

Reflections FOR NONVIOLENT COMMUNITY



A BOOK OF READINGS

.....
THE OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE
.....

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2015

About this booklet

This booklet grows from an intentional exploration of nonviolent community embarked upon by members of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. It has since expanded to embrace many members of our peace community.

Our intention is to use the booklet to build spiritual community. It is available for no charge to those who request it. Those who are using the book are asked to participate by contributing readings to it.‡

The common thread in these reflections is the struggle of human beings to improve the world. In OREPA, our struggle to end bomb production is part of that struggle. In these reflections, we join ourselves with the larger community that works to heal the world.

From the outset, the reflection booklet has been provided free of charge. If you are able to make a donation to cover the cost of your booklet, it will be greatly appreciated. A gift of \$20 would cover the cost of paper, printing and mailing for one year. If you are unable to make a donation, please continue to accept the reflection booklet and use it.

Each Thursday, in addition to our reflection, you will find the name of a member of our community who is using this reflection booklet. This is an opportunity to think a little about that person and all those who work for peace on her/his day.

Reflections for Nonviolent Community is also available on OREPA's web site: www.orepa.org—with color pictures!

‡ contributions, suggestions, requests can be sent to OREPA,
P O Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 or by e-mail to orep@earthlink.net

Saturday, August 1

I think that the key to peace has always been a question of values. Greed, cynicism, unchecked individualism and hypocrisy are all values that impede peace. Unfortunately, they are too often accepted as norms in today's world.

~ Oscar Arias

Sunday, August 2

1924 : JAMES BALDWIN BORN

The governments of the earth have built up a structure that exists only by the power of money. The head of the land—the Queen—is honored in proportion to the pomps and vanities of her immediate attendants. Her governors all hold out their hands for their wages, without which their patriotism would shrivel up.

~ Te Whiti

Monday, August 3

It is the second voice, the voice of our souls, that is almost totally silenced by the extroversion, aggressiveness, and materialism of modern life.

~ Mark A. Burch

Tuesday, August 4

During Secretary Stimson's recitation of the relevant facts, I had been conscious of a feeling of depression and so I voiced to him my grave misgivings: first, on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly, because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon that was no longer mandatory as a way to save American lives.

~ Dwight Eisenhower

Wednesday, August 5

1963 : ATMOSPHERIC TEST BAN TREATY SIGNED

It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender. My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to barbarians of the Dark Ages.

~ William Leahy

Thursday, August 6

Beth Degutis

1945 : US DESTROYS HIROSHIMA, JAPAN WITH ATOMIC BOMB—140,000 KILLED
1998 : MINUTEMAN II PLOWSHARES ACTION
2005 : 1,500 ATTEND LARGEST PEACE DEMONSTRATION IN OAK RIDGE HISTORY

In the case of an atomic bombing, a community does not merely receive an impact; the community itself is destroyed. Within two kilometers of the atomic bomb's hypocenter all life and property were shattered, burned and buried under ashes. The visible forms of the city where people once carried on their daily lives vanished without a trace.

Destroyed, that is, were not only men, women and thousands of children but also restaurants and inns, laundries, theater groups, sports clubs, sewing clubs, boys' clubs, girls' clubs, love affairs, trees and gardens, grass, gates, gravestones, temples and shrines, family heirlooms, radios, classmates, cooks, courts of law, clothes, pets, groceries and markets, telephones, personal letters, automobiles, bicycles, horses—120 war horses, musical instruments, medicines and medical equipment, life savings, eyeglasses, city records, sidewalks, family scrapbooks, monuments, engagements, marriages, employees, clocks and watches, public transportation, street signs, parents, works of art. The whole of society was laid waste to its very foundations. Such a weapon has the power to make everything into nothing.

~ Japanese study of the effects of the atomic bomb
from Richard Rhodes' *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*

Friday, August 7

The people passing along the street are covered with blood and trailing rags of their torn clothing after them. The skin of their arms is peeled off and dangling from their finger tips, and they go walking silently, hanging their arms before them.

~ Fourth-grade girl, Hiroshima

Saturday, August 8

At that instant I felt as though I had been struck on the back with something like a big hammer, and thrown into boiling oil. I seem to have been blown a good way to the north, and I felt as though the directions were all turned around.

