

PLEASE HOLD THESE EVENTS IN THE LIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2002

International Days and major international conferences form a natural rhythm for those who work in meditation and prayer to invoke the lighted, loving energies of divinity and to see those energies inspiring and nourishing all that is being done in the world to create right human relations.

A meditation outline for international Days is available on the web at: www.UNmeditation.org

August 26 – September 4 World Summit On Sustainable Development — Johannesburg

Monday – Wednesday

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/>

<http://www.josummit.com/>

<http://www.ubuntuexhibit.co.za/>

<http://www.earthtimes.org/>

With the heads of state and other dignitaries beginning to meet Monday through Wednesday we ask that you please send as many blessings and positive energy to this corner of the world as you can! We thank all of you for your ongoing support! – Diane Williams, Tribal Link Foundation – from the Summit.

The Earth Summit is a major gathering for governments and concerned people from all areas of life to plan the best way forward in eradicating poverty and restructuring the relationship between human society and the natural environment. Tens of thousands of people are gathered from all over the world in Johannesburg for the event. With our prayers and meditations we can play our part in building an environment of mind and heart at the Summit that will be conducive to wise decisions – we can visualize the event being overshadowed with lighted, loving energies.

A sacred site is being used by people at the Summit. “Surrounded by an open space for sacred ceremonies and rituals, South Africa’s traditional communities [have created] a tribal link of indigenous dwellings to be used for quiet reflection, meditation, prayer and other appropriate programmes. Spiritual and religious leaders and indigenous people [are] especially encouraged to utilize this space to create sacred and transformative experiences that [will] build unity, community and commitments among the participants.”

World leaders ... gathered at the United Nations almost two years ago for the Millennium Summit. They decided that the first 15 years of this century should be used for a major onslaught on global poverty, and set a number of targets – the Millennium Development Goals – for doing so. But they also resolved to free future generations “from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities”. The Johannesburg Summit aims to find practical ways for humanity to respond to both these challenges – to better the lives of all human beings, while protecting the environment. The Summit also aims to move from commitments – of which we have had plenty, 30 years ago and 10 years ago – to action.

UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan

**September 1
Sunday**

Interdependence Day : Co-Existence or No-Existence

<http://www.wetheworld.org/>

Interdependence Day is being launched this year by We The World organization at the Johannesburg Summit with the aim that it become an annual event.

In proclaiming Interdependence Day, we are acknowledging the evident - that we are all connected, and that when one thread in the web of life is sundered, all are diminished. Where equity and mutual respect prevail, all benefit. Interdependence is a reality, a gift, and a responsibility.

We are gathering support to link Interdependence Day with the 10th Anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg South Africa, this August. We, The World, with many other non-profit co-sponsors, will present an international day of celebration, information and action to explore in depth all the profound implications of our interdependence. Let us know if your organization(s) would like to endorse and/or co-sponsor Interdependence Day.

We celebrate the connections that inexorably relate all life and the supporting environment in an interrelatedness of sustenance and sustainability. We celebrate the animals, insects, birds, fish, trees, waters, air and earth, who dance with the humans in a network of interdependence. We are creating a day of profound recognition of our debt to each other and our joy in our connection.

Rick Lukens, We, The World

**September 2
Monday**

Pause the World Day

<http://www.pausetheworld.org>

What to do: *Calm Down, Cool Out, Be Nice, Plant a Seed and Smile - Hug a Person, a Tree and/or an Animal - Take a Moment to Meditate.*

Why: *Founder, Paul Sladkus, former CBS/PBS Producer and host of Good News Broadcast stated: "We are asking the world to take a moment to PAUSE on 9/2/02, to Calm Down, Cool Out, Be Nice, Plant a Seed and to Smile. For American's it is Labor Day already and we are supposed to PAUSE! Our concept mirrors the Earth Summit in Johannesburg and the Earth Charter with the four major principles of: 1. Respect and Care for the Community of Life 2. Ecological Integrity 3. Social and Economic Justice 4. Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace. People can PAUSE on Monday 9/2/02 by hugging a person, a tree and/or an animal and by taking a moment to meditate. Paul sadly, stated that the last 100 years have created more war victims than in the history of humankind. Mother Earth and our water supply is threatened, but Good News is ahead. Countries have agreed to PAUSE. Imagine."*

As stated in the Earth Council/SGI Movie, A Quiet Revolution hosted by Meryl Streep, with Kofi Annan:

1. 2 out of 3 people in the world will have problems with clean drinking water by 2025

2. *We need 80 Billion dollars annually to feed all the people of the world and the world spends 10 times that amount on military annually*
3. *Half of the world lives on less than \$2.00 a day. However there is hope and people are doing something about it.*

**September 8
Sunday**

International Literacy Day

http://www.unesco.org/education/literacy_2001/
<http://www.unmeditation.org>

Despite considerable efforts in the 1990's, there are still 877 million adult illiterates in the world, two-thirds of whom are women.

**September 9 – 11
Monday – Wednesday**

55th annual Conference for NGO's affiliated with the United Nations

<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/55conf.htm>

Every year the United Nations holds a major conference at UN Headquarters in New York for people's groups affiliated with the Department of Information of the United Nations. These are major gatherings, attracting representatives from many different countries, and are important occasions in building closer ties between the UN and groups representing 'we, the people's'. The conference will be addressed by Kofi Annan.

