will stay posted until about June 22nd, so make sure to listen to it before that date. Also check out a link to photos of Yahoo Falls, Kentucky, and her post on "The Stupa of Enlightenment." You can add your comments to these or other written posts by clicking on the "Comments" link at the bottom of each posting. To access the blog, go to the Vessels of Peace web site and click on "read more" under **The Vessel - VoP blog**. (Or use this link: vesselsofpeacevc.blogspot.com)

NEW VoP CIRCLES FORMING

Women in several locations have expressed interest in or already have begun to form Vessels of Peace Circles for meditation and/or 11 Intentions book discussion. Below are those we know about so far. Please contact lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com if you have started a group or want to start one, so we can get that information on the website and in the newsletter.

Santa Rose, California: VoP Meditation Circle. Meets first Saturday of the month, 11 AM. For more information and directions to location, email Star at stargene@sbcglobal.net or call or email Beth at 707-584-4201, bblevins@jps.net

Salida, Colorado: 11 Intentions book study group. In progress. Contact Karen at 719-942-4758 or karen@consciouslifequest.com about when the group will be open to new participants.

Toledo, Ohio: Barbara is interested in beginning a VoP Circle in her area. If interested in participating, contact her at 419-381-6898 or Songisspirit@aol.com

Troy, Ohio: Maya is planning to begin a VoP Circle soon. If interested in participating, contact her at 937-440-9049 or whitewolfgaia@yahoo.com

Lewisberry, Pennsylvania: Suzanne is interested in forming a VoP Circle in the central Pa. area and has a lovely space in her home for hosting it. If you want to participate, email or call her at: 717-938-3257 or SGrenager@aol.com

New Zealand: Women's Circle that will include some VoP practices and study of the 11 Intentions book. For more information, contact Jacqueline via email at SpiritualPeacemaker@Paradise.net.nz

NEW VoP EVENTS

THE DARSHAN OF PEACE
An Evening of Meditation and Journeying into the Heart
June 21, 2006,
Gainesville, Florida

On the evening of summer solstice, Visioning Circle member Valerie Rosenkrantz will facilitate this giving and receiving of the gift of peace. For more information or to reserve a space, call Valerie at 352-384-9143 or email her at valerierosie@yahoo.com

HOLDING SPACE
The Sacred Practice of Serving Through Stillness & Presence
A Vessels of Peace Retreat
September 21-24, 2006
Sonoma County, Northern California

Lynda and some Visioning Circle members will be facilitating this retreat for VoP women, which will begin on the UN International Day of Peace. Exact location, cost and other details to be finalized soon. Total participants will be limited to 40, so if your heart feels called to this retreat, please send an email to lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com to be placed on the list. You will be contacted with the details in July, at which time a deposit will be requested to reserve your spot.

WOMEN, PEACE & THE SACRED FEMININE EVENTS
October 2006
Houston, Texas & Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Plans are being finalized for Lynda to offer a weekend retreat on "Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine" in the Houston area, sponsored by Brigid's Place women's center, and a morning workshop and evening program for The Red Shoes women's center in Baton Rouge on the following Tuesday. Tentative dates are the weekend of October 13th, for Houston, and the 17th for the Baton Rouge events. Details to be confirmed shortly. If you are interested in taking part at either location, contact these women's centers for more information. Contact Brigid's Place at 713-590-3333 or brigidsplace@brigidsplace.org and The Red Shoes at 225-338-1170 or redshoes@bellsouth.net

INITIATION ALONG THE NILE
A Journey from Light into LIGHT!
November 3-16, 2006
Egypt

Vessels of Peace Visioning Circle member Nitya Richmond will co-lead this spiritual adventure with well-known Egyptologist John Anthony West (whose NBC documentary "The Mystery of the Sphinx" won an Emmy in 1993). Nitya says: "I envision this trip as very much a claiming of the power of the Divine Feminine in its greatest mystery, that of the power of self-regeneration, and the initiation aspect is a COLLECTIVE one." For more information or a brochure, contact Julia Dekker at jrdekker@cyberpc.com

Lynda and the women of the Visioning Circle would be happy to support you in offering a VoP event in your area. If you would like to schedule a retreat or workshop, a book discussion group, or a meditation circle, please contact us through the web site or info@vesselsofpeace.com. In some cases we can facilitate the event; in others, we can offer support, advice, retreat outlines and additional information.

TELECONFERENCE CALLS

AFFIRMATION OF PEACE CALL SERIES BEGINS IN JULY

Reading or saying out loud The VoP Affirmation of Peace is a wonderful way to regularly renew one's commitment to being a vessel of peace. But it is far more than an affirmation; the words carry meaning and energy beyond the obvious. When you begin to access this deeper significance, you will find both your use of this practice and your understanding of the power of peace transformed. There will be eight weekly teleconference calls, all facilitated by Lynda, beginning on the full moon of July 10th and continuing through August 28th. Each 55-minute call will begin at 5:45 PM Pacific Time/8:45 PM Eastern Time, will focus on one aspect of the Affirmation of Peace, and will include a guided meditation.

