

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK ~ WIHW
February 1-7, 2015

A Time For Compassion And Peace

SUMMARY REPORT

Submitted by *Lubbock Interfaith Association*

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A TIME FOR COMPASSION AND PEACE

WIHW: Summary Report

Submitted By Lubbock Interfaith Association

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I. PRESS RELEASES AND FLYERS

Lubbock Newspaper: *Avalanche-Journal*

Lubbock Television Affiliates:

ABC - KLBK

CBS - KAMC

FOX - FOX 34

NBC - KCBD

*(See Attachments: Flyer ~ TTFP
Flyer ~ Interfaith Forum On Peace)*

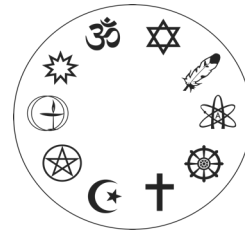
PRESS RELEASE: Avalanche-Journal

January 28, 2015

Contact: Sue Morrow

Telephone: 806/792-9060

Email: LubbockIA@att.net



LUBBOCK INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION Starts New Initiative For Peace

Lubbock — Friday, February 6, marks the start of a new global interfaith initiative, *Take Time For Peace*.® Created by Lubbock Interfaith Association, the event is scheduled for Friday, 12 noon, in each successive time zone around the world. All communities and individuals are invited to join the initiative, encircling the world for a day with words for peace:

TO BE PHRASED AS APPROPRIATE FOR EACH TRADITION AND PERSPECTIVE, SAID IN PRAYERS, SUPPLICATIONS, WISHES, HOPES, MEDITATIONS, INTENTIONS, DEDICATIONS, OR BLESSINGS

May the Love that Surrounds ~

Give us greater love and understanding to move beyond the walls of distrust and fear and remember our oneness as human beings. ~ Strengthen us to meet violence swiftly, with a firm resolve to end its destruction and bring compassionate justice to those who do harm. ~ Help us ensure that human dignity is cherished and hatred and oppression can no longer thrive. ~ Bring us greater peace within ourselves, our families, our places we call home. ~ Grant us wisdom to bring this peace to our nations, treasuring our unity in diversity, that we may become a world of greater peace.

Take Time For Peace is planned as part of the United Nations *World Interfaith Harmony Week*, February 1-7, and the Association will also host two events during the week for the Lubbock community:

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7.00 pm - “*Who Is Karen Armstrong And What Is The Charter For Compassion?*”

2801 42nd Street

Provided by First Unitarian Universalist Church

Saturday, Feb. 7, 7.00 pm - “*Interfaith Forum on Peace*”

2801 42nd Street

Provided by Lubbock Interfaith Association

For more information: LubbockIA@att.net.

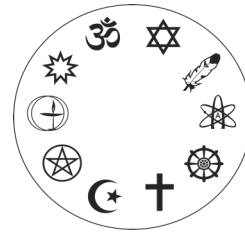
PRESS RELEASE: Avalanche-Journal

January 28, 2015

Contact: Sue Morrow

Telephone: 806/792-9060

Email: LubbockIA@att.net



Local Group Starts New Initiative For Peace

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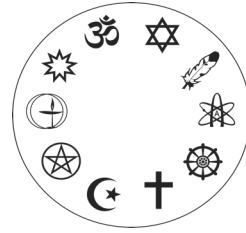
PRESS RELEASE: Television

February 3, 2015

Contact: Sue Morrow

Telephone: 806/792-9060

Email: LubbockIA@att.net



Interfaith Forum On Peace

Lubbock — On Saturday evening Lubbock Interfaith Association will host an “Interfaith Forum On Peace.” The Forum features speakers from Hinduism, Judaism, Atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Paganism, Unitarian Universalist, and Bahá’í Faith, to be followed by a question-and-answer time with the audience. The event begins at 7 p.m., and will be held in the First Unitarian Universalist Church building, 2801 42nd Street. The public is invited to attend.

