

**HOUSE OF PEACE
1 HIGH STREET
IPSWICH, MA 01938**



2026

***In every human Breast
God has implanted a Principle
which we call Love of Freedom;
it is impatient of Oppression
and pants for Deliverance.
(Phillis Wheatley)***

(It came as a mighty clarion call in 1883—a summons to safe harbor—a symbol of protection in this country for human rights and dignity—a divinely feminine edifice of respect and freedom....Here it is again, a Statue seeking to once more be seen and heard.)

THE NEW COLOSSUS

***Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The arc-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”***

(Emma Lazarus)

WINTER WORDS FROM THE HOUSE OF PEACE

History has a way with language. Words get born out of sweeping events that seem to change the course of human lives. And so, out of the universal experience of war there can come words, new words that attempt to reflect the ever-escalating spectrum of human anguish.

In 1941 Churchill recognized: *We are in the presence of a crime without a name.*”

Then, from one Raphael Lemkin came the new name for human destruction: GENOCIDE, its Greek and Latin roots attesting to the timeless phenomenon of mass murder. Years later (1949) the United Nations adopted the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide *in order to liberate mankind from such an odious scourge....* And still so many more, tragedy-filled decades after the Holocaust, facing the limitless atrocities in Gaza, another artist with words could write:

*You will find that during a genocide/ most words lose their meaning--
some sound empty and others strange/ Apart from unceasing prayer,
eloquence takes the form/ of tears of kindness and solidarity/
Even a quiet moan or sighing/is preferable to false words or worse:
a loud and wounding silence. (Yahia Lababidi)*

And then another unthinkable word of war burst into the dictionary of human suffering in 1945. With the shattering of the world-soul and the incineration of uncountable human lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 of that year the word HIBAKUSHA was created. Literally this term defines “a person who suffers explosion”--more specifically it embodies the ghastly reality of people irradiated by the atomic bomb.

Can any words possibly convey the immoral horror of such inhuman annihilation? And yet, other words can communicate the astonishing humanity and heroism of survivors of these world-changing tragedies...words that are whispered in the agony of near-despair...words that need no translation for they arise out of the universal heart...words that have become a cry to the powers of the world: NEVER AGAIN! NEVER AGAIN!

Yes, the streams of time have produced an ever-growing language for suffering – a living lexicon for helpless victims of violent warfare. But some would say there is another reality here, one that precedes these streams of time, one that even gives rise to hope. Its echoes are timeless and universal, mysterious, sometimes distant yet also incredibly near: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....(John 1)* Our times resound with the desecration of language but we can trust in that godly word--a word of light on the path...a word of truth and justice...a wisdom-filled word of healing...
the Word made flesh that dwells among us.

*Carrie Schuchardt
February, 2026*

The bond between the New England Peace Pagoda and the House of Peace permeates our life. We have walked together, prayed together, suffered and rejoiced together for more than 35 years. With gratitude for this blessing we share the 40th Anniversary Address of Ven. Kato, founding monk, who implores us to wake up to the powers of peace through non-violence.

MESSAGE DELIVERED BY VENERABLE KATO AT THE
40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND PEACE PAGODA -OCTOBER 5, 2025

The precept of non-killing is the very prayer for the establishment of world peace....The Founder and advocate for the building of World Peace Pagodas, Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii-Guruji, left us these words:

The source of peace resides in the Buddha-nature within the human heart. Therefore, we must seek a path of spiritual teaching that nurtures peace within the individual heart and cuts off war within the individual heart.

The superstition that war can be won by increasing and strengthening military power has ultimately led humanity to the production of nuclear weapons-- arms that threaten to annihilate both humankind and the earth itself. Humanity and the earth cannot coexist with nuclear weapons. Therefore they must be abolished. But in order to abolish nuclear weapons, we must first awaken to the truth that our belief—that conflicts can be resolved by armaments—is a delusion and profoundly false. Once we realize that we have been wrong in our collective thinking then humanity could make the determination to renounce all armaments, including nuclear weapons.

