

World Fellowship

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

Fall/Winter 2010/2011

From the Desk of the Directors

We often hear about a torch or a baton being passed from one generation to the next. A more cooperative image might be a bucket; our forebears pass the pail to us, and we take our turn putting out the fires of fear and hatred, as part of the great bucket brigade of history.

One of those who passed the bucket to World Fellowship founder Eugenia Winston Weller was Susan B. Anthony. Mrs. Weller first met her while a teenager visiting in Cambridge, Mass. In 1895, when in her early twenties, she attended Anthony's 75th birthday celebration in Minneapolis.

The legendary suffragist sat alone in the middle of the stage, clad in a long black dress, looking out over the large crowd of well-wishers who had come to honor her. A procession of 75 brightly clad young girls filed across the stage. Each, as she passed, laid a rose in the great woman's lap.

As Mrs. Weller later wrote, "When she stood up quietly, gently, visibly moved by this tribute, Miss Anthony came to the front of the platform and spoke in a voice that must have reached out full of meaning to everyone in that house. 'I have seen the time when it was rotten eggs instead of flowers!'"

From the beginning, World Fellowship has taken the long view, understanding that the arc of history is long, and that we've got to be willing to be on the receiving end of some eggs to get to the roses. The Wellers understood this, and passed the bucket to Willard and Ola Uphaus, who made the Center blossom despite the rotten eggs of McCarthyism. They passed the bucket to Kit and Christoph Schmauch, who fought their own battles for inclusivity and tolerance.

And over the years, at every stage, the dream of World Fellowship has been nurtured by a community of volunteers, staff, guests and friends... laborers, students, artists, teachers, social workers, musicians, drivers, organizers, legal workers, health workers... Ordinary people incarnating the World in which we want to live, at World Fellowship and at their other homes.

The members of our Board of Trustees are water carriers of note, making tough decisions to ensure our organization's continued health. They are drawing up a campus plan with an initial focus on consolidating our current buildings. A difficult step in this direction was the decision to take down the building with the most serious issues, our cherished Farmhouse. They have prioritized important life safety upgrades and infrastructure improvements, and are sharing responsibility for meeting the fundraising goals to complete these projects. A future phase will replace lost guestrooms and look at adding meeting spaces to better serve retreat groups and fulfill our educational mission.

And the buckets continue to be passed... This year's Memorial Day Work Weekend was the most successful ever. Between early staff and enthusiastic volunteers, there were about three dozen people tending to farm, carpentry, and cleaning projects, and cooking for the crowd. The weekend gave the boost we needed to complete a list of 28 life safety projects in time for a mid-June inspection by the Conway fire chief. The community came through again, sharing skills, dollars, and hours to meet the needs.

World Fellowship continues to be an inspiring place for individuals, families, and groups to meet and share in the glories of nature and to wrestle with such questions as, "How do we best do social change work?" "What is needed in society today?" and, "How do we embody the best of what's possible?"

So, let's proudly carry the buckets that have been passed our way. Disregard the eggs. Remember: there will be roses!





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office@worldfellowship.org

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NEWS of the WORLD FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY:

ARRIVALS: Congratulations and welcome!

Sophie Rose Gerson-Gehring, born Nov 16, to Timi Gerson and John Gehring, Shiva Solomon, Sept 22 to Rachel (Perlmutter) and Avinash Tantri and Shiva and Ishaan. Lee Utech Jacobs, Sept 8 to Anne Utech and John Jacobs (who married at World Fellowship!) Noam Yaron, Aug 6 to Talya and Josh Schreiber Shalem. Miles Stephen, March 30 to Amy and Dan Perlmutter and Mia and Jordan. Arden Stewart Vigoda, Jan 6 to Ben Vigoda and Lauren Stewart- Anita Shapiro's great granddaughter! Xander Smith, born Dec 22, 2009 to Natasha Stern and Alan Smith.

CELEBRATIONS: Thank you for celebrating your commitment!

Amy Willenbrock and Brian Cunningham wed at World Fellowship Oct 10. Karen Cantor Petrucelly and Joshua Springer married in Cambridge Aug 7. Reina Quiles and Nicole Donaldson wed in Worcester July 3, becoming Reina and Nikki Quidon. Bailey Whiteside and Paul Agakian wed at World Fellowship June 19.

