



NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO

# PEACE PAGODA NEWS

September 2010

Leverett, Massachusetts

**For the Dawn of World Peace**

## WORDS FROM GURUJI ~

Excerpts from a spontaneous talk given by Fujii Guruji to a group of people working on Peace Pagoda in Leverett, Massachusetts. The occasion was the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Fujii Guruji held at Tama Dojo Tokyo Japan, August 1984.

"It seems that the Peace Pagoda is built by us: but Actually when it is seen from the Buddha's eye the Peace Pagoda is in itself an approval by the Buddha that the endeavor of the people is correct. Buddha recognizes everyone's pure intention in this endeavor. There is a passage in the sutra which says, 'Getting on the Stupa, the Buddha goes to that land.' Now surely (Leverett) is the first place for the Peace Pagoda construction in the United States. Your mind and pure intention [everyone's mind that is coming together to cooperate] is fitting to the Buddha's mind, so the Buddha is coming to appear there. This is the way Peace Pagoda is realized.

"During this your most busy time you are making such a great effort to come to Japan. Your taking this time is in itself the way the Peace Pagoda is arising in New England."



*From the Archives*

~

*Ground Breaking Blessing, in 1983*

*Fujii Guruji shovels the first spadeful of earth as a sacred blessing for the intention of the very first Peace Pagoda in the United States,*

*The New England Peace Pagoda of Leverett, MA., was inaugurated in 1985.*

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND PEACE PAGODA

Saturday, October 2, 2010

The day of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will soon be upon us. The day promises to one filled with festivity and rejoicing and much gratitude for all that has brought us to this auspicious day of celebration.

As you will see from the enclosed invitation, it will be a full day of observance from the Opening Drumming to the Community Dance and Hearty Feast.

Please make note of the earlier starting time of 10:00am! Also, feel free to bring some personal snacks to tide you over until lunch at 1:30pm!

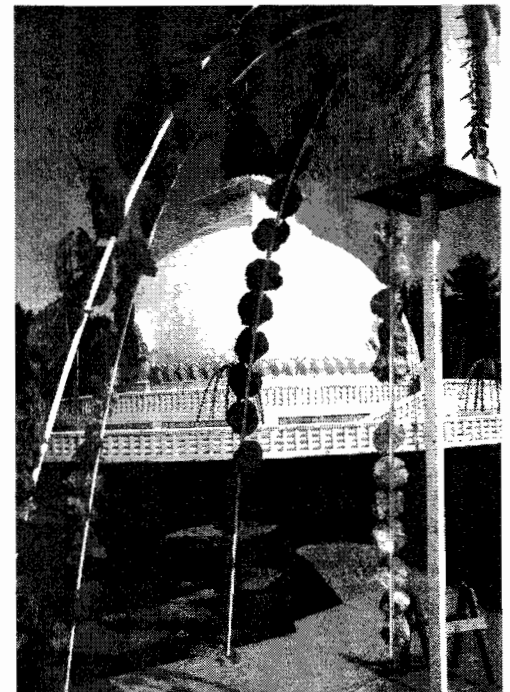


Photo by  
Quinn Askew



## HONORING MAHATMA GANDHI AT THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND PEACE PAGODA

By holding this year's ceremony on the actual birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, we wish to honor the life of this "great soul" of India, who helped to inspired and guide the peoples' movement to remove the yoke of British Colonial rule and reclaim self-rule. In so doing, Gandhiji bequeathed faith and the rightness and in the ultimate spiritualv victory of Non-Violence to the world.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. among others in the U.S. made these teachings his own, with countless ordinary people in the Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movement as well as other movements also making these teachings their own.



Our teacher, Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii, encountered Mahatma Gandhi on October 4, 1933 at the Ashram in Wardha. Guruji shared with Gandhi-ji the prayer, **Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo**, and offered it from the depths of his soul for the success of the movement in India. Gandhi-ji took up this prayer, opening his daily interfaith prayers with **Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo**.

### Words from Mahatma Gandhi ~

*The term Satyagraha was coined by me in South Africa to express the force that the Indian people in South Africa used for fully eight years...its root meaning is holding on to Truth, hence Truth Force. I have also called it Love Force or Soul Force.*

*...It is a force that may be used by individuals as well as by communities. It may be used in political as well as domestic affairs. Its universal applicability is a demonstration of its permanence and invincibility. It can be used alike by men, women, and children.*

*...Only those who realize that there is something in man which is superior to the brute nature of him and the latter always yields to it can effectively Satyagrahis...the greater the spirit of Satyagraha in us, the better men and women we will become. Its use is, I think, indisputable, and it is a force, which if it became universal, would revolutionize social ideals and do away with despotism and the ever growing militarism...*

*Education in Satyagraha should come not after the ordinary education in letters for children, but it should precede it. It will not be denied that a child, before he or she begins to write and gain worldly knowledge, should know what the Soul is, what Truth is, what Love is, what powers are latent in the soul.*

