

UPF USA March Newsletter

Kaelegh Moffitt
March 31, 2026



UPF USA BRIDGEBUILDER NEWSLETTER

March 2026

A monthly snapshot of peace stories, insight, and inspiration.

Peace Practice Shared Humanity: A Framework for Peacebuilding

In a time of growing division, the concept of “Shared Humanity” offers a powerful foundation for peacebuilding through the vision of One Human Family Under God. Rooted in the belief that all people share inherent dignity, it calls leaders to move beyond differences and embrace a broader sense of responsibility and connection.

Central to this approach is the idea of a “parental heart” of leadership, one that prioritizes care, cooperation, and the well-being of all, rather than competition or self-interest. Inspired

by the teachings of the Universal Peace Federation, this perspective emphasizes that lasting peace begins with transforming how we relate to one another. By fostering trust, dialogue, and collaboration, it provides a practical pathway toward building lasting peace in an increasingly complex world.



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HerStory Award: Celebrating Women Peacemakers in Maryland

On March 22, the Peace Starts With Me Alliance, in partnership with UPF, WFWP, ACLC, and Capital Family Church, hosted the HerStory Award at the Washington Times Building, honoring outstanding women leaders during Women's History Month. The program featured uplifting music, inspiring remarks, and a keynote highlighting the vital role of women in peacebuilding.

Four remarkable women were recognized for their leadership and service, sharing powerful testimonies of faith and impact. Cultural performances and community reflections added to the spirit of the evening.

The event concluded with fellowship and a shared commitment to advancing peace by uplifting women leaders and strengthening communities.



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Ambassador for Peace Spotlight **Jitender Sandadi**



Jitender Sandadi's life reflects a deep commitment to service, leadership, and interfaith unity. Born in Hyderabad, India, he moved to the United States in 1990 and has lived in Carmel, Indiana for over 20 years.

After a 23-year career at Unisys Corporation, he chose a more purpose-driven path centered on *sewa*, or selfless service. He now supports several organizations, including HSS USA, Sewa International, School on Wheels, and the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, where he serves as Chairman. Jitender embodies the true spirit of an Ambassador for Peace through his leadership and volunteer work. He continues to build bridges across communities and inspire others through his unending service.

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A Morning of Unity and Renewal in Belvedere, NY

The "*United to Rebuild the Family of God*" prayer breakfast brought together ministers and community leaders for a spirit-filled gathering featuring fellowship, worship, and Ambassador for Peace (AFP) appointments. Three individuals were honored, two recommended through existing AFP connections, highlighting the growing network of leaders uplifting one another.

The program included praise and worship, a special steel drum performance, and a presentation on religious persecution in Korea and Japan, which deeply moved participants and led to a united prayer. A video message from Dr. Hak Ja Han and musical offerings further enriched the program.

Rev. Dr. Achille Acolatse delivered a powerful keynote on God's ideal of family and the call to love God wholeheartedly (Matthew 22:36–39). The event concluded with a moving rendition of "*I Need You to Survive*," leaving attendees inspired by the strong spirit of unity, love, and hope.



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Shared Humanity: A Framework for Peacebuilding

In a time marked by deep division across politics, culture, and even within our institutions, the question of how we see one another has never been more important. The concept of “Shared Humanity” introduces a foundational principle of peacebuilding: the vision of One Human Family Under God. Rooted in the belief that all people share a common origin and inherent dignity, this perspective challenges leaders to move beyond narrow identities

and short-term interests toward a broader sense of shared responsibility. When leaders begin to see others not as adversaries but as part of a larger human family, the very nature of leadership begins to shift.



This vision lies at the heart of the peace philosophy articulated by the founders of the Universal Peace Federation, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Holy Mother Han. They emphasized that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through policy or power alone, but must be grounded in a transformation of how we relate to one another. Central to this approach is the concept of a “parental heart”—a leadership mindset that prioritizes care, responsibility, and the well-being of the whole. It reframes leadership from competition to stewardship, encouraging leaders to consider not only immediate outcomes, but long-term stability and shared prosperity.

The founders modeled this philosophy through decades of global engagement by bringing together leaders across political, religious, and cultural divides, and advancing initiatives that foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation. Today, the Universal Peace Federation continues this work by convening diverse stakeholders and empowering Ambassadors for Peace as leaders committed to building bridges, strengthening communities, and advancing values-based leadership in every sector of society.

