

Global Peace Services USA

...an idea whose time has come

Vol. 3, No. 1

Winter 2000

Peace Power 2000: Training Peacemakers for the 21st Century

Global Peace Services USA is a movement to create a professional peace service by promoting education and skills-training based on a philosophy of nonviolence. After two years of development and planning, GPS-USA is offering an opportunity for education and skills-training toward our goal of a professional body of peacemakers. This opportunity is "Peace Power 2000: Training Peacemakers for the 21st Century."

Anyone concerned with active peacemaking is invited to participate in any or all of the four training sessions in Washington, D.C. from June 4-30. The month will be comprised of four six-day modules outlined in the enclosed brochure and detailed in this newsletter. Each module covers elements vital to understanding and practicing the peace services concept. The first module will establish basic theories and principles of peace service and the three following modules build and expand on those basics.

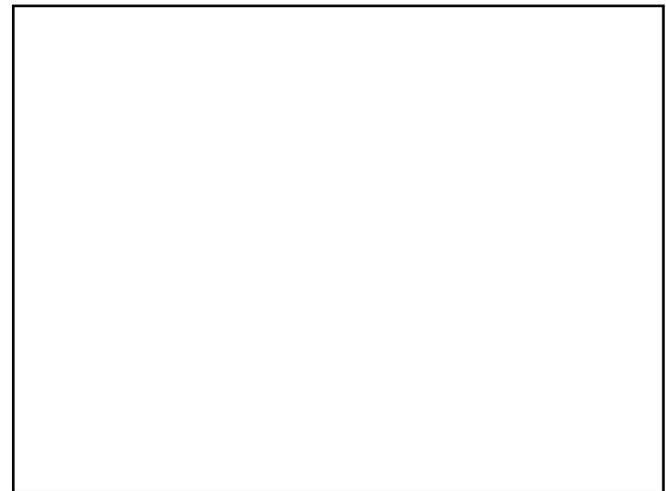
To cultivate a cooperative learning community, evening programs will be a vital part of our experience. Each week a variety of evening activities will complement and enhance our day's explorations. An important dimension of our shared learning will be our communal living experience, sharing meals and some field activities.

We envision participants from all walks of life. Anyone from a retired grandparent to a college student majoring in peace studies — and many people in between.

To register for Peace Power 2000, please return the enclosed application form to the

Registrar. Contact information is listed on the back of the brochure. Some partial scholarships are available. Space is limited to 18 people per week, so please register now.

Peace Power 2000 is a pilot project. We plan to build on it to expand the training into a variety of settings in the future.



Introduction to the Basics of Peace Service

Module 1, June 4-10

*Facilitated by Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND,
Tricia Sullivan and Harry Yeide*

Peacemaking is a way of living and acting. It has its roots in human nature and nurture; in other words, peacemaking depends on the way we cultivate our human powers alone and with others.

The style of this first module will be participatory, interactive, dialogic. We will work as a learning community, coming together to a clearer understanding of the

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foundational ideas and skills that peacemakers need to develop.

Together we will discuss selected readings, examine case studies and use audio-visuals and simulation exercises about:

- ⇒ Human nature, learning styles, cooperative and competitive dynamics, the experience of being insiders and outsiders.
- ⇒ Power and power relationships.
- ⇒ Human rights and democracy as understood by people of various cultures, and the challenges posed by these different understandings.
- ⇒ The role of belief systems in peacemaking; religious pluralism; ways of meditation and other practices that support peacemaking; respect and understanding of traditions other than our own.
- ⇒ Ways of clarifying values and of recognizing the difference between perceived and actual values; learning to prioritize values.

At the close of this module we expect that each of us will be able to say “yes” to the following questions:

- Do I have a clearer idea of what is central to peacemaking at all levels, from personal conflicts to international wars?
- Am I better equipped for further learning about peacemaking and practices of a peacemaker?
- Does the term “peace service” signify more to me today than when I began this module?
- Am I motivated to move from theory to practice, that is, to improve my peacemaking skills?

Personal Development and Interpersonal Skills, Group Development and Team Building

Module 2, June 11-17

Facilitated by Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND and Tricia Sullivan

This experiential, skills-based module will use an imaging process as a learning tool throughout the week. The process will be the tool to explore personal development, group development and team-building skills. Imaging involves using creativity and discipline to make our dreams come true.

Individual imaging will provide a framework to clarify values and explore personal development. The group imaging will help us articulate group dynamics and practice team building skills. To build a solid foundation for these skills, we will practice compassionate listening early in the week.

We will also explore how to encourage and celebrate diversity as an essential ingredient in finding creative solutions.

There will also be opportunities throughout the week to practice a variety of centering methods, meditations and prayers and to see the importance of creating sacred space to nurture nonviolence.