To believe in the complete renunciation of armaments, we must accept the precept: One must not kill another human being.” Buddhism teaches “All living beings possess Buddha-nature.” This is a declaration that divinity resides in every human heart and that humans are by nature beings who should mutually respect one another. If we learn to trust and respect one another, where then is the need to study the arts of war?

Today, the eyes of the entire world are fixed upon Gaza. The genocide being inflicted upon the Palestinian people is not merely an atrocity borne by them alone—it is a challenge to all of humanity....Yet courageous individuals have not given up....Nearly sixty ships with volunteers from more than forty nations sailed toward Gaza (in flotillas) confronting the dehumanizing tide sweeping across the world and declaring a collective NO to injustice....***

The current government of Israel and the governments backing them are following secular goals and strategies of absolute “might makes right”, totally rejecting any trace of spiritual teachings which have been given to guide humanity. The result is a descent into madness with acts of cruelty and brutality beyond measure visited upon the people of Palestine. The United Nations, which ought to restrain such atrocities, has failed to function structurally; governments around the world hesitate to intervene. Although citizens across the globe have risen in protest, crying out with all their strength, their voices have not succeeded in halting the violence. Frustration and helplessness now weigh heavily upon the hearts of people everywhere....

...Palestinians who continue to resist and endure immense suffering in their struggle for homeland survival have awakened the conscience of the worldTheir endurance has inspired global actions like the flotillas and continues to spark movements of solidarity among people across the planet....Let us join together in prayer that this global solidarity for relief to Gaza will continue to spread and become a light of hope for all humankind.

****(Note: even though the flotillas were forcibly turned back and volunteers harshly arrested one Gazan activist wrote: **I want to say to everyone in the naval fleets that they have truly arrived...yes, they have reached the deepest depths of our hearts and left an indelible mark. They did not break the blockade, but they shattered the harsh silence of the world, igniting in us a feeling of warmth and hope, and made us realize that we are not alone, that there are those who think of us, support us, and share the heartbeat of our lives and dreams.***)



The meeting of Buddhism with Anthroposophy (an awareness of one's own humanity and the deep reality of worlds—both spiritual and material) embodies significant levels of dialogue and discovery. One great leader in this vital exploration was Dr. Ha Vinh Tho. With his wife, Lisi, Tho expanded horizons: from therapeutic work in Camphill, Switzerland to the founding of Peaceful Bamboo Village, the ever-growing Camphill center in Hue, Vietnam; from International Red Cross work in areas of extreme conflict and humanitarian need to leadership of the Gross National Happiness Institute in Bhutan; from world teacher to profound meditator. Tho carried inner joy and infectious enthusiasm wherever he went...even at the gate of the threshold which he crossed on September 26, 2025.

Our deep friendship of many years began when Tho met the first Vietnamese refugee boys who joined my family in Camphill Village, Kimbereton Hills, in 1980. At that time Tho shared with me these words which have echoed in this House of Peace from the start of our work:

Each drop of blood shed by the hands of men has been washed away by the tears of women.

War originated in the minds of men. May peace be born in the hearts of women.

*Each drop of blood shed by the hands of men
has been washed away by the tears of women.*

War originated in the minds of men.

May peace be born in the hearts of women.

IN THIS HARD TIME

Editor's Note: Our welcome to children in need of medical care has given us the privilege of many friendships. One such precious gift is our relationship with a father and son from Gaza who were with us twice during the child's care at a Boston hospital. The following excerpts are from our ongoing communications since October, 2023. (We shall name the father here Ahmed)

HOP: Every hour of your pain is our pain. We only wish we could help in some ways that would make it all more bearable for you and your family....We pray, always we pray, and we wish you courage and strength. Never forget that you are always present in our heart.

