

# Global Peace Services USA

...an idea whose time has come

Vol. 2, No. 1

Winter 1999

## Building Blocks for Peace Service

Saturday  
March 27  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trinity College  
125 Michigan Ave. NE  
Washington, DC

Watch for  
your flyer  
coming soon!

*A convocation bringing together experts and interested persons to share ideas and experiences about education and training for peace service.*

*In the summer of 2000, GPS-USA will offer pilot education and training in peace service. The courses will be divided into weekend and week-long modules adapted to a wide range of participants. The March convocation is an opportunity to share ideas and suggestions for the summer 2000 events.*

*On March 27, join with Don Mosley, David Zarembka, Aura Kanegis, Gene Knudsen-Hoffman, Mehdi Aminrazavi, Deborah Jordan, Jim McCann, Kristen Barker, Michael Beer and others for a day of learning.*

*Inside this issue of the GPS newsletter, you will find an detailed look at some of the essential elements of peace service training. These elements will be featured as workshop topics for our March 27 Convocation. As a prelude to our day together, this newsletter chronicles our thoughts.*

### OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER TEACHES PEACEMAKING NOT "PEACE PREFERENCE"

*With this edition we welcome Harry Yeide, Jr. to the GPS-USA Board. Harry is a Professor of Religion and Coordinator of Peace Studies at George Washington University. He is also a member of the GWU Hospital Ethics Committee, an ELCA pastor and graduate of Williams College, Union Theological Seminary and Harvard University.*

*It is with a combination of exhilaration and expectation, on the one hand, and Kierkegaardian fear and trembling, on the other, that I join the Board of GPS. While I am absolutely convinced that GPS is responding to a vision that the world needs, and with a treasury of ideas whose time has come (hence the exhilaration and expectation), I also feel anxiety regarding the enormity of the tasks we pursue in comparison with my limited talents and with the still modest numbers who are engaged in GPS projects.*

*But all great movements have small beginnings. I am currently reading a history of the World Conference on Religion and Peace by Homer Jack. A recollection voiced in several places identifies the founding of this now world-wide movement with a 1962 telephone call from Boston to New York, from Dr. Dana Greeley to Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath. While the official founding of WCRP had to wait until January of 1969 in Istanbul, the two party conversation in 1962 has given birth to what is today a worldwide organization that maintains an office near the United Nations headquarters in New York. While I do not know of all the telephone calls that led up to*

*(continued on page 6)*

the official incorporation of GPS, I do know that it began with the vision of a very small number of persons. While we are hardly a multitude even today, we have reached a stage perhaps comparable to that of WCRP in 1969, and we are poised to move into an ever expanding array of future adventures.

My own commitment to peace action came embarrassingly late in life. While I can claim many years of advocating peace, and I rejoiced that there were many persons engaged in various groups working for peace, I fear these impulses were counterbalanced by what I had learned of "political realism" during my education and post-university reading. It was really some experiences in old "cold war" Germany that opened my eyes to the fact that "peace making" is superior -- spiritually and otherwise -- to a "peace preference." I enjoyed interaction with groups on both side of the so-called "iron curtain" who were actively working for peace. The problem of peace seemed concrete and immediate to them in a way that I had not experienced at home in the USA; they were after all on the potential front line should the "cold" war suddenly erupt into a "hot" war. They also had more

concrete memories than I did of the horrors of war. While many were not old enough to have directly experienced the carnage of World War II, all had family histories in which that war had deprived them of parents and/or other relatives. They also had a fresh historical memory of how quickly a government can be captured by fanatics, and can seduce a population to follow them into what is ultimately a death march. Here were



persons, mostly young, of diverse political persuasion, discerning the "really real" that is overlooked in "political realism." I found that I wanted to become more like them.

As a career college teacher, my variety of peace action may seem much too tame to many readers of this newsletter. While I could tell you of a number of nonacademic adventures in peacemaking, it

was important to me to do something that was part of my profession as a teacher. Thus, I helped to identify and convene a group of faculty from several departments to see if we could develop a program in peace studies and conflict resolution. For some years, we developed big ideas that would include a major research institute . . . and we got nowhere. We finally decided to see if Schumacher is correct that "small is beautiful." We now have a peace studies minor at my university, and this year have a student who is convinced that he will become the first peace studies major.

