

PAX EDUCARE
THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR PEACE EDUCATION

Vol. 3-1

Notes from the Director

Spring 2005

I was honored in February to have been invited to participate in a panel for a conference at Yale University, convened by the Connecticut chapter of Soka Gakkai International, the Buddhist peace organization founded in Japan by Daisaku Ikeda. We spoke of our work here at Pax Educare and of the concepts inherent in educating for peace. The theme of the gathering was "Education for Sustainable Development", based on UNESCO's designation of the decade beginning with this year, 2005, as the decade devoted to educating for a sustainable world.

After having been asked to speak, I began to ponder the question: what does it mean for us as a species to consider our own present individual, community, national and global needs, without forfeiting those of future generations? As Dr. Ikeda notes in a recent essay, we, as humans, must be open to profound transformations in our very way of thinking and being if we hope for a planet that can sustain and nourish us in the centuries to come. We must begin with our own selves, connecting with those forces of darkness in ourselves and in others, which cause us pain and conflict, and which prevent compassion and reaching out to others in love. And we must begin to develop and to strengthen those most precious values that will sustain us as a world in the years to come.

It is my belief that education is inherently a moral endeavor. In my class in the Teacher Education program at Central Connecticut State University we have had interesting discussions about the place of values and ethics in the classroom. There has not been general agreement that the teaching of values should be a priority. Yet there seems to be a sense that we all teach from "who we are" and that the values we espouse shine through in our everyday lives and in all of our interactions. I believe that we are inherently spiritual beings, whether or not we choose to act on this and recognize it. In addition, we are all educators at one time or another (whether as a formal "teacher", a parent, a mentor or a model). It follows, therefore, that values and ethics cannot be separated from all of the processes of educating. Educating for sustainability and for peace are inherently spiritual endeavors.

Peace education is future oriented and is inherently positive. How do we sustain hope during these times of great trial for our nation and for our world? One thing we can do is to listen for the stories of those who have triumphed, despite great adversity and suffering. I think of Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Aung Sung Sui Kyi and others. We have all known people, be they famous or not, from our communities or from other parts of the world, who look at the world through the lens of hope. This is the essence of what we must convey to our children and to each other that every moment of every day we have the chance to live and to breathe, hope.

Here at Pax Educare we are greatly enjoying visitors stopping in to chat, to browse and to check out a book or video, and the many people joining us at a film showing, or coming to worship at our monthly Quaker Meeting (no need to be a Friend to join us). We are happy to welcome Tara Lower, our intern from Central Connecticut State University, who works with us two days a week. Our 501(c)(3) application has been completed and we should soon be receiving official confirmation of this. Read on for recent and future events, peace links and news items. Thanks to all of you who sustain us in so many ways.

Mary Lee Morrison

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The Mission of Pax Educare is to link families, educators and community practitioners to partnering opportunities and resources in order to help promote the processes and skills needed to build a more peaceful world. In doing so, we seek to answer the question-how do we educate for a more peaceful tomorrow?

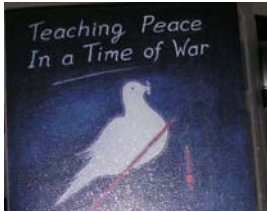
Some Recent Additions to our Library

If you go on our web site you will see that our library and resource holdings are now available up on our "resource" link. We encourage browsing, borrowing and are open for those coming in to do research. We offer tea too!

Looking for some good viewing? A review by Tara Lower

Teaching Peace in a Time of War

A new video in our library



"Teaching Peace in a Time of War," examines some of the reasons necessary for teaching peace in war torn countries. Hetty van Gorp, of Peaceful Schools International in Nova Scotia, Canada, visits a school in Serbia with the initiative of helping to foster the lessons of living. She teaches the ideas of Peer Mediation to teachers who, in turn, take this vital information to help the children to become more open to peace and the study of this practice.

Youth in Serbia have been deeply affected by a decade of war in a region characterized by long simmering hostilities and deep rifts along lines of ethnicity, citizenship, religion and class. These children have become very disheartened and feel that there will be no peace.

Peace starts with a mind and heart open to the ideas that are symbolic of life's lessons. These children are taught to take action and talk about what they feel is important and how to keep peace within the school and most importantly for their own personal strength.

