



# Friends of Peace Pilgrim

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, All Volunteer Organization  
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*"Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, hatred with love"* - Peace Pilgrim

Number 51



*John and Ann Rush – Partners in Peace*

## Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim

In the last issue of our newsletter we let you know of the "glorious transition" of our dear Ann Rush in November of 2007. We now also need to inform you of the "beautiful liberation into a freer life" of her husband John on March 28th of this year.

For eighteen years, John and Ann were the hands and heart of Friends of Peace Pilgrim. Working out of their home in Hemet, California they joyfully dedicated their lives to the work of spreading Peace Pilgrim's message. During those Hemet years they sent out almost 400,000 books and over one and a half million "Steps Toward Inner Peace" booklets to friends in over 100 countries. Quite likely, you were among those whose first introduction to Peace Pilgrim came in a package postmarked "Hemet, CA 92544." We continue to stand in the long shadow of their accomplishments.

John and Ann first met Peace Pilgrim in 1957 while they were living in a Quaker community they helped found on the wild northern end of Kootenay Lake in British Columbia. Over the next two decades they moved several more times in search of a community and work that would nourish their deep aspiration for a simple and meaningful life and a path of service.

During that time they continued to stay in touch with Peace Pilgrim and were occasionally her hosts as

her seven pilgrimages unfolded. After Peace's death in 1981, John and Ann helped compile our book, *Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words*, and began the work that became the focus and fulfillment of their "retirement years."

You will find more details of their extraordinary life inside the pages of this issue.

*In Peace and Friendship,*

*Cheryl Canfield, Richard Polese, Mayte Picco-Kline,  
Jeff Blom, and Bruce Nichols.*

*The Friends of Peace Pilgrim Board*

*"This body is not me. I am not limited by this body. I am life without boundaries. I have never been born, and I have never died... Since before time, I have been free. Birth and death are only doors through which we pass, sacred thresholds on our journey. Birth and death are a game of hide and seek. So laugh with me, hold my hand, let us say good-bye, say good-bye to meet again soon. We meet today. We will meet again tomorrow. We will meet at the source every moment. We meet each other in all forms of life."*

From *"Chanting from the Heart"* by Thich Nhat Hanh

## Memories of John and Ann Rush

*From a biography of Ann Rush by Nancy Poer*

*While John and Ann were still living in California, our friend, Nancy Poer conducted a series of interviews with Ann that served as the basis for Ann's biography. Excerpts are presented here. The entire text can be found on our website at: [peacepilgrim.org/htmlfiles/annrushbio.htm](http://peacepilgrim.org/htmlfiles/annrushbio.htm)*

### Meeting

Ann met John Rush at a YMCA dance in Whittier, CA. While most young people of the time were swinging to fox trots, jazz and the Charleston, John and Ann both managed to find one of the few places where folk dances were held.

Because he refused to take up arms out of principal, John was sent to a conscientious objectors' camp in California, where he did work that was being neglected because of the war. As an adamant pacifist, he would not consider joining the military, even the medical corps, because he believed that would still serve the "killing machine." He'd come to the dance with friends from his camp.

He stood in the dance hall that night like a young Jimmy Stewart, with a country guy stance, feet apart, and swath of curly brown hair over his brow, mouth slightly ajar over a stubborn lower lip and chin, and a mischievous twinkle in his big, guileless blue eyes. Ann, though uncommonly beautiful, had given up the cosmetic trappings most women then adopted for allure – plucked eyebrows, high heels, silk stockings, curled hair and carefully applied makeup. John walked Ann back to her house after the dance that evening. In telling the story, Ann allowed that she did tell him on that first meeting that she was a divorcee, but did not mention that she had two children. She said, "But I had been praying and praying for a man who would be a good father to my children!" (John smiled as she told this and remarked, "And I thought I had free will!") John soon was a regular part of her life.