The newsletter of Global Peace Services USA is published quarterly. GPS-USA is incorporated in the District of Columbia and is tax-exempt. Current Board members are: John Eriksson, Mary Evelyn Jegen, Bill Price, Mindy Reiser, Tricia Sullivan and Harry Yeide. We welcome contributions and comments. To contact us:

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Understanding and Working with Conflict

Module 3, June 18-24

Facilitated by Mindy Reiser and Harry Yeide

This module will explore a variety of approaches toward conflict situations through readings, discussions with guest experts, participant reflections and presentations. We will give particular attention to conflicts lying between the realm of the interpersonal and those involving nation-states. We intend to focus in particular depth on the situation in Northern Ireland – a conflict encompassing interpersonal, intrastate and international dimensions.

The course module will begin with narrative accounts of particular conflicts participants know firsthand – these presentations will then be revisited at the end of the module in the light of the week's analysis and discussion. As the week progresses, we will expand our capacities for the collective analysis of conflict through developing a shared vocabulary, common conceptual/analytical frameworks, and a roadmap of diverse strategies for managing/transforming conflict.

Our specific focus on the conflict in Northern Ireland will serve as entry point into a broader discussion of the variety of institutions and practices employed in the search for peaceful conflict resolution in diverse locations and contexts. We will look at the contributions and limitations of legal institutions and the roles of civil/criminal law and restorative justice in furthering this process. We will also examine other forms of publicly recognized mediation, including approaches undertaken by religious communities. Presentations by and conversations with men and women experienced in addressing conflict through a variety of creative approaches will be an important component of our shared study.

Further, we intend to seek insights into the nature of conflict, its trajectories, and its transformations through incorporating teachings from the arts – dramatic, literary and visual. To expand our appreciation of

the reverberations of conflict, we would like to devote some time to jointly reading through and performing a play relevant to our week's discussions.

Readings will be assigned to build upon the day's discussion. Louis Kriesberg's *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution* (1998) and excerpts from the work of Roger Fisher, e.g. *Getting to Yes*, will form part of our syllabus.

Societal Dimensions of Nonviolence and Social Reconstruction

Module 4, June 25-30

Facilitated by John Eriksson and Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND

This module will explore the synergistic relationships between peace building, service and development, which are at the core of the concept of global peace service.

Our first day's theme will be "Culture as Source and Expression of Conflict and of Conflict Transformation." The day will be built around the UNESCO platform and plan of action for the Decade for a Culture of Peace.

The second and third days' theme will be "Socio-economic and Political Perspectives on Development." We will discuss two case studies, El Salvador and Rwanda, one from a development theory perspective and the other from a social analysis perspective.

The fourth day's theme will be "Organizational Resources and Service Opportunities." These sessions will be built around concrete examples. John will present one or more development NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in some detail, and Sr. Mary Evelyn will present the United Nations and its agencies. The presentations will be supplemented by

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materials from the organizations being discussed. An expert on the use of media and information technology in service learning and peace will make a presentation. Pertinent videos from UN organizations, NGOs, and other relevant sources will be available for small group viewing and discussion in the evening (and at other times during the program).

Our final day's theme will be "Contributing to the Reshaping of Public Policy." This will include a discussion of the various ways of citizen action vis-a-vis public policy, including learnings from other modules, about listening, dialogue, building relationships, etc.

Become involved. Consider:

- Attending Peace Power**
- Asking for more brochures to distribute**
- Sponsoring someone to attend Peace Power**
- Sending us names and addresses of people who may be interested in attending Peace Power**
- Visiting our web site at www.globalpeaceservices.org**

About the facilitators:

John Eriksson, Ph.D., currently serves as chair of the board of Global Peace Services USA. After 25 years of service to the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. Eriksson now works as a consultant on evaluation and international development issues. Notably, he is the lead author of an evaluative report published by Overseas Development Institute entitled, *The International Response to Conflict and Genocide: Lessons Learned from the Rwanda Experience*.

Sister Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND, Ph.D., educator, author and noted peacemaker, has written and lectured on the concept of global peace services in the U.S., England, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany since 1989. Sr. Mary Evelyn taught for 21 years in a graduate program at Creighton University and currently teaches in an adult education program at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Mindy Reiser, Ph.D., is a sociologist working with the U.S. Dept. of Education and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services in education and training. She has worked for the United Nations, directed research for the Agency for International Development in Kazakhstan, and taught at Northeastern University and Regis College. Dr. Reiser is a member of the Board of Trustees of American Jewish World Service.

Tricia Sullivan is an activist, community organizer and trainer. After earning a Master's Degree in Organizational Psychology from the University of Sheffield, England, she worked for several years in College Student Development. She is the founder of Work in Progress, a consulting firm to nonprofit organizations.

Harry Yeide, Ph.D., is a professor of religion at George Washington University. He holds degrees from Williams College, Union Theological Seminary and Harvard University. Dr. Yeide was a Lutheran parish pastor prior to teaching, and is the founder of the peace studies minor at George Washington University.

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Peace Power 2000
June 4-30 in
Washington --
Join us!