For more information: LubbockIA@att.net

II. SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICITY

Facebook Page, Facebook Event, Facebook Posting

Take Time For Peace
“Interfaith Forum On Peace”

Twitter Account

Take Time For Peace

SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICITY

FACEBOOK

The Facebook Page for *Lubbock Interfaith Association* featured the Flyers for both *Take Time For Peace* and the “*Interfaith Forum On Peace.*”

Lubbock Interfaith Association also created a Facebook Event for *Take Time For Peace*, with more than fifty (50) groups and individuals attending. In addition, the following posting on the Facebook Page considered the impact of *Take Time For Peace*.

**POSTED ON *Lubbock Interfaith Association* FACEBOOK PAGE,
February 2, 2015**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

Margaret Mead

In 4 days, on islands in the Pacific Ocean, *Take Time For Peace* will begin. And 24 hours later, on islands in the same ocean, the event will draw to a close. A little more than 100 words, thought or said as appropriate for each tradition, faith, or perspective ~ words for peace that encircle or surround or, as some believe, embrace the world for a day. What will this mean for each of us? For all of us? Some things we know, and some we have yet to see.

We know that the strength of this initiative lies with the individual, the individual who reaches out, one person to another, sharing words for peace. And we know that words themselves carry a strength of their own, for they can clarify our thinking, broaden our understanding, and guide our actions. But beyond that, “something happens” when people say or think words together ~ there is a sense of community that is strengthened, and we feel the connection. And that connection is in itself a beginning. For connections can lead to friendships, and friendships may become partnerships. And partners can work across boundaries and borders and become a larger community within the world. And this community, this community who exemplifies the respect of one person for another, cherishing our unity in diversity, may be the community that is needed to ensure the world even greater peace.

SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICITY, *continued*

TWITTER

The *Take Time For Peace* Twitter feed began on January 17, 2015, twenty (20) days before the event and continued through February 15, nine (9) days following the event.

The *Take Time For Peace* Flyer was posted with the majority of the Tweets.

A sample of the 78 Tweets follows:



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 15

Where Were You When You Stopped For A Moment For Peace?



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 15

On Feb. 6 At Noon More Than 300 Initiatives & Individuals In More Than 200 Countries Paused To Take Time For Peace . . .



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 11

The Challenge of Exclusivity @HuffPostBlog <http://huff.to/1IV3oBT> via @HuffPostRelig

Thanks for this ~ essential for greater peace! #TakeTimeForPeace



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 9

... How Did You Take Time For Peace?

TakeTimeForPeace@att.net



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 9

... In Georgia A Gathering Of Friends Spoke To Being A Bridge To Peace

...



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 9

... In Turkey A Mother And Her Daughter Paused On Their Way To Market To Take Time For Peace ...



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 9

In India A Principal And His Students Stopped To Take Time For Peace

...



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 4

**In England, Scotland, and Ireland, Across Canada and the United States
We Will Take Time For Peace. Will You?**



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 4

**In Turkey, Israel, and Jordan, Iran and Belgium, Norway, South Africa,
and Finland We Will Take Time For Peace.**



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 4

**In Pakistan and India, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, Rumania, Georgia,
and Ukraine We Will Take Time For Peace.**



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Feb 4

In New Zealand and Australia, the Philippines, Korea, and Japan, Malaysia, Burma, And Thailand We Will Take Time For Peace.



WIHW

@wihw

@TakeTime4Peace1 thank u :) Keep it up.

8:33 AM - 31 Jan 2015



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1 Jan 31 @wihw
We are joining you, with the new Global Interfaith Initiative, Take Time For Peace. Thanks again for giving us this week!



WIHW @wihw Jan 31 RT: Join us in celebrating the World Interfaith Harmony Week tmrw. #FEB1to7 #WIHW2015. Spread peace & harmony across all faiths.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 28

From Cambridge to Chicago, India to Australia, Oslo to Ontario, On Feb. 6 We Will Pause For Peace.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 28

In Glasgow and Gaithersburg, In Denver and Dublin We Will Pause For Peace. Feb. 6, 12 Noon.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 27

In 10 Days Pagan and Humanist, Unitarian Universalist and Baha'i Will Pause For Peace.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 27

In 10 Days Muslim, Sikh, and Pagan Will Take Time For Peace.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 26

In 11 Days Jain, Taoist, and Zoroastrian, Shinto and Christian Will Pause For Peace.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 25

In 12 Days Hindu, Native American, and Jew, Atheist, Buddhist, and Confucian Will Take Time For Peace.