~ a Junior-college girl, Hiroshima

Sunday, August 9

1945 : UNITED STATES DESTROYS NAGASAKI, JAPAN WITH ATOMIC BOMB
1974 : RICHARD NIXON RESIGNS PRESIDENCY OF UNITED STATES

The appearance of people was, well, they all had skin blackened by burns. They had no hair and, at a glance, you couldn't tell if you were looking at them from in front or in back. They didn't look like people of this world. They had a way of walking, very slowly. I myself was one of them.

~ A grocer

Monday, August 10

If the force of arms is considered the only means of authority, it is not an auspicious instrument.

~ Lao Tsu

Tuesday, August 11

Cry out with a hundred thousand tongues. The world is rotten because of silence.

~ Catherine of Siena

Wednesday, August 12

1953 : USSR EXPLODES FIRST THERMONUCLEAR BOMB

The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.

~ Vijaya Lakshmi

Thursday, August 13
Kevin and Cindy Collins

1942 : MANHATTAN PROJECT TO BUILD ATOMIC BOMB BEGINS

We have both the tools and innate desire for connection to the world around us. And we will never be able to grapple fully with the world's problems unless we are plunged and immersed in it. The world of woods and water and fields—and the sidewalks that children use to walk home from school—are among our greatest teachers.

Perhaps it will not be my generation that wrenches creation back from the brink; perhaps it will be the next one. But they will only be able to do so if they know it, love it, were once loose and free in it.

~ H Emerson Blake

Friday, August 14

1846 : HENRY DAVID THOREAU JAILED FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PROTESTING US INVASION OF MEXICO

1947 : INDIA INDEPENDENCE WON

I cannot teach you violence, as I do not myself believe in it. I can only teach you not to bow your heads before any one even at the cost of your life.

~ Mohandas Gandhi

Saturday, August 15

If you have compassion, a sense of caring, a sense of concern, even if you may use some harsh words, essentially you are nonviolent. Otherwise, with such motivation as wanting to cheat someone, or wanting to gain some bigger thing by giving some small thing, that is violent. Using nice words, nice actions, nice smiles, and making gifts in order to cheat, to deceive, or to manipulate, that is violent.

~ the Dalai Lama

Sunday, August 16

If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world. Now the judgment of God is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to perish together as fools.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, August 17

What we need are guardians—guardians committed to the middle path of mindfulness and dedicated to the enormous task of restoring and healing our ravaged planet. Guardians who have penetrated the anthropocentric notions of our civilization and who, as Aldo Leopold said, can begin to “think like a mountain” and acknowledge that we are only “plain embers of the biotic community.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

Tuesday, August 18

The only dream worth having is to dream that you will live while you are alive, and die only when you are dead. To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget.

~ Arundhati Roy

Wednesday, August 19

Perseverance is more prevailing than violence. Many things which cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little.

~ Plutarch



Mori and JR mixing concrete at the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda work camp in Cosby, Tennessee, in June 2015.

Thursday, August 20

Mary Ann Harwell

When he announced the air strikes, President George Bush said, “We’re a peaceful nation.” America’s favourite ambassador, Tony Blair, (who also holds the portfolio of Prime Minister of the UK), echoed him: “We’re a peaceful people.”

So now we know. Pigs are horses. Girls are boys. War is Peace.

Speaking at the FBI headquarters a few days later, President Bush said: “This is our calling. This is the calling of the United States of America. The most free nation in the world. A nation built on fundamental values that reject hate, reject violence, rejects murderers and rejects evil. We will not tire.”

Here is a list of the countries that America has been at war with—and bombed—since World War II: China (1945-46, 1950-53); Korea (1950-53); Guatemala (1954, 1967-69); Indonesia (1958); Cuba (1959-60); the Belgian Congo (1964); Peru (1965); Laos (1964-73); Vietnam (1961-73); Cambodia (1969-70); Grenada (1983); Libya (1986); El Salvador (1980s); Nicaragua (1980s); Panama (1989), Iraq (1991-99), Bosnia (1995), Sudan (1998); Yugoslavia (1999). And now Afghanistan.

