



Friends of Peace Pilgrim

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, All Volunteer Organization
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Wintertime 2006

"Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, hatred with love" - Peace Pilgrim

Number 47

Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim

The short days of winter have brought sleet and snow to the rough hills of New England, rain to the fertile valleys of California, and wind to the broad plains of Oklahoma. Our work continues in these locations and in the many other places around the world where our dedicated friends continue to share Peace Pilgrim's message.

We begin 2006 with a mix of emotion.

On January 10 of this year, our dear friend and fellow Friends of Peace Pilgrim board member Kathy Miller made her "glorious transition to a freer life" at the home of her daughter Kristin in Willits, California. Kathy was at peace and embraced by the love of her family.

Many of you have been personally touched by Kathy's warm personality, heartfelt music, and incredible dedication to our work of keeping Peace Pilgrim's message lively in the world.

From 2001 to 2004 Kathy worked full time as director of the Friends of Peace Pilgrim center in Somerset, California. Her easy smile, beautiful voice, incredible energy, and organizational talent graced our work and touched all who came into contact with her.

Her deep desire was to spend the rest of her life doing the "hands on" work of answering phones, packaging and sending books, overseeing the center, supervising volunteers, and interacting with our friends from all over the world. All these were things she did naturally and with great joy and competence. We wish her well on her new adventure. Inside this issue you will find additional reflection on Kathy's life and contributions to our work and excerpts from an interview conducted during the past year.

In November of 2005 board member and webmaster Bruce Nichols loaded a rental truck with our office furniture, computers and inventory and set off on the long drive from Placerville, California to Oklahoma City. Avoiding the interstates as much as possible, he drove east over the Sierra, then out across the vastness of western America crossing central Nevada, a corner of Utah, northern Arizona, southern Colorado, a touch of New Mexico and the long panhandle of Oklahoma over four days and 1950 miles of driving.

Much of this wild country has not changed appreciably since Peace Pilgrim trod it three decades ago and it was not hard to imagine a solitary figure clad in a blue tunic walking briskly toward a distant horizon absorbed in the great beauty, clear light, and vibrant spaciousness of these western landscapes.

In Oklahoma City, with the help of enthusiastic volunteers and much community support, our new



Kathy loved to share her songs of peace

distribution office was set up and is now the location from which our offerings begin their journey to our many friends around the world. Inside this issue some of our volunteers at the new office have shared their thoughts about helping with our work.

We are excited about this new arrangement and look forward to a long and productive stay in Oklahoma City, a town that was a frequent waypoint on Peace's pilgrimage routes. We thank everyone who has helped establish our presence there.

In Peace,

Cheryl Canfield, Bruce Nichols, Richard Polese,
Jeff Blom, and John and Ann Rush
The Friends of Peace Pilgrim Board

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brother-hood can never become reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional truth will have the final word...."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Remembering Kathy Miller

"Death is a beautiful liberation into a freer life. The limiting clay garment, the body, is put aside. The self-centered nature goes with you to learn and grow on the disembodied side of life, and then returns here into a suitable clay garment and suitable circumstances to learn the lessons we need to learn. Could we but see a bit deeper into life, we would grieve at birth and rejoice at death. If we but knew how short is the earth life in comparison with the whole, we would be less troubled with the difficulties of the earth life than we are troubled now with the difficulties of one of our days."

Peace Pilgrim

Free to soar, Our Love Goes with you, Kathy by Cheryl Canfield

Kathy Miller has graced our work and our lives with her strong and gentle spirit, her tireless service, and her inspiring songs. During the past year she has had a personal struggle with lung cancer, which she approached with an amazing acceptance and peace. Family, friends, health care professionals, and hospice workers have been touched, inspired and captivated by her spirit. She made her departure in her decidedly "Kathy" way, quietly, her daughter by her side. She simply stopped breathing. In some way, I think she found release in knowing that the transition of the work that meant so much to her and that she was so devoted to, had been completed. The distribution has successfully moved into new and enthusiastic hands in Oklahoma City, and the library and archives is settled at Peaceful Pathways in California.