Here is John's description of their first meeting: "It was the custom for each boy at the end of the dance to take a girl to her home. I asked a girl but she already had a date. I saw Ann nearby so I asked her. This was one of the most important decisions I ever made. It was the start of a long relationship that continues today, 60 years later. We sat on the front porch talking, sharing and exploring ideas with each other and found we had much in common. This exchange gave me an insight into her character. She told me how she had been inspired in college to devote her life to service. She had wanted to help the Farm Workers in their struggle for justice and had not been able to fulfill this desire. The next morning at the Sunday school in the Quaker Church we agreed on most of the issues considered. There seemed to be a flow of spiritual union between us."

John was hardworking, stubborn, principled, kind and often skeptical. But he wasn't cynical and, later in life, had a song or joke for every occasion. Ann couldn't have made a better choice for a husband.

John said his family was shocked that he was considering a relationship with a divorcee – one with two small children to boot – hardly a suitable match for a nice Quaker boy. They felt he had been "taken in" by her beauty and charms. "I was taken by her glamour," he admitted, even though he met her as a "natural" beauty after she had stopped using makeup. In an act of understanding, typical of Ann's openness and concern for others, she wrote a letter to his relatives, explaining that she could understand why they would be worried. Then she described how much she admired John. (Later in life, 86-year-old John quipped: "I wish I could find the letter that said so many good things about me. I'd like to read again what a fine fellow I am!"). In time Ann won his relatives over.

Ann describes one evening kneeling by her bed, praying and wondering about marrying John. As she was thinking of him with intense concentration, she turned to her 5-year-old son who had just come in. He put his hand on her shoulder and said, "Mom, you look like John!" That was certainly a sign. Neither John nor Ann later remembered him making a formal proposal. "We just knew," they said.

It is a Quaker custom to send a community member to counsel a couple before marriage to see if they are prepared for the responsibility. A Quaker friend who met with Ann and John expressed concern that John had no job and virtually no assets aside from his aging car. Ann and John were also concerned, but not deterred.

They were married at the Orange Grove Friends Meeting House in Pasadena, California, on June 24, 1945, with 5-year-old Heath and 3-year-old Pamela sitting beside them. The wedding was one of Heath's happiest early memories – "Our wedding" he called it, though he was mad when they didn't take him on the honeymoon. Even though Ann's mother knew Quaker customs of prolonged silence during worship, she became impatient with the long quiet during the ceremony, and with Ann's sister Martha stood up to congratulate the couple. Other attendees persuaded them to wait a little longer. Thus began the union that lasted more than half a century. On their anniversary 60 years later, John still remembered the pledge that resonated so deeply:

*"In the presence of God and before these, our friends, I take thee, Anna Laura Trueblood, to be my beloved wife, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband as long as we both shall live."*

*(Editor's note: In 1952, John and Ann with the addition of their third child, Erica, moved to British Columbia along with two other families where they helped found the Argenta Friends Community on the wild shores of Lake Kootenay.)*

### Destiny Walks In

Peace Pilgrim came to Argenta, on her one trek through Canada, to visit a family she had met in Salt Lake City. She spoke to the Quaker group on the shores of Kootenay Lake. Ann was profoundly moved. Here was an extraordinary woman, vital and vibrant with wisdom, ideals and joy. Ann wrote:

*"I felt very close to her and was thrilled to find someone so dedicated to peace. Here was someone living what we had worked for all these years. We Quaker pacifists were in the same nation-wide peace movement. I tried to convince her to stay a few days, after all, she was a free pilgrim without strict schedules, or so I thought. I was disappointed to learn that she had tightly scheduled herself on her trek across Canada and could only stay a night."*

They drove her to the ferry and stopped in Kaslo, where Pam, especially taken with Peace, who said she never carried a penny, playfully put a penny in her pocket. Ann spoke of how much fun she had with Peace. It was 1957. Ann was 40 and had just met the person who would change the rest of their lives.