This documentary is very moving and inherently hopeful; a glimpse of the terrors of war through the eyes of children who have witnessed it for many years. The Peaceful School International program took the initiative with these children and teachers and helped to coach them through different ways and means of living and learning peace as a lifelong process. www.peacefulschoolsinternational.org

Some Other New Holdings

Several new children's books-gifts from Miriam Epstein and Books to Dreams, Inc.

The Anti-Defamation League's *Hate Hurts*

Two copies of *Peace Begins With You* by Katherine Scholes

Mother Theresa by Margaret Holland

The Big Book for Peace

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King by Jean Marzollo

Mandela by Floyd Cooper

From Slave Ship to Freedom by Julius Lester

In addition we now have:

The 9/11 Commission Report

The Respectful School: How Educators and Students Can Conquer Hate and Harassment
by Stephen Wessler

Introducing Tara Lower

As a senior sociology major at Central Connecticut State University, I decided that interning at Pax Educare with Dr. Mary Lee Morrison would not only be educational but also mentally and spiritually fulfilling.

The idea of Peace Education is a concept that I was only partially aware of, but nonetheless in which I am very interested.

I have worked closely with children for six years now and feel that the experience I get will ultimately help to teach children about peace as a lifetime commitment to their world.

I am also very excited about planning an event as an integration of peace and the arts and a celebration of building community through music. I am helping to plan a contra dance for peace, "Give Peace a Dance", to be held April 30 (location to be announced). Details will be in future postings.

I hope to meet many of you as I continue my work at Pax Educare this semester.



Upcoming Pax Educare Events

- February 24 and March 1-we will be guest lecturing at the Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut, returning once again to give our presentation on "The Peaceable Classroom: From Principles and Pedagogy to Participant-Action" to a class in social and community issues. Thanks to Professor Robert Colbert for inviting us back.
- March 3-4-HIPP Training for Burr and Watkinson middle schoolers and other adults and youth who would like to join us. Facilitators: Mary Lee Morrison, Diane Weinholtz, Rachelle Jaqoliner and Franci Davila, at the Village for Families and Children on Wethersfield Ave in Hartford.
- March 4-film showing of "All Quiet on the Western Front" 7:30 at 56 Arbor Street
- March 17-we will be presenting a workshop at the annual youth Peer Mediation Conference sponsored by the Governor's Prevention Partnership, entitled "Building Cultures of Peace in our Classrooms and in our Schools".
- March 19-Opening of "Reflections on 100 Bowls of Compassion" by Cate Bourke, Fisher Gallery, Farmington Valley Arts Center in Avon. Pax Educare is promoting this wonderful art exhibit of 100 bowls of compassion to commemorate the first 100 Iraqi civilians, of the thousands, killed since the U.S. invasion. The names of the civilian dead are inscribed in mirror image, one on each bowl, requiring the viewer to see his or herself as he/she views each bowl. Visitors will fold origami peace cranes and place them in the 100th, larger bowl. Cate is the Project Coordinator for the Violence prevention Program at the Children's Medical Center. To visit the gallery web site go to www.fvac.net.



Philip and Pam Boulding of Magical Strings

- April 1-film showing of "Uncertain Soil: the Story of the United Nations Peacekeeping" 7:30
- April 3-Magical Strings will return at 4 PM for their annual Peace Concert sponsored by Pax Educare. Friends Meeting House, 144 South Quaker Lane in West Hartford. Tickets-\$15 at the door.
- April 30-in the evening-get out your clogs! (or burkes!) for "Give Peace a Dance". Contra Dance for peace. Location to be announced in a future posting- either at Central CT State University or at the Friends Meeting House in West Hartford
- May 6-we will be presenting a workshop on building cultures of peace in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities at the annual Caritas Conference, sponsored by the Saint Joseph College Department of Social Work. The conference is open to educators, human service professionals, students and interested community members. This year's theme is "In Praise of Newcomers: Immigrants, Migrants and Refugees". Keynote speaker will be Professor Fariyal Ross-Sheriff of Howard University, whose expertise is displaced populations. She has worked extensively with Muslim refugees in Pakistan.
- May 6-film showing of "Gandhi" with Ben Kingsley in the title role 7:30
- July 13-we will be hosting a poster session and discussing the work of Educare at a teacher conference at Eastern Conn, at the invitation of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World.

