

February 2010

Edited by Nancy Butler-Ross

In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future.

~Eric Hoffer

Since our first issue in February 2009 and our affiliation with www.TheHarmonyProject.org's global peace initiative, we have been joined by readers in Thailand, Pakistan, Canada and throughout the U.S.

Our goal to connect with millions of people in a global community of positive change recently received a boost: *The Shift is Now*, a 2-minute video produced by The Harmony Project founder Ann Emerson, has been included on the Architects of a New Dawn networking site of uplifting and positive media content. If you haven't seen it, please [click here](#).

<http://architectsofanewdawn.ning.com/video/the-shift-is-now>

In this month's issue we focus on students and youth who have an interest and commitment to creating a culture of peace. The Pew Research Center's report about the behaviors, values and opinions of U.S. teens and twenty-somethings shows them to be an optimistic group; fewer support a military posture, and are supportive of a progressive domestic social agenda.

But are these tolerant souls passionate about creating peace? What are students around the globe doing? A lot! Read below to learn about some encouraging signs:

- **The African Youth Initiative Network**
- **Australia's Youth Peace Initiative**
- **Norway's Student Peace Prize**

- **The U.S. Student Peace Alliance**

The African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) is a network of African Youth movements, organizations, activists and individuals who are committed to cause changes in the current unequal opportunities in political, social and economics in Africa. Located in Uganda, they state “...it’s time we need to re-brand Africa by promoting peace, justice and human rights.” Visit their Web site: www.ayinet.or.ug.

The Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) in Australia is a growing network of socially and environmentally minded young people who are standing up to do something to bring about peace and social justice for the whole planet. High school and older youth from diverse backgrounds and locations are leading their own projects in a wide variety of peace and justice-related fields, including:

- Anti-Violence & Anti-Bullying
- Mediation & Conflict Management
- Community Development
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Poverty Alleviation
- Environmental Sustainability

For more information visit YouthPeaceInitiative.org.au

The Norwegian Student Peace Prize, begun in 1999, is awarded every other year and is the only peace prize in the world awarded to, and given from, students. The idea for this prize was set into life when Norwegian students experienced that students fighting for positive changes in conflict areas never get needed attention by politicians or the media. The Student Peace Prize has supported young people around the world making extraordinary efforts to promote peace, democracy and human rights. For further information visit www.studentpeaceprize.org

The Student Peace Alliance is a nonpartisan student action organization in the U.S. that believes that both political and inter-personal peace building are necessary to create a sustainable peace. They advocate for the establishment of a federal Department of Peace, and establishing an infrastructure in the federal government that makes peace a priority. Members work through education and grassroots efforts to create an environment on campuses and in local communities that promotes education and discussion about peace building on domestic and international levels. Founded at Brandeis University in 2006, the alliance has 100 chapters. Visit www.StudentPeaceAlliance.org.

Peace Declared: This month, please take a moment each day to think about what makes your heart sing. Then pass it on! Join us in the Peace (Muse) Corps and *choose peace whenever possible*.

Speaking of passing it on: In order for this newsletter to reach millions of readers (who will then *choose peace*) we need YOU to send it on! Be BOLD – send it to your friends, co-workers, family – and ask them to

subscribe. Together, we can shift and elevate consciousness – and create peace. Imagine Peace Now.

Thank you,
Nancy

About ~ Contact us

Nancy Butler-Ross is a freelance editor, published author (*Meditation Express, Stress Relief in 60 Seconds Flat*, McGraw-Hill/Contemporary, 2001), the associate editor of *Velocity* magazine, and a former *Miami Herald* columnist. She is currently accepting fiction and nonfiction editing projects. Please visit www.TheBookMuse.com or contact her at TheBookMuse@aol.com.

If you have a peace project or idea that you'd like to see in this newsletter please email Nancy at PeaceMuseInfo@aol.com.