A 24-year friendship began, nearly spanning the 29 years that Peace walked North America, more than six and a half times across, from 1953 to 1981. She stayed with the Rush family eight times during those years in many different parts of the US and Canada. In the early days of her pilgrimage, after a radio speech Peace Pilgrim made, one of the radio employees was so impressed he printed her speech and added maxims from her newsletters, forming the booklet called "Steps Toward Inner Peace." Peace Pilgrim left a copy with the Rushes during their Whittier days and Ann was so excited by it that she wanted to send it to all her relatives and friends. The Rushes asked if they could print more copies and Peace Pilgrim agreed. It would become an international classic, eventually circling the globe with the sustaining message of life, meaning and peace. Once before one of their many moves, Ann was feeling troubled and wrote to Peace Pilgrim who answered with sterling wisdom. It not only guided her life in that moment but has steadied countless others through crises, "Live in the present, do the things that need to be done, do all the good you can each day, the future will unfold."

### **A Fulltime Career for Peace**

Peace Pilgrim died instantly in a car crash on July 7, 1981. John and Ann were visiting Erica in New Hampshire when they received the news from their grandson, Martin, calling from their home in Whittier. It was so hard to believe. It had always been such a source of comfort to know that Peace was out there somewhere bearing the message of peace to all who would listen. It seemed impossible that she was gone.

Now began a series of events, which in retrospect seem divinely guided. Peace had left the name of a contact person in Pennsylvania, Molly TenBroek, who had sent out Peace's occasional newsletter. Ann happened to have Molly's contact information with her in New Hampshire, and when they reached her, she asked the Rushes to take a list of 6,000 names and addresses Peace had compiled during her pilgrimage. Next they learned that Peace had a sister, Helene Young, living in New Jersey. She was the mystery person who had forwarded mail for Peace. Fortunately they were in nearby New England, Erica had a truck they could use and they were free to pick up the mailing list names and take them to Helene. Once there they learned that Helene needed help answering letters pouring in from people all over the country. Soon Ann was amazed to

find herself writing on behalf of Peace Pilgrim. Ann addressed Peace's far-flung supporters with the first of many letters to come:

*"Greetings from Cologne. I am typing next to Helene's vegetable and flower garden where Peace typed her letters when she was visiting her. It is all a bit overwhelming...so much mail.... One outstanding fact emerges, we each feel she is our special friend – she somehow belongs to each of us..."*

Richard Polese, a longtime friend of Peace's who had been recently urging her to write a book, planned a memorial in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for close friends and invited Ann and John. Before they went to Santa Fe, John and Ann were able to gather materials such as news articles and church bulletins, which had been archived at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania at Peace's request.

Now in Santa Fe began an amazing collaboration of souls who barely knew each other, to create a Peace Pilgrim book. The timing was perfect for Ann and John. Only months before John had retired from the postal service and he and Ann were free to concentrate on the work. With the retirement pension, they could be independent and live where they chose. As the collaborators came together, Richard described how their tasks fell in place with such ease. He often "had the feeling that Peace Pilgrim was right there with us..."

Each of the five compilers, Andy Zupko, Cheryl Canfield, Richard Polese, Ann and John, later described the "miracle" of their collaboration in the same terms. Coming from diverse backgrounds and bringing strong personalities and confidence in their own capabilities, they were able to relinquish control for a collective vision of what the book should be. Richard said: "A greater spirit prevailed...almost by magic it seemed, or by truly light and strong guidance from Peace herself." In the weeks they worked together, the book came together from her letters and writings in a most amazing way.

When a friend reviewed the first draft, though impressed, she pointed out several redundant passages. Her comments stimulated John and Ann to continue editing. John would later say, "I don't think I ever spent a more enjoyable time in my life than working on that book. Ann and I went over it again and again." John would awaken at night inspired to go over the text to find where each part would best fit. John and Ann were fascinated and inspired throughout the whole process.

Cheryl and Andy had left for a few weeks to visit a relative and when they returned they were at first concerned that the original work had been undone. They soon realized it was a necessary refinement to make the text flow. John laughingly described how someone said he didn't know John had such editorial ability and he said he didn't either. It was, of course, Ann's revelation by the ocean, that the book had to be in Peace's "own words," that guided the primary decision on how to organize the book.

They spent nearly five months to finish and the five knew they had been part of a profound spiritual process. Yet even with that realization, they did not fully know at the time what an important deed they had done for world peace.

