



Many to Many

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I Healing the Whole

At this point on our evolutionary journey and behind the seemingly increasing cacophony of agitated voices sharing opinions and proposals we are slowly becoming aware of the sound of a ‘new note’. Prepared to leave our old ‘hats, badges and trumpets’ behind we are beginning to listen more intently to this ‘sound of newness’. We gather together to discuss and share our understanding of how we might allow this ‘heart whisper’ to influence our choices and guide the sense of direction in all future relationships. Ideas are shared and are melting into new joint proposals for restorative action – all flexible and open to improvements.

This increasing readiness for transformative changes was clearly demonstrated when the voice of a young girl, speaking truth to power, strengthened the sense of hope for the future in the hearts of old and long time workers for peace and right relations.

Her words and courage opened the door for other like-minded young people throughout the world, signalling the readiness of today's Youth for the work ahead and confirming the willingness of human beings of whatever age to 'grow up' and become who they – we – can and are meant to be.

Whatever way we, individually, as a community, a nation, or as members of a group of like-minded people, seek to explain, analyse and support - or even deny the undeniable change of climate in every sense of this word – we shall have to live with the decisions we make. No decision, or lack of initiative for change, will weigh heavily in favour of systemic failure.

I am reminded of the words of a highly respected surgeon and good friend of my father, who drove me to join my parents in a rented summer cottage, next to the surgeon's family holiday resort. I would have been around 15 - 16 years old at the time. During the 2-hour - or so – drive northwards from Copenhagen we spoke of many things but in particular about the good, the bad and the indifferent regarding health, healing and relationships. The surgeon, who also taught medical students at the hospital where my father served as a deacon, would speak to these budding specialists of the importance of not merely focussing on the area of the complaint: 'You must ensure,' he would say, 'that any decision re correct treatment and following care toward healing is based on a careful look at the whole person in front of you.' He recalled how, after one such session at the bedside of an anxious patient, he had asked if there were any other observations they would like to mention? When no one responded, he asked: 'So, none of you noticed that the patient was getting cold and was in real need of another blanket?'

He went on to stress in further detail the importance of paying attention to the whole person of any patient, adding that true and lasting healing would depend on more than mere removal and repair. 'The patient's will to live shall need help to overcome the sense of anxiety and handicap so as to truly heal, from 'inside out'.

The world today is still awash with 'expert' opinions, fiercely debating over the 'patient'. While we today have all possible methods and means of repairing - even healing - our planet, it is plain to see that our Mother is becoming increasingly exhausted from all the continuous and reckless demands made upon her. It is indeed high time we wake up and become aware of our planet, shivering from 'cold neglect', and today there are many signs that we people within all nations are indeed waking up and not merely seeing the Whole but paying ever closer attention to each and every part of 'livingness' within this whole. While we still can argue over 'methods and means' our hearts will remind us of the importance of consciously and conscientiously embracing the welfare of each and every little life within the entire Body of which we form a vital part.

And throughout the world we, young as well as old, are slowly waking up to the realisation that we human beings are not merely bridge-builders, but also – albeit slowly - becoming the very bridge that can, and will, bring every planetary kingdom into the new era in which all lives and livingness shall evolve and bring into being the fullness of the Whole.

II United Nations Youth Event at the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

On September 14th, 2019 the first annual youth side event to the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace took place in New York City. The event entitled “Empowered Youth Transforming Humanity” was held in honor of the 20th anniversary of the UN Resolution The Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace. Youths from all over the United States came together to discuss the next steps in peace building. The event began with a ceremony at the Isaiah Wall that included an Earth and Sky Blessing Ceremony that showcased a drumming circle that included multiple indigenous groups such as members from the Lokota and Otomi tribes.

The morning session of the event opened with remarks from Tezikiah Gabriel of Pathways to Peace who was one of the coordinators of the event. Her speech was followed up by a welcome from Reverend Edmonds who graciously opened his church to the youth event. His words of peace and love resonated with all who attended. The event took place throughout the church which allowed multiple speakers to present at the same time.

