

World Fellowship

PO Box 2280 Conway, NH 03818 (603) 447-2280 www.worldfellowship.org

Fall/Winter 2009/2010

From the Desk of the Directors

We've all faced the challenge of explaining World Fellowship to the uninitiated. Where do you start? Telling them it's a "camp" or "retreat center" is the merest beginning. The next step could be to recite the mission: "The World Fellowship Center promotes peace and social justice through education and dialogue inspired by nature." Nice...but how?

The back of a tee shirt seen in passing points toward an answer--Emblazoned across ripples in the organic cotton was a paraphrase of Toni Cade Bambara: "The role of the revolutionary artist is to make the revolution irresistible."

What we do here is to provide an opening to let in the world and let it mix with our own sense of possibility. How shall we live in this time of trouble? How can we help? The World Fellowship experience can lift us out of the dog runs of our minds, to see from new angles. Odds are that from time to time someone will find herself pulled in a new direction by an irresistible call first heard here.

The electric hum of possibility is always in the air when activist retreats and trainings are on site, especially those of young people. This year we enjoyed the company of AFSC/NH youth peace activists, the Sierra Student Coalition, the Center for Popular Economics, Sistas on the Rise, Reflect and Strengthen, and Kilombo Novo Capoeira Angola. We love that buzz of transformation described in our Values Statement: "...people come to be refreshed and grow, and go forth to help change the world."

Changing the world can grow out of a connection with the land. As an organization, we want to get our hands deeper in the dirt, by growing more food for our dining hall tables. The greenhouse has already lengthened our season, providing all our seedlings and giving us earlier peppers and tomatoes. From the beginning of the season to Labor Day, 679 pounds of organic salad greens were harvested!

The Board has approved clearing an additional four acres around the soccer field, behind the Farmhouse Cottage toward this effort. We are in discussions with the committee of the local community gardens to offer newly turned soil for this purpose, helping to address local economic needs and contribute to the blossoming local food movement. This increased agricultural focus fits into our educational mission, by promoting an understanding of food politics and a vision of another way to be on the planet, at least occasionally undraped in electronic devices...Irresistible!

This time of year we feel the pull to gather with World Fellowship folks in other places and celebrate our community. People especially like to mark anniversaries that end in zeroes, and we have a bunch coming up: World Fellowship's 70th summer season, the 50th anniversary of Willard Uphaus's year in jail, and our 10th anniversary as directors. In the spring and the fall there will be events in Boston, New York and elsewhere to celebrate these zeroes. Watch the website and the Facebook page for dates!

Work is underway on the 2010 program, and before long we'll be reassembling another stellar staff, taking reservations and steaming toward another summer. Share your ideas, lend a hand, and join us in hands-on, culture-changing, paradigm-shifting work in the trenches of history. Let's make it irresistible!

World fellowship IS possible! Thanks to each of YOU: supporters, guests, staff and volunteers, who help create a social justice community inspired by nature and each other. We appreciate your year-round commitment to live the World Fellowship way: to take heart in standing up for justice and to respect all people. Please help generate World Fellowship buzz this spring! There's a May 1 get-together in the Boston area; We also plan to be in New York, DC, Philadelphia, and the US Social Forum in Detroit! Contact us to help host a gathering near you. ALSO, please consider becoming a monthly donor! Automatic bank transfer, credit card...we can send an envelope. Whether \$5 per month or \$50, any amount helps sustain our work,





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PASSAGES: We honor and miss those who have passed. Condolences to families and friends of World Fellowship folk whose passing we have learned of since the previous issue:

Audrey Mae Rogers, Drake Hill Road neighbor (66, November 2009), **Brother Blue**, storyteller (88, November 2009), **Alice Ellner**, inspiring World Fellowship friend (85, March 2009) **Agnes Norsigian**, World Fellowship yoga teacher for many years (86, March 2009) **Hugo DeGregory**, defender of civil liberties, World Fellowship ally (94, February 2009) **Helen Hively**, mother of former director Kit Schmauch (95, December 2008) **Arthur Nighswander**, NH attorney who was part of Willard Uphaus's legal team (99, December 2008), **Dorothy Kobak**, helped Willard Uphaus on Commitment (87, September 2008) **Ira Gollobin**, practicing immigration and civil rights attorney for more than 70 years (96, April 2008), **Walter Paul**, educator and artistic craftsman (64, March 2008) **Dr. Kerstin Bast-Haider**, GDR participant and World Fellowship friend (March 2008) **Ruth Baharis Gollobin**, lifelong activist for immigrants' rights and for a socialist society, (81, February 2008), **Ernie Smith**, of Jersey City, long-time friend of World Fellowship (January 2008), **John Walsh**, of Acton MA (July 2007)

ARRIVALS 2009:

Silin Baker came home from China to Davida and Yami (former staff and Board member), November 13. **Xzavious Candido Molina** born November 5 to Yackie Garcia and Candido Molina. **Ruby Grodner** born to Judith and Jared March 8. **Jaida Cynthia Cox** born to Laina and Winston (former staff and Board member) January 31.

ARRIVALS 2008:

Nicolao (Nico) Francis Jacobs born December 30 to Jennifer, Paul, and Natalia. **Charlotte** was born to Frances Simpson and John MacLeod on October 24. **Ishaan Abraham** born to Rachel and Avinash Tantri, October 23. **Maisy Mimaji Franklin Clowes** was born August 13 to Lynn Clowes and Mike Franklin. **Jordan Kai** born to Dan and Amy Perlmutter on June 20. **Asa David Dorfman** born to Shana Kotelchuck and Myron Dorfman on August 20. The Kislyi brothers (former staff), are fathers! Eugene and Ljubov welcomed **Michael Kislyi** February 26. Victor and Valentina welcomed **Victor Kislyi** on February 23.

Congratulations and welcome to the World Fellowship community!

Lia Geller, 23, has been coming to World Fellowship each summer since she was born. Last winter she crocheted a stunning quilt to raise funds. Lia says, "Making the quilt was a lot of hard work but worth it because I want World Fellowship to be here for my grandchildren, and it felt GREAT to do a little bit more than just come and vacation in the summer. It kept me thinking about World Fellowship all through the winter." Her mother, outgoing Board member Jane Becker, adds, "I'm psyched about the idea of an online goods and services auction. Let's encourage people to think about tying their hobbies (or professional work!) into benefitting World Fellowship. Start planning your contributions now for upcoming Service and Goods Auctions." Quilt winner Joel Couch loves the warm feeling he gets to enjoy all year 'round.

Honorary or Memorial Gift; Bequest or Legacy Gift:

You may honor a special person or occasion while providing much needed support for World Fellowship's mission and values for generations to come. Each thoughtful gift remembrance is a lasting tribute, whether in honor of an occasion, or of a loved one. Please contact Andrea Walsh, 603-447-2280, or office@worldfellowship.org. Send gifts to: World Fellowship, PO Box 2280 Conway NH 03818. Gifts may also be made securely through: www.worldfellowship.org

What folks say: "World Fellowship seems to me so much a way of life – really *the* way of life."



Grasping the Nettle, Pulling Like Water Buffalo

One dark morning, over that first precious cup of coffee, I was reading something by folklorist Henry Glassie, and a sentence sprang off the page: “True communities are built not of dewy affection or ideological purity but of engagement.”

Glassie was writing about a cluster of hamlets of farmers of varying political sympathies in the hills that surround Lough Erne, in Northern Ireland. He was considering what allows such an amalgamation to survive and thrive when faced with the insidious power of the dominant televised culture. His conclusion was that the “what” is common work.

One of the truly exciting recent developments at World Fellowship has been in the common work undertaken by the Board of Trustees and committees of the Board. In addition to three face-to-face meetings in the course of the year and one weekend-long work retreat, recent boards have diligently labored between meetings, expanding our efforts in fundraising, outreach, program development, buildings and grounds, increasing financial stability, and other areas. This work is critical to moving the organization forward, and is too often invisible.