~ Arundhati Roy

Friday, August 21

1831 : NAT TURNER SLAVE REBELLION

1968 : CZECHOSLOVAKIA RESISTS SOVIET INVASION

I heard a loud noise in the heavens, and the Spirit instantly appeared to me and said the Serpent was loosened, and Christ had laid down the burden he had borne for the sins of men, and that I should take it and fight against the Serpent, for the time was fast approaching when the last should be first and the first should be last.

~ Nat Turner

Saturday, August 22

A world body must be a combination of nations that by its composite nature will greatly reduce the chances of war. It will be more diverse in its interests than any single state, thus less likely to resort to aggressive or preventative war. It will be larger, hence stronger than any single nation. It will be geographically much more extensive, and thus more difficult to defeat by military means. It will be dedicated to supranational security, and thus escape the emphasis on national supremacy which is so strong a factor in war.

~ Albert Einstein

Sunday, August 23

Every conscious action no matter how miniscule connects energetically with every other action, and the quality and quantity of awakened consciousness increases incrementally on our planet.

~ Cynthia Bourgeault

Monday, August 24

1980 : SOLIDARITY FOUNDED, GDANSK, POLAND

Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

~ Adlai Stevenson

Tuesday, August 25

We live in the past, because there is nothing else to live in. To live in the present is like proposing to sit on a pin. It is too minute, it is too slight a support, it is too uncomfortable a posture, and it is of necessity followed immediately by totally different experiences, analogous to those of jumping up with a yell. To live in the future is a contradiction in terms. The future is dead, in the perfectly definite sense that it is not alive.

~ G. K. Chesterton

Wednesday, August 26

1920 : 19TH AMENDMENT—WOMEN (WHITES ONLY) VOTE!—RATIFIED

There are whole precincts of voters in this country whose united intelligence does not equal that of one representative American woman.

~ Carrie Chapman Catt



Jean Chapman inserts rebar posts for the railing at the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda during the June work camp.

Thursday, August 27

Kayce and Will Collins

Certainly it does not tire—this, the Most Free nation in the world. What freedoms does it uphold? Within its borders, the freedoms of speech, religion, thought; of artistic expression, food habits, sexual preferences (well, to some extent) and many other exemplary, wonderful things. Outside its borders, the freedom to dominate, humiliate and subjugate—usually in the service of America's real religion, the 'free market'. So when the US government christens a war 'Operation Infinite Justice', or 'Operation Enduring Freedom', we in the Third World feel more than a tremor of fear. Because we know that Infinite Justice for some means Infinite Injustice for others. And Enduring Freedom for some means Enduring Subjugation for others.

The International Coalition Against Terror is largely a cabal of the richest countries in the world. Between them, they manufacture and sell almost all of the world's weapons, they possess the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological and nuclear.

They have fought the most wars, account for most of the genocide, subjection, ethnic cleansing and human rights violations in modern history, and have sponsored, armed and financed untold numbers of dictators and despots. Between them, they have worshipped, almost deified, the cult of violence and war. For all its appalling sins, the Taliban just isn't in the same league.

~Arundhati Roy

Friday, August 28

1963 : MARCH ON WASHINGTON; M L KING'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH

We're gathered here for the longest demonstration in the history of this nation. Let the nation and the world know the meaning of our numbers.

We are not a pressure group, we are not an organization or a group of organizations, we are not a mob. We are the advanced guard of a massive, moral revolution for jobs and freedom. This revolution reverberates throughout the land touching every city, every town, every village where black men are segregated, oppressed and exploited. But this civil rights revolution is not confined to the Negro, nor is it confined to civil rights, for our white allies know that they cannot be free while we are not.

~ A Philip Randolph

Saturday, August 29

1949 : FIRST SOVIET ATOMIC BOMB DETONATED

The human venture depends absolutely on a quality of awe and reverence and joy in the Earth and all that lives and grows upon the Earth.

~ Thomas Berry

Sunday, August 30

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however undramatic the pursuit of peace, the pursuit must go on.

~ John F. Kennedy

Monday, August 31

Prejudice of any kind implies that you are identified with the thinking mind. It means you don't see the other human being anymore, but only your own concept of that human being. To reduce the aliveness of another human being to a concept is already a form of violence.

~ Eckhart Tolle

Tuesday, September 1

We merely want to live in peace with all the world, to trade with them, to commune with them, to learn from their culture as they may learn from ours, so that the products of our toil may be used for our schools and our roads and our churches and not for guns and planes and tanks and ship of war.