A: Thank you from the heart. All of us say thank you for the message that supports us always. Please continue to keep Gaza in your thoughts and prayers.

* * *

HOP: Every night before I go up to bed I step outside the House of Peace and look at the skies and I think of you and your family in Gaza where it is not yet morning. And I pray for you and hope that there still are stars and moon that shine on you. They can't bomb away the starlight and they must not bomb away your hope. Our love and prayers are with you as everything seems even more painful for you. Stay strong....Somehow, somehow this must end.

A: Our situation these days not easy in Gaza from all sides but we thank God in everything that happens to us. Inshallah next days will be better.

* * *

HOP: We think of you on every day of this season of fall. We think of your family, your country, your life. We are with you, please know that. Every time I turn on the water or do simple things you cannot do, you come to mind and heart. Stay strong and keep together....Somehow –stay alive and help your people to survive....We all love you.

A: We know you love us. We know you stand with us. We are still alive. Help us if you can.

* * *

HOP: Every day I think of the mothers of Gaza. I weep and pray as the suffering gets worse all the time. Thank God you are with us to inspire us to hope and pray that somehow, some day, there will be peace.

A: ...Thank you, Mum. Happy Mother's Day.

* * *

HOP: Please know we are standing with you, day and night, trying to share with you this horrible time. Please know that we pray for you to survive and tell the world that no child, no family, no person on this earth should ever suffer as you and your people are suffering . Please know we love you and send you thoughts for strength and survival and even, we dare to say—hope.

A: Thank you. Your words give us the power to stay alive in this hard time....Our family say Salam. Every day and forever we remember you....We will not forget you. Never.

***PEOPLE FIND MEANING AND REDEMPTION
IN THE MOST UNUSUAL HUMAN CONNECTIONS
(Khaled Hosseini)***

The House of Peace continues to deepen its connections with the community of friends from Afghanistan, both locally and nationally. The current tragedy of the US ban on Afghans' entry into the country, thereby barring the long-promised reunification of families, creates a challenge both for meaning and redemption. We are constantly moved by the resilience of these people, by the depth of their faithfulness to family and friends, even over enormous distances, and by their humor, humility and hope in the process of adjusting to the ways of this new land. Our lively summer camp, extended family meals and festive gatherings, our day by day interactions on every level are a source of strength for us...and, we hope, for them. Recently we have even been able to offer assistance to Afghan families near Kabul, sending funds for a new water pump that many people can share after a long period with no such equipment. We also supplied hearing aids for a severely injured child—a great help for her!

Recently the situation for Afghans in the US, indeed for immigrants from countless countries, has dramatically worsened, and even Green Card holders are living in fear and confusion as ICE intensifies its brutality and illegal arrests and protracted detentions. These include Afghan men who fought for years and often suffered severe injuries protecting US personnel and interests in a violent war.

We are outraged at the level of human rights violations involved here and work in many ways to comprehend and heal the atrocities. Our immigration lawyers, our HOP Board members, our advisors and colleagues come together to seek justice for those oppressed and to bring reassurance to families and friends directly impacted by this oppression.

Yes, these are “the most unusual human connections”—ones we honor and cherish always, bearers of this House of Peace destiny for which we can only give thanks.

***May this be a house of welcome for the broken and diminished.
And may we have the eyes to see that no visitor arrives without a gift,
and no guest leaves without a blessing.
(John O'Donohue)***

The interconnectedness of House of Peace people that spans the globe has its center, its true heart-piece, in the core community at 1 High St. For this, founders John and Carrie give thanks daily, ever marveling at the unconditional hospitality offered by Mary Ellen, Geraldine, Vera and Conway, with helpers like Tamera and Joel and so many others available at every moment, giving so generously to all. Supported by a wide and beloved circle of donors and volunteers, friends and family, colleagues and partners the House of Peace carries on as a “thought of the heart, manifested in community life.” (HOP Principles and Purposes)