Thanks To.....

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals and groups who have been so supportive in so many ways. (A list of individual and family financial contributors is on the back page).

Miriam Epstein and her Books to Dreams, Inc. program. We received a package of 15 books for our library.

Many of these are listed under new additions.

To Karen and Phil Will for their wonderful hospitality for the February 12 Adaskin String Trio concert

To the Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International for their donation of part of the raffle earnings from their Christmas celebration to Pax Educare

To Hartford Monthly Meeting for their financial contribution and for the ongoing support of our monthly meeting for worship

To Miriam Bergamini for the gift of 2 books: *Seeing Red: an Anger Management Curricula* and *Sharing the Land of Canaan* by Mazim Quimsiyeh

To Valeria McCall for the book donation of *Before It Is Too Late* by Aurelio Peccie and Daisaku Ikeda

To student intern Nicole Benjamin from Trinity College, who worked with us in the fall

To the Connecticut Legal Urban Initiatives and the U Conn Law School, Dan Stone and William Breetz, for their work in our application for our 501 c 3 status

To Terry Freeman for the donation of the many books and pamphlets by Elise and Kenneth Boulding

To Karen Swam for the donation of the video *Nagasaki Journey*, the moving true and personal story of two survivors and a US Marine who was the first to occupy the city after the bombing.

To Fred Pfeil-our film "elf"- each month Fred gets our feature film for the festival from Trinity's library

To Chris Robinson, for donating his services as piano tuner for the Adaskin concert

To Ray Boucher for his ongoing tutoring for us in QuickBooks

To the guests who came to our class at Saint Joseph College in January, sharing their work in peace: Chris Doucot, Ray Boucher, Elizabeth Nabeta, Luis Cotto and David Adams

And to the Adaskin String Trio: Emlyn Ngai, Steve Larson and Mark Fraser, and to Sally Pinkus for the concert proceeds donated to Pax Educare

Some Recent Events at Pax Educare

- ❖ Our film festival, the first Friday of the month at 7:30 continues. In February we had a lively discussion following the viewing of the Russian movie "Prisoner of the Mountains", based on a Tolstoy tale.

*John Humphries, Debbie Humphries
Lynn Johnson and Bruce Martin
deep in discussion*



Our TV is now raised for better viewing. All are invited to upcoming films.

- ❖ In November we were invited to address the New Haven Peace Commission to speak on peace education. We helped to foster a dialogue with the Commission and several educators on educating for peace in the New Haven schools.
- ❖ In November we were co-facilitators for 2 HIPP trainings, one with Burr and Watkinson students and staff at the Village for Families and Children's Trolley Barn building and the other at the Hispanic Health Council, for their after-school program. Thanks to John Humphries for the latter invitation. Other co-facilitators for these workshops were: Eliana Alvarez, Barbara Michelson, Diane Weinholtz, Rachelle Jaoqolinzer, Brian Waddell, Melissa Inphom, Carolann Boucher and Doug Hansen.
- ❖ In December we were honored to be one of the judges for the annual high school essay contest sponsored by the CT Collaborative Against Gun Violence. Reading the students' work was truly inspiring.
- ❖ In January we were co-sponsors, with the West Hartford Citizens for Peace and Justice, of the talk by John Perkins at the West Hartford Town Hall, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man".
- ❖ In January we taught a course entitled "Cultural Perspectives in the Global Era" for the winter intercession at Saint Joseph College
- ❖ In February we spoke on peace education at a conference at Yale, in conjunction with a photo exhibit honoring Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Daisaku Ikeda.
- ❖ In February, the Adaskin String Trio, with guest pianist Sally Pinkus, returned for a wonderful benefit concert for Pax Educare. All proceeds were donated by the trio and by Sally for our continuing work.



News from Pax Educare

We are now Pax Educare, Inc., incorporated as a non-profit in the state of Connecticut. We have spent the fall in application as a 501(c)(3) organization with the IRS. We anticipate that we will be receiving confirmation of our new status very soon.

