



Friends of Peace Pilgrim

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, All Volunteer Organization
P.O. Box 2207 ✂ Shelton, CT 06484 ✂ (203) 926-1581
www.peacepilgrim.org ✂ email: friends@peacepilgrim.org

Summer/Fall 2006

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

Number 48

Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim

The warm breath of summer has settled on the earth. Flowers blossom in our gardens and in the wild places graced by sun and rain and the richness of our planet. We hope you have had the time to get out and enjoy the "beauties of nature" that were such an inspiration to Peace Pilgrim.

July 7 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Peace's "glorious transition to a freer life." This spring a new printing of 10,000 our compact books arrived at our Oklahoma City distribution center. That shipment brought the total number of books we have published to 432,000. The last printing of the Steps Toward Inner Peace booklet brought the total copies of that offering to over 1,810,000. Our books and booklets have recently been sent to Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Indonesia, Australia, Taiwan, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada, France, Sweden, Bosnia, and all 50 states.

The pilgrimage that Peace Pilgrim began some fifty-three years ago is alive and well. Her message still inspires and offers encouragement to our friends, new and old, all over the world. All of us who volunteer our time and energy to this work are constantly amazed and heartened by the way her simple message of peace, truth, and love continues to be received by the world. And we are especially indebted to all of you who have also been touched by Peace and who share her story by telling your friends about her and by passing along our books and booklets.

In this issue you will find articles about new happenings at Friends of Peace Pilgrim, some stories about making peace with our environment, a long narrative from a friend who once distributed Peace Pilgrim books in France, and our usual collection of letters and email. We hope they will inspire you on your personal journey to peace.

By the time this reaches you, fall will be just around the corner. On September 21, the world will again celebrate the United Nations Day of Peace. We encourage you to take some time on that day (and every day for that matter) to think about, speak for, and take action on behalf of a more peaceful world.

In Peace,

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

Peace Pilgrim Pole Project

Many of you are familiar with Peace Poles. Promoted by the World Peace Prayer Society and bearing the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth", usually in several languages, these messengers of peace have been placed in many thousands of locations all over the world.

A few years ago a similar monument bearing Peace Pilgrim's message was erected in the country of Guyana in South America. One of our long time friends has been inspired to make a donation that would help us place similar poles in the capital cities of each of the fifty states.

We would like to solicit the help of our many friends around the country to facilitate this project. Friends of Peace Pilgrim will supply the four plaques with the following messages:

- ❖ THIS IS THE WAY OF PEACE
- ❖ OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD
- ❖ OVERCOME FALSEHOOD WITH TRUTH
- ❖ OVERCOME HATRED WITH LOVE



An additional small plaque will have information about Peace Pilgrim, possibly including an engraved picture.

The communities will need to supply an appropriate post on which to mount the plaques and a public location to display the "Peace Pilgrim Pole". The location could be on public or private property, but it should be accessible to the public. Examples of private property might be places like college campuses, church grounds, schools, hospitals, etc.

Planting and dedication of the pole would include a public ceremony. If possible, one or more of our board members would be in attendance.

We are looking for your help in finding locations and making arrangements in the state capitals. More detailed guidelines will be available soon. If you can assist with this project, please send a written proposal to:

Friends of Peace Pilgrim
PO Box 2207
Shelton, CT 06484

You can call (203) 926-1581 for additional information.

"One little person, giving all her time to peace, makes news. Many people, giving some of their time, can make history."

Peace Pilgrim



The Peace Dome at Peaceful Pathways in Copperopolis

Library and Archives Update Work Retreat, October 1 to October 14

A lot of remodeling work was completed last year on the old trailer that houses the library and archives at Peaceful Pathways – including the addition of a bathroom and completion of sleeping spaces. Most of the books are unpacked and displayed and the basics are in place. We also went through some harsh winter storms that caused damage in walls and ceilings which we hope to assess and repair before winter comes again.

There are many areas that could benefit from volunteer help and we are setting some dates in fall for a Work Retreat. It will be after the summer heat (temperatures are already reaching record highs) from Sunday, October 1 to Saturday, October 14. Board members will be in attendance during some period and volunteers may join for a few days or weekend – space is limited and will need to be confirmed in advance.