*Continued on page 4.*

Andy Zupko put up \$2,500 for the first printing and Richard, who had publishing experience, had 5,000 books printed in February of 1983. John and Ann, after praying about their next step, agreed to take on the job of mailing the books. They received the blessings of their grateful colleagues. Ann was overjoyed when the first box of books was delivered to their home in Whittier. "I opened the box and the first thing I saw was the photo on the book cover," she said. "I immediately thought, 'Peace Pilgrim is back among us, both walking and speaking, although not in person but still in a manner with which she can reach the lives of thousands.'"

They began with an incredible plan. The books would be given away free. Peace Pilgrim had said that spiritual truths should not be sold, and they made this a hallmark of distributing her words to the world. This bold leap of faith would be blessed with an amazing response from appreciative recipients all over the world. Donations in grateful letters have continued to flow for more than 20 years, making it possible to reprint the book time and again. In all that time they were true to the Quaker saying "as the way opens." A quarterly newsletter helped draw a steady stream of volunteers, grateful to add their help to such a worthwhile universal project.

John and Ann were always clear about the principles they wanted to live and teach by, and now about the vocation they had chosen. Peace Pilgrim said the important thing was to live the message of peace. They agreed and their actions showed it.

After 18 years in Whittier, Ann and John made the prayerful decision to move to Hemet, a town Southern California's San Jacinto Valley. They had gone to visit for a day but bad weather led them to stay overnight. The next day a real estate agent friend showed them a modest home near a seasonal river, bordering an Indian reservation. They both immediately felt it was the right place to be. In November 1983, they moved in, and opened the Friends of Peace Pilgrim Center.

Trucks would arrive at their tiny two-bedroom home and cases of books would be stacked to the garage ceiling awaiting requests from around the world. Using and expanding Peace Pilgrim's mailing lists, they compiled the newsletter informing people about the work around the world and adding Ann's vignettes about the beauty of nature and everyday events in a simple life. Letters were carefully read, answered and orders filled, and always Ann was there with her lovely warm voice answering the phone "Peace Pilgrim Center." Ann never tired of proudly showing the array of books displayed in many languages and eagerly telling of new translations, in such languages as Swahili, Serbo Croatian, Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic, Tamil, Finnish and Gujarati.

*At 2pm on Saturday, June 28th a Quaker Memorial Meeting and celebration of the Rush's lives will be held at the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Massachusetts. For more information call the Peace Abbey at (508) 655-2143 or Erica Pfister at (603) 542-9370; email - pfister@sover.net.*



*Ann and John and family:  
Erica, Heath, and Chava (Pam) – 1952*

## Thoughts about Ann and John from Friends

"You've done a wondrous miraculous work with your lives!! Thank You! We have distributed many pamphlets, books, and tapes. Love the video, which always touches those who watch it. All thanks to your dedication, vision and love! Yes, there are still remarkable beings on our planet and you two head the list!"

*Jack and Eulaua (Honolulu)*

"It is with gratitude and love that we honor our friend Ann Rush .... We will always remember the joy of finding her in Hemet and receiving her lovely smile and a box of Peace Pilgrim books to give to friends and another box in Spanish to take to Costa Rica. Thank you Ann. Her devotion will always be in our hearts and her efforts have impacted the world and we are closer to Peace on our Earth because of her and her devoted husband..." *Barbara and Robert Muller (California)*

"Your Life Matters. Had it not been for you, people like me, whom you've never met, would never have known the full meaning of the life of a remarkable inspiring woman. Without you her ministry would have faded into obscurity, lost to the curious, forgotten by a world that has drifted far from her message of peace."  
*Judy Hagerman (Colorado)*

"My son John and I met you at the Peace Pilgrim Center 10 years ago. You were both so gracious and kind. You invited us to a shared luncheon the following day with other special friends of Peace. Ann, when you opened your front door, I remember gasping for I saw that Light of God in your eyes." - *Debbie (Pennsylvania)*