Kathy will be so very missed by all of us. She is free, I tell myself, and know that that is true. Still, I will miss her. I would have loved more time with her. Ironically, the morning that she died I went to my mailbox and found a package from Kathy. It was an album for the Peace Pilgrim archives. I opened it up and there on the first page was a picture of Kathy on the front porch of the PP Center in Somerset, with two other women – Kathy standing off to the side and slightly behind the others. Smiling, radiant, and unpretentious. Her smiling face is reassuring – the spirit behind that smile steady and undisturbed.

Kathy is survived by her three children and their families - daughters Kristin and Wendy, and son Royce. All three have inspired us with the tireless devotion and care they gave their mother. Every time I spoke with Kathy she glowingly acknowledged and felt blessed by each of them. They have been wonderful role models of family support and I know how proud Kathy is of them – and they of her. It gives me great joy to know that she is surrounded by love.

*The best gift you can give
to those you love is to
work actively for a
peaceful future.*




Kathy Miller at the Peace Pilgrim Center in Somerset, CA

Some Insights from Kathy

During the last year of her life, Kathy was interviewed by Judy Jones about her music, her work with Friends of Peace Pilgrim and how her illness had impacted her life. A short excerpt follows. The full interview can be found on the Internet at – www.ontheroadwithjudy.com

Q. *How have you grown from volunteering at the Peace Pilgrim center?*

Kathy: When the Peace Pilgrim Center moved to Somerset, California, I was the only one there. The phone rang. A woman asked me, "What are the laws that govern human conduct?" I had entered a new dimension. I realized that people would expect me to have answers. What did I know? I am a very simple person.

My first step was to take Peace's message more seriously and put it into practice.

Often we look to change the big things outside of ourselves when we really need to attend to the little things inside and around us.

Doing the work of the Center increased my self-confidence. For instance, I had not previously worked on a computer and discovered that I learned quickly.

The Center daily received mail, phone calls and email from all over the world. I learned about the wonderful, selfless things people are doing for peace. There is a huge network of peacemakers. We must be steadfast, encourage and support each other. Each day we can work for peace in our own way.

I loved every minute of it.

Q. *Kathy your voice is lovely. Your first CD **Kathy Miller Honors Peace Pilgrim** absolutely took my breath away in its utter simplicity and clarity. Could you talk a little about the inspiration behind that CD?*

Kathy: Thanks for the kind compliment. I come from a singing family and I sing for fun. I have always valued simplicity and clarity and am pleased that you hear it in my music.

The film producer and documentary crew were in and out of my house every day. The creative energy was strong. I did some research and I watched a lot of raw

footage, but film is not really my thing. I did not watch TV or go to movies. My interest was Peace Pilgrim.

The creative energy emerged in me as songs. No one else was interested in what I was doing. Never the less, I was highly motivated.

"Peace Pilgrim's Message" came to me when I was walking in the neighborhood. "Restful Darkness" was written as a lullaby for my grandson, Devin. As the songs emerged, I began to think of recording them. But how could I do it?

At the time, I was working in retail sales. Sometimes I was at the cash register. One day there was a young man in my line talking about his little recording company. He was a delightful character that I had talked with on numerous occasions. I made an appointment to see him and he became my engineer. Serendipity had visited me again.

I started practicing seriously. I needed at least two more songs and I wanted them both to be Peace Pilgrim's words. Well, a song about being a volunteer got stuck in my brain. I tried to ignore it but it wouldn't go away. So I composed that one and then "Peace and Freedom" arrived; almost word for word from the Peace Pilgrim book.

The CD was first recorded in my home at my 60th birthday party. We had a wonderful time doing a sing along with "Health is Inner Peace". Later I recorded in a studio. I went there after work about 10 PM, sat down on a stool in a tiny recording studio and sang until about 1:30 am. I took one break. The whole process was magical for me.

Q. And lastly Kathy what do you want people to remember about your walk upon this earth?

Kathy: I've had time to think about this because my children are very concerned about my health. I tell them to choose whatever they treasure about me and live it in their own lives. It is not important whether I am remembered or not. What is important is that we strive to live to our highest potential for the good of all.

May we all be peacemakers.