Here are some areas that need help (and any experienced hands):

- ❖ The roof of the library and archives trailer needs to be assessed and made ready for the coming rains.
- ❖ The entrance needs to be cemented and a railing installed.
- ❖ A small deck to be added on the back.
- ❖ Lots of painting projects – indoor and out.
- ❖ Small repairs on the small trailer (used for guests).
- ❖ The archives are in need of major organization.

Other outside opportunities are repairing of walking path signs brought from the previous center, using bush whacker to create more paths, lots of weed pulling, construction of raised beds for garden, etc.

These are just a few of the many areas that could use help. Creative ideas are always welcome!

Vegetarian food will be available for volunteers to prepare

and share. Peaceful Pathways is in the Sierra Foothills, an hour and a half from the Sacramento Airport. There is no public transportation.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cheryl at cherylcane@aol.com or (209) 785-8855.



All The Good Things - Revisited

During the past few months Public Television has been airing a program featuring inspirational speaker Dr. Wayne Dyer. During the program Dr. Dyer talks briefly about the impact Peace Pilgrim made on his life. He also mentions a story that appeared in the fall 1998 issue of our newsletter. This reference led to a host of inquiries and brought us a number of new friends. In response to some of the questions about the article, we discovered that the original source of the story was a book, Contact, The First Four Minutes by Leonard Sunin (now out of print). The Babemba or Bemba people make their home in an area of Africa that includes Zambia and the Congo.

The Babemba tribe of southern Africa has a social structure with an elementary criminal code. Their close community living makes harshness unnecessary. A visitor was deeply impressed by the tribe's handling of antisocial, delinquent behaviors, which are exceedingly infrequent.

When a person acts irresponsibly or unjustly, he/she is placed in the center of the village, alone, unfettered. All work ceases. All gather around the accused individual. Then each person of every age, begins to talk out loud to the accused. One at a time, each person tells all the good things the one in the center ever did in his/her lifetime.

Every incident, every experience that can be recalled with any detail and accuracy, is recounted. All positive attributes, good deeds, strengths, and kindnesses are recited carefully and at length. No one is permitted to fabricate, exaggerate or be facetious about accomplishments or positive aspects of the accused person.

The tribal ceremony often lasts several days, not ceasing until everyone is drained of every positive comment that can be mustered. At the end, the tribal circle is broken, a joyous celebration takes place, and the person is symbolically and literally welcomed back into the tribe. Necessity for such ceremonies is rare!



“ It is considered the highest level of enlightenment to simply ‘walk as you talk’ – Peace Pilgrim lived out this message and I celebrate her magnificent commitment to peace and harmony in the world. Indeed, she is my hero.”

Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

A letter from Hagit Raanan in Israel

Hagit Raanan, an Israeli woman with a deep dedication to peace, has worked with children and adults with the aim of breaking the cycle of mistrust and hatred and fostering the way of peace. We have supplied Hagit with "Steps" booklets in both Hebrew and Arabic to make Peace's message available to those she works with in the Middle East. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter:

Massive destruction in Lebanon cannot diminish the pain of the destruction in Israel, children getting killed on both sides – is forbidden to be the answer! It is not the solution! Wars are not the way out as history taught us already - no one ever won a war, not even when it is justified, if any violence can ever be justified... When will they ever learn?

People cry for help; Lebanese, Palestinians, and Israelis mourning, wounded, refugees, left with nothing... Children – the same children I believed would not have to suffer again the trauma of war. I was praying for this generation to be saved from the older generations' experience of useless hostility. When will they ever learn?

In such times I spend more and more of my time with the children who are sitting nonstop for the forth week in smothery shelters. I never know if I help them or they help me. It must be both! That is my share; that is my self-healing. So little in such huge ocean of pain! If only I could go also visit the children in the Gaza Strip and those in Lebanon... children are children are children!

Meanwhile I can spend time only with Israeli children in the north part of Israel - Jews, Muslims, Druze, Christians... The "Almighty" is not discriminating. All share this insane scenario. They are the light! I wish you could join me during the time when I tell the kids the story about Sadako Sasaki, the Japanese girl who was born in Hiroshima during WWII. At the age of 12 she was diagnosed with leukemia - a result of her exposure to atomic radiation. Shortly before her death she committed herself to folding 1000 paper cranes. According to an ancient Japanese tradition, doing so will grant a wish.

