



Pg. 2-6 - Activities planned around Day of Peace Sept 21



Pg. 2&3- 30 Days of Peace in Muskegon County



Pg. 6- Our Kitchen Table- Insights on Food Justice



Pg. 8- Remembering Betty Ford, peace advocate



International Day of Peace EDUCATION FOR PEACE

By Mike Franz
IGE Board Member

I left last's night board meeting at which they adopted the 31st Resolution for the Week of Peace Education somewhat hopeful, and also musing, on all that has transpired these last decades that IGE has worked to bring peace education to the public schools.

I praised them for their diligence in working with us after a gracious introduction by Superintendent Neil as "distinguished visitors".

Kathy Seganthaller joined me to address the Board once more and reported on her work at SW Community Campus, which continues today after one of our sterling community programs there several years ago.

I made special mention of "our" Betty Ford's recent passing and all her years of tireless work on peace programs. (The "our" is an inside joke, really, as people would always ask if she was "the" Betty Ford. Nope, one of us would reply, she is "our" Betty Ford. And always will be.)

I invited the three pastoral

board members to join our Interfaith Peace Service on Sunday the 20th at 2:00 at the Dominican Center where we trust Mayor George Heartwell will once again read his Proclamation of a day of peace for Grand Rapids on the United Nations International Day of Peace (IDP) on Monday, September 21. Thankyou Katie Villaire for once again securing this pledge.

The Program Guide was distributed to the Board members and Superintendent and will be transmitted electronically to all city programs to do with as they see fit. I had breakfast Sunday with a retired GRPS elementary teacher who had never heard of our program before. I hear that a lot.

In my musings returning home I can still recall Phil Jung quietly reading the very first Resolution with Lucille Thomas (now deceased) as secretary to the Board smiling broadly. Betty Ford, Judi Buchman and I waited while one board member questioned whether or not we were "political".

Lucille Thomas and the President assured him we were not.

“Education
is the most powerful
weapon which
you can use to
change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

But this was May of 1984 and the Reagan and Soviet buildup for nuclear armaments was on everybody's mind. We were encouraging "dialogue" with the Soviets to prevent a holocaust. And that was as political then as the recent Iran treaty by President Obama's administration.

The Resolution was unanimous and I can recall how grateful Betty was as she was in her final year of teaching and could finally teach peace with permission.

I am certain that over the years there have been many teachers and principals who felt the same way. Today the Peace Week program has wrapped itself around the UN IDP, September 21 and continues with our Circle of Peace program (thankyou Amy Bennington) we bring to the Eastown Fair each year for parents of young children.

You can see the Board's Resolution and the Program Guide by visiting our website, www.ige.org

International Day of Peace observances around West MI:

Muskegon, MI- Interfaith Sunset Service planned for Thur. Sept 3rd

Submitted by
Kryssis Bjork

The 30 Days of Peace Muskegon observance will begin with an Interfaith Sunset Service on Thursday, September 3rd at the U.S.S. Silversides Submarine Museum, 1346 Bluff St, Muskegon, 49441 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Rev. Richard "Bud" Murphy from The Peoples' Church of Ludington will preside.

Guest speakers include Imam Jihad Muhammad of the Islamic Center of Greater Muskegon, Debra Gutowski, the Director of Native American Ministries for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Rabbi Alan Alpert from Temple B'Nai Israel, Gargi Hales, a Siddha Yoga student, Rev. Duane Bennett of Mt Zion Church of God in Christ, Bonnie Johnson from the Bahá'í Faith, and Jim Johnson of the Buddhist Tradition.



Composer and Music Director, Jimmy Clark, will provide accompaniment for the gathering. Contact Kryssis Diane Bjork at 231-747-8138 for more information. Please contact Kryssis Diane Bjork at 231.747.8138 for more information.



