

**Summary** – Consider splitting up for size considerations: See also details in: 9A = 1968 to 1984; 9B = 1985 to 2021; 9C = Quotes to consider and Excerpts on Religions or leaders (may be in 9A or 9B)

**Let each religion play the role of a flower. Let us make a garland of these divine flowers...”**

– Sri Chinmoy, “The Song Universal,” 26 November 1968, Church Center for the United Nations, in *The Garland of Nation-Souls*.

The interfaith appreciation that Sri Chinmoy demonstrated by example in his first talk to the UN community in 1968 and as leader of the Meditation Group at the UN starting in the 1970s encouraged many in the UN and interfaith communities. He supported the participation of the Peace Meditation in such observances through the years as expressions of unity and respect for various traditions

“The USA, Host country for United Nations Headquarters in New York, Declared a National Day of Prayer, for 24 Jul 1975, inviting all to participate in their preferred way. At an event organized for the UN Community, Sri Chinmoy presided over an Interfaith gathering of representatives from major religions. The New York Times reported that Rev. Dr. Dan M. Potter, Executive Director of the Council of Churches of the City of New York called it: ‘most representative gathering of religious leaders ever held in the city’ (photo from 24 Jul 1975)



“It was deeply meaningful when religious leaders again stood together in silent, prayerful unity at the front of a large UN conference room in observance of Sri Chinmoy’s passing in 2007, acknowledging his many decades of service to the UN and to the goal of world-oneness.” – Excerpt from DH draft message for 50th Anniversary



From time to time the Peace Meditation group at the U.N. offers special programs on various themes, often co-sponsored in cooperation with other UN entities or countries’ missions to the United Nations.

The leader of the Peace Meditation Group, Sri Chinmoy, group members and especially the Choir associated with the group have often also been invited to participate in other activities that support the highest goals of the UN, including interfaith cooperation. Below are some examples of past programmes.

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**Editor’s NOTE:** If specific inter faith events were previously mention in other Part 3 Events, Chapters then use  
 appropriate more or less detail in this chapter:

## **My Religion**

**My religion** Lovingly and cheerfully Bows to all the other religions, For each religion is a direct God-  
 representative Here on earth.

**My religion** Deeply and equally values All the religions of the world, For it knows that each religion  
 Is a beautiful, powerful And fruitful branch Of God’s Life-Tree.

**My religion** Tells me that each religion Is assigned an important role In God’s Cosmic Drama.

**My religion** Is not only in search of excellence In other religions, But also has discovered uniqueness  
 In each and every religion. – Sri Chinmoy, My Religion (1999)

see also Other religion related quotes and references in annex>

### **Contents by Subject Group - Type Interfaith Events** - Detail in year indicated:

- **First Talk** to the UN community; “The Song Universal” Nov 1978
- **Days of Prayer;** for UN Community 1975, 76, 82; Iranian Crises 1979, 81; Seven Minutes Silence for World Peace 1984-2001, 2019,2020, Prayer Breakfasts (years mentioned); Three ‘Prayers for the Millennium 2000
- **Opening for the UN General Assembly:** 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1975, 88, 93, 94,96 ,98, 99, 2000, 01; **UN Day** Oct 24<sup>th</sup> , 1975, Service for and **Commitment to Work of UN** April 1997, 98, 99, 2004
- **Music** for the Soul 1975, Christmas Carols 1977, Hindu Temple 1978, (see also **Part 3-07** Music, Song)
- **Interfaith Components or Spiritual Theme:** “Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha” 1973; UNICEF 1975, 94; USA Convention 1976, Human Rights 1977, Holy See 1977-78; Oneness Earth 1977; Meditation – “Room of Quiet”, 1977, 1982-83; Athletics & Spirituality 1979; “Meditation in the Islamic Religion”1979; Inner Role of UN 1980; Global Perspectives for Religious Life 1982; Book – New Genesis 1982; Sacred Fire Play 1984, 1985; Norman Rockwell: Golden Rule Mosaic 1978, 1985, 1997, 2014; Columbus Quincentenary 1992; Parliament of Religions 1993, 2004; International Day of Peace 1993; “The Challenge of Diversity” Address by UN SG, Kofi Annan 1998, Book : “My Religion” 1999; “Pluralism Project” 2000; Great Buddha Statue, Kamakura Japan 2004, Oneness, Light Shall Prevail 2007; Celebration of Life of Sri Chinmoy 2007; 3rd UN Secretary-General U Thant Centennial 2009 , Anniversary in Myanmar, Yangon 2012; World Interfaith Harmony Week 2010; Torch relay + Interfaith Harmony encouraged by President of UNESCO General Conference 2009 – 2011; “Spirit of the United Nations” Awards 2012, 2014; Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony 2013; 2014; IISD Award Ceremony: Singers Perform 2017
- **International Thanksgiving and Gratitude Days**, 1975, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.82-83, 91; Presentation World Thanksgiving Declaration to Secretary General 1983, 1996, International Year of Thanksgiving 2000;
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Summary may have categories with details in separate document  
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## 1968

### 26 Nov1968 “The Song Universal,”

“**Let each religion play the role of a flower. Let us make a garland of these divine flowers...**”

26 Nov1968, Church Center for the UN, in *The Garland of Nation-Souls*. First talk to the UN Community is at [www.srichinmoylibrary.com/gns-4](http://www.srichinmoylibrary.com/gns-4)

Love, harmony, peace and oneness. These are man’s divine ideals. On the strength of his inner mounting flame, aspiration, man can easily, unerringly and spontaneously manifest these ideals of his in his human life, in every sphere of his life.

It is quite natural and proper that we should discover our God in and through our own religion. When we go deep within we come to realise that there is only one religion, and that religion is man’s inmost cry for God-Realisation. In the hoary past, Asoka, the great Emperor of India, sent missionaries to the corners of the globe with a profound message: “The basis of all religions is the same, wherever they are. Try to help them all you can, teach them all you can, but do not try to injure them.”

Let each religion play the role of a flower. Let us make a garland of these divine flowers and offer them at the Feet of God. God will be pleased. We shall be fulfilled. – Sri Chinmoy, 1968 Nov 26

## 1973

### 25 May 1973 Perform “Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha” for U Thant

On the evening of May 25, 1973, former Secretary-General U Thant attended the first performance of Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha, a series of one-act plays based on incidents in the life of the Lord Buddha,. It was written by Sri Chinmoy and performed by his students on an outdoor stage built for the occasion in Harrison, New York. U Thant was accompanied by his daughter, son-in-law and young grandso



Sri Chinmoy opened the programme by singing,  
Buddham sharanam gacchami  
Dhammam sharanam gacchami  
Sangham sharanam gacchami

Sri Chinmoy then gave a speech of welcome and garlanded U Thant,'  
"When I go to the Buddha for refuge, He blesses me.  
"When I go to the Inner Law for refuge, He illumines me.  
"When I go to the Order for refuge, He utilises me."



Excerpt of U Thant's Comments: "Sri Chinmoy in his play also has drawn a very vivid picture of the identity between God and Truth, soul and inner Light, which I very much hope will create an abiding interest in these two great religions- Hinduism and Buddhism-which in many ways constitute the key to all great religions.

"I feel very strongly, as some of my friends know, that only by the practical application of the teachings of great religious leaders, particularly the development of the moral and spiritual aspects of life as Sri Chinmoy has stressed in the play-love, compassion, tolerance, the philosophy of live-and let- live, modesty and even humility-that only with this approach, only with this method, will we all be able to fashion the kind of society we want, a truly moral society, a decent society, a livable society, which is the goal of all great religions. Full text at: Performance of Siddhartha becomes the Buddha: <https://www.srichinmoylibrary.com/ut-37>



Add more or less detail of event depending on what in other sections of Part 3

1975

### 24 Jul 1975 Interfaith Prayer Day observance



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 If photo not used at top use here or one from different angle

Organized by members of Peace Meditation at UN. NY times reported “Sri Chinmoy “..opened with a silent prayer” - and quoted Rev. Dr. Dan M. Potter, executive director of Council of Churches of NY city who said it was the : ”most representative gathering of religious leaders ever held in the city”.. Interfaith Prayer Observance. Participants in addition to Dr. Potter, included speakers from: NY Board of Rabbis, Buddhist Monastery of America, Brooklyn Diocese of Roman Catholic Church, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, Baha’i International Community, Muslim Prayer Group at the UN, The Sufi Order, Queens Federation of Churches, President of Council of Churches, City of New York. (cross reference to other chapters where appears)

**12 Sep 1975 Commemoration Opening 30th Session UN General Assembly**

(see also mention in Part 2 UN anniversaries) one can have shorter mention wit cross reference to other) for example in first mention shar eexcerpt of text of Norma Levitt and David Beerman – and here other detail and photos. Since it was the first fo number that followed and for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniv. it may be useful to have more detail in reference to programme iin both parts of booklet..

**“The Quintessence of Divinity in Humanity: International Cooperation for Peace.”** . – Conf Rm 3,



*Norma Levitt, Co-Chairperson, World Union for Progressive Judaism*



*Religious representatives and guest speakers join in silent rededication to the highest goals of the UN.*



*David S. Burgess, Senior Officer, United Nations Children’s Fund UNICEF*

*Article in Diplomatic World on 06 Oct 1975: “Major Faiths In Program mark opening of 30th General Assembly” guest-speakers: Norma Levitt, World Union for Progressive Judaism; Rev. Jih Tsang, Temple of Enlightenment; Muddassir Ali Shamsee, Muslim Prayer Group, UN; Rev.Dr. D. Potter, Council of Churches, City of NY; also on topic “The Quintessence of Divinity in Humanity: International Cooperation for Peace.” D. Burgess, Unicef and D. Keys, Association of World Federalists. Statement by Secretary-General read, Song “O United Nations” dedication to UN;. Choral reading from past SU Secretaries-General: Trygve Lie, Dag Hammarskjold, U Thant. In conclusion, silent rededication to the highest goals of the United Nations.*

**Consider Also big photo of individuals reading or big group singing**



*Meditation Group singing “O United Nations”  
 ...You are the earth-life Longing for oneness-goal.”*



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final **24<sup>h</sup> October, 1975 “One is the Human Spirit” UN Day 30th Anniversary**



*24 Oct 1975 UN Day, Sri Chinmoy offers opening silent meditation at **Interfaith Meeting** held in UN Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. In honour of UN 30th anniversary, it featured several religious leaders including Mother Teresa (front row 5<sup>h</sup> from right). Titled: “One is the Human Spirit”, the event was sponsored by the Temple of Understanding*

### **28 Oct 1975 World Unity: Song of Soul – Classical Music**

Add details if not used in Part 3-07 Music, Song, Concert Programmes (or just cross reference)

A programme dedicated to Music and World Peace, Oct 28, 1975 at 7 p.m.in the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium

The song of unity, unity for all mankind, constantly sings in the heart of the world. And though many ears remain deaf to this song, there is one place on earth where men and women not only hear it, but strive to make it a living reality for all; that place is the United Nations.

Music, the universal language, is one of the greatest ambassadors of good-will, peace, unity and understanding throughout the world. On behalf of the world community we are honouring music’s momentous contribution to world unity and peace; at the same time, on behalf of music, we are offering a re-dedication of music’s constant service to humanity.



**Silent Rededication:** In closing Delegates and Representatives to the UN, with guest artists and speakers joined Sri Chinmoy in a silent rededication to world unity and peace

### **30 Oct 1975 25th Anniversary of UNICEF’S “Trick-or-Treat” Inter faith component**

MIGHT BE SHORTENED – Depending on what is included in UN Anniversary or UN Organization Section About UNICEF

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final Children of the United Nations community and their parents – delegates and staff —were entertained at a Halloween Party for UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund, October 30, at the Dag Hammarskjöld. Halloween which falls on October 31, has been designated UNICEF DAY in the US. Sri Chinmoy, Leader of the Meditation Group (at the United Nations) opened the programme with a special meditation and message for the children.

**Interfaith Component from Welcome and Programme Introduction:**

- “In AUSTRALIA, On Universal Children’s Day, a Church service has been conducted by the Children themselves, including readings from Baha’i, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Faiths.
- “In NORWAY there are church services and in Kenya a special prayers are offered.
- “In TRINIDAD ceremonies stressing inter-racial and inter religious friendships are held.
- “In YUGOSLAVIA at noon on Children’s Day 10,000 children meet in the main square of the capital for 5 minutes of silence to express their desire for peace.



Sri Chinmoy (right) offers presentation to Mr. Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF

“In keeping with these aspects of the celebration of Universal Children’s Day around the world, Sri Chinmoy, leader of the meditation Group at the United Nations will open our programme.”

After a short song, **Sri Chinmoy said: “Sweet children, dear young friends**, my heart is all joy and pride to be in your loving company. I wish to tell you that I have hundreds of friends. Most of them are grown-up people. But I treasure the company of the children much more than I treasure the company of my grown-up friends. Why? Because you are all heart; you are all joy....

Dear **Mr. Labouisse, most respected spiritual brother**, with my heart’s utmost humility and devotedness, on behalf of our meditation group I wish to present you this small gift as a token of our deepest appreciation and admiration. As a most distinguished political figure, as a lover of your great country and as a lover of mankind, you have done something that is most illuminating.... Here we are in the company of the sweet children. Children are tomorrow’s pathfinders, the harbingers and fate-makers of tomorrow’s world. I am extremely grateful to you, for you are elevating and illuminating the consciousness of children’s lives. Your service to the children, your service to your country and to humanity are ever imprinted on the tablet of the God-loving, and God-serving and aspiring humanity.

**Mr. Labouisse:** ...When I was much younger, for Halloween, we made mischief, we did lots of things we should not have done. About twenty-five years ago a young group of children in Philadelphia decided they would collect something, not selfishly for themselves, but so they could give it to somebody, and they gave it to UNICEF. What they collected was \$17, twenty-five years ago. Last year, instead of \$17, children like you in this country and in Canada in one day collected \$4 million dollars for UNICEF. Now that’s an enormous number of pennies and nickels and dimes and quarters Four million dollars is about four percent of what UNICEF is spending this year. In other words, you children collected in one day last year four cents of every dollar that UNICEF is spending for children of the world. Now, what will one dollar do? One dollar will buy enough vitamin A to protect forty children in one year from blindness caused by malnutrition; or enough vaccine to inoculate ten children against polio or sixty children against tuberculosis; or three boxes of chalk so that teachers can go and write their lessons on the blackboard. So it is a wonderfully important thing that you children are doing for children who come from many lands of the world. You come from many lands of the world, so it for your cousins, your friends. I want to thank each and everyone of you for what you are doing. And I also would like, Sri Chinmoy, to express our very deep gratitude to you and your meditation group – and not only for this very wonderful gift that you have collected for us. “Trick-or-Treat” started spontaneously twenty five years ago. And this is a spontaneous, thing that has been started by this meditation group; a tribute to all of the world’s children. I am grateful to you and all of your colleagues.

**25 Nov 1975 -International Day of Thanksgiving**

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
 In a special lunch-hour programme, Thanksgiving was celebrated with prayers, music and poetry from around the world, on Tuesday, November 25, in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy opened the programme with a silent prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving. This was followed by musical offerings, poetry readings, a talk on the Spirit of Thanksgiving and a **traditional Chinese shadow theater** as indicted below:

- **Opening: Silent Prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving** lead by Sri Chinmoy .
  - **Poem of Rabindranath Tagore**, India
  - **Flute Improvisation**
- **SWEDISH HYMN – -Olaus Petri** (translated from the original Swedish by Johan Olaf Wallin)
- **CANTICLE DELLE CREATURE –Saint Francis of Assisi** (translation from the **original Italian**)
- **Canon perpetus from “Musical Offering” by J.S. Bach** – Violin, Flute, Cello
- **HARVEST THANKS – Erntedank – German Folk Poem**
- **AUTUMN (Excerpts)– Y. Yevtushenko** translated from the original **Russian** by J. R. Rowland)
- **DAMOS GRACIAS A NUESTRA MADRE TIERRA – -Edgar Gonzales** (translation from the original Spanish by the author)
- **WE GATHER TOGETHER**, *traditional American thanksgiving hymn, from a-Netherlands Folk Song, Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914*
- **Closing re-dedication – silent offering of prayerful gratitude .**



**Mr. Peter Stewart} President of the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation \* of Dallas} Texas, paid homage to the tradition and spirit of thanksgiving:**

### Thanksgiving around the World

*Harvest Festival or Thanksgiving is celebrated in many ways around the world and the excerpts from the printed programme of the International Day of Thanksgiving function illustrate some of these practices in various countries :*

- **JAPAN –November 23} LABOR-THANKSGIVING DAY**
- **INDONESIA –HARVEST FEAST** (Pelabuhan Ratu, West Java)
- **SWITZERLAND –JEUNE FEDERAL**
- **AFRICA –December 26-January 1 KWANZA**



**Yueh Lung Ying Hsi Dramatic Group presented a traditional Chinese shadow theater, depicting one of their classical legends.**

Consider a Page to highlight excerpts of prayers, songs and talk by P.Stewart from Thanks-Giving Squart

**SWEDISH HYMN** (excerpt some lines )

God is merciful to us.  
He lets His clear Face shine So lovingly and  
graciously on His children, That we may know  
His ways, Learn His holy Will,  
That we on earth may understand His Bliss and  
Glory And give praise to Him.  
May all tongues thank And praise You, O Lord  
God, And may the whole world rejoice, Sing  
with gaiety and joy  
Lord, You are the hope of all For, who humbly  
worship You You comfort, calm, protect,  
maintain, You hear all who invoke You with  
faith. May all peoples thank You, God, And  
praise You with good works and with peace.  
! May all the world love the Lord! -*Olaus Petri*  
(translated from the **original Swedish** by Johan  
Olaf Wallin)

**HARVEST THANKS – Erntedank**

All people, let it be told to you: You have brought  
home the last cart, Carried home the last sheaves  
of wheat. Now none shall starve throughout the  
land. O harvest time, O holy time, O limitless  
blessings. So lift up your arms in great joy to  
heaven. And let all thank the Lord. – **German**  
Folk Poem

**AUTUMN (Excerpts)**

Within me is an autumn season. There is  
transparency and coolness, Sadness, but not  
desolation, And I am humble, full of goodness.  
And if sometimes I storm aloud Then I storm to  
shed my leaves: And the thought comes, simply,  
sadly, That to storm is not what’s needed ...  
Insight is the child of silence. No matter if we  
make no tumult: We must calmly shed all noise  
In the name of the new leaves ...– *Y. Yevtushenko*  
(translated from the original **Russian** by J. R.  
Rowland)

*The Meditation Group choir then sang the  
traditional American thanksgiving hymn, “We  
Gather Together,”.*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;

**CANTICLE DELLE CREATURE** (Excerpt some  
lines): Be praised, my Lord, in all Your creatures,  
especially Brother Sun who makes daytime, and  
through him You give us light. And he is beautiful,  
radiant with great splendour, Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Moon and the stars: You formed them in  
the sky, bright and precious and beautiful. Be praised,  
my Lord, for Brother Wind, and for the air and the  
clouds, and for fair, and every kind of weather, by  
which You give Your creatures food. Be praised, my  
Lord, for Sister Water, who is most useful and  
humble and lovely and chaste.; for Brother Fire,  
Through whom You light up the night for us: Be  
praised, my Lord, for our sister Mother Earth, who  
keeps us, feeds us, and brings forth fruits of many  
kinds, with coloured flowers and plants as well ....--  
*Saint Francis of Assisi* (translation from the **original  
Italian**)

*Mr. Peter Stewart} President of the Thanks-Giving  
Square Foundation \* of Dallas} Texas, paid homage  
to the tradition and spirit of thanksgiving:*

...”Thanksgiving is the fabric that unites [us] with  
[our] past, with each other and with all mankind.

- The greatest common spirit that we have is that  
of thanksgiving.
- Gratitude, thanksgiving is a healing, reconciling  
force ... A prayer of thanksgiving directs  
attention away from self-our needs, our problems,  
-we concentrate on the good things that come  
from a good God who loves us. Gratitude  
instinctively shares-like an involuntary word to a  
stranger on the beauty of a  
sunset. ... blessings enjoyed  
stirs our sense of obligation to  
be an agent of blessing, an  
instrument of God’s peace... ...a  
covenant of humility and  
gratitude, of thanks and giving  
brings communion among  
people. The movement of  
thanksgiving might be stated:

We are drawn up in the spirit of gratitude and are  
opened to an appreciation and reverence for life  
and its creator that turns us from isolation to joy



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final ... Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; ...! We all do extol Thee, ...O Lord, make us free! - *Netherlands Folk Song Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914*

*and the programme closed with a silent offering of prayerful gratitude*

and sharing. Here is world understanding on a deep level...around the earth in a circle of gratitude –flow of life and service.  
 \* *The **Thanks-Giving Square** is a non-profit foundation which is building and will maintain and operate an **inter-religious, international place of gratitude for all in the centre of Dallas, Texas***

**1976**

**5 Apr 1976 “Silence and Sound” Inter-Faith Observance World Day of Prayer at UN**  
**Opening Silent Prayer** – Sri Chinmoy, Leader of the Meditation Group at te UN.  
**Prayers for Peace and Progress \***

- Pir Vilayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West
- Reverend Nakajima, Director, New York Zen Center
- Rabbi Mare H. Tanenbaum, National Director, Inter-religious Affairs, The American Jewish Committee.
- Edna McCallion, Director, UN Office, Church Women United Dr. Hosny Gaber, Director, Islamic Center of New York
- Munishree Chitrabhanu, Founder, Jain Meditation International Center

**“O United Nations”** -Sung by members of the Meditation Group at the United Nations  
**Concluding Silent Prayer** – Final prayer Observance by the prayer leaders joining together. Sri Chinmoy ended prayer by bowing and chanting ‘OM’.

\* Each reading was followed by short interlude of music. Violin; flute; cello

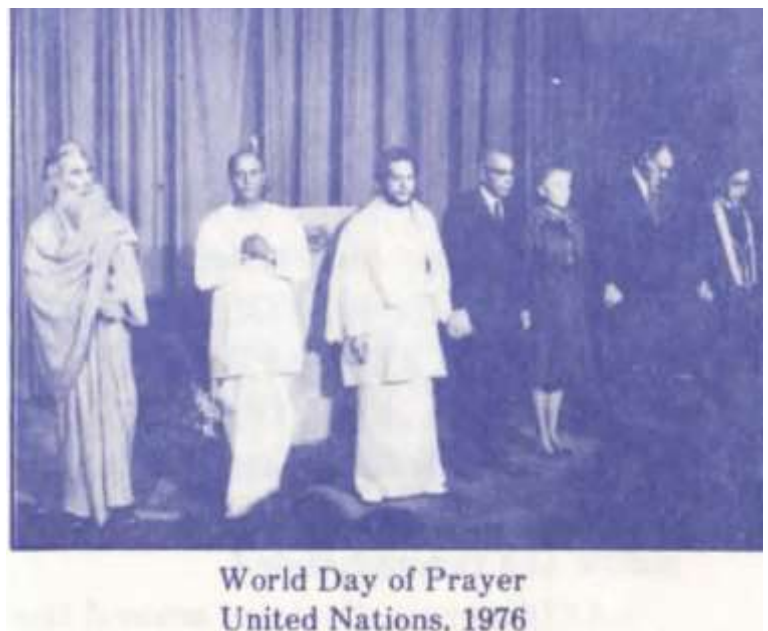
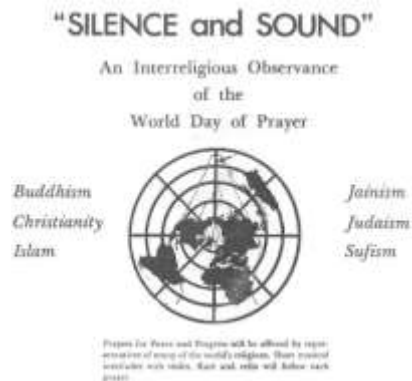
**Prayer is struggle when I want to be an all-knowing mind. Prayer is nectar when I want to be an all-dedicating life**

. -Sri Chinmoy

Excerpts of talks

**SUFISM - Pir Vilayat Khan**

Prayer is the power behind the whole forward march of man ‘s evolution on the planet because it is an



**BUDDHISM - Reverend Nakajima**

In Zen Buddhism we ask that the wisdom of the Buddha shine in us. We bow to each other as a sign

Events: 3-09 draft 2021-01-03jan "Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY" - Simplify Header across section pages in final expression of his realisation of the totality of which he is a part, and the perfect model of which he is the exemplar, and the consciousness behind his consciousness, and the one and only presence which he realises when he forgets his self in glorification. Most gracious Lord, Master, Messiah and Saviour of humanity. We greet



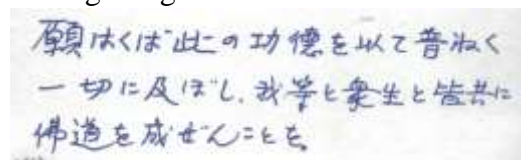
Pir Vilayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West: "You are a true representative of the spirituality of our home, India. Ever since I met you for the first time, the link between us has always grown in strength. . . . I want to say how much I value the meaning of that bond, because it is one of true dedication to the service of God." (World Day of Prayer Commemoration, United Nations, 4 April 1978)

Thee with all humility. Thou art the First Cause and the Last Effect, the Divine Light and the Spirit of Guidance, Alpha and Omega. Thy Light is in all forms, Thy Love in all beings: in a loving mother, in a kind father, in an innocent child, in a helpful friend, in an inspiring teacher. Allow us to recognize Thee in all Thy holy names and forms: as Rama, as Krishna, as Shiva, as Buddha. Let us know Thee as Abraham, as Solomon, as Zarathustra, as Moses, as Jesus, as Mohammed, and in many other names and forms, known and unknown to the world. We adore Thy Past; Thy Presence deeply enlightens our being, and we look for Thy Blessings in the future. O Messenger, Christ, Nabi, the Rasoul of God! Thou whose heart constantly reaches upward, Thou comest on earth with a message as a dove from above when dharma decayeth, and speaketh the Word that is put into Thy mouth, as the light filleth the crescent moon. Let the state of the Divine Light shining in Thy Heart be reflected in the hearts of Thy devotees. May the Message of God reach far and wide, illuminating and making the whole of humanity as one single brotherhood in the Fatherhood of God.

### JUDAISM - Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Prayer has been a tradition since the days of Abraham. It has always been a most important element in the make-up of human beings, who in their nature felt the need to communicate with the Almighty, Creator of all humanity ...

of mutual respect and direct our love and compassion to all forms of life. We express our sincere wish that we may realize the way of the Buddha together with all sentient beings. May the wisdom of the All-Compassionate One so shine within our hearts and minds that the mists of error and the foolish vanity of self may be dispelled. So shall we understand the changing nature of existence and reach spiritual peace. We surround all men and all forms of life with infinite love and compassion. Particularly do we send out compassionate thoughts to those in suffering and sorrow; to all those in doubt and ignorance, to all who are striving to attain Truth; and to those whose feet are standing close to the great change men call death, we send forth oceans of wisdom, merey and love. **The Dhammapada Sutra says:** He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me. In those who do not harbour such thoughts hatred will cease. For hatred is not overcome by hatred; hatred is overcome by love. This is an old rule. **In conclusion:** May this compassionate *dana* be extended to all beings and may our genuine and sincere wish to achieve the way to Buddhahood together with all sentient beings be granted.



### CHRISTIANITY - Edna McCallion

*Christian prayer is prayer in the spirit of Christ who experienced God as Father. Jesus did not confine Himself to any one form of prayer. He found the Father with others as well as alone. His prayers of praise, supplication and thanksgiving to the Father were offered simply in His own words. The Christian mystics tell us that our Vocation is "waiting on God". This is not an effort of the will but a*



יהי רצון מלפניך

שתבטל מלחמות ושפיכות דמים מן העולם

ותמשיך שלום גדול ונפלא בעולם.

ולא ישאו עוד גוי אל גוי קרב

ולא ילמדו עוד מלחמה.

*it thy will*

Be it thy will to annul wars and the shedding of blood from the universe, and to extend a peace, great and wondrous, in the universe.

“Nor again shall one people raise the sword against another and they shall learn war no more.”

-Excerpt of a prayer ascribed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease, When a great and wondrous peace embraces the world. When one nation shall not threaten another and we shall not again experience war.

Bless us, O Lord, with peace. We are greedy for gain, pursuing profit While soldiers pursue each other far away.

Nations squander their young men’s lives on a spree. Even Abraham was stopped; he did not sacrifice his son. Help us to seek peace, O Lord, and to pursue it. Hungry children starve our souls. Naked children expose us. Slaughtered children kill our hopes; We are wretched in their parents’ sorrow.

Heal us, O Lord ; help us to turn to each other. Let us make no peace with hunger or oppression, Let us make no peace with hatred or with fear.

Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream, Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. May the curses of the old year end. May the blessings of the new year begin. Amen.

*Boruch ato adonai oseh ha ‘shalom.*

**ISLAM - Dr, Hosny Gaber**

*Prayer is the first and most important religious duty for a Muslim, By prayer, the believer invokes the attributes of God, Through this, man eases himself from the evil feelings inside him, and thus, he can freely express his heart’s eagerness to supplicate devoutly to the Almighty, In the course of prayer, a believer, while prostrating himself to the ground in*

*motionless expectancy directed to His Presence.*

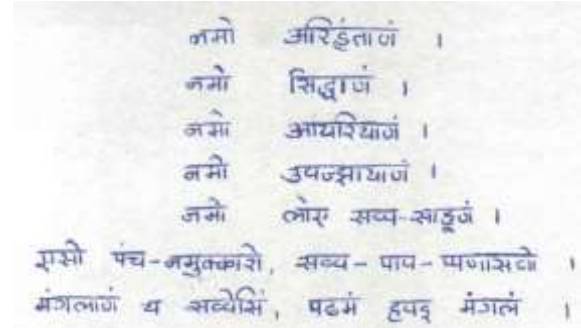
*Praying means letting go with nothing to hold onto, and falling upwards to the surprises that lie at the heart of creation*

.O God, we thank you for your patience and generosity with us. We rejoice that we are beginning to realize that peace and progress do not come from the accumulation of material wealth or the extension of material standards by affluent societies. Our Father, pour forth your grace and help us realize that peace and progress toward the kingdom of Cod will come when we recognize each person in our global family as our brother or sister; when we share our bread rather than our armaments; when we protect human rights wherever they are violated; when traditions and society discern the hand of Cod in the rising awareness of the new image of women as full partners with men in all aspects of life; when in the midst of many de-humanizing pressures we concern ourselves with the quality and essential values of life. Lord, hear our prayer for peace with justice for all our brothers and sisters; that we may fully realize the interdependence of our global society and foster a true sense of planetary solidarity. O Lord, thank you for this age of your spirit in which we are living. In this age of convergence when we are asking the searching questions – What does it mean to be human? What is life all about? In the words of Jesus, we pray: “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.” Amen.

**JAINISM - Munishree Chitrabhanu**

*In Jainism, prayer is an address to one’s Higher Self. It is a silent communication between mind and higher soul so the life is transformed into beauty, truth, goodness and benediction.*

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan “**Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY**” - Simplify Header across section pages in final *humility, raises his mind and heart to God, In his conversation, he adores his Creator and Sustainer for His favours and bounties, From Him he seeks forgiveness, and purity of soul and mind,*



الصلاة في الإسلام هي عباد الدين وأول الواجبات الدينية وأهمها .  
 الصلاة وفي أثناء الصلاة يتذكر المسلم ويتدبر أسماء الله وصفاته العلية .  
 ومن هنا تتسويح الصلوة وتتغلب نفسه من الأفكار الرديئة فينطلق في حماس  
 وإعلان في الدعاء والالتجاء إلى الله .  
 وعند ما يسير الإنسان المؤمن في أعمال الصلاة فإنه بينما يسجد على  
 الأرض يحدوا لربه فإنه في نفس الوقت تتسويقته إلى أملا بينما وجهه على  
 الأرض . وهناك في سجوده يخاطب مولاه وخالقه الذي وهبه سائر المنح  
 والعطايا . وأهم هذه المنح هو الغفران وسلام العطف والرحم .

In the name of God, The Benificent, The Merciful Praise be to God, The Cherisher and The Sustainer of the Universe, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Your Aid, O God, we seek; guide us to the right way. O Our Lord, You created all races from a single pair. You raised us into different nations with different cultures, races and Languages in order that we might have interest in acquiring better knowledge of one another. O Our Lord, make us strong hearted and united in our purpose. Let us remember Your favour , when You called us to gather here and join our hearts for the cause of mutual under- standing that has common benefits for ourselves and our nations. So by Your Grace we stand here like brothers. O Our Lord, Jet not suffer the work of any of us to be lost in this blessed moment. For we gather in the spirit of Human Brotherhood and Universal Goodness. Help those who believe in the Almighty Presence and make those who follow Your way grow in human freedom and universal fellowship.

I bow to the conquerors of inner enemies in order that I may conquer my own Inner enemies.  
 I bow to all the perfected Souls in order that I may attain perfection.  
 I bow to all masters who practised before they taught.  
 I bow to all the teachers who have illumined the path of the seekers.  
 I bow to all seekers on the spiritual path without any discrimination of time or place.  
 These are the five benedictions which keep us from all harm.  
 These are the five most sacred of all benedictions.

“**O United Nations**” – Song in dedication to the UN  
 O United Nations, O U.N.  
 You are the world·body  
 Crying for the world·soul.  
 And you are the eanth·life  
 Longing for oneness·goal.  
 In the heart of your glowing dream,  
 Big brothers and brothers small  
 Shall smile, sing and dance-  
 O Vision-Perfection in all.  
 – Sri Chinmoy

**04 Jul 1976 Bicentennial Meditation in NYC Central Park: On, with, for America**

NEW YORK- Sri Chinmoy conducted a 13-hour meditation in New York’s Central Park on July 4, culminating an 18-month Bicentennial offering to the American nation. Members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations joined in the event honouring the host country of UN Headquarters in NY.

See Country Programmes part 3-05 – If used there have cross reference here – or vice versa – wth one [art having more detail. Other just short par and photo different form what used in other section.

*The Meditation on America/  
 Meditation with America/  
 Meditation for America*

Began at midnight July 4 and continued until 6 p.m. that evening. It consisted of four sessions, each lasting three or four hours.It was the first time in memory that New York officials permitted an overnight function in Central Park.

Members of the Peace Meditation and others in the U.N. Community along with the delegates to the Convention being held in NYC and interested Public were invited to attend an interfaith Service on 11 Jul 1976. The event was sponsored by **The Sacred Fire Bicentennial Group** and the **Council of Churches of the City of New York**.

New York’s top religious leaders joined together last month in an ecumenical service for delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Prayers were offered by representatives of different **Protestant, Catholic and Jewish** faiths, and **Sri Chinmoy led the gathering in silent meditation**.

The purpose of the July 11 programme was to pray that God’s Will be executed in and through the political process. The Democratic Convention was to begin the next day.

During the service, the Sacred Fire choir sang three of Sri Chinmoy’s patriotic songs. **Rev. Franklin D. Graham**, who was serving as Master of Ceremonies, called the performance “inspiring and incendiary,” adding, “I see how the Sacred Fire got its name.” Other participants in the event included:

- Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Folkes, **President of the Council of Churches of the City of New York**, and
- Rabbi Judah Cahn, **President of the New York Board of Rabbis**.



## **20 Sep 1976 Observance: “Inner Flames at the United Nations” Mark Open 31st GA**

(cross Reference Part 3-03 UN anniversaries)

In order to bring into sharper focus the living reality of the UN in conjunction with the 51st anniversary of the UN and the opening of the 31st General Assembly the following day, the Peace Meditation Group at the UN held on September 20 in Conference Room 3 an all-day meeting, Entitled “Inner Flames at the United Nations,” explored the role of meditation and spirituality in U.N. affairs.

The morning session was devoted to an inner search through meditation for the present day needs and responsibilities of the UN.

Sri Chinmoy, opened the morning session, which consisted of silent meditation, performances of classical music and [seven songs about the United Nations](#) which were composed by Sri Chinmoy. The session closed with his talk .

1976-09-20sep-inner-flames-conference-at-un-sri-chinmoy-crp-01



## **22 Nov 1976, 2nd INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING at UN**

The Meditation Group at the U.N. sponsored its second programme of Gratitude on an International Day of Thanksgiving.

- Mr. **Waldo Stewart of the Thanksgiving Square Foundation in Dallas, Texas** introduced a Film about the Foundation’s inter-Faith, international place of Gratitude.
- **Haruna Kimura** performed a dance of Invocation and Thanksgiving called “Shima no Senzai” in the Kabuki style
- **Presentation of engraved Plaque** expressing gratitude for the service and inspiration that Thanksgiving Square Foundation.

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan “**Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY**” - Simplify Header across section pages in final

- An International **Thanksgiving Dinner**, catered by Annam Brahma Restaurant, was given that evening in the Express Bar of the U.N.
- At the dinner there was a dramatic dance in celebration of **Kwanza-First Fruits Festival by the Olatunji Center for African Culture**.

**Excerpt from Mr. Waldo Stewart:** Since the earliest time of which there is any record, man has recognised outside himself a power which gives to him ability, consciousness and awareness, and had the urge to communicate about this power and relation to it. This concept has appeared in artifacts from the earliest traces of civilisation., in the great architecture and artworks of every age and people. About twenty years ago, my brother (**Peter Stewart**) spoke about the concept of trying to make evident to people in the heart of the city, a reminder that they owed it all to this Power outside of themselves which we call God, although throughout the ages He has had many names in many places

Therefore this place within a city, consecrated by the devoted thought of people and maintained perpetually as a place where gratitude would be recognised and featured. It could become a repository for information from every culture, historical period about what people have felt of gratitude and how they have communicated it to others. People in Dallas for occasional seminars on the concept of gratitude have come from every culture. Historians have deeply studied every period of history and find even in the remotest form of civilisation there is record of this awareness of gratitude.. We find parallels in all countries painting, wall drawings, dance, action, jewelry, artifacts and architecture this concept of reaching outside of yourself and - there is record that they have been created to express gratitude. The architect, **Philip Johnson**, was engaged to design Thanksgiving Square and we must be grateful to him for immense patience in going through idea after idea, concept after concept, scale model after scale model, until finally there was an agreement that we had found a concept that seemed to really express what we're after: a place quiet, serene, that would convey in the midst of the bustling city the sense of aloneness, inspiration and quiet



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. He achieved this by taking a plot of land right in the middle of the business district of Dallas and dishing the ground so as you enter the garden you move downward toward the centre of it. And as you get out of the sight of autos passing, your ear is taken over by the sound of water moving in a rushing cataract, in waterfalls, trickling streams, so that you can enjoy the trees, the grassy banks, the flower beds and an inspired chapel, which is perhaps similar to an old scroll of parchment. It means many things to many people as they see in themselves a response to this idea. It will only hold sixty people, but it's a quiet place. It has a plain white marble aggregate walls and the ceiling, in a spiral form, is stained glass used horizontally. There is only a circular platform of granite and a square block of white marble as an altar. There is no art work either denominational or representational, except an engraving in the glass over the entrance door of a dove – not the usual dove descending, but an idea of a dove ascending, to picture the thoughts of gratitude moving upward from the individual. The chapel will be consecrated Thursday of this week and the bell tower will be dedicated on Sunday. And there will be exhibits from time to time in the Hall of Thanksgiving and beneath the Chapel of Thanksgiving; there will be dance programmes, musical programmes, seminars and meetings concerned with the topic of gratitude



When you have the opportunity, come to Dallas to be part of this concept. I think you'll find peace and inspiration.”

After the film, the Meditation Group presented Mr. Stewart with an engraved Plaque expressing the Group's gratitude for the service and inspiration that Thanksgiving Square Foundation is offering to the international community.

### **25 Nov 1976 Consecration Interfaith Chapel Thanks-Giving**

Sri Chinmoy, Leader of Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations was Invited to the Consecration of Thanks-Giving Square Chapel in Dallas Texas, 1976 Nov 25.

A member of the Peace Meditation (Adhiratha Keefe) represented Sri Chinmoy and the Meditation Group for the event and other activities at Thanks-Giving Square that Holiday Weekend.

*The Consecration of The Chapel of Thanksgiving as a place of prayer for all mankind on Thanksgiving Day in 1976 was performed by distinguished representatives of world religions – Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Moslem in a spirit of unity in Thanksgiving.*



## 20 Jan 1977 Interfaith Prayer Service Participation for President Carter's Inaugural Ceremonies –

At the invitation of the President Carter / Vice-President Mondale Inaugural Committee, the Meditation Group ushered at the **Inauguration Day early interfaith morning prayer service held on 20 January 1977** at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Group gathered at 6 :30 a.m. in the sub-freezing temperature to pass out programmes, seat people and generally help out, for a crowd which grew to 5,000.

The 8:00 a.m. service was led by the Rev. Bruce Edwards of the Plains Baptist Church, assisted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr., while Ruth Carter Stapleton, sister of the President, read from the scriptures.



### Excerpt of *Letter of appreciation from Inaugural Committee* for the Meditation Group 's assistance.

“We are particularly impressed by the dedication and co-operative spirit of your members, who are outstanding examples of the philosophy of brotherhood and good will which you seek to implement at the United Nations.

“Thank you again for your generosity and public spirit. You represent America's idealism and spiritual values at their best . Your contribution is deeply appreciated .

— 1977 Inaugural Committee “



**See also NY times coverage of day:** “unlike some religious inaugural events that tended in the past to reaffirm God's special favor on America, the impact of today's words was to call the nation back to its spiritual roots....“the gathering **represented a wide variety of denominations and religions**. Roman Catholic priests in clerical collars stood beside Jews and young baptists. **They had come from every religion of the nation** and most said that they were attending the service in the belief that the country

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final needed moral and spiritual uplift. The hard sayings of the prophets have formed the basis for soul searching for centuries. It was translated most powerfully today in the ringing phrases of Mr. King...NY times.com/

1977/01/21/archives/plea-by-dr-kings-father-adds-touch-of-revivalism-to-the-day.html

**Plea by Dr. King’s Father Adds Touch of Revivalism to the Day, By KENNETH A. BRIGGS**

Special to The New York Times ; January 21, 1977, Section , Page 30,

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the slain civil rights leader, brought a touch of revivalism and a word of biblical challenge to the first official inaugural event today, an 8 A.M. prayer service at the Lincoln Memorial.



some of those who participated in the Jan 20 1977 event

**Jan 1977, Essay Award to Meditation Group member from Holy See Mission to UN**

See cross reference to UN Orgs and staff 3-02 and decide how much to split between

At a January Meeting of the Peace Meditation group at the UN, Sri Chinmoy who leads the regular meditation requested an announcement be made of some details to all those present that a member of the group, Joseph La Galia , was being recognized with a Silver Papal Medallion..



**4 Jul 1977 Independence Day Observance – Universal Declaration of Human Rights – excerpt**

Interfaith programme held in New York City’s historic Trinity Church

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See 3-03 UN Anniversary cross reference:

On 4 July 1977, Sri Chinmoy was invited as leader of the Meditation Group at the UN, to read from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and lead a short meditation in an Independence Day Service on the theme of human rights held in New York City’s historic Trinity Church. Other readings by inter-faith clergy included excerpts from President Carter’s Inaugural Address, a section from the United States Constitution and additional national and religious statements.



he Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 18 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that were read by Sri Chinmoy follow .

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world ...

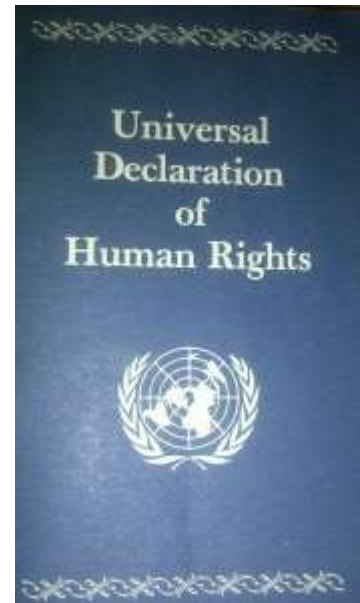
Now, therefore, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the people of territories under their jurisdiction .

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status . . .

Article 18 . Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

The complete Declaration can be found here:  
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>



## **14 Sep 1977 Meditation Group participate – Open Hall of Thanksgiving, Dallas, Texas**

Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN were invited to participate in the opening of the Hall of Thanksgiving, Dallas, Texas





Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final Robert Mueller of the United Nations Secretariat and Mrs. Muller traveled with Adhiratha Keefe (UNICEF) from NY for the Programme

As part of events during the visit, United Nations Director and Deputy to the Undersecretary General, Dr. Robert G. Muller, became a Fellow of the Center for World Thanksgiving



at Thanks-Giving Square.

In 1978 The Center for World Thanksgiving and NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION. produced a brochure that shared some information events and related background.

The Meditation Group had been involved with Thanksgiving Square for a number of events including for the [Consecration of Interfaith Chapel Thanksgiving in Dallas Texas on Nov 25 of 1976](#)



## 21 Sep 1977 World Gratitude Day

Cross reference UN Anniversaries Part 3-03

Beginning in 1977, World Gratitude Day was also celebrated by the Members and friends of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN. A special song “*World Gratitude Day*” was composed by Sri Chinmoy and performed by the Meditation Group Choir. They also participated on a number of occasions at the World Gratitude Day headquarters in NY at the special request of the day’s founder, Mrs. Edna Fuerth Lemle. She explained the origin of the Day on many occasions. Each year the Board of Directors of World Gratitude Day presents an award to someone who we feel has done something outstanding in the spirit of Globalism. In the past we have honoured such distinguished individuals as Angie Brooks Randolph, first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly, Maurice Strong of Canada and the Nobel Prize

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final Laureate, Rene Cassin. In addition we have honoured UNICEF and Japan, which, incidentally, was the first country to declare World Gratitude Day a national day of thanksgiving.

The Meditation Group celebrated World Gratitude Day twice in 1977-once on 12 September in a special programme in the United Nations Secretariat for delegates and staff; and again on 21 September in World Gratitude Days New York Headquarters when the Group’s leader, Sri Chinmoy, was honoured at official ceremonies. The plaque, presented to him by Mrs. Edna Lemle, president and founder of the organisation, dedicated to promoting the cause of world-wide gratitude, cited Sri Chinmoy for having “enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and nobility of spirit.” The first September 21 World Gratitude Day celebration was held 13 years ago. In 1977, citations were presented to nine religious leaders and representatives of organisations.



Among others recognised were the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, whose Director, Dr. J. Ottley, came from Salt Lake City for the ceremony, Judith Hollister, founder of the Interfaith Temple of Understanding; Dr. Russell Barber, producer of the NBC television programme “The First Estate”, and Rabbi Sally Preisend, the first woman in American Judaism to attain the ranks of the clergy. Past awards have been given to UNICEF (as an organisation) and to former General Assembly President Angie Brooks Randolph.

### **12 Sep 1977, 80th birthday of Pope Paul VI observed by UN Community**

The 80th birthday of Pope Paul VI was marked by a ceremony of the United Nations Community on 23 September. Sponsored by the Meditation Group at the UN, the ceremony included remarks by:

- Msgr. Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer for the Holy See at the U.N. ,
- Father John Donohue of the Holy Family Church, and
- Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination ;
- and meditation with Sri Chinmoy, who has met Pope Paul on several occasions.