When I share this story with children, I tell them that this was Sadako's wish for them also. She asked very clearly for ALL the children of the world, ALL OF THEM, never to be part of the adults' conflicts, always to be left out! Then when I tell them that she was too sick to complete her cranes, and that they can help by folding 1000 paper cranes, you should see the sparkle in their eyes – yes! Enthusiastically instantly they cry: "We are committed to fold 1000 paper cranes! We are ready to make it happens! For ALL the children of the world!" Those little fingers folding small colored papers into the shape of cranes, then closing their eyes, praying silently together for Peace on earth, blowing the spirit of the prayer into the paper bird, wishing it to spread the message all over mother earth, for all her children! What a sight!

Learn more about Hagit and her work at:
www.bridgesofpeace.org

"The love of a single heart can make a world of difference."

*Immaculée Ilibagiza
Rwanda Genocide Survivor*

" Just after I dedicated my life to service, I felt that I could no longer accept more than I needed while others in the world have less than they need. This moved me to bring my life down to need-level. I thought it would be difficult. I thought it would entail a great many hardships, but I was quite wrong... I don't feel deprived of anything. For me, what I want and what I need are exactly the same, and you couldn't give me anything I don't need."

Peace Pilgrim

Gandhi's Pencil

When Peace Pilgrim was awarded the Courage of Conscience award by the Peace Abbey of Sherborn, Massachusetts in 1992, another of that year's recipients was Arun Gandhi, the grandson of the great Indian peacemaker Mohandas Gandhi. Arun has been a champion of peace in his own right. Founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, he travels and speaks about peace, drawing on the principles developed by his grandfather and addressing the subjects of conflict prevention, anger management, diversity training, and relationship and community-building. He often shares a story that highlights the impact his grandfather had on his growing up and offers insight into the depths of commitment that the senior Gandhi lived.

When Arun was about 12 years old, he lived for a time with his grandfather in India. He was attending a nearby school and the Mahatma had given him a notebook and pencil for use in his studies. One afternoon, on his way home from class, Arun decided that the pencil, now a sparse three inches, was no longer very useful and that he deserved a better one. He casually threw it into the bushes that lined the path and continued on his way home.

Later in the evening he went to his grandfather and asked if he could have another pencil. But instead of a pencil he received a barrage of questions from Gandhi. What had become of the pencil? How had it become so small? Where had the pencil been discarded?

After this period of questioning, the senior Gandhi told Arun that he should go out and retrieve the pencil. Since it was almost dark, he handed the boy a flashlight and sent him out into the night.

For several hours Arun struggled in the bushes but finally retrieved the discarded pencil and returned home to his grandfather. Gandhi then shared two lessons that stayed with Arun for the rest of his life.

The first lesson was that even the making of something as simple as a pencil uses the world's resources. To throw it away is to throw away the world's resources and that is violence against nature.

The second lesson was that because we can afford to buy many things in bulk we use them indiscriminately and thus, over-consume the resources of the world. When we over-consume we are denying these resources to people elsewhere who live in poverty and this is violence against humanity.

Gandhi taught that the little things we do everyday can be acts of violence and that only by taking care of these little things can we begin to take care of the big issues of violence.

Living with Peace

by Marjorie Agoston

Our European friend Marjorie Agoston currently lives in Spain. She previously lived in France where, for a time, she helped distribute the French version of the Peace Pilgrim book. Marjorie has recently written her own book. One chapter entitled "Living with Peace" describes her experience of distributing the Peace Pilgrim book in France after the French edition went into liquidation and she became its agent. Marjorie's book has not been published but you can receive a copy via email by contacting her at: marjorieagoston@hotmail.com

Have you already made friends with a person who is dead? I'm about to write about such a friendship.

Once, years ago, attending a Quaker program in Holland, we were told about a book we should all read. The book concerned an American woman, who came to be known as Peace Pilgrim and who had spent the last 28 years of her life crossing and re-crossing the United States of America on her mission for peace. On foot, she had only the clothes she wore and carried nothing besides a comb, a toothbrush, and some copies of her peace pamphlet: "Steps Towards Inner Peace". She carried no food, no water or anything else to drink, and no money... The book was called *Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words*, and was compiled from her writings, talks and broadcasts by a group of her friends following her death.