(Kathy's music is available on CD and audiotape from Friends of Peace Pilgrim)



Kathy Miller and family at the Peace Pilgrim Center

Peaceful Pathways Sanctuary: Spreading the Seeds of Peace

by Cheryl Canfield

It was my great fortune in life to meet Peace Pilgrim when I was a young woman, and to come to know her as a beloved friend and mentor. It was my further good fortune to accompany her on the only two inspirational and educational retreats she led before her death. The first was to Alaska in 1979 where 18 of us started out from Anchorage, traveling in three rented cars. We camped out and cooked vegetarian meals over a campfire. The second retreat was to Hawaii the following year where once again we caravanned, sleeping and eating outdoors. She told friends afterwards, "It's just a beautiful retreat situation. We're together for a couple of weeks amid beautiful surroundings and everybody comes back inspired and uplifted – everyone ready to work for their own good cause." Just weeks before she died, Peace wrote to ask if I would accompany her the following summer when she planned to lead two retreats in the Pennsylvania area. I immediately wrote back that I would be honored to assist in any way. She never received my letter as "life's last glorious adventure" intervened.

I remember asking her once if a group of us could take her to India (a place we thought would be both inspiring and exciting). She laughed and told us her mission was in the United States – the most powerful nation – which could be leading the world in a positive direction if enough of us got together on that.

Another time I asked if she would come to my home and share her message and inspiration in a retreat situation. She said she would consider it. Peace died before I could organize that retreat, but the opportunity and place to gather people together with a spiritual focus has come to fruition in its own time. Peaceful Pathways, my new home and the new home of the Peace Pilgrim library and archives, celebrated an opening dedication in April of 2005. Located in Copperopolis (in the Sierra Foothills of Northern California), the beautiful 15-acre property has rolling hills and oak trees, a seasonal lake (Flower Lake borders the property through early summer), and a striking three-story geodesic dome.

In an environment that resonates peacefulness, it seems a perfect place to spread the seeds of peace. In that spirit, and inspired by my beloved mentor, Peace Pilgrim, Peaceful Pathways will be hosting its first three retreat workshops in spring 2006. The first, *Profound Healing: Making Peace with Your Body and Your Life*, is based on my book, *Profound Healing*. The second, *Steps Toward Inner Peace: Finding Your Power and Your Voice*, is based on Peace Pilgrim's steps, and the third, *Purpose and Meaning: Exploring the Heart of Your Life's Mission*. (For details visit www.profoundhealing.com or write to PO Box 423, Copperopolis, CA 95228)

"My inner peace remains in spite of any outward thing. Only insofar as I remain in harmony can I draw others into harmony, and so much more harmony is needed before the world can find peace."

Peace Pilgrim

Update from Oklahoma City

What has it been like to volunteer at the Friends of Peace Pilgrim Center? Board member Bruce Nichols posed this question to some of our Oklahoma City friends and asked them to write about their experiences during the last year of planning, preparation, and now working in our new office.

Sue Tarr has been the organizational champion of our Oklahoma City office. Her ability to coordinate activities and motivate others has been indispensable to the success of our relocation. Her energy and enthusiasm for Peace Pilgrim are an inspiration to all. She and husband Tom bring valuable skills and experience to our all-volunteer staff. Sue writes:

Flow is the word that comes up to describe experiences bringing the center here — synchronistic, serendipitous flow! From the beginning, it has felt like adult play.

The flow began with a conversation with Gary Guthrie, long time volunteer, about the center looking for a new home. We told Gary, "You should check out Oklahoma! Californians think they've died and gone to heaven when they see how much their money can buy here." The next day Friends of Peace Pilgrim board member Bruce Nichols phoned to discuss possibilities.

Peace Pilgrim walked through Oklahoma on her first pilgrimage and visited the state regularly during her subsequent journeys. There have been many articles and photos in local newspapers and she had established quite a few friends in the area.

A group of us decided to meet for lunch on an ongoing basis and set an intention to bring the center to Oklahoma City. Group member Joe Glosemeyer spoke with his daughter, Talitha, a member of the board of Trustees at Epworth United Methodist Church. Talitha's enthusiasm about bringing the center to Oklahoma City excited her fellow church members, who then voted to offer the center office space in their historic 1903 building.

More people inspired by Peace Pilgrim's words kept showing up to join the planning group. They were willing to commit in advance to volunteering if the center chose to move to Oklahoma City. In March 2005 group member Lakshmi Ramgopal went to California to help the Friends of Peace Pilgrim Center move to a temporary office in Placerville.