Excerpt from [Monsignor Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN:](#)

How happy we are that you have decided to acknowledge the 80th birthday of our Holy Father. We know of his great interest and his warm feeling for the UN, for the goals of the Charter, and for the people who dedicate their lives to work for peace. Your intentions and your work in this beautiful Meditation Group under the leadership of this highly respected master of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, are in harmony with those of the Pope. He will be, therefore, especially happy to receive your greetings on this occasion because he will appreciate the spiritual unity that you share. May I conclude with the Pope’s final words to the Secretary-General which, I think, he would want me to say to you on his behalf : “We wish thus to reiterate to you our esteem and our encouragement, our desires and our hopes.



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And we pray that God may bless you and those who work with you.”

Excerpt from Father John Donohue, Holy Family Church:

The great world-religions . . . teach the truth of the brotherhood of all human beings under the Fatherhood of a loving and caring God.

Pope Paul gave voice to this fundamental tenet held by all religious faiths when he said, in the same address, “Men are brothers, God is their Father, and their Father wills that they live in peace with one another as brothers should. ”

May this truth soon be recognized and accepted by all who bear the responsibility of maintaining peace among the nations.



### **29 Sep 1977 Muhammad Ali Meets with the Meditation Group (also see in 3-12 sports and Athletics)**

On the morning of his championship fight with Earnie Shavers on 29 September, **Muhammad Ali met with Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group** for an hour of prayer, meditation and discussion.

Later, some thirty Meditation Group singers sang a song which Sri Chinmoy had composed in the fighter’s honour, and the group meditated together in silence for about twenty minutes.



Afterwards, Ali told Sri Chinmoy , “I was so deeply absorbed, I couldn’t do anything.” As the group was leaving, he added, “This really got my spirits high. God bless you.”

**Sri Chinmoy:** You are changing the face and fate of mankind. Your very name encourages and inspires. As soon as people hear ‘Muhammad Ali.’ they are inspired. They get tremendous joy. They get such dynamism to be brave and face ignorance. Your very name does that. That’s why I am so grateful to you, so proud of you.

Following is a short excerpt from the conversation.



**Muhammad Ali:** My goal is to be like you one day- to be peaceful and out of this sport, working for humanity and for God. After we finish boxing I want to use my popularity and my intelligence for humanity-to help people in whatever way I can. I want to bring people together, work for God and help people. There are so many people who are great; but only God, Allah, is really great. Therefore, I want to get out of this brashness, this image. I am just a humble servant and I have a lot to learn . I need people like yourself to teach me how to approach certain things.



**Sri Chinmoy:** You don't have to say that you are the greatest, but your heart of oneness with all humanity makes you the greatest

The next day at the Meditation Group meeting at U.N. Headquarters Sri Chinmoy spoke about the meeting with Muhammad Ali. Sri Chinmoy referred to the two photographs of Muhammad Ali which had appeared in that morning's New York Times. One photograph shows Ali and Sri Chinmoy meditating together the morning of the world championship fight with Earnie Shavers; the other photograph shows Ali in the ring with Shavers

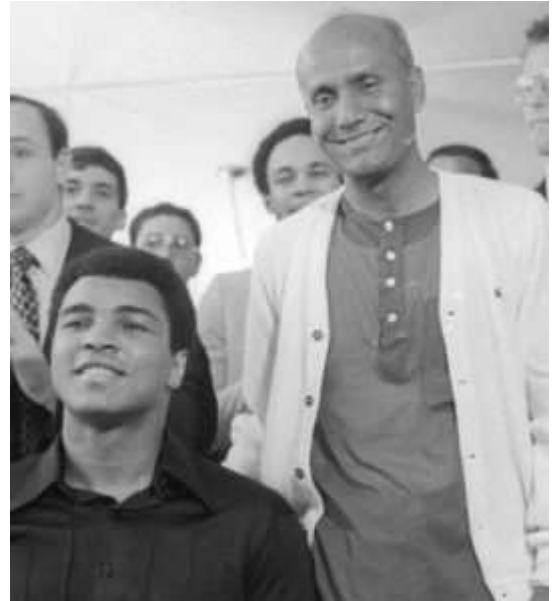


**Sri Chinmoy:** I wish to say a few words about the world-champion, Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Ali (Pointing to the two photographs ) This is Muhammad Ali in his physical consciousness and this is Muhammad Ali in his soulful consciousness.

Each individual has two aspects: the physical aspect and the spiritual aspect. This moment he expresses himself or reveals his capacities through physical means; the next moment he expresses his reality's divinity through spiritual means. In this picture we see Muhammad Ali in a devoted, soulful, cheerful and powerful consciousness. Right beside it is another picture which brings forward his other aspect: physical strength. We believe in evolution. From the stone life we go to the plant life, then to the animal life, then to the human life and finally to the divine life, where we are striving for perfection. From the physical and vital consciousness, slowly and steadily we have to evolve to the psychic consciousness, the supreme consciousness.

The physical, the vital, the mind and the heart are all members of the same family. They must be amalgamated; they must be illumined and perfected. What can achieve this perfection? It is our inner cry, our aspiration. And what carries the greatest responsibility for elevating the consciousness of human beings all over the world ? What place carries the utmost responsibility for elevating, illumining, perfecting, and fulfilling the length and breadth of the world? The answer is the United Nations. The United Nations carries the heaviest burden of human problems and the United Nations is responsible for bringing light into these problems.

Who is giving us the capacities, the inexhaustible capacities, that are needed to bring these qualities forward and illumine our imperfections? It is the soul of the UN. The deeper reality in the United Nations is blessing us at every moment. If we think that we are glorifying the UN by working here, then we are making a mistake. It is the UN, the soul of the UN that has blessed us by giving us the golden opportunity to be of service to it. The heart of each individual who sees this picture in The New York Times will definitely feel that the UN is the only answer for humanity’s oneness and divinity’s satisfaction in human life, which is aspiring to be totally transformed and illumined. So this meeting with Muhammad Ali is a supreme achievement for the United Nations which each member of the United Nations can embody and treasure, and this achievement is nothing short of a supreme gift from the soul of the United Nations.



**See also: Muhammad Ali and Sri Chinmoy on 30 Jan 1979 UN Plaza Hotel (later in this section)**

#### **04 Oct 1977 Meditation for President Carter on Visit to the UN**

On 4 October 1977, the day of USA President Carter’s visit to the United Nations, the Meditation Group met in Conference Room 3 to join in spirit with the President’s highest aspirations for world peace and mankind. The programme of prayer and meditation, also marking the President’s birthday on 2 October, included readings from the President’s writings as well as a song written in his honour



**Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens:** Sometimes a champion of a people, a nation, of the future is born in obscurity, nurtured in silence, sequestered entirely as destinies warrant, and bursts on a nation and a world. His advantage is surprise. He is unmarked by the opposition. Jimmy Carter – a champion who carries the seeds of a better future for humanity and for the world.



Background Note: At the invitation of the President Carter / Vice-President Mondale Inaugural Committee, the [Meditation Group ushered at the Inauguration Day early morning inter-faith prayer service held on 20 January 1977](#) at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington , D.C. The Group gathered at 6 :30 a.m. in the sub-freezing temperature to pass out programmes, seat people and generally help out, for a crowd which grew to 5,000.

#### **07 Oct 1977 Miss Lillian Carter Welcomes the Meditation Group** **Place in this section or in Special Section 3-13 or 3-16?**

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**Miss Lillian:** I envy you your calmness . It took my best to sit still, much less meditate. I’m not much of a meditator. I did go to the meeting every Thursday night and I did meditate with them. **Sri Chinmoy:** But you have meditated with me extremely well. **Miss Lillian:** Do you want me to tell you the truth? I don’t know what I was thinking about, but I had a thousand thoughts. I can’ t get everything out of my head like you can. When you meditate, you completely bare your mind, don’t you?.



**Sri Chinmoy:** At that time , we do not have a mind at all. When we meditate, we only live in the heart and we become the heart itself **Miss Lillian :** I have heard that and I think it is beautiful. But the only way I can meditate is to go somewhere by myself. I go to wha3 ort I call my Pond House. I can go out and sit and look out over the pond, and then I can meditate.

**Sri Chinmoy:** We belong to the Meditation Group (at the UN). This is for you, Mother, this is our offering. [Sri Chinmoy presents Miss Lillia with the Meditation Group banner.] **Miss Lillian:** Oh, this is beautiful. Thank you. Oh, it is beautiful.



Miss Lillian admires the Meditation Group Banner.



Meditation Group members chat with Miss Lilian

## 21 Nov 1977, International Day of Thanksgiving at UN

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 21 November 1977, the Meditation Group at the U.N.  
 sponsored the third celebration at United Nations  
 Headquarters of International Thanksgiving with a mid-day  
 programme of music, slides and guest speakers  
 Opening meditation:

Sri Chinmoy, Leader Meditation Group at the U.N.

Speakers :

- H. E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of **Cyprus** to the United Nations
- Sister Elizabeth Espersen, SSMN, **Thanks-Giving Square Foundation** Dallas, Texas
- H.E. Mr. Ignace Karuhije, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of **Rwanda** to the United Nations
- H.E. Lic. Julio Asensio-Wunderlich, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of **Guatemala** to the United Nations
- Dr. Robert G. Muller, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for **Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination**, United Nations
- Statement received from H. E. Mr. Tan Sri Zaiton Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of **Malaysia**:

In the evening the Group hosted a vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner on the Third Floor of the General Assembly Building to express its gratitude to all those who so kindly participated in its activities in 1977.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING 1977



*A celebration at U.N. Headquarters with music, slides and reflections on the theme of thanksgiving.*

*21 November 1977  
United Nations, New York*



“World Gratitude” Song by Sri Chinmoy performed by the Peace Meditation Group at the U.N. Choir



Guests enjoying the Evening Vegetarian Thanksgiving Meal



**If need to edit excerpts below Keep some of Sister Elizabeth and photo.**

Sister Elizabeth Espersen, SSMN,  
Thanks-Giving Square Foundation  
Dallas, Texas

I am humbled to be here, for this is a great place, a global center where the vision of man is dreamed into the future shape of his destiny. Statesmen and kings, presidents and patriarchs, ambassadors and makers of peace have peopled this place; it is hallowed by their memory and presence.

Yet I dare to come here, for the place that I come from, though tiny, possesses great vision.

It is a vision called "thanks-giving," and it lies at the heart of life. The United Nations of course, shares this vision profoundly, calling it "peace. "

Do we have color ? from date? 21  
Nov 1977



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**Julio Asensio-Wunderlich, Permanent Representative of Guatemala:** “ a wonderful concept on a Meditation Group brochure says, “The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United Nations is Oneness.”[\*1] Just over a year ago my country was shaken, by a terrible earthquake, one of the worst in this continent. A few hours later we in Guatemala received the love of the people of the United Nations, of the world. This love was represented by all sorts of efforts to help our people.. And if the inmost message of the United Nations is oneness, then oneness was also present when people of every part of the world, of all ages, little boys and little girls from schools throughout the world, sent letters, toys and assistance. ...sent by governments and by international assistance, without which, of course, we would not have been able to stand on our feet.



Possibly Bhashwar took this 1977 photo and or other photographer may have color of Elizabeth Esperson could use for above.

H. E. Mr. Ignace Karuhije, Permanent Representative of **Rwanda** (translated from French by Yvette Ripplinger): Our problems are very numerous and the obstacle almost insurmountable But we are full of hope, for fifteen years ago, we never thought that we would have come to this point. But we are working under the protection of the Almighty and we believe in His direct role in our success, since failures are due to our human imperfections. I shall conclude by offering thanks to the eternal God who has ceaselessly guided us through difficulties and pitfalls of all kinds. I ask Him in the name of my country, its leaders and its peoplr to grant us His benedictions and to guide us wisdom.



### **9 Dec 1977, The Holy See Mission Honours Meditation Group**

The evening of 9 December 1977 Monsignor Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, and members of the Mission honoured members of the Meditation Group at a reception, appreciating the Group ‘s printing of the Holy See Mission’s booklet on World Peace Day.

Excerpts from a statement which was read out by Monsignor Cheli and remarks made by Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, follow.

**Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See:** My dear friends, it is a pleasure for the Holy See Mission to have you here and to get to know each of you who has worked so generously with us in the preparation of the World Peace Day Booklet. You represent in the U.N. Secretariat a movement that seeks to help the people of the U.N., who are so busy and so preoccupied, to find themselves through the exercise of meditation, prayer and contemplation. In silence and reflection, people find themselves again. Not only themselves, but they find their origin, God. They identify their task in this world, which is to love and help their neighbour. Finally, they locate their ultimate goal, which is to return to the Creator. In reflection, people come to see clearly the true scale of value of the created things around them and they learn to give to each one of them the right priority



The secret for happiness, for interior peace and brotherly co-existence with others: it's all here! For this reason, we here at the Holy See Mission feel our selves very close to you, and we feel our selves supported and encouraged in our efforts to inject moral and spiritual values into the United Nations. We wish that this communion of spirit and of aims would continue forever. We wish to thank all who collaborated with us. You will be happy to know that your efforts have touched people all over the world. We have sent a copy to the Holy Father in Rome, to members of the Curia, to all the Permanent Missions at the United Nations; UNICEF has asked us for six extra copies. So, you know that your work has gone to all corners of the globe. Everywhere, people comment on the beauty of the reproduction. So we congratulate everyone who contributed to it.



Monsignor Cheli serving the guests

**Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General:** Year after year, the scope of the UN's work increases, as does its perception of the totality. This is one of the most prestigious and amazing stories the earth has ever seen. Alas, it is understood by only a very few of the four billion inhabitants. The UN is the school where all learn from each other, listen to each other, try to find solutions and define what is good and bad for the whole human family. It is the place of a thousand bridges. It is the cradle of future world destiny, the scanning light of our planet, the warning tower from which one global signal after the other is emitted to humans over the globe. It is



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final the birthplace of unique world efforts which help humanity to better know itself and guide its behaviour in our planetary home.

The religions and the prophets and the poets and artists did not need a United Nations, a world organization, conferences or experts to help them discover the truth. They saw it straight with the heart, with an internal vision, with an Instinct that went right to the point without getting lost in the convolutions of the mind. They all gave us generally correct codes of conduct, codes of internal serenity, codes of happiness, codes for the highest fulfillment of the miracle of life. . . . This will explain to you why I am listening so attentively with my mind, heart and soul to what great religions and spiritual groups have to say. They have a long experience of human life and often their perceptions are still the quickest and most accurate. This is why I am grateful to you for your efforts to give the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation and dimension.

.From the **spiritual point of view, the soul-love of the United Nations will always remain** resourceful in all problematical situations, untiring in the discharge of its national and international duties, sagacious in its willingness to add to the peace, love and joy of searching and ascending humanity. [\*1] **Reference Notes:** [\*1] excerpt from talk [“The Soul-Love Of The United Nations”](#), by Sri Chinmoy in *Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium on 01 February 1973. Talk appears in, [The Tears Of Nation-Hearts](#), Agni Press, 1974.*

### **14 Dec 1977 Oneness-Earth Universal Unity for 1977 Holiday season Programme**

The evening of 14 December 1977 the Meditation Group **celebrated the universal brotherhood and unity which are evoked in this season of holidays around the world** with a programme entitled “Oneness-Earth . The programme , which was **filmed by CBS-TV for broadcasting on Christmas Day**, included statements by Ambassadors and U.N. Officials and the performance of a song written by Sri Chinmoy especially for the occasion. On display was the **painting entitled “United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body,** ” by Sri Chinmoy. It is dedicated to United Nations efforts for peace and had been recently exhibited around the world as an ambassador of good will and world-oneness. Moderator: Jeff Keman, United Nations Correspondent for WPIX TV



**Painting entitled:**

**"United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World -Body" on display**

**Opening meditation:** Sri Chinmoy, Leader, Peace Meditation Group at the U.N.

**Song** – "Oneness-Earth" Performed by The Meditation Group Choir Composed on Dec. 13th, 1977

**Lyrics:**

Oneness-earth, oneness:  
A life of fulness.  
Division-mind dies,  
Oneness-heart flies.  
Heaven's God-length:  
Oneness-earth's strength.  
Today's Vision-Plan:  
Tomorrow's God-man.



Opening meditation: Sri Chinmoy, Leader, Peace Meditation Group at the U.N. with Distinguished Guests

Words and music:  
by Sri Chinmoy  
December 13, 1977

$\text{♩} = 128$  Moderate-fast

One-ness - earth, one-ness: A life  
of ful-ness, Di-vi-sion - mind dies,  
One-ness - heart flies,  
Hea-ven's God-length: One-ness - earth's strength,  
To-day's Vi-sion-plan: To-mor-row's God - man.  
rit.  
Sing song twice

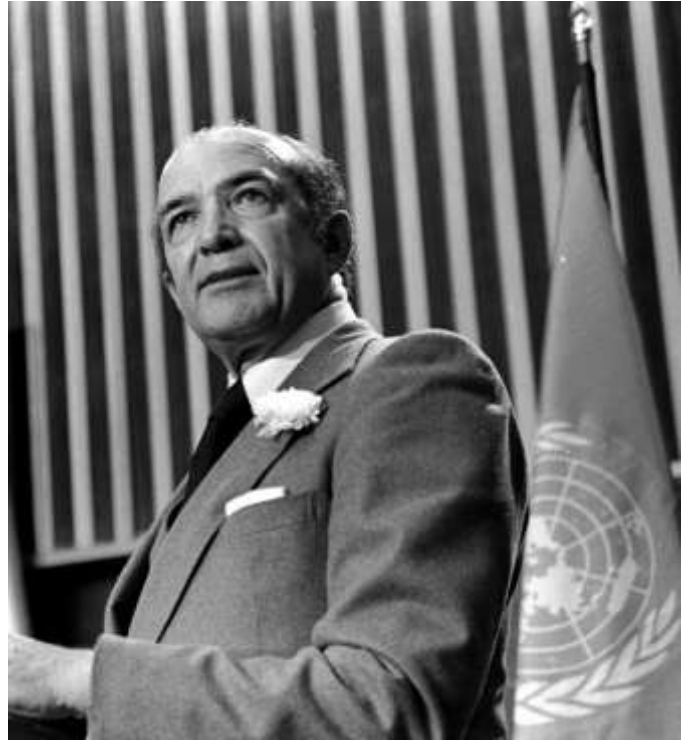


Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches:

Mr. **Thami Mhlambiso** Representative African National Congress: Friends, I join with you when the holiday season is approaching, the festive season when friends and loved ones will be joined. I also must remember those of my friends, my family and relations that are denied their human rights as a result of the policy of apartheid of the government of South Africa. Let us resolve to bring an end to apartheid and to fight the enemies of freedom and justice. Let us remember also all our brothers and sisters who are homeless today, for it must be our task and duty to see that they also have a place in the sun, so that oneness on earth will flourish.



**H.E. Dr. Jorge Enrique Illueca Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Panama** to the UN: ... Celebrating the themes of peace, brotherhood and harmony around the world. we do well to meditate on the main purpose of the UN. A centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the peaceful attainment of international cooperation and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. In their quest for peace, brotherhood and harmony, the peoples of the world share common beliefs, hopes and dreams, and they should come closer one to the other at a time when this “Oneness-Earth” is plunging toward the twenty-first century. Let us promote the ability of all peoples to live and work together in the same world; Let us persevere in our search for peace and justice; Let us defend the eternal values of mankind for present and future generations.



Friends we are, friends we shall always be.

MC Jeff Kamen : If all the children of the world really had friends who really could help them, then we wouldn't need UNICEF. But unfortunately, even at the holiday season, millions of children are in desperate need. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 1979 as the International Year of the Child. UNICEF has been designated as the lead agency in coordinating the activities of the year. And it is with great gratitude that we present at this time the Director of the International Year of the Child Secretariat, Dr. John Grun.

**Mr. John Grun** Director International Year of the Child Secretariat: If there is one issue on which the world is in agreement, it is surely the child. Men and women everywhere agree with the Declaration of the Rights of the Child when it says that the world owes the child the best it has to give. That world, is all of us. The child is two things: first and foremost, simply a child-a young, defenseless, highly vulnerable human being that commands our instinctive love and sympathy, just because it is a child. The child is also the adult of tomorrow. What we do or don't do for the child will inevitably be reflected in the adult it will be tomorrow. Thus, the issue of the child is inextricably linked with the peace, the prosperity, the very existence of mankind. Just as we can best serve our neighbor by loving him as ourselves, so we can best serve ourselves and the world by thinking of and loving others. Loving a child, truly, with an open heart and an open intellect is as beneficial to us as it is to the child.



There is no future for us – morally, emotionally, physically-except in the child, in the world's children, our children. That is the spirit which the International Year of the Child seeks to kindle, a spirit from which down to- earth practical and realistic action for the benefit of children cannot fail but flow in abundance.

Mr. Jeff Kamen: No matter what our faith, when the holiday season arrives, we are all either motivated by or, at the very least, reminded of open-hearted warmth and sincerity. And so it is altogether fitting that representing

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final the United States of America at this function is a man who, as a member of the United States Congress and as American Ambassador to the United Nations, has come to be known for that kind of open-hearted warmth and sincerity. Ambassador Lowenstein. **chose one photo**

H.E. Mr. Allard  
K. Lowenstein  
Ambassador  
Alternate  
Representative  
of the United  
States of  
America for  
Special Political  
Affairs at the  
United Nations



Most people are born into a life of unremitting difficulty and perish before they have the opportunity to enjoy any of those advantages which, paradoxically, are available now in a way unparalleled in the whole human experience. I am struck by the incapacity of people functioning as diplomats to remember that they are people first and diplomats second, so that they can figure out ways that they can resolve dilemmas to the mutual advantage of the whole human race.

... in commemorating the holidays and the international sense of renewal, if people in this season simply remember how much they have to learn from one another, to give to one another, and how much they lose by despoiling one another, perhaps the spirit and efforts around the world to find common denominators for human beings to work together will grow and flourish.

Robert Kennedy spoke of when violence destroys the lives of human beings...He said: “There is kind of violence, just as deadly, destructive as the shot or the bomb or the knife, and that is the slow destruction of a child by hunger, by schools without books and homes without heat in the winter;. What we need is what Martin Luther King had come to personify: love and wisdom and compassion toward one another and a feeling of justice toward all those who still suffer, whether they be white or whether they be black. Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago, ‘To tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of this world. ‘ Let us dedicate ourselves to that same prayer for our country and for all people.”

Impelled not just by the maxims of religious tradition, not just by the rhetoric of Constitutions, but by the common sense ... I would hope that we could take to heart what Robert Kennedy spoke about. At the end of the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, the Ambassador from Senegal arose and spoke to all of us. He said, “I hope that as we leave this session and this building,” (which was the League of Nations building), “we might all turn back for just one moment and look at the building and ask not, ‘What have I done for my government?’ but ‘What have I done for mankind?’” It seems to me that this would be a fitting way for all of us who represent countries in this building to act

**Mr. Robert Muller**, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination: I was born on the border between two countries -France and Germany. My grandfather changed five times his nationality between those two countries without leaving his village. I saw my father once wear a German uniform and then a French uniform. I myself finally wore a French uniform, while my cousins were wearing German uniforms. I have seen horrors during the Second World War, at the age of 17, which I would not have thought possible between such great civilized countries as France and Germany. Then God permitted me to come and work for the UN. I have seen gather in this house delegates from all corners of the world: black and white, rich and poor, believers and non-believers. It is true, many grave problems and follies still prevail on this earth. But during these years, I have seen humanity get closer together, nations begin to talk to each other, begin to build bridges, begin to consider every conceivable problem concerning human life.



Dr.

**Robert Muller** Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination

Despite the frustrations, I thank God every day for the United Nations. I have learned that it is not intelligence and knowledge alone that can solve the problems of this planet, but the power of love. We have to rediscover the immense virtues and qualities of love, simplicity, understanding, give and take, friendship, brotherhood, compassion-of all that has nurtured civilization throughout the centuries. The further ascent of mankind can only be done through work together not only with our minds, with our hands and intelligence, but also with our hearts and with our souls. We must learn to understand again our place in the universe, to believe in the magic of creation, in the miracle which planet earth is and which each human life is. I only wish that the public, would look at the magnificent human story, that is beginning to be written in this house. This is my wish on this Christmas.

The Right Reverend **Monsignor Giovanni Cheli**, j.C.D., D.D. Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN: My dear friends, For Christians, Christmas is the supreme expression of love. The beautiful traditions and occasions like this, when we can get together to share our thoughts and feelings at this season, are an inspiration to us to renew our love for our Creator and all of creation. For, if we probe deeply to the very root of all the tremendous problems which we at the United Nations attempt to alleviate we are dismayed to find that egotism, selfishness, pride and ill-will are operative in place of love and its manifestations in generosity, reconciliation, humility and hope. Dear friends, the Apostle St. John in his old age - his custom was to share only one message with those who came to seek his wisdom and peace: love one another. When asked why he had no other advice, he replied that love was the key to peace, and that if that message were not followed, no other one would have any meaning. This is the message that the Pope and every means of communication we have would want to convey: love one another. This is the message I bring to you today in the spirit of Christmas.



The Right Reverend Monsignor Cheli Permanent Observer of the Holy See

Two songs: The Peace Meditation Group Choir performed



### HUMAN RIGHTS

*O Human Rights Divine!  
I In harmony world you shine.  
You are the Voice of Light and blue  
Perfection- Height.  
Yours is the supreme role: to  
change the cosmos dole.  
You are the only strength of  
Heaven's Vision length.  
Division- bondage-doom no more-  
All oneness-bloom.  
– words & music by Sri Chinmoy*

### WORLD GRATITUDE

*O World Gratitude Day!  
I pray for you, I pray.  
Man's feeble climbing ray  
Is one with God's Vision-Play.  
Compassion : highest gift.  
Gratitude: fastest lift.  
Only satisfaction-seed  
Can feed man and God's  
need.  
– words and music by Sri  
Chinmoy*



*"...rise and join in a minute of silence as we conclude this meditation for "Oneness- Earth" in the holiday season."*

Moderator: Our being here together is living testimony to the existence on this planet of true oneness. And only silence can truly articulate that. So I'd like to ask you to rise and join in a minute of silence as we conclude this meditation for "Oneness- Earth" in the holiday season.

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#### Related Reference Notes:

- A. **Summary** was included in Print format as part of 1977 Devoted Report to the Secretary General (page 49 and 50) ...
- B. **Full text** was in brochure of event: "Oneness-earth"-1977-dec-14-cbs-tv-holiday-programme-covers-the-un-peace-meditation-event/
- C. **Brief report** in the Periodic Bulletin December 1977 "Meditation at the United Nations". (print version page 44-53)

## 18 Dec 1977, Meditation Group singers Perform at Valley Forge 200th Anniverrrsary of USA first thanksgiving.

See Part 9-05 for country maybe just short reference here:

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On 18 December the Meditation Group Singers were invited to open an historic commemoration of the 200th anniversary of America’s first Thanksgiving Day, which was observed by George Washington and his soldiers at Valley Forge on 18 December 1777. The singers performed Sri Chinmoy’s songs “World Gratitude” and “O My America” for the programme, in which members of the armed forces, the clergy and the international community participated. Text from a letter of appreciation received by the Meditation Group is reproduced here

January 16, 1978

#### Letter from National Thanksgiving Foundation

Dear Sri Chinmoy, The (Peace Meditation Group at the UN ) Singers at Valley Forge started the national celebration of the 200th anniversary of America’s First Thanksgiving as a nation. We wanted to express our thanks to you as (leader) and also to the Singers as a body for the beautiful words and music that were received by those attending. As (Leader) you have given continual support to the spiritual traditions which have made America great and good. You are giving inspiration to your students and to the world at large through the songs that we received – “America” and “World Gratitude”. For this beautiful moment we owe you personal thanks because your support made it possible. At Valley Forge, at the moment of beginning of the deepest spiritual tradition we enjoy as a nation, we were rewarded with a vision of the people from many countries over the world who have joined with others on the American continent in serving the highest goals of the New World. Sincerely, NATIONAL THANKSGIVING FOUNDATION. Peter Stewart President, 3141 ONE MAIN PLACE. DALLAS, TEXAS 75250 • AREA CODE 214 651 -1717



The Institution of the National Thanksgiving Commission at Valley Forge in the Washington Memorial Chapel, concluded with a benediction by Jewish, Christian and Islamic representatives, symbolizing mankind’s oneness in gratitude to God.

### Aug and Nov 1977 Honouring the Meditation – Room of Quiet:– at the UN, 20th Anniversary since redesign

The Meditation room or the UN “Room of Quiet”, which was redesigned by the second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld. has an interesting History.



2011 photo outside Meditation Room



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final The Peace Mediation Group at the UN **in 1977** sponsored a number of events during that 20th anniversary year which captured and shared some of this important history. **Below are the outline and links to the details of two events:**

### 10 Aug 1977, Program at Wainwright House, Recognizing the Laymen’s Movement Early Inspiration

- Opening – Silent Meditation and Musical Selections by Sri Chinmoy
- Mr. John Ballard , President of the Laymen’s Movement and Wainwright House
- Mr. Francis W. Carpenter, Representative of the Laymen’s Movement
- Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General
- Dr. Alfred Sunderwirth, Executive Director of the Laymen’s Movement and Wainwright House
- Mr. Weyman Huckabee, Laymen’s Movement Executive Director from 1941 to 1969

*“The United Nations’ hope for success rests on its thought and action being guided by the spirit that the room symbolises. “*

*– Dag Hammarskjold (2nd Secretary-General)*

### 15 Nov 1977\_ Small gathering in Meditation “Room of Quiet” and larger Programme in UN Conference Room 4

- Monsignor Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See
- H.E. Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines
- Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination
- Ms. Judith Hollister, Representative of the Wainwright House:
- Statement received from H. E. Mr. Andrew Young, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations
- Excerpt of a statement received from His Eminence, Cardinal Terence I Cooke, Archbishop of New York, entitled “Reflection on Silence”;
- Statement received from Mr. Peter Stewart, President of the Center for World Thanksgiving at Thanks-Giving Square

**See Part 3-02 for more history and photos from event – this to be cross referenced**

### 19 Dec 1977, Christmas Carol Sing with Mrs. Coretta King

**Here or in Music Section?** Where ever main entry is use cross reference between section (one has less detail maybe just mention and photo – not used in main entry.)

U.N. delegates and staff joined Mrs. Coretta King in singing Christmas carols in the U.N. Secretariat lobby on 19 December 1977, during a carol sing hosted by the Meditation Group.



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Adding to the holiday spirit were large colourful paintings by Sri Chinmoy, which were on display. Mrs. King charmed the several hundred who gathered by opening the programme with a solo performance of the spiritual "King of Kings" and then asked the audience to join her in singing this and many other favourite carols



**.Before singing the spiritual "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," Mrs. King said:** I often compare the message in this Christmas spiritual to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was one of his favorite songs, and very often at this time of year he would ask me to sing it at one of our regular meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church as a meditation solo.



**Mrs. King comments on Sri Chinmoy 's paintings:** I like his work. I'd love to have one of them, as a matter of fact. Because there's a lot of feeling in them. . . . He's just a creative person – to create – I guess that's what he's all about.



### 13 Jan 1978, Inspirational Talk on Swami Vivekananda

WORLD LEADERS During January Sri Chinmoy gave the following short inspirational talks as part of a series of lectures on world leaders.

Swami Vivekananda was a supreme seeker and supreme lover of mankind. He was also the preserver of the universal vision. I am invoking his presence. Was Swami Vivekananda a man? Yes, he was. Something else he also was: a lover-hero. Did Swami Vivekananda really conquer America? Yes, he did. Truth to tell, it was a mutual conquest. Vivekananda conquered America's seeker-heart. America conquered Vivekananda's Vision-eye. What did Swami Vivekananda preach in the West? The Vedantic philosophy. Something he also did. In supreme secrecy, soulfully and lovingly on the vital plane, persistently and unconditionally on the mental plane and compassionately and unreservedly on the physical plane, he distributed Sri Ramakrishna's universal oneness-heart and blessingful joy.

**Sri Ramakrishna** loved at once Vivekananda's silence-heart and his sound-life. To his Naren what he gave was his own realisation-ocean. In his Naren what he found was his own vision-manifestation. Where? Here, there and all-where. To the weak, Vivekananda had only one thing to say: "Fear not." To the strong, he had only one thing to say: "Stop not." To God, he had only one thing to say: "Delay not." And to himself, he had only one thing to say: "Ask not." -13January 1978. Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium



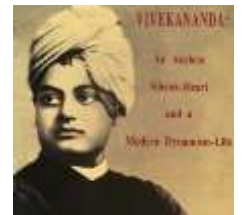
For more on Swami Vivekananda see also :

<https://www.srichinmoylibrary.com/vvk>

***Vivekananda:***

***an ancient silence-heart and a modern dynamism-life***

by Sri Chinmoy First published by Agni Press in 1993.



### 23 Jan 1978, World Day of Peace

Members of the Meditation Group were invited to participate in this year's World Day of Peace Ceremony, a celebration held each year for the U.N. community by the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in honour of Pope Paul VI's World Day of Peace message.

For the ceremony, held on 23 January 1978 at the Holy Family Church, the Meditation Group reprinted the transcript of the September 1977 programme held at U.N. headquarters in honour of Pope Paul's 80th birthday, subsequently published in Meditation at the United Nations. The reprint, which contained speeches by Monsignor Cheli and Father John Donohue of the Holy Family Church, as well as excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's book about the Holy Father, was offered to each guest along with the official programme for the evening.

Reproduced here is a letter of thanks from Monsignor Cheli.

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January 25, 1978

Meditation Group, United Nations  
New York , N.Y. 10017

Dear Friends:

We are writing to thank yo u for participating in the World Day of Peace and your contribution of your presence among us as well as the pamphlet. It was so perfectly appropriate to have the picture of the Pope in everyone’s hand as we reflected on his message and prayed with him for peace. Thank you for responding to the inspiration to share your beautiful hand-work and the inspiring thoughts of Sri Chinmoy and the other contributors.

With our warmest good wishes and our most sincere prayers that God will continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

Monsignor Giovanni Cheli



## 08 Aug 1978, Memorial Service for Pope Paul VI

On 8 August 1978 **United Nations delegates and staff joined the members of the Meditation Group in a memorial service for his Holiness Pope Paul VI**, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy opened the programme with a silent meditation facing a portrait of the Holy Father, followed by a musical dedication on the Indian esraj.

Drawing on his deeply moving experiences in meetings with the Pontiff on three separate occasions at the Vatican , Sri Chinmoy then offered a soulful tribute to the Pope



Members of the Meditation Group recited passages from Sri Chinmoy’s book about the Pontiff, Compassion-Father, Champion-Brother, Perfection-Friend, and Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens, reminisced about the Pope ‘s historic visit to the United Nations in October 1965. Remarks of the late Secretary-General U Thant and Pope Paul during this visit were then read out, as well as statements by Secretary-General Waldheim and President Carter on the Pope’s passing.

The programme closed with Sri Chinmoy's reminiscences about his meetings with the Pontiff and the performance by the Meditation Group singers of a song Sri Chinmoy dedicated to the Pope, "Compassion Height."



excerpts from the programme. To be considered

**Sri Chinmoy** (bowing to a portrait of the Pope after the opening meditation) : Father, Holy Father, beloved Father, humanity's Friend, divinity's Brother ! We know, we know where you are now. You are in the heart-cry of humanity and in the soul-smile of divinity.

Father, you were an unparalleled spiritual sovereign of the twentieth century. With your mind's illumination you showed mankind the beauty of a new Dawn. With your heart's oneness you have told man his duty in a new Day. Your divine greatness was your contribution to the Heavenly Father. Your supreme goodness was your contribution to Mother-Earth. Constant self-giving was your inner life. Constant peace-offering was your outer life.

Our aspiration-heart treasures your Vision-Eye. Our dedication-life treasures your PerfectionHeart.

**Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens:** My recollection of Pope Paul will be much the same as many of yours, dominated by his appearance and address at the United Nations, an event which showed the universality and capacity of two great figures – he, as the head of one of the world's great religions, and Secretary-General U Thant, who rendered him the invitation.

The historic encounter showed the capacity and the magnanimity of both. Pope Paul's words "**Never again war! War never again!**" were at once an appeal to the best in humanity and a dedication of humanity to its highest aspiration. His encyclicals on world problems showed over and over again his understanding, his universality, his grasp of human suffering, human yearnings, human nature, of the human condition. He strove most continuously, with a true moral and spiritual imperative, for the improvement of that human condition. We honour him and we are grateful to him for his service to humanity in the name of his Father, who is the Father of us all.

**Notes:**

*Sri Chinmoy has met with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican on three separate occasions. Those meetings left the Indian spiritual Master deeply moved, and he was inspired to write a soulful song and book about the Pontiff. Below are some excerpts from that book:*

"O Compassion-Father, O Champion-Brother, O Perfection-Friend, your mind is divinely great; your heart is supremely good. Your greatness-mind is illumining humanity's hope. Your goodness-heart is fulfilling humanity's promise.

Humanity's hope is to see satisfaction in each human being. Humanity's promise is to reveal the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. Because you love untiringly,

O Holy Father, humanity's hope, I feel that before long humanity's hope will succeed and proceed. Because you bless unreservedly,

O Holy Father, humanity's promise, I feel that before long humanity's promise will proceed and succeed.

... On **October 4, 1965 the Holy Father delivered an immortal speech at the United Nations** which was nothing short of his own life-giving Wisdom-Light. He offered papal support unreservedly to the United Nations' cause and told the United Nations that disarmament and cooperation are of paramount importance in extinguishing the poverty-flames and misery-flames of the world. The relationship between the Church and the United Nations he elucidates in a simple and powerful manner:

*"The Church considers the United Nations to be the fruit of a civilization to which the Catholic religion... gave the vital principles. It considers it an instrument of brotherhood between nations which the Holy See has always desired and promoted.... The convergence of so many peoples, of so many races, so many States in a single organization intended to avert the evils of war and to favour the good things of peace is a fact which the Holy See considers as corresponding to its concept of humanity and included within the area of its spiritual mission to the world."*

The Holy Father's blessingful appreciation of the United Nations may be imprinted in gold letters on the tablet of the United Nations' heart:

*"Thanks to you, glory to you, who for twenty years have laboured for peace and have even given illustrious victims to this holy cause. Thanks to you and glory to you for the conflicts you have prevented and for those you have settled. The results of your efforts for peace, up to these last days, even if not yet decisive, deserve that we venture to interpret the feelings of the whole world and in its name express to you both congratulations and gratitude."*

With regard to man's duty, his dignity and his religious freedom, the Holy Father observed at the United Nations: *"We feel that you [the UN staff] are the interpreters of what is highest in human wisdom."*

The Pope calls the United Nations a school that teaches man peace. According to him, each individual here is at once a pupil and a teacher in the art of building peace. Him to quote, *"...the world looks to you as to the architects, the builders of peace."*

– excerpt from [Compassion-Father, Champion-Brother, Perfection-Friend](#), Agni Press, 1976.

Pope Paul at UN 04 October 1965 (UN photos)



UN Photo #104059



UN Photo #104060



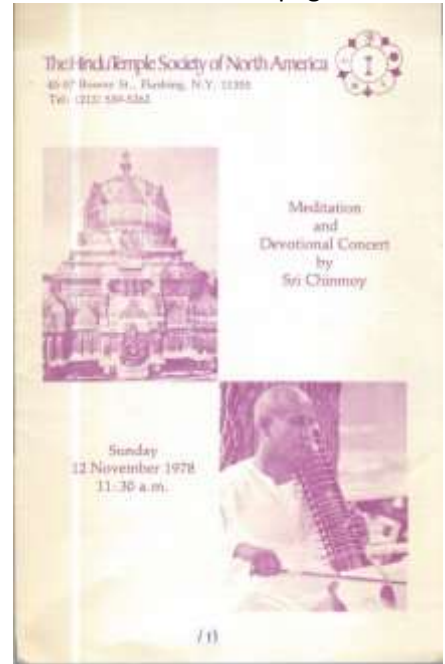
## 12 Nov 1978, Devotional Concert – Hindu Temple Society of N. A



**Meditation and Devotional concert**

Reported in [Meditation at UN – Vo 06, No 11](#); 27 Nov 1978, Bulletin p.11 also From Meditation Group's 1978 Devoted report to S-G

On 12 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group were **invited by Mr. G.V. Subba Rao , head of the new energy programme of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs,** to hold a meditation and concert of devotional music at the **Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing, New York.** The overwhelming beauty of the authentic Hindu temple combined with the haunting subtlety of the Indian esraj played by Sri Chinmoy and devotional Bengali songs sung by the Meditation Group choir, created a very sublime atmosphere.



*Mr. G.V. Subba Rao introduced Sri Chinmoy to K. Subba Rao, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, who thanked Sri Chinmoy after the concert.*



*Mr. K. Subba Rao: It is our sincere wish and desire that we have the real good fortune to have you again. It was very inspiring.*





See also [excerpt and photos](#) from Meditation Group's 1978 Devoted Report to the S-G

## 20 Nov 1978 International Thanksgiving at UN

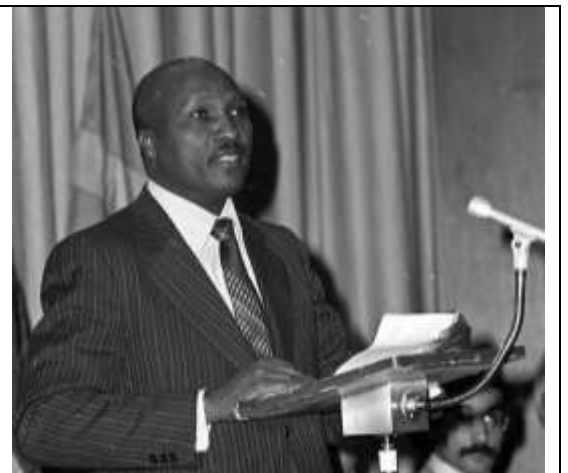
More details here if not mentioned in other section like Part 3-05 Country excerpts

On 20 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the United Nations sponsored the fourth observance of International Thanksgiving at United Nations Headquarters.

**H. E. Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn , Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations:** Membership in the United Nations has been a catalyst to the Bahamas. The exposure has challenged our delegates to deal with issues in a more constructive and decisive manner. Hence, we are more positive in our conviction that the true values of peace and harmony with one another and with one's environment are within mankind's grasp, and we hope that by sharing this belief with our colleagues here at the United Nations we can enhance the image of the organisation by fostering better relations and strengthening the call for the maintenance of universal peace and security.



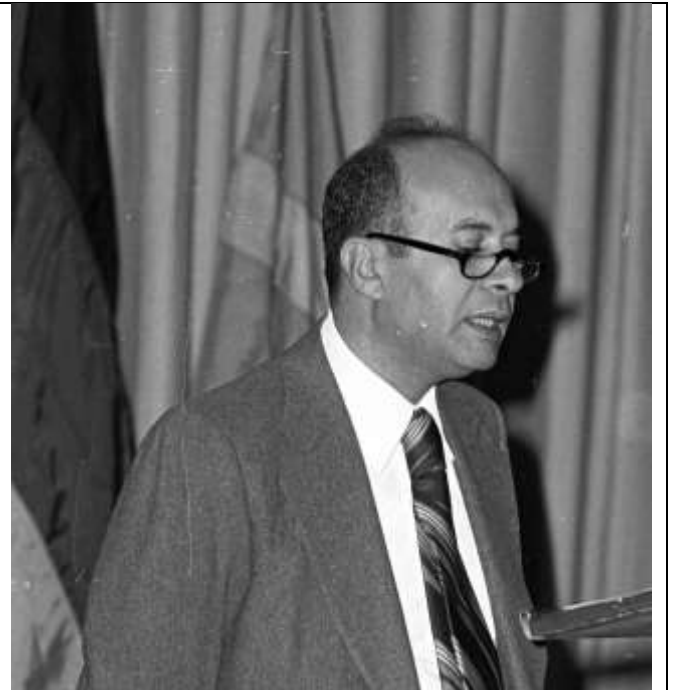
**H.E. Mr. C. G. Maina, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations:** We are happy to join all our friends in this International Day of Thanksgiving, even for the imperfect peace in an imperfect world that we have continued to enjoy in the past year. It is our hope that men and women leaders everywhere in the world will have the opportunity to sit back and count not only the problems, but also the blessings that we have, because without the ability to sit back and reflect on the basic values of human existence and the relationship between man, his immediate environment and the rest of the universe, the human being often behaves no better than the lesser creations that inhabit the earth.



**H.E. Dr. Harald Rose, Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations:** It will soon be thirty years since the German Democratic Republic was founded – an anniversary for which the people of my country are making preparations in many ways. I am presenting to you a young State whose people can look back on a long and eventful history . . . For the German Democratic Republic the commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations is not only motivated by political or juridical considerations. It is deeply rooted in our philosophy and ideology and in our concepts of value, in short, in our new life



**Mr. Zaim Imam , Political Adviser, Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations:** The United Nations means a great deal to my countrymen. We view the United Nations as the institution that can ensure our very survival through the establishment of international security and the rule of law. It is also the institution which completes the process of decolonization and ensures protection for human rights and fundamental freedoms. To strengthen the United Nations, Member States should work to improve it as an object in itself . They should cease to use it as an instrument for the furtherance of national policies. My countrymen believe that with the proper political will, which must evolve in an increasingly interdependent world, the United Nations can fulfil its real goals.



**H.E. Mr. E. Owono Asangono , Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations** (translated from the Spanish ): With Equatorial Guinea's admission to the community of nations, its people were born to a new light. It has meant the complete and effective acquisition of all its rights, duties and obligations. The Equatorial Guineans feel that it is their duty and obligation to contribute to the common efforts for the edification of an honourable and prosperous universal human society, and, at the same time, recognize their right to participate in the I would like to say a few words to manifest the importance of and the highly significant role that meditation has for the human being. Because of the multiple factors of the social and political life of our environment, the process of humanization is very difficult. benefits of this community. It is then indispensable and necessary to surrender every now and then to meditation, as a way to the purification of our spirit and the rediscovery of our inner self. The United Nations constitutes the hope and dream of the international community for the solution of grave problems th at affect humanity. We have then the obligation and duty to work pure in spirit here before the international community



**Mr. Christian Schmittlein , Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations:** The German artists, philosophers, writers and painters of the 19th century did not want to be "German" artists in the first sense; coming from middle Europe, they wanted to give their message and their way of thinking to all states. They did not want to be German national artists, but they wanted to be world citizens. This is true not only for Goethe, but also for Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx or any of the others' So, you see that the German culture is not limited to what is now the present Federal Republic of Germany. German culture has always been directed towards the larger world. This is how we understand our role in the United Nations, too. We try to strengthen all the attempts and all the efforts for peace. The German culture, in the past as well as in the present in the Federal Republic of Germany, has tried to work for peace for all people



Colonel Geiger was also present as a representative of the Swedish Mission to the United Nations, shown receiving a flower from Sri Chinmoy before the opening meditation.