In those days, before the availability of information via the Internet, it took me a few years to track down the book. When finally I did, I was thrilled by her adventure. Basically, it is the story of one woman who answers her call and was granted the strength and means to do so, as one always is, in the case of a real call. I wanted to share the book with my friends, so I wrote away to ask about the possible existence of a French translation. I received an immediate reply. The organization in the U.S. urgently required a person or group to distribute the French translation, the stock being about to be liquidated. (The book had not corresponded to the image of that particular publishing house.)

I thought of the Quakers and, as the Annual General Assembly was about to take place, I put it before them. Due certainly to their already heavy schedule, the matter was never taken up. I felt then that this particular call was for me alone and I, myself, volunteered.

The stock consisted of 37 cartons each carrying 48 books. These were duly delivered to the ground floor of our apartment building, and two of us carried the cartons up the five flights of stairs to our flat. The problem, however, did not end there. Where were we to put them?

George and I and our two children were living in a space totaling 500 square feet, including a balcony. The flat comprised the living room with our foldaway bed, one bedroom, a box room converted into a tiny bedroom, a kitchen and minute hallway. There wasn't a bathroom. Off the hallway were what amounted to three cupboards. One cupboard contained a Turkish style (hole in the ground) toilet, fitted with a shower. Next to this was our "toilet

cupboard" with a small basin and shelves for toilet accessories. Lastly, there was a shallow storage cupboard which held mainly tools and files. Next to this, on the floor were the telephone and a pile of telephone books on which to sit while telephoning.

Finally, we lined the far wall, the longest wall of the living-room/bedroom with cartons, stacked four and five high. From then on, they were clearly visible in all our photos. As well as this, we made two arrangements which, covered with rugs, served as seating.

Next, I had to form a non-profit making association with a bank account in order to sell the books at cost price and to gradually repay the American organization, which had bought the stock. The cost of the book was modest: 30 French francs per book (253 pages plus photos). The New Age style cover was misleading, however. Forming the association was greatly helped by the knowledge and experience of my friend Sarr Ousmane. He told me exactly what to do and expect and gave me a model of the statutes of such an association. So that part went fairly smoothly, though apart from the immediate family members who formed the skeleton, i.e. the minimum administrative committee required by law, I had next to no success in attracting other members. The 50 French francs annual membership fee would have helped to cover such costs as publicity and the granting of free copies which in fact, I financed alone.

Almost all the selling of the book came down to me personally. I did this mostly after Quaker meetings for worship on Sundays, when there were often visitors including people who had had a personal encounter with Peace Pilgrim. I also sold it through my work. The book drew mixed response. To say the least, its readers didn't seem to take up the habit of discussing or recommending the book, and this surprised me a lot. The book also caused some angry responses from people I would not have expected it of. One friend accosted me in the street. "I wouldn't dream of reading a book by an unnamed author!" (Presumably that eliminated most of the Bible from her reading list...) A copy I gave to a library never appeared on its shelves. Some people dismissed the book as being entirely too utopian... Distributing the book was in no way an easy task.

This, however, is how Peace Pilgrim (Mildred Norman until she adopted the more anonymous name to guard against obscuring her message), became my friend and mentor.

Some years later, when our daughter required finance for long studies, we decided to sell up everything, apart from our small holiday flat in Spain, so as to make an equal division between the two children. The division was based on the money needed for our son to buy a place to live, and where we would live with him. So we left our home of twenty-four years and moved to an even more modest flat, though still in central Paris. By that time, about half the stock of Peace Pilgrim books had been distributed. The remaining stock went with us and as we had almost no furniture to take, most having been built in to make the best availability of the space in the old flat, we made a platform of the remaining cartons. With a mattress on top, this

became our bed, a "peace" bed!

Naturally, the platform got smaller and smaller, but right to the end, when George and I left to come and live in Spain for reasons of George's health, there were enough cartons to support our mattress. Those remaining cartons went to various people working for peace and who would distribute the books free of charge, as suggested by the American association. All this happened during the immediate upheaval of moving, and I haven't kept in contact with these people to know how they got on. My part of the mission was over and the association was closed down. My next mission was to be of a completely different nature.

Peace Pilgrim, who had worked closely with Quakers, never claimed membership of any church or body, and this for the sake of her mission. Her life did, however, embody two very important Quaker principles:

- Live adventurously!
- Walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one!

(George Fox, 1656)

There comes to mind also the story of two Friends talking together about a particular event. "Well, I won't be coming next year," one said to the other. And the other answered, "How do you know what God will require of you, a year from now?"