While in the main room attendees were able to listen to dynamic speakers of all ages talk about the future of peacebuilding. In a side room people were able to experience a photo exhibit by award winning filmmaker Kasha Slavner. The photos were from some of Kasha’s journeys around the world and each photo was followed by a description of where the photo was from and some of her thoughts from when she took them. While watching the videos, attendees were asked to share the experiences and emotions that they felt while viewing the exhibit.

At the same time guests were invited to be interviewed by Deborah Greene aka “The Peace Traveler.” Deborah has spent the last few years developing the Live A Moment app to help people from all over the world share their emotions and view others that are experiencing the same feelings. She also has traveled the world interviewing people as she goes about their views on peace not only on a global level but also about inner peace. Deborah also spoke on how technology is shaping the way peacebuilding will be accomplished in the future. For more details on her work refer to <https://ourstateofpeace.org/>

Among the other dynamic speakers was Xiye Bastida who has become an outspoken leader in the youth climate change movement. To learn more about her work head to <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/peril-and-promise/2019/09/meet-xiye-bastida-americas-greta-thunberg/>. Operation Peace Through Unity’s very own Anne Creter spoke on what we can do to influence change on a federal level. She showed us how we could lobby our members of congress in regards to getting them to become a cosponsor on H.R. 1111 which would establish a cabinet-level U.S. Department of Peacebuilding.

In the afternoon session, Jennifer Helene Popken spoke on “Eating for Peace.” Throughout her presentation she spoke on how eating and buying organic food plays a role in the peace process. At the same time in the main hall the Ashland Flame Keepers presented on what being flame keepers means to them. The students

who are all in middle school work together to tend to the World Peace Flame, located at Southern Oregon University, and keep it alive.

Besides the diverse group of speakers, there was amazing musical performances as well. Bruce Cryer, the founder of Renaissance Human, sang a song of his own creation called Bless the Children. The event closed out with an open Mic session which was MCed by Steve Chiu who also graced the crowd with a beautiful piano performance.

One of the best parts of the entire event though was the opportunity for attendees to hold open dialogues during breaks about their own thoughts and goals in peacekeeping. The bonds that were made through these conversations will only help to grow our passion for the work we are doing. And the connections that were made will only strengthen our cause. I for one cannot wait to see how the annual event will shape and evolve over the upcoming years.

Katie Karr, who wrote this article for 'Many to Many' is a youth representative to the United Nations for Operation Peace Through Unity Charitable Trust. She holds Masters degrees in International Relations and International Non-Governmental Organizations from Webster University. You can read her published works "The Lost Children of Britain" in the Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration.

http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/skoppenberg_oxmo_vol-2-no-1_june2012_0.pdf

III UN Secretary General's Remarks at UNESCO Headquarters

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, when speaking at a UNESCO General Conference held in Paris on 12 November 2019, praised the organisation for its work in many important areas.

Young people are key partners and act as agents of change in a changing world.

"... without the drive, creativity and innovation of young people themselves, we will not succeed in building a better future for all."

Changes are affecting all of us as individuals, members of society, in the workplace and the environment. While some changes will bring improvements, such as the implementation of artificial intelligence, there needs to be clear communication of all possible consequences. The better the communication, the better the social acceptance of change. When issues are not clearly resolved, this creates a breeding ground for conflict which may be both verbal and physical: from hate speech to religious sites being destroyed, as well as irrevocable environmental damage.

"Education is an essential pillar to achieve our objectives for 2030. And we are late. UNESCO has a fundamental role to play to coordinate and monitor global efforts in this regard."

Education, especially at younger ages, is a very important element in providing information on possible changes, possible solutions or better still, preventive actions.

The SG commended UNESCO for its work in promotion of education and young people and is looking forward to an upcoming conference on education.

Next year, 2020, will mark the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.