Unlike with the 11 Intentions calls, you are asked to commit to the entire series and sign up ahead of time to participate. This is because exploring the Affirmation of Peace will be a mystical process that unfolds and builds within each participant and the group as a whole, as the series continues.

There is no set fee for the series; after it completes, a donation to Vessels of Peace, as you are guided, will be gratefully received. To sign up, send an email to lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com. You will receive a confirmation email with the phone number and access code a few days before the calls begin.

TENDING THE VESSEL

Note: This space is for sharing experiences, thoughts, favorite quotes, etc. that support being a vessel of peace for ourselves and for others. Please send contributions and feedback to info@vesselsofpeace.com.

SHARINGS

Lynda's Note: Many have asked me why I chose 11 as the number of intentions to create. I did not choose that number; it came through inner guidance. Linda Smith from Toledo, Ohio, offered to research the spiritual significance of the number 11 for me and sends along this information:

... there were two groups of meanings for the number eleven, positive and negative. The negative symbolism is all associated with Christianity and suggests sin and transgression because eleven was the number of Christ's disciples after Judas betrayed him. But there are several very positive meanings that come from goddess or occult traditions. Here are the main positive associations with eleven:

- balance or unity
- the twin breasts of mother earth
- candidates of the Isis cult were initiated on the 11th day after 10 days of abstinence
- the perfect number for a psychic circle
- the perfect number for certain medieval games

Thank you, Linda! If any of our newsletter readers know of other spiritual meanings for the number eleven, please do email them: lyndaterry@vesselsofpeace.com

Shelley, from Texas, sent in this beautiful translation of Psalm 122 from *The Psalms* by Stephen Mitchell:

*I rejoiced when I heard them announce,
'The time of warfare is past.
No more will brother hate brother
or violence have its way.
No more will they drown out God's silence
and shut their hearts to his song.'*

*Pray for peace in the cities
and harmony among the races.
May peace come to live on our streets
and justice within our walls.
With all my heart I will pray
that peace comes to live among us.
For the sake of all earth's people,
I will do my utmost for peace.*

INSPIRATION

Bishop Desmond Tutu, in an interview in the May 2006 Peace Alliance e-newsletter, when asked what he thought about the idea of creating a U.S. Department of Peace:

People have been able to live peacefully together, but if they live peacefully together after war, why should they have war first before they can realize that it is a great deal better? War is not nice to children, it's not nice to people, it's not nice to the environment.

And so I say go for it. This is marvelous. Go for it and really be crazy and say, one day we'll ask, 'Why were we so stupid for so long because of something so obvious?' Saying let us put our massive investment that we are putting right now in instruments of death and destruction, let us put them into something that is creative, that is life-enhancing, teaching kids that there are ways of resolving differences that don't need to be violent. You can sit down and ultimately say, 'You know, actually, an enemy is a friend waiting to be made.'

SUPPORT FOR THE JOURNEY

ORDER THE 11 INTENTIONS BOOK!

You can order The 11 Intentions book (retail price: \$14.98) in the followings ways:

By credit card, through the lulu.com website at this link: www.lulu.com/content/184845

Through PayPal. Send your payment to: lyndaht@sbcglobal.net

By check or M.O.(U.S. funds), made out to Lynda Terry. The price is \$19 (\$14.98 plus \$4.02 shipping). Mail to: Vessels of Peace, P.O. Box 9006, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Note re multiple book orders: If you order 2-6 copies via the lulu.com site, you will get free

shipping. Discounts are available for multiple copy purchases of 5 or more if purchased from Lynda directly; call 707-538-2070 or email lyndaht@sbcglobal.net for details.

VOP SPIRITUAL MENTORING SESSIONS

If you long for more support in your spiritual journey, individual mentoring sessions can be very helpful. As someone who has traveled the path from seeking to embodying peace, and now lives and serves from the abiding peace of the heart, Lynda will walk with you as a guide and mentor.

Each mentoring session, which lasts up to 90 minutes, begins with a brief centering process and concludes with an intuitively guided meditation that is unique to you and where you are in your journey. Sessions can be in person, if you live in the Northern California area, or by phone. Lynda also can do small group tele-sessions, if you have a VoP circle (or want to form one), and your circle would like to work with her for a period of time.

If your heart feels called to work with Lynda in this way, please email her at lyndaht@sbcglobal.net or call 707-538-2070.

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Vessels of Peace is an international circle of women inspired by the Sacred Feminine and committed to serving Divinity, Humanity, Earth by presencing peace in their lives and in the world. For more information, go to www.vesselsofpeace.com