## 1979

### 29 Jan 1979, Runners' Dinner "Athletics & Spirituality" Church Center for UN

Ultra-marathoner Ted Corbitt; Dr. Norb Sander, Director of the Preventive and Sports Medicine Center in City Island, New York; and Sri Chinmoy were guest speakers at an unusual dinner combining athletics and spirituality.



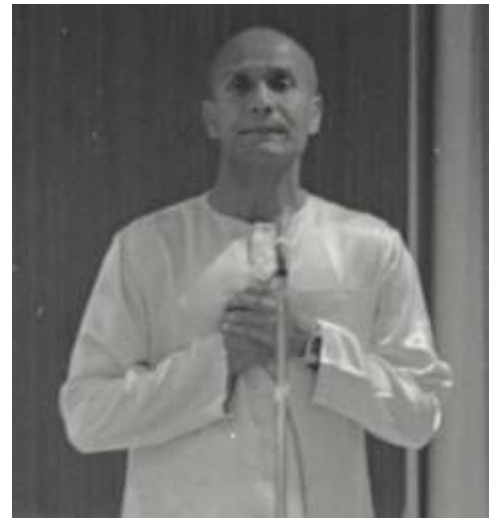
It was held at the Church Center for the United Nations on 29 January 1979

During his talk, Sri Chinmoy spoke of running from the spiritual point of view:

*"In the inner world, we run in order to proceed. In the outer world, we run in order to succeed.*

*"Success is the message of the outer world. Progress is the message of the inner world.*

*We must embody, reveal and manifest these two sacred and secret realisations."*





Sri Chinmoy speaks on meditation and running.



Above, Mr. Ted Corbitt.



1. and Dr. Norb Sander address the gathering

**Are there any notes of the meeting which includes excerpts from Ted Corbet or Norb Sanders remarks or Comments?. May also in note refer to the books available about of by these two.**



### **30 Jan 1979, Muhammad Ali and Sri Chinmoy at UN Plaza Hotel**

On 30 January 1979 Sri Chinmoy and Muhammad Ali met in the heavyweight boxing champion's suite at the U.N. Plaza Hotel, while Ali was visiting the United Nations.

The two discussed religion and spirituality, and the Meditation Group Choir sang a song Sri Chinmoy had composed for Ali, entitled "Greater than the Greatest." This was the third meeting between Sri Chinmoy and Ali. Excerpts from their conversation follow.

**Muhammad Ali** (referring to [the meditation during their last meeting in September 1977](#), the morning of the Ernie Shavers fight): Brother, last time you gave me a lot of strength to win that fight (greeting Sri Chinmoy with the traditional Muslim embrace).



You look good, you still look young and nice. People may think that you are converting me, but nobody can convert me.

**Sri Chinmoy:** It is absolutely true; you are for Allah. I have not come to convert you. I was born a Hindu, but since I started praying and meditating, I have no religion. I belong to all religions.

**Muhammad. Ali:** Oh, that's good. I can also prove to you that I am above religion. (Ali opens up his briefcase, containing three or four books, and shows Sri Chinmoy a book written by Pir Vilayat Kahn's father, Hazrat Inayat Kahn.)

**Sri Chinmoy:** I have not met him, but his son and I are very good friends.



*Muhammad Ali (referring to the meditation during their last meeting in September 1977, the*

I have composed a song about you and your paintings.

**Muhammad, Ali:** About my paintings? When can I hear it?

**Sri Chinmoy:** A few singers are downstairs, if you would like to hear it.

**Muhammad Ali:** Please tell them to come up.

(**Ali welcomes the singers.**) You all look so clean and nice. If the whole world would think like you're thinking, we'd have peace and unity in the world.

(The Meditation Group Choir sings "Greater than the Greatest.")



**Muhammad Ali:** That was beautiful! It is such an honour that you would compose a song about me and come and sing it here. But I would like to say one thing. I know the spirit in which you composed the song, but I have to say that I am not the greatest. Only God is the greatest. It is easy to become intoxicated with fame and all that, but when a man's intoxicated he acts abnormal. I always want to act normal. I always pray to Allah to make me strong and humble and modest amidst all this. Only Allah deserves this praise.

**Sri Chinmoy:** Although you have got the supreme honour from all over the world, you have maintained your humility; that is why you will always remain greater than the greatest.

**Muhammad Ali:** I like the singing very much. You gave me some praise, but it is Allah who is really greater than the greatest. I would be guilty in His Eyes if I said that I am the greatest. I am not the greatest. I am supposed to tell you and the world that He is the greatest. I understand what you are saying in the song, but I have to say this because I know better. A man may kill someone, but God may not punish him as much as someone who knows better and just thinks something wrong. If I didn't tell you how I feel, with the knowledge that I have of God, God would punish me. Therefore it is my duty to tell you that I am not the greatest. I may be the best boxer, but if you say "Greater than the Greatest," then you're talking about God. I know I'm not God, you know I'm not God, but it's up to me to just make a statement to let you know how I feel.



**GREATER THAN THE GREATEST!**

Words and music by Sri Chinmoy  
*Greater than the Greatest, Swifter than the swiftest,  
Ali, Ali, Champion! Owner of a new vision.  
Supreme boxer's jabbing thunders  
Sport with art-beauty's wonders.*

**Sri Chinmoy:**Just a few minutes ago you told me that the river and ponds all go to the sea and become one. So when Father and son become entirely one by virtue of the son's prayer and meditation, if you say something about the Father, the son gets joy. And if you say something about the son, the Father gets joy.

**Muhammad Ali:** I never thought of it like that.

(Turning to the singers) He's a wise man. I can see why you are with him.

**Sri Chinmoy:** The Father is so proud of His son, and if the son thinks of his Father. the son becomes so proud.

**Muhammad Ali:** Thank you. If all I learn today is this. then today will not be lost.





## 16 Nov 1979, Prayer Meeting for Iranian Crisis on International Thanksgiving Day

There was a special "Prayer Meeting for the Iranian Crisis\*" during the International Day of Thanksgiving planned for 16 November 1979, at U.N. Headquarters.

The Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations has held special commemorative programmes which have drawn participation from the President of the General Assembly and several Permanent Representatives. Reflecting one of the topmost recent concerns of the United Nations community, the November observances often focused on the problems relating to the Iranian crisis. Three recent meetings highlighted this issue – "Special Prayer Meeting for the Iranian Crisis," "Human Rights Day Observance," and "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Philosophy of Non-Violence"

### **SPECIAL PRAYER MEETING FOR THE IRANIAN CRISIS**

#### **During previously planned International Thanksgiving Day**

An emergency prayer and meditation service was held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium on 16 November 1979 on behalf of the U.S. hostages in Iran and in support of the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Security Council members, all of whom had sent urgent appeals to the Government of Iran seeking immediate release of the captives. Speakers included representatives of four of the world's major religions, as well as a representative of the host City of New York.



Sri Chinmoy presides over the Meditation Group's special prayer session for the U. S. hostages in Iran. Participants include } from left to right: **Sri Chinmoy**; **Mr. Herbert Rickman**, Special Assistant to Mayor Ed Koch of New York City; **Dr. Julie Loranger**, Canadian Mission; **Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum**, President of the American Jewish Committee; **Dr Muhammad Abdul Rauf**, Director of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C.; and **Sister Janet Richardson**, Representative of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations

The programme was originally scheduled as an International Thanksgiving Day celebration, and

- Dr. Julie Loranger represented Canada, which received recognition for its 100th celebration of Thanksgiving this year.
- Dr. Muhammad Abdul Raul, Director of the Islamic Center in Washington, D. C., and author of the article in a recent National Geographic, "Pilgrimage to Mecca," spoke on meditation in the Islamic religion

**Sri Chinmoy:**

The world has always experienced the indomitable strength of American arms. Now the world is experiencing the incomparable strength of the American heart. In life's battlefield, America's unparalleled compassion-heart will unmistakably and decisively win. And this unprecedented conquest shall supremely shine in the universal oneness-family of the aspiring and self-giving humanity.

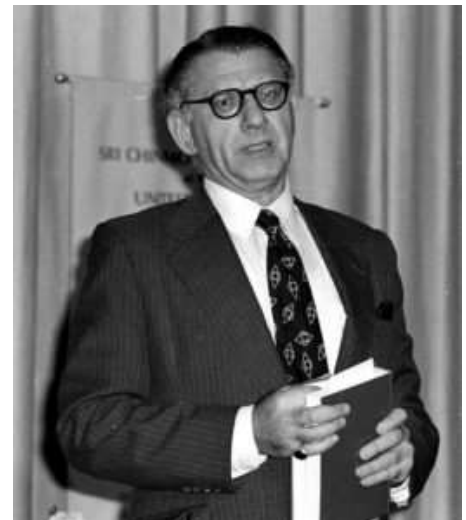


Peace Meditation at UN Choir Performs at Thanksgiving Programme

**Mr. Herbert Rickman, Special Assistant to Mayor of New York, Ed Koch:**, Thirteen days ago an event which took place in Teheran captured the minds and hearts of good people throughout the world. This is a tragic time not only for the people of America but for the people of Iran. It is a time that dictates compassion and understanding – understanding of the rage that has dominated the Iranian people and the frustration that has caused them to perpetuate the events which have occurred in recent days; and compassion, of course, not only for these same men and women, but also for the sixty innocent people caught in the vise of international politics. In the name of humanity and in the name of all good people throughout the world, we appeal to the students in Iran and the religious leadership of that country to give the world the most beautiful Thanksgiving gift of all, and that is the release of the sixty men and women in the American Embassy.



**Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, President of the American Jewish Committee:** This is a prayer from the Book of Psalms, which means, “Pour down, O Heavens, from above and let the sky rain righteousness. Let the earth open, that deliverance may flourish and righteousness, too, spring up.” We live by great symbols which have transcendent universal power for uniting people across the divergences of languages and geography. There are a whole range of symbols at loose in the world today. ... Recently, I came back from Thailand, Cambodia, Southeast Asia. If religious people stand for anything in the world, it is to stand against the epidemic of dehumanization that is taking place on every continent. It is to stand and affirm that which is central in all of our high religions: the preciousness of every human life.



For the sixty people in that embassy whose lives have become symbolic of the vulnerability of every human being, we come together to affirm that sanctity, and to commit ourselves again in prayer and in hope and in daily action to uphold the value of every human life: to say no to tyranny, to say no to religious and racial and ethnic hatred, to affirm above all that what unites us is greater than what divides us, to affirm that in the oneness of God we find our solidarity and our unity as brothers and sisters, and to say that we will not sleep nor slumber until deliverance and redemption and healing is brought to the sixty people in that embassy, and to all of our



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan “**Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY**” - Simplify Header across section pages in final brothers and sisters who suffer in the world today.  
God bless all of you.

**Sister Janet Richardson, the Holy See Mission to the UN:** Perhaps we could join together in prayer: Heavenly Father, our hearts are full of thanksgiving, but they are also full of pain and of petition. We thank You for the gift of life. We thank You for the graces and blessings that have come to us today.

We thank You for the inspiration that You gave to those who organized this programme.

We ask that You reward their efforts. Heavenly Father, we turn to You in petition for the safety of the hostages.

We ask Your Blessings on their captors. We ask Your Consolation for their families. And may peace and love return to all our hearts. Amen.



**Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf, Director of the Islamic Center, Washington, D. C.:**

Our Lord, we thank Thee for gathering us at this moment when humanity is going through a difficult test – a test of the strength of the spirit, a test of the degree of restraint.

Please, Our Lord, strengthen us during this crisis; guide our leaders on the right path.

We thank Thee, Our Lord, for guiding this Group of Meditation at the United Nations in holding this meeting.

Please bless everyone who is here at this moment.



EDITORS NOTE: Below Significant Talk important to keep – if not available in another part of Part 3

**16 Nov 1979, Meditation in the Islamic Religion: Main address in honour of International Thanksgiving Day.**

*(Dr. Rauf then gave the main address in honour of International Thanksgiving Day. An excerpt of his talk is below.)*

I am very grateful indeed for the opportunity to address you on the concept of meditation in the Islamic religion. **In Islam there are three major categories of reflection or meditation.**

**The first is reflection upon the creation of God** – by this I mean the things created by God – in order to estimate the greatness of the Almighty, the triviality of human existence and also of material life, in order to cleanse one's own soul or to elevate oneself to a greater level of spiritualism. Muhammad himself has said, **"One hour of meditation is greater than worshipping in other categories for one year."** One hour is greater than one year because the effect of meditation on the soul is so great. It improves, it reforms one's soul, one's heart. So that is one way, namely, to reflect upon God and His Creation



**The second category is reflection on social questions** or social problems-to reflect, for example, upon the poverty of the poor people, who are our neighbours, and upon the bounties God has given us. Here you analyse yourself and how you are composed, reflecting not only on the physical matter, the cells and components of the systems, but also on the mind. You reflect on the fact that you as a human being, unlike other living creatures, can perceive things, that you can store ideas, that you can make judgements, that you can even create ideas. This power is a real gift from Almighty God. If you reflect upon all your full physical and mental perfection and then think of the others who are deprived of this, you become more charitable, more sympathetic and hopefully more helpful to the members of your society



**The third and last category** is meditation, or **reflection on one's own behaviour every day**. It is recommended that, especially before going to bed, you spend a few moments reviewing what you have done during the day. This is because you are so closely involved with what you are doing that you may not really appreciate its value – whether it is right or wrong appropriate or inappropriate. But when you review it afterwards, when you are somewhat removed from the influences around you, then you can assess your works more impartially. If you reflect on your major works during the day and if they are desirable and good, then you thank God the Almighty for helping you and giving you the strength to perform these good things. We Muslims always believe in God's Will. It is true that you have a choice and to some extent you have a role in bringing about your action, but without God's Will to help you, you cannot do anything. If you find that you have done something wrong, then you



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final should seek God’s forgiveness to absolve your mistakes.

Acknowledging the fact that you have made mistakes is a good thing for a person. When you realise that you can also make errors, you don’t become unduly arrogant or overestimate yourself

.So, these are the three categories of meditation in Islam, and these are the ideas and thoughts I to intended to relate to you today. I would like to repeat my gratitude and express my thanks to you all for this opportunity. May God bless you

**Thanks Giving Square,  
Center For World Thanksgiving, Honour  
Canada’s 100th Continuous Thanksgiving Day  
(1879 – 1979)**

We honor the people of Canada who have given thanks to Almighty God together as a nation continuously for one hundred years. The universal impulse of mankind to show gratitude to their Creator is expressed in different ways on each continent. Only a few nations, however, including Canada, Switzerland, Liberia, Japan and the United States have formal Thanksgiving days every year for their people. Many others express gratitude in other ways through ancient customs and observances. Canada’s one hundredth continuous Thanksgiving unites their great people with the other peoples of the world who give thanks to God for life itself as one human race.. - Center For World Thanksgiving, (signed) Peter Stewart, President



**Dr. Rauf then presented a letter of appreciation from Center For World Thanksgiving, at Thanksgiving Square in Dallas, Texas, to Dr. Julie Loranger of the Canadian Mission, for Canada’s 100th celebration of Thanksgiving this year**



\*Historical Note: The **Iran hostage crisis**, was a diplomatic crisis between Iran and the United States. Fifty-two Americans were held hostage for 444 days (November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981)



## 1980

### 21 Mar 1980, Memorial service for Allard Lowenstein, Celebrating a life at UN Headquarters in NY

A memorial service for Allard Lowenstein, former Ambassador from the US. to the United Nations and Congressman from New York, was held Friday, 21 March 1980, for UN staff and the diplomatic community. Mr. Lowenstein, who was tragically struck down in his office 14 March, is well remembered for his active and organising role in the human and civil rights movement.



A moving tribute to Mr. Lowenstein was made by Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens and Mr. Lowenstein 's close collaborator and personal friend for many years. Sri Chinmoy offered his gratitude to Mr. Lowenstein for his great efforts on behalf of all humanity and for his kind support of and participation in the meditation group's activities. (For Mr. Lowenstein's talks in programmes dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr., Oneness-Earth, the Peace Corps and Eleanor Roosevelt, see the December 1977, March 1978 and December 19 78 issues of the bulletin.)



The peace meditation group choir sang songs: "O human Rights" and one of "Farewell". Sri Chinmoy closed the programme with a short talk.

Excerpts from **Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens,**

In speaking of Allard K. Lowenstein, his life, his times, his death, his contribution, I don't feel that I'm making a personal statement because my life is only one of many of thousands that was touched by Al Lowenstein. I was struck by the words of one of the songs that we just heard: "**Yours is the role to change the cosmos dole**" (from song O Human Rights\*)

Al Lowenstein heard that charge. He responded to that charge and he acted on it unremittingly without any thought for himself, in ways that most people are unwilling to commit themselves to do.



I heard of Al's prodigy role as president of the U.S. National Association of Students, of his role in the Civil Rights Movement in the South, but my own knowledge of Al was in connection with the efforts to halt radioactive fallout and in the efforts to end the Viet Nam War. We used to meet at his father's restaurant – myself, as Director of SANE: National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy; and we would discuss how to proceed. Al was a brilliant tactician. He recognized that what we did must be pertinent to the political process and not just a personal or cathartic action. Our efforts benefited very greatly from Al Lowenstein's participation. It was Al, together with Kurt Gans, who led a major effort to prevent the re-election of an American President most responsible for a horrible war, and we felt that it was a rather quixotic undertaking. But we and many others underestimated Al's energy, persistence and unflagging dedication, and he succeeded. I was delighted to see him re-emerge at the United Nations as a spokesman for human rights. It was fitting that he carried his burning desire for human justice to the world level at the United Nations.

Al was in himself a burning aspiration-flame for human justice, fairness and equity – a flame clothed not only in brilliance but also in humility and compassion and with a human touch. Like all such flames, once kindled they never die, either in the soul of the persons themselves, or in the lives of the people they reach. And so the flame of Al Lowenstein's becoming burns as one more bright increment in the progress of human freedom and destiny.

#### FAREWELL

Words and, music by Sri Chinmoy

*Parting, parting — indeed, no farewell.*

*Our closeness, sweetness-hearts in oneness dwell.*

*No time, no clime, no moon, no sun we know,  
Shall dare challenge our deathless fondness-flow.*

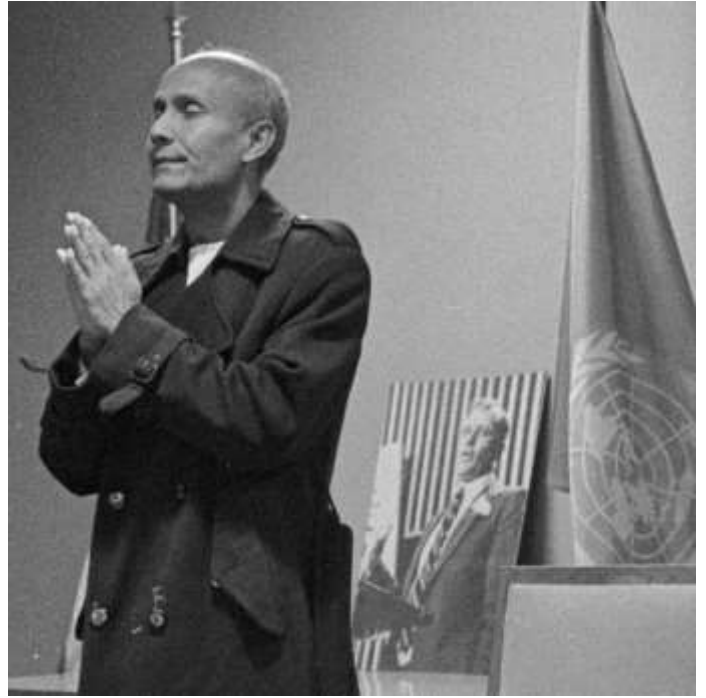


After the song of "Farewell" Sri Chinmoy closed the programme with the following short poetic talk dedicated to Mr. Lowenstein, who fought so tirelessly with "a sleepless cry and a deathless smile" for humanity's oneness



BECAUSE I NEED

Because I need God's Love,  
God's Compassion saves me.  
Because I need God's Compassion,  
God's Forgiveness illumines me.  
Because I need God's Forgiveness,  
God's Satisfaction inspires me.  
Because I need God's Satisfaction,  
God's Oneness liberates me.  
Because I need God's Oneness,  
God gives me His Eternity's Boat,  
His Infinity's Sea and  
His Immortality's Shore.  
Because I need God's Boat, God's Sea and  
God's Shore,  
God gives me two things that He loves  
most in His entire Creation:  
A sleepless cry and a deathless smile.



**Lyrics:** to the O Human rights sung at beginning of Programme: O Human Rights Divine! In harmony-world you shine. You are the voice of Light And blue Perfection-Height. Yours is the supreme role To change the cosmos-dole. You are the only strength Of Heaven's Vision-length.Division, bondage, doom, No more —All oneness-bloom.

Above was also [published in: \*United Nations: The World's Oneness-Home\* – book 2005 May 11](#)  
PDF format of report in periodic Bulletin : "Meditation at the United Nations" Aug 1980

### 6 Jun 1980, Inner Role of The UN – Washington DC, US State Department (Reference where covered elsewhere in part 03 and link to full on 6 June 1980)

The U.S. State Department invited Sri Chinmoy to come to Washington on 6 June 1980 to address its "Open Forum," a policy discussion group inaugurated during the Viet Nam War to acquaint policy-makers with different points of view on critical issues of the day. Sri Chinmoy was requested to speak on the inner role of the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy also delivered this same talk at United Nations Headquarters on 13 June 1980 as part of his Dag Hammarskjöld lecture series:

**The term 'united' has always had a special appeal to all human souls**, and this transcendent idea has remained in vogue down the sweep of centuries. There was a time when America was under the repressive yoke of Great Britain. Then America fought dauntlessly and sleeplessly for its rightful independence. At first, the newly liberated Americans and their beautiful, vast land were sadly wanting in oneness. But there came a time when a new dawn of oneness-glory broke upon the glowing and illumining horizon. Americans felt the supreme necessity of a 'united' country, and the thirteen colonies gradually, steadily, unerringly and selflessly became unified. Similarly, although at the present time peace is not reigning supreme in the United Nations,



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan “**Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY**” - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**there shall definitely come a time when peace-flood  
will inundate the ‘united’ nations around the globe.**

True, at times the United States and the United Nations are not on good terms. But each knows perfectly well that the one adds tremendous value to the other in terms of prestige, recognition, self-awareness and oneness-perfection. Inwardly they know that they truly need and deserve each other.

**In silence, unreservedly the United Nations gives the United States oneness-height.**

The inner role of the United Nations  
amuses the intelligentsia,  
inspires the world-peace-lovers and  
nourishes the world-oneness-servers.



### **16 Jun 1980, The Inner Role Of The United Nations – Geneva**

Sri Chinmoy gave the following talk at **United Nations headquarters in Geneva on 16 June 1980.**

Excerpts: You have just observed me praying and meditating. Prayer and meditation are of supreme importance if we are to execute the inner role of the United Nations. Perhaps some of you know that twice a week we pray and meditate at the United Nations in New York. And from time to time I give spiritual talks, soulful talks, which are perfectly in tune with our prayer and meditation.

The inner role of the United Nations is a **shadowless dream.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a **relentless determination.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a **breathless promise.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a **sleepless struggle.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a **faultless progress.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a **deathless satisfaction.**

The inner role of the United Nations is a cry and a smile – an **inner cry** and an **outer smile** – and this inner cry and outer smile have to be improved. The **inner cry has to be genuine** and the **outer smile has to be soulful.** The inner cry has to climb up to reach the highest pinnacle. The outer smile has to be illumined and fulfilled at the same time, and it has to reach the length and the breadth of the world.

### **18 Jun 1980 POPE JOHN PAUL II AND SRI CHINMOY MEET**

On 18 June 1980, while in Europe on a lecture and concert tour, Sri Chinmoy visited the Vatican for a private meeting with Pope John Paul II. He was warmly received by the Holy Father, who noted his work at the United Nations and said: “Special blessings to you. Special greetings to your members. We shall continue together.”

### Pope John Paul II and Sri Chinmoy

During the meeting, Sri Chinmoy presented the Pontiff with a plaque and a pamphlet containing a song he had composed in the Pope’s honour. “The words we exchanged were few,” Sri Chinmoy recalled, “but the Pope spent some time looking at the plaque and the pamphlet and appreciating them. “I must say, Pope John Paul has tremendous warmth, and he is very sincere in expressing affection. He was beaming with joy and showed me tremendous affection, love and concern when he offered me his benediction.” This was the first time Sri Chinmoy had met Pope John Paul. On three previous occasions Sri Chinmoy had held private meetings with the late Pope Paul VI, who had been deeply appreciative of his efforts for world peace.



## 22 Sep 1980, Celebration of World Gratitude Day

(see also section 3- **03 UN Anniversaries** for general introduction to Gratitude Day)

World Gratitude Day was celebrated by the meditation group 22 September 1980 in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. An international day of thanksgiving, falling on the autumnal equinox, it is celebrated in several Member States. Guest speaker for the occasion was Sister Janet Richardson, who offered remarks on behalf of the Holy See Mission (Sister Janet Richardson expressed the regrets of Archbishop Cheli who had wished to join with the group, but had been called out of the country).

Following are excerpts from the programme, which also included a prayer and expressions of gratitude by Sri Chinmoy on behalf of the meditation group.

### Prayer for Gratitude Day

**My Lord Supreme**, this is a special day, Gratitude Day. Alas, I do not have even an iota of gratitude to offer You. Since I have no gratitude, please tell me what I can offer You instead.

**My child**, then give Me a soulful promise.

**My Lord Supreme**, I do not know what a soulful promise is. I always break my promise. I promise in season and out of season. But never do I fulfil my promises. Such being the case, my Lord Supreme, please tell me what I can offer You instead of a soulful promise.

**My child**, then tell Me that you love Me divinely.

**My Lord Supreme**, I do not know what divine Love is. How can I offer You divine Love when I do not know what divine Love feels like?

**My child**, then give Me a fruitful cry. Cry for Me once, only once in your life.

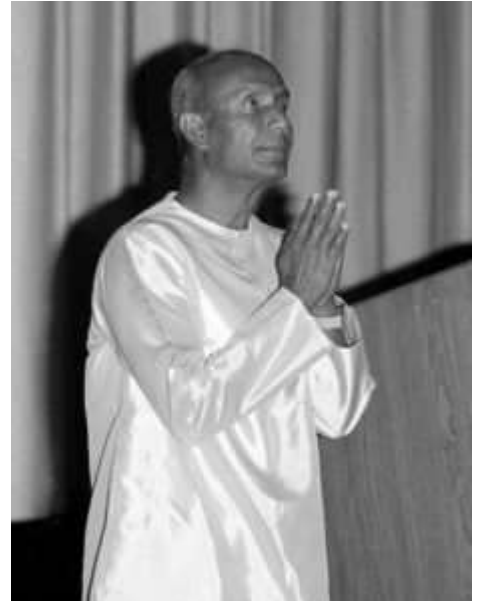
Alas, my Lord Supreme, I do not cry even for myself. How do You expect me to cry for You?

**My child**, let Me tell you one thing. Both of us deserve two special names. Each of us will have a new name. Your new name will be a secret and clever unwillingness. And My new name will be an unreservedly open and compassionately stupid Forgiveness.



**Sri Chinmoy:**

On behalf of the meditation group, I wish to offer gratitude to the Soul of the United Nations for having granted us the opportunity to serve its vision and mission unparalleled over the last ten years. We wish to offer our gratitude, sincere and soulful, to the divinely great soul of U Thant who inspired us, encouraged us and helped us to start a meditation group at the United Nations. I personally wish to offer gratitude from the inmost recesses of my heart to the Holy Father, Pope Paul, who, out of his infinite bounty, granted me an audience three times and blessed our dedicated service at the United Nations. Also, I wish to offer gratitude from the very, very depths of my heart to the present Holy Father who also, quite recently, encouraged and blessed our meditation group here at the United Nations.



We are also grateful to our Ambassador Rossides who has always been extremely kind, loving and guiding, and to the Ambassador from Panama, our revered brother-friend Illueca, who has been kindness in the purest sense of the term. Since he has been with us, he has been helping and encouraging us far beyond our imagination. We wish to offer our gratitude to all the delegates and diplomats who have come and encouraged and inspired us. We thank them most soulfully. The Almighty Father, our Beloved Lord Supreme blesses us with His infinite Compassion-Light and, in return, if we can offer Him an iota of gratitude from the very depths of our crying hearts, then this iota of gratitude will undoubtedly be our most hallowed and most precious gift to Him. Let us all, for a brief second, offer our most precious and most sacred gift to our Beloved Supreme.

**Sister Janet Richardson, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations:**

The **first thing** that came to my mind and my heart on the way here was our gratitude to the Secretary-General, to the Secretariat, to people in the agencies and to the delegates who continue the difficult, challenging, and painful task of keeping peace, of encouraging peace, of reducing violence and resolving conflicts. I think the **second thing** was the gratitude of all of us at the Holy See Mission for the enormous number of people who have responded to Pope John Paul and his call for love of Christ and for a response to the Spirit. I think the **third thing** for which I would like to express gratitude is for the Spirit's touching the hearts of so many young people all over the world urging them and their spiritual leaders to take upon themselves the discipline that meditation requires – a discipline of the total person, and the fruit of that discipline, in the growth of the total person. **Gratitude is** very much a part of my tradition. Eucharist is a liturgical celebration that we enjoy every day, and the word "**eucharist**" **comes from the Greek word meaning gratitude.**



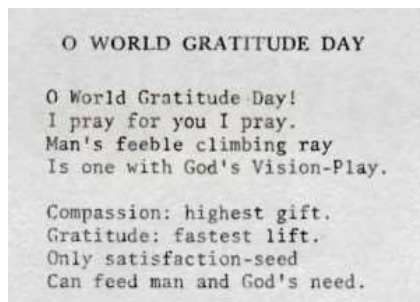
So we join with you today, and every day, in expressing our gratitude for the many blessings that we are conscious of, as well as the many blessings that we sometimes remember and reflect on long after they have taken place.



Peace Meditation Group Choir for World Gratitude Day



Sri Chinmoy and Sister Janet Richardson



### 17 Nov 1980, International Thanksgiving Day

This year's International Thanksgiving Day celebration on 17 November 1980 featured guest speakers Ambassador Clark of **Nigeria**, Ambassador Kamanda of **Zaire** and Ambassador Xifra of **Spain**, who pointed out the present increased awareness in the United Nations of the need for good and equitable North-South relations, and the increasing spiritual emphasis. Following are brief excerpts from the programme

[To Excerpt EDIT : H.E. Mr. B .A . Clark, Permanent Representative of Nigeria](#) to the UN: I would like to express my gratitude. I have been particularly impressed that in the bustling life of New York, of which the life of the UN is a part, we do have a group of people who can shut out everything mundane and insignificant to contemplate the eternal Truths of man and religion. I feel your group has its roots in the teachings of the East, where I had the privilege of serving some twenty years ago, in India to be precise. There, the most respected people in the society are those who have given up everything in order to be able to contemplate the eternal Truths of peace, justice and fellowship of man with man. I am especially moved to be here today with a view to marking the twentieth anniversary of the admission of Nigeria to the United Nations. On a personal basis,



for example, every morning when I get up I have to convince myself that I am going to work for the good of my country and of course for my own good, because without working I could not support myself and my family. For us membership in the United Nations has come to mean our independence, the right to organise our own social, economic and political life, and the right to defend the territorial integrity of our country. We have taken the liberty-and I think it is our duty – to work to establish these principles and conditions through-out the world, especially in Africa. I’m talking about decolonisation, the fight against racism and apartheid in South Africa and the concept of the New Economic Order, which in fact is economic decolonisation, in order to ensure that in the post-colonial era, Nigeria’s relations with the rest of the world will be characterised by equality, justice and fair play. I want to conclude my brief remarks by thanking you again for inviting me and by challenging you to persist in what you are doing, because here, in my experience of the UN, is one of the few oases of peace in this building, and I presume in the city. I think the ideals you try to propagate here can be used to promote the principles and ideals of the United Nations in a manner which no country- however powerful-can. Thank you very much.

**To Excerpt EDIT : H.E . Sr. Don Jose Luis Xifra, Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations :** As a student studying languages abroad . I was aware of the existence of the European world. composed mainly of France . England. Germany and Italy. I was very keenly aware of the existence of the Latin American world. I was only dimly aware -as silly as that may seem – of the existence of the North African world, I say “silly” because 18 kilo meters is the distance between Spain and Morocco. This attitude simply reflects the most common position of the Western European student in the fifties of this century. When I launched into my diplomatic career, my first post was in Pakistan, and after Pakistan I went to Morocco. These years opened new horizons for me. In 1968 I went to Geneva to work at the U N, and then I went on to Paris, London and finally New York, to work at the United Nations again. Here I found a different United Nations than in Geneva, not only because New York is more political while Geneva is more technical, but also because eleven years had passed. When I came here in 1977, I remember talking with many colleagues about how astonished I was at how much more third-world-oriented the U.N. had become. And this would be, in my opinion, the most important thing that we as Spaniards can derive from our belonging to the United Nations. It has meant for us the possibility of understanding first-hand that apart from our small and, to us, powerful world of



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final Western Europe and our own closely related Latin American world, there are other worlds. Many of these countries-thanks first, of course, to their own efforts, but with the help of the United Nations-have become politically independent in the last 20 years. Some of them are now trying to become economically independent, which they should, and to which end this organisation should direct all its might and power. Reflecting on these 25 years, I think that we have much to be grateful for. Of course, we are aware of the mistakes of the United Nations, but we ourselves must accept responsibility for them. Clearly, in this building, within the limits of the Charter, we have both the power for doing and for just appearing as if we were doing . But if there is any justification of our being here, if-as the Ambassador of Nigeria said – we want to face the day with a modicum of clear conscience , then it should be clear that this organisation gives us the power to act, to work for equal political and economic opportunities for all the countries of the world. **I have heard, that this is only a dream. But some times we have to start dreaming. Otherwise, the only thing we shall be doing is sleeping and if we had only wanted to sleep, we would not have created the United Nations.**

To Excerpt EDIT : H.E. M . Kamanda wa Kamanda, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations (translated from the original French by Ms. Yvette Ripplinger of UNITAR):

On behalf of the Republic of Zaire, as well as on my own personal behalf, I am most happy to join with friends in this programme to celebrate Inter-national Thanksgiving Day, under the sponsorship of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. From the farthest origins of man, from North to South and from East to West, and whatever the colour of his “skin tunic,” man has questioned himself on his anthropogenesis, on problems born of his own life , on his raison d’etre and the very meaning of life, its end and its future, on the state of co-existence with nature in its immensity-which can be at times hospitable and at times most hostile -and, finally, on the mysterious beyond. To these diverse questions, regardless of his geographical location, man has found answers which, at a given time in his evolution, were able to satisfy his level of understanding and the demands of his inquiring mind . . . . Out of this specific vision of the world is born the culture of a people, namely, the sum of the spiritual and material values which a people create and shape in the course of its evolution in time and space. This brings us to the realisation that each people has found its own answers to the problems of existence, has established a specific system



\* \* \* \*

representing or expressing its vision of the world, has possessed its own culture and civilisation and created its own social values. The African black man has not escaped this movement of humanity. This is why, as a manifestation of the human spirit in its essence, one culture is well worth another, since none is hierarchically superior to another. Who would establish or would have the power to establish such a hierarchical order, beyond any agreed upon authority? ... The United Nations organisation constitutes the ideal place for a cosmo-culture and a cosmo-civilisation to promote solidarity and fraternity to be integrated in the service of all men . The accession of the Republic of Zaire to independence and, especially, the problems which the nation has known immediately following that in-dependence – problems which influence both its national and political life and the life of the United Nations- represent a unique page in the history of the United Nations at the very beginning of the second half of t he twentieth century. VVe want to reiterate the expression of our gratitude to the international community and to all those who gave us their support in t h e spirit of peace of the United Nations, and whose actions and purpose were faith-ful to the principles, goals and objectives of the United Nations Charter. The free choice of our membership to the United Nations on 20 September 1960 was not an indication of our wanting to be fashionable, but a sign of our profound faith in the peace mission and progress of the United Nations. In these times of ours filled with uncertainty, dis-trust, violence, instability and tension, and open to the manifestation of all kinds of egoistic designs, where we rush so as not to be late without knowing quite where we are going, where we are confronted with many irrational requests-times which seem to take us away from the basic need s of humanity-it is heartening and comforting to know that such association s as the Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations exist, to give u s a moment of re-flection to think about the intimate meaning of life, to give a transcendental thought about things and to rediscover together the infinite greatness of humility as well as the sense of being as students before what is beyond our understanding, before the great architecture of the universe, in our continuous search for perfection. We believe that, indeed, in the course of his life·, man, through his achievements, achieves himself; through h is realisations, realises himself, within the framework of the continuous creative process of a world which supports or underlies the extraordinary power of improvement, which I shall call the “innate quality of perfectibility.”



(translated from the original French by Ms. Yvette Rzplinger of UNITAR)

1981



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**21 Jan 1981, Hour of Thanksgiving for USA Hostage Return**

Diplomats and staff at the United Nations convened in a special hour of thanksgiving on Wednesday morning, 21 January, at eleven o'clock in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, in gratitude for the release of the American hostages

The meeting was in keeping with the efforts of the U.N. community for the release of the hostages.

The programme was sponsored by the peace meditation group in the spirit of Sri Chinmoy's words at a U.N. programme held at the start of the hostage crisis in November 1979: "The world has always experienced the indomitable strength of American arms. Now the world is experiencing the incomparable strength of the American heart. In life's battlefield, America's unparalleled compassion-heart will unmistakably and decisively win. And this unprecedented conquest shall supremely shine in the universal oneness-family of the aspiring and self-giving humanity."



U.N. staff and delegates give thanks for the safe return of the hostages. From left to right : Rev. Bernard Hrico, representing the Holy See; Sri Chinmoy, Mr. Mike Kergin, representing Canada, Mr. Dirk Gleystein, representing the United States; Mr. Herbert Rickman, Special Assistant to Mayor Koch, Ambassador Zenon Rossides, representing Cyprus; and Mrs. Ligaya Lara, representing the Philippines.

Following are excerpts from the programme, which included the performance by the meditation group choir of several songs written especially for the occasion by Sri Chinmoy

**Excerpt: Mr. Herbert Rickman, Special Assistant to NY City Mayor**

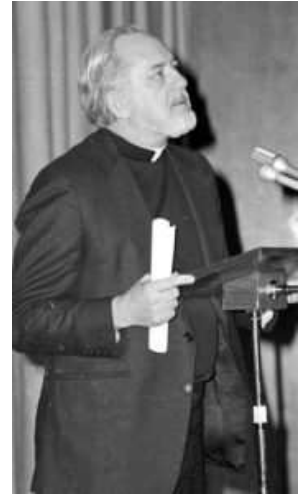
**Koch:** I remember all too clearly how we gathered together in November 1979, feeling so much pain and frustration at that time over the apprehension of American men and women in Teheran.

At that time I shared with those of you who were here a hope that we might find compassion on both sides. to ease the pain, anger and suffering that were felt. And now, at this moment of deliverance, once again it is my hope that both the American and the Iranian peoples can come together in a sense of forgiveness. And for the wonderful fifty-two heroes and heroines who are shortly to be united with their families, I can only echo the words of that wonderful, wonderful hymn: "They are free at last, free at last, thank God, they're free at last."



**Rev. Bernard Hrico, representing the Holy See Mission to the UN:**

How good it is to be here for this joyful celebration! I cannot help thinking that in spite of all the political events and activities involved, we are compelled to look beyond them and to see the spiritual values which can be derived from the past 444 days. If anything, it makes us realise how limited or finite we are. As persons who believe and live for God, we realise how much we are dependent upon Him. And as we live as He wills us to live in our relationships with other people of the world, we seek forgiveness. We have compassion and love for people everywhere. We pray in a spirit of joy because the hostages are virtually home. We give thanks because our prayers have been answered. We pray with confidence that God will strengthen not only our faith, our hope and our love for Him, but above all, that He will strengthen our faith, hope and love for all the people of the world everywhere.



**Mr. Dirk Gleysteen, Political Counsellor, United States Mission to the United Nations:**

We Americans are grateful to our colleagues, both professional and personal, within the UN and all over the world, who cooperated to the extent that they could during the last fourteen months, in all the long periods of disappointment and worry. Our UN and diplomatic colleagues around the world were very supportive and we owe a debt of gratitude to them. This takes the form of recognition that we cannot operate alone in the world we live in. In addition, I might say that in the UN context it was especially apparent that there was a sense of sharing during this whole period of 444 days. We received a great deal of support from the U.N. community, buttressing our spirits and enabling us to pass on to the hostages that the whole world diplomatic community was backing up our efforts. Thank you very much.



To Edit Excerpt: Ambassador Zenon Rossides, Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations: Sri Chinmoy,

Dear friends, I am most happy to be with you today on this great occasion. It is great in many respects, because a problem has finally been solved that has been tormenting the hostages, their families, the American nation and the whole world. It was extraordinary, unprecedented, I would say, in the history of humanity throughout the ages, for emissaries, diplomats, to be illtreated. This was something which hardly ever happened in the past. In ancient Greece, whatever else happened, the envoys were greatly respected. In Roman times, Cicero said that one of the greatest attributes of the Uris Gentium or the "Law of Nations" is the immunity of envoys and the proper approach to the problems of war and peace. Many things might happen during war, but some things pertaining to international laws were not to be violated because they were felt to be natural law, the law of nature, the law of the great nature of man. I have something here from Cicero which I would like to read to you, as it is very pertinent to the present situation: *"The Law of Gentium is the law of right reason. It is based on right reason in agreement with nature, unchanging, everlasting. It is universal, valid for all nations and all times. He who disobeys it denies himself his own nature."* How is it that we behave in this way at this time, during the time of the United Nations, when we are so advanced in our civilisation that we have been able to travel into space and have in our hands the means of destroying all human life on this globe?

I do not mean to accuse anyone country, but I am commenting on the present day civilisation that has so departed from the natural law. I think this deviation is due to the kind of force which has prevailed in the world over the years. In ancient Greece, in the times of Homer, it was the physical force of man. Kings were the strongest men. Achilles was a great hero, almost a god, because he was strong. The strength was in the man, not in the machine. Now we have come to a time when the power is in the machine. That makes the difference, and this difference started with the invention of the airplane and man getting into the air. Then, a greater sense of responsibility was required from him, because he had acquired a power he had never thought existed. That was one of the reasons for the establishment of the League of Nations. Its founders thought: *"Now we can no longer depend on the human mind to restrain itself in the use of power and force. We have to have an organisation."* They founded the League of Nations, but it failed because man could not follow its principles. The United Nations again came with high ideals. The preamble to the Charter is like a gospel. But again, we have diverted from the Charter because we fail to carry out its principles. The Charter calls for the Security Council to make a decision and once a decision is taken, it should be implemented or, if necessary, enforced. We, the international community, have not complied with the Charter. We have a world that is not governed by the natural law of man; it is governed by the machine.



The only way to keep the world within man’s control is through the United Nations, but we have violated its Charter. I would have been so happy if the resolution of the Security Council adopted unanimously, without a single abstention for the immediate release of the hostages had been implemented, or enforced by the means available to the Security Council to enforce its resolutions, to keep order and security in the world and to maintain a sense of reason, a sense of justice and a sense of freedom. But this was not the case. We hope someday it may be, because that is the way humanity can be saved. That is the way humanity will be able to survive.

Now we have to rejoice for what has been done. I would like to express my appreciation for the American Administration that dealt in such a delicate way with wisdom, with patience and with tolerance, in stead of trying to use force. They exercised all the understanding that was necessary to see the other side’s burning difficulties and then to come gradually to an agreement. This was much better than if they had freed the hostages by force, even by a decision of the Security Council or otherwise. I think great praise is due to the American Government, which handled the situation with such delicacy and understanding. Therefore, although the hostages may have suffered during this long time, everybody is much happier that this has been resolved by real understanding and under the guidance of God. And so, I rejoice with the hostages, with their families and with the American nation at this great achievement and also, I rejoice with the Iranian people for having come to an agreement which will help them in the future. And we hope that things may one day develop towards a United Nations effective enough to give security and freedom and peace to the world.

#### **FIFTY-TWO HOSTAGES**

words and music by Sri Chinmoy

*Fifty-two hostages are now  
Enjoying freedom-light,  
America, America, America!  
Within, without ecstasy-heigh*



### **06 Oct 1981 Prayer Service for President Anwar El Sadat**

A prayer service for President Anwar El Sadat of Egypt was held by the meditation group in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium at United Nations Headquarters on 6 October 1981, following the tragic news of the assassination attempt against a great peacemaker. Participants included

- Mr. Mohamed Talaat S. Khalil of the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations;
- Mr. Robert Muller, Secretary of the Economic and Social Council and

- Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens. Delegates and staff filled the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium as President Sadat's many friends and admirers offered their hearts' final salutations to the man who was earth's shining hope and Heaven's choicest son Sri Chinmoy opened the ceremony with a silent meditation on a photograph of President Sadat, and followed with a prayer Guest speakers included Mr. Mohamed Talaat S. Khalil, representing the Egyptian Mission; Mr. Robert Mulier, Secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Council; and Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens. Se more details below:



.Excerpts from the ceremony, as well as a tribute song to President Sadat written by Sri Chinmoy on 10 October, were later sent to Mrs. Sadat as expressions of the meditation group's sympathy.

After a silent meditation on a photograph of President Sadat, Sri Chinmoy opened the ceremony with the following prayer:

*May we all most soulfully pray for the mortal body and the immortal soul of President Sadat.*

*He is at once Divinity's choicest instrument and humanity's brightest hope in the political firmament of today's world. His earthly frame, the cage, may no longer remain with us.*

*But his heavenly soul, the bird, will remain with us here until it inundates the length and breadth of the world with peace, peace, peace.*



**Mr. Mohamed Talaat S. Khalz'l, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations:**

Thank you very much for this ceremony and for your general feelings here.

I have just come from the Mission, which has been in touch with Cairo, and nothing has been confirmed.

Probably any confirmation will come in the afternoon. But for the time being, we all have to pray for the man who tried to build peace in the Middle East and in the world.



**To EDIT Excerpt: Mr. Robert Muller, Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Council:** Dear friends, we are all very grateful to Sri Chinmoy for having arranged on such short notice this moment of prayer for President Sadat. It is fitting that whenever such an act of violence occurs in the world, the United Nations should take notice and recollect and reflect on the consequences. If President Sadat should die from this act of terrorism today, his memory will certainly not die in the years to come. He will be even more alive in the spirit of all people. He will be one more important example of the courage one has to have if one fights for peace. From such an example, we can all draw only one lesson, and that is not to be discouraged, not to feel that the forces of evil are winning. On the contrary, we must assert the force of good which is in the large majority of people on this planet. We must draw one conclusion: to work even harder to eliminate and to eradicate from this beautiful planet whatever is representative of the forces of evil. We must feel more confident, we must feel more obligated to work harder tomorrow after an event like this one, of which we have been informed today. This is what God expects of us: to be His disciples during every moment of our days, to continue the age-old battle between evil and good until the forces of good permanently and finally prevail on this planet, as they will do.