Take Time For Peace @TakeTime4Peace1

Jan 17

20 days till Take Time For Peace, Feb. 6, 12 noon, your time zone

III. WIHW EVENTS

February 4, 2015 – Public Event ~

***“Who Is Karen Armstrong And
What Is The Charter For Compassion?”***

(See Attachment: Photos of Event)

February 6, 2015 – New Global Interfaith Initiative ~

Take Time For Peace

(See Attachment: Flyer ~ TTFP)

February 7, 2015 – Public Event ~

“Interfaith Forum On Peace”

(See 3 Attachments: Flyer ~ Interfaith Forum On Peace

Program ~ Interfaith Forum On Peace

Photos of Event ~ Interfaith Forum On Peace)

PUBLIC EVENTS

Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 pm ~

“Who Is Karen Armstrong And What Is the Charter For Compassion?”

Hosted by the First Unitarian Universalist Church, a member of
Lubbock Interfaith Association

On Wednesday evening, February 4, the First Unitarian Universalist Church hosted a public event on the Charter For Compassion. The primary purpose was to provide basic information on the Charter’s founder, its mission, and the avenues for cities, groups and individuals to participate.

The Program began with a brief explanation of the history and purpose of *World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)*, followed by a large-screen Power Point presentation on:

- Karen Armstrong
- The origins and purpose of the Charter
- Detailed instructions on how an individual can sign the Charter
- An explanation of how groups and cities can become involved

An animated discussion followed, with a focus on how to engage more individuals and groups in the process, including the city of Lubbock. The responses from participants were unanimously positive, and as the evening concluded one person asked delightedly,

“So I can go home tonight and sign the Charter for Compassion?!”

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Future Plans

Plans have begun to designate Lubbock as a Compassionate City by 2018. The proposed strategy is to use a “from the ground up” campaign, beginning with interested religious and interfaith groups and leaders, civic and educational organizations, and the medical community. The presentation “*Who Is Karen Armstrong And What Is the Charter For Compassion?*” will be a key component of the three-year campaign.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Friday, February 6, 12 noon around the world ~

New Global Interfaith Initiative: *Take Time For Peace*

Take Time For Peace was conceived and developed by *Lubbock Interfaith Association*, and refined in conversations with interfaith initiatives in the American northwest, midwest, south, and east. It was “launched” by *Lubbock Interfaith Association* to take place on Friday, February 6, 2015 at 12 noon in each successive time zone around the world. From the inception it was determined that the significance of the event lay with the inherent value of the initiative itself, not with the people who developed it, thus *Take Time For Peace* is described as “From Interfaith Initiatives In America.”

To ensure that *Take Time For Peace* be seen as an interfaith event, the Flyer uses both visual cues and an explanation to guide people’s participation. The visual cues include symbols for both the Globe and sixteen (16) of the world’s religions, traditions, and perspectives:

Hinduism, Native American, Judaism, Atheism, Buddhism,
Confucianism, Jainism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Shintoism,
Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Paganism, Unitarian Universalist,
and Bahá’í Faith

In the Flyer the lead-in to the words for Peace specifies:

“... using phrases appropriate for each tradition and perspective,
said in prayers, supplications, wishes, hopes, meditations, intentions,
dedications, or blessings.”

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Rationale

The rationale for *Take Time For Peace* was three-fold:

Timeliness

While peace has never been a constant in our world, the recent months had seen a marked increase and intensity in unrest and violence among countries, cultures, and religions – there were many places in the world in need of greater peace.

Need

In the United States we can participate in the National Day of Prayer. Our global communities can participate in several days of prayer or peace, including the Vatican World Day of Peace, the ecumenical Christian Women's World Day of Prayer, the international Golden Rule Day, the international Day of Peace, the Unity World Day of Prayer, the UCC International Day of Prayers for Peace, and the Baptist's Women's World Day of Prayer. But there was no day for major religions, traditions, and perspectives of the world to come together with words for peace.