How indeed! Hence the need for us, however much work may face us, not to become so committed that we are no longer free to answer a call. We must remain available and open to the prompting of God within.



A note from John and Ann Rush

Thank you so much for all the cards and letters we have received since moving from the Peace Pilgrim Center. How wonderful it is to hear your many kind words, which make us feel so appreciated and loved! We enjoy hearing from our friends from the past but it is difficult for us to write back to everyone separately.

We are now living at the Sullivan County Health Care Home in Unity, New Hampshire which is about 5 miles from our daughter, Erica. It is nice living so close to our daughter but we do miss our many far away friends and the Peace Pilgrim Center. We are glad the Peace Pilgrim Center continues to have devoted volunteers who are filling requests for materials, inspiring people around the world.

Peace and Love,
John and Ann

You can write to John and Ann at:

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

Earth Trustees

Many people are familiar with Earth Day, an event that is celebrated on April 22. Perhaps fewer are aware that John McConnell, who celebrated his 91st birthday this year, was the brainchild of the original event that took place on March 21, 1970 in San Francisco. The day also marked John's 55th birthday. John, who met Peace Pilgrim while she was on her pilgrimage, is still working to help protect the planet. His current project invites us all to become trustees of our beautiful earth.

EARTH TRUSTEES -- The new idea that Earth Day provided:

The nurture and renewal of Earth is our most urgent task. To this end we, individually and with the help of others, seek in our jobs, buying habits, travel, land use and other actions -- at home, work and play -- to respect and protect Earth's amazing web of life, its soil, water, air, plants and living creatures, to act as trustees of our portion of our planet.

We believe every individual and family should have an opportunity for a stake in this planet, for a home, education and meaningful work; that in their personal Earth-stake, or area of responsibility, they should act, not as spoilers of Earth, but as stewards.

We invite you to seek with us ways of living that will not hurt the Earth, but instead protect and nurture its beauty and bounty.

Spread the word to others. The more Earth Trustees there are the more we can trust the future and each other. When enough people care for the Earth and trust each other we will have a healthy peaceful planet.

John McConnell, founder of Earth Day

You can learn more about John, Earth Trustees, and his "Star of Hope" project at www.earthsite.org.



Peace Pilgrim in Print

"Waking in America: A Brief History," a fine feature article by Stephen Altschuler, appeared in *Common Ground Magazine* (the Bay Area's magazine for conscious community, San Anselmo, CA). Walkers from Edward Payson Weston in 1861 to Planet Walker John Francis were covered, "But perhaps the most remarkable story of an American walker was that of Peace Pilgrim," Altschuler writes. He is the author of *The Mindful Hiker*. Altschuler recommends Cheryl Canfield's *Peace Pilgrim's Wisdom* in a reading list with his article.

Peace: Quotations and Aspirations is a lovely small gift book compiled and edited by Tammy Ruggles this year. Four quotations from Peace Pilgrim are among some 200 thoughts on peace from world figures ranging from Gautama Buddha and Jesus to Albert Schweitzer and Martin Luther King. *Peace* is available at \$9.95 from Clear Light Publishing, 823 Don Diego, Santa Fe, NM 87505. -- *Richard Polese*

Letters and Email

From a friend in Canada:

Hello,

I stumbled upon your web site this evening, while I was searching for some meaningful words on the topic of inner peace. I have been feeling a spiritual and emotional void in my life for some time and despite useless efforts to fill those voids, they only seem to be becoming more prevalent and harder to ignore. I had a few hours to myself this evening, so I thought I would maybe find a few intelligent words to "digest" on the internet. After spending about 2 hours reading about Peace Pilgrim and absorbing excerpts of her truly amazing thoughts and message, I feel as if a higher power has shown me where I should really start searching for this inner peace I am craving.

I don't know why I am writing so much, just to ask for her book, but somehow I feel I need to.

I am 34 years old, a stay-at-home mother of three young children, happily married and a professional accountant who teaches business courses at a local college a few hours a week. From the outside looking in, I seem to have the ideal life. Three beautiful, healthy, smart children, a loving husband, a large new home, luxury cars, busy social life, a close-knit successful family, etc...-the picture of thirty-something "success". The reality of it is that I have days where I feel depressed, sad, angry, frustrated and empty. I get angry with myself for even daring to feel this way. I know it is a sin to take so much for granted. I am catholic, but I do not go to church all that regularly. I believe in God, but I have had so many questions regarding my religion, which nobody has been able to answer to my satisfaction, that I have begun to feel skeptical. In turn, I have been feeling guilty for even daring to question.