The following link shows the SGs remarks in full:

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2019-11-12/remarks-unesco-headquarters>

Kate Smith, PTU Co-worker - Kmwsmith48@gmail.com

IV A Global Pledge: For Every Child, Every Right

Thirty years ago, in 1989, the leaders of the world made a commitment to the children of the world by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through the years these rights have been helping to raise the awareness and understanding of the importance of the welfare of children throughout the world.

By way of moving forward, and so as to more effectively deal with the challenges that are facing today's Youth, all UN member states are invited to renew their commitment to the full implementation of the Convention and to sign "a global pledge: For every child, every right" <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/global-action...>

The importance of all Member States, working 'collectively' through partnership and coordination – and together with children - is continuously emphasised; each and all need to become the agents of positive change 'in promotion, protection and monitoring of their own rights for current and future generations..'

The deep link between promoting the rights of the child and the urgency of implementing the commitments made in the Sustainable Development Goals was strongly emphasised, stressing that the "Convention and the SDGs go hand in hand."

"While the Convention highlights the timeless and indispensable international standards for ensuring the realization of the rights of every child, the SDGs articulate a contemporary vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental progress that can be achieved when all people, including children, work together for our peaceful, prosperous and secure future."

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/open-letter-to-worlds-children>

Further to this, the following link can be used to locate the full text of the Convention, along with a children's version and a visual representation of all clauses of the Convention.

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>

V Model United Nations – a simulation

The opening words of the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations are: "We the peoples of the united nations...". (<https://www.un.org/en/sections/un->

charter/preamble/index.html) Although we are not all able to attend the sessions held at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, we are represented by career diplomats from our individual governments. Decisions are taken at a General Assembly of all 193 member states, as Resolutions, after debating at various levels on how the resolution might affect each country. The resolutions are prepared by preliminary discussions in six main committees, each of which deals with a specific area of interest. (https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un_system_chart.pdf) Should the issue involve the peace and security of a region, then the Security Council, composed of 5 permanent member states and 10 non-permanent, will make a decision. Whether these resolutions are implemented in a country does depend on 'we the people...' through our national governments. It is up to us to ensure that when action is identified it is also carried out. This process is assisted by various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who, when accredited to the Department of Public Information (DPI), are able to give us another voice at the UN. These organisations allow our views to be put forward at the UN while also keeping us informed at home.

Many groups have made a case for the work of the UN to be part of the (New Zealand) school curriculum. In a very full curriculum, it can be incorporated into various Social Studies programmes, but it will depend on the interests of the staff. In other countries, UN studies form a part of the student programme of study. The students from these programmes are often given the opportunity to take part in simulations of the UN General Assembly (GA) – Model United Nations, or MUNs – which are held in many cities in Europe and North America.

In NZ several groups offer MUNs, including Rotary and the United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) and its youth division, UN Youth. Peace Through Unity (PTU) works with the local branch of UNA NZ to present a MUN-GA twice a year – one for senior students and one for junior students – from local schools.

A MUN-GA is a simulation of the debates in the UN General Assembly. The GA was chosen to offer the widest range of countries to be represented – 193 member states. Schools choose a country to represent and form a delegation of three students. These students undertake research into 'their' allocated country – not their own country - to give them the challenge of finding out different ways of thinking about an issue. Simplified Resolutions are prepared for discussion with the possibility of putting forward amendments. This gives students some experience of 'lobbying' for support of their proposal. The issues chosen are topical and linked to UN deliberations; currently often based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To get some idea of coming from a 'different' country, delegates are able to dress in local costume. This ensures a very colourful meeting – and watching young people being able to remain in 'character' during the day is very interesting! To add even more authenticity, ethnic food can be contributed for lunch - again a very interesting meal. During the day staff are observing how students contribute and perform with certificates of participation issued, recognising dress, food, table decoration as well as team and individual input.