Interfaith Service planned for Sept. 20th

By Katie Villaire
IGE Board Member

We are so pleased at IGE that once again this year Mayor George Heartwell will proclaim September 21 as the United Nations International Day of Peace in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We regret that since Mayor Heartwell is ending his term he will not be proclaiming the event next year. He has been a good friend to peace and justice programs in our city. George Heartwell will always be welcome at any of our events.

We hope that the Mayor-Elect Rosalind Bliss will make the proclamation and attend the Interfaith Service next year.

This year the event is at Dominican Sisters, Marywood on Fulton, at 2 pm on September 20th. Call Katie 616 459 6626 Or IGE 616 353 1842 for information.

When Betty Ford and other IGE members began planning the programs for the UN International

Day of Peace 6 years ago, we decided that an Interfaith Service celebrating Peace would be an appropriate way to commemorate the UN IDP. The wonderful Dominican Sisters at Marywood agreed with us and offered their beautiful Chapel for the service. The Dominicans, ably represented by Sister Mary Patricia Beatty OP, have continued their co-sponsorship and input.

We do not have all philosophical/faith traditions represented every year but we try to have the major world traditions represented as well as a variety of others, some of which are not well known to many people in our Grand Rapids Community. For instance, we usually have Buddhist and Hindu representatives. Fred Stella, from the Interfaith Dialogue community is a Hindu person who is President of that group and has often assisted us with locating representatives of different tradi-

tions who we can invite to speak. Last year Fred suggested Two Dogs Potter as a representative of the Native American tradition and he will be returning this year to speak again.

We often have IGE members speak since we are diverse in our philosophies and faiths. Scott Miller, a Quaker, spoke, as well as Laura Cassaleto representing the Center For Inquiry, a group that promotes open thinking, including the agnostic and atheist tradition.

This year we will have a pre-service event on the beautiful Marywood grounds at 1:00. Attendees can walk through the St Francis Sculpture garden and use this time for quiet meditation. This part of the event is sponsored by the group, Instruments of Hope.

As usual, refreshments follow the program. People of all ages are invited and, of course, everything is free.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

Grassroots movement in Muskegon County for Peace

Submitted by
Kryssis Bjork

Who? A grassroots movement by nonprofit, nonpolitical people, interest groups and organizations of Muskegon County who share a common concern to practice peace, justice and equality with a clear intention to create, cultivate and coordinate 30 Days of Peace in the Muskegon County community.

What? The United Nations declared September 21st as the International Day of Peace. Citizens around the globe have extended this vision to a month of peace.

Where? Muskegon County

When? September 2015

Why? Becoming a voice for peace, justice and equality as responsible world citizens takes intention, focus and action. Collaborative projects and programs promoting non-violence are essential for healthy personal relationships, families and neighborhoods; faith communities,

educational institutions and the environment.

How? Museum exhibits, library activities and book clubs, tell a story or spin a yarn, film festivals or dance recitals, restorative and social justice workshops, make a joyful noise, organize a community choir, dive into classroom projects with arts & crafts, conduct or attend conflict management courses, fly dove kites on the beach, hang prayer flags from the trees, teach tolerance, make pinwheels for peace, go to an Institute for Healing Racism, make a peace quilt, help a veteran, write a kindness or building character journal, make a drum circle, start a prayer vigil, have a parade for kids, light a candle, domestic violence programs, walk a labyrinth, write letters, send a package, sing a song, go to an urban farm, recycle and be kind to Earth, have interfaith dialogs, anger management retreats, plant a tree, adopt an animal, enhance your menu, have a petting

zoo. Simply bring people together to do something, start something, grow something, build something, nurture something and make something happen. Please let us know about your activities for publishing in the Community Calendar Network.