Knowledge and Value

We know that words have power – the power to guide our thoughts and influence our actions. And when people say or think words together, “something happens.” Our sense of community is strengthened and we feel a connection. We remember we are not alone in our purpose.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Knowledge and Value, *continued*

Take Time For Peace provides interfaith communities and individuals another opportunity to experience this unity of purpose. Further, it reaffirms our understanding of the process for greater peace and gives us the opportunity to bring this understanding to others.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Participation

Take Time For Peace was promoted through “virtual” media. The *Take Time For Peace* Flyers were distributed through *Take Time For Peace email*, Facebook, and Twitter to over three hundred (300) initiatives and individuals with a presence in more than two hundred (200) countries around the world. Recipients were encouraged to share the *Take Time For Peace* Flyer through *email*, social media, texting, telephone calls, personal contact, and letters.

The responses from participants are heartwarming and affirming.

Here is a sample:

In Rajahmundry, India a principal and his students stopped to take time for peace.

In Gaziantep, Turkey a business woman paused at lunch to offer words for peace.

In Ukraine a mother prayed for peace, using the words sent by her daughter in America.

In Georgia, Rumania, and Kazakhstan faculty and students participated, using the words sent by a fellow professor in America.

And in America,

Muslim students in Minnesota gathered for words for peace;
a professor in DC shared favorite poems for peace;
a Rabbi shared *Take Time For Peace* with all in her congregation;
a book club in Washington gathered for coffee and words
for peace;
a group in Georgia spoke to being the bridge to peace;
a family in Santa Fe forwarded the Flyer to all they knew,
then stopped with their dogs to take time for peace;
and Jew, Buddhist, and Christians gathered for a Buddhist
meditation on peace in the world.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Take Time For Peace, 2016

Planning has begun for the second annual *Take Time For Peace* event, February 5, 2016. The goal is to strengthen the initiative by expanding the *Take Time For Peace* Flyer to include words for peace from national and international interfaith entities.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

Saturday, February 7, 7:00 p.m. ~

“Interfaith Forum On Peace,” hosted by *Lubbock Interfaith Association*

On Saturday evening, February 7, *Lubbock Interfaith Association* hosted an interfaith event for the public, the *“Interfaith Forum On Peace.”* The evening opened with a violin performance of *Kol Nidre*, music that is part of Yom Kippur services at our local Synagogue, Congregation Shaareth Israel.

The *Forum* began with readings from nine (9) world religions, traditions, and perspectives: Hinduism, Judaism, Atheism, Kadampa Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Paganism, Unitarian Universalist, and Bahá’í Faith. Summary excerpts from some readings are included below.

Following the presentations the discussion was opened to the audience. For more than 45 minutes the panel engaged in a lively interchange with participants, addressing the questions and comments from their own (and often similar) perspectives: “Islamic” terrorist activities, freedom of speech, using weapons to defend oneself and one’s family, waging war vs. waging peace, and “which religion has the real truth?”

The concluding remarks noted the significance of the evening with words from Dr. Hans King:

There will be no peace among nations without peace among religions,
and there will be no peace among religions without dialogue.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

“Interfaith Forum On Peace,” continued

The responses from participants were unanimously positive and included: a *“remarkable event,” “an incredible and stellar”* evening, and *“the FORUM was a gift to the community.”*

READINGS: Summary Excerpts

Judaism

I suggest that we humans are always going to be at odds with each other some of the time, so what does an achievable Peace look like? Our Rabbis taught, “The sword comes into the world because of justice delayed and justice denied.” I suggest that Peace looks like complaints: complaining about bad laws, complaining about crime, complaining about oppression. ... Peace is about listening to complaints and trying to fix problems. Peace happens when people have real hope for justice. And the sign of that hope is complaints.

Atheism

From Bertrand Russell: It is especially necessary that each individual should learn to view groups of human beings other than his own as possible co-cooperators, rather than as probable competitors. ... What the world needs most is the substitution of hope for fear and the realization of the splendid thing that life may be if the human family co-operatively will permit itself to realize its best potentialities.