**To EDIT Excerpt: Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens:** There is very little to be added to what has been said. Perhaps I can speak briefly as a representative of one of the non-governmental organisations associated with the United Nations. Many of us are devoting our lives in little ways to peacemaking. We have seen time and time again that the hours available to peacemakers are limited – not limited so much by assassins’ bullets as by humanity’s response. Those who try for peace, who try to lead toward peace, can make gains, but for those gains to be deepened and completed requires a fuller human response. There is on the walls of this building a bronze or copper replica of a treaty in cuneiform writing, a peace treaty between the Hittites and Egypt many thousands of years ago. And we see that humanity still is struggling to find the way, struggling to live together in peace. It is one thing to hear the words of peace, to be told the ways of peace, and it is another thing for humans to reorient their lives, to change and to grow, so that peace may find a place to descend and the means



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final to persist. When a peacemaker dies, it is as though something is released and becomes universal within our experience which previously was specific and confined, so that even in that moment it seeds the human consciousness and portends a brighter future yet to come.

Nobody has cared for world peace as the Egyptian leader whom we have lost. To him world peace was not a matter of mere lip service, but rather a spontaneous and sleepless psychic reality.

-Sri Chinmoy, 19 Oct 1981

O HEART’S ONENESS-CRY!  
 Sadat, Sadat, Sadat, Sadat, Sadat !  
 O heart’s oneness-cry, O life’s fulness-hat,  
 O good lover of God, O swift lifter of man!  
 Bravely you fought, Lovingly you caught ,  
 Amazingly the Dream of world-peace you ran.



Sri Chinmoy dedicated this song to Anwar El Sadat on 10 October 1981, the day of the President's funeral.

O HEART’S ONENESS-CRY!



**20 Nov 1981, International Thanksgiving Day**

The sixth observance of International Thanksgiving Day at United Nations Headquarters was held by the meditation group on 20 November 1981



Mr. Philemon B. Dlaminz,  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission  
of Swaziland



Mr. Milan Kovarik, Attache,  
Permanent Mission of  
Czechoslovakia



Mr.

Kwadwo Oforu-Benefo,  
U.N. Department of International  
Economic and Social Affairs,

Each spoke about the traditions of harvest and thanksgiving in their respective countries.

## 1982

### 07 May 1982, Day of Prayer

**National Day of Prayer Observance** The sixth of May was proclaimed the National Day of Prayer by United States President as a time for individuals and groups "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." In the spirit of this proclamation the meditation group again coordinated a programme at the United Nations to celebrate the day accorded by the host country to be set aside for prayer.

UN delegates and staff joined the group at Headquarters on 7 May, with **H.E. Mr. Gerard Pelletier, Permanent Representative of Canada** to the United Nations, offering a short prayer.

I think we should pray to God that He give us internal peace, peace with ourselves, to make us more efficient in making peace with others, and that we have a special thought for the immediate threats of war that we have to deal with in these days.

Statements were also read out from the Permanent Representatives of The **Bahamas, Brazil and Japan**. [Link to excerpts from the programme](#)







## 27 April 1982 Conference on Global Perspectives for Religious Life

- On 27 April 1982 Sri Chinmoy was invited to participate in a two-day Conference on Global Perspectives for Religious Life organised by the Movement for a Better World in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations and the second floor conference room in the same building..
- Sri Chinmoy opened the Conference with a silent meditation and offered a short prayer.
- Also on the programme were representatives of the Secretary General and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations) as well as other United Nations Secretariat and non-governmental organisation officials.
- Below are Sri Chinmoy's opening words.

Sri Chinmoy:

*Father Supreme, we are Your oneness-loving children. It is a very special day for us. What can we give You, since You have everything and You are everything?*

*"My sweet children, you can give Me what you have, you can give Me what you are-nothing more.*

*You can give Me your Eternity's flower-beauty. This is what you have.*

*You can give Me your Infinity's tree-prosperity. This is what you are."*



Sri Chinmoy offers the opening prayer for the Conference To his left are Father Luis M. Dolan of the Movement for a Better World) the Conference organiser) and Sister Janet Richardson of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations.



Sister Janet Richardson addresses the gathering



Robert Muller, Sri Chinmoy and Father Dolan



Sri Chinmoy greets Assistant Secretary-General James Jonah, one of the keynote speakers at the Conference.

### 1982 Robert Muller – New Genesis - 3 excerpts

(See also Quotes by or reference to historical spirituality, Sri Chinmoy: and the Peace Meditation at the United Nations in Part 3 -09 C)

Robert Muller, author of many books especially valued by UN and International Community shares in his 1982 work "New Genesis" a very hopeful message. Below are three excerpts where he mentions efforts in the UN Community to strengthen. He later became UN Assistant Secretary-General and Chancellor of the University for Peace in Costa Rica (confirm full title)

- *The last word in human perfection.* page 43 -44
- Prayer and Meditation at the UN; Meditation Room, Mystic and Group page 46
- Thanksgiving Square mention the Meditation Group. Thus the United Nations is present page 80

*the last word in human perfection.* page 43 -44

This is why we must listen attentively with all our minds, hearts and souls to what the great religions and spiritual leaders have to say. They have a long experience of human life and often. their perceptions are still the quickest and most accurate. This is why we must also be grateful to anyone who gives the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation, thus following the .example of Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant, who saw in the United nations the renewed story of the total dimension of human life. Their message was one of love, compassion, understanding and human fraternity.



That message, after many vicissitudes throughout world history, is re-emerging as forcefully as ever, but now on a universal scale. It is a fascinating story and we are probably the first species ever able to comprehend it. I have always been an optimist, deeply in love with humanity, precisely because of its capacity to elevate and transcend itself into constantly higher levels of physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual fulfillment. The march towards that transcendence has now started on a planetary scale, and we are privileged to be among its first witnesses and workers. We must cater to it, nurture it, love it, help it grow in beauty and in strength, so as to fulfill the prophecies of all great spiritual leaders. In particular **I would agree with the prophecy of that spiritual believer in the United Nations, Sri Chinmoy, when he said:** "At the .end of its voyage, there is every possibility that the United Nations will be the last word in human perfection. And then the United Natl9ns can easily bloom in excellence and stand as the

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final *pinnacle of divine enlightenment.* ~. Sri Chinmoy, . “The Inner Message of the United Nations,” Dag Hammarskjold Lecture Series, January 1973.

### Prayer and Meditation at the UN, and spirituality page 45 -46

Then we have the **Meditation Room (of Quiet at the UN), which is visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. We have also a Meditation Group (at the UN) led by an Indian mystic.** One could tell several moving stories of the spiritual transformation the UN has caused, to the point that this little speck on earth is becoming a holy ground. For example, the rational, intellectual economist Dag Hammarskjold found God at the United Nations and inspiration for his work as a world servant in the mystics of the Middle Ages. Towards the end, his Markings overflow with spirituality and mysticism



### Thanksgiving – and the Meditation Group. Thus the United Nations is present page 80

Today three magnificent bells cast in Annecy, France, adorn Thanksgiving Square and try to stir the souls of the people. There is only one rectangular shape in the square: the altar on which stands a beautiful, massive glass candelabrum from Ireland. The Hall of Thanksgiving under the chapel offers the sight of immaculate white columns representing various civic associations. Behind these columns flows a sky-blue illuminated water. In the center of the hall, right under the nexus of the spiral, stands a permanent exhibit with a plaque from the **Meditation Group (at the UN). Thus the United Nations is present in the temple calling for the prayers of the visitors for the world’s first universal peace organization.** It is most interesting to observe the visitors. There are many people from Dallas, especially young people who work in the skyscrapers



## 1983

### 1982 – 1983 Meditation Room at UN Anniversary and Presentation 1st “Declaration World Thanksgiving”

#### 25th Anniversary of redesigned of “Meditation – Room of Quiet” at UN.

Scheduled to be in November of 1982 (in time for actual 25th anniversary of the redesign of the Meditation Rom at UN) this event was postponed to February 1983 to accommodate various participants schedules.

#### Secretary-General, Javier Perez De Cuellar Accepts first Declaration of World Thanksgiving 1982

Members of Peace Meditation group assisted in coordination of events leading to the 1982-1983 event.

- The meditation Group had organized the successful 20th Anniversary Celebration in 1977
  - link to [20th anniversary of redesign med room at UN](#)
  - and Thanksgiving Square foundation showed interest in being involved with the 25th anniversary.

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- Ambassador Davidson Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the U.N. served as Master of Ceremonies at Presentation of Thanksgiving Proclamation to The Secretary-General from the Inter-Faith community,
- The event is in Cooperation with Center for World Thanksgiving and takes place outside entrance to meditation room of quiet. It is in front of the famous stained-glass window by Chagall.



In 1983, leaders in five world religions, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, represented the human family in ‘presenting the first Declaration of World Thanksgiving to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

- First Declaration of World Thanksgiving was written by Fellows of World Thanksgiving – educators, philosophers, statesmen, and theologians – from around the world.
  - Twelve internationally known leaders were then invited to approve the declaration by signing it.
  - It was then presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the whole human family.
- For many years leading up to UN General Assembly declared 2000 Year of Thanksgiving, a new declaration has been approved by twelve more individuals reflecting the interfaith community. See report for the reading in front of the Norman Rockwell “Do Unto Others” Golden Rule Mosaic and response of the Secretary-General in 1996 for a season of gratitude and Thanksgiving.



### 16 Aug 1983, Comment on Thanks and Gratitude

After being shown notes from someone he referred to as “exceptionally fine soul”, Sri Chinmoy then commented on the use of the words Thanksgiving and Gratitude.:

**“Thanksgiving is a good idea.** However, I feel that the word gratitude has more power. Gratitude to God and gratitude to man. Every day we use the word ‘thanks’ but it ceases to have value. We don’t use ‘gratitude’ so often. Gratitude is something that we feel rarely, no matter what we do, and it has so much power.”

- Sri Chinmoy said the above as he was leaving a meeting at the United Nations.

Some of those present immediately thought of the words and music to his song, “World-Gratitude” which had been performed on many occasions at various locations

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“O World Gratitude-Day! I pray for you I pray. Man’s feeble climbing ray Is one with God’s Vision-Play.

Compassion: highest gift. Gratitude: fastest lift. Only satisfaction-seed Can feed man and God’s need. “

In this song, expressions of union between man and God, compassion, gratitude, and mutual satisfaction are presented for the listener with simplicity and beauty. Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN participated in and supported International Days of Thanksgiving and World Gratitude for many years.

1984

### 21 Jun 1984 Play Performance: “The Sacred Fire”. History – Spirit America

-Performance of the play, The Sacred Fire. Sri Chinmoy’s dramatic tribute to the “inner” history and spirit of America .A unique tribute to America, written by Sri Chinmoy, presenting an inner view of America’s historical efforts beginning with a personified family quarrel between England and America, with the world attempting to play referee.



**Possibly include some dialogue from a scene below**



Members of Meditation group performing as America, The World Soul and England



### 24 Oct 1984 Seven Minutes of World Peace

To Join Humanity in Peace WHAT IS IT? Seven Minutes of World Peace is a **global observance of peace that will join together** simultaneously individuals, groups and organizations around the world **for seven minutes of silence**. This year, Seven Minutes of World Peace will be held from 1:00-1:07 pm Eastern Standard Time on United Nations Day (Thursday, 24 October). This day also marks the beginning of the International Year of Peace and the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations



**1984 OBSERVANCE** Seven Minutes of World Peace was inaugurated in 1984 with the participation of groups in over 40 countries. The main observance was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with United Nations Day activities there. It featured a meditation led by Sri Chinmoy, leader of the Peace-Meditation at the United Nations. In the United States, groups around the country held special ceremonies to observe the event. In Boston, for example, representatives of five of the world’s major religions read passages from their scriptures related to peace at a Seven Minutes observance held at the State House. In Washington, D. C., a ceremony at the **United States Congress** included an observance in the offices of **Congressman Gary Ackerman** and a silent vigil on the **steps of the Capitol** by the **Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches**.



1984-10-24-03-seven-minutes-for-world-peace-Sri-Chinmoy-leads-meditation-UN-conference-room-crp4.jpg 998 KB use crp 2?

**Compare what is used on the UN Anniversary page and cross reference with different details in each place – mention different example of those joining**

In White Plains, NY, the **sisters of the Divine Compassion Center** organized educational observances at **local secondary schools** and held a separate prayer session of their own. Around the world, Seven Minutes of World Peace was observed:

- During an **all-night vigil** held by peace organizations and religious groups in **Uppsala, Sweden**.
- In the **Netherlands**, some 30 peace, disarmament, spiritual and religious groups joined in the observance.

Support for Seven Minutes of World Peace also came from groups in: **Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Japan, and the United Kingdom**.

- The **United Nations Association of India** and the **World Muslim Congress of Pakistan** were particularly active.

**Press coverage** was extensive in the **Netherlands**, where there were major articles in the **Algemeen Dagblad** and the **Haagsche Courant**. Other articles appeared in various publications in the United States.



Leaders of various faiths at the State House in Boston after Seven Minutes of World Peace programme in 1984.

Leaders of various faiths at the State House in Boston after Seven Minutes of World Peace programme in 1984.

**HOW PARTICIPATE?** Anyone can participate as an individual, by setting aside these seven minutes for your own personal observance of peace. You can also join in the activities sponsored by local groups or organizations, which can be located by contacting the focal point closest to you . You can also contact us, and we’ll tell you about what is planned in your region.

Seven Minutes of World Peace has no political affiliations or point of view other than the universal human desire for harmony among nations and peoples

The following is a partial list of the organizations, groups and individuals which participated in or expressed support for the 1984 observance of Seven Minutes of World Peace.

- The Netherlands: Fellowship of the Inner Light in Europe, National Spiritual Assembly of the 8aha'is of the Netherlands; Pro Mundi Vital; Share International; Stichting T ARA
- United States: Divine Compassion Center; Prison Fellowship International; Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches
- Greece: I.A.E.S.T.E.
- Pakistan: World Muslim Congress
- Canada: Peace International
- Czechoslovakia: World Federation of Trade Unions
- Sri Lanka: United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
- Ghana: Ghana United National Association
- Japan: City of Hiroshima
- United Kingdom: World Education Fellowship

#### ITS PURPOSE

Seven Minutes of World Peace seeks to focus the attention of the entire world on the urgent need for world peace in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King and the United Nations itself. The observance offers people in every country a special opportunity to transform their individual longing for peace into a tangible reality. If peace can reign for seven minutes, it is hoped that someday it might endure for seven hours, seven days, seven years and ultimately forever.

**See also** mention of Seven Minutes of Silence at “3-03 UN Anniversaries and “3-11 Peace Walks for UN Day” from 1984

### **30 Oct 1984 Encouraging 7 Minutes a day Meditation in a UN Office**

Sri Chinmoy, leader of the Peace Meditation at the U.N. gave the following talk to staff of one UN Office who had been meditating together for seven minutes a day for over one year

#### COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

“On UN Day 1984, at the State House in Boston, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston participated in this simultaneous testimonial of dedication to world peace. I hope that United Nations Associations throughout the country and the world will find ways to do so in 1985 and in future years.”  
– John Malcolm Forbes- Co-director, The Council For a Nuclear Weapons Freeze Member, Board of Directors United Nations Association of Greater Boston

“Soviet United Nations Association joins you in your belief that someday we may have not only days and weeks but many centuries of peace ... Appreciating your efforts for the cause of peace.” – Dr. Serguey Gribkov, Secretary-General United Nations Association Of the USSR

“As there can be no war without the war-mongers, there can be no peace without the peace-loves” – Sri Chinmoy, Founder and Leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations.

#### THE SPONSOR

The event is sponsored by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace-Meditation at the UN in co-operation with UN Associations around the world and a broad range of religious, spiritual, educational and peace organizations. The Peace-Meditation at the UN is an association of UN delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents who believe that a foundation of inner peace must be established among all peoples – and especially among those working at the UN – before outer peace can ever become a reality. Towards this end, the Peace-Meditation has been holding twice weekly meditations for peace and related programmes at United Nations Headquarters since 1970.



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Dear seeker-brother and seeker-sister-friends, every day you meditate on world peace for seven minutes. That means your illumining souls are helping your hearts to climb into the seven higher worlds, which are flooded with Peace, Light and Bliss. There shall come a time when these seven higher worlds will enter into each human heart to illumine the life of the entire humanity. Being a seeker myself, like you I pray for world peace and meditate on world peace. All those who consciously pray and soulfully meditate daily to bring about world peace are undoubtedly the chosen instruments of the Absolute Supreme.

We are all sailing in the same boat that will carry us eventually to the Golden Shore, where peace is a living reality. And then, when we receive peace, achieve peace and grow into peace, at that time we shall offer to the world-at-large what we have become and what we are. We shall become the instruments chosen to sow the seed of peace in other human beings. The length and breadth of the world we shall cover with our soulful prayers and fruitful meditations. My heart is all gratitude to you for meditating for seven minutes every day for world peace. Peace is God’s Beauty in His Oneness-Home



after the talk Sri Chinmoy presented gifts to the those in attendance

.1984-10-30-09-special-talk-to-people-7-min-daily-meditation-in-office-Anselmo Evans

**07 Dec 1984 Honour founder: Temple of Understanding, Mrs. Judith Hollister**  
**May also be under 3-06 Honouring individuals -Text to be added**

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
 7 December, 1984 -Programme  
 to honour the founder of the  
 Temple of Understanding, Mrs.  
 Judith Hollister



Add excerpt of some text Judith Hollister and Temple of Understanding – maybe from introduction of programme. Or some of bio and refer to other programs she participated in with meditation group.



text to be added

## 1985

### 02 Jul 1985 Scenes from ” THE SACRED FIRE” by Sri Chinmoy

IN HONOUR of America’s Bicentennial in 1976, Sri Chinmoy wrote this play in 1975 as a tribute to the spirit of the nation. The play presents an inner view of the founding of the country and of the lives of many of her great Presidents, from George Washington to John F. Kennedy. SINCE 1976, The Sacred Fire has been performed at many of the historical shrines of this land, including sites in Boston, Philadelphia, Concord, Mount Vernon and Washington, D.C., and also at Rockefeller Center in New York City. **Last year scenes were also performed here at the United Nations.**



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**A few selected scenes (lasting approximately 30 minutes) in celebration of July 4th,**

#### SCENES

- The Absolute, the World-Soul, the Soul of England, the Soul of America – an inner confrontation presages the division of England and America. In this family scene, America is depicted as the dynamic Child, England as the stately and beautiful mother, the World-Soul as the concerned grandmother and the Absolute as the loving great-grandfather.
- George Washington and his mother, Mary Washington.
- John Quincy Adams and his wife, Louisa Adams.
- Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Lincoln.
- Woodrow Wilson and his daughter, Margaret Wilson.
- John F. Kennedy.
- The World-Soul, the Soul of England, the Soul of America – a happy reconciliation is achieved.

See text of play at: <https://www.srichinmoyleft.com/scf>

### 21 Oct 1985 Norman Rockwell: Golden Rule Mosaic – UN 40th Anniversary

A member of “Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the United Nations” was invited to represent Sri Chinmoy and the meditation Group for the presentation of the “DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.” Golden Rule mosaic to the United Nations. On 10 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy paid the following memorial tribute to the American artist Norman Rockwell during a meeting of the Meditation Group in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy: Let us for a minute offer our prayerful meditation so that the artist of Americana, Norman Rockwell, may receive the universal Peace and transcendental Bliss which his soul so rightly and richly deserves. He not only saw America’s simplicity-life and America’s happiness-heart, but he also became simplicity and happiness in the purest sense of the term. No matter what ultra-modern science has made of America, no matter what the modern intellectual giants have made of America, in the depths of America’s heart and life there shall always dwell three virtues: **Simplicity** – a childlike simplicity; **Happiness** – a child’s happiness; and **Satisfaction** – a child’s constantly blossoming satisfaction that comes when America becomes and offers to the world what the child in it has. No virtue that America has can ever diminish or vanish, for virtue is an immortal gift which God Himself grants to aspiring souls and aspiring nations. America’s vastness the world knows. America’s oneness only a soul like Norman Rockwell could feel. We the seekers shall always feel in him America’s oneness-loving life and America’s satisfaction-distributing heart. Norman Rockwell embodies the Reality’s revealed dream. Above was also published in: UN: The World’s Oneness-Home – book 2005 May 11; Devoted Report to the Secretary General 1978; “Meditation at the United Nations” Periodical Bulletin November 1978, Vol 6, Number 11

**Use new photo** – that clearly highlights the “Do unto others” text or enlighten the phrase

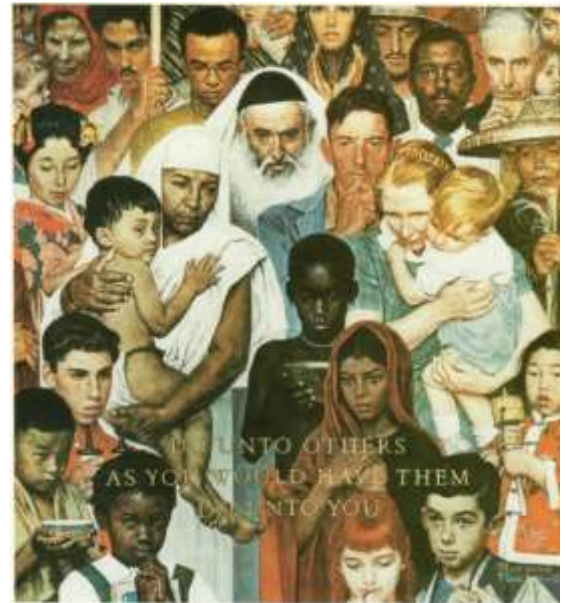
This represented "A Thanksgiving for the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations from the People of the United States of America". This was made possible by The non-Profit NGO: "Thanks-Giving Foundations" in Dallas Texas which received support from generous individuals and organizations. The members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN had been involved with the Thanksgiving Foundation and the "Center for World Thanksgiving" there from 1975. A mutually encouraging relationship developed.



**One Norman Rockwell Mosaic explanation at UN website (English, French, Spanish) gift of USA**

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1985, this mosaic was presented to the United Nations by Mrs. Nancy Reagan, the then First Lady, on behalf of the United States. It is based on a painting by the American artist Norman Rockwell called the Golden Rule. Rockwell wanted to illustrate how the Golden Rule was a common theme of all the major religions of the world, and depicted people of every race, creed and color with dignity and respect. The mosaic contains the inscription "Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You". It was executed by Venetian artists specializing in mosaic works.

See: United Nations, cyber schoolbus. ... Resources > UN Tour; Photographs..<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/untour/subnor.htm>



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 Excerpt from: [United Nations Press Release HQ/466. 21 October 1985](#)  
 A Norma Rockwell mosaic depicting people of different nationalities standing together with the words “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” inscribed on it, was presented by Nancy Regan,...seeks to depict “a vision of a united people” ... an example that “nations could take heart in and work for”. The mosaic has been installed on the third floor of the conference building

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, in accepting the mosaic on behalf of the United Nations, said: “The painter’s vision indeed recalls the Charter’s inspiring precept for all ‘to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours’. The mosaic eloquently expresses our aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction to sex, race, language or religion.”

The Secretary-General added; “Norman Rockwell portrayed the essential qualities of integrity and compassion, of common decency and honesty. They are clearly reflected in the faces of this mosaic –faces that include his own.” (For the text of the Secretary-General’s statement, see Press Release SG/SM/3770–HQ-465 .)

According to information provided by the United States Mission to the United Nations, the idea for the painting originated with an unfinished Rockwell drawing of the Security Council. “The painter spent five months transforming the earlier work into a painting which would illuminate the principle which he and the world hoped the United Nations would serve.”

Mrs . Reagan said that the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation of Dallas, Texas, had arranged and financed the creation of the mosaic.

Additional text excerpt from: [Press Release SG/SM/3770–HQ-465](#)  
 Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the presentation by Mrs. ,Nancy Reagan of a Norman Rockwell mosaic:  
 It gives me great pleasure to accept this magnificent Norman Rockwell mosaic, as a gift to the United Nations on the occasion of our fortieth anniversary. Let me express our warm appreciation to Mrs. Nancy Reagan and, through her, to the American Government and people, for their generous symbol of support for the world Organization.  
 You have chosen a most appropriate theme for the United Nations, one that is truly in keeping with the guiding spirit of the Charter. The painter’s vision indeed recalls the Charter’s inspiring precept for all “to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours“. The mosaic eloquently expresses our aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to sex, race, language or religion.  
 Norman Rockwell portrayed the essential qualities of integrity and compassion, of common decency and honesty. They are clearly reflected in the faces of this mosaic –faces that include his own. He was a painter of warmth and humanity. And above all, he was proud of his work’s popular appeal. That is a lesson for all of us. We must never forget that it is to “the peoples of the United Nations” that we owe our first allegiance. To realize their hopes for a future of universal dignity, justice and peace, is the aim of all our endeavours in the world Organization. Your gift today is a fitting reminder of this objective.

Might include these two panels – would also contact The Stewarts David and Cathy to inform if decide to use

[Following Panels are background provided by the Thanksgiving Foundation at the time of Presentation](#)

DEVELOPING THE MOSAIC FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Because of Rockwell's vision and world concern, the United Nations is a fitting home for his painting. To translate *The Golden Rule* into mosaic, a firm in Venice, Italy was selected. Skilled artists at the Cooperativa "Scuola Mosaico Veneziano" spent the better part of a year creating the larger-than-life art work. The finished product is a testimony to the quality of craftsmanship achieved. Rockwell's contribution will truly reach all those - Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and others - in whose writings he found *The Golden Rule*.



Members of the Cooperativa confer with Peter Stewart, President of the Thank-Giving Square Foundation which commissioned the work. They are, from left to right, Renato Vianini, Associate Member, Giovanni Cassi, Vice President and distinguished director of the vast mosaic industries at Saint Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Mr. Stewart, and Fausto Casanovic, Artistic Director. These three artists accompanied the completed mosaic to New York and installed it in the United Nations.



Pieces of glass are broken by hammer for brilliance of color.



Color charts are crucial and the mosaic artists are careful with careful fidelity to Rockwell's quality and color tone.



Each figure is treated individually with painstaking attention. The image shown is always backwards until the final moment when the paper is torn off the completed image.



As each figure is finished, it is placed in position within the total mosaic.

(7)



This United States gift to the United Nations was made possible by Thank-Giving Square Foundation. Concept and funding of "The Golden Rule" were provided through Thank-Giving Square Foundation by people over the United States of America of many cultures and religions.

Thank-Giving Square is a small garden at the corner of a modern city that borrows the spirit of universal human gratitude to God as our deepest personal response to the gift of life. It is dedicated to revitalizing the ancient spirit of thanksgiving worldwide. The inspiration for Thank-Giving Square emerged from conversations in 1961 in Dallas, Texas asking the question, "Can we immerse the daily life of a modern city on a spiritual idea, as in the ancient cities of the world?" The answer was yes, and today the meditation garden and Chapel of Thanksgiving in the exact corner acre of a city and continent, provide a "common place" of world gratitude, symbolic of humanity's highest common denominator.

In 1981, the Center for World Thanksgiving was established at Thank-Giving Square. The Center celebrates humanity's oneness in expressing gratitude to God and is dedicated to exploring the healing and soothing power of thanksgiving. It gathers the creations and traditions of thanksgiving from cultures of every continent to inspire each of us to our own acts and expressions of gratitude.

The "Golden Rule" began with Norman Rockwell's vision for the United Nations. In his early drawing of the Security Council he placed figures of men and women representing all the peoples of the world. This was the first sketch that later inspired "The Golden Rule." So, it is fitting that this work of art find a home at the United Nations where so many people seek hope and encouragement in rediscovering the gift of life for their countries and cultures. The Golden Rule is, in truth, a Thanksgiving. (8)



Rockwell's early charcoal sketch of the United Nations Security Council was never completed. But the vague concept wouldn't rest, and he awoke one day inspired by the specific idea of the "Golden Rule". He feverishly completed it, and it has become one of his most popular paintings.

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**Only use photo if adds** to confirm meditation group representation at the historic event: Mrs. Regan 1st lady of USA Presented the Mosaic on behalf of the USA. Here she greets Adhiratha Keefe who represented the Peace Meditation Group at the UN for the event. The Peace Meditation Group at the UN had collaborated with the Thanks-Giving Foundation on many inter faith events in the past. The representatives of the foundation from Dallas had been present at The UN for Interfaith, International Thanksgiving programs and other events hosted by the Meditation Group over theyears. The Peace Meditation Group had also been represented at many special interfaith events at Thanks Giving Square in Dallas, Texas.



## 24 Oct 1985 Seven Minutes of World Peace – Brochure and sample of city proclamations

### *To Join Humanity in Peace*

*Use photos or excerpts not in 3-03 UN anniversaries or earlier entry of 1984*



985-10-oct-24-seven-min-world-peace-sri-lanka-crp-01-scaled.jpg – 545 KB

Highlight comments not already used elsewhere or reserved for future chapter.

#### COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

“On UN Day 1984, at the State House in Boston, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston participated in this simultaneous testimonial of dedication to world peace. I hope that United Nations Associations throughout the country and the world will find ways to do so in 1985 and in future years.” – John Malcolm Forbes- Co-director, The Council For a Nuclear Weapons Freeze Member, Board of Directors United Nations Association of Greater Boston

“Soviet United Nations Association joins you in your belief that someday we may have not only days and weeks but many centuries of peace ... Appreciating your efforts for the cause of peace.” – Dr. Serguey Gribkov Secretary-General United Nations Association Of the USSR

In these times of regional and factional wars as well as increased tensions between nations that threaten political and social stability, it’s particularly important to focus attention on the urgent need for peace. This year is the United Nations 40th anniversary and marks the beginning of the International Year of Peace. It is my sincere hope that through the observance of seven minutes of silence we can promote peace. – Charles Royer, Mayor City of Seattle

#### **THESE below may be good if not used before elsewhere ? in events part 3:**

We affirm our intention to join the Seven Minutes as an addition to our traditional UN Day activities. We intend to canvass the support of religious and political leaders of all denominations and political persuasions in order

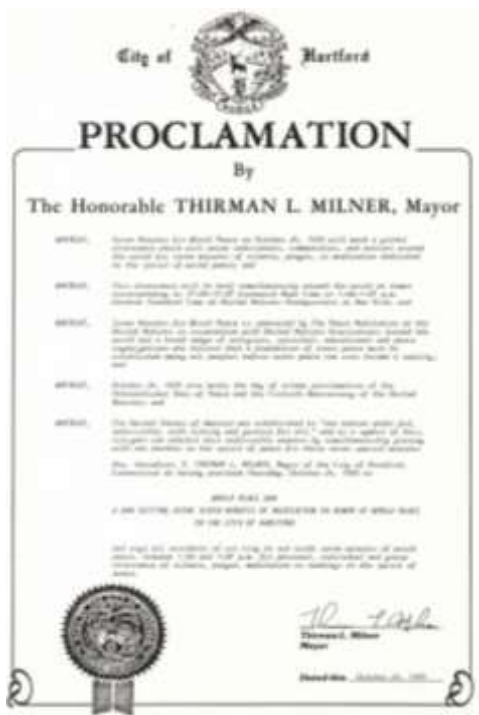
Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final to make it a non-sectarian observance uniting all peoples.” –**Kumaran Fernando, Secretary-General United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**

“Seven Minutes of World Peace is an inspiring endeavor to unite the world in peace.” – **Dr. Helen Caldicott – President Emeritus, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Founder, Women’s Action for Nuclear Disarmament**

“I hope the Seven Minutes of World Peace will grow eternal world peace.” -**Masahiko Ikeda- Director, Office of the Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan**

‘The Seven Minutes of World Peace observance and meditation to be held on 24 October 1985 is an excellent idea. Heads of state and all world governments should support it in action, taking into account their peoples’ wish for peace. Moments of prayer, moments of peace unite the peoples of the world and make them realize the oneness of the human family. This is the significance of Sri Chinmoy’s noble efforts that I wholeheartedly uphold. ‘! – **Zenon Rossides – Ambassador of Cyprus to the United Nations**

Sample of some proclamations received:



*Members of U.N. delegations holding some of the proclamations sent by more than 60 mayors of Americas's principal cities.*

From 24 Oct 1985 at event in UN Rose Garden, N.Y. Headquarters:





Zeven minuten wereldvrede



26 Nov 1985, Leader of Peace Meditations receives medal for 40th UN Anniversary and comments on UN.

UNITED Nations –  
Assistant U.N. Secretary-  
General Robert Muller came  
to a Peace Meditation  
meeting Nov. 26 to present  
Sri Chinmoy with a medal  
commemorating the United  
Nations' 40th anniversary.  
Mr. Muller said he wanted  
to thank the Master "*for  
everything you have done  
for so many years, but  
especially during this year  
of the 40th anniversary,  
when you have inspired so  
many people around the  
world.*"



Sri Chinmoy replied: "*The United Nations is not a mere building  
or a mere idea... (It) is the Vision-Light of the Absolute  
Supreme which is slowly, steadily and unerringly illumining the  
ignorance-night of our human life... At his choice Hour, the  
Absolute Supreme will ring His own Victory-Bell here on earth  
through the loving and serving heart of the United Nations.*"  
(see also fuller quote below)



EXCERPTS FROM A fuller STATEMENT MADE BY SRI  
CHINMOY AFTER RECEIVING THE UNITED NATIONS'  
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL FROM MR.  
ROBERT MULLER

The United Nations is something that the Creator, the Author  
of all Good, at every moment cherishes. No human force -will  
ever be able to destroy the United Nations, for the United  
Nations is not a mere building or a mere idea; it is not a man-  
made creation. The United Nations is the Vision-Light of the  
Absolute Supreme, which is slowly, steadily and unerringly  
illumining the ignorance-night of our human life. So the  
divine success and supreme progress of the United Nations are  
bound to become a reality. At His choice Hour, the Absolute  
Supreme -will ring His own Victory-Bell here on earth  
through the loving and serving heart of the United Nations. 26  
November 1985



EXCERPTS FROM A STATEMENT MADE  
BY SRI CHINMOY AFTER RECEIVING  
THE UNITED NATIONS'  
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL  
FROM MR. ROBERT MULLER

The United Nations is something that the Creator, the Author of all Good, at every moment cherishes. No human force will ever be able to destroy the United Nations, for the United Nations is not a mere building or a mere idea; it is not a man-made creation. The United Nations is the Vision-Light of the Absolute Supreme, which is slowly, steadily and unerringly illumining the ignorance-night of our human life. So the divine success and supreme progress of the United Nations are bound to become a reality. At His choice Hour, the Absolute Supreme will ring His own Victory-Bell here on earth through the loving and serving heart of the United Nations.

26 November 1985

40



Ambassador Davidson Hepburn of the Bahamas was also present for the meeting (above right receiving a flower form Sri Chinmoy):

**04 Dec 1985, Quiet Quest to Sow Peace – Hartford Courant covers Concert and Peace UN ASG Robert Muller and Sri Chinmoy in Connecticut "Hartford Courant" newspaper, USA 04 Dec 1985.**

The article has a number of quotations from Sri Chinmoy such as "We accept the world in order to change it." The main theme also introduces an Peace concert in Hartford, December 5th 1985 and the broader "Quiet Quest to Sow Peace" (see more on actual presentation above at UN on 26 Nov 1985)

"We accept the world in order to change it," Sri Chinmoy says  
Excerpt from: "Chinmoy Hopes to Sow Peace with Meditation" – by Matt Damsker, Hartford Connecticut, *Courant Staff Writer*.  
New York – Silence – Profound ... Welcome to...Chinmoy's Peace Meditation at the United Nations - - an hour of quiet spirituality- attracting diplomats and UN staff members for 15 years....  
There's a series of free "Peace Concerts" in which he sings and performs - on various Indian instruments such as the cello like esraj – some of the meditative tunes he has composed over the years. (One is) set for Bushnell Memorial Hall in Hartford.  
"We accept the world in order to change it" Chinmoy says in an interview after the meditation hour (at the UN) ...his eyes seem to swim behind his lids in blissful transcendence, only to focus suddenly, almost fiercely, upon his questioner. "If you do not accept" he continues, with a smiling sageness, "then what are you going to change?"



Chinmoy is doggedly non-political, non-controversial in his pronouncements. His message is one of pure peace, harmony, human understanding and cooperation – all familiar ideals of the United Nations served with a heady aura of Eastern spirituality. ("If the inner world is inundated with peace, then the nightmare of world war cannot even come into being," he affirms). He will even go so far as to tie the Peace Concert into the hopefulness of the recent Regan-Gorbachev Summit conference... "I am a seeker," he says, his voice soft and liltingly accentuate by his Bengali roots. "And I am a humble instrument of God. I can say only that God is using me at this hour, so for me this is a special time, but I cannot say this is a special time for everybody. I try to be of service to him consciously and devotedly, so right now I get the inspiration from the Lord Supreme to be of service to him through the Peace Concerts"

Chinmoy seems steeped in UN Credibility, It was former Secretary General U Thant who first invited him to conduct his meditation workshops there, and since then the guru has won praise from leaders as diverse as Pope John Paul II and New York Mayor Ed Koch. The meditation hours are certainly impressive, if low-key, rituals. During a recent one, the Bahamas permanent representative to the UN, Davidson L. Hepburn was serenaded by a chorus who sang a song of praise written by Chinmoy. Later in the hour, Robert Muller, assistant UN Secretary general presented Chinmoy with a medal commemorating the United Nations' current 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"In the mind we doubt and suspect, and we get a kind of pleasure, a kind of joy from that. But in the heart, we try to encompass the full world, and by loving the world we get joy. So, we have to know what we want, and from which place we get joy – the mind or the heart. In the mind we doubt – we doubt our own capacities, doubt our own life, our own motives and afterwards we feel miserable that we have doubted ourselves. By doubting we weaken ourselves...By saying you are a nice person, I gain strength by calling you a bad person, I divide myself."

"All my life I have been inspiring my students to run, because spirituality is an inner run and you have to keep the body fit" ... "if in the morning you suffer from headache and stomach upset, that's a wonderful excuse not to pray and meditate. So physical fitness is of paramount importance in spirituality"

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final

"I have answered thousands of questions," he says politely "and if I try to answer more, I will only display my ignorance." The eyes retreat into bliss. Someone hands him the pink rose from the table and he touches it to his brow, meditates on it for a fervent moment, as if drawing sustenance from its organic harmony. Then...takes his leave. On Dec 17 , 1985 an article also appeared in the New York area Newspaper Newsday in slightly different one page format with similar text and byline with sub title “ The Quietest room in the UN”.



**08 Dec 1985 Peace Concert in Lobby of U.N General Assembly Hall**

**May be just a mention here if well covered I the music section**

Sri Chinmoy offered a peace concert Dec. 8 in the lobby of the U.N. General Assembly Hall. This event was held in connection with the U.N.’s upcoming *International Year of Peace* in 1986.It also helped culminate the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the U.N. in 1985.

**a Concert for the forthcoming International Year of Peace and the culmination of the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations by Sri Chinmoy**

Co-sponsor by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of: Austria, The Bahamas, Cyprus, Fiji, Grenada, India, Malaysia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Vanuatu, among others, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Sunday, 8 Dec 1985, 6:00 p.m.

**United Nations General Assembly Hall Lobby**  
(46th Street Visitors’ Entrance)



A Peace Concert in the General Assembly Hall Lobby, marking the forthcoming International Year of Peace, was co-sponsored by 14 Permanent Representatives to the UN and the office of the Assistant Secretary-General for the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations.



The Meditation Group Choir performed Songs dedicated to Peace and the high aspirations of the United Nations

**1986**

**29 Jun 1986 A Spiritual Lifter – Newsday – Uses meditation**

**Excerpt from article and Decide what to include,** it speaks about Peace Meditation at the UN and Photo from UN with some quotes about what those coming to the UN get. How athletics also entered their lives.

May be in athletics ad sports section or with cross reference.



Sri Chinmoy with one of the 40 who attended his meditation session last week at the U.N. Photo by Jessica Davis



Sri Chinmoy meditates before lifting 1,300 pounds in a standing calf raise.

# A Spiritual Lifter

Chinmoy uses meditation to heave 1,300 pounds

By Damian Cristodero

Sri Chinmoy sat quietly during a recent interview, answering questions in soft, polite tones, and only opening his eyes occasionally. But as the conversation turned to his childhood, his eyes opened slowly and he cracked a wide grin.

"I was an active and dynamic child," said the spiritualist and physical fitness advocate. "You could say that everybody in my family, all my brothers and sisters, were very calm and quiet. In that sense I was very mischievous. I used to break things and my parents said if I entered into a room, it was like a holocaust."

It is hard to imagine. Chinmoy was born in Chittagong, in what is now Bangladesh, and now lives in Jamaica, Queens. In addition to being his family's No. 1 mischief-maker, Chinmoy was the only member who enjoyed athletics. Even after entering the Sri Aurobindo ashram in Pondicherry, India, at the age of 12 to develop his apparent spiritual awareness, his love of sports continued. "Running, jumping, throwing, any kind of physical activity," Chinmoy said.

Today, the name Sri Chinmoy is known widely in fitness circles around the world and to the thousands of amateur runners in the New York City area. The Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team sponsors more than 300 races a year worldwide, including the 1,000-mile ultra marathon in Queens.

Chinmoy himself was forced to give up running after injuring his right leg in a running accident last year. As an alternative, he turned to weightlifting and, at 5-7, 159 pounds, the 54-year-old is well-conditioned. When wearing his robes, however, Chinmoy looks almost meek, though his supporters would say peaceful.

Still, Chinmoy said he can support 240 pounds over his head with his right arm in an overhead lift — which starts with the weight slightly higher than shoulder level — and he said he lifted 1,300 pounds in a standing calf raise last Monday. Both lifts are on videotape and were shown Wednesday during an affair in Queens celebrating Chinmoy's first anniversary as a weightlifter.

Dr. Terry Todd, a physical education instructor at the University of Texas at Austin, who has written five books on strength and strength training, attended the gathering and said he has seen videotapes of both lifts. Todd made it clear that there are others who could also accomplish that lift, but given Chinmoy's height, weight and that he had been weightlifting for only a year, supporting 240 pounds was extraordinary. "Just to support it," he said. "He's holding it free. It's like holding up a pro linebacker."

Jim Smith, the British Amateur Weightlifting Association Registrar of All-Around Lifts, who also saw the videotape at the gathering, said, "The chief thing really is, regardless of the manner in which it is performed, the final result is that a man of 160 pounds and 54 years is holding a weight of 240 pounds overhead. There can't be too many men in the world of any

weight and that age who can support that weight. Terry Todd, Bill Pearl [a four-time professional Mr. Universe who was also at the gathering] and I all agree, whichever way you look at it, the final result is an absolutely tremendous feat."

Todd said there is no yardstick to measure Chinmoy's calf raise because "nobody's doing it" as a strength test. Todd, who has a Ph.D. in sports history, said bodybuilders do the exercise with lighter weights and higher repetitions to increase calf size. He added, "I'm pretty convinced that that's higher than anybody has ever tried before, and I hear about such odd things and I've never heard about that."

For the calf raise, Chinmoy said he trained only nine days during a three-week period on the calf-raise machine. His strength, he said, comes from an inner power brought to the fore by deep meditation.

"I totally depend on God's grace," Chinmoy said. "My capacity is next to nothing, and I also know that no human being can achieve anything great or significant unless he has God's grace. I know my strength is very limited, but from my prayer life and meditational life I get inspiration and the capacity to do these things."

He uses that same principle during his "meditations for peace," which he has conducted at the United Nations since 1970 after an invitation by U.N. staff members. He was encouraged to continue the practice by then Secretary General U Thant, said Dhruva Hein, who helps handle Chinmoy's public relations. Chinmoy, who earlier in the year concluded a worldwide peace concert series in which he played more than a dozen instruments and performed his own compositions, holds the hour-long sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Last Tuesday's session was attended by approximately 40 people. "We are offering good thoughts, good will to the body, the vital mind, heart and soul of the United Nations," Chinmoy said after the session. "I am not a politician, I am not a diplomat, but I am a lover of God. So I am praying to God to grant peace to all the workers, right from the secretary general to the general staff so that everybody can have peace. And this peace will inundate from here the length and breadth of the world."

Chinmoy does not charge a fee for his services and his Sri Chinmoy Center in Queens survives on the sales of his 700 books and more than 30 tape recordings on spirituality. He has approximately 1,100 students worldwide, said Hein, who is a program coordinator in a United Nations office that deals with developing countries.

But while meditation is the key to Chinmoy's quest, he said he found out long ago that physical fitness is one key to good meditation. "If you have a severe headache or a stomach upset or something, or you have caught a cold. How can you meditate? If you have good health you will have no obstruction. Someone who wants to pray and meditate but is not in good shape, will have difficulties," Chinmoy said.

His day begins at approximately 2 a.m. after only two hours sleep. For 60 to 90 minutes, Chinmoy, a



vegetarian, will meditate, followed by a rigorous exercise program. Practice on his musical instruments is next, sometimes followed by two or three hours of tennis.

Chinmoy has a following. Kevin Keefe of Seaford, L.I., who works for UNICEF, has run in the New York City Marathon, and swam the English Channel in September to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. Keefe, who played basketball at Seaford High School, said he had long ago shunned organized sports because they were too aggressive. Now, he said, athletics and meditation are intertwined. "As I got into it I saw a change in myself. I saw things like humility from doing endurance events," said Keefe, who added that while in college at the University of Dayton, running a mile was a huge achievement. "And the experience I got from watching Sri Chinmoy doing it. If I hadn't met someone like that I would never have been able to put [athletics and meditation] together."

The combination also has helped him on the job at the U.N. "I think my colleagues see it. It's like a slow growth type of thing, but it's incremental progress. I'm able to handle things a lot more positively than I was before," Keefe said.

That is the essence of Chinmoy's philosophy. "Anything that is good we shall try to increase and transcend ourselves. Anything that is bad we shall try to decrease and diminish," he said.

Said Todd: "I think that what he's doing is his way. The way he knows to tap into the type of well springs you have to. My guess is he's a lot more interested in moving past what he can do than in moving past what others can do."

For Chinmoy, this is certain: "If I did not have the capacity from my prayer life and meditation," he said, "I don't think I would lift more than 80 pounds."

NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1986 NY \* Sports / 19

## 23 Jul 1986 Pilgrim of Peace – Concerts – report from Bombay India

Consider here or in the Music section, this article mentions the UN, Editors to decide if and which paras to excerpt that may add to understanding. Mention of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations as part of inspiration for Peace Concerts around the world: FREE PRESS BULLETIN Bombay, India July 23, 1986

## FREE PRESS BULLETIN

Bombay, India

July 25, 1986

# pilgrimage of peace

**Sri Chinmoy began his pilgrimage of peace 16 years ago, in the United Nations. It has taken him to the far corners of the globe capturing the imagination of countless thousands.**

The search for peace has inspired statesmen and saints alike from the beginning of recorded time. In our modern age, one of the most remarkable odysseys for peace is that being undertaken by the 54-year-old Bengali spiritual master, poet, artist and composer, Sri Chinmoy.

This pilgrimage of music and silence began 16 years ago, in the august halls of the United Nations. Over the years, it has taken him to the far corners of the globe, capturing the imagination of countless thousands with its profound simplicity and sincerity. It's a journey that will probably continue the rest of his life.