As many UN protocols as practicable are applied. One important issue is the terms of address, with 'the honourable delegate from

content of presentations is also expected to be 'diplomatic'. For those new to MUNs, the idea that you are not speaking for yourself is sometimes hard to remember – you are presenting your government's views – whether you, as an individual, agree with them or not. At the end of the discussion of each clause, a vote is taken. The three voting options, For, Against, Abstain, are explained and the results recorded. Where possible the officials will check that the voting follows a country's position.

The enthusiasm of a young teacher, from a nearby girls' school, for UN and MUNs in particular, saw her introducing a MUN to her school for younger students – Years 9 and 10. She asked us to assist with the running of these on three recent occasions. This has been an absolute pleasure and we are always most impressed by the growth in confidence of the girls during the day when they can share their research and excitement. Their latest MUN-GA became a collaborative effort between the Social Studies and English departments with the girls being assessed on their presentation skills for credits in English. With a little creativity, further cross-curricula involvement could be extended. This seems to me to be a tangible way for 'we the peoples...' involvement to be encouraged and so become a way of life.

MUNs give an enjoyable way to learn about the UN and its areas of concern. Many students have gone on to further study in international affairs and politics as well as the law at a higher level. This experience will improve the general understanding of our collective responsibility to, "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...".

Kate Smith
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VI "Open Science – Leaving No One Behind"

Each year, on the 10 November, the World Science Day for Peace and Development has been celebrated, and this year's theme is "*Open Science, leaving no one behind*".

This theme reflects the movement toward making '*scientific research and dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional*'. By moving albeit slowly beyond habits of rivalry between indigenous knowledge and so-called Western knowledge and acknowledging that a healthy collaboration between Western science and indigenous knowledge systems could help us to transform our societies 'to a new sustainable one rooted in healthy environments'. But first, '... the two must gain a better understanding of each other'.

In the medical field, a wide range of medications exist, partially thanks to traditional medicine from around the world, including several pain relievers as well as some antioxidant and antibacterial products. Further to this, traditional ecological knowledge has been gaining ground in recent years as a '*crucial aspect of natural resource management and our understanding of climate change*'.

Jacqueline Alvarez, Senior Programme Management Officer for the Chemicals and Health Branch stresses that '*a global shift to open science would support countries in the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste*', adding

“Open minds are the simple precursor to open science, and they have the power to change the world”.

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/science-catalyst-peace-and-development>

VII The River of Whanganui

Through a unique Treaty settlement, passed into law in March 2017, the Whanganui River (New Zealand) was given the legal status of a person. This settlement means that the river has all the rights and responsibilities of a person according to law.

Among other things, the river can now be represented in court proceedings, through the legally mandated “pou” who are currently, Tariana Turia – a retired MP and cabinet minister and, Turama Hawira – a noted Maori researcher and leader.

The legislation also provides for future management strategies to be developed by local iwi in consultation with other community representatives. There has also been a compensation package recognising past wrongs such as the destruction of native fishing weirs and dishonest land purchases.

“At a time when other regions have seen fights for who owns the waters, enlightened Whanganui iwi have said the river owns itself and we belong to it, not the other way around. This has moved many among the local pakeha population who recognise the breakthrough this represents in our relation to ecosystems and lights a path forward that we should be vocal about”. –

Keith Beautrais, who shared this information, is the environmental and conservations representative on Te Kopuka, the iwi led body charged with developing the new strategy.

Keith Beautrais: kbeautrais@gmail.com

The following text, written by Sue Gibbison, and forwarded to PTU by Esther Williams, offers impressions from the early morning awakening of the various beings living along river side, entitled:

VIII “Flash mob on the Awa”

“The canoeists are still asleep when first light reaches the river trench. There’s no wind, and the rush of the river is the only sound. One by one, the early birds begin their song. Small birds like toutouwai the robin and miromiro the tomtit tweet the first notes. A tui chimes in, echoed by the quardle oodle ardle of the magpies. The chorus swells, building on the river’s percussion. As dawn breaks, the diva gives her thirteen-note solo. The kiwi stalks off into the undergrowth, the sun touches the beech tree tops and the bush explodes with song. A pair of kereru swoop by, their wings beating swoosh-swoosh-swoosh in a chuckle of applause. The canoeists roll out of their sleeping bags and greet the day.