"Anna Laura, I just want you to know that you have been one of the most amazingly influential people in my life. Your humility, your strength, your endurance, peace, and love, just to name a few, have always brought peace to my heart. The few times we have spent together have shown me that we can overcome and have joy and peace. Thank you soooo much for your work, and all you have done for every soul on this planet. You truly have blessed many." - *Tamra Billen (California)*

"All the work you have done over the years to support and spread the work of Peace Pilgrim is so much appreciated. You and John both have my eternal gratitude for sharing Your Light with the world. You have made it a brighter, more loving place for all of us. Thank you!" - *Beck Smith (Texas)*

"As a dear friend of Peace Pilgrim you have become a dear friend of mine and folks all over the world for compiling her book!" - *Dr. Margaret Dwyer (Michigan)*

"Your untiring work and devotion to Peace and for peace, is an ongoing inspiration to all of us." *Cheryl Canfield (California)*

"I feel such gratitude toward those whose loving, peaceful energy has tended the garden prepared by our beloved Peace Pilgrim. Now that nature has slowed your doing, that your radiant Being may fill the Universe with the peace of your every prayer and breath, know how much you are loved and supported on your journey." *Jeanne Knecht (Connecticut)*

"Thanks to your dedication, Peace's message is being heard around the world. Perhaps it's time to rest." *Mary and Art Hoag (Idaho)*

"...THANK YOU to you Ann and John for delivering Peace Pilgrim's message to so many people. Since ordering her book and videos, her story has changed my life in many positive ways. Your work will forever be appreciated!" *Corinne Zupko (New Jersey)*

"With heartfelt thanks for all you have done to educate the world - to share Peace Pilgrim with all of us - and to pursue your own inner peace. You inspire us." *Rev. Radicchi (California)*

**The motive, if you are to find inner peace, must be an outgoing motive. Service, of course, service. Giving, not getting. Your motive must be good if your work is to have good effect. The secret of life is being of service.**

**Peace Pilgrim**

"God bless you for all you have done for so many years to keep the work of Peace Pilgrim going. I was pleased when a friend who is a student at Clark University in Worcester, Mass told me they studied about Peace Pilgrim in their peace studies class." *Ruth Anne Paul (Oregon)*

"I'm ever grateful for all both of you have done to keep Peace's message alive and happy to see that you have inspired others to follow in your footsteps." *Helene Young (New Jersey)*

"I want to thank you for all your wonderful work at the Peace Pilgrim Center -it was you who sent me the materials which I came to distribute to my career counseling clients...and still do to those who are interested in peace and justice work. The work you did reached many hungry and thirsty souls searching for life's meaning for them..." - *Rosemary Barshart*

"Most of us, myself included, have aspirations for peace. You have acted for peace. Your convictions are to be admired." - *Bill Jarreh (North Carolina)*

"...I wanted to thank you so much for being a repository of Peace. How beautiful you are. How uplifting a message you sent out to the universe those many years. May you now both be embraced by the life, dedication, and peace, which you exemplify." *Mary Frederich (New York)*

"I enjoyed all of our times together...I am deeply grateful for what you both have done to the many, many Friends of Peace Pilgrim. You both are Peace personified in loving souls." - *Phyllis (California)*