~ Dwight Eisenhower

Wednesday, September 2

The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

~ The Earth Charter



On July 8, 1996, the World Court issued an Advisory Opinion declaring the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons contrary to international and humanitarian law and ruling the United States and other nuclear weapons states have an obligation to achieve disarmament. OREPA members read an abbreviated version of the court's opinion at the July 12 Sunday vigil at the main entrance to the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, TN.

Thursday, September 3
Barb Smith

1838 : FREDERICK DOUGLASS ESCAPES TO FREEDOM

It is such a supreme folly to believe that nuclear weapons are deadly only if they're used. The fact that they exist at all, their presence in our lives, will wreak more havoc than we can begin to fathom. Nuclear weapons pervade our thinking. Control our behavior. Administer our societies. Inform our dreams. They bury themselves like meat hooks deep in the base of our brains. They are purveyors of madness. They are the ultimate colonizer. Whiter than any white man that ever lived. The very heart of whiteness.

~ Arundhati Roy

Friday, September 4

Become at ease with the state of “not knowing.” This takes you beyond mind because the mind is always trying to conclude and interpret. It is afraid of not knowing. So, when you can be at ease with not knowing, you have already gone beyond the mind. A deeper knowing that is nonconceptual then arises out of that state.

~ Eckhart Tolle

Saturday, September 5

1981 : GREENHAM COMMON ENCAMPMENT BEGINS

No one today can afford to be innocent, or to indulge themselves in ignorance of the nature of contemporary governments, politics and social orders. The national polities of the modern world are “states” which maintain their existence by deliberately fostered craving and fear: monstrous protection rackets.

~ Gary Snyder

Sunday, September 6

1860 : JANE ADDAMS BORN

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we often might win, by fearing to attempt.

~ Jane Addams

Monday, September 7

The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and everything to lose—especially their lives.

~ Eugene Victor Debs



What better way to end a work day at the Peace Pagoda than visiting the lion? Here Lauren, Carmella and Courtney celebrate another day of hard work during the June work camp.

Tuesday, September 8

As humans, we are born of the Earth, nourished by Earth, healed by Earth. The natural world tells us: I will feed you, I will clothe you, I will heal you. I offer you a communion with the divine; I offer you gifts you can exchange with one another. I offer you flowers whereby you can express your reverence for the divine and your love for each other. In the vastness of the sea, in the snow-covered mountains, in the rivers flowing through the valleys, in the serenity of the landscape, and in the foreboding of the great storms that sweep across the land, in all these experiences I offer you inspiration for your music, your art, your dance.

~ Thomas Berry

Wednesday, September 9

I don't like people telling me, "Oh, you are so lucky." I ain't lucky. Your ship comes in because you're the captain of it.

~ Patti Smith

Thursday, September 10

Bernie Whitton

1996 : COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY WINS UN APPROVAL

Anti-Americanism is in the process of being consecrated into an ideology.

The term 'anti-American' is usually used by the American establishment to discredit and, not falsely—but shall we say inaccurately—define its critics. Once someone is branded anti-American, the chances are that he or she will be judged before they're heard and the argument will be lost in the welter of bruised national pride.

What does the term 'anti-American' mean? Does it mean you're anti-jazz? Or that you're opposed to free speech? That you don't delight in Toni Morrison or John Updike? That you have a quarrel with giant sequoias? Does it mean you don't admire the hundreds of thousands of American citizens who marched against nuclear weapons, or the thousands of war resisters who forced their government to withdraw from Vietnam? Does it mean that you hate all Americans?

To call someone 'anti-American', indeed, to be anti-American, (or for that matter anti-Indian, or anti-Timbuktuan) is not just racist, it's a failure of the imagination. An inability to see the world in terms other than those that the establishment has set out for you: If you're not a Bushie you're a Taliban. If you don't love us, you hate us. If you're not good you're evil. If you're not with us, you're with the terrorists.

~ Arundhati Roy

Friday, September 11

1973 : US OVERTHROWS CHILE'S DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED ALLENDE

Song is like the water that washes the stones, the wind that cleans us, like the fire which joins us, and it lives within us to make us better people.