Written by author Sue Gibbison (suegibbison@gmail.com) and sent to PTU by Esther Williams (j.and.e.williams@xtra.co.nz)

IX New Zealand's top 10 architects declare climate and biodiversity emergency

Within the New Zealand construction industry there are groups who have responded to the call for action in response to the threatening world climate disaster. One of these is a group of 10 NZ registered architects, who formed the New Zealand group of Architects Declare NZ. Their declaration follows on from similar declarations by UK, Ireland and Canada and reads as follows:

"The following open letter is inspired by our UK colleagues, gently adapted for the environment here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For everyone working in the construction industry, meeting the needs of our society without breaching the earth's ecological boundaries will demand a paradigm shift in our behaviour. Together with our clients, we will need to commission and design buildings, cities and infrastructures as indivisible components of a larger, constantly regenerating and self-sustaining system.

The research and technology exists for us to begin that transformation now, but what has been lacking is collective will.

Recognising this, we are committing to strengthen our working practices to create architecture and urbanism that has a more positive impact on the world around us. We hope that every NZ architectural practice will join us in making this commitment."

<https://nz.architectsdeclare.com/>

As quoted in the October 2019 issue of Building Today, the official magazine of the Registered Master Builders Association "the construction industry accounts for up to 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, meaning architects can play a large part in helping to quell these emission rates"

Duncan Sinclair of Black Pine Architects in Wanganui stated, "The reason that minimising climate change and biodiversity loss is so important is not to save the planet – it's to keep it habitable, for us and our future generations."

www.buildingtoday.co.nz

Sue O'Leary
Company Director
Whanganui building company

X A Call to Silent Action:

Unite in A Global Silent Minute

~ 9 pm GMT on the Solstice, 21 December 2019 ~

"There is no power on earth that can withstand the united cooperation on spiritual levels of men and women of goodwill everywhere. It is for this reason that the continued and widespread observance of the Silent Minute is of such vital importance in the interest of human welfare."

(Major Wellesley Tudor Pole O.B.E. instigator of [The Silent Minute](#) in 1940)

The Solstice Silent Minute is a call to all people everywhere in the world to unite in **one minute of silence**. At 9 PM London GMT on 21 December 2019, we are invited to ring a bell (or imagine bells ringing) to prepare to enter into **one minute of silence**

in communion with the Forces of Light. It is an opportunity to unite in thought, prayer and meditation to create a better world for all.

Information on the Sydney Goodwill website about the Silent Minute begins by stating that *a single minute in Silence can recalibrate, resurrect and rejuvenate the course of evolutionary destiny*. Considering it's only— 1 minute out of 720 in a day or 525,600 in a year—this unique opportunity to spend 1 minute in silence for global cooperation with millions around the world, in my mind, seems worth our every sacrifice given the crisis of world conditions at this time!

Plans for the silent minute at the Solstice this year, emerged when three groups: Cygnet Centre for Peacebuilding; Sydney Goodwill Unit of Service; The Hill Center USA, came together with a focus on peace. They were inspired by the power, simplicity and universality of the WWII Silent Minute, and saw the potential to invite citizens everywhere to participate in a global silent minute dedicated to providing opportunity for global cooperation in our role as custodians of the planet.

The Silent Minute's history is as follows:

"The Silent Minute was born from a conversation between two soldiers on the eve of a battle in the mountains around Jerusalem in the First World War. One knew he would not survive the war and prophesied the coming of an even greater conflict that would be fought out in every continent, ocean and air. He urged his comrade to provide an opportunity for him, and millions like him, to assist from the "other side". He said: "Lend us a moment... each day and through your Silence give us an opportunity. The power of Silence is greater than you know."