He will use the device of a self-designed major, but we hope it will become a model for the future expansion of our program. As coordinator of this program for the first six years, it was my privilege to know a wonderful group of young students, many of whom have sought careers in peacemaking. Indeed the privilege of seeing a sense of vocation unfold in these students has been a far deeper joy than satisfying their conventional educational requirements. This is the kind of experience that I bring to our work together in GPS. Obviously it is my hope that my experience can be of some use as we create our future. ■

---

**Global Peace Services USA**  
**P.O. Box 27922**  
**Washington DC 20038-7922**

JOIN US AT TRINITY COLLEGE  
**MARCH 27, 1999**  
"BUILDING BLOCKS FOR PEACE SERVICE"

## **Education and Training Building Block of Peace Service**

*Education and training for peace services have been core concerns of GPS-USA right from the beginning. We will have an opportunity to explore some concrete initiatives at our March 27 Convocation.*

*The first initiative is a program with a rich and moving history and outreach: Jubilee Partners of Comer, Georgia. Don Mosley, a founding member of Jubilee Partners, will join us to share his experience with us and to discuss how Jubilee Partners expects to continue to contribute to the goals of Global Peace Services into the year 2000.*

*The second initiative is a proposed major new dimension in the long-standing Peace Studies Program of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. A group of students has developed a proposal for a "Peace Services Major," which is under consideration by the University's Faculty Peace Studies Committee. The proposal is consciously modeled along the lines of the holistic and career-oriented approach to undergraduate peace service education developed by the Education and Training Working Group of GPS-USA. This approach includes three integral elements:*

*1) a Classroom Component*

*2) a Practicum Component*

*3) a Placement Component*

*Kristen Barker, a Xavier University student and James McCann, SJ, a faculty member have been actively involved in developing the proposal and will join us to share their experience and their vision for the year 2000.*

*These initiatives fit into a broader conceptual framework that the GPS-USA Working Group has recently completed, Education for Peace Service: A Concept Paper. This paper sets education and training for peace services in the context of the ethic of service and the concepts of profession and call. After positing some key pedagogical principles, the paper delineates several "delivery options," including:*

- ◆Adult Continuing Education Programs (e.g., Jubilee Partners programs, Elderhostel type programs)*
- ◆The Peace Service Certificate for Professional Degree Program (e.g., law, medicine)*
- ◆A Peace Service Component*

*of Professional Training for Religious and Spiritual Leaders*

*◆College or University Degree Programs (e.g., proposal by the Xavier University students)*

*◆The Military Service Parallel (e.g., "ROTC" equivalents for peace services, 4-year academies, specialized postgraduate institutions — a "National Peace College," and reserve training models). ■*

## **Public Policy as Tool for Change**

*Another skill to be learned by peace service recruits will be the ability to influence public policy for nonviolent social change. This will involve a working knowledge of and practice of decision-making in the United States. Jean Sammon of NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby and Aura Kanegis of Friends Committee on National Legislation will join us on March 27 to share their insights. ■*

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

*Global Peace Services USA  
P.O. Box 27922  
Washington, DC  
20038-7922 USA  
202-216-9886 (phone)  
301-681-7390 (fax)  
tsullivan@igc.apc.org(email)*

*(continued from page 4)*

systematic development often begins with a quotation from Longfellow: "If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each person's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility." Training in compassionate listening includes listening skills, listening as healing, an overview of oppression theory, supporting listeners to keep listening, interview practice, and familiarity with compassionate listening models.

### **Listening With the Ear of Your Heart**

Gene has drawn on the work of others practiced in compassionate listening, notably from the eminent English mediator, Adam Curle, and from Herb Walters, founder of the Rural Southern Voice for Peace. Gene explains: The idea is adaptable to any conflict. RSVP has had remarkable experience using it in projects ranging from listening to both sides of a community about an AIDS hospice house to listening to the people of Palau over maintenance of U.S. bases on their land. In most areas where listeners go, they train the people involved in the conflict to listen to one another, and so the projects increase.