Questions? Visit 30 Days of Peace Muskegon Home Page, Group Page and Event Pages on Facebook or contact: Kryssis Diane Bjork, 231-747-8138. Email: kryssisbjork@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1 By Your Side Sponsored by the City of Muskegon Available to 10000 Staff</p> <p>2 Your Place or Mine Up to 10000 Staff</p>	<p>3 If you yourself are at peace then there is at least some peace in the world Thomas Merton</p> <p>4 Historic Lutheran University of the North at 11 am at 7 pm Muskegon & Muskegon County Join hands for peace that peace community celebration with food and family activities across from CDC Hall on Western Ave until 1 pm</p> <p>5 Join for Your Soul City of Muskegon, 100 pm</p>	<p>6 The only alternative to violence is non-violence Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>7 If you give purpose to life, life will help others If you don't have them at least don't have them Oscar Wilde</p> <p>8 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>9 Feeding the Soul in the City Tensard Cafe Music with John Moch by the Sea at 7 pm at 10 pm at 11 pm at 12 pm at 1 pm at 2 pm at 3 pm at 4 pm at 5 pm at 6 pm at 7 pm at 8 pm at 9 pm at 10 pm at 11 pm at 12 pm</p> <p>10 Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but it is a way of life which we must live at every moment Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</p>	<p>11 There is no such thing as peace in non-violence Gandhi</p> <p>12 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>13 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>14 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>15 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>16 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>17 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>18 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>19 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>20 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>21 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>22 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>23 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>24 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>25 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>26 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>27 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>28 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>29 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>30 If you want to make peace don't talk to your friends talk to your enemies Martin Luther King Jr.</p>	<p>10-11 am Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>11-12 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>12-1 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>1-2 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>2-3 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>3-4 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>4-5 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>5-6 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>6-7 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>7-8 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>8-9 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>9-10 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>10-11 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>11-12 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>12-1 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>1-2 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>2-3 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>3-4 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>4-5 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>5-6 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>6-7 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>7-8 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>8-9 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>9-10 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>10-11 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>11-12 pm Quiet Quest Walk Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p>	<p>1 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>2 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>3 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>4 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>5 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>6 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>7 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>8 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>9 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>10 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>11 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>12 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>13 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>14 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>15 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>16 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>17 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>18 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>19 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>20 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>21 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>22 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>23 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>24 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>25 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>26 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>27 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>28 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>29 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p> <p>30 Muskegon Lakeshore Preserve</p>

Check out the Calendar of events
which further outlines upcoming
events.

Solve Communication Problems and Improve Relationships with Kids - Toddlers to Teens

By Mary MacLeod

You don't have to have kids to enjoy and learn this seven-week circle discussion- includes research and easy, practical approaches for kids, parents, teachers, and anyone who cares about or works with young people. Bring your ideas and challenges!

Mondays 6:30-8 p.m.
October 5-November 16

\$70 course fee includes both books.

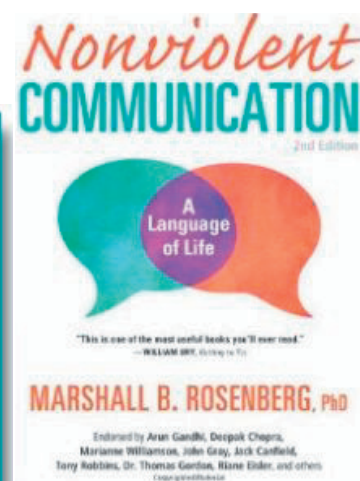
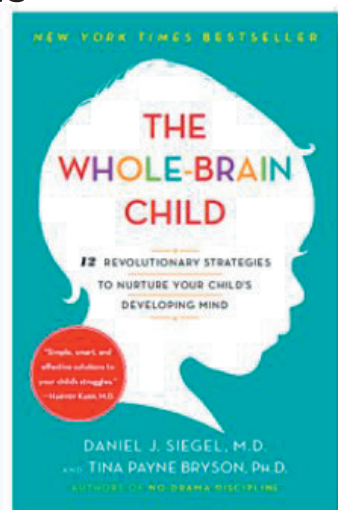
Deadline: Please pay to:

"Institute for Global Education" by Sept. 15th.