~ Victor Jara

Saturday, September 12

The rights we want: We want to choose our husband; we want to own the land; we want to go to school; we don't want to be cut anymore; we want to make decisions; we want respect in politics, to be leaders. We want to be equal.

~ Rebecca Lolosoli

Sunday, September 13

We are now struggling for a new world, which is based on peace, which is based on love, which is based on justice, which is based on accountability, based on human rights.

~ Tawakkol Karman

Monday, September 14

Wisdom is not a product of thought. The deep knowing that is wisdom arises through the simple act of giving someone or something your full attention. Attention is primordial intelligence, consciousness itself. It dissolves the barriers created by conceptual thought, and with this comes the recognition that nothing exists in and by itself. It joins the perceiver and the perceived in a unifying field of awareness. It is the healer of separation.

~ Eckhart Tolle



Linda Ewald listens attentively to the reading of the World Court's Advisory Opinion on the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons at the main gate of the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex on July 12, 2015.

Tuesday, September 15

1963 : FOUR GIRLS DIE IN BOMBING OF BIRMINGHAM CHURCH

Freedom cannot be achieved until women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.

~ Nelson Mandela

Wednesday, September 16

1991 : PHILIPPINE SENATE OUTLAWS US BASES

Simplicity in its essence demands neither a vow of poverty nor a life of rural homesteading. As an ethic of self-conscious material moderation, it can be practiced in cities and suburbs, townhouses and condominiums. It requires a deliberate ordering of priorities so as to distinguish between the necessary and the superfluous, useful and wasteful, beautiful and vulgar.

~ David Shi

Thursday, September 17

Jim Rugh

1098 : HILDEGARD OF BINGEN BORN

1978 : ISRAEL & EGYPT AGREE TO CAMP DAVID FRAMEWORK

We ought not to speak only about the economics of globalization, but about the psychology of globalization. It's like the psychology of a battered woman being faced with her husband again and being asked to trust him again. That's what is happening. We are being asked by the countries that invented nuclear weapons and chemical weapons and apartheid and modern slavery and racism—countries that have perfected the gentle art of genocide, that colonized other people for centuries—to trust them when they say that they believe in a level playing field and the equitable distribution of resources and in a better world. It seems comical that we should even consider that they really mean what they say.

~ Arundhati Roy

Friday, September 18

After all those years as a woman hearing “not thin enough, not pretty enough, not smart enough, not this enough, not that enough,” almost overnight I woke up one morning and thought, “I’m enough.”

~ Anna Quindlen

Saturday, September 19

1957 : US CONDUCTS FIRST UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST

Why was there violence in Gilead? Because they made what is primary secondary and what is secondary primary. Because they loved their possessions more than their children.

~ Midrash Tanhuma, Mattot

Sunday, September 20

The butter to be sacrificed because of the war always turns out to be the margarine of the poor.

~ James Tobin

Monday, September 21

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

Peace has its victories no less than war, but it doesn’t have as many monuments to unveil.

~ Kim Hubbard

Tuesday, September 22

The mountains and rivers and all living things, the sky and its sun and moon and clouds all constitute a healing, sustaining, sacred presence for humans.

~ Thomas Berry

Wednesday, September 23

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

~ Mark Twain

Thursday, September 24

Mary and Jack Rockers

Sonia Gandhi and her son play an important part in all of this. Their job is to run the Department of Compassion and Charisma and to win elections. They are allowed to make (and also to take credit for) decisions which appear progressive but are actually tactical and symbolic, meant to take the edge off popular anger and allow the big ship to keep on rolling. (The best example of this is the rally that was organised for Rahul Gandhi to claim victory for the cancellation of Vedanta's permission to mine Niyamgiri for bauxite—a battle that the Dongria Kondh tribe and a coalition of activists, local as well as international, have been fighting for years. At the rally, Rahul Gandhi announced that he was “a soldier for the tribal people”. He didn't mention that the economic policies of his party are predicated on the mass displacement of tribal people. Or that every other bauxite “giri”—hill—in the neighbourhood was having the hell mined out of it, while this “soldier for the tribal people” looked away. Rahul Gandhi may be a decent man. But for him to go around talking about the two Indias—the “Rich India” and the “Poor India”—as though the party he represents has nothing to do with it, is an insult to everybody's intelligence, including his own.)