This listening requires a particular attitude. The questions are non-adversarial. The listening is nonjudgmental. The listener seeks to see through any masks of hostility and fear to the sacredness of

the individual, and to discern the wounds at the heart of any violence....

A Compassionate Listening Team is not meant to supercede other methods of nonviolence, but it may well be a prelude to them....

Adam Curle writes, "I begin with a concept of human nature based on the belief in a divine element within each of us, which is ever available, awaiting our call to help us restore harmony. We must remember this good exists in those we oppose.... Listening, coupled with befriending, is the unquestionable basis of all mediation efforts. When I started, I was told to 'just listen quietly.' Words like mediation and negotiation were never mentioned, and still are not in our actual dealings with our embattled friends."

### **Take the First Step March 27**

At our conference on March 27 we will have a session on dealing with conflict, led by Deborah Jordan who has taught courses on conflict resolution and mediation at the University of Cincinnati. She is on the staff of the Peace Education Center in Cincinnati, and has worked with faculty in Cincinnati schools and with community organizations. Gene Knudsen-Hoffman will conduct workshops on compassionate listening during the conference. ■



**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**  
Are you interested in becoming more involved with Global Peace Services USA? There are many ways to multiply our efforts!

#### **Consider:**

- Attending the March 27 Convocation at Trinity College**
  - Making a financial contribution to GPS-USA**
  - Becoming a Partner on one of the Working Groups**
  - Praying for worldwide openness to the ideas and actions of GPS**
  - Helping establish a staffed national office**
  - Sending us names and addresses of potential new members**
  - Inviting your organization to become a GPS Associate or Partner**
  - Sending us your ideas for the growth of GPS-USA**
  - Distributing the GPS brochure or newsletters at your place of worship.**
- All of our contact information is on page 2.

## ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF PEACE SERVICE

by Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND

*The following in-depth analysis lays a solid foundation for a Peace Service and points us toward the essential discipline.*

### Managing and Resolving Conflicts

*Ask anyone to apply the adjective "good" or "bad" to conflict, and ordinarily the reply will be "bad."*

*Websters's dictionary supports this, defining conflict as "1 a: competitive or opposing action of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons) b: mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands; 2: hostile encounter: FIGHT, BATTLE, WAR 3: COLLISION."*

*From our own experience we can verify these definitions, identifying conflicts on three levels: within ourselves, between and among persons, and large scale conflicts that may be political, economic, military, or all of these at once. Today, the study of conflict and ways of dealing with it calls into question the notion that conflict is always and only bad. It may be, rather, a valuable opportunity for developing powers that would otherwise remain unrecognized and undeveloped.*

*On the intrapersonal level we regularly deal with conflicts by managing them,*

*not by solving them once and for all. Examples include the conflict between desire for food and weight control, between need for sleep and desire for activities that cut into needed rest, between the need for socializing and the need for solitude.*

*Interpersonal conflicts that are not managed well or resolved can poison or destroy what were once the most cherished relationships.*

*On the larger stage, badly managed conflicts between States and within them has taken a toll of more than a hundred million lives in wars in the 20th century. This is more than twelve times the casualties in all the wars in the 19th century -- a sorry statistic that explains in part the interest in finding ways to deal constructively with conflict.*

*All three arenas of conflict are connected, though we do not always recognize this. When we talk about Global Peace Services as an idea whose time has come, by implication we are talking about the search for ways of dealing with conflict that do not inflict damage on either party.*

*There are conflicts that require a definitive resolution. The resolution may not be a good one, however. War resolves a conflict, in the short run at least, by inflicting unacceptable levels of pain on an enemy. This is certainly not a good resolution for the losing side.*

*History demonstrates that the acceptance of war, even reluctantly, even when thought of as a necessary evil, is part of a spiral that seeks always for more effective ways of causing unacceptable levels of damage to the enemy. Thus we have now reached the place where weapons for prevailing in wars are unusable, or should be. I refer of course to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.*

