



Women's Federation for World Peace USA

WFWP: Introducing The Trail of Tears Journey

Angelika Selle
May 7, 2013

Dear members and friends of WFWP,

In the spirit of this year's theme, "Spirituality, Healing, & Service", WFWP USA is very pleased to be an active organizer of a very special project, The Trail of Tears Prayer Journey. We ask you to please read the detailed letter and attached flyer below for more information. We also hope for your participation.

May 7, 2013

Dear members and friends of WFWP,

We are very happy to inform you of and invite you to participate in a special project WFWP is supporting at this time: the **Trail of Tears Prayer Journey** - a pilgrimage from June 7 to June 15, 2013. This effort, organized by the **Peace Makers for Sacred Healing Committee**, of which WFWP USA is a part, is meant to help bring about national reconciliation with America's First People.

From 1836-38, over 16,000 Americans who happened to be Cherokee Indians were forced to abandon their flourishing farms, prosperous homes, and well-developed towns and villages largely in Georgia and travel, mainly by foot, over a thousand miles to the unknown lands of Arkansas and Oklahoma, where they were relocated onto reservations.

With the support of local and national government, specifically through the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Cherokee families were driven from their homes by force at gunpoint. One-fourth of the Native population died along the way. When they arrived at the end of this long march, there were few children and elders remaining. Unmarked graves span the length of the trail.

We cannot undo history. But we can make a brighter future. It is said, "He who cannot learn from history is doomed to repeat it."

Our June 7-15 journey is a small effort to acknowledge and repent for a part of the historical trauma perpetrated on the original inhabitants of this land and to expose this tragedy and bind those historical wounds so that some level of healing can occur. We ask you to partner with us through your financial support and by attending gatherings to learn about this time of America's past.

Your offerings will become gifts made to institutions that preserve history, and scholarships to educate and prepare young Native Americans to take advantage of the opportunities available to every American.

Members of the organizing committee of the various organizations involved will be undertaking this June 7-15 journey by car, visiting various historic sites along the Trail of Tears route, praying in the spirit of repentance, and bringing gifts to the local tribes and communities along the way.

The journey begins near Atlanta, Georgia, at the New Echota State Historic Site, on June 8. New Echota was the capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1825-35. The pilgrimage ends in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on June 15 with a special reconciliation and healing ceremony together with representatives and chiefs of Native tribes, women leaders, clergy, officials, and young people.

At the end of the trip, a donation will be offered to the local tribes and to the United Native American Council, led by Mrs. Linda Lucero, who is also the spiritual adviser for this journey.

Here are ways to participate from wherever you are:

- Study up on the history of the Native American people in the U.S.
- Provide financial support for the team and for the gifts that will be shared along the route by donating to the Trail of Tears Fund. Make checks payable to **WFWP USA** (with "**Trail of Tears Fund**" in the memo line), and send to:

WFWP USA
481 8th Ave, Suite 3015
New York, New York 10001

- **If you live in Georgia or Oklahoma or anywhere nearby our pilgrimage route, which will pass through Tennessee and Arkansas, please welcome the team and participate in prayers, gift-giving, and ceremonies.**
- Follow the trail in prayer from your home, community, or house of worship.

For more background, information, and ongoing updates, please visit our website at www.wfwp.us.

In the spirit of WFWP's theme this year, "Spirituality, Healing, and Service," join us as we begin a healing process and leave a legacy of honesty and humility to our children and grandchildren - a legacy based on love and justice for our fellow humans, all our fellow humans, regardless of race or religion or upbringing.

We thank you in advance for partnering with us in this greatly needed and long-awaited journey of the heart!

With love,



Mrs. Angelika Selle
President WFWP USA
Vice President WFWP International

Peace Makers for Sacred Healing Committee:

United Native American Council (UNAC) - Dr. Linda Lucero Nishikawa,
nee Cornier

Women's Federation for World Peace - Angelika Selle, President

American Clergy Leadership Conference - Minister Reiko Jenkins

White Eagle International Ministries, Inc. - Rev. Marilyn Kotulek, Oklahoma

Oklahoma Native American Church - Chief George Akeen

Kingmaker Magazine - Mrs. Claire Daugherty

Founding mothers of this project:

Rev. Dr. Linda Lucero Nishikawa

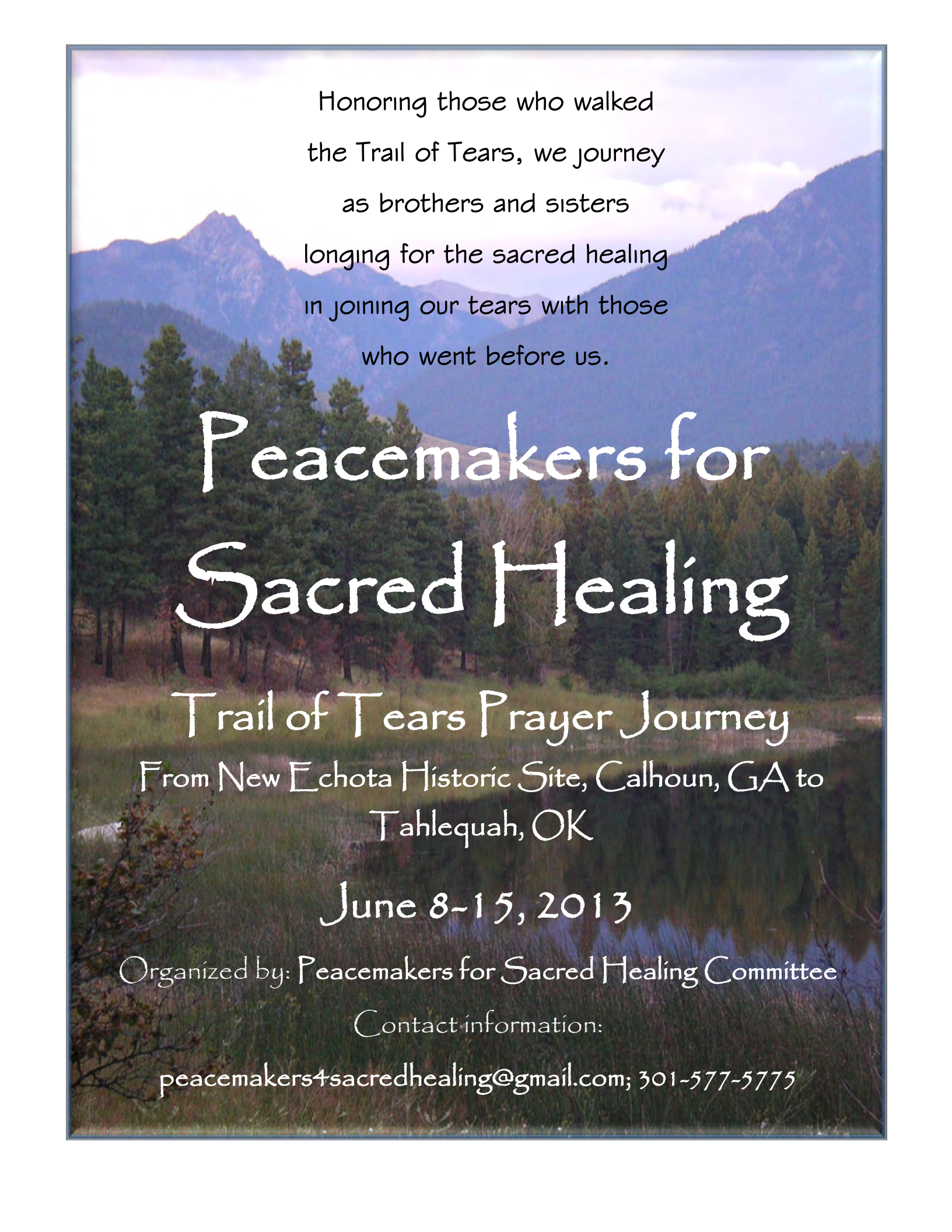
Claire Daugherty - Initiator

Mrs. Reiko Jenkins

Mrs. Brenda Miller

Mrs. Katherine Cromwell



A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm body of water in the foreground reflecting the sky and trees. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a clear or slightly hazy day.

Honoring those who walked
the Trail of Tears, we journey
as brothers and sisters
longing for the sacred healing
in joining our tears with those
who went before us.

Peacemakers for Sacred Healing

Trail of Tears Prayer Journey
From New Echota Historic Site, Calhoun, GA to
Tahlequah, OK

June 8-15, 2013

Organized by: Peacemakers for Sacred Healing Committee

Contact information:

peacemakers4sacredhealing@gmail.com; 301-577-5775



WFWP

WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE USA

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New York, NY 10001

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Website: www.wfwf.us

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An NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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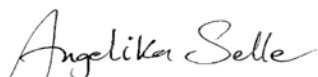
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