The division of labour between politicians who have a mass base and win elections, and those who actually run the country but either do not need to (judges and bureaucrats) or have been freed of the constraint of winning elections (like the prime minister) is a brilliant subversion of democratic practice. To imagine that Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are in charge of the government would be a mistake. The real power has passed into the hands of a coven of oligarchs—judges, bureaucrats and politicians. They in turn are run like prize race-horses by the few corporations who more or less own everything in the country. They may belong to different political parties and put up a great show of being political rivals, but that's just subterfuge for public consumption. The only real rivalry is the business rivalry between corporations.

~ Arundhati Roy

Friday, September 25

I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't.

~ Audre Lorde

Saturday, September 26

1888 : T S ELIOT

Suppose we believed that the Scriptures indeed order woman to submit to the authority of man because she cannot think as well as he can, see here the absurdity that would follow: Women would be worthy of having been made in the likeness of the Creator, worthy of taking part in the holy Eucharist, of sharing the mysteries of the Redemption, Paradise, worthy of the vision, even possession, of God, but not of the status and privileges of men. Wouldn't we be saying then that men are more precious and sacred than all these things, and wouldn't that be the most grievous blasphemy?

~ Marie le Jars

Sunday, September 27

1990 : LAST US PERSHING II MISSILES REMOVED FROM GERMAN SOIL

Does Capital punishment tend to the security of the people?

By no means. It hardens the hearts of men, and makes the loss of life appear light to them; and it renders life insecure, inasmuch as the law holds out that property is of greater value than life.

~ Elizabeth Fry

Monday, September 28

Now, if the principle of toleration were once admitted into classical education—if it were admitted that the great object is to read and enjoy a language, and the stress of teaching were placed on the few things absolutely essential to this result, if the tortoise were allowed time to creep, and the bird permitted to fly, and the fish to swim, towards the enchanted and divine sources of Helicon—all might in their own way arrive there, and rejoice in its flowers, its beauty, and its coolness.

~ Harriet Becher Stowe

Tuesday, September 29

Computers can do all the left hemisphere processing better and faster than the human brain. So what's left for the human brain is global thinking, creative thinking, intuitive-problem solving, seeing the whole picture. All of that can not be done by the computer. And yet the school system goes on, churning out reading, writing, and arithmetic, spelling, grammar.

~ Betty Edwards

Wednesday, September 30

Exposing Western Hypocrisy—how much more exposed can they be? Which decent human being on earth harbors any illusions about it? These are people whose histories are spongy with the blood of others. Colonialism, apartheid, slavery, ethnic cleansing, germ warfare, chemical weapons—they virtually invented it all.

~ Arundhati Roy



At the end of a good day's work at the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda, part of the crew [Mori, JR, Sawada, Jay, Utsumi, Yuta, Matt, Ashleigh, Scottie and Ralph] assembled on the steps (yes! concrete steps!) for a day's-end photo.



The table is spread for the meal after the Ancestors' Ceremony at the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda in Cosby, Tennessee.



The Ancestors' Ceremony at the temple in Cosby, Tennessee, in July was an opportunity to remember those who have gone before us with a mixture of sorrow and gratitude. Ray Hearne offers incense during the ceremony.



Members of the Corrigan family and others listen in the Spirit Garden during the Ancestors' Ceremony. The ashes of Bill and Lil Corrigan, longtime peace activists from Atlanta, Georgia, were interred at the Spirit Garden during the ceremony in July.

front cover:

Sister Denise Laffan distributes incense in the Spirit Garden at the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda in Cosby, Tennessee, during the Ancestors' Ceremony in July.



Among those remembered during the Ancestors' Ceremony at the temple in Cosby, Tennessee, in July was OREPA's Larry Coleman; his daughter Erin (center), brother Greg (right), and wife Betty (second row, center) were among those who came for the ceremony. We recalled Anne Hablas, Vicki Quatmann, Ralph Galt, Irene Dickinson, Charlie Lord, Walter and Leonard Stark, Bev Hoyt, Phil Pollard, Gordon Maham, Judith Hallock, Rosalyn Cothran, Guy Carawan, Ralph Keyes, Ed Mucha, John Toren and many others.

sources

Readings for this month's reflection booklet were contributed by Mary Dennis Lentsch, Erik Johnson and Linda Ewald.