Christianity

Christians follow the teachings of Jesus, who promised his followers the gift of inward Peace, taught love as the path to outward Peace, and gave his blessing to those who actively pursue Peace. ... A heart free of anxieties and resentments is where Peace begins. Loving our enemies as well as our neighbors involves actively seeking those conditions that nurture the well-being and honor the dignity of all people.

PUBLIC EVENTS, *continued*

READINGS: Summary Excerpts, *continued*

Islam

More than a thousand years ago a single man, whose name is Mohammed (PBUH), arrived at a city in Arabia known for its violence and social ills. In a short time, without forcing everyone to follow his religion, he converted the city to a peaceful one. ... God does not send angels with peace on their wings. Rather, he put the potential to achieve peace in each one of us.

Paganism

This is one pagan perspective of peace: Freedom and peace are intimately entwined together. ... In order to have external peace, we must have internal peace. Through meditation, contemplation, and study we come to know ourselves. ... One of the sayings we use for some of our some rituals states: "In perfect love and perfect trust we come together. In perfect trust and perfect peace we part. Blessed be."

Unitarian Universalist

One of our seven principles is to affirm and promote the goal of world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all. We are called to create peace by becoming more peaceful, to create freedom by dismantling oppression, to create justice by changing our way of relating to the world and all in it. To be at peace with ourselves we must always work towards peace by acting in peace.

Bahá'í Faith

Universal peace is an impossibility through human and material agencies, therefore, it will be accomplished through the breath of the Holy Spirit. If the moral precepts and foundations of divine civilization become united with the material advancement of man, there is no doubt that the happiness of the human world will be attained and that from every direction the glad tidings of peace upon earth will be announced.

IV. PRESS COVERAGE

Lubbock Television Affiliates

Lubbock Newspaper: *Avalanche-Journal*

PRESS COVERAGE

TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER

On Saturday, Feb. 7, several local television stations announced that the *“Interfaith Forum On Peace”* would take place that evening.

On Monday, Feb. 9, *Lubbock Interfaith Association* submitted a Letter to the Editor to the *Avalanche-Journal* regarding the *“Interfaith Forum On Peace.”* On Feb. 17 and 18 the *Avalanche-Journal* published an edited version of the letter in the Editorial/Letters Section of the newspaper. Both letters are included below.

PRESS COVERAGE, *continued*

Letter to the Editor, *Avalanche-Journal*

Submitted Monday, Feb. 9, 2015

On February 7 *Lubbock Interfaith Association* hosted an **INTERFAITH FORUM ON PEACE**. Held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, the **FORUM** was led by members from nine traditions and perspectives: Hinduism, Judaism, Atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Paganism, Unitarian Universalist, and Bahá'í Faith. The program featured readings and presentations followed by open discussion among the audience and panel. It was an enlightening and remarkable evening, once again encouraging greater harmony and peace in our community. On behalf of so many, my gratitude to all of the committee members, panel, and participants who made this event possible.

Sue Morrow, *Facilitator*
Lubbock Interfaith Association

PRESS COVERAGE, *continued*

Letter: Interfaith forum theme of peace

Posted: February 17, 2015 - 3:02pm | **Updated:** February 18, 2015 - 12:08am

On Feb. 7, Lubbock Interfaith Association hosted the second Interfaith Forum for the Lubbock community. Held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, the forum was led by members from nine traditions and perspectives: Hindu, Judaism, atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, paganism, Unitarian Universalist and Baha'i.

The theme of the forum was peace, with readings followed by open discussion among the audience and panel. It was an enlightening and remarkable evening, once again encouraging greater harmony and peace in our community.

On behalf of so many, my gratitude to all of the committee members, panel and participants who made this event possible.

SUE MORROW/Lubbock

V. ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments To SUMMARY REPORT:

WIHW – 2 FLYERS:

Take Time For Peace (pdf.)

“Interfaith Forum On Peace” (pdf.)

WIHW – PROGRAM FOR INTERFAITH FORUM ON PEACE (pdf.)

Separate Attachments:

**WIHW – PHOTOS OF WHO IS KAREN ARMSTRONG AND
WHAT IS THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION?**

WIHW – PHOTOS OF INTERFAITH FORUM ON PEACE