

## First Anniversary Report to the Community

Dayton International Peace Museum  
208 West Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402  
937-22PEACE (227-3223)  
<http://www.daytonpeacemuseum.org>  
Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday, 1-5

October, 2006

In the summer of 2003, upon returning from a citizen-observation visit to Iraq with her husband, Ralph, Christine Dull, long-time peace activist and citizen-diplomat, had a vision: *Dayton should have a museum dedicated to transforming our culture of violence into a culture of peace.* The museum would be a non-partisan cultural and educational facility designed to promote the concept of peace and the viability of non-violent solutions to conflict at the local, national and international levels. It would particularly seek to address the educational gaps, with regard to peace and peacemaking, of local, regional and international children, recognizing that they *can* and *will* become the next generation of peacemakers.

After two years of planning, and a brief tenure at 601 Riverview Ave., the Dayton International Peace Museum opened its permanent doors at 208 W. Monument Avenue in downtown Dayton, Ohio on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. That was a momentous day for the more than 100 volunteers who had donated their time, energy, ideas, labor and personal funds for the preceding two years to make it happen. But it was even more momentous for the surrounding community.

In the year that has passed since, the Museum has already come a long way toward establishing itself as an important cultural and educational institution not only locally, but regionally and even internationally. During a year packed with successful exhibits, events and educational initiatives, all focused on bringing peace and the ways to peace into the public consciousness, the unpaid staff and volunteers have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the Museum becomes more than a dream in the hearts of a few individuals—that it will take deep root in the hearts of the community it exists to serve, by serving that community in a way that fosters lasting community transformation through inter-racial, inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-personal peace and harmony.

Here is a review of the major events and milestones of the Dayton Peace Museum's first year:

### Exhibits

*Tower of Babel*—Cincinnati Artist Joan Effertz's beautiful series of monotype prints, depicting the artist's response to 9/11 and the following events, and her vision of how the world can evolve through authentic dialogue to a point where another 9/11 is unimaginable.

*Nobel Peace Prize Laureates*—The DIPM's signature exhibit, showcasing the people, and their important work for peace, recognized over the years with this international mark of appreciation and respect. The research for this exhibit was conducted by students of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

*United Nations*—A permanent DIPM exhibit created by museum co-founders Fred Arment, Steve Fryburg and Lisa Wolters, celebrating the UN's many peacekeeping and humanitarian organizations and initiatives worldwide.

*Hiroshima and Nagasaki*—A haunting exhibit created by Yellow Springs Artist Pierre Nagley, reminding us of the horror and tragedy of the world's first nuclear attack.

*Gandhi, King & Ikeda*—The Peace Museum marked the close of the 2006 Season for Nonviolence\* with Sokka Gakai International's traveling exhibit on the lives and teachings of three men who committed their lives to advocacy for nonviolent social change.

\* January 30-April 4, the period between the dates of assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mohandas K. Gandhi, respectively.

*Rock in Water: Haiti Waits*—a moving photographic essay by nationally-known photographer Robert Miller, contrasting the sweet beauty and open friendliness of the Haitian people with the deep poverty, suffering and hopelessness that fills their daily lives.

*The Many Faces of Iran*—In May, 2006, DIPM Director Steve Fryburg joined a Fellowship of Reconciliation delegation to Iran, to promote citizen-to-citizen understanding and diplomacy in an international climate of heightened political tension. This exhibit, created by Lisa Wolters and Museum volunteer Joe Kunkel, and centered around Steve's moving photographs of the people he encountered on this mission, brings to Daytonians a different portrait of Iranians than we receive from the new media—that of a people who long for world peace as much as we do.

*Darfur*—Recently, Actor George Clooney and his father Nick Clooney, a Cincinnati resident, traveled to the genocide-torn region of Darfur in Sudan, to document the horrific plight of displaced villagers forced from their homes by the government-backed rape, castration and wholesale slaughter perpetrated by the Janjaweed. This is their chronicle of a genocide that has so far gone shamefully under-noticed by the international community. The exhibit is rented from The Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

### Local Events

*Alternative Holiday Bazaar*—a well-attended holiday shopping opportunity with gifts and treasures not found in the usual seasonal bazaars. Fair-trade crafts and coffees, peace-oriented locally produced arts and crafts, the Heifer Project International (contribute a cow or a goat to the livelihood of a third-world family!), items from Tibet, Kenya and other regions where the proceeds go to support the causes of freedom and local development.