*Mahatma Gandhi, 1914.*

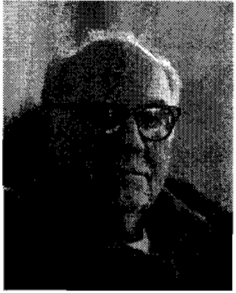
from the early non-violent Campaign of the Indian People in South Africa

## ACTIVIST, AUTHOR, JIM DOUGLASS

### TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 25<sup>th</sup>!

Keynote Address is entitled:

"JFK, Obama, and the Unspeakable"



As Jim Douglass has written:  
"What does it mean to be transformed as president of the United States, at the edge of total nuclear war, into a peacemaker? John F. Kennedy's turn toward peace, resulting in his assassination, provides a parable of the unspeakable for President

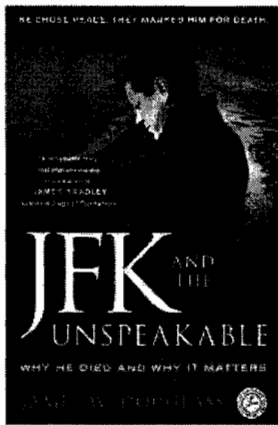
Barack Obama and ourselves in the midst of our escalating war on terror. Can we discover hope for our enlightenment and resurrection as one human family through the dark truths of Dallas?"

### ABOUT JIM DOUGLASS

Jim Douglass has accepted our invitation to give the keynote address at this year 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 2. Jim and his wife Shelly have had a lifelong commitment to non-violence and have been friends of Nipponzan Myohoji for 30 years.

In recent years, Jim has carefully and deeply researched the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King. His first book coming from this deep study is entitled JFK and the Unspeakable, published by Orbis Books.

In October of 2010, a second edition will be published in paperback by Simon and Schuster. Jim's focus is not on pointing the finger at who may have pulled the trigger but why John F. Kennedy was killed. Jim Douglass believes that John Kennedy was undergoing an ever-deepening conversion to peace, and that despite the peril, he was pursuing policy changes for peace, knowing that it could cost him his life.



Jim sees JFK's choosing peace as a sign of hope. By shining the light of truth on this major moment in our history, Jim Douglass believes that we can come to more clearly understand how important and necessary *all of us* are to bring about a true transformation of this country to peace .

## WALK FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE

March 19 - May 2, 2010

For this year's *Walk for a New Spring*, the New England Peace Pagoda initiated a five week walk, March 19 to May 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning in Burlington, Vermont, through New England to the United Nations, bringing the prayers and aspirations of the People to the United Nations just as the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty review began.

In a very moving moment, our walk joined with three other walks at the George Washington Bridge, becoming one big river of humanity walking down Broadway to Riverside Church. The sacred sound of the drum and the prayer

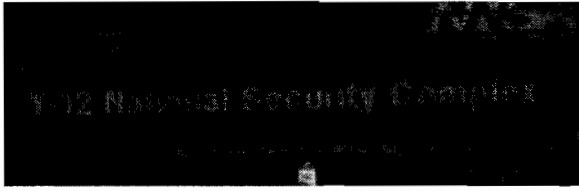
of the Great Divine Compassion - Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo - pervaded the surroundings in all directions. A huge delegation of Hibakusha and other peace advocates from Japan brought a special heart and soul to the international gathering on May 2, when many thousands of people walked together from Times Square to the United Nations.

The hope is that pressure from the world's citizens will move the United States and other nuclear-armed states to negotiate, along with non nuclear armed nations, a new treaty that sets a clear timetable for nuclear abolition. Although it may seem a distant goal, we believe the spiritual determination of the people will achieve this goal. Hiroshima's Mayor Akiba has set an urgent standard that nuclear abolition be achieved while some Hibakusha still walk the earth.

Along with abolition of nuclear weapons, we commit to put an end to the entire nuclear cycle - the uranium mining, nuclear power, depleted uranium weapons, and the endless stockpiling of radioactive waste.



**Y-12 GATHERING IN TENNESSEE  
AT THE Y-12 Plant, Oakridge  
July 22-6, 2010  
"Independence from Nuclear terrorism"**



Two months after the massive rally at the United Nations, several of us had the wonderful opportunity to join a national gathering at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons plant in Oakridge, Tennessee. This plant was not only responsible for the fabrication of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima, but it is also a plant where our contemporary nuclear weapons are assembled.

The gathering was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Ploughshares Action, which took place at a General Electric plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, where nuclear weapons were designed. The July gathering in Oakridge was an excellent occasion for the renewal of commitments and connections among people across the United States. People came who have and continue to bear witness at nuclear silos, warships, uranium mining sites on Native American land, nuclear reactors, and many other sites where deadly radiation kills people and weapons threaten the existence of life. Nipponzan Myohoji has been walking and joining together with these activists, across this country, always offering the prayer in support of this life giving work.. When we offered the prayer at the Y-12 Weapons Facility it was well known and very appreciated.