The flow continued when Bruce and Richard Polese came to Oklahoma City in May of 2005 to visit the proposed location and meet with our group. We felt very connected and aligned with their intentions. Volunteers had already pledged over seventy-five hours per month if the center moved to Oklahoma City. Additional support seemed likely from Oklahoma City University in the form of their intern program and from the nearby Classen High School for the Arts and their community service projects. We were thrilled to hear about these possibilities since one of our intentions is to take Peace Pilgrim's message into the schools. She's a part of American History!

Serendipity continued the day the moving van arrived. After hours of unloading boxes and carrying them up to our second floor office, a group of six teens from Classen High School walked across the parking lot. "Would you have a half hour for some community service?" I asked. "We'd love to!" They enthusiastically responded.

In no time they'd lugged the last 100 boxes to the second floor, making it look like "child's play". We also had an opportunity to share information about Peace Pilgrim with them.

We have had much local support and been well received in the community. The Interfaith Alliance and Religions United have been especially supportive and encouraging. Jeff Hamilton, President of the Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma told us, "Although I have not worked at the Peace Pilgrim Center, I am delighted that it has been opened so that her legacy can be accessed by those who have heard of her or who would like to become more informed. Many years ago I was able to meet with her when she was in Oklahoma City. She visited my home. It was a challenging experience. So pleased that the Peace Pilgrim Center is here."

All this flow has us wondering if Peace Pilgrim is smoothing our road, providing help from beyond. Now that Kathy Miller has joined her on the other side, we definitely feel like we have the "dynamic duo's" support! Perhaps this is why orders for materials have increased dramatically recently.

Kelly Osborne first heard about Peace Pilgrim almost twenty years ago when his aunt shared a copy of Peace Pilgrim with him. He wrote:

In early October of '05 a friend of mine asked me if I had ever heard of Peace Pilgrim. I told him I had but it had been 10 years since I had even thought about the lady. Over the next couple of days I looked at the Peace Pilgrim web site, and looked all over Oklahoma City for a copy of the book. My search for the book proved fruitless but as I looked a little deeper into the web site and read the newsletter, I found out that Friends of Peace Pilgrim would be moving the distribution office just ten minutes down the road from my home here in Oklahoma City!

I made my way down to Epworth Church and found Sue Tarr literally waiting at the locked door that I needed to enter to find a copy of the book I was seeking. I went upstairs to find not one, but thousands of books along with a handful of amazing volunteers who would be shouldering the load of running the office and getting out the Peace Pilgrim literature. Since that fateful day I have met with many people who knew Peace Pilgrim and were profoundly changed by her message and wisdom. I now have the honor of being a part of this organization of volunteers whose goal is to spread the message of peace.

I have had nothing but shining moments in my association with Friends of Peace Pilgrim and look forward to a lifetime of interaction. Thanks to all of you who are responsible for Friends of Peace Pilgrim

being in Oklahoma City and to all of you who originally created this organization. I am in your debt.

Melissa O'Neil offered this insight:

A prisoner wrote a letter, a sad, hopeless letter that he didn't think anyone would respond to. He was asking for guidance, for acknowledgment, for anything. That letter gave me pause. It made me realize how far-reaching Peace Pilgrim's message is, and how many people are seeking something that will inspire them, that will reach into their guts and make them feel the true meaning of love and inner peace. When you hold that kind of message in your hand, the very least you can do is stick a stamp on it and spread it around.

Despite a demanding personal schedule Maurice Hoover has been a regular at our office. He wrote:

Volunteering with the Friends of Peace Pilgrim is a wonderful blessing in my life. To have the opportunity to share her wisdom with people all over the planet is very meaningful for me. While I am not currently able to serve in the completely selfless way that Peace did, volunteering does give me the ability to serve in some small way amidst the busyness of the rest of my life.

There is always at least one letter or email that touches me so deeply that it brings tears to my eyes as I read about the ways in which Peace's message touches people, and the way they in turn reach out to touch those around them in their own special way. I get a palpable heartfelt sense of the beautiful connection that we all share at the core of who we really are underneath it all.

At our training session, Bruce said that he views our work as being a continuation of Peace's pilgrimage. I think about that every time I walk up the stairs to our office. May we all find ways in our daily life to continue the pilgrimage, wherever we may be.

Shyamala Vinekar's shared this account:

Volunteering for Friends of Peace Pilgrim has been a joyous experience. We began meeting at the restaurant for lunch to explore the center moving to Oklahoma City's historic Epworth Building. At our first meeting everyone agreed that the center office would need a lot of 'fixing up'.