*Dayton: City of Peace*—In December and January, the Museum hosted two seminal meetings of Dayton civic, religious and political leaders to begin developing the idea that Dayton can reinvent itself as a City of Peace and Prosperity if we all work together to make it happen. Out of those meetings, a steering committee with membership from City, County and State representation, as well as directors of community organizations and private citizens, was self-selected to guide the process of reinvention. The committee is now working hard to establish Dayton's first Annual Peace Week, to be held in September of 2007. The week will open with a community-wide Open Space meeting at the Dayton Convention Center, where citizens can bring their ideas and energy to bear on the process of reinventing Dayton as a City of Peace. The Museum will also sponsor a Peace Festival to celebrate the UN Peace One Day call for an international cease-fire. And many smaller school, church and neighborhood-based events will help turn our city's attention to what we can do to create peace within our own boundaries. For 6 weeks surrounding Peace Week, the DIPM and the New Neon Movies will sponsor a Peace Film Festival, organized by Thomas Girvin.

*Spiritual Paths to Peace Lecture Series*—In January, United Theological Seminary President Ed Zeiders kicked off this series with a moving cautionary talk on his personal experience of coming to understand how his hunger to create peace in the world sometimes perpetrated an unintended and unnoticed 'violence' of neglect on those dearest to him. The series has proved very popular, with talks from leaders of different faiths and cultures, including Baha'i, Muslim, Baptist, Buddhist, Quaker and Hindu, on the expressions and teachings of peace in their traditions. It will continue into 2007 with representatives from Judaism, Native American Wisdom, Sufism, Church of the Brethren, Catholicism, Unitarian/Universalism, and more. At the conclusion of the series in

Summer 2007, we will hold a multi-faith community roundtable dialogue, inviting all of the series speakers to participate as panelists.

*Poets & Musicians for Peace*—A celebration of Peace in music and verse. We will reprise this popular event on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

*Future Energy & Conservation Center*—In August, the Future Energy & Conservation Center opened on the Dull Farm in Brookville. Created out of the vision of DIPM co-founder Ralph Dull, this sister exhibit facility to the Dayton International Peace Museum offers over 20 exhibits of clean energy and conservation, including 6 120' wind turbines and a hydrogen-making machine. Exhibits promote environmental conservation strategies and positive alternatives to U.S and world dependence on fossil fuels, highlighting the relationships among global energy use, planetary environmental sustainability and world peace. For Self-tours, opening hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For guided group tours or meeting space requests, please call (937) 832-6365. Address: 10404 W. National Rd., near Brookville, on the Dull Homestead Farm.

*Youth Forum on Nonviolence*—As part of the Season for Nonviolence, and in concert with the Gandhi/King/Ikeda exhibit in April, the Museum sponsored a Youth Forum to discuss how violence affects the lives of our local young people, as they perceive it, and what can be done to encourage a culture of peace in their schools and social environs. The event was well-attended by a multi-cultural and multi-faith mix of high school and college students, and the Dayton International Peace Museum Youth Branch, ongoing, was born!

n.b.: Local youth involvement in the activities of the Dayton International Peace Museum is expected to expand significantly in the next few months, following the recent appointment of dedicated volunteer Melissa Bertolo as the Museum's first Youth Ambassador.

*Dayton Peace Accords 5K Walk/Run*—Held on the anniversary of the Museum's opening, October 14, 2006, this health-promoting, outdoor event commemorated the historic signing of the Dayton Peace Accords. With several corporate sponsorships\*, the event drew upwards of 70 runners and walkers, who enjoyed a lovely fall run and a visit to the Peace Museum, as well as music, food and prizes. We expect this to become a growing annual Peace Museum event.

\* Corporate Sponsors: Dayton Daily News, University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Dayton Dragons, Five Rivers MetroParks, Catholic Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Panera Bread, Weiler Welding, and Boose Chevrolet.

### Educational Programs

*Peace-Abilities™*—Peace-Abilities is an elementary-level anger and conflict management curriculum developed by DIPM volunteer Debbie Wolf to teach kids how to recognize the consequences of their emotional responses and make healthy, peaceful choices when conflicts arise with friends, classmates or family members. The 2005-2006 academic year saw the introduction of this program in two Dayton Elementary schools, the private Corpus Christi in Five Oaks, and Horace Mann, a Dayton Public school. Both schools are committed to bringing the program back in 2006-2007. In addition, through word of mouth, St. Francis de Sales elementary school in Lebanon, has signed up for the program. Behind the scenes, the DIPM Educational Programming Committee will spend the coming year developing training and materials for more volunteers and teachers, so that we can meet the expected demand for this excellent program. Our goal is to establish Peace-Abilities as an annual part of the curriculum in all Dayton elementary schools by the 2009-2010 school year.