As our world continues to navigate increasing complexity and polarization, this framework offers both a moral foundation and a practical pathway forward. Seeing others as part of one human family enables trust, inclusion, and meaningful collaboration which are essential ingredients for addressing today’s most pressing challenges. While strong systems and policies remain vital, they are most effective when grounded in a deeper relational vision. This framework reminds us that peace begins not only with agreements, but with how leaders choose to see one another.

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3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington D.C.,
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info@us.upf.org
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HerStory Award: Celebrating Women Peacemakers in Maryland

In Honor of Women's History Month & International Day of Women

On Sunday, March 22, the Peace Starts With Me Alliance—in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), and Capital Family Church (CFC)—hosted the HerStory Award at the Washington Times Building Ballroom. The program brought together faith leaders, community leaders, and guests to celebrate women whose leadership and service are shaping a more just and peaceful society.



The evening opened with a warm and uplifting atmosphere, including live music from the Capital Family Church band and an opening prayer offered by Pastor Miata Sirleaf of Shekinah Glory Global Ministries International. A keynote address by Mrs. Kaeleigh Moffitt, Regional President of WFWP North America, set the tone for the program, highlighting the essential role of women as peacemakers and the importance of recognizing and uplifting their contributions across all sectors of society.

The centerpiece of the program was the HerStory Award ceremony, honoring four outstanding women leaders for their impact and dedication:

- Rev. Dr. Angela Kittrell, Founder, *Emmanuel Faith Ministries*
- Ms. Porscha Lee Taylor, DC President, *Youth for Human Rights International*
- Minister Meisha Dawson, Executive Steward, *The Hill*
- Ms. Yukia Hügee-Wilson, Founder, *The Farewell Agency*

Each awardee was introduced by a nominator who shared personal reflections on their leadership and character, followed by heartfelt acceptance remarks that inspired the audience with stories of faith, perseverance, and service.

The program also featured an inspiring interlude performance by the New Hope Academy Dance Team, adding a creative and expressive dimension to the evening. Closing remarks from Rev. Ryan Lindsay Arrendell, Faith Community Liaison from the Mayor's Office (Ward 5–8), affirmed the importance of partnerships between faith communities and civic leadership in advancing peace and unity.

The evening concluded with a closing prayer by Rev. Randy Francis and a time of fellowship over dinner, allowing participants to connect more deeply and celebrate the honorees together.

The HerStory Award program was a meaningful expression of the Peace Starts With Me vision—uplifting women leaders, strengthening community bonds, and inspiring a renewed commitment to peacebuilding rooted in faith, family, and service.

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A Morning of Unity and Renewal in Belvedere, > NY

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Ambassador for Peace Spotlight: Jitender Sandadi

Jitender Sandadi's life is a powerful testament to the values of service, community, and cross-cultural understanding. Born in Hyderabad, India, Jitender was raised in a family deeply rooted in Hindu traditions that emphasized education, integrity, and character. These early influences would go on to shape not only his personal journey but also his lifelong commitment to serving others.

In 1990, Jitender migrated to the United States in pursuit of new opportunities. Over time, Carmel, Indiana became his home, where he has spent more than two decades building both a career and a vibrant family life. He describes himself as deeply blessed by the unwavering support of his spouse and the accomplishments of his two children—his daughter, currently a freshman at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and his son, a senior at Carmel High School.



Professionally, Jitender dedicated 23 years to Unisys Corporation, gaining valuable experience in the corporate world. However, in 2017, he made a pivotal decision to step away from his career in search of more meaningful and purpose-driven work. This transition marked the beginning of a new chapter centered on "sewa," a Sanskrit term meaning selfless service.

Since then, Jitender has immersed himself in a wide range of community and service-oriented organizations. His work spans educational, cultural, and humanitarian initiatives, reflecting a deep commitment to uplifting others. Among the organizations he actively supports are Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA, Sewa International, the Hindu Education Foundation, School on Wheels, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, and the Indiana Multifaith Network.

In his leadership role as Joint Executive Director of the Great Lakes Region for HSS USA, Jitender helps guide efforts across Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan. Through this work, he contributes to strengthening communities by promoting values such as discipline, teamwork, self-confidence, and service rooted in Hindu Dharma.