**"Each one of us represents the world," he says. "If we can invoke peace and then offer it to others, we will see how peace expands from one to two persons, and gradually to the world at large."**

Sri Chinmoy began working on this chain reaction in the spring of 1970, when he initiated his twice-weekly peace meditations at the United Nations for the delegates and staff members there. Shortly afterwards, he broadened his efforts with a global series of one-man peace concerts. The first concert, held in the spring of 1984, filled the huge Sportshalle in Cologne, Germany, to overflow capacity. Subsequent peace concerts were held in Paris, London, Vienna, Berlin, New York, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Toronto, Tokyo and some 60 other locations. Many others are planned.

**Unusual** What is so unusual about these peace concerts, always offered without charge, is their peculiarly Indian flavor: The ambiance of prayerful silence and haunting, soulful music that would not be expected to appeal to modern-day Westerners.

Typical was the concert held recently in Washington. The slender spiritual teacher, stood with folded hands, eyes in a meditative trance, a hush settled over the crowd. For several moments, the spacious hall in the middle of one of the world's most sophisticated cities seemed transformed into a holy shrine on the banks of the Ganga.

The stage was filled with various instruments, symbolising the diversity of humankind. As Sri Chinmoy played his special music on them one by one, different segments of humanity seemed to speak through him, expressing their own yearning for peace, the cry for peace gradually built to a crescendo, reverberating through the concert hall, and far beyond.

In that same concert hall, where this lone Indian teacher played his music of the spirit, the answer to that cry also took birth. It grew out of the atmosphere of peace that he created through his meditation and developed a life of its own, leaving its imprint on each person in the audience. For the few fleeting hours the concert lasted; the peace that mankind so desperately sought had become a tangible reality.

Sri Chinmoy is ideally suited for his mission of peace. Born in a small village,, ..later mentions Narasimha Rao and President Giani Zail Singh "who met and meditated privately with Sri Chinmoy during his 1982 visit to New York said: "Your prayers to God give greatest strength to me...I cannot forget them"

+ Then paragraphs mentions 700 books, Art and songs

FREE PRESS BULLETIN  
Bombay, India  
July 25, 1986

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By David Burke

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# Yogi's pilgrimage of peace

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Typical was the concert held recently in Washington. The slender spiritual teacher, clad in an ochre dhoti and kurta, walked slowly on to the giant stage. As he stood with folded hands, his eyes rolled up in a meditative trance, a respectful hush settled over the crowd. For several moments, the spacious hall in the middle of one of the world's most sophisticated cities seemed transformed into a holy shrine on the banks of the Ganga.

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## Mystical

Sri Chinmoy is ideally suited for his mission of peace. Born in a small village in Chittagong, in what is now Bangladesh, he entered the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry when he was hardly 12, and spent 20 years there in prayer and meditation. During this period he developed the ability to enter into a mystical trance and, in deep communion with the Self, to create an atmosphere of peace that stills the mind and elevates the spirit. He went to the US in 1964.

The power and charisma of this Indian master's meditation has often been remarked upon. P V Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resources, after attending one of his UN peace meditations a few years ago, was moved to declare: "I feel transformed ... I had not realised that somewhere tucked away in this very large building of the United Nations there is a small corner where real peace dwells." President Giani Zail Singh, who met

and meditated privately with Sri Chinmoy during his 1982 visit to New York, said: "Your prayers to God give greatest strength to me... I cannot forget them."

In recent years Sri Chinmoy has been carrying his work for peace beyond concert and meditation halls into the world of art. He has written more than 700 books of spiritual philosophy and poetry and completed more than 140,000 mystical paintings, seeking to create through the medium of art the tranquility and harmony of meditation.

He has also composed some 6,000 Bengali and English devotional songs whose evocative, other-worldly melodies have inundated the hearts of countless listeners with a sense of the Beyond.

Although his meditation-peace concerts may not be producing any immediate noticeable result, they are serving as a spiritual focus for peace movements around the globe and creating a deeper awareness among governments of the tremendous groundswell for peace.

More significant, they stand as the harbinger of a new mode of dealing with conflict, presaging the time when human consciousness will evolve to the point where spiritual power will indeed replace military power in international affairs.

"From time immemorial," Sri Chinmoy says, "history has been dealing with tyrants and liberators. Before long, it will have to deal seriously with peace makers." Whether Sri Chinmoy is one of the 20th century's consummate peace makers only time will tell. But regardless, one can only admire this Indian philosopher-saint's odyssey of music and silence to change the face and fate of the world.

## 24 Oct 1986 Seven Minutes of World Peace – UN Day – Associated Press: 25 countries

### Some Highlights of AP Article (here or cross reference to 03-anniv?):

- Secretary-General Message,
- The General Assembly Delegations observed the day by [passing 2 resolutions: :
  - Continue efforts beyond year of Peace (1986); +
  - other delegations: "right of People to peace"
- Meanwhile a group of about 100 U.N. staff and delegates walked in UN Rose Garden, behind a copy of UN Charter, Preamble, and then "sat in conference room for seven minutes of World Peace"
- Groups in 25 countries simultaneously observed the seven-minute peace meditation



## 24 Oct 1986, AP report Bemoans World Situation; Mentions Peace Walk and 7 Minutes 25 Countries on UN Birthday



**UNITED NATIONS: (AP)** – The United Nations Celebrated its 41st birthday in “over – armed, over – militarized world, haunted by the nuclear threat, scarred by violence and plagued by terrorism and drug abuse,” according to the secretary-general. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a statement, ” it is not a world in which, for the future of humankind, the United Nations can be regarded as marginal or irrelevant.”The (United Nations) General Assembly observed the anniversary of the U.N. coming into force in 1945 by passing two resolutions on peace. One, sponsored by a group of non-communist nations calls on governments and organizations to continue efforts for peace beyond 1986 which was designated by the United Nations as International Year of Peace. It passed by consensus. Another, sponsored by Soviet Bloc nations, calls on states and international organizations to implement “the right of peoples to peace”. It passed 104 – 0 with 33 abstentions, mostly by Western countries. Meanwhile a group of about 100 U.N. staff members and delegates paraded around the U.N. rose garden behind a copy of the U.N. Charter preamble and then sat in a conference room for “seven minutes of world peace. The group asked all governments “to refrain from hostile or warlike action during the seven-minute observance.” The ceremony was organized by Indian Spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy who since 1970 has conducted weekly programs called “The Peace Meditation at the United Nations”.” According to group members , followers of Sri Chinmoy and other groups in some 25 countries simultaneously observed the seven – minute peace meditation.

1987

### 30 Jun 1987, Oneness-Blessings from the Christian World

*The leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations , Sri Chinmoy, has been involved with many events supportive of Peace and world harmony, including interfaith initiatives.. He has received encouragement from representatives of many faiths for his leadership and ongoing activities. Below are some of the words offered by members of Christian religious communities*

INTRODUCTION: At a time when religious beliefs provoke turmoil and divisiveness in the world more often than harmony and love, spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy has been striving to promote unity and global awareness among the world’s religions. Although he was raised in a Hindu family, his philosophy is that of a universal truth-seeker and peace-lover. He feels that just as each person lives in his or her own home but goes out to work or study in the larger world, each person, while maintaining the traditions of a particular religion, can also actively support a universal spirituality upon which world peace must eventually be founded. In 1974 Sri Chinmoy was interviewed by an Italian priest and nun in Milan. The interview lasted about an hour, during which time the Sister, on behalf of the Italian speaking priest, asked Sri Chinmoy many questions-about Jesus, about the United Nations, about his path and that of other Masters. When the Sister asked him whether he believed in Jesus Christ, Sri Chinmoy answered, “I have the deepest admiration and adoration for the Christ. Although I was born in India and brought up on the

### Oneness-Blessings from the Christian World



|  |  |
|--|--|
| teachings of Krishna, the Buddha and other spiritual Masters, when I studied the Bible, I found that the teachings of the Christ and the teachings of our Indian Masters are the same. This is because God is Truth, God is Love, and Truth and Love are universal.” |  |
|--|--|

In this spirit of oneness, and because of their sincere desire for peace among people throughout the world, members of the Christian clergy have often supported Sri Chinmoy’s work for world peace. This booklet is a collection of some of the words offered by the religious community. Sri Chinmoy treasures these comments as beacon-lights of hope for a world struggling to raise itself from darkness. To each Sister, Priest and Brother he offers a special flower of gratitude

Contents:

- **Pope Paul VI** and Sri Chinmoy met one another for the first time on Mar 22, 1972.
- **Pope John Paul II** received Sri Chinmoy with great warmth at a meeting in the Vatican on Jun 18, 1980
- **Archbishop Giovanni Cheli**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Sep 23, 1977.
- **Msgr. Thomas Hartman**, Director Radio and Television, Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, Nov 21, 1983.
- **Father Jim Fischer**; President of Regis High School, New York, Oct 28, 1986
- **Brother Charles Murphy**, Franciscan friar at St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church in Albany, NY Aug 5, 1979. Also as member of Bishop’s Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs – Welcomes and reads from documents of **Vatican 2**.
- **Father Peter Mann** first interviewed Sri Chinmoy on “**East Meets West**,” aired on nationwide Catholic television.
- **Brother Seraphim**, a member of an order of Brothers in Los Angeles
- **Father Edward Lavin**, a Jesuit priest who teaches who teaches art and meditation at Regis High School in NY
- **Rev. Thomas E. Ahlburn**, Senior Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, RI,
- **Sister Marion Irvine**, outstanding U.S. masters marathoner, also referred to as the “Flying Nun” by news media for her outstanding running ability.
- **Sister Mary Joan**, a Sister of the Divine Compassion from Good Counsel Convent
- **Sister Mary Rita**, Mother Superior of the Carmelite Sisters in St. Catherines, Ontario
- **Peter Oliver**, Librarian of the Andover-Harvard Library, of the Harvard Divinity School
- **Dr. Krister Stendahl**, Dean of the Harvard Divinity School,
- **Professor Ralph Lazzaro**, Director Emeritus of Language Studies at Harvard Divinity School, translated poems by Sri Chinmoy into Latin for book, entitled *Simplicitas Cordis*
- **Leaders from six of the world’s major religions participated** in a program at the Church Center for the United Nations in honor of the National Day of Prayer, proclaimed by President Ford. July 24. 1975. Event covered by NY times.
- Sri Chinmoy leads the opening meditation at a **Spiritual Summit Conference at the United Nations**, Oct 24, 1975
- **In 1973 Sri Chinmoy wrote “The Son”**, a play about the **life of Jesus**, performed in New York and Canada in 1974 at over 30 churches. The Kettledrum Theatre Company of London performed it at the United Nations during an American tour and also throughout Europe. 50 performances of *The Son* in churches and religious departments of universities in Great Britain. 1975. some comments by:
  - **Brother Daniel**, a Roman Catholic member of the **Westminster Interfaith Group**
  - **Martin Grubb**, leader of the **Quaker Hall** in Ealing
  - **Member of Radius Drama Group**, Drama wing of **Church of England**.

On the 13th of October 1987, Sri Chinmoy opened and closed the 5 p.m. mass at St. Peter’s Basilica with a performance on the Vatican organ. On the 14th he met with Pope John Paul II, presenting the Pontiff with a book of songs he had composed. “God bless you and your divine activities,” the Pope declared.  
 – from report in Anahata Nada Aug – Dec



Above, Sri Chinmoy meets with Pope. | TWO MAJOR PEACE CONCERTS

**Sri Chinmoy At The Vatican: Unprecedented Ecumenism**, Spiritual history was in the making recently in Rome as the Pope met with Indian spiritual master, Sri Chinmoy, of all-faith meditation sessions for peace at the United Nations and U.S. Congress. Having already met once before with Pope John Paul II and three times with his predecessor, Pope Paul VI. Sri Chinmoy was warmly greeted by the Pope on October 14. Sri Chinmoy offered the pontiff a special series of songs especially composed for him, stating, “Holy Father, I have come to you for your very special blessings. You are the salvation-king. I have set to music some of your most powerful utterances made by you in America”. The pope, obviously deeply touched, offered Sri Chinmoy his gratitude: “Nice, nice, nice! God bless you and your divine activities.” In an unprecedented display of spiritual ecumenism, the previous day Sri Chinmoy had been invited to play ~. on the organ at St. Peter’s Basilica during a special celebratory mass. He performed for 5 minutes at the beginning and 15 minutes at the completion of the mass.

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November 11, 1987

**Sri Chinmoy At The Vatican: Unprecedented Ecumenism**

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**Sri Chinmoy meets the Pope.**

**EDITORS NOTE** If not already used in the 3-02 Anniversary section:

**13 Nov 1987, Short Inspirational Talks at UN Secretariat Offices**

- **Meditation : Mind, Heart, Life, Inner Pilot; Problems**
- **About the United Nations : Self- Giving Severs, UN Soul**

## 2 Talks at UN Headquarters – Highlights:

- **Meditation** : Mind, Heart, Life, Inner Pilot; Problems
  - solve not only his own personal problems but also all the **world's problem**
- About the **United Nations** : Self- Giving Severs, UN Soul,
  - **aspiring human life, which longs for oneness in peace ;**
  - **harbingers will expedite the unprecedented journey of the oneness-heart**
  - UN – **not a man-made building. It is God's own transcendental Dream,**
  - we need an **illumined mind, a heart of love and a life of sacrifice.**
  - UN – an answer, and a way to bring joy, perfection and satisfaction to humanity's life.



- **U N -at God's choice Hour will blossom into His universal Reality – can never, never remain unfulfilled.**
- Those **who are absolutely for the United Nations will prevail to fulfil God's Oneness-Dream.**
- The **mind of man has failed. Now the heart has to come to the fore**
  - ” *I can be happy only if my sister and brother are also happy.*
  - ” *I have to deal with my brothers and sisters with affection.*”
- The heart's affection has to solve our problems, not the mind.
- If you **really want my love, then bring me to the level where you are.**
- **True admiration and love will only come when there is oneness.**
- Infinite is ready to become one with the finite, the finite is able to love and worship the Infinite .
- If UN not get help from the Superpowers, it will go to every door and say only,
  - ” **Use your heart!**”
- And if they give only one cent with love, the United Nations will adore them because of their oneness

## 13 Nov 1987, Significant Overview and Approach to understanding of UN

– What, where is the best way to highlight?

“The United Nations is **not a man-made building. It is God's own transcendental Dream**, which He is now transforming into the universal Reality. What we need is an **illumined mind, a heart of love and a life of sacrifice**. Once we have achieved these divine qualities, we shall see that the United Nations is a true answer to the world-problems, and offers a way to bring joy, perfection and satisfaction to humanity's life on earth.

World oneness can be felt and manifested only when the entire world sincerely looks to the United Nations for guidance. He who says that the United Nations has failed is utterly mistaken. He who believes that the United Nations is a fruitless hope is also completely mistaken. But he who thinks and feels that the **United Nations embodies God's Oneness-Dream and Promise, which at God's choice Hour will blossom into His universal Reality, is absolutely right.**

God's Dream and God's Promise can never, never remain unfulfilled and unmanifested. Those who have failed and those who are going to fail will eventually be out of the United Nations. Those **who are absolutely for the United Nations and only for the United Nations will survive and prevail to manifest and fulfil God's Oneness-Dream.**

The United Nations has not failed and will never fail. Only the **mind of man has failed. Now the heart has to come to the fore** and say,

” *This person is my sister. That person is my brother. I can be happy only if my sister and brother are also happy. If I try to stay always one step ahead of them, then they will not be happy.*

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
*So if I have a true heart of oneness, I will not want them to remain behind me. Although I may have a little more vital and physical capacity than they have, I have to deal with my brothers and sisters with affection.”*

The heart’s affection has to solve our problems, not the mind.

Let us say that you are richer and more capable of doing things than I am. If you are bringing your capacities to me and using them to help bring my own capacities to the fore, then I will appreciate, admire and love you. But if you constantly try to show that you are better than me, then I will not love you. If you **really want my love, then bring me to the level where you are.**

Right now the Superpowers want to get peace only by staying one step ahead of everyone else. But this is not the right thing . They are trying to get the admiration and love of others through force – which is absurd! **True admiration and love will only come when there IS oneness.** God the Creator is superior to us; He is our Lord Transcendental. But He has become one with us. Just because the Infinite is ready to become one with the finite, the finite is able to love and worship the Infinite .

The world will love the poor because they are suffering. It will not love the Superpowers if they torture the United Nations and threaten to withdraw their support. God has created the United Nations, and He who has created us will take care of us. So the United Nations should not feel threatened. If the United Nations does not get help from the Superpowers, it will go to every door and say only,

**“Use your heart!”**

Then the Superpowers’ own hearts will compel them to help also. And if they don’t have hearts, then the United Nations will get help from the poorest countries . The poor countries will not have reluctance, unwillingness or contempt. And if they give only one cent with love, the United Nations will adore them because of their oneness

– Sri Chinmoy 13 Nov 1987

1988

### 08 Jul 1988 Meditation at the USA Pentagon

Which excerpt(s) and photo to chose?

Sri Chinmoy, was invited to the Pentagon to hold a special meditation for members of the Department of Defense on 8 July 1988. Edward Winchester, President of the Pentagon Meditation Club, escorted Sri Chinmoy on a personal tour of the Pentagon – explaining his Peace Shield Meditation/Prayer Campaign to promote good will and inner peace. ***Sri Chinmoy meditates in the room dedicated to prayer and meditation in the Pentagon.***

Defense Department employees then joined Sri Chinmoy in meditation during a lunchtime gathering. Sri Chinmoy offered a song, which he had composed about the Pentagon, and answered a number of questions.

**Question:** What is the significance of the word “Himalayan” when you talk about military leadership in your song?

**Sri Chinmoy:** To me the word “Himalayan” represents the height-the inner height of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. When the outer force is unified with the inner height, which comes from deep within, then our life becomes most successful and most fruitful. The inner height and the outer strength must go together



*Sri Chinmoy meditates in the room dedicated to prayer and meditation in the Pentagon.*

**Question:** Regarding the planet right now, is there anything in particular that you are working on?

**Sri Chinmoy:** I am a student of peace. For quite a few years I have been offering peace concerts all over the world. Wherever I am needed, I go and offer my soulful service, according to my capacity, to bring about world

Events: 3-09 draft 2021-01-03jan "Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY" - Simplify Header across section pages in final peace. It is through my prayerful life and soulful meditation, and not through any kind of political means, that I am working for peace.

**Question:** In what way does inner strength translate into or become outer strength?

**Sri Chinmoy:** We sow a seed, and for a while it stays under the ground. Then it germinates and becomes a tiny plant, then a sapling and eventually a huge tree. In exactly the same way, we have indomitable inner power deep within us. And by means of our prayer-life and meditation-life, we can nourish it and bring it to the fore. Then it germinates into outer strength. Here at the Pentagon we see the Army, Navy and Air Force. Let us call them three friends. Whenever there is a problem, these three friends meet together, and united they fight for the right cause-to defend their country. If one more friend -a prayerful life of inner discipline- can be added, then we have four friends. In a tug-of-war, if you have four friends on one side and only one enemy on the other side, then naturally the four friends are going to win. All the suffering, unrest and violence in the world represent negative forces. But if our love, sympathy, concern and feeling of oneness-which all come from deep within-can be brought to the fore, easily they can stand against the negative forces and defeat them. And they can be brought to the fore the way a seed slowly, steadily and unerringly comes to the fore and becomes a fully blossomed tree.



Sri Chinmoy meditates during the Pentagon Meditation Club meeting.



Members of the Pentagon Meditation Club and visitors join in attendance.

**Question:** If the outer strength seems to go beyond the inner wisdom, what is the best way to change that? **Sri Chinmoy:** Sometimes the outer strength becomes unruly; it acts like a mischievous monkey. But somebody is the owner of the monkey. In the beginning the monkey may run wild and destroy things in various ways. But if the owner invites a few friends of his to his rescue, then together they can control the monkey. Similarly, our life of love, devotion, inner faith and inner courage are our friends. When we pray and meditate, they come to the fore and challenge the restlessness of our outer life. The more we pray, the sooner we establish a free access to our Inner Pilot, who is the Almighty. And He, out of His infinite Bounty, will grant us the necessary strength to calm down the outer restlessness.



The Pentagon Chaplain greets Sri Chinmoy.

**Mr. Winchester:** If I could take the Chair's prerogative and ask a question: We're frequently asked what impact we think we're having on the world because of the work we're doing. I know that you've met with people in the British Parliament and leaders in high places in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. Could you tell us what impact you feel the work that you are doing is having on the world? **Sri Chinmoy:** I am a God-lover. According to my service-capacity, I try to serve my brothers and sisters. From a seed you eventually get a tree, and the tree produces countless fruits and beautiful flowers. Again, from the fruits come new seeds. This is how the world-creation continues. If a teacher is soulful and spiritual, then he can inspire his students. Similarly, if the leader of a particular group or the head of state of a particular nation is spiritual and believes in prayer and meditation, then his



Sri Chinmoy signs a book he dedicated to the Pentagon.

countrymen will see and feel something in him, and automatically they will get inspiration to lead a better life. Then they in turn will inspire others to become good and divine.

There are many people who do not believe in harmony, peace and oneness. But here we are all seekers. Because we are seekers, with our prayer life we are trying to establish a oneness-world-family. You are head of this particular meditation group, and you have inspired others to a great extent. From one person, many have derived tremendous inspiration and aspiration. It happens exactly the same way with other groups. If one individual comes to the fore with inspiration and aspiration, he inspires many, many others. This is how the rest of the world can be inspired. From one seed eventually there comes a tree with many beautiful flowers and fruits



Pentagon Meditation Club President Mr. Winchester and other members of the Club attend Sri Chinmoy's Peace Concert at the Jefferson Memorial the evening of 8 July.

**Mr. Winchester:** Sri Chinmoy, on behalf of all of us I want to thank you for sharing the blessing of your wisdom and your presence with us today, and particularly for the inspiring and beautiful song you wrote. We will pass this up to the Secretary of Defense.

### 20 Sep 1988 Prayer Breakfast – International Day of Peace & Opening UN General Assembly

After an early Morning Peace Walk 20 September 1988 to celebrate the opening of the General Assembly and the International Day of Peace, an interfaith prayer breakfast was held in the Church Center across the street from the Secretariat. **In an eloquent tribute to the spirit of the United Nations, Ambassador Douglas Roche of Canada, host of the breakfast,** reflected on his thirty years of service around the world in this way:

*The Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament to the United Nations.  
H.E. Mr. Douglas Roche,  
requests the honour of your presence at an interreligious  
Prayer Breakfast  
commemorating the International Day of Peace  
at the  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza  
Second Floor  
(Entrance on 44th Street)*

**“On the one hand there is an indescribable beauty to the world; on the other hand, there is immense suffering. We must be sure that our work will result in elevating the beauty of the world and diminishing the suffering.”**

**Mr. Jaap Ramaker, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands,** noted that **“Man used to be an enemy to his fellow man,”** but more and more, out of the **necessity of interdependence,** **“these conditions have ceased to exist”** as we learn to **“work together to the benefit of all.”**

Prayers from several religious traditions concluded the breakfast ceremony.

### 19 Oct 1988 Delegates Wives Prayer, Meditation on occasion of Nobel Prize UN Peacekeeping

On the occasion of the award of the  
**Nobel Peace Prize**  
 to the United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations  
 Mrs. Greta Zepos  
 Wife of the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations  
 warmly invites you to join other delegates' wives in  
**Prayer and Meditation for Peace**  
 2:30 p. m., Wednesday, 19 October 1988  
 Jharna-Kala Gallery at Buchman Hall  
 432 East 91st Street (between First and York Aves.)  
 New York, New York

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 New York, New York  
 RSVP Ms. Rijana Tooker, (212) 963-8554



Sample Exercise shared at event  
 (to be typed)

When I pray, I talk and God listens. When I meditate, God talks and I listen. ①

Aspiration is the only key for both prayer and meditation. Either we reach up to Him or He comes down to us. *Deep Breathings*

To pray or meditate: *try to focus all attention on the heart. Try to direct the flow of divine Grace which you feel in your heart upward. It is like water. Each time you pray or meditate, feel that you are digging inside. Naturally, the all-nourishing water comes up, for this water is being supplied constantly from its infinite Source.* ②

Real purity is an inner shrine, a constant remembrance of the divine within us. ③

Outer discipline, as well as inner discipline, is required for real prayer.

If the prayer or meditation is too relaxed, it will have no focus, no energy, no abiding life. Only if one has real intensity, will he get real joy.

During prayer one can form a sentence of a few words that will convince the aspiring mind. You can write one or more key words on your heart, then try to see it there. You can repeatedly look at it or write it again and again.

When we pray we sometimes act like beggars, but when we meditate we become princes. When we pray we ask to be given peace, love or joy. ④

When we meditate we expand, spreading our wings like a bird, trying to see, feel and grow into the entire universe of Light-Delight.

Sometimes it is easier to start with prayer and end with meditation.

What is the highest form of prayer/meditation?

"Thy Will be done." To ask for the capacity to please Him in His own way.



**PREFACE** This booklet contains selected inspirational messages and excerpts from lectures which Sri Chinmoy has offered to the United Nations community during the last twenty years. Sri Chinmoy was invited to give the first of his many talks on the spiritual role of the United Nations in November of 1968. Since April of 1970, he has conducted twice-weekly peace meditations for delegates and staff as-leader of the Peace Meditation Association. The members of the Peace Meditation Association offer their deepest gratitude to Sri Chinmoy for his most exemplary and untiring self-offering to humanity through his dedicated service to the United Nations community. May the colossal hope for peace and humanity's progress, as expressed by the vision-luminary in Sri Chinmoy, become a fruitful promise-reality.

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*See Images of pages sorted by heading below*



| THE MESSAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS   | IS A SPIRITUAL ROLE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS PRACTICAL?  | THE UNITED NATIONS: A NUCLEUS OF WORLDWIDE SPIRITUALITY   | THE DIVINE MISSION  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>The outer message of the United Nations is peace. The inner message of the United Nations is oneness. Peace we feel, Love we become, Oneness we manifest.</p> <p>The United Nations has a mind, a heart and a soul. Its mind tries to offer glowing peace, its heart tries to offer glowing love. Its soul tries to offer fulfilling oneness. In the near future, a day will dawn when the message of the United Nations will be absorbing to the child, absorbing to the common man, thought-provoking to the highly educated and inspiring to the seeker.</p> <p>Each delegate is a force. Each representative is a force. Each nation is a force. The source of this force is a particular will. This will can be either the divine will or the human will. The human will wants to be with the world and in the world only on one condition: that it will be able to gain superlative glory, riches and maintain this supremacy. The divine will wants to be in the world, with the world and for the world without expecting anything from the world. The human will, at most, tolerates the world. The divine will constantly wants to liberate and fulfill the world. The human will wants to control and lead the world. The divine will wants to transform, glorify and immortalize the world. The human will in us needs the soul's expanding and illumining quality. The divine will in us wants the God's blossoming divinity.</p> | <p>The United Nations is playing a most important role in seeking to establish world harmony, world peace, world oneness, world divinity, world perfection and God-satisfaction.</p> <p>The outer world says that the United Nations is not enough, but the inner world says that the real capacity of the United Nations is its willingness and its inner cry.</p> <p>The United Nations is crying for world peace, and this very act of crying is its real capacity. The way of oneness that tries to lead us to the ultimate destination; this is the United Nations. The cry itself is its capacity and this capacity is of supreme importance.</p> <p>True, this capacity cannot or does not meet with satisfaction-unity all at once. I have the capacity to run, let us say, but I am not at the destination. I have just left the starting point; my goal is still ahead. Capacity does not mean immediate success or immediate victory. Capacity is continuous movement that eventually leads us to our destined goal. Right now the United Nations is a cry, a movement, a forward march, a forward adventure.</p> <p>A runner is running, but because the runner has not reached the goal, this does not mean that the runner will fail. There is an appointed hour and at that appointed hour, which is God's chosen hour, the runner dreams—the real dream—of the United Nations will be transformed into reality. That dream is God's necessity to bring about world</p> | <p>It is not only possible, but inevitable, that the United Nations will one day be a nucleus of worldwide spirituality. The symbol, the truth, the light that the United Nations embodies is bound to pass the length and breadth of the world. The United Nations that we see—the body and form—may not last, but the reality that is behind the United Nations, the dream that each dedicated individual member has—not in his mind, but in his soul—how to fulfill himself. It may take fifty, two hundred, or four hundred years, but the dream must eventually be fulfilled even if the outer form, the structure, does not remain the same. But the essential thing is the soul's full blossoming into perfection, the expansion of 'United Nations' into 'Oneness-World'.</p> <p>Previously there was the League of Nations; now we see the United Nations. A few things are changed and modified for the better. The League of Nations was Woodrow Wilson's dream. It no longer exists, indeed, it has blossomed into another dream, a greater dream. The United Nations is also a dream. And this dream will also eventually take a better and more fulfilling form. At that time it will be Oneness-World.</p> <p>A League of Nations is like a cluster of flowers. A United Nations unites the flowers harmoniously. When we have a Oneness-World, at that time we will not see several individual flowers; we will see all as one whole.</p> | <p>At the United Nations there are many missions representing different countries. To me each mission is like a river flowing into the ocean, and the ocean is the United Nations. Each mission is a flowing river entering into the ocean with force, with aggression and with a willingness to become part and parcel of the ocean. At the United Nations the divine mission flows not only in the ocean but also through each of the rivers. The divine mission of light exists not only in the infinite, but, but also in the finest drop of consciousness. In the perfection and fulfillment of the divine mission in the infinite, and in the perfection and fulfillment of the divine mission in the finite, the supreme Satisfaction will dawn.</p> <p>In each of the rivers the supreme Satisfaction has to dawn, for it is the constant flow of the rivers entering into the ocean that makes the ocean a living reality. And when the ocean flows back into the rivers, it offers them its abundant inner wealth so they can fulfill themselves through it.</p> <p>The mission of God in each permanent mission to the United Nations is as important as it is in the United Nations itself. The United Nations is the entire body and each mission is like a limb. The body is perfect only when all the limbs are perfect. If one limb remains imperfect, the body remains imperfect.</p> <p>When we are really great we care for the small, for the poor, for the invalid. The mission of the great is to become one with those who are less great than they, and to lift them up to a higher standard through self-giving. The content of those who are not yet great is to feel that the great ones</p> |

1989

16 May 1989, A New Generation for Peace – Msgr. Thomas Hartman and their story

An organization committed to empowering young people around the world to be peacemakers - **Msgr. Thomas Hartman shares their story**

**Msgr. Tom Hartman, Director of Radio and IV for the Diocese of Rockville Center, helped organize the first annual Youth Peace Summit in 1988.**

**Host of numerous TV and radio shows, he sees TeLicare (Long Island Catholic Cable IV) developing global thinking and building bridges to different cultures.**

**Tuesday, 16 May • 1:00 p.m. Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium**  
Admission free Light refreshments



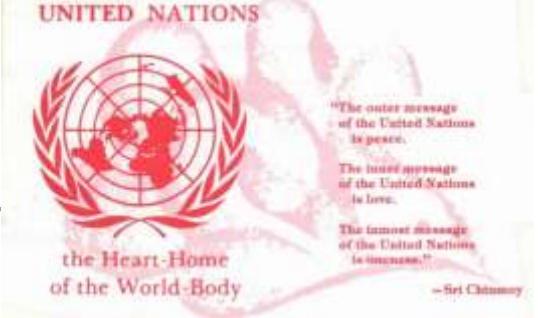
**24 Oct 1989 Seven Minutes silence of World peace**

**All members of the United Nations community are invited to join the International Walk on Tuesday, 24 October at 12:45 p.m. SEVEN MINUTES OF WORLD PEACE**  
Global observance 1:00 – 1:07 p.m. (location to be announced)  
• Join the United Nations Headquarters observance of the Seven Minutes of World Peace.  
Individuals, groups and organizations in countries around the world will simultaneously maintain silence to experience the spirit of peace on earth.



1990

**25 Oct 1990 UN: Heart-Home World-Body; Inmost message: Oneness, Illustration - undated**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITED NATIONS:</b><br/> <b>the Heart-Home of the World-Body</b><br/> <b>“The outer message of the United Nations is peace.</b><br/> <b>The inner message of the United Nations is love.</b><br/> <b>The inmost message of the United Nations is oneness. “</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>This undated illustration – was possibly used in 1990’s or before by Peace Meditation at the UN to support UN anniversaries.</b></p>  |  |

## 1991

### 01 Feb 1991 Reminiscences by Robert Muller, Chancellor, University for Peace

On spiritual dimension and personal examples during his decades of service to the United Nations community After joining a Peace Meditation on 1 February 1991 while visiting New York, Mr. Robert Muller, currently Chancellor of the University for Peace, was moved to offer some reminiscences about his many years of service at the United Nations. Below is a brief excerpt from the remarks of the former Assistant Secretary-General, who has always been a strong advocate of spiritual ideals and is a long-time friend of the Meditation Group.

**Mr. Robert Muller, Chancellor, University for Peace:** It is wonderful to see so many of my old friends. I have always been so happy that Sri Chinmoy is a spiritual presence at the United Nations. **The United Nations cannot succeed if it does not have a spiritual dimension.**

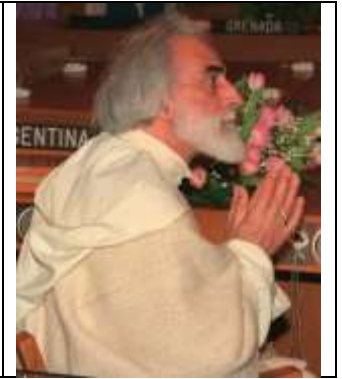
That was the conclusion of **Dag Hammarskjöld**, who became a mystic here in this house. If you read his *Markings*, you will see that at the beginning he never mentions God, whereas at the end, he has a daily dialogue with God. **Before he died, he also said that we have tried to make peace, but we have not succeeded, and we will not succeed if there is not a spiritual renaissance in the world.**

Of course, then there was **U Thant**, who was so close to you, who held that there was no difference between **spirituality and life**. He could never understand the Western world, where you keep spirituality for the church on Sunday and the rest of the week you live a material, intellectual and nonspiritual life. For him every moment from morning to evening was spirituality at its highest. He never forgot that spirituality is the highest dimension of life. **I myself became more spiritual thanks to the influence of U Thant and of Sri Chinmoy, and it has helped me in my life quite a lot.** I remember U Thant once said that whenever he travelled to capitals around the world, they took him each time to visit the monument to the unknown soldier, but not once in his life had he been taken to the monument to the unknown peacemaker. Now we have a monument to peace in Costa Rica, on the grounds of the University for Peace, and **when visitors come we take them to this monument to the unknown peacemakers.**

...Just this morning I saw **Mr. Perez de Cuellar (UN Secretary-General)**, who signed a very important letter for us regarding the future of the University for Peace. When I told him that I was very glad that he gave his signature because it was my last day in the United Nations, he said, **“It will never be your last day at the United Nations. This place will always be your home.”** appeared in [Meditation at the United Nations – 1992 Jan – Mar, Periodic Bulletin](#)

### 5 Apr 1991 U Thant Peace Award – Presentation to Pir Vilayat Khan – Sufi Leader

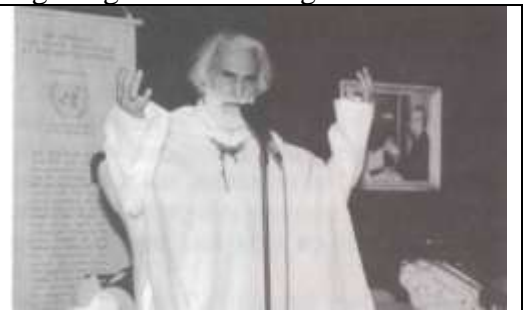
On 5 April 1991, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West, received the U Thant Peace Award in recognition of his efforts to bring about peace, harmony and religious understanding among all peoples. Following are excerpts from the award ceremony, which took place at United Nations Headquarters. *Sri Chinmoy*: My heart's oneness-brother, I am supremely blessed by your most gracious presence here. My students, my friends and the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations are all being blessed by your divinity's transcendental heights. In offering this award, we are being spiritually blessed and divinely honoured by you.



*Sri Chinmoy presents the award, which reads:* The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is deeply honoured to present the U Thant Peace Award to the Venerable Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West, for his:

- Lifetime devotion to the cause of world peace and unity;
- Exceptional and exemplary synthesis of the highest achievements of Eastern mysticism and Western intellectual pursuit;
- Sustained commitment to the integrated perfection of the individual;
- Encouragement of harmony through the creative arts;
- Illuminating manifestation of the message of oneness among the great world religions.

*Pir Vilayat Khan:* I can't tell you how very deeply moved I am by this token of friendship coming from the heart and from the soul of a very, very dear friend of mine. I must say that since I first set my gaze upon Sri Chinmoy, he has always remained prevalent in my heart and soul; a source of inspiration, especially during the trials of life. One needs to be able to feel one has a friend somewhere who is sharing the same kind of responsibilities as oneself. A sharing at the soul level between those dedicated to conveying spiritual teaching to our fellow beings. So deep - very difficult to describe.



My father Hazrat Inayat Khan said, "**There is no friendship as great as that between people who are united in a spiritual ideal.**" It is, I would say, the guarantee of world peace. The participation of the spiritual ideal in the social and political fields in the world has never been seen quite as clearly as it needs to be. The impact of religion upon people throughout the world is so considerable. I am not competent, of course, to speak about economic and political issues, but religion is something that goes deep into the heart of the people. When they feel that their leaders or those who have taken some responsibility in guiding their lives have found unity among themselves, then of course they will follow suit.



So we have to set the example. Therefore, whatever there is between Sri Chinmoy and me is so very important in its implications in the world today. Of course, this is only possible amongst spiritual leaders who are really universal, and I consider Sri Chinmoy to have reached beyond frontiers of the particular "ism" or institution, and to have become a cosmic teacher. Those are the deep interconnections that are going to germinate and reach further and further. Need I say just how difficult it is to establish a basis for peace in the world today



? We must not underestimate, of course, the spiritual aspect. I am thinking again of a friend of mine who is both a Catholic priest and a Hindu, who said that to be a teacher in our time, one has to have one's roots in one's tradition and the branches of one's tree reaching out and mingling with those of other beings. I think this is what is happening today. It is a great wonder that it is taking place at this time. On the one hand, there is so much decadence and violence in the world, while on the other hand there seems to be a deeper unity taking place at some level. We hope that eventually it will have its repercussions.



I have had the great privilege of visiting some of the illumined souls in the world, particularly in India, in the Himalayas. I must say that the beauty and power of those beings is something so absolutely unique. Sometimes I used to wonder whether it is possible to develop those qualities living in the kind of world in which we live, until I heard again the words of my father, who said, "When I came to the West, I wanted to prove that one can develop spirituality in the middle of life." That is the challenge before us, the big responsibility: to live in the world, and at the same time never forget the Presence of God. This is what I feel so strongly in Sri Chinmoy. I think the deep link between us is that God is always present. And that makes all the difference.



*Later that month, on 30 April 1991, Pir Vilayat Khan returned to the UN to share some spiritual songs with Sri Chinmoy and members of the Peace Meditation Group during a meeting at the United Nations.*



## 26 Nov 1991 Thanksgiving Programme and Reception – "Moments of Peace,"

Could also be in 3-05 Countries section – do cross reference?

A programme and reception for Thanksgiving, entitled "Moments of Peace," honoured members of the United Nations community on 26 November 1991 at Buchman Hall in Manhattan.

**This programme, "Moments of Peace," honours the Ambassadors to the 46th General Assembly for their tireless labours on behalf of the world community. Ambassadors shared brief statements describing their personal vision of the United Nations..**

**The programme will began with a song of welcome followed by songs dedicated to peace, to the UN and to the individual nations that were are honoured.**

*"The General Assembly signifies interdependence. It represents a song of the community of nations, a song of group-souls. "Each mission is like a river flowing into the ocean, the United Nations, and entering with hope, with eagerness and with a willingness to become part and parcel of that ocean. "*

**Sponsored by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations**

*'Moments of Peace'  
a Thanksgiving  
Programme and Reception  
on Tuesday  
26 November 1991  
7:30 pm*

Several delegates addressed the gathering, including H.E. Dr. Stanley Kalpage, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and H.E. Prof. Perezi Karukubiro Kamunanwire, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, (Link to brief excerpt of remarks from the meeting – Meditation at UN – 1992 02 – Apr, May, Jun Bulletin ( see page 45 – 47)

H.E. Prof. **Perezi Karukubiro Kamunanwire, Permanent Representative of Uganda** to the UN: Where I come from, we greet each other with the word 'Salaam'. I am sure most of you know this word, which means 'peace'. I am personally thankful to the convenor of these moments of peace tonight. We need this. We have been in a very long (UNGA) session, and we are still continuing. It has taken us about a year of struggle to elect an African Secretary-General. It gives me pleasure, on this eve of a momentous day in American history, Thanksgiving, to know that tomorrow the new Secretary-General will be arriving to start his new job. Countries which we did not even know existed can now be reached in a matter of hours. As some people have said, "What used to be my world is now my village." So we have all grown into one nation. Peace is needed all over the world, and we should work and pray for peace. We pray and we hope that peace is coming. We have to be patient. We have to pray hard that there will be peace.



**H.E. Dr. Stanley Kalpage, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations:** The UN is an institution in which Sri Lanka has great trust and faith. Small countries like Sri Lanka, have no armies worth mentioning, no navy, no air force. It is only because of the mechanisms instituted by the U N that we are safe and secure. Because of the UN the world has been spared another world war. Year after year representatives from the Soviet Union and the East European countries come here and speak face to face with representatives from the United States and the Western democracies. My heart and soul is in the work of the UN. I also wish to thank Sri Chinmoy for having come to our country two years ago. President Premadasa holds Sri Chinmoy in the highest regard. I wish Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation at the UN continued success in the future.



1992

**29 Jan 1992 Interfaith Programme at UN: Commemorate Christopher Columbus Quincentenary**

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| <p>Sri Chinmoy offered the opening dedication at an Interfaith Programme to commemorate the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary held at the UN</p> |  |  |
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| <p>with special guests:<br/>The Honourable Mario M. Cuomo Governor of the State of New York, and his wife, Matilda – 29 January 1992</p> |  |  |  |
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| <p>New York Governor Mario Cuomo chats with Sri Chinmoy Jan. 29 at an interfaith programme held at the UN to celebrate the Columbus quincentenary.</p> |  |  |  |
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Governor Cuomo had invited the Master, who had opened the programme with a meditation, to sit next to him on the dais.

1993

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**28-29 Aug 1993 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, USA**

A number of members of the Peace Meditation group at the United Nations were able to attend the 1993 Parliament of Religions in Chicago. In the Previous century the 1883 Parliament of Religions in Chicago has been said to mark the beginning of the modern interfaith movement. It is often linked with the name of the spiritual giant Swami Vivekananda who electrified those attending from many faiths.. Vivekananda shared his teacher, Sri Ramakrishna’s belief that all spiritual paths lead to the same Goal Supreme.

**See video from opening**

**meditation:** <http://vimeo.com/6334699>

2

Sri Chinmoy opened the first plenary of the centenary Parliament of the World’s Religions in Chicago, on August 28, 1993, with an intensely powerful silent meditation. He also graced the week-long Parliament, attended by 8,000 people, with an early morning meditation and Peace Concert on August 29



Sitting on the stage visible on the left behind Sri Chinmoy during the opening Meditation is former UN Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller, who often attended the Peace Meditation Programmes at the UN.

### Unifying Tone at Religion Parliament in Chicago

Symbolizing the spirit of the Parliament of the World’s Religions, spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy offered a silent meditation at the opening of the main plenary session Aug. 28. His message of prayerful silence transcended religious dogma and became a unifying element for the nine-day conference that brought together leaders of every major religion in the world. The conference, held at Chicago’s Palmer House, was the first such interfaith gathering in 100 years. The Indian spiritual leader came to Chicago in the spirit of his predecessor. Swami Vivekananda, who had also carried the message of universal oneness and brotherhood to the Chicago religious parliament in 1893. On the first day of the Parliament, Sri Chinmoy led a five-minute silent meditation before several thousand Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and others. The following morning, Aug. 29, he offered a sunrise peace concert at the main meeting hall.

Afterwards, **Ananda Guruge, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the U.S. and President for Sri Lanka of the World Fellowship of Buddhists**, came to the podium and presented Sri Chinmoy with a book. He then read out his dedication to the Master: “You are one of the rarest gifts that humankind of the 21st century has. May I wish that your services would continue forever.”

**39 peace concerts dedicated to Swami Vivekananda:** Sri Chinmoy had great respect and admiration for Vivakananda and Ramakrishna. in 1993 he began a series of 39 peace concerts dedicated to Swami Vivekananda, who electrified the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago 100 years ago with his message of universal brotherhood. **CHICAGO CONCERT ENDS ‘VIVEKANANDA’ SERIES** -A major performance at Chicago’s Rosemont Horizon on Sept. 28 ended the series of 39 peace concerts Sri Chinmoy had been dedicating to Swami Vivekananda. The 19th century Indian teacher, who died at the age of 39, had electrified the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago 100 years ago with his message of universal brotherhood.

– condensed excerpt from Anahata Nada Aug – mid Dec 1993



Events: 3-09 draft 2021-01-03jan "Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY" - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**12 Sep 1993 Interfaith service at Islamic Cultural Center of N.Y, for open of UN General Assembly**

12 Sep 1993 Sri Chinmoy offered the opening prayer at an interfaith service held at the Islamic Center of New York organised by Father Luis M. Dolan in honour of the upcoming opening of the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly on 21 September, 1993

Note may want to reconfirm date in September, since one publication : Anahata Nada issue of Aug- Mid-Dec had as 12 Sep. Maybe one account just reversed number if should be 21 or 12?.

Sri Chinmoy "meditated at the inauguration of the new Manhattan headquarters for the U.S. branch of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on Sept. 11 ... The following day he gave the opening meditation at an interfaith NGO prayer service held at New York's Islamic Cultural Center to mark the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.." from ANAHATA NADA VOLUME 23 AUGUST-MID-DECEMBER 1993



*At the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, Guru is shown with (left to right) Father Luis Dolan, Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, and the Jain master Acharya Sushil Kumar.*

**21 Sep 1993 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast commemorating UN International Day of Peace.**

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast for the opening of the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly and the International Day of Peace, hosted by H.E. Ambassador Emilio Cardenas, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN – 21 September

**INVITATION**

The Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations H.E. Dr. Emilio J. Cardenas requests the honour of your presence at an interfaith Prayer Breakfast commemorating the United Nations International Day of Peace at' Labouisse Hall, UNICEF Building, Three United Nations Plaza (44th Street near First Avenue), Tuesday, 21 September 1993, 9.15 a.m. (following the Peace Walk) In cooperation with Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations





1994

**20 Sep 1994 Peace Walk + Prayer Breakfast for Int'l. Day of Peace & 50th Anniversary UN General Assembly**

The prayer breakfast, included brief prayers and remarks by members of six religions. Sri Chinmoy opened the event with a silent meditation. The breakfast is held annually in conjunction with an early morning “Peace Walk through the streets of Manhattan by U.N. delegates and staff carrying their national flags.