I've always wanted to learn remodeling, so it was a great opportunity for me. Gary, Maurice and Tom taught me how to fill the cracks and crevices and sand the walls. The highlight of the fixing up was painting the walls with a roller. I enjoyed everything I did, plus being with the nicest people of the Friends of Peace Pilgrim.

Next, I made curtains. Sue and I had the greatest time, enthusiastically shopping for the curtain fabric, going to different shops and calling other shops for price checks. I think we enjoyed it so much that we forgot we were hungry or thirsty. Every moment was fun. We had so much energy!

Now I work at the office every Saturday. Every week I look forward to Saturday coming. Working on the database and packing the orders and laughing with Dorothy Danen is exciting. I have loved everything I've

done for Friends of Peace Pilgrim. In fact, I am thankful to everybody for this opportunity. The friends are great, the volunteers are great and the cause is the greatest.

Peter Pham has this to say about his experiences volunteering at the center:

I am blessed to know Peace and all her friends. Her message soaks in and purifies me. I have shared the message to collectively cultivate world peace. The first step is to harness inner peace. I am grateful and blessed to know Peace's messages and to be a volunteer and have the opportunities to interact with wonderful friends of Peace Pilgrim. I have come to believe strongly that the key to happiness is the cultivation of simplicity and inner peace. I believe that world peace is inevitable.

Gerry Clink hosted Peace Pilgrim and corresponded with her for many years. He shared these thoughts:

Becoming a volunteer with the Friends of Peace Pilgrim has brought a new positivism into my life reminding me of the excitement I felt when I met and corresponded with Peace Pilgrim thirty-eight years ago.

At that time, I thought the World was on the brink of a new spiritualism. Like the present day, the population of the United States was split in half with war hawks and peaceniks over the Viet Nam war. Peace Pilgrim injected consciousness of Peace wherever she went. Her life and style evaporated the cloud of materialism around her.

Following her quantum leap to a higher dimension, I got back to the business of materialism. In my private practice of rehabilitation counseling, I fell into the ego's effort to make a mark in the world, build a retirement program and lead the life touted to be great in the Reagan era: 'Greed is good.' I suppressed the reason I left my meteorology career and got into rehabilitation counseling to begin with, to be of service to humanity. The way of Peace Pilgrim fell from my consciousness to surface only occasionally. My spirituality suffered.

Then I joined a study group. I mentioned Peace Pilgrim in the group one evening, and Sue Tarr picked up on it. The next thing I knew, I was helping Sue and other like-minded people put together a proposal to have the Friends of Peace Pilgrim Center brought to Oklahoma City. Engaging in the effort to bring the distribution activity of the Friends of Peace Pilgrim to Oklahoma City ignited my enthusiasm to again experience inner peace and the growth of peace in the world.

My volunteerism with the Friends of Peace Pilgrim has reawakened my consciousness of inner peace. Following twenty-four years of dormant activity, I now find that the life and teachings of Peace Pilgrim are even more meaningful and vivid than when she was walking and teaching."

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and then go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

~ Howard Thurman, Civil Rights Leader~

Spirit of Peace Van Finds a New Home

by Bruce Nichols

One of the tasks left unfinished when the rental truck pulled out of Placerville bound for Oklahoma City was the disposition of the "Spirit of Peace" Volkswagen Bus.

In 1993 this 1977 vintage vehicle was used by filmmakers Clair Townsend, David Mueller, and Gigi Orlowski to criss-cross the United States interviewing people that had known Peace Pilgrim. The bus took its name from the "Spirit of Peace" documentary that would come out of this effort.

This turned out to be an incredibly timely project since a number of Peace's family members would soon make their own transitions and the important historical footage recorded by the film crew might never have been captured.

After that project concluded, the bus was passed on to Friends of Peace Pilgrim volunteer Jim Goodnow who was embarking in 1996 on his own cross country odyssey collecting signatures for a millennium peace scroll (*FoPP newsletter #26 Fall/Winter 1996*). He was in Ohio in December of that year visiting Dean Kahler, one of the students who had been wounded in the infamous Kent State shootings of April 1970, when the van's motor seized. Jim managed to purchase another vehicle with which to continue his journey. Part of the purchase price was the title to the disabled van.

