

WFWP Arizona, USA: Peace Starts with Me - Bridge of Peace Ceremony on TV

Gloria Peterson
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Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) of Arizona expanded their network of professional women as a call to peace by holding the Women's Federation of World Peace's "Bridge of Peace" ceremony for the first time in Arizona. Kim Evans, founder and CEO of [Your Wings](#), and Glenda Lambert, GWPN Arizona Coordinator, led the ceremony with an exchange of scarves and passing of flags. All attendees prayed and embraced for peace among each other and between nations. The ceremony consisted of the exchange of scarves as a symbol of love and caring for each other, and the passing of flags to symbolize a peaceful effort among countries (e.g., Russia and Ukraine; North Korea and South Korea) to one day come together.



The event was held at the exquisite home of Rev. Tina Brown and David Vieweg. What a wonderful way

to experience their home and the ceremony. A Mediterranean menu was catered followed by a "Tea with Intention" celebration cake. The Bridge of Peace ceremony was held on May 14. We had 58 in attendance.

A BIG effort was made to have CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, and the AZ Republic Newspaper cover our event. CBS was there, and gave us great news television coverage, which featured an interview with Angelika and video clip of the gathering.



There was emphasis on being respectful of cultural differences where we live by engaging in understanding and peaceful interactions domestically and worldwide. As shared by Dr. Susan Taffer, Founder and CEO World Connections Foundation:

"These like-minded professional women gathered together to engage in The Bridge of Peace Ceremony, where they also learned about each other in a deeper conviction of understanding, love and acceptance. It was so exciting and deeply moving to witness so many intelligent, loving, caring citizens embracing people from all nations in a step toward a global peace initiative at the local level. These women leaders are all attracted to the concept of igniting an old notion of world peace with a new vision - where leadership with heart is the focus."



Incredible women, from all walks of life, have stepped up to collectively work toward a greater goal of peace. They GET IT! They believe that in order for all humankind to experience their own greatness, prosperity, and the opportunity to achieve their own highest human potential, we must recognize the divine in all of us no matter our differences and no matter our resistance!



Global Women's Peace Network of Arizona will lead the valley in helping others deliver the Bridge of Peace curriculum©, including the heart preparation and the ceremonial process.

To learn more about WFWP's signature project, the Bridge of Peace Ceremony [click here](#).

"Peace to all" is always a Celebration!





Bridge of Peace

“If women all around the world take one another’s hands as sisters, their men would cease to fight and kill one another...parents would no longer mourn the loss of their sons and daughters.”

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP Founder



WFWP’s signature project, the Bridge of Peace, was developed as a means of reconciliation, an avenue for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future.

In 1995 and 1996, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, over 20,000 Japanese women came to the United States to cross a symbolic bridge with an American “sister” in order to heal the gap which still existed between the former enemy nations. Many tears were shed, with laughter and smiles, as each side made a commitment to end the animosity of the past. Since then, we have used the Bridge of Peace in Ireland, to unite Catholics and Protestants; even in Jerusalem, between Israelis and Arabs, between Jews and Christians, and Christians and Muslims. In the United States, it has been used to heal racism by uniting women and girls in a multicolor bouquet of sisterhood, to mend the rift and misunderstanding between

police and citizens, and to reconcile couples who have considered divorce and want to renew their dedication of love.

The transformative power of the Bridge of Peace lies not in the act of the ceremony, but within the heart and mind of each individual who take this step toward reconciliation. Two individuals stand at opposite sides of the bridge and bow both in repentance for anything they or their ancestors may have done to cause pain to the other as well as in forgiveness to the other side. As they cross to meet each other at the center, they cross over fear, prejudice, resentment, and pain, and embrace each other with a bigger heart and a bigger mind. In this embrace is also a commitment to a new future of peace. The Bridge is a symbol of crossing the barriers that we hold in our hearts and a willingness to embrace and accept someone different.



REFLECTIONS

“If we could have done this 50 years ago, maybe we could have prevented a war.”

— George H. W. Bush, Former USA President

“Things inside me loosened. I felt I had to apologize to Gloria for my family and for the culture in which I was raised to view black people as inferior and ignorant. Although we have grown very close as sisters and twins, and had alluded to the fact that there had been racial tension between us before God brought us together; I had never said this to Gloria before...Apologizing was difficult for me, and she readily forgave me, for which I was relieved and grateful...I told her I was sorry. It was unbelievably liberating for me after confessing to Gloria and being forgiven which I honestly did not expect, and I wanted to apologize for more situations, but I could not go on.”

“I do believe that if peace is to ever become a reality in this world, women will be at the forefront of the efforts, as the bridge and the negotiators to bring it about. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this event and meet the wonderful women who were present that day!”



Peace Starts with Me —Bridge of Peace Ceremony Gets TV Coverage!

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481 8th Ave. Suite 1228, New York, NY 10001 - 1 (212) 302-8837 - info@wfwp.us
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