The Peace Walk is one of more than 70 similar events held worldwide, coordinated in cooperation with the Meditation Croup, to commemorate the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast held at UNICEF House, New York, in conjunction with global Peace Walks on the International Day of Peace, 20 September 1994.

The Prayer Breakfast was hosted by H.E. M. Jacques Louis Boisson, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations. It was *attended by ambassadors and UN staff.*



The Prayer Breakfast and New York Peace Walk were cosponsored by "Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations" in cooperation with the heads of Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Grenada, Moldova, Namibia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia.

Attended by the ambassadors and UN staff members from many countries including: Russia, Germany, Italy, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Chile and Yugoslavia,

The breakfast included brief remarks by representatives of different religions. It followed a three-mile "Peace Walk" through the streets of Manhattan in the early hours of the morning by UN delegates and staff holding aloft their own national flags.

The Peace Walk is annual event inaugurated in 1986 in honor of the International Year of Peace. It is an opportunity for people of all nations, cultures and religions to concentrate on the qualities within **the human spirit which form the foundation upon which lasting peace can be built.**

HINDUISM  
Swami Tathagathananda  
Leader  
The Vedanta Society of New York

ISLAM  
Imam Ahamed Kabeer and Maryam Kabeer  
Sheikh Bawa Muhaiwadddeen Mosque, Philadelphia

JUDAISM  
Rabbi Lia Bass  
CLAL-Dorot Fellow  
National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

The Leaders in Prayer will be introduced by  
Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen  
Executive Director  
The Project on Religion and Human Rights

Breakfast will be served.

\*\*\*

Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else's God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other's faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other's faith in God as one's own.

- Sri Chinmoy

### 01 Oct 1994, U Thant Peace Award presented to Mother Teresa

U Thant Peace Award presented to Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Laureate, 1979 (Rome, 1 October 1994)

**Mention from text of award and possibly other background**



Sri Chinmoy first me Mother Teresa in 1975 at Interfaith event for UN 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium,

### 28 Oct 1994 Coretta Scott King and Sri Chinmoy share Harmony Award in NY

Here or in section honoring individuals? 3-06? Or mention main pogramme cross refence to first meeting 1977 event

On October 28th, 1994 both Sri Chinmoy and Mrs. King were honoured with the Gandhi Award by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA. Both were praised for their contributions to peace in our world. The presentation took place in New York. Coretta Scott King is President and Chief Executive Officer Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change  
See also [photo and report in Huston Chronicle](#) :



[Mrs King and Sri Chinmoy had previously met at the United nations in 1977.](#) At that time Mrs. Scott King joined a host of diplomats at the United Nations in paying homage to her late husband on the 10th anniversary of his assassination, November 29th, 1977. Sri Chinmoy, Leader of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN which sponsored the 1977 programme, opened the ceremony with a short meditation. He had also composed three songs about Martin Luther King which the Meditation Group sang.



To Mrs. King, Sri Chinmoy said, "in you I see the living presence of our beloved brother."

## 1995

### Dec 1995, Oneness-World Peace-Blossoms: Meditation at UN 25th, Messages from the Vatican

**Editors : Might consider this as insert where there is mention of programs with the Vatican at UN if not t specific date 1972 and 1987**

*Statements and tributes from the international community on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of*

**Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at The United Nations.** This is Part (c) Messages from the Vatican





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| <p>” This meeting of ours has been most essential. Your message and mine are the same. When we both leave this world, you and I, we will meet together.” - Pope Paul VI, 22 March 1972</p> | <p>“I am very grateful for your visit. God bless you and all your contemplative activities.”<br/>Pope John Paul II<br/>14 October 1987</p> |
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1996

**11 Sep 1996 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast for 51st Session UN General Assembly**

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast for the opening of the 51st Session of the UN General Assembly, hosted by H.E. Ambassador Robert H. Millette, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN – 11 September 1996

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| <p>SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR THE OPENING OF THE 51ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 11 September 1996</p> <p><b>Programme</b></p> <p><b>Musical Invocation</b> Premik Russell Tubbs<br/> <b>Master of Ceremonies</b> Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen<br/> <b>Silent Meditation</b> All present<br/> <b>Song for Peace</b> The Singers of the Peace Meditation<br/> <b>Welcome</b> H.E. Mr. Robert E. Millette Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations</p> <p><b>The Leaders in Prayer:</b><br/> <b>BUDDHISM</b> The Venerable Phra Maha Thawin Pukhao Abbot Wat Buddha Thai Thavornvanaram<br/> <b>CHRISTIANITY</b> Sister Eileen Storey, S. C.; Director Aletheia School of Prayer<br/> <b>HINDUISM</b> Dr. Uma Mysorekar President Hindu Temple Society of North America.</p> |  <p>SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST<br/>FOR THE OPENING OF THE 51ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>11 September 1996</p> <p>Programme</p> <p>Musical Invocation Premik Russell Tubbs<br/> Master of Ceremonies Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen<br/> Silent Meditation All present<br/> Song for Peace The Singers of the Peace Meditation<br/> Welcome H.E. Mr. Robert E. Millette Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations</p> <p>The Leaders in Prayer:</p> <p>BUDDHISM<br/> The Venerable Phra Maha Thawin Pukhao<br/> Abbot<br/> Wat Buddha Thai Thavornvanaram</p> <p>CHRISTIANITY<br/> Sister Eileen Storey, S. C.<br/> Director<br/> Aletheia School of Prayer</p> <p>HINDUISM<br/> Dr. Uma Mysorekar<br/> President<br/> Hindu Temple Society of North America</p> |
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| <p><b>ISLAM</b> Dr. Osman Abdul Rahman, Senior Imam Islamic Cultural Center of New York<br/> <b>JUDAISM</b> Mark Sameth, Rabbinical Intern Congregation B’nai Jeshurun</p> <p><b>Closing Musical Invocation</b><br/> <i>Breakfast will be served</i></p> <p>Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else’s God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other’s faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other’s faith in God as one’s own.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">– Sri Chinmoy</p> |  <p>ISLAM<br/> Dr. Osman Abdul Rahman<br/> Senior Imam<br/> Islamic Cultural Center of New York</p> <p>JUDAISM<br/> Mark Sameth<br/> Rabbinical Intern<br/> Congregation B’nai Jeshurun</p> <p>Closing Musical Invocation<br/> <i>Breakfast will be served.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else’s God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other’s faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other’s faith in God as one’s own.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">– Sri Chinmoy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> |
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## 21 Nov 1996 Interfaith Ceremony presents 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving to Secretary-General

Is this covered earlier? – use cross reference – with different photo more detail in one place. Here?

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reads out statement (see text in Press release below) upon receiving the 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving. Representatives of different cultures and religions attended the Headquarters ceremony.



USE TEXT from PART 2 page 42 : On 21 November 1996, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali offers remarks at an Interfaith presentation of the 1996 Declaration of World, Thanksgiving. Sri Chinmoy (Third from the left) joins interfaith leaders in reading from the Declaration during the ceremony, which took place in front of the Norman Rockwell "Golden Rule" Mosaic at UN Headquarters. Inscribed with "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", the Mosaic was a gift from the United States for the 40th anniversary of the UN in 1985, made possible by the Thanks-Giving Foundation.

(UN7691912 UN Photo/Ron da Silva) Peter Stewart, Founder of Thanksgiving Square is on left.

All participants from the left: Mr. Peter Stewart; Mr. Masaichi Kamiya, Sri Chinmoy, Rabbi Joseph H. Gelberman,; Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Father Luis M. Dolan, C.P.; Imam Abdel-Rahman Osman, Dean James Parks Morton,

Next detail not needed?

**Thursday, 21 November 21, 2:45-3:00 PM General Assembly Building, 3rd Floor "Golden Rule" Mosaic** Chairman: H.E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Founder of Thanksgiving Square: Mr. Peter Stewart Liaison: Father Luis M. Dolan, C.P.

**Check if using this UN photo or other from Bhashwar or Danhu**



The coordination and collection of all the signatures was facilitated by the ThanksGiving Foundation and Center for World Thanksgiving in Dallas Texas.



UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali greets Sri Chinmoy at an interfaith gathering at the UN headquarters in NY on Nov 21. The presentation of the 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving, signed by men and women of different faiths and cultures from around the world was at this event..



Sri Chinmoy also presented the Secretary-General with a book after the ceremony 21 November

see also highlight from 2015 Nov 22: Thanksgiving Highlight to UN AV Library 2015 Nov 22



Front Page for the United Nations AV Library 22 Nov 2015 Highlight in the Holiday Spirit the 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving Presented to Secretary- General See also Interfaith Ceremony presents 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving to Secretary-General: Nov 21 [Audio from 1996 event:](https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/1034/1034042/) <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/1034/1034042/> [Video from 1996 Event:](https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2494/2494648/) <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2494/2494648/>



This statement should be prominent – especially for the highlighted text.

Press Release SG/SM/6113 25 November 1996

SECRETARY-GENERAL ACCEPTS DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING  
 1996 Statement by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 21 November, on receiving the text of the 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving in a ceremony at Headquarters: "I am pleased to accept this Declaration of World Thanksgiving. It has been **signed by men and women of different faiths and cultures, but its message is in the best United Nations tradition of international solidarity and concern for all humanity.** Thanksgiving in North America began more than 300 years ago as a harvest holiday. It has evolved in character, so that today we **celebrate not just food on the table, but blessings such as family, good health and freedom. It is also a time of humility, of remembering the less fortunate among us, those who are deprived of freedom, of food, of good health.**

There is a Thanksgiving custom that I find particularly moving. Some people live too far from their families to travel home for the holiday. Others find themselves away from home on business. Still others are lonely or homeless. But **for Thanksgiving, room is made at the table.** Be it a family dining room, neighbourhood restaurant or soup kitchen run by a religious or secular charity, efforts are made to see that **there are no orphans on Thanksgiving.**

The United Nations is also a home for the family of nations and a voice for the marginalized in society. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us also **remember the world's "orphans" — refugees and people living in poverty, particularly children — and the world's orphan conflicts too. And may the spirit of Thanksgiving prevail throughout the year.** \* \*\*\*\*



keep one of photos and caption



*Mrs. Betty May Stewart the Spouse of Peter Stewart, founder of thanksgiving foundation, is shown greeting Sri Chinmoy with mutual joy. The Stewart family were instrumental in coordinating efforts behind the declaration.. Mrs.Stewart always warmly welcomed representatives of the Meditation Group at the UN who traveled to the ThanksGiving Square Observances in Dalla Texas.*

1997

25 Apr 1997 Interfaith Service for Work of United Nations

On 25 April 1997, Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan (right, in front of flags) were honoured at a Solemn Interfaith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations held at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City.



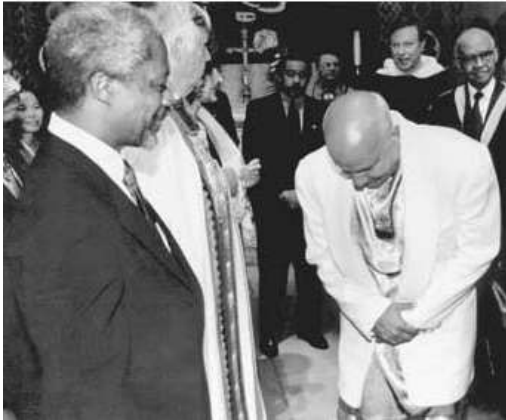
Interfaith Leaders with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan



Sri Chinmoy leads a silent prayer



Some twenty-five religious and spiritual leaders participated in the service. Sri Chinmoy (foreground), leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, is giving the silent invocation



Shown below: Secretary-General Annan is being greeted by Sri Chinmoy.



**INTERFAITH CELEBRATION**  
of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations to honour the Secretary General of the United Nations and Mrs. Nane Annan and to welcome H.E The Permanent Representative of the USA to the United Nations and Mrs. Barbara Richardson and All Permanent Representatives of the Member States to the United Nations Friday 25 April 1997 at 9:00 am St. Bartholomew's Church 'Park Ave, and 51st., New York City



**6 and 17 Jun 1997 Mother Teresa "Peace Birds" meetings**

MOTHER TERESA MEETS WITH SPIRITUAL FRIEND NEW YORK Mother Teresa on June 3 met with her good friend, Sri Chinmoy. Sri Chinmoy presented the 86-year-old Nobel Peace Laureate with a large glass sculpture carved with his 'Peace birds,' a tribute he entitled : "Mother Teresa: Humanity's Flower-Heart, Divinity's Fragrance-Soul." The Indian teacher visited the Catholic nun again on June 17, presenting her with a book he had written about her also titled: [Mother Teresa: Humanity's Flower-Heart, Divinity's Fragrance-Soul](#). During this meeting, Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN joined other of Sri Chinmoy's students and performed several songs their teacher had written about Mother Teresa and about the Christ. Both meetings took place at Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity House in the Bronx



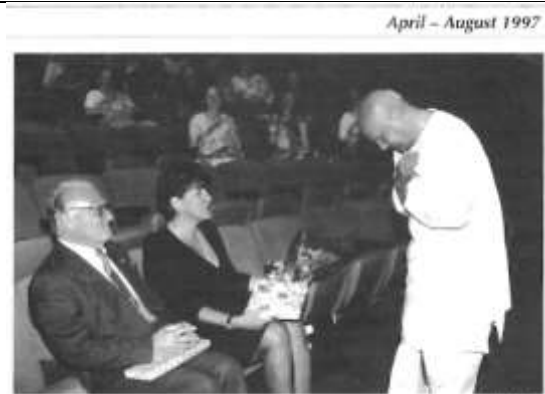
Years earlier, Sri Chinmoy and the Meditation Group at the UN had presented the [U Thant Peace Award to Mother Teresa, 1994 Oct 01 in Italy](#)

### 1 Jul 1997 Former ASG Robert Muller attends Peace Meditation at UN

UNITED NATIONS – Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller said he fulfilled a dream July 1 when he attended a meeting of 'Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations' with his new bride.

"After I got married, my dream was to have a blessing ... from the U.N., from the Meditation Group and from my admired and much beloved Sri Chinmoy," said Muller, who is now Chancellor of the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

He praised Sri Chinmoy "for giving this organization and staff a soul." – excerpt from "Anahata Nada": April – Aug 1997



*Sri Chinmoy offers his heart's love to former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller and his wife, Barbara.*

### 23 Sep 1997 Peace Concert dedicated to memory of Mother Teresa

On 23 September 1997 a Peace Concert dedicated to Mother Teresa was offered in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium of United Nations headquarters in New York. The event was hosted by H.E. Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. This is a transcript of the programme

**Ms. Vijaya Catherine Claxton**, Master of Ceremonies:



Welcome to this tribute to Mother Teresa. Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, Sri Chinmoy, who was born in Bangladesh, and Mother Teresa, who spoke fluent Bengali and who started her Missionaries of Charity in that part of the world, are bound together in a common love of humanity and peace. Ambassador Chowdhury has long been an advocate for a better world. We invite Ambassador Chowdhury to share with us his thoughts to begin the programme.





**H.E. Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury**, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations: Through her service to humanity, to the vulnerable, Mother Teresa has shown what commitment and dedication can accomplish. When we think of her, we think of purity and selflessness. Concern for the have-nots: that is Mother Teresa. Saintliness: that is Mother Teresa. She is a reminder to us that goodness is still acclaimed in this world. Mother Teresa is a constant reminder to each of us to make our best effort every day to become a better human being. I thank you all for joining us for this remarkable Peace Concert by Sri Chinmoy, who in his life has tried to emulate Mother Teresa




[Sri Chinmoy bows to the different photos of Mother Teresa that adorn the stage.]

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| <p>When he sees the picture of the Spiritual Summit Conference, sponsored by the Temple of Understanding, held at United Nations headquarters on 24 October 1975, he comments:] Here is Mother Teresa [pointing to her picture]. In 1975 she came and blessed this auditorium.</p> |  <p>She was seated right here [indicating a place on the stage]. I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to prayerfully offer her a rose. There were about 20 religious leaders, and after a brief meditation, I offered each of them a rose.</p> |  <p>Mother Teresa's successor, Sister Nirmala, offered a most prayerful, soulful and fruitful prayer-message [at Mother Teresa's funeral]: "God loved the world so much that He sent to us Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ loved us so much that He sent to us Mother Teresa." This is a momentous utterance that I have prayerfully set to music.</p> |
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|  <p>[Sri Chinmoy sings, accompanying himself on the harmonium.] [Sri Chinmoy then reads some excerpts from his second book about Mother Teresa.] Sri Chinmoy: I spoke to her on the phone from New York nine days before she left the world, on my birthday, the 27th of August.</p> |  <p>[The Peace Meditation choir sings three songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Mother Teresa, including one song written to her words. Members of the choir then recite aphorisms about Mother Teresa from Sri Chinmoy's book.]</p> |
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[Members of the audience are invited to offer their personal tributes or reflections on Mother Teresa.]

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| <p>Ms. Soraya Emami: I have been doing charity work since I was 15 years old. I always wanted to go and work closely with Mother Teresa, but because I was born a Muslim I was afraid that would create a problem. I received a call from Mother Teresa and she told me, "My child, you are more than welcome to come and work with me." When I went to Calcutta and spent three months working with her and with the beautiful Sisters, I experienced the joy of fulfilment and working wholeheartedly, which I had never experienced before. And she told me, "Anybody who wants to work with me, if you believe in God and have faith, that is all I need from you. I would rather that a good Muslim or a good Jew work with me than a Christian with no faith." I</p> |  |
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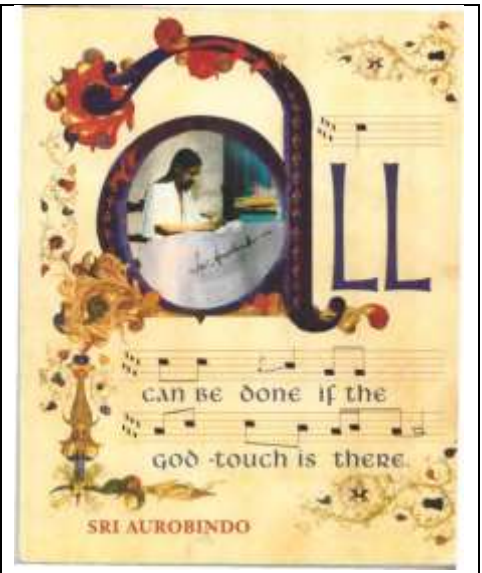
never felt more welcome in all my years in this kind of work as during the time I worked with Mother. I will never forget the five o'clock in the morning early meditation and prayer with her all those times. I carry with me the medallion she put over my head and the blessings she offered me the day I was leaving Calcutta last November. That is going to be the most valuable thing I leave for my children. Thank you, Mother, for making me the person I am today. Thank you.

1. the text and photos also appear in Sri Chinmoy, Mother Teresa: Humanity's Flower-Heart, Divinity's Fragrance-Soul, part 3, Agni Press, 1997

## 1997 All can be done - Lines from Sri Aurobindo's 'Savitri' Set to Music

**A book of selected mantric utterances from Savitri set to music by Sri Chinmoy**

The leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, Sri Chinmoy resided in the Sri Aurobindo Community in India for 20 years before he came to the West in 1964. In 1997 in Honour of Sri Aurobindo he set lines from the Savitri epic to Music. "Savitri" was Sri Aurobindo's last and greatest work. "All Can Be Done If the God-Touch Is There" COMPOSER'S PREFACE: Sri Aurobindo's last and greatest work is Savitri, the epitome of spiritual autobiography. An epic of 23,814 lines far surpassing in height, depth and length any epic in Greek, Latin, English, Italian or German, it is a New Veda for the New Age. A few selected mantric utterances from Savitri the prayerful singer-musician in me has set to music. see also links to lines with Savitri ["Book ?", and Canto ?] reference at: <http://www.srichinmoylibrary.com/acb> and <http://www.srichinmoysongs.com/all-can-be-done-if-the-god-touch-is-there> 79 mantric utterances from Sri Aurobindo's Savitri\*, published on 1997-11-12



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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Part A – Selections from 'Savitri' 1<br/>                 A blind god is not destiny's architect 3<br/>                 A cave of darkness guards the eternal Light 3<br/>                 A death-bound littleness is not all we are 4<br/>                 A few can climb to an unperishing sun 4<br/>                 A future knowledge is an added pain 5<br/>                 A giant dance of Shiva tore the past 5<br/>                 A huge extinction is not God's last word 6<br/>                 A Light there is that leads, a Power that aids 6<br/>                 A moment sees, the ages toil to express 7<br/>                 A thinking puppet is the mind of life 7<br/>                 A touch can alter the fixed front of Fate 8<br/>                 A traveller between summit and abyss 8<br/>                 All can be done if the God-touch is there 9<br/>                 All is miracle there and can by miracle change 9<br/>                 All is too little that the world can give 10<br/>                 All our earth starts from mud and ends in sky 10<br/>                 All rose from the silence; all goes back to its hush 11<br/>                 All things are real that here are only dreams 11<br/>                 All things hang here between God's yes and no 12</p> | <p>Men die that man may live and God be born 28<br/>                 Mind can never see the Soul of God 28<br/>                 Mind can never touch the body of Truth 29<br/>                 Mortality bears ill the eternal's touch 29<br/>                 My God is Love and sweetly suffers all 30<br/>                 Night is not our beginning nor our end 30<br/>                 Man can accept his fate, he can refuse 27<br/>                 Matter shall reveal the Spirit's face 27<br/>                 None can reach heaven who has not passed through hell 31<br/>                 Nothing all our own that we create 31<br/>                 Oh, surely one day he shall come to our cry 32<br/>                 One man's perfection still can save the world 32<br/>                 One man's perfection still can save the world 33<br/>                 Only a little the God-light can stay 33<br/>                 Only the pure in soul can walk in light 34<br/>                 Our dead selves come to slay our living soul. 34<br/>                 Our fate the child of our own acts 35<br/>                 Our human state cradles the future god 35<br/>                 Our life is a holocaust of the Supreme 36</p> |
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| <p>Although defeated, life must struggle on 12<br/>         An idiot hour destroys what centuries made 13<br/>         Beyond earth’s longitudes and latitudes 13<br/>         Blow your conch shells at the Eternal gate 14<br/>         But few are they who tread the sunlit path 14<br/>         By Light we live and to the Light we go 15<br/>         Death helps us not, vain is the hope to cease 15<br/>         Death is a passage, not the goal of our walk 16<br/>         Doom is not a close a mystic seal 16<br/>         Earth is the chosen place of mightiest souls 17<br/>         Earth must transform herself and equal Heaven” 17<br/>         Escape brings not the victory and the crown 18<br/>         Eternity speaks, none understands its word 18<br/>         Even the body shall remember God 19<br/>         Fate shall be changed by an unchanging will 19<br/>         For joy and not for sorrow earth was made 20<br/>         God found in Nature, Nature fulfilled in God 20<br/>         God shall grow up while the wise men talk and sleep 21<br/>         He who would save the world must share its pain 21<br/>         Table of Contents (cont.)<br/>         Heaven in rapture dreams of perfect earth 22<br/>         Heaven’s call is rare, rarer the heart that heeds 22<br/>         His failure is not failure whom God leads 23<br/>         I shall save earth, if earth consents to be saved 23<br/>         I wear the face ofKali when I kill 24<br/>         If Mind is all, renounce the hope of bliss 24<br/>         If Mind is all, renounce the hope of Truth 25<br/>         In absolute silence sleeps an absolute Power 25<br/>         In the beginning is prepared the close 26<br/>         Love is a yearning of the One for the One 26</p> | <p>Our life is a march to a victory never won 36<br/>         Out of the unknown we move to the unknown 37<br/>         Slowly the Light grows greater in the East 37<br/>         Space is himself and Time is only he 38<br/>         The day-bringer must walk in darkest night 38<br/>         The gods are still too few in mortal forms 39<br/>         The great are strongest when they stand alone 39<br/>         The humanin him paced with the Divine 40<br/>         The Life that fails and dies must live again 40<br/>         The life you lead conceals the light you are 4\<br/>         The One by whom all live, who lives by none 41<br/>         The soul in man is greater than his fate 42 ‘.&lt;r«<br/>         Table of Contents (cont.)<br/>         The soul that can live alone with itself meets God ,<br/>         .42<br/>         The spirit rises mightier by defeat .43<br/>         The world is real but ourselves too small ... ..43<br/>         There is a purpose in each stumble and fall .44<br/>         There is no perfect answer to our hopes .44<br/>         There is no rest for the embodied soul .45<br/>         To know is best, however hard to bear .45<br/>         Truth born too soon might break the imperfect<br/>         earth .46<br/>         We are greater than our thoughts .46<br/>         We are sons of God and must be even as he 47<br/>         While there, one is one’s own infinity .47<br/>         Whoever is too great must lonely live .48<br/>         Part 8 – Tributes to ‘Savitri’ 49<br/>         Devi Savitri 51<br/>         “Savitri ‘ (The Epic Divine) 53</p> |
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1998

**10 Sep 1998 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast – for Opening 53rd UN General Assembly**

*SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR THE OPENING OF THE 53RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

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| <p>10 September 1998<br/>                 Programme<br/> <i>Musical Invocation:</i> Premik Russell Tubbs<br/> <i>Master of Ceremonies:</i> Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen<br/> <i>Silent Meditation:</i> All present<br/> <i>Song for Peace:</i> The Singers of The Peace Meditation<br/> <i>Welcome:</i> H. E. M. Pierre Lelong Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations<br/> <i>The Leaders of Prayer:</i><br/>                 BUDDHISM The Venerable Ashin Indaka, Chief Monk, America-Burma Buddhist Association<br/>                 CHRISTIANITY The Reverend Dr. Johncy Itty, Associate for Human Rights The Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations<br/>                 ISLAM Imam Feisal Abdul-Rauf, Masjid ai-Farah, New York<br/>                 JAINISM Bawa P. N. Jain, Director of International and United Nations Affairs, The Interfaith Center of New York<br/>                 JUDAISM Rabbi Lia Bass, Temple Israel, White Plains<br/>                 AFRICAN TRADITIONAL Mme Nana Boakyewa Yiadom I, Envoy Overseas of the Chief of Chiefs of the Akwapea (Eastern Ghana) and Ohima (Queen Mother) in the Women’s Councils President, Pan-African Human Rights Organization<br/> <i>Closing Musical Invocation</i><br/>                 Breakfast will be served.<br/>                 §§§<br/>                 Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else’s God . Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other’s faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other’s faith in God as one’s own</p> |  <p>10 September 1998<br/>                 Programme<br/>                 Musical Invocation: Premik Russell Tubbs<br/>                 Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen<br/>                 Silent Meditation: All present<br/>                 Song for Peace: The Singers of The Peace Meditation<br/>                 Welcome: H. E. M. Pierre Lelong Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations<br/>                 The Leaders of Prayer:<br/>                 BUDDHISM<br/>                 The Venerable Ashin Indaka<br/>                 Chief Monk<br/>                 America-Burma Buddhist Association<br/>                 CHRISTIANITY<br/>                 The Reverend Dr. Johncy Itty<br/>                 Associate for Human Rights<br/>                 JAINISM<br/>                 Bawa P. N. Jain<br/>                 Director of International and United Nations Affairs<br/>                 Temple Israel, White Plains<br/>                 AFRICAN TRADITIONAL<br/>                 Mme Nana Boakyewa Yiadom I<br/>                 Envoy Overseas of the Chief of Chiefs of the Akwapea (Eastern Ghana) and Ohima (Queen Mother) in the Women’s Councils<br/>                 President, Pan-African Human Rights Organization<br/>                 Closing Musical Invocation<br/>                 Breakfast will be served.<br/>                 §§§<br/>                 Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else’s God . Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other’s faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other’s faith in God as one’s own</p> |
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**16 Sep 1998 Interfaith Celebration,– Commitment to Work of UN**

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| <p>Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations attended an Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations, St. Bartholomew's Church Park Avenue at 51st Street New York City Wednesday, 16 September 1998</p> <p>The founder of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN, Sri Chinmoy, led a Silent Prayer during the observance</p> <p>The Interfaith Center of New York in association with The Temple of Understanding coordinated the event.</p> |  <p>The Interfaith Center of New York<br/>in association with<br/>The Temple of Understanding</p> <p><b>An Interfaith Celebration<br/>of Commitment<br/>to the<br/>Work of the United Nations</b></p> <p>St. Bartholomew's Church<br/>Park Avenue at 51st Street<br/>New York City</p> <p>Wednesday, 16 September 1998<br/>8:47 - 10:00am</p> | <p><b>Call for Readings (8:47)</b></p> <p><b>Invocation:</b> The Reverend William Clark, The Bishop of Rochester's Church</p> <p><b>Announcements:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Pope John Paul II, The Pope of Understanding</p> <p><b>Human Rights Statement:</b> The Secretary-General of the United Nations</p> <p><b>Reading: Universal Declaration of Human Rights:</b> Pope John Paul II</p> <p><b>Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 10:29-34</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, The Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> |
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|  <p>ny355-SG-Kofi-annan-sri-chinmoy-confirm-1997.-1998-99-or-other-interfaith-date.</p> | <p><b>Christian Prayer:</b> His Eminence Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor, New York</p> <p><b>Christian Reading:</b> The Rev. Richard D. Ryan, The Bishop of Rochester's Church</p> <p><b>Islamic Reading:</b> Imam Abdul Aziz, Imam Abdul Aziz, Imam Abdul Aziz</p> <p><b>Islamic Prayer:</b> Imam Abdul Aziz, Imam Abdul Aziz, Imam Abdul Aziz</p> <p><b>Hindu Reading:</b> Swami Chakraborty, Swami Chakraborty, Swami Chakraborty</p> <p><b>Sikh Prayer:</b> Dr. Rajwinder Singh, Dr. Rajwinder Singh, Dr. Rajwinder Singh</p> <p><b>Judaic Prayer:</b> Rev. Rabbi, Rev. Rabbi, Rev. Rabbi</p> <p><b>Introduction to the Secretary-General of the United Nations:</b> Secretary-General Kofi Annan</p> <p><b>Remarks, The Secretary-General of the United Nations:</b> Secretary-General Kofi Annan</p> <p><b>Ugandan Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Devotional:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Silent Prayer:</b> Sri Chinmoy, Sri Chinmoy, Sri Chinmoy</p> <p><b>Word of Thanks:</b> Sri Chinmoy, Sri Chinmoy, Sri Chinmoy</p> <p><b>Organ Prelude:</b> Organ Prelude, Organ Prelude, Organ Prelude</p> <p><b>Relating Proceedings:</b> Organ Prelude, Organ Prelude, Organ Prelude</p> | <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan, Rev. Canon Robert J. Ryan</p> |
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17 May 1998 U Thant Peace Award Presented to His Holiness Pope John Paul II

THE U THANT PEACE AWARD is a symbolic presentation by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the UN to individuals or organisation. whose distinguished accomplishments toward the attainment of world peace reflect the lofty spiritual ideals of the late UN Secretary-General. See more about the awards and honorees in Part 3 -06 Honoring individuals

On Sunday, 17 May 1998, Sri Chinmoy presented the U Thant Peace Award to His Holiness Pope John Paul II for his unparalleled efforts on behalf of peace for the peoples of the, world. The presentation took place at the Vatican on th eve of the Pontiffs 78th birthday.

The following morning Sri Chinmoy performed a Peace Concert at the Church of Santa Maria in the Vatican. At the start of the concert Sri Chinmoy offered the following soulful dedication to the Pope. "TODAY'S PEACE CONCERT we are most devotedly offering to the Holy Father. We are praying to the Holy Father to bless all of us on this most auspicious occasion. May his birthday illumine each and every human being on earth. I pray to our Absolute Lord Supreme, out of His infinite Bounty, to keep the Holy Father in his physical body for quite a few years more. Each day the Holy Father brings to the world a new hope and a new promise for the betterment of humanity. May we all feel our Holy Father's blessingful presence as we dedicate prayerfully and soulfully our Peace Concert to him."



Sri Chinmoy Presents the U Thant Peace Award to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, 17 May 1998

“Each day the Holy Father brings to the world a new hope and a new promise for the betterment of humanity, - Sri Chinmoy

## 27 April 1998 “The Challenge of Diversity” Address by UN SG, Kofi Annan

Talk at on Diversity published in 1998 Sep issue of Med at the UN.

“The Challenge of Diversity” Keynote Address by the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. 30 April 1998 Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke about "The Challenge of Diversity" in the Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Memorial Lecture at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York. His lecture was the keynote address in an event organised by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/1998/19980427.SGM6541R.html>

see revised text adjusted after delivery

“There is a basic affinity between the teachings of the great religions of the world and the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,” -Secretary-General Kofi Annan

So we have our work cut out for us. How can we fight discrimination? How can we promote diversity? How can we transcend, and ensure that faith becomes an enlightening and unifying reality? Let us remember what Elie Wiesel once told me:



The Secretary-General in a reflective mood at an interfaith ceremony held in the Synagogue on 30 April 1998.




"Faith elicits respect, and fanaticism provokes hate".I have come tonight to speak up: for diversity. And I have come to speak up for the religious and spiritual dimension of our work at the United Nations. I said upon my return from Iraq that we should never underestimate the power of prayer. When we speak up, when we pray, individually and collectively, with one voice or with a multitude of voices, we can overwhelm the sounds of war. If we can overcome the seeds of intolerance, we can forge the peace and justice that is the birthright of every human being."

Full Text : **SECRETARY-GENERAL STRESSES RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS OF UN WORK, IN KEYNOTE ADDRESS 27 April 1998 Press Release SG/SM/6541/Rev.1\***  
<https://www.un.org/press/en/1998/19980427.SGM6541R.html>

1999

**09 Sep 1999 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast for Opening of 54th U.N. General Assembly**

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| <p><i>Programme</i></p> <p><i>Musical Invocation</i> Premik Russell Tubbs</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies</i> Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen</p> <p><i>Silent Meditation</i> All present</p> <p><i>Song for Peace</i> The Singers of The Peace</p> <p><i>Meditation</i></p> <p><i>Welcome</i> H. E. Dr. Peter Tornka<br/>Permanent Representative of Slovakia<br/>to the United Nations</p> |  |
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| <p><b>The Leaders in Prayer:</b></p> <p><b>BUDDHISM</b> The Reverend Dr. Chung Ok Lee, Head Minister, Won Buddhism of America</p> <p><b>CHRISTIANITY</b> The Reverend Dr. Elias D. Mallon, S. A., Director, The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute</p> <p><b>HINDUISM</b> Swami Amarnathananda, Bharat Sevashram Sangha of America (New Jersey)</p> <p><b>ISLAM</b> Aisha AI-Adawija, Founder and Director, Women in Islam</p> <p><b>JUDAISM</b> Sheldon Friedberg, Director, Institute for Christian-Jewish-Muslim Dialogue, Director of Community Relations and Interreligious Affairs, The National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ)</p> <p><b>Closing Musical Invocation</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast will be served</b></p> |  |
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INFORMATION ON THE PARTICIPANTS

HOST

H. E. Dr. Peter Tomka is the new Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations. An authority on international law, Dr. Tomka is a graduate of Charles University Law School in Prague. He has taught and done research at a number of universities and institutes and taken part in numerous important international conferences after beginning his career in his country's Foreign Ministry. Immediately prior to becoming Ambassador he served as Director-General for Legal and Consular Affairs and Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, and was Vice-Chairman of Legal Advisers on Public International Law in the Council of Europe. He also served as his country's acting Permanent Representative in 1994-1997. He has participated actively in the work of the Sixth Committee (Legal) at the United Nations, and among his many positions has served as Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court, Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



THE LEADERS IN PRAYER

AISHA AL-ADAWJA is Founder and Director of Women in Islam, a coalition of professional and social activist Muslim women focused on human rights and social justice. She is a founding member of the American Committee to Save Bosnia, a national advocacy organization in support of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, democratic Bosnia. She is a researcher at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where she is responsible for Islamic input for the Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Documentation Project. She is a board member and active in a number of Muslim organizations as well as women's and interfaith groups.

SWAMI AMARNATHANANDA is a member of the Hindu monastic order Bharat Sevashram Sangha, founded in India in 1917 by His Holiness Acharya Swami Pranavananda Maharaj. Swami Amarnathananda came to the United States from his native Calcutta in 1994 and currently serves as spiritual leader of the new center of Bharat Sevashram Sangha which he established in New Jersey. Swami Amarnathananda is the author of more than twenty books and several musical recordings, and frequently lectures on ancient Indian philosophy.

SHELDON FRIEDBERG is the Director of the Institute for Christian-Jewish-Muslim Dialogue and also Director of Community Relations and Interreligious Affairs at The National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ), founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He is active as a lay Jewish leader at Temple Beth Abraham in Brooklyn, where he performs many rabbinical duties though not ordained to the rabbinate. Mr. Friedberg is the retired Principal of Lafayette High School in Brooklyn, where he served for thirty years.

THE REVEREND CHUNG OK LEE is a Buddhist nun in the Won Buddhist tradition of Korea. She is the United Nations Representative of Won Buddhism International and is extensively involved in the activities of Religious NGOs and international interfaith organizations, serving on many boards and committees. She was President of the Committee of Religious NGOs in 1995-97. Chung Ok Lee is a sought-after conference speaker and the author of numerous articles. She received the Ph.D. in Education from New York University.

THE REVEREND DR. ELIAS D. MALLON, S. A. is Director of The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute based in New York. He is a leader in interfaith affairs nationally and internationally, with long involvement especially in Christian-Muslim dialogue. Dr. Mallon is a scholar of Semitic languages and Hebrew scriptures and received his doctorate from the Catholic University of America. He is a Catholic priest and a member of the Friars of the Atonement, a Franciscan order.



**My Religion**

*My religion Lovingly and cheerfully Bows to all the other religions, For each religion is a direct God-representative Here on earth.*

*My religion Deeply and equally values All the religions of the world, For it knows that each religion Is a beautiful, powerful And fruitful branch Of God's Life-Tree.*

*My religion Tells me that each religion Is assigned an important role In God's Cosmic Drama.*

*My religion Is not only in search of excellence In other religions, But also has discovered uniqueness In each and every religion.*

– Sri Chinmoy, My Religion (1999)



**16 Sep 1999 Interfaith Celebration Commitment to Work of UN, 54th General Assembly**

Sri Chinmoy offered a moment of silence at an Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to

If no better photo from day , just don't use photo

the Work of the UN, marking the opening of the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, with guests of honour Secretary-General Kofi Annan and GA President Theo-Ben Gurirab, held at St. Bartholomew's Church – 16 September 1999



## 24 Oct 1999 Seven Minutes of World Peace UN Day, World Wide

We Invite your participation in *Seven Minutes of World Peace on Sunday, 24 October – UN Day.*

Peace-lovers around the **world will observe seven minutes of silence for peace** at the same hour – the equivalent in your local area of 1 p.m. to 1:07 p.m. New York time (Eastern Daylight Time), or **17:00 to 17:07 Greenwich Mean Time.**

We would be grateful if you could *invite interested individuals and groups* in your area whom you feel may be receptive to this project to *either attend your observance or to hold their own separate observances of Seven Minutes of World Peace.*

**How to participate:** Observe seven minutes of silence individually or where members of your organization, community or the public at the time and place of your local observance. Please communicate the number of participants to the regional coordinator below.

**Commenti partecipanti:** Osservare individualmente ogni minuto di silenzio, se ritenete che membri di una organizzazione, di una città o in un pubblico di lavoro o di studio o in un osservatorio localmente in ogni momento. Comunicare il numero dei partecipanti al coordinatore regionale, darli il nome, l'età e il sesso.

**Como participar:** Observar siete minutos de silencio individualmente o conjuntamente a los miembros de un organismo, comunitario o al público en general, salvo en la hora y el lugar de un observatorio local, luego de la celebración, le solicitamos observar al coordinador regional, indicando tiempo, la cantidad de participantes, de su grupo.

**Como participar:** Observar sette minuti di silenzio individualmente o collettivamente a tutti i membri di un'organizzazione, comunitaria o al pubblico in generale, salvo in base a un luogo o un osservatorio locale, dopo la celebrazione, le chiediamo di osservare al coordinatore regionale, indicando tempo, la quantità di partecipanti, di un gruppo.

**Wie können Sie teilnehmen?** Nehmen Sie sieben Minuten des stillen Beobachten alleine oder unter der die Mitglieder Ihrer Organisation, Ihrer Gemeinschaft oder der Öffentlichkeit über Sie und für die jeweiligen Koordinatoren in Kenntnis. Bitte teilen Sie bitte die Anzahl der Teilnehmer den regionalen Koordinatoren mit.

**Como participar:** Observar sete minutos de silencio individualmente ou participo conjuntamente, através do dia e local aos membros de um organismo. Em seguida, localize o seu local juntamente com o número de participantes ao coordenador regional abaixo.

Before you xerox  
(Local time, place and contact information.)