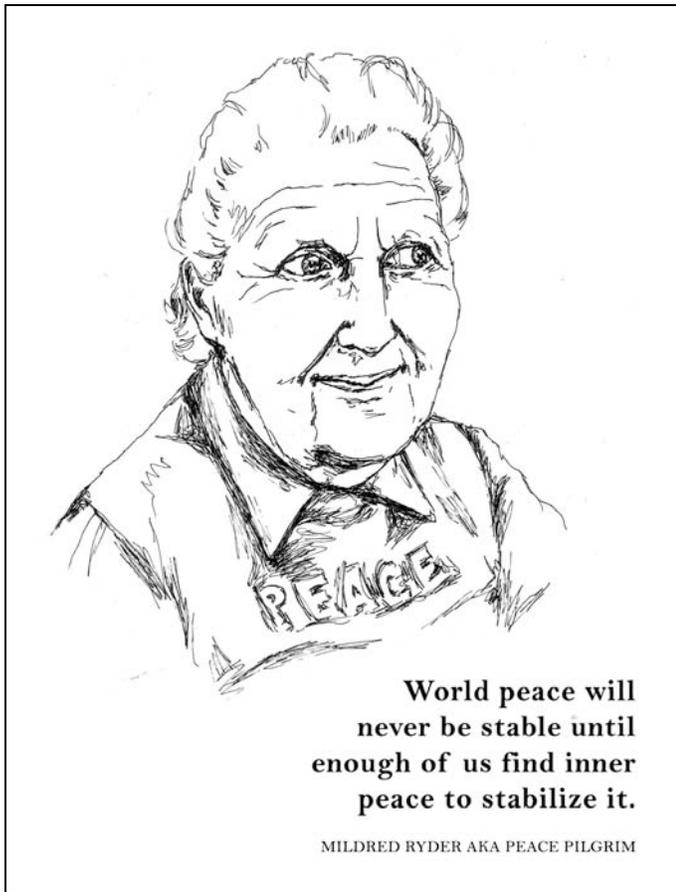
"Thank you so much for all the work you did on behalf of Peace Pilgrim's message. Thanks to you I became familiar with her wonderful philosophy." *Annette Grubb (Michigan)*

"You are both an inspiration and guiding lights in a much-needed world. Even now at your Health Care Facility. You continue in your simple way to quietly carry on the work of Peace. You have and are touching many lives. From the depths of my heart...Thank you." *Margaret (Texas)*

"As stewards of the peace message, you have certainly held the torch high!" - *Julie Giessler (New York)*

"I appreciate all your energy in getting the word of Peace Pilgrim to people ...know how many lives you have touched in a loving way." *Audrey Dittberner (New Mexico)*

"Dear Ann, you have given and shared so much in so many ways. You have enriched my life - and those of so many other people. You rest in peace in my heart. There's a smile there, too - for I easily recall your smile and your sense of humor looking out at the world." *Richard Polese (New Mexico)*



**World peace will  
never be stable until  
enough of us find inner  
peace to stabilize it.**

MILDRED RYDER AKA PEACE PILGRIM

*Drawing by Missy Washington*

## **Peace Pilgrim's 100th Birthday Celebration – Egg Harbor City, NJ**

July 18, 2008 will mark the 100th anniversary of Peace Pilgrim's birth in Egg Harbor City, NJ. She said of her early years growing up in that community:

*I had a very favorable beginning, although many of you might not think so. I was born poor on a small farm on the outskirts of a small town, and I'm thankful for that. I was happy in my childhood. I had a woods to play in and a creek to swim in and room to grow. I wish that every child could have growing space because I think children are a little like plants. If they grow too close together they become thin and sickly and never obtain maximum growth. We need room to grow.*

On the weekend of July 18 and 19 her hometown will be honoring one of its most notable citizens with a series of events. On Friday evening the documentary film, Peace Pilgrim: An American Sage Who Walked Her Talk will be shown at the Charles L. Spragg School. On Saturday morning there will be a "Peace Walk", and in the afternoon a community picnic in the park that bears Peace Pilgrim's name. On hand for the events will be community leaders, Peace Pilgrim's sister, Helene Young, Friends of Peace Pilgrim board members, and friends of peace from near and far. More information can be found at the Peace Pilgrim 100 website: [www.peacepilgrim100.org](http://www.peacepilgrim100.org)

## **From our Correspondence**

### **Letter from a prison chaplain in the Department of Homeland Security – El Paso. TX:**

On behalf of the Office of the Chaplain we would like to thank you for your generous donation of 400 Spanish booklets "Pasos hacia la Paz Interior", 200 English booklets "Steps Toward Inner Peace" and six Peace Pilgrim books, three in English and three in Spanish. Our detainees are really happy to receive the booklets. They have been a source of inspiration and hope for them in the difficult situation in which they are living as they face deportation. We put the copies of the Peace Pilgrim book in the library so all can benefit from them. In the name of the detainees we thank you again. May God bless your ministry.