The great task of any board is organizational planning; these are the people that seek the high ground in order to stretch the horizon, looking ahead as far as the mind’s eye can see to determine our course. Board members have recently been updating our strategic long-range plan and taking the initial steps toward a campus plan which will organize our thoughts as to the shape of our facilities for the work ahead.

This work is not easy, and decisions do not always come pre-packaged in colorful paper. For the past two years it has been clear that determining the future of the Farmhouse would be the keystone on which other planning must be built. Based on several professional assessments following some systems failures in the building, and consultation with guests and staff, the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the directors recommended that renovation of this building not be considered a practical option. The Board made the decision at its November meeting that it be permanently taken out of use for housing or other guest and staff activities. Further decisions as to next steps will follow in the near future.

Grasping the nettle of this decision pained us, and took time to come to. In my mind’s eye, I can see the generations of eager ice cream eaters lining up in the Albany Farms Coffeehouse. I can imagine guests circling the old wood cookstove at breakfast time, or playing Scrabble at the round oak table; I picture the Wellers burying their dear Clippy out back.

It is a powerful thing to be involved with an organization that inspires such love for buildings and the people that move in and out of them over time. And it is awesome to work side by side with the members of such an engaged community (not always with “dewy affection”!) who in Marge Piercy’s words, “...harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart, who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again.”

--Andy Davis



You're invited! Place a brick on the walkway to the Schmauch Meeting Room

Honor those in whose footsteps we follow... The brick walkway to the Schmauch Meeting room marks the connections and love shared within the World Fellowship community. Please join by including your name(s) or those you love and admire.

Please reserve _____ Brick(s) at \$100 each (3 lines with 13 spaces each)
_____ Double Bricks at \$200 each (up to 6 lines, 13 spaces each)

Note: There are 13 total letters/spaces available per line. No commas, - hyphens okay. All letters and lines will be capitalized and centered. Please use “&” instead of “and.”

#1
Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____
Line 3 _____

#2
Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____
Line 3 _____



Thanks to: HuronDance.org, Ellen X. Silverberg, Gina Bilander, Jane Becker, Kat McCarthy and all photographers who share their views with World Fellowship!



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"If we don't stand for something, we may fall for anything."

— *Malcolm X*

World fellowship is possible... and we need your help!

- ___ Check out our website www.worldfellowship.org. Refer friends!
- ___ Add your address to our email list to receive periodic updates: office@worldfellowship.org
- ___ Promote our mission and values (enclosed) and help our Center thrive
- ___ Join spring gatherings (Boston area May 1; Detroit in June; DC, Philadelphia,...)
- ___ Join the World Fellowship Center FaceBook page for year-round connection.
- ___ Are you: over 18; enjoy responsible working and living; inspired to share skills or get new ones; hard worker; of a positive attitude? If so, please consider: **General Staff:** Housekeeping, Dining Room Service, etc. You provide good hard work 36 hours a week. We provide bunk and board (mostly vegetarian food) plus stipend starting at \$145. (June 1- Sept 15 - flexible dates possible). **Volunteers** work 30 hours per week and share the joy of being here, plus! **ALSO: Head Cook; Staff Coordinator; Office Manager; Organic Vegetable Growers; Flower gardener; Carpenters; House Manager; Office Assistant...Cook's Assistants.**

What folks say:

"You know, while no one was watching, I secretly 'bottled' whatever it is that flourishes at Fellowship. So whenever things get rough, I expect to draw upon these reserves."

For more information: www.worldfellowship.org





World Fellowship Center Education, Inspiration, Empowerment, Action!

December 2009

Dear World Fellowship Friends,

One afternoon in early September, 30 teenagers sat in a circle on the Schmauch Room floor. Cross-legged, arms splayed, heads cocked, they gave their full attention to a tale of children their age crouching in cornfields to dodge machete-wielding death squads. Styve Bwanga told the difficult story of how the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo affected his family with the power of someone who's told it before.

