



· SUMMER OF ·
PEACE

*"Building a culture of peace
from the grassroots up"*

eNewsletter – May 2009 - ALL HANDS ON DECK!

We need *you* at our **TOWNHALL** meeting on
MAY 12th.

Help us strategize around next steps and learn about exciting volunteer opportunities! Details below.

Inside:

- **Summer of Peace Townhall Meeting on Next Steps and Volunteer Opportunities: May 12th** – Click [here](#) for location and directions!
- **Organizational Updates:**
 - June Forum Featuring **Jen Siebel Newsom** (SF First Lady)
 - New Executive Director Announced
 - Launch of Peace Practices Program Area
 - New Partner: Global Coherence Initiative
 - Successful January and March Private Friendraisers & Fundraisers
 - Our New Executive Summary

Dear *Summer of Peace* Subscriber,

It has been an exciting and invigorating 2009 as we continue to lay the groundwork for the Summer of Peace. We have been in conversation with dozens of organizations and key Bay Area leadership over the last months, building an enthusiastic core of support for our project and mission: to accelerate the shift from a culture of violence to a culture of peace through local collaborations, best practices, region-wide civic engagement and inspirational events in the San Francisco Bay Area, which can then be replicated nationally and globally.

The possibilities before us are truly outstanding. Below, you'll find key updates on organizational developments. But first, we want to invite you to an important meeting.

TOWNHALL MEETING

May 12th @ ESSEX (1 Lakeside Drive, 2nd Floor)
7:00 to 9:00, Oakland, CA ([Directions](#))

Please join us!

- Learn more about how the project is developing
- Help define our next steps moving forward by providing critical feedback and guidance on core strategy areas, including:
 - Our first public fundraiser in June, featuring SF First Lady, Jen Seibel Newsom and other guest speakers.
 - Exploring the potential for a Peace Day or Peace Week in fall of 2009 that will be a smaller version of the Summer of Peace 2010 activities, demonstrating the power that comes from collaboration among many groups.
- Explore volunteer possibilities for our Cities of Peace initiative, Peace Day or Peace Week grassroots event, Peace Practices program, June Fundraiser, and ongoing infrastructure support.

Your **invaluable feedback** will help determine our direction moving forward. We hope you will join us for an enlivening townhall gathering.

Please write matthew@summerofpeace.net or call 510-227-8101 if you think you will be able to join us.

June Forum Featuring Jen Siebel Newsom (San Francisco First Lady)

This is a heads-up that we will soon announce the time and location of our June Fundraiser. SF First Lady Jen Siebel Newsom spoke in March at a private fundraiser for Summer of Peace - and she made it clear to all that she is one of our biggest fans! We look forward to a repeat performance from the First Lady of SF, and touching testimonials from a stellar line-up of other special guests.

Peace Practices Program Area Launch

We are thrilled to announce the launch of one of our major program areas, Peace Practices. This program harnesses the most effective practices for "inner" transformations that contribute to peace, especially focused on serving most-vulnerable populations; transforming "hot spot" areas of conflict or violence throughout the Bay Area; and providing classes, workshop and retreats for the general public. We are extremely privileged to have developed a flagship partnership with [Urban Peace Movement](#) (formerly the renowned Silence the Violence program of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.) Stay tuned for announcement about a string of upcoming workshops and retreats on conflict transformation, meditation and other practices.



New Partner!

[The Global Coherence Initiative](#) is a science-based initiative designed to help individuals and groups work together, synchronistically and strategically, to increase the impact of their efforts to create positive global change at the individual, social and ecological levels.

Jack Canfield, co-Creator of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul®* Series, co-author of *The Success Principles™*, and founder of the Transformational Leadership Council, notes, "The Global Coherence Initiative is perhaps the greatest experiment in the history of the world."