*Museum Field Trips*—Over 450 area students visited the Peace Museum in 2006. We expect another 1000+ student visitors this year, as the word spreads from teacher to teacher and school

to school about Dayton's "hottest" new field trip destination. Director Steve Fryburg and volunteer Jim Hagan present a wonderful, thought-provoking program for the kids, including imaginative exercises that help them develop empathy with others, cooperative games that teach them how everyone can win when they work together, peace arts and crafts, the Children's Peace Bank, and lots more. This year, as demand increases, we will be training a specialized corps of volunteers to facilitate school-group experiences of Peace at the Peace Museum.

*Dayton Area High School Peacemaker Awards*—The Dayton International Peace Museum has joined with National Conference for Community & Justice (NCCJ) to co-sponsor an annual awards ceremony for those area High School students who have most contributed through their ideas and actions to making their school environment inclusive, peaceful and safe during the academic year. These students are chosen by their classmates, and each one is honored with a Peacemaker Award certificate, a small scholarship, and a photograph/bio exhibit to remain on display at the Peace Museum for one year before being archived in the Museum's Peace Database. We hope to make this a growing annual program, with more high schools joining in each year. Volunteers Jim Hagan and Frank Swift worked hard to bring this program from idea to reality in 2006.

*The Wise and Peaceful Heart™*—A new program, begun in September of this year, The Wise and Peaceful Heart is a meditation training program based on research showing that regular meditation is a natural antidote to the myriad physical and mental ills brought on by stress, as well as a practical method for developing the inner skills—empathy, compassion, forgiveness, equanimity, loving kindness--necessary to peacemaking, whether on a family, school, community or world level. The program is conducted at the Museum on a weekly basis, and lasts for 12 weeks. Another will begin in January, 2007, and we hope to make it a cornerstone of our in-house educational programs.

**Note:** We have many other educational programs—both outreach and in-house programs—planned and awaiting the financial and volunteer capacity to roll them out.

### International Outreach

*Guernica*— In May of 2005, Steve Fryburg attended the conference of the Network of International Museums for Peace in Guernica, Spain. There, he was elected to be the representative of North America on the Network's Executive Committee, and the website manager for the Network. The 2009 Network conference will be hosted by DIPM, bringing representatives from 33 countries to Dayton.

*Iran*—In May of 2006, Steve represented the Dayton International Peace Museum on a citizen-diplomacy mission to Iran sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. While in Iran he helped the Director of the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support, Tehran start the Tehran Peace Museum.

*Egypt*—In September, 2006, Steve was invited by the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (a UN NGO) to speak on the Peace Museum concept as part of a Peace Delegation to Egypt. Steve addressed the Arab League and took part in meetings with various Arab groups and government officials. Part of the outcome of his trip will be to extend the DIPM's assistance to groups in Alexandria and Cairo eager to establish their own peace museums. In addition, as a result of his talk to the Arab League, several other Middle Eastern countries want Steve to return to help them set up peace museums. Always mindful of children being the next generation of peacemakers, Steve carried pictures and words of peace from Dayton children to their "Egyptian friends."

**Important Note:** All of Steve's international travel has been paid for out of private funds.

## Organizational Structure of the Dayton International Peace Museum

The Dayton International Peace Museum is an all-volunteer-run 501c3 non-profit organization, which has recently been granted United Nations NGO status. The Museum employs no paid staff, but volunteers fill positions of weighty responsibility. Museum Director Steve Fryburg is supported by a dedicated staff of volunteer office, facility and reception workers, as well as several organizational committees:

Activities and Events (Christine Dull, Chair)

Educational Programming (Greg Wolf, Chair)

Exhibits (Lisa Wolters, Chair)

Facilities (Bill Alexander, Chair)

Food (Christine Dull, Chair)

Fund-raising (Rotating chair)

Museum Store (Lisa Ottman, Chair)

Operations (Jane Carroll, Chair)

Speakers Bureau—Several museum volunteers stay very busy speaking to local organizations and schools about working for Peace and Environmental Sustainability through the Dayton International Peace Museum and the Future Energy & Conservation Center.

New Volunteers are always needed, and are invited to join the committee where their skills or expertise will best be utilized. Also, new volunteers who have free time to donate during the day are encouraged to commit to a monthly, weekly or daily time-slot when they can come to the Museum and assist with the reception of visitors and the running of daily operations.

\*Fundraising programs include Grant Writing, Docent Program and the Fearless Fifty Sustainability Club for private donors who pledge an annual support amount of \$1000 or more, which thus far has 23 members. The Museum charges no admission fee, but gratefully accepts tax-deductible donations of any size.

## DIPM Boards

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Christine Dull—Founder and Chairman of the Board)

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