The Silent Minute was instituted by his comrade, Major Tudor Pole O.B.E, during the London Blitz in 1940 as a moment to enter into Silence and, to provide a portal for cooperation with an "unseen but mighty army" in the subtle realms.

The Silent Minute called upon all citizens of the British Commonwealth nations and territories on land, sea and air to unite in thought – irrespective of philosophy or religion - in a Silent Prayer for Freedom and Peace. Every night on BBC radio, at one minute before the hour, the bells of Big Ben signaled the Silent Minute to begin at 9pm. Tudor Pole knew that if enough people joined in this gesture of dedicated intent, the tide would turn and the invasion of England would be diverted. Indeed, its success in bringing peace was acknowledged after the war by a high-ranking German Officer who was quoted as saying:

"...you had a secret weapon for which we could find no counter measure and which we did not understand, but it was very powerful. It was associated with the striking of the Big Ben each evening. I believe you called it the 'Silent Minute'."

Recently endorsed by His Holiness the Dali Lama, to help bring goodness, love, compassion, kindness and well-being into the world from higher spiritual sources, the potential of this commitment by "we, the peoples of all nations"—*our* commitment—to one minute of global unification in focused silence is likely unsurpassed.

It's been said by a Tibetan Master, *"The law is that two concordant thoughts increase the power seven times."* ([Leaves of Morya's Garden II, 155](#)) Imagine the positive impact we can create as millions of people unite in silence at the same time around the world on the December Solstice!

Most interestingly, the word “silent” is an anagram for “listen”. Sequenced differently, these two words share an underlying synthesis of component parts. In silence we listen and, in listening, we hear the sound of Silence.

“This quietness, this silence is the highest form of intelligence which is never personal, never yours or mine. Being anonymous, it is whole and immaculate.”

(J. Krishnamurti)

“...Silence was here before everything else, and it envelopes everything else. It is the most primary phenomenon of existence, both palpably something and seemingly nothing. Silence is prior to sound, not the cessation of sound. It is already present. If we drop into quietness for just a moment, we feel the presence of silence as an invitation.”

(Robert Sardello)

Throughout history and in all cultures an essential spirit of Oneness has been approached through the practice of stillness and silence. This is the source and root of all work to build ‘the defenses of peace in the minds of women and men’. This Oneness is the center of our being, where stillness of the soul can resonate with Silence. Through group silence we, of different faiths and spiritualities and of none, are able to share in an encounter with the reality and the presence of the one life and the one Humanity.

Group silence fosters insight. It is an active and creative silence where thoughts and ideas are conceived and perceived within the womb of the Mother of the World in which we live and move and have our being.

Silence is the language of the Heart where together we can create the culture of peace...a culture of Heart...the world we want!

We are all invited to assist in building the momentum to make this opportunity well-known. Invite others, your community; invite those on the other side; the power of silence is greater than we all know.

More information, a FAQ, bookmarks, cards and documents relevant to your city or country—and in various languages—may be found here: <https://globalsilentminute.org> and <https://sydneygoodwill.org.au/solstice-silent-minute-resources>

A time converter may be found here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter-classic.html> with a few examples below:

Los Angeles 1:00pm 21 December

New York 4:00pm 21 December

Buenos Aires 6:00pm 21 December

London 9:00pm 21 December

Tehran 12:30am 22 December

Darjeeling 2:30am 22 December

Sydney 8:00am 22 December

Auckland 10:00am 22 December

Ring the Bells and enter the Silence
Harness the Power of Cooperation and Compassion
Pause for One Minute for One Humanity

*“We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence.
We cannot mold the world as masters of a material thing...
But we can influence the development of the world from within as a spiritual thing.
Unless there is spiritual renaissance, the world will know no peace.”*

(Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General, 1953-1961)

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XI THE GREAT INVOCATION

**From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.**

**From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.**

**From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men -
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.**

**From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.**

Let Light and Love and Power restore the plan on Earth.