And that was the last that was heard of the "Spirit of Peace" VW bus until 2003 when the well traveled vehicle rolled back into the driveway of the Peace Pilgrim center in Somerset, California. The owner and Ohio resident Anna Swearingen had often wondered about the large "Spirit of Peace" logo painted across the sides of the vehicle. An internet search led her to the Friends of Peace Pilgrim website where she learned of the van's history and decided that she should give it back to us. She and a friend drove the bus all the way from Ohio to California to make that happen.

For the next two years the bus sat, idle and unregistered, first at the Peace Pilgrim Center, and later when that property was sold, at the home of our friend Raven Spezza in Placerville.

While the bus was sitting in California, Friends of Peace Pilgrim board member Bruce Nichols was participating in two Peace Abbey sponsored Stonewalks (www.stonewalk.org). The "Spirit of Peace" crew had visited Sherborn, Massachusetts while on its 1993 documentary journey to film the Peace Abbey and interview its director Lewis Randa. Peace Pilgrim had been posthumously presented the Abbey's prestigious Courage of Conscience award a year earlier. A display case at the Peace Abbey holds one of her tunics, a pair of her well-worn shoes and other memorabilia.

When Lewis heard that the bus was languishing in California he immediately expressed an interest in acquiring it as a shuttle vehicle for the Peace Abbey. Friends of Peace Pilgrim decided to donate it to this good cause. Unregistered and with a few mechanical problems, the only obstacle was how to get it to Massachusetts. A few weeks before our final move to Oklahoma, a broker was contacted to arrange truck



Don and Dawn with "The Spirit of Peace"

transport for the vehicle.

Initially this seemed to be a quick and easy solution. But as the weeks dragged by and several expected pickups fell through it looked as if the van might never find its way east.

By mid November our equipment and inventory had been packed up and driven half way across the country and our new office was up and running in Oklahoma City. But the van still sat in a field in Placerville.

Then, on the weekend after Thanksgiving, Bruce came home from a few days away to find a message from the broker on his answering machine. A husband and wife truck driving team was in California headed east with room for the van. They needed an immediate response since they were anxious to be on the road and had the offer of an alternative cargo if they did not hear from us. The message was already a couple of days old and, since it was the weekend, it would be two more days till the broker could be reached.

Fortunately, the next message on the answering machine was from Don, the trucker, who also left a cell phone number. Bruce immediately called and spoke with Don and wife Dawn and found out that they had been unexpectedly delayed in Fresno on the way to the alternate pick up and would still rather get the van in Placerville since it was closer and on a more direct route east toward their home in New York State.

The next morning they were loading the van at Raven's. Before they left, she gave them a copy of the Peace Pilgrim book which Dawn read as they traveled east. Dawn fell in love with Peace and her message. She later would say that she felt that fate had delayed them in California and that they were meant to bring the "Spirit of Peace" back to Massachusetts.

On December 12th a fifty-three foot long car trailer was skillfully backed into the narrow driveway of a snowy Peace Abbey and the much traveled "Spirit of Peace" van rolled down the ramp to its new home. Don and Dawn had a tour of the Abbey and shared the story of their journey and the effect Peace Pilgrim had already had on their lives. Bruce gave them a copy of the original "Spirit of Peace" documentary before they departed for the run back home to upstate New York.

The Peace Abbey plans to do a complete restoration on the bus and stock it with Peace Pilgrim books and

booklets for the guests who will be met by "The Spirit of Peace" when the journey to the Abbey by rail or bus.

There is a final bit of information saved for the end of this article. Don and Dawn's last name is Sage and their trucking business is called "Sage Enterprises". The footage shot in 1993 for the "Spirit of Peace" documentary was the foundation on which the latest documentary about Peace Pilgrim was built. Its title: "Peace Pilgrim: An American Sage Who Walked Her Talk." We always refer to it simply as "Sage".



John and Ann Rush

Many of you know and love our senior board members John and Ann Rush. Two of the original compilers of our book, "*Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words*," John and Ann met Peace Pilgrim in 1957 and were long-time directors of the Peace Pilgrim Center when it was located in Hemet, California. In 2001 they moved with the center to Somerset, California where they continued to serve until 2003.