1118 Wealthy St. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506

- www.InstituteforGlobalEducation.org

- 616.454.1642



Peace Inside Each Person - or Fuel for the Fire

By Mary MacLeod
IGE Volunteer

We humans all have the same 9 basic needs. This understanding was derived by Chilean economist, Manfred Max Neef. He used it to measure of how well the Chilean economy succeeds in meeting the actual needs of its people - much as Bhutan chooses the measure called GNH or "Gross National Happiness."

Marshall Rosenberg, PhD, author of *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, adopted the economist's list as a checklist for identifying the authentic motivation below all human communications. Here's the list with brief descriptions:

1. sustenance – food, water
2. safety – security
3. love – to give and receive generous compassion with individuals
4. empathy – to see and be seen with an open mind and welcoming heart
5. rest – recreation – play -

"down time"

6. community – interaction and mutual support with a group
7. creativity – individual unfolding and blossoming (requires authenticity?)
8. autonomy – not to be overly controlled by others
9. meaning – purpose – to contribute to the world or things around you.

In order to end violence, these are the things we need to put within reach of all people.

Obviously, meeting these needs means different things for every person and circumstance, but the failure to hear and address these undeniable needs sustains the human sources of violence.

New fuel is created for the fires of conflict whenever one of these 9 needs goes unseen and unaddressed. As we know from forests, as fuel builds up, fire becomes inevitable.

Our local NVC groups do not



focus on the fires raging between nations or religious groups, although that was much of Marshall Rosenberg's life work. We work on the fuel build-up in a particular person, you or me, from the barely detectable, daily, tragic build-up of our deeper unmet needs.

What do the fires look like when individuals like you and me do not meet our evolutionary needs for love, autonomy, rest, community and a genuine opportunity to contribute value to others? Frustration, depression, and prejudice - but more importantly the loss of calm, courage and open-mindedness we need to care for each other and this world.

"Alive Connections"

2M - NVC

What: Monthly discussion; Learn to **connect effectively with kids, coworkers, your partner - even yourself!**
(based on *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*)

When: 6:30 – 8pm on the **2nd M**onday every month (2M-NVC)

Where: Institute for Global Education

1118 Wealthy SE, GR, MI

Cost: NO COST – just drop in and check it out!

Questions: Mary MacLeod, mecmacleod@yahoo.com

United Nations International Day of Peace September 21, 2015

“Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All”

By Amy Bennington
IGE Board Member

Every year on September 21st, the United Nations International Day of Peace is observed around the world.

This is a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace. The theme of the 2015 International Day of Peace is “Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All” which aims to highlight the importance of all segments of society to work together to strive for peace.

On June 13th, 2015, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in his 100 day countdown to the International Day of Peace message:

“Every year on the International Day of Peace, the United Nations calls on the people of the world to reaffirm their commitment to living in harmony as members of a single human fam-

ily. This year’s commemoration, ‘Partnerships for Peace -- Dignity for All’, highlights the importance of cooperation in silencing the guns and advancing the cause.”

“Without the support of governments, civil society, the private sector, faith-based groups and non-governmental organizations, peace will remain elusive. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations as well as a transition to a new global sustainable development agenda and meaningful action on climate change”.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked that we stand with the millions of people across the world who are suffering the devastating impact of violence and conflict. “Let us share ideas and plans for helping and supporting them in their time of dire need,” he said. “Together, as ‘partners for peace,’ we can achieve a

world of peace, prosperity and dignity for all”.

Often when people think of peace, they think of the absence of war, violence or conflict.

When I look at promoting peace, I see that peace cannot occur without things like equality, healthy relationships and political systems that serve the best interests of everyone.

On an individual level, I believe that people need to promote the dignity of everyone whether its ourselves, people close to us or people that we don’t even know.

This is best done through unity and recognizing the needs and desires of everyone on earth.

On a global level, I believe that groups need to promote dignity for all in areas of economic equality, a healthy environment and cultural understanding to name but a few.

Equity Sept. 2015

Board of directors: Katie Villaire, Chester Lowe, Amy Bennington, Mike Franz, Gerard Akkerhuis, Tom Burke, John Longchamps, Johanna Sizick, Wolfgang Santiago, and Kim Mcceon

Page layout and design: Whitney Ehresman

Logo Design by John Longchamps, President of Youth Outlet.

