

Conversion of our Economy from War to Peace

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

A healthy and productive economy requires substantial investment in affordable housing, health care, education and renewable energy. Taxpayers in the United States will be required to pay \$700 billion for the Wall Street bailout. They should also know that for the same amount of money, they could secure:

*51.6 million people with health care for 4 years or
181.2 million homes w/renewable electricity for 4 years or
2.9 million elementary school teachers for 4 years or
27 million 4-year scholarships for university students*

(www.nationalpriorities.org/tradeoffs)

*The war in Iraq has cost \$720 million per day.
This amount spent in one day can support for 1 year:
423, 529 children with health care or
6, 482 families with homes or
34, 904 four year scholarships for university students
1, 274, 336 homes with renewable electricity or
12,478 elementary school teachers or
163, 525 people with health care or
1,153,846 children with free school lunches or
95, 364 head start places for children or
84 new elementary schools*

(www.afsc.org/cost)

HOW CAN YOUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM AN ECONOMIC CONVERSION?

LET US SHARE YOUR VISION WITH
OUR LEADERS IN
WASHINGTON, DC.

To participate in or to support this endeavor
contact:

Walk for a New Spring
New England Peace Pagoda
100 Cave Hill Road, Leverett, MA 01054
413-485-8469
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Walk for a New Spring 2009 Walk Schedule

(schedule subject to change)

February

F 13	Peace Pagoda - Congregational Church/Town Hall - North Amherst	
S 14	Northampton —	Amherst
S 15	Walden Pond -	Concord Center
M 16	Concord—	Arlington
T 17	Arlington	Boston/Jamaica Plains
W 18	Jamaica Plains	Norwood
T 19	Walpole	Walpole
F 20	Woonsocket	Woonsocket, RI
S 21	Providence	Providence
S 22	Bristol	Bristol
M 23	Rest Day	Newport
T 24	Newport	Pettaquams
W 25	Charlestown	Charlestown
T 26	Westerly	Westerly
F 27	Mystic	Mystic, CT
S 28	New London	New London
S 01	Old Saybrook	Old Saybrook
		Guilford

March

M 02	Guilford	New Haven
T 03	Rest Day	
W 04	New Haven	Stratford
T 05	Stratford	Westport
F 06	Westport	Stamford/Greenwich
S 07	Greenwich	New Rochelle
S 08	New Rochelle	Upper Manhattan
M 09	UN	Brooklyn
T 10	Brooklyn	City Hall—Statue of Liberty
W 11	Rest Day	
T 12	Jersey City	Newark
F 13	Linden	Linden
S 14	New Brunswick	New Brunswick
S 15	Princeton	Princeton
M 16	Trenton	Trenton
T 17	Willingboro	Willingboro
W 18	Camden	Camden
T 19	Rest Day	Philadelphia, PA
F 20	Philadelphia	Swarthmore
S 21	Swarthmore	West Chester
S 22	West Chester	Coatsville
M 23	Coatsville	Gap
T 24	Gap	Lancaster
W 25	Lancaster	Columbia
T 26	Columbia	York
F 27	Rest Day	
S 28	York	Abbottstown,
S 29	Abbottstown	Gettysburg
M 30	Gettysburg	Hanover
T 31	Hanover	Manchester, MD

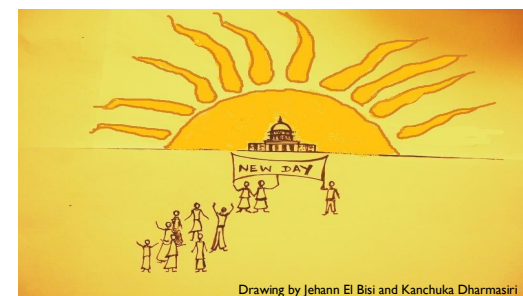
April

W 01	Manchester	Cockeysville
T 02	Cockeysville	Baltimore
F 03	Baltimore	Ellicott City
S 04	Rest Day	
S 05	Nipponzan Myohoji DC Temple 35 th Anniversary/ Buddha's Birthday Ceremony	
M 06	Ellicott City	Laurel
T 07	Laurel	Fairmont Heights NE/DC
W 08	Washington, DC,	Closing Ceremony



Walk For A New Spring

Leverett, MA - Washington, DC
February 13, 2009 - April 8, 2009



We Walk for the:
**Abolition
of
Nuclear Weapons
Renunciation of War
Conversion from
War to Peace Economy**

*We Believe that our Security comes from:
Peace not War
Sustainability not Exploitation
Generosity not Greed
Respect and Trust not Fear*

Initiated by
Nipponzan Myohoji — New England Peace Pagoda
100 Cave Hill Road
Leverett, MA 01054



Guruji in Words

Excerpt from a talk given in 1953 – when the Cold War began.

“The entire world is currently frozen in a military mindset that has served no other purpose for humanity than to create fear. Humanity is eagerly searching for an alternative path to alleviate fear. This alternative path is to elevate overall spirituality and moral values ...

