



Vessels of Peace

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

VESSELS OF PEACE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MAY 2006 - ISSUE #27

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **A NOTE FROM LYNDA: TO THE ONE**
- **FEATURE ESSAY: THE TAPESTRY FOR PEACE STORY CONTINUES**
- **NEWS & EVENTS: BOOK TOUR UPDATE, REMEMBER TO CHECK THE VESSEL!, VoP EVENTS, OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**
- **TELECONFERENCE CALLS: SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MEDITATION**
- **TENDING THE VESSEL: SHARINGS & INSPIRATION**
- **SUPPORT FOR THE JOURNEY: ORDER THE 11 INTENTIONS BOOK, VOP MENTORING SESSIONS**

A NOTE FROM LYNDA

Dear VoP Community,

Normally, I would put the following sharing in the *Tending the Vessel* section, but was inspired to make it the focus of my note to you this month. (Please see under *News & Events, Book Tour Update*, for my comments re the tour.) Thank you to VoP Visioning Circle member Cathy Nelson, Wisconsin, for sending the information about Shirin Ebadi.

TO THE ONE

Author Paulo Coelho wrote the following tribute in honor of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi. (www.nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/2003) and read it to her at the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Concert:

To Shirin Ebadi

As the Persian poet Rumi once said: Life is just as if a king had sent you to the country to carry out a specific task. You go and perform a hundred other tasks, but if you neglect the particular task you were asked to carry out, it is as though you had done nothing at all. A man comes into this world to perform a specific task, that is his purpose; if he does not do it, he will have done nothing.

To the one...

To the one who understood her task and her purpose.

To the one who looked at the road ahead and understood that it was a difficult journey.

To the one who did not make light of those difficulties, but, on the contrary, made them manifest and visible.

To the one who makes the lonely feel they are not alone, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for justice, who makes the oppressor feel as bad as the oppressed.

To the one who always keeps her door open, her ears listening, her hands working, her feet walking.

To the one who embodies the verses of another Persian poet, Hafiz, when he says: Not even seven thousand years of joy are worth seven days of sadness.

To the one who is here tonight, may she be one with all of us, may her example multiply, may she still have difficult days ahead, so that she can do whatever she needs to do, so that the next generation will not have to strive for what has already been accomplished.

And may she walk slowly, because her pace is the pace of change,
And change, real change, always takes time.

Reading these words by Coelho, I think of all the people around the world, walking slowly and steadily towards change ... I remember my Walking with Peace vision of December 2004, in which I saw people of every age and race joining a growing river of humanity, all moving in the same direction, walking and repeating the peace mantras ... I think of myself, out here, on this journey, as I walk the grounds of retreat sites, or city streets, or public parks, or along waterfronts -- but also, as I walk where battles were fought or slaves were sold, or where indigenous peoples were driven from their lands and homes ... and I think of all of *you*, walking through your lives with the constant intention to presence peace.

You are the reason I walk. *You* are the one to whom I pay tribute. In this month of offering gratitude to mothers, I honor each and every one of *you*, for bringing the feminine quality of "maternal concern," as author Jean Shinoda Bolen puts it, to the task of transforming the world.

Thank you for your inspiration and your service.

Love and blessings of peace,

Lynda

FEATURE ARTICLE

THE TAPESTRY FOR PEACE STORY CONTINUES

Last month, we shared the story of how the VoP Walking with Peace vision inspired a Colorado woman to fulfill her vision for creating a Tapestry for Peace project. Well, the story continues! When Valerie Rosenkrantz, Visioning Circle member from Gainesville, Fla., heard about the Tapestry of Peace story on a teleconference call, she received a vision of her own.

"As Lynda was sharing this story, I was experiencing phenomenal energy and resonance with her sharing," says Valerie. "A little later, I realized I was to create an offering for Vessels of Peace that would be *our* part of the Tapestry of Peace project! This mysterious offering unfolded through me in three weeks with ease and excitement. I personally delivered the panel to Lynda in Charleston, South Carolina, in early April."