### **An email from a traveler:**

My name is Kirsten and I left my old way of life on first day of summer last year. I didn't know then that I would not be going back again. On my journey to finding my real purpose for being here (on earth) a friend mentioned Peace Pilgrim. I just sat through the beautiful documentary and read much of the written material on line. I cried through much of both. I know that we all have a purpose, and I know God would not put me here just to wonder what it is without an answer. I am much moved by Peace's journey and would be grateful for a copy of both your book, and her small wisdom booklet. I am meeting many, many people from countries all over the world as I move into towns and into hostels and such. It makes me very happy and I was thinking it would be really cool to find someone who speaks each of the languages of the books translated to give a copy to. I would be happy with just one, and I can pass it on to others as I go : ).



### **An Email from Gayle in Webster, TX:**

I found Peace Pilgrim in 1983 at Friendswood United Methodist Church. Her booklet was handed out after the service and it changed my life then and her message resonates more now than ever before. I gave my pamphlet to a missionary. It was all tattered but the message was there. I would love to have another book to leave to my children and for me to reread. I just reread it on the website and it all came back to me. When I was a 30-year old single mother of two in 1983, her light came into my life and she lit the way for me to follow, and I have, becoming much like her now in many ways. She still calls to me. Thank you for maintaining this website to preserve her message. Peace Pilgrim was truly an angel for our time. Her message is as clear today as ever. God Bless,



**A letter from a prisoner:**

My name is Matthew and I am writing from a prison in California. I would like to request the book Peace Pilgrim and a copy of your newsletter. Back in 1997 I was sitting in a protective custody cell in Merced County jail. There were a couple of books available – Bibles and such. I remember this one book about a woman who traveled all over the place spreading truth about peace. Now, eleven years later, as I begin another year of this life sentence, I believe I am ready to not just read about her mission, but maybe to live it.

**Email from a friend in Bolivia:**

A JOY OF PEACE CAME AND MY GRATEFULNESS IS EXPRESSED! I just received the book about Peace Pilgrim you sent to me by request of a friend. I am grateful for this piece on the earth of the PEACE OF THE UNIVERSE. For the piece of the peace that came to the earth from the PEACE OF GOD. During the year 2000, in Bolivia, I got knowledge of Peace Pilgrim through a Spanish version of the book that today I am receiving in English. I lent the book to many persons, and the last one did not give it back to me. Today you are restoring my happiness. Many thanks for all of you. Let us go making known the PEACE that Peace wanted for all of us.

**An email from Robin;**

I have known about Peace Pilgrim for a few years now, through a great friend of mine. Giving the book to me, she smiled and said, "You need to read this!" Not understanding what she meant, I put the book aside for a while. One day I looked at the cover and was intrigued. I have read, smiled, and passed on her peaceful message. I have had a moment today that has regenerated my belief that one can make a HUGE difference in this world. I am inspired even more to Stand Tall and Believe in PEACE! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**A letter from David in Clinton Iowa:**

I remember the two times Peace Pilgrim spoke at the Unity Center in Bettendorf, Iowa in 1979. The center overlooks the Mississippi River and was once a Carmelite monastery. The entire Sunday morning service was Peace Pilgrim's story of her progress up to that time. Her second talk was presented that evening, and we returned again to hear her speak. My impression, that I still hold today, was that Peace appeared somewhat frail. But I never saw anyone stand on a platform so absolutely erect and totally focused on her message. To me she appeared as already 93% spiritual in human form. My last memory of Peace was hearing of a retreat that was going to take place in Hawaii. I found myself standing at the teller

window in the bank getting ready to secure travel funds when I realized that I could not go at this time because I had not freed myself from smoking.

**A letter from Kate in Midland, Michigan:**

How can sorting through old papers point you in a new direction? I found that at some point a friend had sent me a copy of "Steps Toward Inner Peace" by Peace Pilgrim. I had ignored the booklet until now but made a decision to read it before discarding. Oh, my goodness! The message hit me right between the eyes. I've come to the conclusion that "possessions" are only valuable because someone else says they are. I am now downsizing from a seventy-foot mobile home to a travel trailer on my son's property to regroup and establish a new direction for the remainder of my life. I'm excited about the potential the future is showing me right now.