At the gathering at Oakridge, we learned that Congress had just voted funding to begin making 80 new thermal nuclear warheads annually. Although this staggering news has not been carried in the media, this funding effort shows how necessary our efforts are to nuclear disarm the United States. When this happens, global abolition will be in our hands.

A number of people chose to undertake an action of non-violent civil disobedience, crossing the state/federal line in order to bear spiritual witness to the higher law of protection of life.

A quote from the Knoxville News Sentinel:  
"We're working for the survival of the human species. It's come down to that," John Schuchardt of Ipswich, Mass., one of the Ploughshares veterans, said. John Schuchardt, dear friend of Nipponzan Myohoji since 1976 was one of the original Ploughshare Eight. Among the over 200 gathered at the Oakridge site included other Ploughshare Veterans: Molly Rush, Anne Montgomery and Carl Kabat - as well as Elizabeth McAlister, Philip Berrigan's widow.

Over the past 30 years, Schuchardt said, "What's changed is that at the end of the Cold War, the world of humanity breathed a sigh of relief. This mutually assured destruction was over. The Warsaw Pact was dismantled." But that "moment of hope" faded, he said, because leaders have reignited fear into the American people and want to rebuild the weapons work that "bleeds the public treasury" and breeds insecurity."



At the Y-12 Plant in Oakridge, Tennessee

For further coverage:  
[www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jul/05/nuclear-weapons-protested/](http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jul/05/nuclear-weapons-protested/)

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
to Tim Bullock  
for Photos from  
the Walk for Nuclear Free Future,  
the Walk for 7 Generations, and  
Y-12 Gathering at Oakridge

## WALK FOR 7 GENERATIONS

July 31 - August 9, 2010

Walk for 7 Generations was a 10 day Walk from Dorchester (Boston) to the Peace Pagoda, July 31-August 9, 2010. In the context of remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Aug 6 & 9<sup>th</sup>) the Walk for 7 Generations felt a particular mission to reach out to young people, and our route took us to places of hope for peace and sustainability. Our walkers - many of them young themselves - began by meeting with youth in Dorchester, an event facilitated by the Louis D. Brown Institute. The youth in Dorchester shared deeply and personally of their work to cultivate more peaceful spirits within, so that they could bring more peace into their homes and communities. It was a humbling, inspiring opening circle. Over the course of ten days walkers went to a number of farms, both rural and urban, and also to places where people have chosen to live life styles "off the grid." Everywhere we found such truly remarkable young people. What hope is alive in their spirits! Good medicine for everyone's spirits!



### U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN ROOS ATTENDS HIROSHIMA MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Japanese city of Hiroshima marked the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombing during the Second World War on Friday, August 6. It is heartening to note that this year on Hiroshima Day, 74 nations were officially represented at the ceremony.

The U.S. Ambassador to Japan, John Roos, participated, representing both the Obama administration and the people of the United States. This was the very first time that an official U.S. representative attended the memorial service that is held every year to remember the victims who had perished and to call for complete abolition of all nuclear weapons.

This is a significant step forward for our country, which unleashed the A-Bomb on the entire population of Hiroshima in that one instant on August 6 1945, killing estimated 100,000 people almost immediately with untold agonizing deaths to follow.



### GARLANDS FOR PEACE

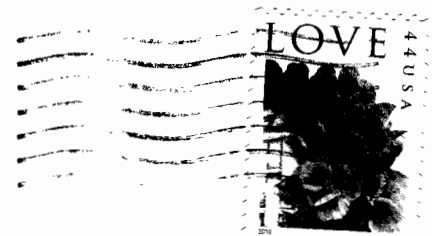
A Special Evening offered by  
Scott Garland and friends

Silver Anniversary Concert Celebration  
For the New England Peace Pagoda  
Friday Evening, October 1  
At 7:30 pm  
House of One People  
Ripley Road, Leverett, MA

Welcoming Greeting  
Flute and Meditation  
Kirtan Wallah ("Peace")  
Well-known Artist, Shubalananda  
Will be accompanied by  
Harmonium and Tabla

Coming from Route 63, take Left on West Chestnut Hill Road, which is at the Montague-Leverett town line of North Leverett Road. Ripley Road is off of West Chestnut Hill Road.

New England Peace Pagoda  
100 Cave Hill  
Leverett, MA 01054



25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
October 2, 2010

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP AT THE PEACE PAGODA

There is always something to do on top of the hill - and something for everyone's gift, skill, and interest. We guarantee it!

- Before the 25<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed to help repaint the railing and dome of the Pagoda

Please note: *Contributions are needed for the purchase of the paint needed to finish the painting of the Pagoda. No contribution is too big or too small.*

- Touching up the paint in the niches

New Temple construction includes:

- interior tiling in the bathroom
- other interior finish work
- Gardening
- Making decorations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration;
- Helping with preparing lunches and dinners for the volunteers and workers

*All offerings of help and resources are appreciated and gratefully received.*