This year the theme of the conference will be: ***Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict ; A Shared Responsibility.*** Workshops at the conference include the following:

**September 10
Tuesday**

Rebuilding Societies : A New Approach

This workshop at the UN NGO conference in New York (1.15 – 2.45pm) is being organised by the New York UN Spiritual Caucus and involves several groups represented at the UN, including Findhorn Foundation, Lifebridge Foundation, and World Peace Prayer Society.

"This workshop offers a practical and spiritual approach for group interaction and decision-making that can be useful to NGOs who wish to collaborate and, together, shape creative solutions to global issues. This process involves interior silence followed by dialogue and results in a collective direction on which the group can take action."

Speakers will include: Nancy Roof (Center for Psychology & Social Change), Frances Edwards & John Clausen (Findhorn Foundation), Barbara Valocore (Lifebridge Foundation), Nikolai Parker (World Peace Prayer Society).

**September 11
Wednesday**

World's Biggest Hug for Peace

<http://www.worldpeace.org.au>

An Australian organization is calling on the people of the world to mark the anniversary of September 11 with a day when people around the world hug. The group's wonderful web site records pledges of hugs from individuals in different countries. In Wollongong, Australia there will be an attempt to beat the record for the world's largest hug.

'Pledging a Hug' is easy and it's free, and will inspire people to be part of the global call for peace. Our goal is to have 100,000 people 'hugging' for peace this September 11 - a noticeable way of informing decision-makers of the community's wish for peace.

**September 11
Wednesday**

Annual Interfaith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations

<http://www.interfaithcenter.org>

Every year an interfaith service is held in New York to mark the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. As this years event will take place on the September 11 anniversary, it will be of special significance. The service, to be held at St Bartholomews, is organised by the Interfaith Center of New York and the Temple of Understanding. Special guests include President of the UN General Assembly, Jan Kavan, UN Secretary -General, Kofi Annan, and September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.

**September 16
Monday**

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

http://www.unep.org/ozone/ozone_day2002/

<http://www.unmeditation.org/>

Ozone Day has been celebrated since 1994 on September 16th, the date on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987.

There is an excellent summary of the science and international politics of ozone protection on the UN Environment Programme Ozone Day website.

**September 21
Saturday**

International Day of Peace

http://www.wethepeoples.org/intl_day_peace.php

<http://www.intuition-in-service.org>

<http://www.idpvigil.com>

This United Nations Day provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of Peace on a shared date. Use the International Day of Peace annually to highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001 to 2010.

This year, for the first time, a Vigil is being organised by key peace and inter-faith organizations, together with the United Nations, calling for houses of worship and sacred spaces around the world to be used for 24 hour vigils for a culture of peace.

INTUITION IN SERVICE and the UN DAYS & YEARS MEDITATION INITIATIVE are co-ordinating a 24 hour global vigil of meditation and prayer for a culture of peace. Look at the web site (www.intuition-in-service.org) to see how you and your group can participate in this meditation focus using the Great Invocation, the World Peace Prayer, May Peace Prevail on Earth, or a peace prayer of your choice. Every 15 minutes for a 24 hour period, prayers will be used by participants from different parts of the world.

**22 September
Sunday**

World Day of Planetary Ethics

<http://www.planetaryvision.net>

September 22/23, the first spring day in the southern hemisphere, marks the second annual "World Day of Planetary Ethics." On this special day, people from cultures and nations planet-wide will unite under the banner of the Club of Budapest's "Planetary Vision Festival" to celebrate a new ethics for humanity through local dialogues and positive actions for a sustainable and peaceful future.

The central theme of this World Day is "You Can Change the World", in support of the global initiative being launched by the international Club of Budapest (www.club-of-budapest.org). A major program under this initiative, "Best Practice Projects for a Sustainable World", will annually recognize the planet's most ecologically and socially sustainable projects. The Club of Budapest and Planetary Vision Festival are also calling on individuals and organizations everywhere to sign The Earth Charter this World Day, as a foundation for a first democratic global constitution (www.earthcharter.org).

**27 – 29 September
Friday – Sunday**

Peace Walk 2002

<http://www.gandhiinstitute.org>

The Peace Walk 2002 weekend in Memphis, TN USA, will bring together committed individuals dedicated to seeking peace to practice the living spiritual traditions of humankind -- prayer, mindfulness, meditation, yoga -- guided by leading peacemakers and practitioners of non-violence. Guides include Thich Nhat Hanh, and Dr Arun Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi's grandson).

**28 September
Saturday**

Summit for Peace

<http://www.shiesl.com/peace>

Sponsors of this Summit to be held in the USA (University of Vermont) include Dorothy Maver and the Vermont Peace Institute. Speakers include US Congressmen Dennis Kucinich and Bernard Sanders (co-sponsors of a move to create a Department of Peace as a cabinet level US agency). The event is to be broadcast on an international webcast to five or more countries.

IN 2002 THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS OBSERVING TWO THEMES OF DEEP SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL – BUT OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THOSE WHO VALUE SUBJECTIVE WORK:

**International Year of Mountains
International Year of Ecotourism**

2002 is also being observed as United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage

Remember these important International Decades:

1993-2003 Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1994-2004 International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

1995-2006 UN Decade for Human Rights Education

1997-2006 UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

2001-2010 International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

2003-2012 United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All

Suggested Meditations in support of UN Days and UN International Years are available on the web at: www.UNmeditation.org

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