We anticipate continuing our Friday film festival in the fall of 05 after taking a summer break.

Peace Connections

- ❑ The Dispute Resolution Center in Norwalk, CT is offering a 30 hour mediation training, Basic Level, beginning April 5. For more information visit www.dsct.org.
- ❑ To receive e-newsletters from the American Friends Service Committee's Philadelphia office on Peace and Justice, visit www.afsc.org.
- ❑ The Southern Poverty Law Center has free civil rights teaching kits available for secondary and college students. These have recently been updated. For more information visit www.tolerance.org.
- ❑ To find out about the Hague Appeal for Peace's Global Campaign for Peace Education and to sign up for updates, visit www.haguepeace.org.
One of their listings is for the 2005 International Institute on Peace Education, to be held in Rhodes, Greece July 24-30, 2005. This is a program of the Peace Education Program of Columbia University. The program will consist of plenaries, workshops and community projects. For information on the TC program, go to www.tc.edu/peaceed/.
- ❑ University of Massachusetts at Lowell now has a graduate certificate in peace and conflict resolution studies. For more information visit www.uml.edu/dept/RESD/peace.
- ❑ The second annual Children's Peace Festival will be held on the grounds of Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford Sunday, June 5 from 1-6 PM. For more information, contact Cindy Moeckel at c.moeckel@sbcglobal.net or (860) 561-1396.
- ❑ The Mennonite Central Committee has a Global Family Resource Box, including artwork from children in Kosovo and games from Colombia. This is intended for young people in first through fifth grades, offering North American children a window on the world. A teacher guide is included. Call toll free (888) 563-4676. www.mcc.org
- ❑ The Vermont Peace Academy works with Children of the Earth. Their basic intent is to promote non-violence and to create conditions for a more peaceful world in keeping with the principles of the [Earth Charter](http://www.children-of-the-earth.org/vtpa.htm). <http://www.children-of-the-earth.org/vtpa.htm>.

Give Peace a Dance.....SAVE THE DATE April 30

April 30 we will be celebrating all of your and our work in peace and community building through "Give Peace a Dance", a contra dance for peace. The location will be announced in a future posting. No experience needed. It will be in the evening, most likely either at Central CT State University or at the Friends Meeting House in West Hartford. Co-sponsors so far include the CT AFSC Program Office, Aram Ayalon of CCSU's Teacher Ed Program and the CCSU Women's Studies Program. No experience necessary. Bonner McAllester, Jim Gregory and the Mountain Laurel Band will provide the music and teaching. Stay tuned...

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We are available for speaking to community and religious groups and for teacher in-service programs. We particularly like to engage in dialogue about building a culture of peace.

Monthly Quaker Meeting for Worship at Pax Educare-2nd Tuesday of the Month at 5:30. All are welcome. Join us for worship and for soup afterwards.

Thanks to the following individual and family donors to Pax Educare since October 2004: *Helen Armstrong, Diane Randall and Roger Catlin, Abigail Adams and Chris Corcoran, Ruth and Larry Alexander, Ginny and Tim Allen, Judith Hyde, Ray and Carolann Boucher, Elise Boulding, Lorraine Cetto, Beatrice Coward, Kiki Eglinton, Bruce Grower, Joy and Roger Floyd, Marjorie Henry, David Holdt, Joan and Tom Kemble, Ana Lachelier, Suzanne Lavoie, Alex and Kara Mikulich, Mary Lee Morrison and Bill Upholt, Brooke and Tom Nelson, Charles Pillsbury, Helen and Larry Raisz, Alan and Roz Spier, John and Beverly Stamm, Catherine Stockman, Marilyn Traiger, Martha Vinick, Gerda Walz-Michaels, Karen and Phil Will, Rev. Jervis Zimmerman*

Donations to Pax Educare are gratefully accepted. Donations may be sent to Pax Educare: 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106. We are an affiliate of the Center for Serenity, Inc. a 501(c)(3) organization. If you would like your donation to be tax deductible, checks may be made out to Center for Serenity, Inc. Please earmark for Pax Educare and send it to our address as listed. Suggested donations:
Student and low income \$20 \$35 Individual
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