

## Over 100 women gather for Bridge of Peace Ceremony South Gate, CA

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On May 29, 2016 in South Gate, California, over 100 women gathered to participate in the Bridge of Peace Ceremony. The Bridge of Peace ceremony is the signature project of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

Crossing the Bridge of Peace is an opportunity for those who participate to experience healing and reconciliation. No one is exempt from the need for this. Being Memorial Day weekend gave it even greater meaning. We deeply felt the need for peace in the world today. The Bridge of Peace Ceremony gave everyone there the experience of the vision, knowledge and reality, that peace really does begin with me.

The City of South Gate is located geographically in the center of Los Angeles. Project organizers felt that in the same way as the ripples of a rock thrown into still water, spreads out in wider and wider circles... also peace beginning from two individuals who do not even know each other, but pledge to live by the logic of love and the beautiful concept of living for the sake of others, can begin the process of world peace to far away places, in the same way as that rock in still water does.

Southern California Chairwoman, Emma Reed was introduced and she shared about the many projects the Los Angeles chapter is doing and welcomed all guests to become a member of Women's Federation for World Peace.

South Gate's Vice Mayor, Maria Davila was MC for the event. She invited all the guests to enjoy a traditional Mexican meal including rice, beans, chicken and fresh salsa before introducing our Keynote speaker.

Keynote speaker, Sheri Rueter, is Director of Health Services/Lead School Nurse in San Gabriel Unified School District. She is a past Vice President and Chairwoman of Women's Federation for World Peace.

Sheri spoke about the history of The Bridge of Peace and explained the simple procedure of bowing to show respect and then meeting someone with the heart of love necessary to bring peace in the world.

When the participants met their new 'sister' they met someone they never met before, yet they greeted each other with open arms and heart! It was beautiful to see and as each couple met, the atmosphere in the room became more and more joyful. After all the women did the ceremony, exchanged certificates and made plans to meet again soon, the men who were there crossed the bridge to meet as brothers too!