

# Events

## 9/11 Celebration of Peace and Hope at Cragsmoor's Stone Church

Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, a *Celebration of Peace and Hope* at the hundred-year-old **Stone Church** has brought meaningful expression of the universal longing for peace among the world's people. With the dedication last year of a peace pole (*photo, top right*), inscribed with the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the languages of the eight major religions of the world, the *Peace Celebration* continues to bring together children and adults from all walks of life to pray for peace and understanding in our world.

The interfaith ceremony will be held on **Sunday, September 11**, beginning at **11 AM**, followed by a pot luck lunch on the mountaintop churchyard. A concert of Celtic music will be presented at **2 PM**. Speakers will represent a broad spectrum of spiritual beliefs, offering perspectives on the journey to a more harmonious existence.

Miriam MacGillis, OP, a former coordinator of Peace and Justice Education, is a co-founder of Genesis Farm, a center for Earth studies, rooted in spirituality. She has worked there since 1980, developing the farm as an ecological learning center which practices biodynamic methods of agriculture in tune with the natural rhythms of Earth. The goal of the center is to find a new vision of how to live on the planet in harmony with the natural world and with each other in a bioregional context. The programs draw upon the wisdom of many cultural groups, all of which she feels we need, to meet the critical problems before us. She also coordinates programs exploring the work of Thomas Berry as he has interpreted the New Cosmology, and she has lectured extensively and offered workshops worldwide.

Swami Srinivasananda has dedicated his life to the oath of Inner Peace and Unity in Diversity as taught and lived by Swami Sivananda and Swami Vishnu-devananda, who demonstrated that the greatest offering to world peace and brotherhood is a total commitment to service and mediation. Swami Srinivasananda served as the director of the Paris Center from 1980 to 1983 and the Los Angeles Center from 1983 to 1986. He has also served as the director of the Val-Morin ashram from 1992 to 1994. Since 1994, he has served as the Acharya for the Sivananda Ashram Yoga Ranch, the New York and Chicago centers and affiliated Sivananda centers of the eastern region of the US, and is the American editor of the Yoga Life Magazine.

Bonnie Myotai Treace, Sensei is a Zen Buddhist teacher and poet. She is the founder of Hermitage Heart, a form of Zen training that supports solitary practice, deep study in community, and commitment to the environment. Sensei was for many years Vice-Abbess of Zen Mountain Monastery in Mount Tremper, NY, and the teacher and Abbess of the Zen Center in New York City. In her Dharma talks and retreats, she is both calming and engaging. According to the Garrison Center, where she recently led a summer session, her "style of full-immersion creates an opportunity for whole-hearted engagement that can open up what may have felt closed or contrived. She works with students on easing the mind's constrictions and sense of suffering."


Rev. Kari Schreiber, will offer prayers for peace from



the Beloved Community, a spiritual and educational group that strives to align with the teachings of inner peace at the center of every religion. It has organized peace vigils in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Israel, and many other locations worldwide.

The *Celebration* will also be enriched by the music of two outstanding performers. Musician and hypnotherapist, Peter Blum, will play the Himalayan singing bowls. He has been working with the mysterious sounds of these ancient instruments for the past fifteen years and is involved in the extensive observation of the effects of sound and music on body and mind for healing and creativity. Singer and songwriter, Victor Roland Mousaa, will share songs written for the Native American Cultural Alliance. Some of his music has also been inspired by his work in the civil rights, anti-nuclear, and peace movements.

If time permits, members of the congregation will be invited to share brief prayers, poems, or comments. There is no admission for this morning event.

Cragsmoor, an historic art colony in the **Shawangunk Mountains**, is located off **Rte. 52**, between Ellenville and Pine Bush, five minutes from the *Sam's Point Preserve*. Follow **Cragsmoor Road** to the Post Office and continue straight, following signs to the **Stone Church**. 



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