New Executive Director Lawrence Ellis

We are thrilled to announce a new Executive Director. Lawrence Ellis, a Rhodes scholar who specializes in the study of peace movements, is a former director at



Interaction Associates (pioneers in large-scale civic change processes, including the highly praised Newark Collaboration Group, credited with revitalizing Newark, NJ.) He is also a spiritual activist rooted in Buddhist communities, his ancestral African & Native American traditions, and in numerous movements for peace, justice and sustainability. [Learn More.](#)

January and March Gatherings

We held two privately-sponsored outreach and fundraising events earlier this year. In January, esteemed vintner and businesswoman, [Bonny Meyer](#), welcomed our Summer of Peace team plus 12 strategic allies into her beautiful Napa home. We engaged in a spirited conversation about peacemaking and Summer of Peace programs. In March, [Marcia Wieder](#) and [Patrick Wyzorski](#) welcomed around 30 guests to their home in Mill Valley. Marcia, who has been profiled on Oprah and elsewhere for her groundbreaking work on [dream coaching](#), inspired us to dream big around Summer of Peace's key program areas.

Both events offered us a great opportunity to engage key community members in an intimate setting to build up support for our project. We received much valuable feedback, enrolled new supporters and raised some funds. We are planning additional events across the Bay Area in the coming months to continue our outreach and fundraising efforts to ensure the viability of the Summer of Peace.

DONATE NOW!

Please [make a donation](#) to support our ongoing work to accelerate the shift to a culture of peace throughout the Bay Area - and, ultimately, nationally and internationally.

Executive Summary

Update

THE CRISIS & THE OPPORTUNITY

Our society is steeped in a culture of violence. We are emerging from the bloodiest century in recorded history, with an estimated 191 million people killed in conflicts around the globe. Our violence towards the environment has put our planet on the brink of disaster with global warming, species destruction and other ravages. Far from an exception, the Bay Area has some of the worst national profiles in rates of homicides, youth suicide and other areas. Yet despite this picture, there are many rays of hope. On every level, from the individual to the ecological, there have been stunning examples of breakthrough transformations of conflict and violence. What if these inspired breakthrough programs collaborated on a demonstration project for creating a culture of peace?

VISION & MISSION

The Summer of Peace is designed to accelerate the shift from a culture of violence to a culture of peace through local collaborations, best practices, region-wide civic engagement and inspirational events in the San Francisco Bay Area, which can then be replicated nationally and globally. The Summer of Peace will bring the most inspirational peacemakers and the most effective peacebuilding programs together to create dramatic, measurable reductions in crime, domestic violence, ecological violence, and other forms of conflict. A series of dynamic programs will engage citizens in the process through conferences, trainings, concerts, neighborhood circles, school interventions, civic leadership gatherings, peace pledges and more. Our efforts will be researched and scientifically studied.

PROGRAMS

Our intent is not to replicate the great work of existing groups, but to offer an integrated platform for them to work more effectively through four program areas:

Cities of Peace Initiative - a "top-down" approach that leverages legislative, judicial and other mandated forms of change. Designed to work with local government and civic leaders, and local citizenry, to create systemic shifts.

PeaceWeek 2009 and Summer of Peace 2010- a "bottom up" approach that focuses on grassroots community-oriented involvement, and highlights the work of program partners. Provides ways to engage the general public in inspirational events, trainings, and other activities.

Peace Practices - an "inside-out" strategy that harnesses the most effective practices for "inner" transformations that contribute to peace, especially focused on serving most-vulnerable populations and transforming "hot spot" areas of conflict or violence throughout the Bay Area. This approach leverages the underutilized skills of coaches, mediators, meditators, teachers, therapists, and others.

Web 2.0 - an "outside-in" approach that leverages media and web technology to turn interest into engagement, citizen circles, and enduring networks that support a culture of peace.

By galvanizing broad-scale civic support for peacebuilding, bringing together best practices, and generating inspired media and social networks around peace, we intend to contribute to the historic shift beyond cultures of violence to a culture of peace, a gift that our descendants will enjoy for generations to come.

You can also read our latest [Executive Overview](#), reflecting our evolution over the past few months to a clearer statement of the case for peace, an expanded team, an integral change model, and four concrete program areas.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)