### Transforming Conflicts

*Conflicts can be managed or resolved well or badly. Can they also be transformed? Studying the possibility of conflict transformation calls on the highest talents of humankind, and on a number of professional disciplines. These come together in the academic discipline of peace studies and in the practice of peace service. There is already an abundance of research in the field showing that the transformation of a conflict depends on one's view of the potential of the human person, on timing in addressing a conflict and on a set of practices that can properly be called an art. A conflict transformed leaves all parties better off than before. Transforming a conflict defined as "opposing action of incompatibles" into a common problem to be solved is what conflict transformation is about.*

*Given the history of the human race and its long*

(continued from page 3)

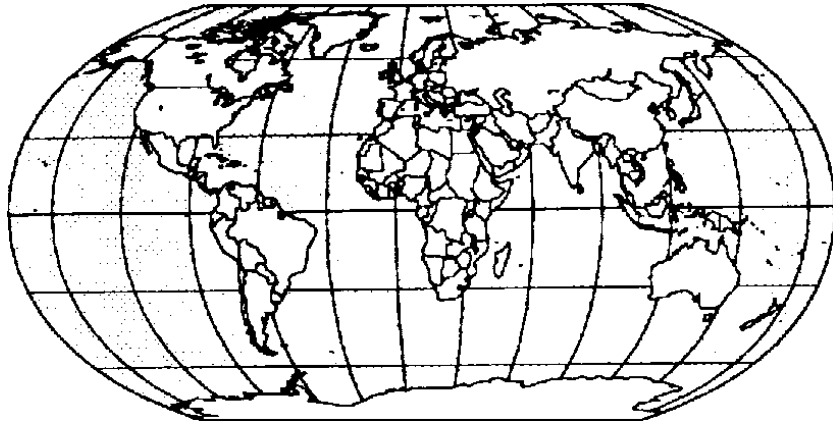
practice in warring, nonviolent approaches to conflict transformation are a minor theme in history, but still a strong one. They are expressed in diplomacy of some kinds, not all. A transformational approach engages human capacities that may be latent or underdeveloped. Among these are creative imagination and compassion. A global peace services curriculum and internship will place strong accent on these powers, among others.

A person seeking to transform a win-lose conflict, whether between individuals or between States, holds as first principle a concern for the wellbeing of all parties, that is, the other side, or enemy, as much as one's own side. This is a tall order, of course. A synonym for this principle is love. We all know when we experience this kind of love or witness it in heroic degree in others. Every human being can grow in this fundamental posture throughout life.

### Knowing What Is Needed

To make this principle more concrete, Roger Fisher and William Ury of the Harvard Negotiating Project, and authors of *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement*

*Without Giving In* teach that for successful win-win conflict management or resolution there must be a desire for what is needed by the other side. This, of course, requires knowing what is needed. According to *Getting to Yes*, the universal basic needs are security, economic wellbeing, recognition, belonging, and some measure of control over one's life. I would add: participation in dealing with



conflict.

### From the Club to the Nuclear Weapon

Few of us deal directly with large scale conflicts. However, the old methods that have led from the club to the nuclear weapon are carried on because society at large aids and abets them, or at least tolerates them. That is one good reason though not the only one, why it is so important to learn to manage, resolve, and transform conflicts well in our own small worlds. They are, after all, connected to the public

sphere. Today this is of crucial importance because the very survival of our life-sustaining planet is threatened by weapons of mass destruction that must be abolished for our good, but will not be abolished until there is a culture and a society that has confidence in alternative ways to provide security, a fundamental human need.

### Alternative Ways to Provide Security

Tested methods for teaching nonviolent conflict resolution and management and transformation will be part of a global peace services course offered in the summer of 2000.

Participants will learn how to map conflicts, identifying the needs and also the fears and anxieties of participants in a conflict. The mapping method has been used in local communities in the former Yugoslavia with encouraging results.

Compassionate listening is an integral component of conflict transformation. This is not a vague disposition to be sensitive to another's hurt. It is rather a capacity that requires careful cultivation. Gene Knudsen-Hoffman, who has written so well on this subject and has worked tirelessly to promote its

(continued on page 5)