**A letter from Donita in Durham, North Carolina:**

I wanted to thank you for your unconditional love for our beloved planet and its inhabitants. The service you are performing is so important in these days when the light of peace seems so small and elusive. Yet know that the light within your magnificent hearts shines forth and illuminates this world like the smile, that beautiful smile, that Peace Pilgrim gave the world. The light of peace is stronger than the darkness and is always alive and strong as long as beings such as you stand as guardians to the hope that each of us will walk in faith and peace as Peace has shown through her life. Blessings to everyone.

**From Emily, a student in New York:**

I recently learned of Peace Pilgrim in my Peace Studies class at my university. I was awestruck and inspired by her love and dedication. There have been few times in my life when I have been privileged enough to witness simple, unconditional love and acceptance, and it sounds like Peace Pilgrim was capable of such. In a world where many focus so much on the negative, it was heartening to hear such a resounding positive message and to find such a role model. Thank you so much. Her message and story have renewed my hope. I'm so glad to see that her spirit continues through all of you. May you have much peace and happiness in your lives. I would like three or four copies of the book. I want to spread Peace's message to as many people as possible.

**"It isn't enough just to do right things and say right things - you must also think right things before your life can come into harmony."**

*Peace Pilgrim*

“When love fills your life all limitations are gone. The medicine this sick world needs so badly is love.”

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in Her Own Words - Page 12*

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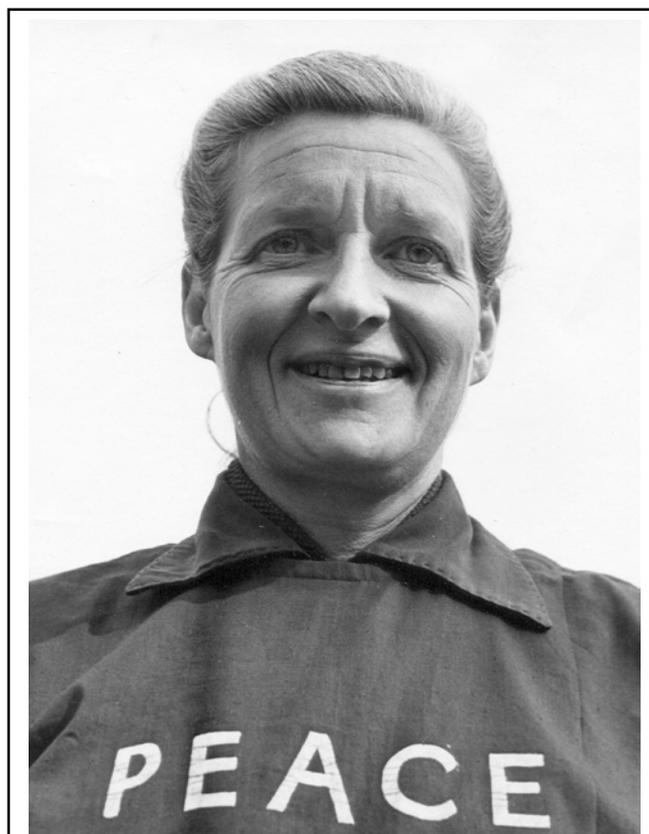
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**‘Peace’ Wanderer  
Visits Mother Here  
After Long Trek**

from the Atlantic City Press – November, 1953

A solitary wanderer crusading and doing penance for peace took a “break” in her 5000-mile coast-to-coast march yesterday to visit her mother in this city. The Peace Pilgrim who has attracted attention across the nation on her pilgrimage on behalf of the cause of peace, revealed herself as a native of Atlantic County on her arrival here, but, following her practice during her travels, would not tell her name.

The lively, gray-haired woman, whose age could range anywhere from 36 to 52, has walked nearly 5000 miles since she began her individual pilgrimage in Los Angeles on Jan. 1. She hiked to this resort from Philadelphia, pausing en route Thursday to see a girl friend she hadn’t seen in 15 years and Friday night at the home of her sister.



**PEACE PILGRIM**  
*walking coast to coast*