PASSAGES: We honor and miss those who have passed. Condolences to families and friends of community members of whose passing we have learned since the previous newsletter:

Thelma N. Gotjen 95, Oct 22, of Falconer, NY w/ Rev. H. Floyd Gotjen was friends with Willard Uphaus. Cybele Elaine Werts, 47, Oct 2, MA, one of a kind, whimsical creator and life-long World Fellowship enthusiast. Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr, 80, Sept 7, NY, Founder of IFCO/ Pastors for Peace. Alfred J. Baker, III (Tree), 63, Aug 4 of Charlemont, MA, Yami's father, rugby coach extraordinaire. Edward Pita, 85, July 24, Teaneck, husband of Dorothy, social activist, WWII Veteran for Peace. Ruth Uphaus, 98, July 13, feisty peace and social justice activist, wife of Willard Uphaus. Rev. George W. Webber, 90, July 10, of Maplewood, NJ, husband of Helen, anti-war, human rights activist. Piet Deurloo, 85, June 21, Niagara Falls, artist, long-time World Fellowship friend. Riva Posner, 52, May 13, Brooklyn, mother of Isaiah, wife of David White, educator, friend. Abe Cotton, 89, April 24, Kerhonksen, NY, smiling father of Celia Bess. Doris "Granny D" Haddock, 100, Mar 9, tireless campaign finance reform activist, anti-nuclear activist. Helga Herz, 97, Feb 27, Silver Spring, MD, lifelong peace activist, library worker. Sybil Dorfman, 81, Jan 28, Flushing, NY; wife of Myron, dedicated to World Fellowship. Beulah Rudner, 95, Jan 12, Brooklyn, grand/mother of Andrea /Isabel. John Touralchuk, 93, Buffalo, long-time peace activist, American Labor Party, World Fellowship camper. Sophie Paul, 99, Aug 29, Cambridge. Andre Elizee, aka Daniel Simidor 54, father of Georges and Nazim, partner of Rejin, Haiti/human rights activist, intellectual, friend. Taisto (Tai) Holm, 88, Jan 10, proud son of the Finnish left. Elizabeth Peterson Dellinger, 89 Sept 17, '09, peace and justice worker, caretaker, feminist. George W. Utech, 77, Sept 11, '09 Pittsford NY, poet, photographer. Guy Chichester 73, Feb 8, '09, Green organizer, Clamshell Alliance founder.

We are honored by people who have chosen to have their remains be in perpetual care at our Memorial Wall. Angelo Borisoff, Abe Cotton, Andre Elizee (a.k.a. Daniel Simidor), Alice Ellner, Eddie Ellner, Bill Gerson, Joan Grenier, Margaret Mudd, Irving Shapiro.

Thanks to bequests and posthumous gifts of the past decade, our mutual legacy of progressive activism continues: Angelo Borisoff, Herman Buttenweiser, Bill Gerson, Ira Gollobin, Catherine Hess, Margaret Mudd, Thomas Todd, Irving Shapiro.

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



Three Score and Ten

In one of the last poems of his last book, Charles Weller pondered with gratitude his good fortune at being able to enjoy more than his Biblically allotted “three score and ten” years of life. As the Center he and his wife Eugenia founded reaches this same milestone, it is interesting to note that Charles and Eugenia celebrated their seventieth birthdays within a year of setting up house and hanging out the World Fellowship shingle at the old Draper Estate on Drake Hill Road in May of 1941.

I marvel at what it took to embark on such an adventure at that time in their lives. But giving the “World Fellowship of Faiths” a physical home was a fitting capstone to the life of service they had shared, like the upper tier of the wedding cake that they saved for last. They sowed seeds of justice and brother- and sisterhood in many places, but World Fellowship is their most lasting monument.

Anniversaries of any kind, artificial markers though they are, stimulate us to reflect on the passage of time. Seventy years doesn't seem so long, in the grand scheme. Some pretty young-seeming people are turning seventy soon (Joan Baez, Jesse Jackson, Alexander Cockburn...) But over the course of nearly three quarters of a century, generations have come and left their mark, brought their children and their grandchildren, and gone on to join the ancestors.

Organizations can expect different life spans than regular mortals. This may trouble us when we think of corporations, but for organizations that are meaningful to us, we hope for immortality, or at least a Methuselah-like span. Nonetheless, the notion of “three score and ten” carries with it a whiff of mortality; as they reached that juncture, the Wellers considered what they wanted to accomplish with whatever time remained to them. Likewise, it seems a good moment to consider what we as an organization and a community wish to accomplish in the coming years.

Thomas Merton wrote, “Living is more than submission; it is creation.” My and Andrea's hope would be that World Fellowship continue to creatively live into its mission anew, settled in the contentment of being a second home for justice seekers, but unsettled in the sense that we recognize what is undone, and what could be done better, and try to remedy it.