I have asked those around me for wisdom and a way to a more meaningful existence, but it seems that they are just as lost as I am. I have read several books on spirituality and fulfilling our purpose in life in order to find meaning, but after completing them I forgot their message. Until tonight, nothing has ever struck such a cord in me. I read the excerpts from the newsletters, with tears streaming down my face. After reading the words of Peace Pilgrim, I came to a big realization. Inner peace, a meaningful existence, is not limited to any one religion. It is about so, so much more.

I feel a sense of relief, that I have discovered that such an inspiring soul has walked this earth so recently. I so want to know more about Peace Pilgrim's message and I would be very grateful if I could receive a copy of her book.

I thank you in advance for providing me with, what I believe, will be life-altering words.

“There is never really anything to be discouraged about, because difficulties are opportunities for inner growth, and the greater the difficulty the greater the opportunity for growth”

Peace Pilgrim

From Florida:

Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim,

"Steps Toward Inner Peace" is a truly powerful and inspiring book. I have probably read every saying ever written, and many spiritual, religious, and philosophy books through the years, but none so touching as this simple little book. I plan to keep re-reading it and sharing this little book with everyone I feel could be touched by her message.

P.S. I will be giving away almost all of my other spiritual books.

Kathy

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### From Missouri:

How closed in and out of touch I feel to never have known about "Peace Pilgrim", until watching PBS presenting Dr. Wayne Dyer's "Inspirational".

I visited this website and was absolutely brought to tears. Maybe it's because I had just watched Dr. Dyer's moving presentation. I'm 57 years old and as long as I can remember, because I was sensitive to abuse, pain, desperation, in the world outside mine, I was a crazy "liberal". All my life I have tried to alter my thoughts and behavior to "fit in". What a late in life validation to learn I was really trying to live "in spirit".

I wish I could have met and known the "Peace Pilgrim" earlier in my life or at least been able to read about her.

For those of you who have been moved and touched by what this wonderful woman represents, bless you. Your cause of trying to let everyone else learn and feel this Peace Pilgrim's message is so wonderful.

I would love to receive a copy of her book. I will forward back to you a donation, as best I can.

Sincerely, Jill

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An Email:

I have been walking this earth for 42 years, many of them in great unease and pain, hurting myself and others. Deeply thankful already for the path of inner peace that I am on, Peace Pilgrim's love has found me and somehow we have fallen into perfect step. I am deeply thankful for my life and all things and am every day and in every way experiencing deep fulfillment in giving freely of the joy that fills me. I have no material means with which to support you, Friends of Peace Pilgrim, but the waves of love and peace received from Peace Pilgrim's message have definitely hit my shore and are rolling back to you!

With love, Christina

From Wild Bill's letter:

I'm writing today in the hopes of obtaining a copy of the Peace Pilgrim book. The wisdom of Peace Pilgrim is something I've grown to cherish and would greatly love to once again seek comfort and wisdom in her beautiful words!

...Peace Pilgrim will always be a source of inspiration and an example of how our simple actions carry the overwhelming power of the truth! She walks in grace I can only hope to aspire to! And there could not be a time that we, as a society, need to hear her message of peace more than we do now. Fear, greed, and social insanity have been rampant, and our own destruction as a nation seems at hand, but not from outside forces or terrorists, but instead from within. What better time than now to bring us back to the basic truths of peace and love?

...May the abundant blessing of peace and love be upon you always – keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Wild Bill

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**From a former Canadian convict:**

I came into contact with the Peace Pilgrim's writings in a Canadian Federal Penitentiary. She really gave my spiritual journey a boost and helped me understand a lot of things and helped me tolerate and love some of the more hated convicts in the prison. I used to pass out the little blue booklet to fellow convicts (prisoners). Thanks to you I usually had an extra book or booklet to give away.

As of today I have been out of prison for eleven years and six weeks. I was doing life on the installment plan before - a deuce, a triple, two sixes back to back and many years of pre-trial. My appreciation goes out to people like you, Peace Pilgrim, Bo Lozoff, the Catholic Chaplain Joan Palardy, and most of all, my buddy Greg who introduced me to the Peace Pilgrim by leading me a book already sent to him. I guess I should be thanking The Big Guy the most or whatever Spiritual Power is out there and in here (my heart). Again, keep on keeping on. You are doing something most worthwhile and I wish I could get involved in such a tremendous force for peace, The Peace Pilgrim's message.