This tapestry is now accompanying Lynda on her book tour and hangs as a backdrop at all Vessels of Peace events. "Everywhere I go, women are so moved by the energy of what Valerie has created," says Lynda. "There is much to see and contemplate within its design, and it clearly embodies the theme of women, peace and the sacred feminine."

At the heart of the beautifully symbolic tapestry is the blue shape of the VoP vessel, standing in a deep purple rectangle of circles within circles and bordered by bands of rich fabrics in bright and gentle hues. A spray of 11 delicate white and blue flowers float over the vessel, representing the 11 Intentions. An angel in the lower left corner heralds the attributes of the 11 Intentions stitched into one band of fabric, bounded by another with an interconnected wave of spirals symbolizing the sacred feminine energy. Also stitched in the tapestry, rising from the bottom, are outstretched hands holding a pair of wings. Within the wings rests a heart, and within the heart, Mother Earth. The Taijitu - symbol of yin and yang balance - covers the earth.

Valerie invites other VoP women to offer additional elements to be sewn or pinned to the tapestry. If you would like to contribute something, please email either Lynda or Valerie: lyndaht@sbcglobal.net or valerierosie@yahoo.com.

To see photos of the tapestry and also, of Lynda facilitating the April Camp Hill, Pa., retreat, go to The Vessel blog page (vesselsofpeacevc.blogspot.com)

NEWS & EVENTS

BOOK TOUR UPDATE

Lynda continues her comments about her tour with this update:

I must begin with apologies to the VoP women of Virginia who hosted me in their homes in April! In last month's newsletter, I managed to skip right from South Carolina to Pennsylvania without mentioning the Virginia portion of my trip.

So my heartfelt thanks to: Sandra Martin and her daughter, Lisa Hagan, in Bracey, Va., who hosted a wonderful evening in a delightful renovated dairy barn on their family farm; to Ruth Richards, of Charlottesville, who filled her living room with women to hear about Vessels of Peace and the book; and to Pamela Barton, of Falls Church, for dinner and a much needed walk around her lovely lake-side neighborhood, before I continued on to Pennsylvania and the welcoming arms of my family.

My thanks to Marti Thomas and Nancy Lyon for sponsoring the first ever VoP Meditation Workshop, "The Healing Gift of a Peaceful Mind," at Gettysburg Holistic Health Center. This event was a great success, with more than 30 people - women and men, and ranging from ages 10 to 75 - taking part. The response confirms that Vessels of Peace has much to offer in supporting women and men who are trying to establish and sustain a regular meditation practice - so I will be eager to offer this workshop again in other parts of the country.

The daylong retreat in Camp Hill was wonderful; the lovely park setting and the receptivity of the women who attended created an atmosphere very conducive to deep inner work and heart-centered sharing. Now that I've done this retreat in both a half day and full day format, I like the expansive feel of having a day to support the women in their experience of the book's message and energy. Special thanks to Vicki Fox for her tireless promotion of the retreat, to Maggie Salter, for her helping hands and feng shui expertise, and to Carol Chromicky, for gracing the retreat space with her wonderful artwork.

I also enjoyed returning to Gettysburg for appearances at Gallery 30 (Thank you to owner, Lois Starkey!). It was a joy to see so many of the women from the very first VoP circle, as well as many of my former meditation students.

It's been wonderful to spend this extended time in my home state, and to be present for the birth of my third grandson, Max, on May 10th! In less than two weeks, I will be on the road again, heading to Ohio to see more family and offer events, then continue westward. If you are on my travel route (see schedule below), and would like to connect for either an event or visit, send me an email at lyndaht@sbcglobal.net and we can explore the possibilities!

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE VESSEL!

Please remember to check the new VoP blog, The Vessel, for more about Lynda's tour as well as other topics and sharings from the VoP Visioning Circle. Lynda is posting audio messages on the blog as well as written ones, so do check those out as well. You can add your comments to the 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)

2006 VoP EVENTS

Sunday, May 21 - Ashtabula, Ohio

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - afternoon workshop. Wellness & Total Learning Center, 715 W. 30th St., 2-5 PM. \$25. For more information and to register, call 440-997-5353.