In another poem, Charles Weller imagined the future of World Fellowship: “This forest-lake and mountain paradise... may it become an altar shrine, a temple... Here let there be a holy home, a haven...a retreat and refuge, an open-hearted hearth, where people... learn to be conscious agents conceiving, realizing world-wide oneness.” A fitting wish for the years ahead, whether they be seventy or seven times seventy!

—Andy Davis

Thanks to each and every supporter –Your contributions promote progressive values by providing social justice education, inspiration, empowerment, and action – in collaboration with nature and each other. We wanted to appreciate individual donors by name in this newsletter, but not having sought permission from people making summer round up contributions AND, given our unique history with protecting names, we will wait until next year. Thank you for living the World Fellowship way – Thank you for standing up for social justice and respecting all people.

World fellowship IS possible – and you make it happen!

Join our email list to learn about gatherings, training sessions, and more near you. Contact us to help create events! www.worldfellowship.org

Thanks to: Jesse Mosston, Ellen Weinstat, Cybele Werts and all photographers who share their views with World Fellowship!



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World Fellowship Center – 70 Years in the Making

The older I get, the
greater power I seem to
have to help the world...
— Susan B. Anthony

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

Help Wanted - World Fellowship Center Staff

If you are committed to service; have a positive community-building attitude; are flexible, generous, and respectful of boundaries; can work 40 demanding hours for 3-12 summer weeks, and are over 18, please check our website: www.worldfellowship.org. We are looking for:

Head Cook - Staff Coordinator - Carpenter - Organic Grower - Flower gardener - Maintenance - House Manager - Office Crew - Assistant Cook - Youth Fellowship and Children's Fellowship Coordinator - General Staff (Housekeeping, Dining Room Service)

Work time is committed to creating a remarkably healthy, clean, invigorating environment for up to 180 community members to engage in learning and growing. We provide bunk and board (mostly vegetarian food) plus a modest stipend. Part time staff work without stipend 30 hours per week and share the joy of being here!

For more information: www.worldfellowship.org



Why support the World Fellowship Center?

For 70 years World Fellowship has provided a unique environment for individuals, families, and movement organizations to reflect, recreate, re-energize, and look ahead. Founders and first directors Charles and Eugenia Weller opened the doors in 1941 with the slogan, "In a time of war, prepare for peace." But without your generous support it will not be here for another 70 years. World Fellowship is possible, and it's happening in Albany, New Hampshire. We ask that you give generously to this critical organization.

How to provide financial support for World Fellowship to live your values:

- ❖ Donate online
 - ◆ Go to www.worldfellowship.org and click "Donate" on the menu at the top of the page for different ways of donating.
- ❖ Donate by check
 - ◆ Mail a check at any time to World Fellowship, PO Box 2280, Conway, NH, 03818.
- ❖ Join our sustaining donors by setting up a recurring donation
 - ◆ A monthly or quarterly donation provides you a way to make a lasting gift – and provides World Fellowship with consistent support. Go to "Donate" on the web site www.worldfellowship.org ; or call the office (603-447-2280) to authorize a recurring charge on your credit card. Alternatively, you may set up electronic payment from your checking account. A \$50 a month gift quickly adds up to \$600 a year. \$20 per month becomes \$240 per year. Every little bit adds up – and means a lot! We can also send a monthly reminder envelope.
- Give a tribute gift (birthday, wedding, birth, bat/bar mitzvah, anniversary, etc.)
- ❖ ◆ Contact the office by email office@worldfellowship.org, by phone (603-447-2280), or though the web and we will send a card to your honoree.
- Make a bequest
 - ◆ One of the many ways that friends can choose to express their deep commitment is by naming World Fellowship in your will or trust. This is a way to make a lasting contribution without affecting your current finances. For help creating a will or if you have one and need help changing it to include World Fellowship, we recommend that you contact your local Bar Association and ask them to recommend someone to help you. More information will also be on our website soon.
- ❖ Purchase a place on our Memorial Wall
 - ◆ Our memorial wall celebrates the lives of many of World Fellowships' most devoted individuals who chose to have their remains buried here. To purchase a place on the World Fellowship Memorial Wall we invite you to call the office and speak to Andrea. We provide a form that lets your loved ones know that you have selected your final resting place.
- ❖ Organize a fundraiser or house party in your community
 - ◆ Contact the office and ask for the contact information of the Board of Trustees member who is leading the fundraising committee.
- ❖ Watch for dates to Celebrate the World Fellowship Center's 70th anniversary year.

Other types of support

Join our email list. ◆ Book a speaking engagement. ◆ Volunteer for a specific project. ◆ Tell friends about World Fellowship. Check our wish list for in-kind donations. ◆ Distribute brochures in the Spring. So many possibilities!



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."

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Line 1 _____ Line 1

Line 2 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 3 _____