Seven Minutes of World Peace  
 2021-01-03 draft  
 17:00 to 17:07  
 United Nations Day  
 24 October

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| Peace<br><small>Seven Minutes of World Peace</small>      |
| Paix<br><small>Sept Minutes Pour la Paix Mondiale</small> |
| Paz<br><small>Siete Minutos de Paz Mundial</small>        |
| Pace<br><small>Sette Minuti della Pace Mondiale</small>   |
| Frieden<br><small>Sieben Minuten Weltfrieden</small>      |
| Paz<br><small>Siete Minutos de Paz Mundial</small>        |
| United Nations Day,<br>24 October                         |



Seven-min-generic-6-lang-3-fold-clock-map-inside\_1\_Page\_

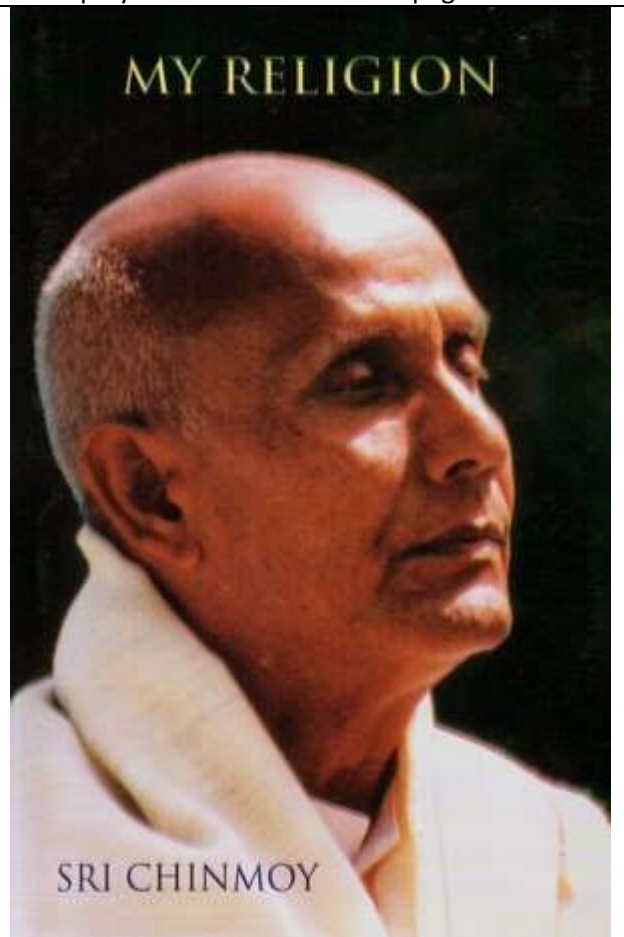
## 1999 Excerpts from inter faith book "My Religion" by Sri Chinmoy

Members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations come from various faith or belief traditions and experience. The 1999 Book written on the eve of the New Millennium by Sri Chinmoy, who leads the Peace Meditation Group, was well received by members, friends and others. Below are excerpts from inter faith book "My Religion". Many include poetic appreciation for the inspiring gifts of many approaches. The presentation below reflect some major faiths and is not exhaustive. full book at

<http://www.srichinmoyleibrary.com/mr>

Numbers on poems refer to order in 1999 publication 100. *From all great religions I have learnt something Unique.*

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Sufism
- All Religions
  - Oneness – Peace
  - Love and God
  - Mind and Heart
- In The 21st Century ( Avery encouraging and hopeful message....)



| <b>Buddhism</b>   | <b>Christianity</b>  | <b>Hinduism</b>  |
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| 108. Buddhism<br>Has taught me how to be<br>Inseparably one<br>With infinite Compassion<br>And<br>Shed sleepless tears<br>For the suffering humanity. | 112 Christianity<br>Has taught me how to acquire<br>The art of God-surrender<br>And world-forgiveness.                             | 101. Hinduism<br>Has taught me the art<br>Of tolerance, silence, poise and<br>peace.   |
| 109. Buddhism says<br>Mortification is not the right<br>way<br>To achieve enlightenment.  | 114. Simplicity, kindness<br>And forgiveness—These three<br>are<br>The most powerful branches<br>Of the life-tree of Christianity. | 102 “Know thyself”—This is the very<br>breath<br>Of Hinduism.  |
| 110 Buddhism says:<br>“Extremity serves no real<br>purpose;<br>Follow the middle path.  | 115. “The Kingdom of Heaven<br>Is within you”—This supreme<br>discovery of Christianity<br>Is both birthless and deathless.        | 103. Hinduism has told me<br>There is only one way to enjoy life,<br>And that is through renunciation.   |
|   | 116 Jesus Christ’s Sermon on<br>the Mount  | 104. “Lead me from untruth to Truth,<br>Lead me from darkness to Light,<br>Lead me from death to Immortality”<br>—This Hindu prayer has given me<br>My mind’s illumination-height, |

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| <p>There is no difference between Man and man. Cruelty against animals Is the height of ignorance-life. For liberation, forsake all allurements. Desire-life is synonymous With bondage-night.”<br/>111 Buddhism Blesses me with the message Of the ever-transcending Height And Ever-deepening Depth.</p> | <p>Is Eternity’s Unparalleled source of inspiration For the aspiring humanity. Mother Earth cried through his heart. Father Heaven smiled through his eyes.<br/>117. Humanity is humanity’s admiration-mind For Jesus of Nazareth. Humanity is humanity’s worship-heart For the Son of God.</p> | <p>My heart’s satisfaction-depth And My life’s liberation-length. 105. The Vedic seers of Hinduism Saw the universal beauty of life And became The transcendental fragrance Of its breath.<br/>107. Hinduism says, “O my brothers and sisters Of the world, As I feel safe in you, So do I hope That you will feel safe in me.”</p> |
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| <p><b>Islam</b><br/>118. Islam Has taught me how to acquire The art of God-reliance And God-sacrifice In sleepless eagerness.<br/>119. Islam Is the driving force nonpareil In propagating Equality-democracy-wisdom-light All the world over. This is the Islamic contribution To mankind.<br/>120. The supreme message of Islam Is: “There is no God but Allah.”<br/>121. Islam’s great prayer: “All praise be to God, The Lord of all the worlds, The Merciful, the Compassionate, The Master of the Day of Judgement. It is He who is wise, He who is powerful. Guide Thou us On the Path of Righteousness, The Path of those who rejoice in Thee, Not on that of those who ignore Thee And work injustice.”</p> | <p><b>Jainism</b><br/>126. Jainism Has taught me how to acquire The art of breathless self-discipline In the purest sense of the term And Concern not only for human beings But for each and every being, Even at the lowest status Of the soul’s evolution.<br/>127. Jainism tells me, “No asceticism, no salvation! Intense self-discipline Is of paramount importance Not earthly gratification, But Heavenly satisfaction!”</p> | <p><b>Judaism</b><br/>122 Judaism Has taught me That the art of constant God-remembrance And Earthly prosperity Are veritable Blessings from God.<br/>123. “Thou shalt love thy neighbour As thyself”– Conscious, constant and sleepless Heart-expansion Judaism offers to mankind.<br/>125. Love of God, service to God And manifestation of God Judaism was, is and forever shall be In an unprecedented way.</p> |
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| <p><b>Sufism</b><br/> 128. Sufism<br/> Has taught me<br/> That the outer dance<br/> Enraptures the Sufi<br/> seekers<br/> And<br/> The inner dance<br/> unifies,<br/> Reveals and<br/> manifests<br/> The Divinity of the<br/> lover<br/> And the Beloved all<br/> at once.<br/> 129. Islam is the<br/> flower-beauty<br/> And<br/> Sufism is the fruit-<br/> sweetness thereof.<br/> 130. The message of<br/> Sufism is<br/> Love, love, love.<br/> Everything has love<br/> And everyone is love.<br/> Sufism embodies<br/> love unfathomable,<br/> Ecstasy<br/> immeasurable.<br/> Nectar-delight<br/> Sufism spreads all-<br/> where.<br/> 131. Sufism plies its<br/> boat<br/> Between sweetness-<br/> shore<br/> And<br/> Soulfulness-shore.</p> | <p><b>All Religions</b><br/> 132. My ever-blossoming gratitude-heart<br/> I offer<br/> To each and every religion,<br/> While remaining a soulful singer<br/> Of the synthesis of all religions.<br/> 12 My religion Deeply and equally values<br/> All the religions of the world,<br/> For it knows that each religion<br/> Is a beautiful, powerful<br/> And fruitful branch<br/> Of God’s Life-Tree.<br/> 99. My religion<br/> Lovingly and cheerfully<br/> Bows to all the other religions,<br/> For each religion<br/> Is a direct God-representative<br/> Here on earth.<br/> 57. My religion<br/> Desires all religions,<br/> With no exception,<br/> To rest solely on God’s<br/> Compassion-Forgiveness-Pillows.<br/> 52. My religion Is not only in search of<br/> excellence<br/> In other religions,<br/> But also has discovered uniqueness<br/> In each and every religion<br/> 36. My religion<br/> Tells me that each religion<br/> Is assigned an important role<br/> In God’s Cosmic Drama.<br/> 80. My religion<br/> And all other religions<br/> Must pay tremendous attention<br/> To serve society for its improvement.<br/> 67. The belief of my religion<br/> In all religions Is<br/> A crystal-clear mountain-reality.</p> | <p><b>Oneness – Peace</b><br/> 81. My religion<br/> And all the religions of the<br/> world<br/> Have to sow the peace-seed<br/> For a reality-tree.<br/> 27 My religion Is<br/> My all-out effort<br/> To see goodness<br/> In each human being.<br/> 28. My religion Is<br/> My heart-dream<br/> To spread delight<br/> In the world-arena.<br/> 54. My religion Is<br/> To sound the depth<br/> Of my world-oneness-heart.<br/> 55. My religion Is<br/> A most powerful symphony<br/> Of universal brotherhood.<br/> 14 My religion Is<br/> The beauty and fragrance<br/> Of my world-union-heart.<br/> 51. The peak performance<br/> Of my religion<br/> Shall be the establishment<br/> Of world-harmony,<br/> Both in thoughts and deeds.<br/> 31 My religion Is<br/> The peace-popularity<br/> On the rise in the world.<br/> 70. My religion Has discovered<br/> God’s Footsteps<br/> Not in the vastness of the blue<br/> sky,<br/> But in the world-oneness<br/> Of my snow-white heart</p> |
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| – Love and God | Mind – Heart | In The 21st Century |
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| <p>1. My religion Is My God-love<br/>Unconditional.</p> <p>5. My religion Does not beg God<br/>To change God's Mind.</p> <p>6. My religion Prays to God<br/>To give my religion<br/>A new prayer:<br/>To please God in God's own Way.</p> <p>7. My religion Is complete<br/>Only when my love, devotion<br/>And surrender<br/>Are fully blossomed.</p> <p>8. My religion Lives<br/>In the growing, glowing<br/>And climbing<br/>Eternal Now.</p> <p>32 My religion Is<br/>My God-prayer and God-service<br/>For the betterment And enlightenment<br/>Of the world.</p> <p>44. My religion Is<br/>My life's streaming tears<br/>And beaming smiles<br/>For the betterment of humanity.</p> <p>60. My religion Tells me that<br/>No human being can ever be<br/>An ultimate failure-manifestation.</p> <p>46. My religion Expects each human<br/>being<br/>To play the role of<br/>A peace-dreamer And<br/>Peace-maker.</p> <p>64. The name of my religion Is<br/>Neither supremacy-peak<br/>Nor argument-volcano.</p> <p>76. My religion Has taught me<br/>That God's Eye is all-loving<br/>And God's Heart is all-giving<br/>And That He does not have<br/>A furrowed brow of disapproval.</p> <p>98. My religion Equally values<br/>The transcendental God-realisation<br/>And<br/>The universal God-manifestation.</p> | <p>23 My religion Is<br/>My world-division-mind-conquest.</p> <p>33 The silence-heart<br/>Of my religion<br/>Has answered all my mind's<br/>Age-old questions.</p> <p>29. My religion Is<br/>My happiness-heart<br/>Discovered in the Eye<br/>Of God the creation.</p> <p>14. My religion Loves<br/>God's Justice-Eye.<br/>My religion Loves<br/>God's Forgiveness-Heart<br/>Infinitely more.</p> <p>18 My religion Is My God-whisper-<br/>dedication<br/>To the heart-temple<br/>Of humanity.</p> <p>74 The heart-eye of my religion<br/>Every day<br/>Sees a brighter divinity<br/>On the horizon.</p> <p>60. My religion<br/>Tells me that<br/>If I always live in the heart,<br/>I shall never find<br/>God's telephone line busy.</p> <p>36. My religion Adores<br/>The rainbow-beauty<br/>Of the world-heart.</p> <p>43. My religion Is<br/>My heart's self-giving.</p> <p>50. My religion Is<br/>To sow the seed of love<br/>Deep in each human heart.</p> <p>62. My religion Tells me that<br/>If I feed only my mind<br/>And not my heart,<br/>Then my life will be compelled<br/>To limp.</p> <p>71. My religion Has taught me<br/>something Extremely significant:<br/>When the mind's obduracy goes,<br/>The heart's ecstasy blossoms.</p> | <p>134. To my great joy<br/>and relief,<br/>In the 21st Century,<br/>The Mother Goddess<br/>of Peace<br/>Will visit each and<br/>every earth-family<br/>To whisper and<br/>inspire<br/>The supreme<br/>necessity<br/>Of a oneness-world-<br/>family.<br/>Her persuasion of her<br/>children<br/>Will be founded upon<br/>Her all-disarming<br/>Smiles.<br/>God-receptivity-<br/>beauty<br/>And<br/>God-gratitude-<br/>fragrance<br/>Will cover the entire<br/>Length and breadth<br/>of the world.<br/>Tomorrow's<br/>humanity<br/>And<br/>Tomorrow's Divinity<br/>Will not only have<br/>infinitely more faith<br/>In each other,<br/>But also work<br/>together<br/>For humanity to<br/>arrive at the Heart-<br/>Door Of the Absolute<br/>Supreme And<br/>For Divinity to ring<br/>its Victory-Bell<br/>In the readiness,<br/>willingness<br/>And Eagerness-home<br/>Of humanity.</p> |
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2000

### 01 Jan 2000: International Year of Thanksgiving beginning


The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2000 as the International Year of Thanksgiving (IYT).

Members of the meditation Group were very involved with the early efforts in the UN community to celebrate International Days of Thanksgiving (starting in 1975) and World Gratitude Days (beginning in 1977). The Peace Meditation Group at the UN welcomed the recognition of Thanksgiving and Gratitude represented by the resolutions for 2000 by the UN General Assembly and others. There were special stamps and other initiatives in support for the International Year of Thanksgiving.



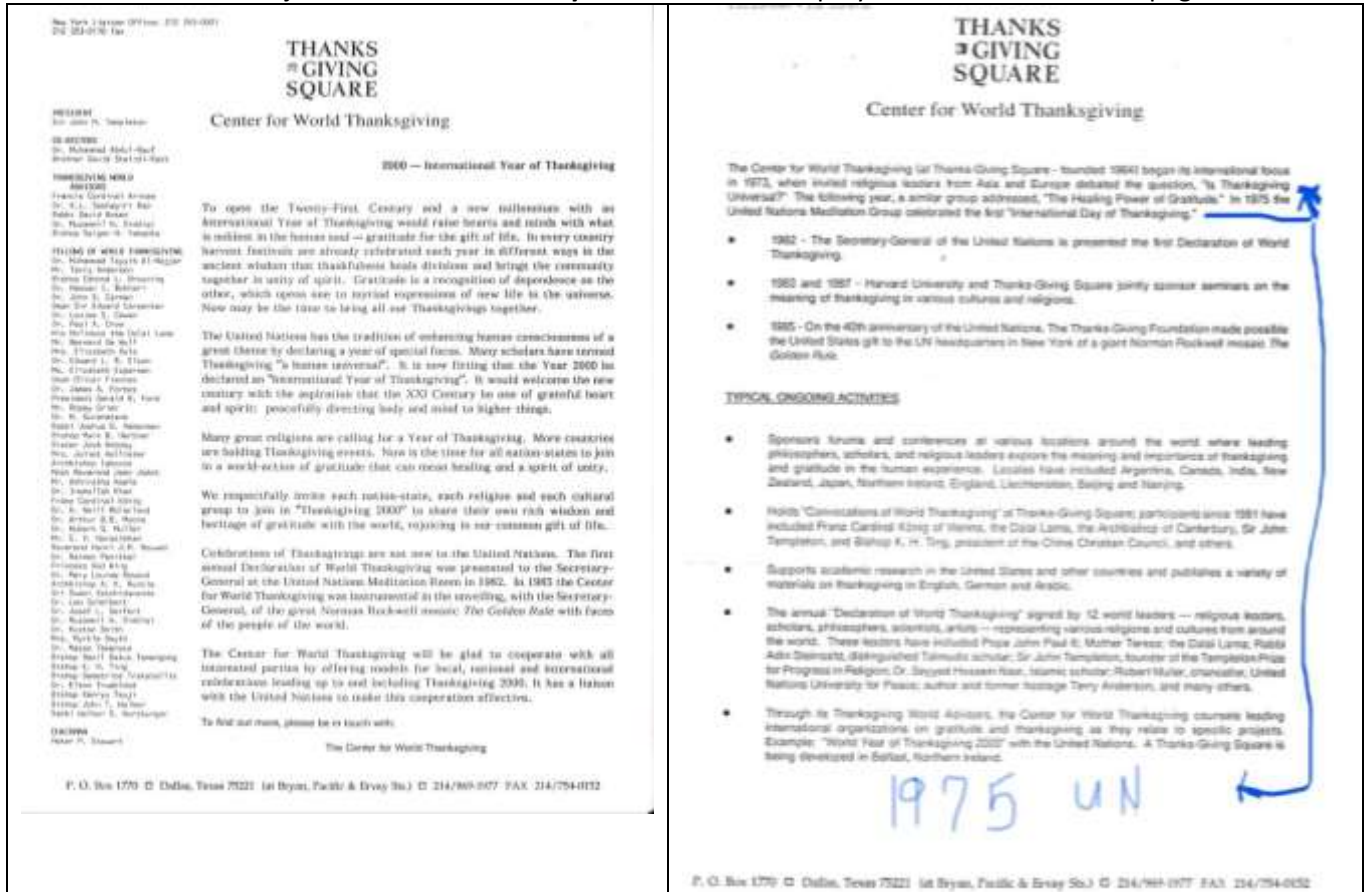
2000 was declared: International Year of Thanksgiving and International Year for the Culture of Peace

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| <p>UNITED NATIONS <span style="float: right;">A</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Assembly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date:<br/>GENERAL<br/>A/RES/52/14<br/>13 January 1998</p> <hr/> <p>Fifty-second session<br/>Agenda item 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b><br/>[without reference to a Main Committee (A/52/L.13 and Add.1)]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>52/14. International Year of Thanksgiving, 2000</b></p> <p>The General Assembly,<br/>Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/46 of 22 July 1997,<br/>Proclaims the year 2000 as the International Year of Thanksgiving.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">58th plenary meeting<br/>20 November 1997</p> | <p>UNITED NATIONS <span style="float: right;">A</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Assembly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date:<br/>GENERAL<br/>A/RES/52/15<br/>15 January 1998</p> <hr/> <p>Fifty-second session<br/>Agenda item 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b><br/>[without reference to a Main Committee (A/52/L.13 and Add.1)]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>52/15. Proclamation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace</b></p> <p>The General Assembly,<br/>Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997,<br/>Proclaims the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">58th plenary meeting<br/>20 November 1997</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">E/1997/97</p> <p><b>RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS<br/>OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL<br/>COUNCIL</b></p> <p><small>ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1997<br/>New York, 23 January and 4-7 February 1997</small></p> <p><small>RESUMED ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1997<br/>New York, 1 and 2 May 1997</small></p> <p><small>SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997<br/>Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997</small></p> <p><small>RESUMED SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997<br/>New York, 8 October and 16 and 18 December 1997</small></p> | <p><small>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL</small></p> <p><small>OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1997</small></p> <p><b>SUPPLEMENT No. 1</b></p>  <p><b>UNITED NATIONS</b><br/><small>New York, 1997</small></p> |
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| <p>1997/46</p> | <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>37th plenary meeting<br/>22 July 1997</i></p> <p><b>1997/46. International Year of Thanksgiving, 2000</b></p> <p><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p> <p><i>Considering</i> that the dedication of a year to the act of giving thanks gives us the opportunity to remember the fundamental importance of cultural diversity in the development of a rich and harmonious international life and that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as expressed in its Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian areas without creating any distinctions based on race, sex, language or religion,</p> <p><i>Convinced</i> that the observance of the year 2000 as an international year of thanksgiving within the United Nations will bring together the efforts of nations to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace,</p> <p><i>Mindful</i> that the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations includes the practice of tolerance as one of the principles that need to be applied to prevent war and maintain peace,</p> <p><i>Affirming</i> that this initiative will contribute to international cooperation by creating an awareness among peoples and Governments of the importance of gratitude, as</p> <p style="font-size: small;">09</p> | <p>much in the personal and civic life of every human being as in the relations between the countries and cultures of the world,</p> <p><i>Affirming also</i> that the proposal to begin the twenty-first century and the new millennium with an international year of thanksgiving to celebrate the gift of life as the most noble expression of the human spirit is intended to promote friendship and solidarity between nations,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Reaffirms</i> that such an expression of gratitude will bring together national and international efforts to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace and international cooperation;</li> <li>2. <i>Recommends</i> that the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, proclaim the year 2000 as International Year of Thanksgiving;</li> <li>3. <i>Invites</i> all Member States and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to do whatever they can in their respective areas of expertise to contribute to the preparations for the Year and to publicizing it.</li> </ol> |
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| <p>1997/47</p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>37th plenary meeting<br/>22 July 1997</i></p> <p><b>1997/47. International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000</b></p> <p><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p> <p><i>Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/173 of 22 December 1995, entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: towards a culture of peace", in which it expressed satisfaction with the transdisciplinary project, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Towards a culture of peace",<sup>210</sup></i></p> <p><i>Recalling also General Assembly resolution 51/101 of 12 December 1996 on a culture of peace, in which it called for the promotion of a culture of peace based on the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,</i></p> <p><i>Expressing its deep concern about the persistence and proliferation of violence and conflicts of a diverse nature in various parts of the world,</i></p> <p><i>Emphasizing the link between peace and development and the need for a culture of peace that can lead, through education, science and communication, to respect for all human rights and the promotion of democracy, tolerance, dialogue, reconciliation and solidarity, as well as to international cooperation and economic development, and thus to sustainable human development,</i></p> <p><i>Aware of the need to mobilize public opinion at the national and international levels for the purpose of establishing and promoting a culture of peace and the central role that the United Nations system could play in this regard,</i></p> <p><sup>210</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, <i>Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session</i>, vol. 1, <i>Resolutions</i>, sect. IV.</p> | <p><i>Bearing in mind the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, signed in Paris on 19 October 1995,</i></p> <p><i>Convinced that an international year for the culture of peace at the turn of the millennium would provide the opportunity to boost the efforts of the international community to establish and promote an everlasting culture of peace,</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Recommends that the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, proclaim the year 2000 as International Year for the Culture of Peace;</i></li> <li>2. <i>Also recommends that the programme of activities and the scope of the Year should focus on respect for cultural diversity and the promotion of tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation and should be based on activities at the national and international levels;</i></li> <li>3. <i>Further recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be designated as the focal point for the Year and should bear the responsibility for coordinating the inter-organizational aspects of the programmes and activities of the other bodies within the United Nations system and other organizations concerned and for mobilizing resources to meet the budgetary requirements for the Year;</i></li> <li>4. <i>Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1998, a report on the state of preparations for the Year to enable it to make appropriate proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.</i></li> </ol> |
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**10 Sep 2000 Peace Concert and Citation from interfaith "Pluralism Project", Harvard**  
 Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations attended a Peace Concert and citation presentation at Harvard University 10 Sept 2000

Sri Chinmoy gave a Peace Concert Sept. 10 at Harvard University. After the concert, **Professor Diani L. Eck\*** of the Comparative Religion and Indian Studies Department presented the spiritual leader with a **citation on behalf of the interfaith "Pluralism Project"** at Harvard University, which has been cataloguing America's religious diversity in an effort to bring together the different cultures and religions. *"Sri Chinmoy sets for us all a standard of world citizenship," the citation said, referring to "his many contributions to the bridging of peoples and cultures in the service of peacemaking."* – from Anahata Nada: Mid-july 2000 – Mid-November 2000



\*Dr. Diana Eck is an authority not only on interfaith understanding but also on the religion and spirituality of India, she is Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University, and Founder and Director of The Pluralism Project. The Pluralism Project has recorded the new religious diversity of America and held high the need for us to embrace each other with all our differences. Diana Eck, who has claimed the cause of interfaith understanding as her very own, is a spiritual seeker to whom Sri Chinmoy declared on that memorable evening. ***"In you I see God-hunger in measureless measure."*** From UY draft for America book



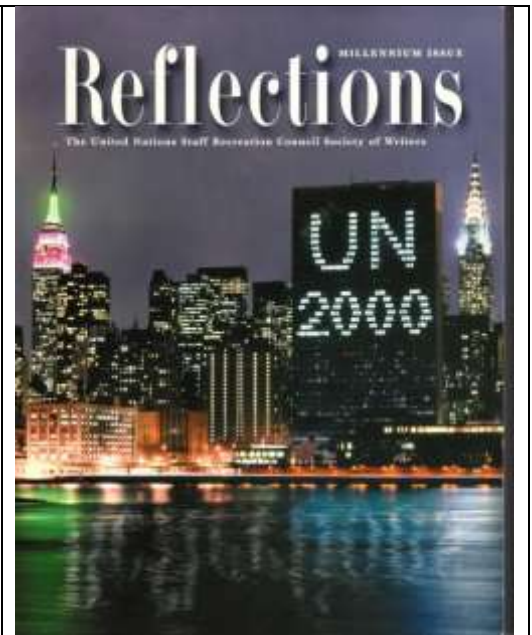
(Dr. Diana Eck, Director of The "Pluralism Project" at Harvard University with Sri Chinmoy on September 10, 2000.)

### 31 Aug 2000 Three 'Prayers for the Millennium – in UNSRC "Reflections Millennium Issue"

The UN Staff Recreation Council **Society of Writers** Publication **Reflections Millennium Issue** included the below offerings from Sri Chinmoy

#### SRI CHINMOY - Three 'Prayers for the Millennium

- In the New Millennium We shall learn something unprecedented: How to **accomplish invaluable things Without hurting a single human being.**
- *The fulfilment of the mind Has been the hope Of the past few centuries. Now the **fulfilment of the heart Will be the hope Of the next generation And of all generations to come.** Indeed, this will be a unique contribution Of the 21st Century to humanity.*
- *The New Millennium has commenced Its momentous journey today. From today on, I shall not offer My volcano-ambition to the world. I shall **offer the world Only my moonlit heart's Flaming aspiration.***



\*Sri Chinmoy, leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, is an internationally recognized spiritual figure who, through meditation, the arts and athletics, has served the cause of world peace for 36 years. He has written over 1,500 books of poetry, prose, essays and plays and is the recipient of the UNSRC Society of Writers Award of Excellence. 70,000 of his "Dream-Freedom-Peace-Bird" drawings were exhibited in the United Nations Headquarters 13-28 July 2000.




### 26 Sep 2000 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast – Honouring Millennium UN General Assembly

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| <p>SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST COMMEMORATING THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 26 September 2000</p> <p><i>Programme</i></p> <p><b>Musical Invocation:</b> Premik Russell Tubbs</p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen</p> <p><b>Silent Meditation:</b> All present</p> <p><b>Song for Peace:</b> The Singers of The Peace Meditation</p> <p><b>Welcome:</b> H. E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury<br/>Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations</p> <p><b>The Leaders in Prayer:</b></p> <p>BUDDHISM The Venerable Ashin Sayadaw Indaka,<br/>Chief Monk America-Burma Buddhist Association</p> <p>CHRISTIANITY Dr. Carol Zinn, S. S. J.<br/>Education Program Director, Global Education Associates; Main UN Representative, Congregations of St. Joseph</p> <p>HINDUISM Manoranjan Chakravorty. President Sreemadbhagbad Gita Sangha</p> <p>ISLAM Al-Haj Moulana Mirza Abu Jafar Beg<br/>Imam Jamaica Muslim Center</p> <p>JUDAISM Rabbi Ezra M. Finkelstein<br/>Rabbi Emeritus Midway Jewish Center</p> <p><b>Closing Musical Invocation</b><br/><i>Breakfast will be served.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>THE HOST</i></p> <p>AMBASSADOR ANWARUL KARIM CHOWDHURY is Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, a position he has held since 1996. He is Bangladesh's representative to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2000-2001, Chairman of the Security Council Committee on Sierra Leone and President of UNICEF's Executive Board. A career diplomat, Ambassador Chowdhury specializes in UN and multilateral affairs, with special focus on economic, development and social issues. He served as Chairman of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the 52nd Session of the UN General Assembly and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the five-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at the 1999 Special Session of the UN General Assembly. He also served two terms as Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. His leadership resulted in the proclamation by the UN of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace and the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. Ambassador Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and the UNESCO Gandhi Award.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>THE LEADERS IN PRAYER</i></p> <p>AL-HAJ MOULANA MIRZA ABU JAFAR BEG is the Imam of the Jamaica Muslim Center/Masjid Al-Mimbar in Queens, where he has served the Muslim community for the last seven years. A native of Barisal, Bangladesh, he attended the University of Dhaka. He did graduate work at the University of Baghdad, followed by seven years of Islamic studies at the Zamul Ummul Quara in Mecca. Returning to Dhaka, he was Imam at a major mosque of that city for seven years before coming to New York.</p> <p>MANORANJAN CHAKRAVORTY is the President of the Sreemadbhagbad Gita Sangha in New York. He is originally from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and came to the United States in 1986 after working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Gita Sangha, established in 1997, is devoted to the practice and promotion of the Sanatana Dharma, or Hinduism, and the education of the next generation in their religious tradition. The Gita Sangha, serving the Bengali-speaking community of New York, holds regular readings and classes on the Bhagavad Gita, chanting, celebration of Hindu holy days and also conducts services in the homes of the devotees.</p> <p>RABBI EZRA M. FINKELSTEIN is Rabbi Emeritus of the Midway Jewish Center in Syosset, New York. A native New Yorker, he is a graduate of Columbia University and the School of International Affairs at Columbia University. He was ordained as Rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has served the Conservative Movement in Judaism in the pulpit and organizationally for the last thirty-nine years. He was most recently a Senior Advisor to the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders which took place at the United Nations and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on August 28-31 of this year.</p> <p>THE VENERABLE ASHIN SAYADAW INDAKA is the Head Monk of the America-Burma Buddhist Association. Born in Myanmar, he was ordained as a Buddhist monk at the age of twenty and is a member of the Shwegun Sect of Buddhism, the second largest Buddhist group in his country. He came to the United States in 1982 and served for one year at the Buddhist Temple in Nashville, Tennessee before coming to New York. He is a graduate of the City University of New York with a B. A. in Religion. The Venerable Indaka is a teacher of Mahast Vipassana meditation and is active in the interfaith movement.</p> <p>DR. CAROL ZINN, S. S. J., is a Sister of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. She is presently Education Program Director of Global Education Associates, an international Non-Governmental Organization working to further global systemic change. She also serves as Main Representative at the United Nations of the Congregations of St. Joseph, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC. A graduate of Chestnut Hill College, Pennsylvania, she holds the M. A. in Theology from St. Bonaventure University and completed her doctorate in Curriculum Development and Educational Foundations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She travels extensively offering workshops, seminars, and retreats for groups in different sectors, and is the recipient of a research fellowship from the Association on Religion and Intellectual Life (ARIL).</p> |
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*Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else's God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other's faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other's faith in God as one's own. — Sri Chinmoy*

## 2000 ? Former ASG Robert Muller attends Aspiration Ground Meditation Garden in Queens

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| <p>Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller and His wife Barbara came to Queens to visit Sri Chinmoy and the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations. The event was held at Aspiration Ground Meditation park the is within a mile Sri Chinmoy's residence in Queens</p> | <p>Different Photo of day with Quotes from Dr Muller and or some excerpt of intro.</p>  |
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Maybe link to 1997 meeting and photo when said: UNITED NATIONS - Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller said he fulfilled a dream July 1 when he attended a meeting of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations' with his new bride. "After I got married, my dream was to have a blessing ... from the U.N., from the Meditation Group and from my admired and much beloved Sri Chinmoy," said Muller, who is now Chancellor of the University for Peace in Costa Rica. He praised Sri Chinmoy "for giving this organization and staff a soul." As reported in Anahata Nada April – Aug 1997

2001

**6 Sep 2001 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast for opening of 56th Session UN General Assembly**

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|--|--|
| <p>SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS <b>INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST</b> FOR THE OPENING OF THE 56TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 6 September 2001</p> <p><b>Programme</b></p> <p><b>Musical Invocation</b> Premik Russell Tubbs</p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies</b> Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen</p> <p><b>Silent Meditation</b> All present</p> <p><b>Song for Peace</b> The Singers of The Peace Meditation</p> <p>HE. Dr. Anastase Gasana,<br/>Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>The Leaders in Prayer:</b></p> <p><b>BUDDHISM</b> The Reverend Susan Ji-on Postal, Founder and Teacher; The Reverend Jane Dai-on Shuman, The Empty Hand Zendo, Rye, New York</p> <p><b>CHRISTIANITY</b> Dr. Vince Comiskey and Jane Comiskey<br/>NGO Representatives Pax Christi International</p> <p><b>HINDUISM</b> Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati Founder. Arsha Vidya Ashram and Arsha Vidya Gurukulam</p> <p><b>ISLAM</b> Shayk Dr. Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Secretary Imams Council of New York;NGO Representative Admiral Family Circle Islamic Community</p> <p><b>JUDAISM</b> Yitzhak Buxbaum, Maggid and Author</p> <p><b>Closing Musical Invocation</b><br/>Breakfast will be served.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE HOST OF THE INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST</b></p> <p>His Excellency Dr. ANASTASE GASANA is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations. He received his Bachelor from the University and had a distinguished career before entering public service. A member of the Movement for Democracy (MDF) in Rwanda, he held a number of offices before being appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and also served as Ambassador to the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the United Kingdom of Lesotho, the United Kingdom of Malawi, the United Kingdom of Zambia and the United Kingdom of Zimbabwe. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Conflict Resolution Centre for Development in Africa.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE LEADERS IN PRAYER</b></p> <p><b>SHAYK DR. IBRAHIM ABDUL-MALIK</b> is the Secretary of the Imams Council of New York, and an NGO Representative for the Admiral Family Circle Islamic Community, an NGO with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC. He received his Ph.D. in Education from Howard University. As a volunteer activist to UNESCO he organized the first peace college in the Districts of Columbia. He has worked with the New York City school system and taught at Hunter College and City College of CUNY. Shayk Abdul Malik is a therapist and the director of the Center for Empowerment and Personal Growth. He is the author of several books.</p> <p><b>YITZHAK BUXBAUM</b> is a Maggid or traditional Jewish teacher and storyteller who specializes in spiritual, mystical and stories of the Hasidic tradition. He is the author of seven books on Jewish spirituality, including Jewish Spiritual Practices: An Open Heart; The Mystic Path of Loving Prayer; and Illuminating and Igniting the Soul. He teaches at the New School as well as in synagogues and Jewish centers. Yitzhak Buxbaum is a disciple of the renowned composer and spiritual teacher Rabin Malinovsky of Hassidic ancestry.</p> <p><b>VINCE</b> and <b>JANE COMISKEY</b> have organized the Catholic Peace Movement For Global Interfaith at the United Nations for a continuous total of seventeen years, providing leadership in education for peace and justice issues to the wider NGO community. Vince received his Ph.D. in Education at Rutgers University and has taught special education at Long Island University and Poughkeepsie University. He teaches at the Child Study Trust of the Rutgers, New Jersey, Office of Special Services. Jane is a Certified Yoga Practitioner and member of several yoga centers with the NCTJ committee of IYAFNY.</p> <p><b>SRI SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI</b> is an internationally renowned teacher of Vedanta in the tradition of Advaita Vedanta and Vedic Vedanta. He was one of the prominent Hindu teachers at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religions and Spiritual Leaders in 2000. The Arsha Vidya Ashram, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam and other centers he has established are based throughout India and abroad. Many of the students of Arsha Theosophy, inspired by him in concert he has designated, are now prominent and respected teachers of Vedanta Sampradaya. Among the prominent events he has supported and initiated is the All India Movement for Aroha, inaugurated in November 2000. This November to [10th] Tenth Dayananda will convene an interfaith conference to form a League for the Preservation of Religion Diversity.</p> <p><b>THE REVEREND SUSAN JI-ON POSTAL</b>, is the founder and teacher of the Empty Hand Zendo in Rye, New York. She was ordained as a Zen priest in 1986 by the late teacher, Master Myo-an Sogaku Kinjo of the Cambridge Buddhist Association. <b>THE REVEREND JANE DAI-ON SHUMAN</b> is Susan's senior disciple, and was ordained by Susan in 1997. They were "The Dharma" graduates with Japanese Buddhist lineage. We continue to practice selflessness, compassion and loving our heritage, but ever responsive to the unfolding of this moment - the demands of these present conditions, as we enter the 21st century."</p> <p>Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else's God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other's faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other's faith in God as one's own. -Sri Chinmoy</p> |
|--|--|

### 13 Sep 2001 Interfaith Event with UN Secretary-General

Interfaith Event in New York around the time before the Annual Opening of the UN General-Assembly. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was present and spoke. Sri Chinmoy led a Meditation as part of the service SmallMention in Anahata Nada and Aug – Nov 2001 :  
" Sri Chinmoy participated in the annual Interfaith Service with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at St. Bartholomew's Church Sept. 13 . .



Pulak photo?



### 15 Sep 2001 Sri Chinmoy Message to Students

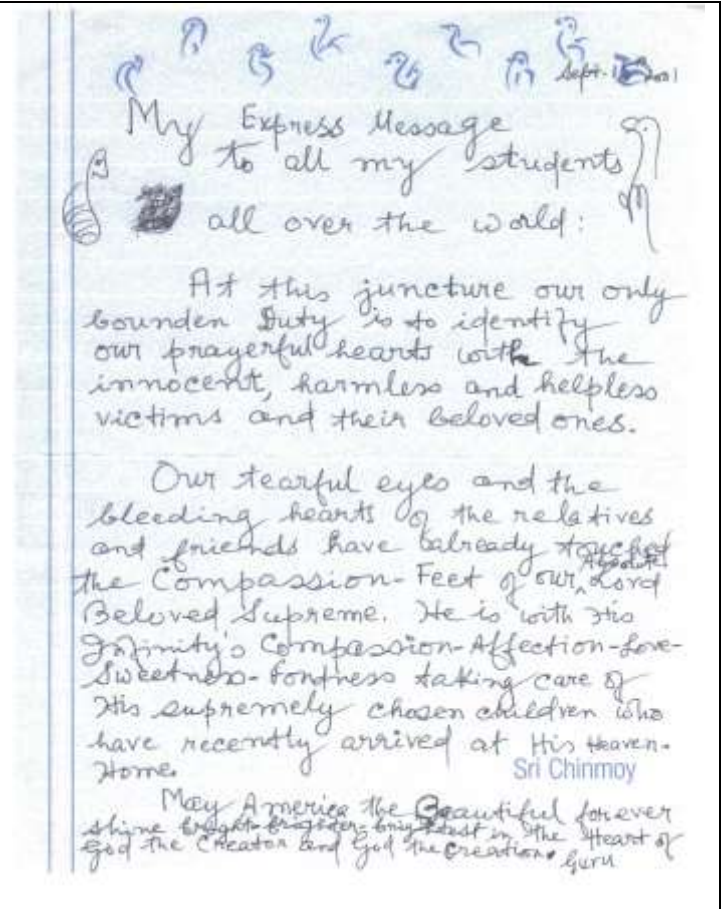


**Express Message of Sri Chinmoy to all his students around the world** on 15 September 2001 was also shared with members of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations which he leads.

Sept. 15th 2001 **My express Message to all my students all over the world: At this juncture our only bounden Duty is to identify our prayerful hearts with the innocent, harmless and helpless victims and their beloved ones.**

**Our tearful eyes and the bleeding hearts of the relatives and friends have already touched the Compassion-Feet of our Absolute Lord Beloved Supreme. He is with His Infinity's Compassion-Affection-Love-Sweetness-Fondness taking care of His supremely chosen children who have recently arrived at His Heaven-Home. – Sri Chinmoy**

**May America the Beautiful forever Shine bright – brighter – brightest in the Heart of God the Creator and God the Creation. – Guru**



2004

### 13 Apr 2004 Sri Chinmoy on Gratitude, USG Chowdhury, J. Light

On 13th April 2004 at an event in Aspiration Ground in Queens New York, the leader of the meditation Group at the UN noted it had been 40 years since he had arrived in the west from India. On this occasion he expressed his gratitude those who had inspired, encouraged and assisted him during the four decades. He mentioned specifically two people present for the occasion:

- UN Under-Secretary-General, Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury and
- Madhurima Judith Light.

Text below. More to be added as available 13 April 2004

Aspiration-Ground – Tuesday (from tape and steno: Nilima)

Talk on Gratitude In 1964 I came to America on the 13th of April, to be precise. And today I am completing 40 years of my earth-life-existence in the heart of America, the West and the whole world. I most devotedly obeyed the Command of my Inner Pilot, my Absolute Lord Supreme, to come to America and be of service to the soul of the entire world. Over the years many, many, many kind-hearted, affectionate and self-giving brothers and sisters of the world have inspired me, encouraged me and blessed me so that I can become a choice instrument of God here on earth.

To each and every one, today I am offering only one thing: gratitude, gratitude, gratitude, gratitude, gratitude from the inmost recesses of my heart. On the strength of their blessings, compassion, affection and encouragement, I am now a God-dreamer, God-lover and God-server throughout the length and breadth of the world.

Among those who have helped me unreservedly in so many ways inner and outer, my Bengali brother, Anwarul, without the least possible hesitation, tops the list. You are now Under-Secretary-General, but I prefer to call you **Ambassador Chowdhury**. When I call you Ambassador Chowdhury, all my affection, love and gratitude immediately come to the fore. I get such sweetness and fondness when I call you Ambassador Chowdhury, and not, sorry to say, **Under-Secretary-General**. The post can be infinitely higher, but like the nickname of a person, when the parents call the children by their nicknames, both the parents and the children get infinitely more joy than the name that is given for the school. So always call you Ambassador Chowdhury. That gives me enormous love and delight. To come back again, today is the day of my heart’s gratitude to all those who have inspired me, helped me unreservedly in various walks of life.

But I am also here so happy, delighted and excited to have with us **Judith Light**. Her Indian name, spiritual name, I have given, **Madhurima**. It means the sweetness-flooded soul, sweetness-flooded soul or nectar-flooded soul. Millions and millions of people have appreciated, admired and adored her, her performances as a comedienne. But my love for her, my gratitude to her is something else, although I am also one of those who have been admiring her most lovingly and most sincerely. But today I wish to say, as a sincere, most sincere, seeker and God-lover, she is exceptional in my heart of aspiration and in my life of dedication.

My brother has to leave soon. I have received blessingful letters from many world luminaries. Now time will not permit. Yesterday we just received a letter, a blessingful, encouraging letter from one of my favourite Presidents. This is from President Clinton. Sri Chinmoy reads out the letter. Sri Chinmoy speaks with Ambassador Chowdhury in Bengali.

Ambassador Chowdhury speaks (Nemi transcribed his talk).

## **16 Mar 2004 Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa with Sri Chinmoy at UN Community**

Some members of the Peace Meditation Group at the U.N. were on hand to greet, Nobel laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. He received the "Lifting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart" Award from Sri Chinmoy.

NEW YORK – Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, the Nobel Peace Laureate, was lifted by Sri Chinmoy on March 16 at the United Nations Millennium Hotel.

Afterwards, the Archbishop told the spiritual teacher: "Looking on all the spiritual work that you do..., God smiles and says, 'Thank you, for you are vindicating me.'"

He went on to say, "Perhaps the world continues its existence only

because of people like you...."

During their meeting, Sri Chinmoy presented the Archbishop with a book he had written about him.

The Archbishop also autographed a copy of his own newly published book, "God Has a Dream," with this inscription: "Sri Chinmoy, thank you so very much for all you mean for God's world and God's children. God bless you richly."



*Archbishop Tutu and Sri Chinmoy.*



### **7 Jul 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona**

A number of members of the Peace Meditation group at the United Nations were able to accompany Sri Chinmoy to Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona on July 7th, 2004.

Sri Chinmoy was officially invited to hold the opening meditation at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Barcelona on July 7th, 2004. After being introduced, he gave a silent meditation and continued by playing on his favorite instrument, the Indian esraj. About 5,000 -7,000 people were present in and around the auditorium for his beautiful performance. The fourth Parliament of the World’s Religions was held as part of the Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona, 2004. Sri Chinmoy was once more invited to offer a silent prayer for the oneness of all religions, before the audience of between five and seven thousand attendees.

see video of opening

meditation: <https://vimeo.com/62817575>

<http://www.srichinmoy.tv/319/sri-chinmoys-meditation-at-the-parliament-of-worlds-religions/>



“During my Opening Meditation I am praying for the oneness of all religions.”

– Sri Chinmoy; *I Bow To the Soul of the Parliament of Religions Barcelona 2004*, New York: Agni Press, 2005. p 5

“While I was in Barcelona, I wrote thirty-five prayers, composed twenty-eight songs in English and Bengali, and drew a number of birds to symbolise the aspiration of the human soul. Together with my silent meditation and esraj performance during the opening session, these are my soulful and prayerful offerings to the illumining soul of the Parliament of Religions.”

– Sri Chinmoy, *I Bow To the Soul of the Parliament of Religions Barcelona 2004*, New York: Agni Press, 2005. p 14



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final

Sri Chinmoy opened the week-long Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain on July 7 with a silent meditation and short esraj performance. He also met with Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, who was keynote speaker there. This was the fourth Parliament of World Religions. The first, attended by Swami Vivekananda, took place in Chicago in 1893.  
 – Extract from Anahata Nada , Jul- Apr 2004



See also : 1993 Parliament of Religions in [Chicago, USA , August 28 -29](#)

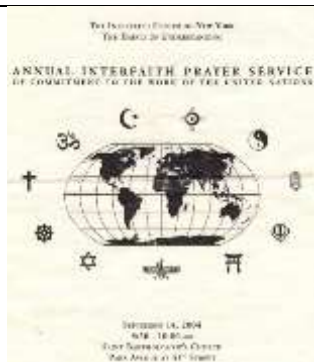
### 13 Sep 2004 Interfaith Prayer Service – Commitment to UN

Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations attended the Interfaith Prayer Service of commitment to the work of the United Nations on 14 September 2004.

The founder of the Peace Meditation Group, Sri Chinmoy, led a Silent Prayer during the observance.



The event was coordinated by the *Interfaith Center of New York* and the *Temple of Understanding*.



[2004-09-sep-14-interfaith-prayer-for-un-sg-annan-faces-ckg](#)

### 29 Oct 2004 The Vision of Thomas Jefferson: Conference Rm 4, UN, NY

A discussion on **The Vision of Thomas Jefferson**, Friday, 29 October 2004, 7-9 PM Conf Room 4, UN, New York



*Programme*  
29 October 2004  
7 - 9 pm  
Confession Room 4

**Welcome:**  
Catherine Vijaya Claxton

**Opening Statement:**  
Eric S. Petersen

**Moment of Silence:**  
Sri Chinmoy

**"From Diplomat to President, From Idealist to Pragmatist"**  
Willard Sterne Randall

**"Freedom and World Oceans: the Pursuit of Happiness through the Eyes of Thomas Jefferson"**  
Eric S. Petersen

**Song:**  
Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group at the U.N., Singers

Event sponsored by the United Nations 9/11 Society of Writers



2004-10-29-10-UN-T-Jeferson-event-Sri-Chinmoy-silent-meditation

Two admirers of Thomas Jefferson discuss the enduring power of his vision in today's world :

**Mr. Eric S. Petersen, Editor of the recently published book of Jefferson 's writings: Light and Liberty: Reflections on the Pursuit of Happiness**



**Mr. Willard Sterne Randall, Pulitzer Prize Nominee, renowned historian and author of Thomas Jefferson, A Life**



Some information from printed programme of the day may be useful:

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF WRITERS**

*Society of Writers*

**THE UNITED NATIONS SRC SOCIETY OF WRITERS** is comprised of writers from within the United Nations community. The Society seeks to promote the written word to stimulate thought and to promote dialogue through oral presentations. The Society publishes a literary magazine, *Reflections*, on a regular basis featuring original works of the members of the Society as well as narratives of the literary programmes. Copies of the latest edition of *Reflections* are available in the United Nations Bookstore at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| President      | Hans Jamitschek          |
| Vice-President | Catherine Vijaya Claxton |
| Secretary      | Bhikshuni Weisbrot       |
| Treasurer      | Hashi Roberts            |

**Programme Coordinators:**  
Bhikshuni Weisbrot  
Catherine Vijaya Claxton

**Publicity Coordinators:**  
Bhagtrathi Savage  
Martha Keys



**ERIC S. PETERSEN** is a managing partner at the New York City law firm of Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, LLP. He was educated at Brown University and the University of Chicago Law School. Mr. Petersen has studied extensively Jefferson's reports, state papers, speeches, and twenty thousand letters, and has elegantly woven together thirty-four concise essays of profound wisdom on how to lead a meaningful life. The book is entitled *Light and Liberty, Reflections on the Pursuit of Happiness*. He lives in Connecticut and can be reached at [www.lightandliberty.org](http://www.lightandliberty.org)

*Liberty is freedom from coercion. Light is freedom from ignorance. Light and liberty, as Thomas Jefferson often wisely observed, indeed go together.*

ERIC S. PETERSEN



**WILLARD STERNE RANDALL**, Historical Scholar in Residence at Champlain College in Vermont and Visiting Professor of History at John Cabot University in Rome, is the author of twelve books including five biographies, most recently *Alexander Hamilton, A Life*.

A Presidential Scholar, he is a former investigative reporter. He won the National Magazine Award for Public Service from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the Hillman Prize, the John Himmick Award for Excellence in Business Writing and the Loeb Award.

After graduate studies in history at Princeton, Randall turned to biography and has been nominated six times for the Pulitzer Prize, three times for his biographical writings.

please turn over

WILLARD STERNE RANDALL continued

*Benjamin Franklin and His Son* won a Frank Luther Mott Prize for Research from the Missouri Graduate School of Journalism. *Douglas Arnold, Patriot and Traitor* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and a *New York Times* Notable Book. *Thomas Jefferson, A Life*, was a History Book Club Main Selection, was nominated for the Pulitzer and was one of *Publishers Weekly's* Ten Best Biographies of 1993. *George Washington, A Life* was selected for *Reader's Digest's* Best Nonfiction of 1997 and *World's Greatest Biographies*. Randall recently received the lifetime Award of Merit of the American Revolution Round Table, only awarded three times in nearly half a century.

A contributing editor to *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, he has appeared on the *Tulay Show, One on One, PBS, C-Span's Booknotes and Public Lives* and the History Channel, and is a frequent guest on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered, Talk of the Nation* and *To the Point*.