At the local level, Jitender's impact is equally profound. He volunteers with School on Wheels, tutoring underserved children and helping them build confidence through education. As Chairman of the Board for the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, he plays a key role in fostering dialogue, increasing religious literacy, and building bridges of understanding between diverse faith communities. Additionally, as a founding member of the Indiana Multifaith Network, he has helped create platforms for collaboration and unity across religious lines.

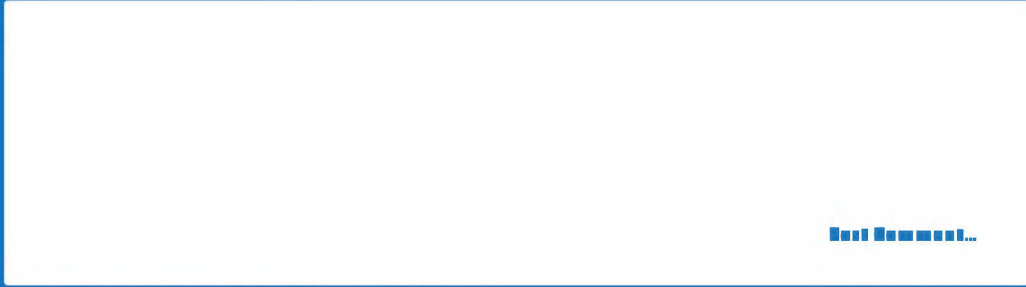
Beyond his professional and volunteer commitments, Jitender has embraced personal growth through endurance running. Over the past several years, he has completed six marathons—including the prestigious Boston, New York City, and Chicago marathons—as well as more than twenty half marathons. This pursuit reflects his discipline, perseverance, and commitment to continuous self-improvement.

Jitender Sandadi exemplifies what it means to live a life of purpose. His journey, from his

roots in India to his leadership and service in the United States, demonstrates how dedication to values, community, and interfaith harmony can create meaningful and lasting impact. As an Ambassador for Peace, he stands as an inspiring example of how selfless service and compassionate leadership can help build a more understanding and united world.

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Sadaqat Sardar 20 hours ago · 0 Likes

We appreciate Jitender's services those represent the highest form of compassion. God bless him!

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Butler** >

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A Morning of Unity and Renewal in Belvedere, NY

The program *United to Rebuild the Family of God* was held in the format of a prayer breakfast combined with an Ambassadors for Peace (AFP) appointment ceremony. The event brought together a primarily ministerial audience, largely from ACLC contacts, along with special guests invited for recognition. Notably, three individuals received Ambassador for Peace appointments, all introduced through existing AFP connections, demonstrating a meaningful example of peer-to-peer outreach and community expansion.



The program began with a shared breakfast followed by a vibrant praise and worship session that created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. A warm welcome from the host pastor helped to further establish a sense of unity and fellowship among participants. The program was enriched by a special musical performance from a steel drum band from the Methodist Church in Spring Valley, which added a joyful and celebratory element.

Participants were then introduced to the origins of ACLC through a video presentation highlighting its founding in Korea. This was followed by a detailed report from David Okamoto addressing the challenges and persecution experienced by members in Korea and Japan. His presentation resonated deeply with the audience, prompting strong interest and requests for further information. In response, a unison prayer was offered for those facing religious persecution, creating a moment of shared reflection and solidarity.

Additional musical offerings, including a solo performance by Michael Whyte, contributed to the program's spiritual depth. The Ambassador for Peace appointment ceremony was conducted by Barry Geller, recognizing three individuals for their service and leadership, including two nonprofit founders and a local bishop.

The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Achille, who spoke on the central importance of the family as God's ideal. He introduced the vision of the True Parents as founders of ACLC and emphasized the biblical teaching from Matthew 22:36–39 on loving God wholeheartedly. He reflected that a true understanding of loving God would naturally lead to a more moral and compassionate society. His message was both heartfelt and impactful, resonating strongly with attendees.

The program concluded with a powerful and interactive moment as participants joined together in singing *"I Need You to Survive"* by Hezekiah Walker, fostering a spirit of unity and connection as Rev. Achille personally greeted attendees. The event closed with announcements and a benediction.

Overall, participants expressed that the program created a warm, uplifting, and spiritually enriching environment. Many noted a strong sense of fellowship and inspiration, reflecting the program's success in strengthening faith-based relationships and advancing the vision of building one family under God.

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We invite you to join our effort, share your ideas, and contribute to this global effort to build a world of sustainable and lasting peace.

For inquiries about donations, please contact the UPF USA team at info@us.upf.org.



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