Molly Messenger heard this story, of courage and resistance, while she was a student at UNH, where she worked with the Committee on Rights and Justice to reunite Styve's family and other families divided by war. After graduation, Molly went on to serve as Youth Organizer for the American Friends Service Committee of New Hampshire. Last year, she brought the first "Peace of Mind" youth activist conference to World Fellowship.

"At a homeless demonstration in Concord or the March on Wall Street they talk about coming back to World Fellowship, where they get energized, connected, and motivated," Molly says. "This is a wonderful new tradition that plays a central role in supporting youth peace movement activism."

"I love World Fellowship," says Holly Clayman, 17, of Concord High School. "This work can be extremely hard and lonely, and by having a safe and beautiful space to spend time together, we leave feeling rejuvenated and empowered to become even more active."

This is what we do best, and the best of what we do: providing a place for activists young and old to learn from one another and go back into the world fired up to fight for what's right for another day and another year. **Your bighearted contributions make this possible. We need your support.**

For nearly 70 years, World Fellowship has been a hothouse for hope and a sanctuary for freethinkers. There's no place like World Fellowship, and in times like these, World Fellowship is more important than ever. **Thank you for helping us kick off the next 70 years of activist support by giving generously today!**

Thank you for all you give to the world,

Andy Davis and Andrea Walsh

P.S. Seventy years ago the Wellers were preparing our first summer program, "In a Time of War, Prepare for Peace." Fifty years ago, 400 college students from around New England demonstrated at the NH state capitol to "Free Willard Uphaus." Today, we need your support to continue to inspire the values that dare to speak truth to power. By sharing, as each of us is able, we make the whole stronger. Please send your gift or pledge of support today!

We need your contribution to promote these values!

World Fellowship Center Values Statement

The World Fellowship Center is about transformation; people come to be refreshed and grow, and go forth to help change the world.

- ❖ **Our central focus is to promote peace and justice** through vigorous, constructive, engaged discussion of the central issues of our day. We strive to be an active partner in local, regional, national and international efforts towards social justice and peace in this country and abroad, and to offer what we have as a resource to movement activists and groups. **World Fellowship has a principled tradition of taking a stand to defend the right to speak truth to power.**
- ❖ Since 1941, World Fellowship has offered regeneration of mind, spirit and body in our vacation retreat in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. **Essential elements of what we offer are varied educational and cultural programs, a vibrant experience of community, the opportunity to be in nature, and the promotion of the common good of humankind.** World Fellowship has made itself an oasis of calm in a frenzied world.
- ❖ **We work to make World Fellowship a comfortable and safe place for people of all races and creeds to come together,** to bond over differences and similarities, and to inspire and empower each other to struggle for a better world for all of us. The World Fellowship community is one of many races, cultures, ages, classes, sexual orientations, and abilities; this is our strength and aids us in our work.
- ❖ **We are an intergenerational center.** We provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn from each other and to be sensitive to each other's experience. As we learn from the stands taken by those who came before us, we strive to leave an example of positive engagement in the difficult issues of our times to those who will follow.
- ❖ **We model ecological stewardship of our land,** setting an example to the broader community through wilderness conservation, sustainable forest management practices, and opportunities to absorb the lessons of nature. In our organic gardens, we grow health-giving food for our tables, and provide opportunities to learn about the web of life.
- ❖ **We strive to offer our guests good-humored, efficient, personalized service.** On their first visit, we want women, men, youth and children to feel fully welcome; on subsequent visits, we want them to feel that they are coming home.
- ❖ **We want to cultivate a healthy, cheerful atmosphere in which to learn and grow** for those who work at World Fellowship. We have succeeded when staff and volunteers are more effective community members when they leave here, and when they continue to circle back to enrich World Fellowship with what they learn elsewhere.

The power of World Fellowship is the power to educate and then inspire, as people learn from each other and then go forth to make a better world.