Just as the height of winter is the prelude to spring, the fear that shrouds humanity can be seen as a harbinger of peace, leading to a sudden upsurge of spiritual vigor sprouting in the hearts and minds of humanity ... Humanity’s challenge today is to choose between extinction and great unity through reconciliation. So in turn, the choice is for the victory of violence or of human spirituality.”

Most Venerable Fujii Gurui
Founder, Teacher
Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order

Walk for a New Spring 2009

In its eighth year, Walk for a New Spring begins its annual pilgrimage, walking a portion of our nation to reach out to connect with people in 7 states and Washington, DC, inviting people’s participation everywhere. In the unprecedented moment in which we live — clearly crying out for change — let us walk together, share our concerns and visions and create fellowship. With our individual and collective spirit let us support one another and bring our energy and fervent wishes to the newly-inaugurated President Barack Obama and the Congress.

As serious economic decline spreads and the terrible wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, let us use the great gift of this transformative moment to stand, with our whole being, for peace and rebuilding a healthy, humane economy. Let us continue forward with an awakened sense of hope and responsibility to make peace and well-being in our communities, in our country and in our world. Truly, it depends on all of us.

Please join us by walking for an hour, a day or for the entirety. You can support us by organizing a community potluck, a sharing circle, a visit to your Mayor, a place for our walkers to sleep, or coverage by the local media. Also, please keep this walk in your thoughts and prayers.

Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

Since August 1945, when two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were turned into horrifying infernos by a single bomb which annihilated tens of thousands of human beings immediately, with many more dying in agony soon after, humanity has struggled to extinguish this fire from hell. But the number of Declared Nuclear States keeps growing, bringing ever more fear and instability into the world.

In the eight years of the Bush-Cheney Administration, President Bush has spoken publicly, several times, of the possibility of using nuclear weapons.

We believe if the US, which has 10,000 nuclear weapons, committed to eliminate our nuclear weapons, a tremendous source of fear world-wide would radically diminish and the entire global atmosphere would be transformed.

President Barack Obama has rightly said, **“A world without nuclear weapons is profoundly in America’s interest. It is our responsibility to make the commitment and to do the hard work to make this vision a reality.”**

In 2010, the very important Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be reviewed at the United Nations. The NPT has been signed by the United States, and if honored by the USA and other signatories, could be a true vehicle for global nuclear disarmament.

Mayors for Peace is one organization that works to galvanize the voices of mayors from around the world to abolish nuclear weapons. Neither ours nor anyone else’s city should ever be targeted by nuclear weapons of any kind.

Over 2400 mayors world-wide have joined, including more than 100 from the United States. Please ask your mayor to join. If your mayor is already a Mayor for Peace, please keep him/her and your entire community informed about the growing movement to ensure nuclear weapons will be completely eliminated from the Earth by the year 2020. (See Mayors for Peace.org)



“It is in the giving that we receive ...”

St Francis of Assisi

“There is a sufficiency in the world for man’s need, but not for man’s greed ...” Mohandas K. Gandhi

Supporting Organizations and Endorsers (List in Formation)

Agape Community of Christian Nonviolence - Code Pink -
Footprints for Peace - Global Network Against Weapons &
Nuclear Power in Space - House of Peace - Massachusetts
Peace Action - Merrimac People for Peace - New England Regional American Friends Service Committee - North Shore
Peace Coalitions - Peace Abbey - SpiritWalkers - Traprock
Peace and Justice Center - Veterans for Peace

Renunciation of War

Japan’s Post-war Constitution is a working model

The lethal power of the US military is immeasurably stronger, and thus more terrifying, than all other military establishments in the world. Our brief 200 year history is full of war-making and, at least 40% of our taxes go directly to the military. This culture of war and violence deeply affects all parts of our lives. We are so financially-committed and physically-tied to war, that no matter how much people desire peace it is seen as an unattainable dream at best.

But it is not an illusory dream. It is a dream that is within our grasp. The people of the world are awakening and insist that the time is now to lift the albatross of war from around our necks and to allow people to live and develop their lives.

A concrete example of a constitutional commitment to the renunciation of war is seen in Japan’s post-war constitution. Article 9 of their constitution reads in part, “Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes ...”

Although it has been a struggle for the people of Japan to hold on to Article 9 for over 60 years, the power of the popular commitment to it has protected Japan from firing any weapons at anyone. Nor has Japan been attacked. The UN has recognized that peace among Asian-Pacific nations has been successfully protected by the power of Japan’s Article 9.

The international community has focused their attention on the moral power of Article 9, and a movement is growing to call for all nations to adopt the essence of Article 9 in their constitutions. (See www.article9.org)

“What kind of peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war, not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace - the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living - and the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and build a better life for their children - not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women - not merely peace in our time, but peace in all time.”
President John F. Kennedy

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools ...”

Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King