Wednesday, May 24 - Toledo, Ohio

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - evening program, 7 PM. Heart offering. For more info and location/directions, contact Barbara Dulmage at 419-381-6898 or via email at Songispirit@aol.com

Thursday, May 25 - Troy, Ohio

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - evening program. 7 PM. Heart offering. For more info and location/directions, contact Maya Scherer at 937-440-9049 or via email at drmaya33@yahoo.com

Friday, May 26th - Somerset, Kentucky

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - evening program. 6- 8 PM. For more info, contact Sonya Jones at 606-875-2967.

Wednesday, May 31 - Normal, Illinois

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - evening program, 7 PM. Heart offering. For more info and location/directions, contact Carolyn Treadway at 309-451-4503 or via email at carolyn@gracefullife.com

Thursday, June 15 - Salida, Colorado

Women, Peace & the Sacred Feminine - evening program. 7 PM. Heart offering. For more info and location/directions, contact Karen Latvala at 719-942-4758 or via email at Karen@consciouslifequest.com

If you would like to schedule a retreat, a book discussion group, or a meditation circle in your area, please contact us through the web site or info@vesselsofpeace.com. Lynda and the

women of the Visioning Circle would be happy to support you in offering one in your area. In some cases we can facilitate the event; in others, we can offer support, advice, retreat outlines, and additional information.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Conference: Awakening the Feminine Spirit
July 21-24, 2006
Wisdom House, Litchfield, Connecticut

"... a watershed event where women of all ages, races, religions, nationalities, and economic groups will come together for nurturing, healing, and empowerment. Says Paul Ferrini, conference organizer and author of over 30 books on love, healing and forgiveness, "the feminine energy is necessary to bring peace to our hearts and our relationships..." For more information, go to: www.paulferrini.com/html/women_s_conference or contact Celia Slater via email at celia@miraclescommunitynetwork.org.

Retreat: Evolutionary Women: Co-Creators of the New Future
August 11-13, 2006
Santa Barbara, California

Evolutionary Women first offered this retreat last December, and the response was so great they are offering a second retreat for women committed to the transformational process occurring on the planet Earth. The featured presenter is Barbara Marx Hubbard, Evolutionary Visionary. Co-conveners, Bonnie Kelley and Lucky Sweeny warmly invite you to join with conscious women as "we activate, expand and anchor the Feminine Co-creator that is emerging globally." Find out more about the retreat at www.evolutionarywomen.org.

TELECONFERENCE CALLS

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MEDITATION

The Vessels of Peace Visioning Circle continues its weekly teleconference call meditations for women, on Sunday nights, and on the 14th, Lynda will facilitate a special Mother's Day meditation. Mother's Day originally was created as a call to women everywhere to join together in manifesting a more peaceful world, so we invite you to join us in re-affirming this intention through the collective energy of women meditating together across distance and time.

The call will last 55 minutes. Format is an opening welcome and introductions, brief presentation about the intention of the call, a guided meditation, and brief sharings from callers, if time. Your only cost will be your normal long distance charges.

Call Details

Date/time: Every Sunday at 5 PM PT/8 PM ET. Phone number and access code: 641-297-5800 and 820668# For more information, email info@vesselsofpeace.com

LINK OF THE MONTH

TRAIL OF DREAMS WORLD PEACE WALK: UPDATE

The Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk is a demonstration of ordinary people showing up to engage in a journey of the human spirit that will take them around the world in a three and a half years walk for world peace. 'One step at a time ... we do change the World.' - Audri Scott Williams, Walk Organizer and NowTime publisher

We first wrote about the Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk in the August 2005 VoP newsletter, before it began on October 21, 2005, in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The Walk journeyed westward through the Gulf Region states and is now in Mexico. You can find out more about the walk at this link: www.tdworldpeacewalk.org.

See an excerpt from writings of organizer Audri Scott Williams about the experiences of the walkers, under *Tending the Vessel*, below.