Equity is produced by:
Institute for Global Education
1118 Wealthy St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.454.1642
www.InstituteForGlobalEducation.org

IGE Supports

The nonviolent resolution to conflicts and the pursuit justice as the best way to achieve true, lasting peace through conscientious individual and group education and action.

Letters to the editor and other submissions:

Questions or comments? Please contact Whitney Ehresman, Office Coordinator, at coordinator@InstituteForGlobalEducation.org.

Editorial Policy: The editor reserves the right to determine if submitted articles shall be printed, and reserves the right to edit as necessary. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in Equity are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of the Institute for Global Education and Board.

Would you like a subscription to the ‘Equity’ publication?

Please fill out and mail this form to IGE at 1118 Wealthy St. Grand Rapids MI 49506.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Yes, I would like to become a member or renew my membership! Enclosed is my membership donation of:

___ \$___ low income or student
___ \$25 Regular membership
___ \$35 Family membership

FOOD JUSTICE



By Our Kitchen Table

You no doubt have heard the phrase, “without justice, there is no peace.” Our Kitchen Table actively works for justice, specifically environmental justice and food justice.

What is Food Justice? Well, it’s a universal set of principles and a global movement born out of the lived experience of people experiencing oppression.

Food Justice grew out of the Environmental Justice movement, when communities of color and poor working class people began to realize that their lack of access to healthy and affordable food was not the result of their own behavior, but of a food system that was motivated by profit.

You’ve probably heard the trendy term “food desert.”

What this generally means is people don’t live close to a grocery store.

Using the term “food desert” is problematic.

First, a desert is a vibrant eco-system, not a barren wasteland.

Second, identifying neighborhoods as food deserts ignores history and fails to acknowledge that most of these neighborhoods once had small grocery stores, farmers markets, fruit and vegetable stands and lots of backyard gardens.

However, economic and political decisions driven by the current industrial food system resulted in neighborhoods being both abandoned and undermined, often resulting in food insecurity.

It would be more accurate to say that neighborhoods experiencing a lack of access to healthy, affordable food are communities experiencing Food Apartheid.

Food Apartheid explains that a small number of people (agribusiness) determine the kind of food system that the masses can access.

Like the Apartheid imposed on Black South Africans, Food Apartheid means that few of us have a say in the current food system.

The movement for Food Justice is changing Food Apartheid. Asserting the belief that everyone has the right to eat healthy, food justice advocates engage in more locally grown food projects, sharing skills on how to grow, prepare and preserve food, while exposing the current food system’s unjust nature.

The Food Justice Movement is an international movement that is ultimately working for Food Sovereignty, where everyone has say in the kind of food system they want.

Food Sovereignty is Food Democracy, where healthy food is a right for everyone—not just for those who can afford it.

OKT stands by these Food Justice principles.

Food Justice:

- Recognizes that food disparity is the result of multiple systems of oppression.
- Advocates must focus on working with the most marginalized and vulnerable populations: communities of color, communities

in poverty, immigrants, children, our elders, women, people who identify as LGBTQ, those with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness.

- Require us to work towards the elimination of exploitation in our food system, both exploitation of humans and animals.
- Demands that we grow food in such a way that preserves ecological biodiversity and promotes sustainability in all aspects.
- Provides resources and skill sharing so that people can be collectively more food self-sufficient.

Eating Healthy Food is a Right! For more information on ways to practice Food Justice in your community, contact Our Kitchen Table at OKTjustice.org or OKTable1@gmail.com.

This article is adapted from one of a series of handouts OKT has developed on different aspects of Food Justice. Visit <http://oktjustice.org/resources/okt-food-justice-series/> to access the entire series.