Thanks again, D.C.

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From Washington State:

Peace Pilgrim has certainly inspired me. In my late teens and early twenties I was a pretty gung ho soldier, serving eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

I was never very happy in my role of studying for war. At the age of fifty I began thinking about the effect my life was having on humanity and the planet and decided I had already taken more than my share of the earth's abundance. I stopped owning automobiles and gave away my possessions. I began carrying a peace sign on my shoulder, replacing the rifle that



*Peace Pilgrim Portrait by William "Wild Bill" Bellomy
a prisoner in Texas*

had once been there. I am now living a life of voluntary simplicity. I have never been happier and it keeps getting better.

Peace, Love, and Joy, John

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**An Email From Michigan:**

I have just spent the last hour reading the insights on receiving INNER PEACE by the Peace Pilgrim. They were the most beautiful passages I have read. Lately, I have been feeling that I need to find my purpose, so I have been in the process of finding out what it is. I was amazed to find that I had already started some of the steps that she mentioned. My desire for PEACE gets greater everyday. I have committed myself to be LOVING and sharing LOVE with everyone I come in contact with. Sometimes on my road to inner PEACE I do stumble, and the bad feelings are so overwhelming that I pick myself up and start all over again.

All I think about is doing GOOD, I want to help others, but many days I fall into the trap of my old habits. Thank you so very much for this website!! I am sending you this e-mail with tears in my eyes, because GOD has directed me to you!! Our paths cross because this is truly the journey I must be on. In closing, could you please send me a copy of the book by the PEACE PILGRIM, I am going to use it to help guide me on my daily journey to PEACE!!

# Woman known as Peace Pilgrim killed in car crash

25 Years Ago  
July 8, 1981

By MARY KRAMER – Post-Tribune Correspondent

**KNOX** – The blue eyes never will make contact with another individual again. The voice which carried across a room so clearly, reaching her listeners with an unwavering conviction in the power of love and truth, is stilled.

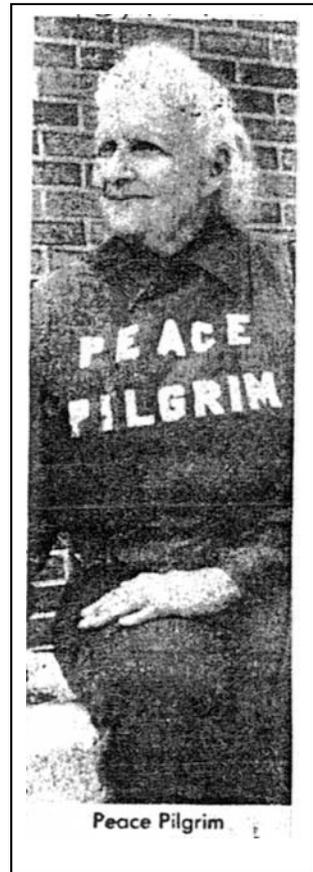
Peace Pilgrim, who wandered the North American continent as a witness to peace for more than 27 years and had spoken in Valparaiso Sunday, was killed in an automobile accident Tuesday afternoon east of Knoxville.

She was a passenger in a car driven by Euwell Ward of Bass Lake, who had offered her a ride to her next speaking engagement in Elkhart. Peace Pilgrim, 72, died at the scene. Ward died a few hours later at Memorial Hospital in Knoxville.

Peace Pilgrim spoke at three services at United Methodist Church in Valparaiso Sunday. The Rev. John Wolf, pastor of Valparaiso United Methodist Church, had known Peace Pilgrim since the late 1950s. He found after her death her "contact point" in Cologne, N.J., which was her mailing address while she wandered the country, was in fact her younger sister, Mrs. Eugene Young.

Peace Pilgrim's real name was Mildred Norman. She was born July 18, 1908, in an area near Cologne, according to her birth certificate, which she carried among letters in her pockets.

Memorial services aren't planned locally but it is expected people across the nation will observe her wishes for anonymity with personal services of their choice.



“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: Her Life and Works in Her Own Words*  
- Pg.84

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