*Each biography puts its into another time and place, showing us how remarkable people faced their problems and, through their memories, provide us with associations between their times and ours.*

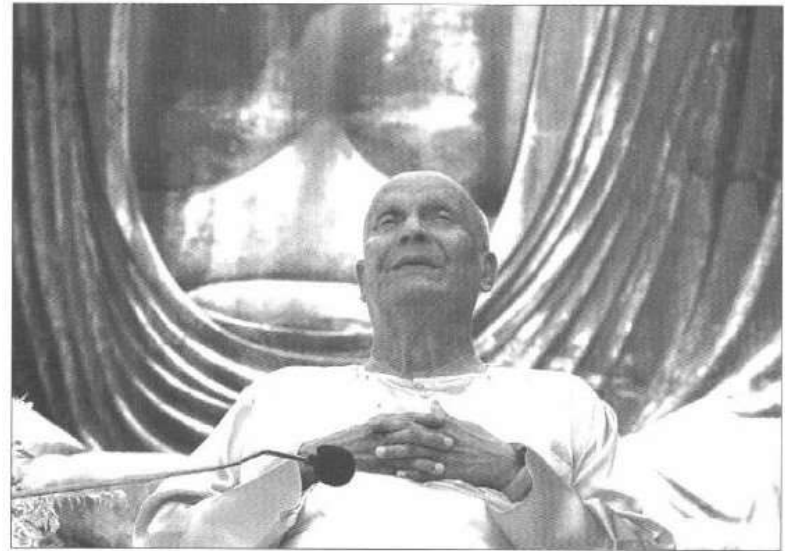
WILLARD STERNE RANDALL

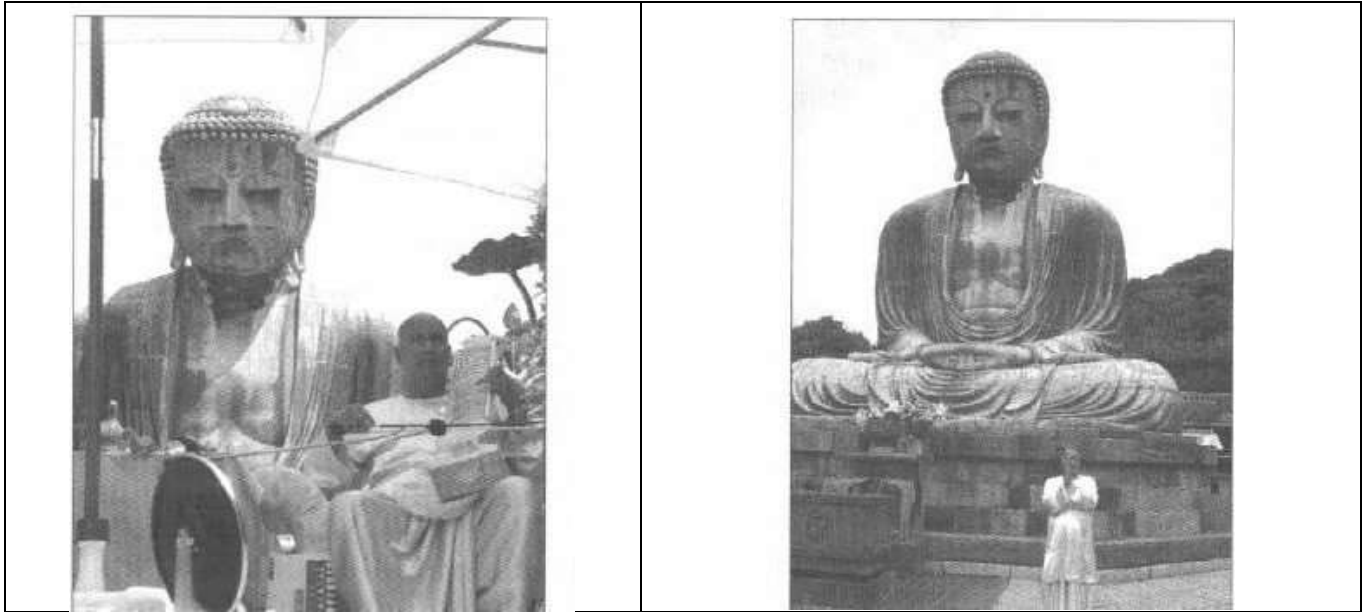
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| <p><b>Confirm song was: Dear Jefferson, Sir Washington? Performed by Sri Chinmoy Peace Meditation at the UN singers</b></p> | <p><b>Lyrics:</b> Washington: Dear Jefferson, Jefferson: Sir Washington, Washington: All-where your wings of capacity fly. Jefferson: You are the sun-vast pride of your banner high. Washington: You are our America's peerless brain. Jefferson: You freed us all from bondage-chain. Washington: In your mind is our country's vision-light. Jefferson: Your shoulders, our country's mission-height. Washington: You have told us: No more dark night. Jefferson: You have given us nectar-delight.</p> |  |
|---|---|--|

2004-10-29-03-UN-T-Jeferson-event-singers-crp

2006

### 14 Jul 2006 Peace Concert at Great Buddha Statue, Kamakura Japan

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Members from the Peace Meditation group at the UN in NY were able to join in visit to The Great Buddha Statue at Kamakura, Japan.</p> <p>Seated at the feet of the 44-foot-high, 121-ton Daibutsu (Great Buddha) statue, Sri Chinmoy offered a World Peace Concert here on July 14.</p> <p>In connection with the spiritual teacher's visit, a six-day exhibit of his Jharna-Kala paintings was held in the temple park alongside the statue</p> |  <p><i>Sri Chinmoy meditates and performs at the foot of the great Buddha statue in Kamakura.</i></p> |
|---|--|



2007

### 31 Aug 2007 Spiritual Leader says Oneness, Light Shall Prevail

Members of the Peace Meditation were present for a meeting where Sri Chinmoy lifted the humanitarian and philanthropist Tom Scott, co-founder of Nantucket Nectars, at Aspiration-Ground in Jamaica , Queens,NY. 31 Aug 2007

Sri Chinmoy described his political philosophy in answer to some questions. He speaks encouragingly to all the thousands of seekers who sincerely (in various ways or traditions) are "aspiring to have a new world"

Excerpts follow:

"Right now the world situation is most deplorable.. .Not tomorrow or in a year or two, but in the near future, **a new light will dawn.. .Our philosophy is hope, and inside hope looms promise.. .**

"The strength of the heart, which is inseparable oneness with the whole world, will definitely conquer the man-made strength. Oneness will be the conqueror of the whole world ... In **real oneness** we not only stand side by side but **remain inside each other's heart.**

"Before the first World War, people had tremendous good will for the rest of the world; they felt everyone belonged to one God. But gradually we lost this feeling.. . .

"There are thousands and **thousands of seekers** on earth who are trying and **aspiring to have a new world.** I strongly feel that our **prayers and aspiration will not end in vain,** because these are coming from God Himself, and **God's Will shall always ultimately prevail."**



Possibly video clip can be linked if from the same day.

Check if more of talk was transcribed and appears in publication can be referenced

What have here is the text for the final issue of Anahata Nada (August – October 10,2007), which was never printed



## 26 Oct 2007 Dr. Illueca of Panama visit to Aspiration Ground after Sri Chinmoy Passing

Dr. Illueca, the former President of Panama and President of the 38th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, visited Aspiration Ground to pay his respects after the passing of his close friend Sri Chinmoy. He remembers the first meetings he had with Sri Chinmoy and the Meditation Group at the United Nations and their continual closeness for 30 years.

**We were all greatly touched that Dr. Illueca came personally one morning before leaving NY in 2007, with his grandson Diago to visit Sri Chinmoy's resting place. He shared with many of us most sensitively and compassionately his words of encouragement and consolation during that first difficult month.**



"It is very sad for me to come to this place that I consider is a sacred place. I have been here other times, but I never thought that I would come here to pay respects to the memory of Sri Chinmoy, because I thought that he was eternal; he would never depart from us, from our love, our respect, our reverence.



I have something that all of us have: a living life, but particularly a spiritual life. And I believe that one of the most important parts of my spiritual life was to meet Sri Chinmoy and to meet all of the members, all our friends, male and female, of the Meditation Group. And this was when I started my service as Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations. Since then, we were so close; we were together. When I learned of the decease of Sri Chinmoy, it was really something that we call in Spanish a *commoción* [shock]. I believe that there is a word in English that means more or less the same: commotion, commotion



And, well, we have now to live with the teachings, the sayings, the way that Sri Chinmoy was able to guide all of us for meditation, for harmony, for understanding, for this feeling of being generous, and to feel the happiness that we may give—not only receive, but also give. We may give material things, but something more important: that is love, that is understanding, that is the sense of unity, of a word that he used: "oneness."



So, I sent a message, and the only thing that I could say in my poor words is that I feel some consolation in uniting, in joining my sorrow to the sorrow of the Meditation Group, and to know that we will always remember Sri Chinmoy—not with pain, not with sadness, but with a sense of happiness, to see his face that was like a blessing to all of us.

I could not bring all the Panamanian flowers, the roses and orchids, to this place, but I brought some flowers, some roses, and I leave this. This is the rose of my heart to the memory of Sri Chinmoy. My heart, with love to all of you, but above all, our love to the teachings and to the examples and to the guidance of Sri Chinmoy.



I love you. Thank you. I leave this rose for Sri Chinmoy. Thank you."

[\[1\]](#) Former President of Panama, President of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

As he leaves he continues to offer his loving concern to the students of Sri Chinmoy and his dear and long time friends who are members of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations. We will always remember and treasure his smile that he had offered to us so many times when he was with Sri Chinmoy and at the Meditation Group functions during the 30 years of solidarity, friendship and oneness



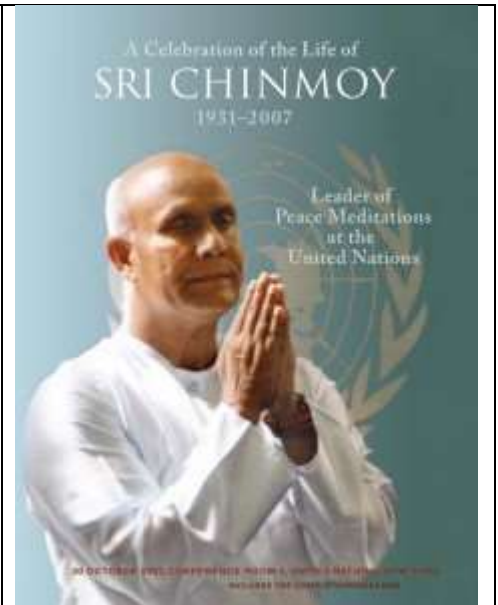
Accompanied by his grandson Diago



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final  
**30 Oct 2007 Celebration of Life of Sri Chinmoy 1931-2007, Leader of Peace Meditations at UN**

***A Celebration of Life of Sri Chinmoy 1931-2007, Leader of Peace Meditations at United Nations, 30 October 2007,***  
 Conference Room 4. UN, New York **Link to full programme**

- **Leaders from six different religions**—Buddhism, Christianity, Indigenous religious traditions, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism—offer the **opening moment of silence**
- A few minutes of **Sri Chinmoy’s music**, performed on flute and on harmonium.
- **Ms. Catherine Vijaya Claxton**, Programme Coordinator for Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, Welcome on behalf of the members of the Meditation Group and of our sponsors for this day.
- **H.E. Ambassador, Anwarul Chowdhury**, Former Under-Secretary-General, and High Representative of the United Nations, delivers the keynote address



*This version includes the complete programme -see note at bottom of cover*



Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations offers Keynote address of the observance on 30 October 2007, )



Aye Aye Thant, Former Secretary-General U Thant’s Daughter addresses the gathering (edit caption)

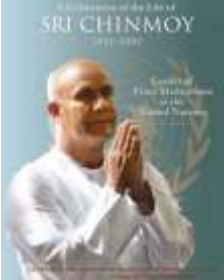


Leaders from six different religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Indigenous religious traditions, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism—offer the opening moment of silence at the Celebration of the Life of Sri Chinmoy. Participants in the opening moment of silence, from left to right are: The Ven. Ashin Indaka, Chief Monk of the Mahasi Meditation Retreat Center Association; The Very Rev. James Parks Morton, Founder of the Interfaith Center of New York and Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Nana Boakyewaa Adomah I, Queen of Adamorobe, Aburi-Akuapem (Ghana); Swami Amarnathananda, Head Monk of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha of North America; Pir Zia Inayat-Khan, President of the Sufi Order International; and Maggid Yitzhak Buxbaum, Director, Jewish Spirit.

- Choir sang two songs composed by Sri Chinmoy.
  - Tomare Rakhibo, and
  - UN: Sun-Vision-Plan, dedicated to the United Nations.
- **MS. CLAXTON:** No matter what our individual personal beliefs are, today we share in common our collective loss. This loss is tempered with the joy we all share, the very personal joy of having known this remarkable man. We hope that each of you can find solace in the words of Sri Chinmoy himself. The evening before he died, Sri Chinmoy said that he considered himself above all *a Student of Peace*. **We honour him in carrying that legacy forward.** And the last poem, which has affected so many of us so clearly, published just before his passing, reads:

**“My physical death is not the end of my life—  
I am an eternal journey.”**

- 
- Early version at public site <http://www.srichinmoybio.co.uk/news/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/commemorative-booklet.pdf>
- Should he revised version also be at public site in pdf/

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDITORS to compare: Complete program at <a href="https://www.srichinmoypeacemeditationatun.org/publications/celebration-life-sri-chinmoy/">https://www.srichinmoypeacemeditationatun.org/publications/celebration-life-sri-chinmoy/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note extra line at bottom of cover of complete version</li> <li>○ this is more complete with references</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
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## 2009

### 03 Jun 2009 Centennial Birth Anniversary of 3rd UN Secretary-General U Thant, UN, NY

A choir from “Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the United Nations” performed “songs dedicated to U Thant” as part of events commemorating former Secretary-General U Thant.



Photo from event and Song text to be added:

### 20 Oct 2010 World Interfaith Harmony Week – UN Resolution A/RES/65/5

Sri Chinmoy and members of the Peace Meditation have a long history of initiating and supporting Interfaith Harmony. In 1968 at an early talk for UN Community Sri Chinmoy concluded with: **“Let each religion play the role of a flower. Let us make a garland of these divine flowers and offer them at the Feet of God. God will be pleased. We shall be fulfilled”** More at [1968 The Song Universal – Talk for the UN Community Nov 26](#)

Below is excerpt of UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/65/5](#)

"...Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, ...

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;

2. Proclaims the first week of February every year **the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;**

3. Encourages all States to **support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour**, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions." ...

34th plenary meeting; 20 Oct 2010

image of Full UNGA resolution

United Nations A/RES/65/5

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 **General Assembly** Distr.: General  
24 November 2010

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Sixty-fifth session  
Agenda item 15

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly**  
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.3 and A/L.1)]

**65/5. World Interfaith Harmony Week**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 53/243 A and B of 13 September 1999 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, 58/128 of 19 December 2003 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 60/4 of 20 October 2005 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, 64/81 of 7 December 2009 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and 64/164 of 18 December 2009 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, including the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the initiative "A Common Word",

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace,
2. Proclaims the first week of February every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs,
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions,

10-51284 Please recycle 

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A/RES/65/5

4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

34th plenary meeting  
20 October 2010

**2009 – 2011 Torch relay + Interfaith Harmony encouraged by President of UNESCO General Conference**

.On many occasions members of the Peace Meditation group at the United Nations have assisted with coordination of Peace and Harmony Run activities and some have traveled to various countries on their vacation time to participate. **The Sri Chinmoy "Oneness-Home" Peace and Harmony Torch relay runs' multi-year support for Interfaith Harmony is well documented. This was recognized and encouraged by the President (2009 – 2011) of UNESCO General Conference in his video message for the 25th Anniversary of the runs founding by Sri Chinmoy.**



Dr. Davidson Hepburn presenting his message for 25th Anniversary of the World Harmony Run and a vision for the next decade 2012 to 2022 and beyond.

. "The World Harmony (and Peace) Run has been welcomed by **people of many different religions, beliefs and faith-based communities** "Passing the Harmony Torch is a simple, tangible and powerful way to express love of one's neighbour. "Conveying this message of interfaith harmony and understanding **in churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship** will surely help foster a culture of peace and a growing feeling of universal oneness." – **Davidson Hepburn** message for "World Harmony and Peace Run 25th Anniversary: Toward 2022 and a Oneness-World" ([See full text and YouTube video](#) with links to subtitles in 20 languages)

## 2012

### 21 Jan 2012 Thant's 103rd Birth Anniversary in Myanmar, Yangon:

Well over 100 individuals from more than 20 countries, joined with family members of former United Nations Secretary General U Thant in Yangon. In celebration of U Thant's 103rd Birth Anniversary

UN dignitaries, members of Sri Chinmoy :the Peace Meditation at the UN in NY, international singers, interfaith leaders and local community members participated in programs at two locations

- a local Buddhist monastery

(morning event was a "Soong Kway" (Merit Making Ceremony) to honor the memory of U Thant, Third Secretary-General of the United Nations, in celebration of his 103rd Birth Anniversary ). held at Aein Daw Ya Monastery, Deckhinayone Monastic School, Myoma Kyaung Street. **The event was organized by Daw Aye Aye Thant, U Thant's daughter and President of the [U Thant Institute](#)** along with Members of the



Daw Aye Aye Thant expressed her gratitude that in this Buddhist place of worship, individuals from other religions participated which was very much in keeping with her father's support for the deepest values in all religions and interfaith cooperation.

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final **Pantanaw Association**. (confirm Aye Aye current name preference)



After the Buddhist ceremony, the visiting international meditation choir performed songs by spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy, dedicated to U Thant.

**An interfaith** practitioners of Christianity, Hinduism and Islam offered traditional blessings and prayers.



Interfaith prayer leaders with Daw Aye Thant, U Thant’s daughter



Participant’s received statements from U Thant in which the former Secretary-General attached “the greatest importance to spiritual values

At the **U Thant Mausoleum**. The international meditation choir again performed the song in honor of U Thant composed by Sri Chinmoy. 1 April 1976.

*“U Thant, U Thant,  
We love your silence-soul,  
We loved your compassion-  
heart. Your world-harmony  
role Challenged ignorance-  
dart.U.N. pilot supreme,  
You treasured perfection-  
dream”*



The second ceremony, was to pay respects to U Thant’s Mausoleum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.



Floral Arrangements were placed



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final

Sri Chinmoy also set to music the following two immortal utterances of U Thant which were performed as part of the day’s events.

- “Gone are the days when each Nation was an island unto itself.” ([music score](#))
- “In the wake of the most catastrophic war in the history of mankind, humanity had a new Vision: it saw the glimmer of dawn of a warless world.” ([music score](#))



There was an opportunity for individuals to meditate for a moment and place individual flowers



Daw Aye Aye, graciously and warmly thanked each of the singers for their offering.

In addition to members of the Peace Meditation at the UN, many members of the Oneness-Home World Harmony and Peace Run teams which have visited over 140 countries since it was founded in 1987 by Sri Chinmoy were present. As a symbol of peace and harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand around the globe. The Run presents a “Torch Bearer” award to recognize individuals’ contributions to peace and harmony. Daw Aye Aye had received the Torch Bearer Award while in the United States in 2008. This day she held one of the torches with international team members inside the mausoleum. Daw Aye Aye spoke with many of the participants and inquired about their more than two dozen different countries. Various groups of Daw Aye Aye friends and admirers of U Thant were present at both events today.



The group photo outside with many members of the international Run teams, the Peace Meditation at the UN and from Sri Chinmoy Centers from around the world.

### [Sri Chinmoy and Peace Meditation at UN members visit U Thant Mausoleum – 1980’s?](#)

Many years before Sri Chinmoy and Members of the Peace Meditation at the UN visited U Thant’s Mausoleum

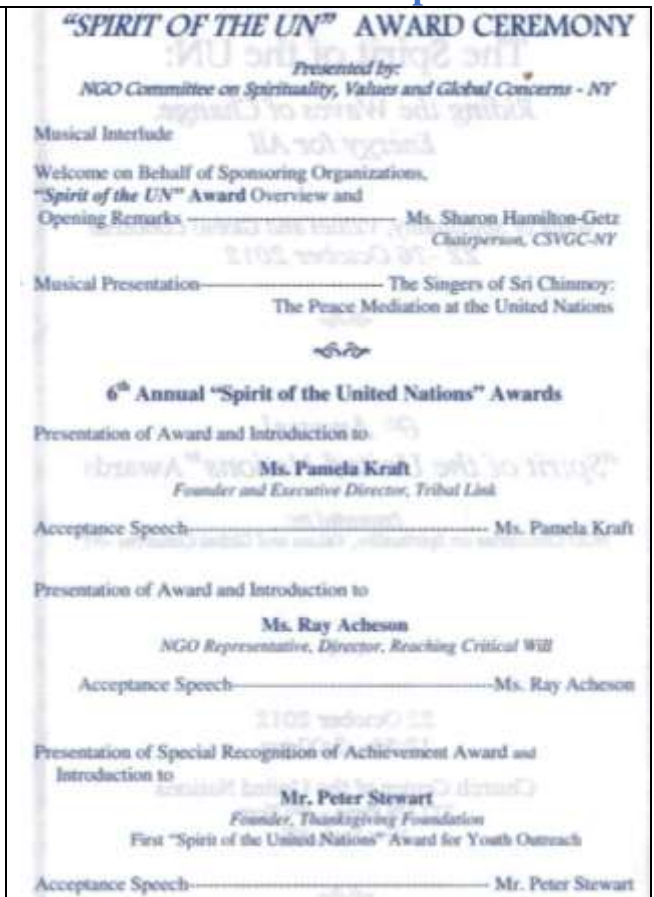


## 22 Oct 2012 "Spirit of the United Nations" Awards-Meditation Choir performs

Members of the Meditation Group performed at the "Spirit of the UN" event during October 2012 at the Church Center for the UN. The group has a special friendship and fondness for Ms. Sharon Hamilton-Getz; Chairperson, CSVCC-NY for her dedicated service to the UN community who had extended the invitation to perform and to Peter Stewart a recipient for a 2012 special Award. Mr Stewart had participated with the Meditation Group members in programs since 1975 both in the UN community in NY and some members also joined in the events he organized at Thanksgiving Square in Dallas Texas over the decades..6th Annual "Spirit of the United Nations" Awards ,22 October 2012, Church Center of the United Nations,777 UN Plaza – 2nd floor, New York ,NY

### "SPIRIT OF THE UN" AWARD CEREMONY

**Presented by:** NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns – NY  
**Musical Interlude**  
**Welcome** on Behalf of Sponsoring Organizations, "Spirit of the UN" Award Overview and Opening Remarks: Ms. Sharon Hamilton-Getz; Chairperson, CSVCC-NY  
**Musical Presentation**—— The Singers of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Mediation at the United Nations





(Peter Stewart, "Spirit of UN Award" recipient with Sharon Hamilton-Getz )



Songs performed by Meditation Group singers: We Know our UN Soul; UN – With You began; United Nations – You are the World Hope; Song towards end of Programme: The Lord's Sun-Vision Plan

Music Scores:



2013

14 Feb 2013 United for Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony

Members of the Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the UN Choir performed in the UN General Assembly Hall on 14 February 2013.

Editor Note use different photo from what used in Music section, here with more detailed and keep excerpt of text from the UN resolution



**The Programme was cosponsored by:**

- the President of the 67th General Assembly
- The Committee of Religious NGOs and
- UNESCO

See event information at [www.unitedforacultureofpeace.info](http://www.unitedforacultureofpeace.info).



see also Video of singers for **first five minutes of UN web cast:** <http://webtv.un.org/watch/united-for-a-culture-of-peace-through-interfaith-harmony/2165451739001/>



Vuk Jeremić, President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, speaking at the event. 14 February 2013, United Nations, New York, Photo # 542572

**Special Event Marking Interfaith Harmony Week** was held in the General Assembly Hall to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February). Entitled "United for a Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony", the event was hosted by the President of the General Assembly; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the Committee of Religious NGOs to the United Nations. It included statements by Assembly President Vuk Jeremić and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, a World Peace Flag Ceremony and song performances by various groups, among them **singers from the group Sri**



Photo from UN Web site UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz 14 February 2013, United Nations, New York, Photo # 542571

**Chinmoy Peace Meditation at the United Nations (pictured).**



Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson delivers remarks on "The Role of Interfaith Harmony in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes", at a special event held in the General Assembly Hall to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February) 14 February 2013, United Nations, New York, Photo # 542571



Yoo Soon-taek (right), wife of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, was among participants at the event. 14 February 2013, United Nations, New York, Photo # 542575 left appears to be Ambassador Chowdhury, Former US-G and High representative of the U.N

Below is **excerpt of UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/65/5 World Interfaith Harmony Week – 2010 Oct 20](#)**  
 "...Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,  
 Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, ...  
 Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,  
 1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;  
 2. Proclaims the first week of February every year **the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;**  
 3. Encourages all States to **support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.**"

The screenshot shows the official document of the resolution. At the top, it reads 'United Nations' and 'General Assembly'. The title of the resolution is '65/5. World Interfaith Harmony Week'. The text of the resolution is in English and includes the following key points:

- Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people;
- Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, including the Trócaire Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the initiative 'A Common Word'.
- Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;
- 1. **Reaffirms** the mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
- 2. **Proclaims** the first week of February every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;
- 3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.

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| <p><b>Songs performed:</b><br/>A new World of Peace;<br/><br/>A moment's Truth, Peace, Love;<br/><br/>The Lord's Sun-Vision-Plan</p> |  |  |
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2014

**12 Feb 2014, World Interfaith Harmony: Vital for Peace and Development**

10 am – 1 pm Trusteeship Chamber, United Nations, New York

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations Choir has performed for many years at the UN, and other venues around the world, songs composed by Sri Chinmoy in support of the high ideas of the United Nations and efforts for a peaceful world



<<- - - -Use photo above or cropped Photo?

**On 12 February they provided the midday musical interlude in the Trusteeship Council.** You are welcome to visit the [UN webcast of the event](http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/other-meetingsevents/watch/world-interfaith-harmony-vital-for-peace-development/3197455760001) at 2:03 to 2:11 (approximately 2 hours into the programme the peace meditation choir performs). <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/other-meetingsevents/watch/world-interfaith-harmony-vital-for-peace-development/3197455760001>

**World Interfaith  
Harmony:  
Vital for Peace  
and Development**

**Welcome:** Mr. Carl Murrell, Vice President, Committee of Religious NGOs & Representative to the UN, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the US

**Sacred Opening**

(Coordinated by Committee of Religious NGOs Bureau: Dr. Caroi Jean Willie, Sisters of Charity Federation; Ms. Elizabeth Bagley, Pax Christ International; Ms. Monica Willard, United Religions Initiative; and Swami Parameshananda, Bharat Sevashram Sangha)



**Indigenous:** Joan A. Henry, Tsalagi Ani'waya (Wolf Clan) Elisi & Traditional Song-Carrier; Ray Evans Harrell, Tsalagi, Nuyagi Keetowah Peace Priest

**Bahai'i:** Menaaka Kannan and Laura Lawrence

**Buddhist:** Rev. Doyeon Park, Won Buddhism; Ivy Gabbert, Soka Gakkai International

**Christian:** Rev. Darrell L. Armstrong, Baptist World Alliance; Victoria Edmonds, The Salvation Army

**Hindu:** Pandit Hardwar, Shri Surya Narayan Mandi; Sharon Hamilton-Getz, Committee on Spirituality, Values 1& Global Concerns

**Jewish:** Gloria Landy, World Council of Conservative 1& Masorti Synagogues; Rabbi Roger Ross, United Religions Initiative

**Muslim:** Baker al-Hiyari, Religions for Peace; Ayesha H. Ahmed, UN Alliance of Civilizations

**Zoroastrian:** Tina Dukandar; Kerman Dukandar

**Other Traditions:** Dr. Kusumita Pedersen, Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions; Rev. Debra Gill, Interfaith Minister

**Keynote Remarks** H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



**Lyrics to Songs Composed by Sri Chinmoy performed on 12 feb:**

**A new World of Peace** - Composed before 1977

A new world of peace, A new world of light,  
A new world of height, Can alone give me  
Satisfaction-delight. \*

**May each and every Breath of My Heart** -1992

May each and every breath of my heart Serve for  
world harmony

**My Gratitude-Heart always knows the way** -1981

My gratitude-heart Always knows The way.  
My oneness-perfection Always is The way.



**A moment’s Truth, Peace, Love –1976**

A moment’s truth Can and shall make the world beautiful.

A moment’s peace Can and shall save the world.

A moment’s love Can and shall make the world perfect

**The Lord’s Sun-Vision-Plan – Composed before 1978**

U.N. , U.N., U.N. , U.N.

You are the Lord’s Sun-Vision Plan.

We know your soul, its beauty’s flow, A world-body’s translucent glow.



**(if not already in previous entry in this section)**

Excerpt of UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/65/5 World Interfaith Harmony Week– 2010 Oct 20](#)

“...Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, ...

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

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**20-24 Oct 2014 “Spirit of the UN” Award Ceremony: Dynamics of Ethical and Spiritual Sustainability**



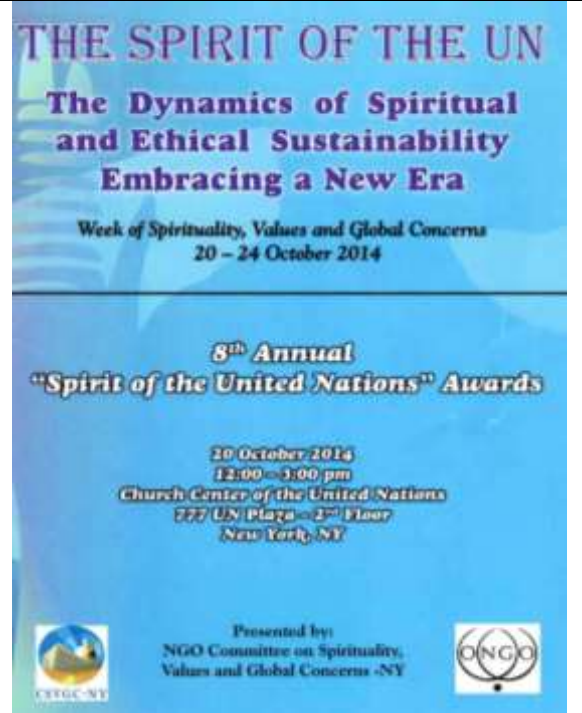
Members of the Peace Meditation at the UN participated in Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns Oct 20-24 2014. This included the & 8th Annual “Spirit of the UN” Award Ceremony The Dynamics of Ethical and Spiritual Sustainability – Embracing the New Era.

**Monday Oct 20th**

**Meditation:** 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., The Church Center for the UN Chapel, New York, N.Y. 10017

**“Spirit of the UN” Awarding Ceremony :** Noon- 3 p.m., at 777 Church Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,

**Congratulatory remarks** by H.E. Mr. *Anwarul K. Chowdhury*, Former High Representative and Under-Secretary-General of the UN. (Note: Ambassador Chowdhury is also A previous year’s recipient of the “Spirit of the UN Award and long time supporter of the Peace Meditation at the UN and friend of the Founder Sri Chinmoy.



**2014 “Spirit of the United Nations” Awardees**

**H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Marie Flores** Flake, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations  
**Mrs. Gay Rosenblum-Kumar;** UN Staff member – UNDP, Executive Secretary, UN Interagency Framework Team on Preventative Action . (Ms. Rosenblum-Kumar has also been attending the Peace meditations for many years which she mentions in her acceptance speech (Excerpts below) . (Download pdf [2014-10-oct-20-Spirit-UN-Talk-Points-gay-rosenblum-kumar](#))  
**Mr. Tairiku Okada** ,Spiritual Leader, Sukyo Mahikari: Centers for Spiritual Development  
 Ms. Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International Secretariat  
**Mrs. Sharon Hamilton-Getz**, Chair Emeritus, Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns



Mrs. Sharon Hamilton-Getz,

**Speakers:**

**Kusumita Pedersen**, Ph.D. Co-chair, **Interfaith Center of NY**; (Ms. Pedersen is also a longtime supporter of the Peace meditations at the UN which is mentioned in her talk. Raw cell phone video at: <http://youtu.be/nlUgZoVa3-I>. Download a PDF of full text : [Remarks by Kusumita Pedersen-21 Oct 2014](#)) (See below)

**Dan Kittredge**, Director, **Bionutrient Association**; Raw cell phone video at: <http://youtu.be/40vaaCVkOk0>

Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan **“Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY”** - Simplify Header across section pages in final **Rick Clugston, Ph.D. Director, Sustainable Development Programs, Forum 21.** Raw cell phone video at: <http://youtu.be/0yOUHSsOsO>  
**Mr. James Sniffen, Chief International Coordinator, UN Environmental Program.**

- Excerpt from 2 talks and link to full?

|   |   |
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| <p><b>Ecospirituality: A Personal Reflection - Kusumita P. Pedersen</b>, Panel on “Spiritual Values and Their Role in Ecological Sustainable Development: Creating Common Goals” 21 October</p> <p>It is a joy to be here and to be asked to speak on ecospirituality, a subject very close to my heart. I am a student of an Indian teacher of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, who left his physical body in 2007. During his lifetime he held meditations for peace twice weekly here at the United Nations, beginning in 1970 at the invitation of U Thant. These meditations still continue today. When they began they continued an already existing tradition of giving value to spirituality, a tradition established by U Thant, Dag Hammarskjöld and those who at the time of the UN’s founding called for the opening of the General Assembly to include a moment of silence. Looking back to the 1970s it is possible to appreciate how much more open acceptance of spirituality there is today in the United Nations context. This is due to the sustained efforts of many people and groups over the years, including many of you here in this room as well as the Peace Meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. The NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns is a milestone achievement in this movement.(1) It has been a deeply fulfilling experience to be on this journey and I look forward to continuing on the way with all of you – the need for our service has never been greater. All of this being said, what is “spirituality”? The term “spirituality” has no precise or technical definition and yet is becoming more and more common. I believe that the great increase in the use of the word “spirituality” is a very important development. It seems that it has two main senses, which overlap. First, “spirituality” is a matter of experience and feeling, not only of intellectual belief or external observance. Second, “spirituality” is often almost a synonym for contemplative practice, the life of prayer and meditation. “Spirituality” has to do with “inner” or even “the innermost” kinds of experience. In Spirituality: A Very Short Introduction, Philip Sheldrake says that spirituality involves a quest for meaning, a concern for integration and life “as a whole,” and a search for the Sacred.(2) What kind of spirituality may be called “eco-spirituality”? The term “ecology” derives from the Greek oikos, meaning household or habitat, a dwelling-place. In biology, ecology is the branch of science that studies the relations of living organisms to each other and to their surrounding environment, the pattern of many relationships making up an “eco-system,” how organisms live together interdependently in a totality often</p> | <p><b>Remarks by Gay Rosenblum-Kumar</b> at the “Spirit of the United Nations Awards” 20 Oct 2014 – Talking Points</p> <p>I feel very blessed to have had so many opportunities to serve people around world by working at the UN. I have been motivated in my life by causes of justice and causes of peace. For me they are interrelated with spirituality. I believe that there is a human right to peace; that not having peace is an injustice, and any injustice is an affront, if not a crime, against the human spirit. To work for any one of these is to work for the others. Though not raised in a conventionally religious family, I grew up with an unspoken belief and practice demonstrated by my wise parents and mentor, Dimitri Argyriades, who are here today that is akin to the Dalai Lama’s saying that ‘my religion is loving-kindness.’ However, I grew up unaware of all my privilege and by an accident of fate having the good fortune to born to caring parents, in a comfortable home, part of a majority culture, without want, without fear or injustice, with education free and a guaranteed future. My parents, (who took time off from packing and selling their home next week to be here today), just found a letter from 34 years ago after my first trip to sub-Saharan Africa in 1979, when I first left my cocoon and where I realized that my Global North way of thinking and being was not the only way nor necessarily the right way, and that one needs to be open and willing to respect and coexist with ideas and people quite different from one’s self. That first trip was my introduction to the reality of the developing world especially under apartheid, where contradictions in life seemed to stand out in starker contrast and where humans’ wonderful demonstration of love, compassion, charity and resilience was diminished by</p> |
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spoken of as the "community of life" or the "Earth community" – phrases used in the Earth Charter. This interconnection is cosmic as well as biological. Not only all life but all that exists is interrelated and has a single common origin. This is the testimony of science and many religious traditions. From the primordial flaring forth, as Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme have called it, These are also characteristics of "religion," so that "spirituality" is often contained within "religion." At the same time, more and more people today are seeking for and finding spirituality outside the context of organized religion and also combining spiritual practices from different traditions.(3) In his extensive writings, Sri Chinmoy often speaks of God the Creator and God the creation; in other words, creation or Nature is God as manifested. He says, "Nature is/ The revealed Beauty/ Of God." the universe and all life has co-evolved. We humans are inseparable from all other life, from the Earth itself, and from the cosmos. If we say "the stars are our ancestors," this is not just a figure of speech. All life is one family: "all my relations." And if Nature – all things and all life – have a single Source, they somehow carry the being of that original Source. Whether or not it is spoken of as the Divine or the Sacred, it is within them or it is them or both. (4) " God speaks to me through Nature' s beauty"(5) "The inexhaustible beauty/ Of Nature's self-giving life." (6) "Nature is never spent. / Nature's beauty, Nature's capacity, Nature's reality, / Never run short of God's infinite sea / And infinite sky."(7) "Nature's beauty helps us / To be as vast as possible, / As peaceful as possible / And as pure as possible."(8) And the person "who admires Nature's beauty is already accepted by God, the Mother, as Her chosen instrument."(9) When we put together ecology and spirituality, we have "eco-spirituality," and if spirituality is a matter of inner experience then the oneness of all life and existence is not merely to be known mentally but "felt," apprehended concretely. When we speak of "feeling," again this term is vague yet very necessary and significant. This brings us to "the heart." There is so much that we can say in answer to the question, "What is the heart and what does it do?" So I will simply say that when we feel pure joy, wonder and love, this is the heart. Eco-spirituality is a path to know not only in thought but in our inner and our whole being that we belong to a reality infinitely vaster than our own small bodies and selves. We realise we are not just "located in" the universe (**think of that picture of the Milky Way with an arrow pointing to the words "You are here"**) but we belong to it – we are members of the community of life. But to realise this and to experience the "communion of subjects" Thomas Berry speaks of, we must learn to relate to other beings not as things, but as subjects, as persons, not as an "it" but as a "Thou," with love and care rather than the desire to

unchecked greed and short-sighted cruelty. It then motivated me to see my own culture with all its warts and injustices and realize how much work there is to do on oneself and in the world to counteract injustice and unloving-ness. It may seem that the world hasn't gotten much better over these thirty years of my career, but actually it has. There are more people out of poverty, more children in school, fewer (though equally horrific) wars, less people living under oppression, and most importantly, many more people finally believing that they are entitled to human rights and taking action to pursue their right to peace and justice. Working at the UN has shown me how closely this world and its people are tied together. How dependent we are on one another. However, working at the UN and trying to maintain one's spiritual practice is not easy and often cannot be publicly announced for fear of being discounted or marginalized. Spirituality is trumped by the premium placed on politics and power over what is 'right' and 'just'. Without a spiritual base, one does not have the freedom from fear to speak truth to power with as much loving-kindness as possible. I believe doing so has impact. I have always seen the UN's work, its staff, diplomats, and NGO colleagues as a microcosm of the entire planet, a human experiment under a public microscope viewed by all. Until we, at the UN, can demonstrate the example of holding in check personal ego and provincial interests in favor of the larger community, the rest of the world will not be able to work it out. We have to model right here what we want to see in the world. In the words of Gandhi, 'be the change you want to see.' Although we as individuals are quite small in the face of the massive challenges facing the UN and the world, there are big and small things we can do, principles we can uphold, actions we can take, beliefs we can follow, attitudes we can model, love we can demonstrate. For me this has always meant to have an

possess and to use. Then we can relate to the eco-system as a community of souls as well as a group of organisms. In closing I would like to offer a poem that tries to express this. It is called "On Gorham Mountain" and is in a book, Moments That Speak: Stories and Images of Connection, created by Earth Charter International.(10) I was very honored to be included in that collection. The poem is about the island on the coast of Maine where I spent my childhood summers

There was a fire on Mount Desert Island  
When I was one year old. For eleven days it flamed  
and spread.

Where mountains come down to the sea  
Their pine forests were burned away.

Westward they were left green.

When I was a child we would walk  
On burned mountains with no woods,  
The pink granite blackened and bare,  
The trees charred stumps, around us  
Low bushes, hot sun and open space,  
The ocean stretching below.

We would cross a line to mountains  
That had not been burned

And walk deep in pine woods

Dim, mossy and fragrant

By lakes and cool streams,

Seeing the ocean from the summit.

My father said the woods

On our burned mountains

Would be all grown back

When I had become old.

He is gone. That time is close.

O mountain where we used to walk,

I have come back to find you.

My mountain, you are green again.

Your path goes through spruce trees

Higher than the birch and aspen

Who grew first after the fire.

Only a searching eye can see

Soot-darkened stone and

Burned wood of hidden trunks.

Only from your high ridge

Can I see the ocean now.

The pines are still to come.

When they have grown tall

And your forests are dense,

I will be gone – like a tree

Consumed into air by fire.

But you, my mountain,

Will be in me still

Wherever I will live

impact where one can, in policy and practice, one-on-one, one person at a time. And, I have tried to demonstrate this in every encounter whether with a government official, an NGO worker, a taxi driver or hotel maid, one must walk and talk with loving-kindness. I have tried to do this in all that I have done and wherever possible, be it in a brown bag lunch about conflict in the Congo or conflict in the office. I have tried to raise awareness that justice and peace in the world starts at home with respect and loving-kindness for all those around us I have been very motivated by my association with other spiritually committed people at the UN such as Ambassador Chowdhury who has led innumerable efforts for peace, Vijaya Catherine Claxton who promoted internal UN peacebuilding in her dedicated service to strengthen mediation at the Office of Staff Legal Services as well as thru meditation at the UN (I don't think it is a coincidence that there is only one letter's difference between mediation and meditation!), and many others who put their spiritual principles to work at the UN on a daily basis and, most of all, by Sri Chinmoy whose meditation sessions at the Secretariat inspired me and many of his followers to offer their service to the cause of inner and outer peace. I would like to offer an inspiring quotation of Sri Chinmoy's that sums up my philosophy and approach: The outer message of the United Nations is peace. The inner message of the United Nations is love. The inmost message of the United Nations is oneness. It is my greatest hope that I have contributed to this vision. It was a great privilege to do this at the UN for 25 years and especially my last five years at the helm of the interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action where I tried to contribute: - to peace through my work to build capacities for peace in conflict-prone countries, - to love through the unconventional activities of the Framework Team to share knowledge

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| <p>And I will be here ever,<br/>Still in you by the sea,<br/>Burned and grown again.</p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. See Kusumita P. Pedersen, “Sri Chinmoy’s Work at the United Nations: Spirituality and the Power of Silence,” special issue on “Religion and the United Nations.” Azza Karam and Matt Weiner, eds. CrossCurrents 60/3 (September 2010): 339-351. Page 2 )</li><li>2. Philip Shedrake, Spirituality: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 5.</li><li>3. Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, The Universe Story (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1992).</li><li>4. Seventy-Seven Thousand Service-Trees, Part 47 (New York: Agni Press, 2007),No. 46, 874 – “The</li><li>5. My God-Hunger-Cry Part 1 (New York: Agni Press, 2009), March 1, 2006.</li><li>6 . Sri Chinmoy, My Evening Descends, (New York: Agni Press, 1996), 20 October.</li><li>7. A Souful Cry versus a Fruitful Smile (New York: Agni Press, 1977), 158.</li><li>8. Twenty-Seven Thousand Aspiration-Plants, Part 169 (New York: Agni Press, 1992), No. 16,806.</li><li>9. God’s Hour (New York: Agni Press,1973), July 12.</li><li>10. Lisa Marika Jokivirta, Anna Duhon and Shannon Walsh, eds., Moments That Speak: Stories and Images of Connection (Amsterdam, KIT Publishers, 2012), 72-73.</li></ol> | <p>about bringing justice through peacebuilding and conflict prevention and (to quote Sri Chinmoy again) that ‘it is only through inner peace that we can have outer freedom’ - to oneness by creating safe spaces where people from all different walks of life and parts of the UN and the world could come together to share their views and visions and co-create a more peaceful, just world.</p> <p>I have been blessed with generous and hard-working co-workers, I have been blessed with my husband Dinesh who has patiently and peacefully tried to support our spiritual path together, and I am blessed with two wonderful children (Shanti, meaning peace) and Remi (meaning compassion) who are both trying to contribute to the betterment of others. And, I only hope that I can continue to contribute thanks to all of your support and partnership. Thank you</p> |
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## 2017

### 17 Nov 2017 IISD Award Ceremony: Singers Perform

The members of the Peace Meditation at the UN were invited to participate in: The Institute of International Social Development 2017 Annual Award Ceremony – 21st Anniversary on Thursday, 17 November 2017 , 1-3pm at Tillman Chapel, the UN Church Center 777 UN Plaza (1st Avenue and 44th Street), New York 2017

THEME, “Realization of our one human family through spirituality and the UN goals



**Introduction:** Sharon Hamilton-Getz, Vice President, Institute of International Social Development – New York, an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

**Devotional Singing and Tribute** by the Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations



Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations

Sponsored by Institute of International Social Development (IISD) – New York

**INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
PRESENTS  
**2017 AWARD CEREMONY**  
Friday, November 17 at 1 PM - 3 PM  
At **Tillman Chapel at the UN Church Center**  
777 UN Plaza (1st Ave and 44th Street), New York, New York 10017  
THEME: "Realization of our one human family through spirituality and the UN goals"  
Awardees:  
Mrs. Salwa Kader, President and Founder, International Federation of Middle East Peace and Sustainable Development;  
Nayanaswami Jyotishi and Devi, Embassies of Paramahansa Yogananda, author of 'An Autobiography of a Yogi'  
For details contact:  
Sharon Hamilton-Getz 917 733-3322  
or email: sharon@iisd.com or iisd@iisd.com  
or Shweta Chaudhary 646 418-3022 or email: shweta2@iisd.com



**Singers Perform at the Institute of International Social Development 2017 Award Ceremony**

The Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations were invited to perform songs composed by Sri Chinmoy, dedicated to the UN and peace, for the 2017 Award Ceremony of the Institute of International Social Development (IISD), an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Sharon Hamilton-Getz, Vice President of IISD, emceed the programme, held at the Tillman Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations on 17 November 2017, during which she and IISD President Shweta Chaudhary presented the Awards. The honorees were Mrs. Salwa Kader, President and Founder of the UN Federation for Middle East Peace and Sustainable Development; and Nayanaswami Jyotishi and Devi, emissaries of Paramahansa Yogananda, author of *Autobiography of a Yogi*.

For the opening musical interlude, Karanika Nune played his own interpretation on the synthesizer of Sri Chinmoy's music. The Singers then performed several of Sri Chinmoy's songs of peace, so arranged and conducted by Pune Arkin, accompanied by harmonium and synthesizer. For the closing musical interlude, they performed songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to success and gratitude, including one in Sri Chinmoy's native Bengali.

The Singers had also previously performed at the 2016 IISD 20th Anniversary Award Ceremony, held on 17 November 2016. Following was the video that aired subsequently on ITV, ITV Presentation of the IISD 2016 Awards.

For the opening musical interlude, Karanika Nune plays his own interpretation on the synthesizer of Sri Chinmoy's music.



Events: **3-09** draft 2021-01-03jan “**Interfaith Harmony -SUMMARY**” - Simplify Header across section pages in final **Highlight Countries and Individuals - Interfaith related events**

- **Countries honored or represented at interfaith events:** America 1976, 77, 81, 88; Cyprus 1977, 81; Rwanda, Guatemala, Malaysia, Panama , Philippines 1977; Holy See 1977,78,79, 80, 81, 82; Bahamas, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, German Democratic Republic, Kuwait and Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden 1978 ; Nigeria, Spain, Zaire 1980; Canada 1979,82; Egypt 1981; Swaziland, Czechoslovakia 1981; Greece 1988, Uganda, Sri Lanka 1991; could add counties hosting or attending Prayer Breakfasts? (**see also Part 3-05** Countries and Culture)
- **Individuals participation or honored:** J. and L. Carter 1977; Pope Paul IV 1977-78; Muhammad Ali 1977, 79; Mrs. King 1977; Jorge Illueca 1977, 2007; Swami Vivekananda 1978, 93; Allard Lowenstein, 1977, 80; Pope John Paul II 1980,88; Anwar El Sadat 1981; Robert. Muller 1977, 81, 82, 85, 91. 97, 2000?; Judith Hollister 1977, 84, Peter Stewart 1975, 77, Ted Corbitt, Norb Sanders 1979; Marc Tannenbaum 1979, Muhammed Abdul Rauf 1979; Don Keys 1977, 81; Louis M. Dolan 1982; Norman Rockwell 1978, 1985, 2014, Thomas Hartman 1989; Pir Vilayat Khan 1991, Mother Teresa 1994, 97; Coretta Scott King 1994; Sri Aurobindo 1997; Desmond Tutu 2004 , Vision of Thomas Jefferson 2004;