***WE HAVE INHERITED A LARGE HOUSE, A GREAT WORLD HOUSE
IN WHICH WE MUST ALL LIVE TOGETHER. (Martin Luther King)***

To many of the guests that come through our wide (almost 300 year old) front door the House of Peace seems very large. Indeed with its twenty rooms it is quite big—and yet so often we wish it could hold even more people, even more destinies of those who come in need of community life and healing. Just in the last months we have received visits from people from more than fifteen countries! Let us meet a few of them here:

- There was “Monique, a young girl who came with her mother from the Congo to receive intensive treatment for paralysis resulting from a violent attack at home.
- There was Ghita who came with her father from Morocco, a little child in need of treatment for burns at Boston's Shriners Hospital (she will return very soon!).
- There was the graduation of Faraz from Ipswich High School ...a celebration!
- There were summer swimmers, neighbors and guests from many countries: Mexico, Iran, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Afghanistan and more.
- Family members from Costa Rica and New Zealand (NY and Oregon and Illinois too!) were ...here to share and contribute to life at the House of Peace.
- Speakers and musicians came (including our gifted lyre players from Japan), here for the Summer Series and other events offered by our Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann.
- From their work for many years in Australia came the Bazeley family to live near the House of Peace for several months, offering their gifts in many ways: tending our garden, babysitting, tutoring, creating a wonderful summer camp for our Afghan children and sharing life with our household members and friends. Our best wishes accompany them at their new home in the Bruderhof community in Pennsylvania.

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There there also came into our community many beautiful days last Easter in the form of family and community togetherness during Carrie's serious illness and surgery. Painful for all, yes—but the full measure of care and prayer, of love and healing surpassed all suffering and created a renewed sense of awe-filled gratitude for life. From near and far came words prayers, visits and support, humbling in the extreme and marvelous in the outcome. We learned again:

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

Yes, it is a large house—a World House—a small center of hospitality and healing and joy for those who are led to come through that big front door.....”You come too!”

IN MEMORIAM

When the House of Peace was founded in 1990 a deep commitment to the community of friends and helpers on the other side of the Threshold was made. Each Thursday, in the early morning hours, a few of us gather before the altar in our small chapel and unite ourselves in verse and reading with those who have died, especially in the violence of war.

Ever more and more we behold the astonishing assembly of children who are dying in unprecedented numbers in the wars of this world. We try to delve as deeply as possible into the mystery of these childhood deaths. What does it mean for us, for all people, for our moment in history, for all time, when tens of thousands of children are buried in the tombs of rubble that once were home or school-- are bombed as they sleep or play or pray—are weakened even to starvation as nourishment is withheld—are frozen by the ice of inhumanity? Where do we find our place in all this? What voice shall we raise midst the deafening roar of such deaths? Several friends have turned to the House of Peace where children from lands far and near have sought physical and spiritual refuge for so many years. From our deep listening and reflection and prayer has come this verse which we say at noon each day, uniting ourselves with the lives, the deaths and the risen strength of these children of the world, around whom shine angel forces that guard each one on the way. We invite you to join us.

VERSE FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIED IN WAR

*Beloved children of God's Holy Spirit,
Enfolded by Angel Guardians of God's infinite love:
We call to you, taken from life through the world's harshest pain.
We surround you with our hearts' warmest compassion.
We entrust you to the powers of heaven's peace.
We unite with you in realms of radiant light.
And we work with you on earth, conscious of your enduring presence.*

*** **

Enclosed is my gift to the House of Peace.

Name _____ -

Address _____

_____ ***Amount*** _____

***House of Peace 1 High St. Ipswich, MA 01938 (978-356-9395) www.houseofpeaceinc.org
(email: thehouseofpeace@yahoo.com).... The House of Peace is a therapeutic community
serving victims of war in companionship with adults with special needs. We are a 501(c)(3)
tax-exempt charitable and educational community supported by voluntary contributions.***