★ Easttown ★

STREETFAIR

PEACE FESTIVAL 2015

By Amy Bennington
IGE Board Member

On Saturday September 12th, the Institute for Global Education will kick off activities to celebrate the 2015 United Nations International Day of Peace with a Peace Festival at the entrance to the Eastown Streetfair from 9 am to 8 pm.

A peace festival is a circle of peace where children can learn about the seven peace principles through hands on activities.

The principle of respecting self and others asks people to respect themselves, to affirm others and avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

The principle of communicate better reflects sharing feeling honestly and to look for safe ways to express and to work at solving problems peacefully.

The principle to listen asks to listen carefully to one another, especially to those who disagree with use and to consider the needs and feelings of others rather than insisting on having our own way.

The principle of forgiveness asks that we apologize and make amends when we have hurt another, to forgive others and to keep from holding grudges.

The principle of acting courageously asks that we challenge violence in all its forms whenever we encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work or in the community and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

The principle of respect nature asks that we treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.

The principle of play creatively asks that we select entertainment and toys that support our values and to avoid entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

On September 12th, each of the principles will be presented by various local organizations and faith communities that work to promote peace.

These organizations include Campfire West Michigan, Southwest Community Campus, Our Kitchen Table, Citizen Climate Lobby, Grand Rapids Buddhist Temple and Zen Center and , Nonviolent Communication.

This is a peace festival for all ages. Children and adults enjoy the activities and take the pledge to commit themselves to the seven principles as best they can to become nonviolent and peaceable people and work to make peace within their families, communities, and in their world.

This is also an opportunity for people to learn more about groups that promote peace in our community.

The peace festival is also a model that can be used anywhere to teach the principles of respecting self and others, listening, communicating better, forgiving, respecting nature, playing creatively and acting courageously. We look forward to seeing everyone September 12th.



Remembering Betty Ford

Submitted by Richa

I only knew Betty Ford for not quite the last half of her life, but that was plenty long enough to greatly appreciate her. She was not radical or outspoken by nature, but was a heartfelt peace-maker who was, perhaps in other ways, just as radical as the most devoted ideologue.

Betty was one of the steadiest persons around in a whole variety of peacemaking activities. The two of us were most closely involved in Parenting for Peace. Though she said she delivered a spanking "on rare occasions" as a young mother, as an older parent and grandparent she well understood the connection between "personal" violence (such as spanking) against children and societal violence up to and including war.

More than that, she understood the connections between many forms of violence, including the more subtle forms such as put-downs, rejection, etc. Unkind words and such were seem-



ingly foreign to her nature. The closest I remember her coming to criticism was something like, "Perhaps we could find a different way to do that".

She was there as much as anyone I know to help those of us in the peace movement who were willing to work on our own forms of violence. Would that there were many more like her—our local peace movement could be so much stronger!

She was also one to readily forgive and truly reconcile. I asked her once if people took advantage of that trait. Her incredible reply: "Never". Being Betty, she meant it. Perhaps her personality made that possible.

One other memorable



Photos from the 2009 Eastotwn Street Fair. IGE Photo Archives.

thing about Betty: For years after her husband Steve died, she got some of the missed intimacy from others. She was not shy about asking at least some of us for hugs. She always knew how much she was connected to the rest of us.

*Sharing Reflections,
Celebration of Life*

The next issue of the 'Equity' will be a special Tribute to Betty Ford and her work in the peace and justice community. If you would like to share your reflections in writing, please send submissions to Whitney Ehresman by Oct 1st, 2015.

Betty Ford Memorial Service

Memorial service will be held on
Saturday, September 12th, 2015 at 11:00 AM.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
4301 Ambrose Ave NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Betty's family has asked that contributions in her memory be made to Institute for Global Education (along with Friends of the Grand Rapids Public Library and Grand Rapids Friends Meeting).

Please stop in to the Institute for Global Education Office to share your memories of Betty or to make a contribution.



Betty Reid Ford
July 21, 1924-
August 6, 2015

*Founder, Elder,
Volunteer, Muse.*

*Lifetime advocate for
Peace and Justice*