For the past two years, John and Ann have lived near their daughter Eric and son-in-law Albert Pfister in a small blue house on Quaker City Road in Charlestown, New Hampshire. Ann celebrated her 89th birthday on January 30, 2006.

John recently broke his hip and is currently recuperating at the Sullivan County Health Care Facility. Ann is there also, keeping John company and dealing with some of her own health challenges.

They love to hear from the many friends they made over the 20 years they were the voices on the phone, editors of our newsletter, and packers of innumerable boxes of offerings for Friends of Peace Pilgrim. You can send them a card or letter at the following address:

John and Ann Rush
Sullivan County Health Care
5 Nursing Home Drive
Unity, NH 03743



John and Ann Rush in the backyard at Hemet

Peace Pilgrim Returns from Space

In the early morning hours of January 15, 2006 parachutes opened over a 125 pound silver capsule and gently guided its descent into the Utah desert. The journey had spanned seven years and 2.9 billion miles. Onboard the "Stardust" spacecraft were two small identical microchips engraved with one million names – among them the name of Peace Pilgrim. One chip returned to earth aboard the capsule. The second chip will remain aboard the spacecraft and journey through space forever.

In the course of its seven-year odyssey, Peace's name had traveled several times around the sun, then far out beyond the orbit of the earth. The capsule rendezvoused with the Wild 2 Comet on January 2, 2004 collecting bits of space dust that may be almost as old as the solar system.

We don't know who added Peace's name to the chip's list but it was discovered sandwiched between MELISSA C PILGRIM and PEEPAW PILGRIM while searching for references to Peace Pilgrim on the internet. The find brought additional meaning to the words that close the introduction to our book:

*Free of earth, as free as air,
Now you travel everywhere.*

Friends of Peace Pilgrim Locations

Here are the addresses of our three locations:

Our primary mailing address for requesting Peace Pilgrim materials, inquiring about our work, or to send donations is in Connecticut.

Friends of Peace Pilgrim
PO Box 2207
Shelton, CT 06484-2207
Phone - (203) 926-1581
Email - friends@peacepilgrim.org

Friends of Peace Pilgrim is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with our office of record in California. This is also the new home of our study center and archives.

Friends of Peace Pilgrim
4399 Buckboard Drive
PO Box 423
Copperopolis, CA 95228

Our distribution office is located in Oklahoma City. Volunteers package and ship our offerings to friends worldwide from this location. Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 11 am till 7 pm.

Friend of Peace Pilgrim
PO Box 61303
1901 North Douglas Avenue – 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73146
Phone – (405) 525-3137

Peace Pilgrim Fights Arms, War

February 12, 1956

Intrigued by Money
Early in Life; She
Says on Visit Here

The "Peace Pilgrim" when She was in school, was "intrigued by the notion of making: money and getting ahead of everyone else."

"Fifteen years ago I saw the folly of that," she said here yesterday. "I dedicated myself to the service of mankind."

Peace Pilgrim — she gives no other identification — walked into Nashville Friday night, 7800 miles of traveling behind her. She has come to talk to church groups, college audiences, all who will listen. Her theme: "World disarmament." "If I told you my name, where I came from, it would mean nothing," she said. "I'm a voice, that's all."

Since 1953 the tanned and grey-blond haired woman as an ascetic, has been touring the United States on foot. She offers to those she meets: "Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love."

In her wanderings, Peace Pilgrim said she has zigzagged across the country, dipped into Mexico and Canada. She's headed up the eastern seaboard now. Her possessions are her clothes, a pad and pencil. She walks "until I am given shelter" fasts "until I am given food."

"There is a disarming quality inherent in loving," she said. "I see it often. Because I love all people, hatred, fear and suspicion leave their hearts. If everyone felt as I, loved as I, the world would be as God intended. And everyone is capable of making it so."

She will remain a wanderer until "mankind has learned the way of peace."

2-A THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, Sunday Morning, Feb. 12, 1956

She's Against War



—Staff photo by Joe Rudis
The Peace Pilgrim
Weapons of war and a voice of peace

"A time like this calls for much peace prayer and peace effort. All right work and right prayer has effect, all good effort bears good fruit, whether we see the results or not. In spite of the darkness in the present world situation I am not discouraged. I know that just as human life proceeds toward harmony through a series of hills and valleys, so a society has its ups and downs in its search for peace."

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