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

From Maggie, Pennsylvania, who attended the "Women, Peace & Sacred Feminine" retreat in April:

"Thanks for the wonderful workshop on Sunday! I didn't know how much I wanted to be there. The Goddess Managed to convince me to be there! It was right in line with the work I have been guided to do on my own and has given me more direction and structure to work with the Goddess energy that I have been so drawn to. I have been using Doreen Virtue's Goddess cards and learning about the goddesses -something that I never knew much about and is so important for me right now.

I am working on my Intro to Feng Shui class [Editor's note: Maggie is a trained Feng Shui consultant]. My work with Feng Shui arose out of a desire to create a supportive environment for myself and my family, to help with our health and healing. I now have a new metaphor that I will use with Feng Shui, and that is: Our homes are the vessel we dwell in. So let us create a vessel of peace to support our vessels of Peace!"

From long-time VoP Peggy Fitzpatrick who is serving in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Here are excerpts from Peggy's recent email to friends and family:

"I started teaching 'gender sensitivity' and women's issues in the self-esteem class [I am offering] at The Haven, in honor of Women's Month ... The girls and women here are uneducated about their rights and hopefully they will become more empowered from the lessons provided. However, it is difficult to expect them to apply what they learn in a culture that doesn't support them ...

Some of the Haven staff and I visited a women's cooperative foundation in Manila. [It was] founded by a handful of women in the community who were interested in recycling waste products and cleaning up their neighborhood. These women started collecting and washing discarded plastic juice packs and discovered many products could be made from them. Now, they export these products to six foreign countries and have been featured in magazines and on T.V. They have created designs for all sizes of bags, wallets, pencil cases, picture frames, curtains, place mats, plant holders, floor mats, and even dresses and shoes ... Since we have started an ecological program at the Haven, which includes recycling, we are hoping to make bags out of juice packs very soon as part of the livelihood training...."

To see photos of the products made by the Manila women's cooperative, go to The Vessel blog page (vesselsofpeacevc.blogspot.com).

From Audri Scott Williams, of Georgia, organizer of the Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk:

Something to Think About

We begin each day with ceremony at sunrise followed by sharing our dreams and discussing questions or thoughts for the day. As we have been here in Mexico, it has occurred to us that so much of our lives we live according to the "stories we hear." These stories come to us through the media, politicians, friends and educators (for example). These stories influence the choices we make in our lives, so much so that we often live the stories rather than engage in the experience of a relationship, a journey to other lands, creative opportunities, etc. We are learning on this Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk that the stories we hear and live by can be so different from our experience. Mexico has been good to us in every aspect. We have traveled the back roads, been invited into a "stranger's home" for dinner, been serenaded, slept on the side of the road, and are learning to speak Spanish as we go along.

Our experience is so different from all the stories we were told and warnings we received in preparation for our trip into Mexico. In Mexico, just as in the US, we have learned that smiles are engaging, laughter is contagious, a kind word opens many doors, an unselfish act of kindness opens hearts and music is the language of the universe.

So our question that we extend to you is: Are the experiences in your life lived through the storyteller? When do you and how do you dare to live your dream when it is in conflict with the "story"? How do you know what you know if the story you are tuned into is your only connection to the subject? Simpler yet: What are the ways you come to know - anything

INSPIRATION

"We know something is embodied when it is automatic in us - especially under pressure. Until then, it's not reliable and therefore not embodied. Embodiment is the result of what we practice. ..."

- Victoria Castle, somatic life coach, facilitator, and author (www.tranceofscarcity.com)

Passed on by VoP Peggy Fitzpatrick (see *Sharings*, above):

"Anything I've ever done that ultimately was worthwhile initially scared me to death."

- Betty Bender, from the Heron Dance newsletter (www.herdance.org)

SUPPORT FOR THE JOURNEY

ORDER THE 11 INTENTIONS BOOK!

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

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE TO VoP NEWSLETTER

To SUBSCRIBE, email list@vesselsofpeace.com with subscribe as the subject. Please also put your name, email address, and city/state in the message. To UNSUBSCRIBE, send an email to the same address with unsubscribe as the subject. Your information will never be shared with anyone, nor will this email list be shared, sold or otherwise provided to anyone.

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