



The Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP)

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Pre-press

**Meaningfulworld celebrates 25th Anniversary on United Nations
International Day of Peace
Monday 20 September 2015, 1-4 PM**

Lyla Parvez, Kathy Orchen, & Dr Ani Kalayjian

New York, NY - On Sunday, 20 September 2015, Meaningfulworld is partnering with like-minded organizations, to celebrate its annual International Day of Peace at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. This year the theme is, “**Partnerships for Peace—Dignity for All.**”

This year Meaningfulworld also is celebrating its 25th Anniversary of healing, peacemaking, transforming pain and generational trauma, and establishing Peace and Forgiveness Gardens globally in over 46 countries and 12 states in the United States of America.

The theme of our interfaith panel will be: **Transforming Violence and Creating Peace: Faith in Action.** The three-featured Panelists will be Paul Jaffe, Rick Ufford-Chase, and Imam Syed Sayeed.

Paul Jaffe, Meditation Teacher, Intercultural Consultant and founding Board member of Clear Sky Meditation and Study Center in British Columbia.

Paul Jaffe has studied with numerous masters of Zen, Tibetan Buddhism and Insight meditation, including Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche, H.H. Gyalawang Drukchen, and Maezumi Taizan Roshi, before beginning to study in the creative lineage of Namgyal Rinpoche and Acharya Doug Duncan in 1997. Paul was an NGO representative at the historic Kyoto COP3 conference, which established international protocols for greenhouse gas reduction. In 2012, he returned from over 20 years in Japan where he helped establish a meditation community and worked as a professor at Ryukoku University, teaching classes in English language, American culture, intercultural communication and Buddhism. Over the past 25 years he has conducted intercultural trainings for business people, professionals, civil servants, educators and students. Since returning to the U.S. he has continued this work and now provides intercultural training,

coaching and consulting as the New York Representative for Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducts meditation and life re-visioning retreats.

Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director of Stony Point Conference Center, Co-Founder of the mulitfaith Community of Living Traditions - an Abrahamic Community committed to the practice of hospitality the work of peacebuilding, and co-director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. Rick Ufford-Chase founded BorderLinks, a bi-national organization that works to connect and educate people of faith on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. With his wife, Kitty, he has been trained to serve as a reservist with Christian Peacemaker Teams, an organization that has sent teams of "accompaniers" to Colombia, Iraq, Palestine and the U.S./Mexico border region. In June 2006, after the end of his term as PC (USA) moderator, Rick accepted a call as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. While there, and acting as the first full-time appointed Executive Director, Ufford-Chase was a founding member of both the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq and the Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnership. He also received the Dignitas Humana Award for Human Rights work from St. John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, MN.

Imam Syed Sayeed, Muslim Chaplain And Muslim Life Advisor at Columbia University. In 1964 and 1967, respectively, Imam Syed Sayeed received his Bachelors in Psychology, Philosophy and Political Science and his Masters in Psychology from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India. He has served as the assistant professor for psychology and early childhood education in North Carolina. From 1978 to 1996, he served as Education and Executive Director at several early childhood education centers in NYC. Presently, he is volunteer Imam and Religious Life Advisor on call at Columbia University in NYC and Volunteer Imam Mount Sinai Hospital, Department of Spiritual Care and Education.

Recipients of the awards are the Jordanian Ambassador to the UN, **Mrs. Dina Kawar**, Haitian Ambassador to the UN **Mr. Jean Wesley Cazeau**, and **Emily Brewer, MDiv, Youth Peace Award**.

Emily Brewer, MDiv, is a co-director at the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF), a nation-wide community of Presbyterians who work to reduce war and violence in the world.

After graduating from Maryville College in 2009, Emily spent a year in the highlands of Guatemala with the Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers Program. In May 2012, Emily traveled to Colombia to support communities of Colombians who have been displaced by the violence in their country. She received Masters of Divinity at Union Theological Seminar. In January of 2014 Emily traveled to Palestine with a PPF delegation and began to work and advocate for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The musical performance will be by **Speaking through Rhythms**, which is an organization that provides a comprehensive music program for youth in East Harlem. Through percussion instruments, children learn a variety of musical styles and genres, which they can then use to perform their own compositions. This organization allows members to unleash their creativity and understand their own cultural identity.



The *feature film* is ***Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Relief in the Middle East & Haiti***. The Humanitarian Team will discuss their mission in Palestine and Haiti, what they observed, how they assisted the traumatized camps, orphanages, and community centers, and how to transform human rights violations through peaceful actions such as establishing Peace and Forgiveness Garden”.

In honor of ***Meaningfulworld’s 25th anniversary***, there will be an awards brunch with homemade organic food.

For over 25 years Meaningfulworld has been committed to service of humanity, creating healing, instilling peace, and transforming generational pain and suffering. We have worked in over 46 countries around the globe in 7 regions: Africa, Asia, North and South Americas, Caribbean, Europe, The Middle East, transforming the lives of over a million people. Organized over 60 programs at the United Nations, has over 100 research publications, over 500 local and global healing programs, over 250 National and academic symposia, over 2,000 global educational programs.

Special gratitude to our Co-Sponsors: Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP), Meaningfulworld, The Armenian Constitutional Rights Protective Centre of Armenia, Armenian American Society for Studies on Stress & Genocide (AASSSG), Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Educational Services (IMCES), and Voices for Freedom.

Co-Chairs are: Dr. Ani Kalayjian and Kathy Orchen, MPH.

Special gratitude to our organizing committee members: Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Kathy Orchen, Lorraine Simmons, Lyla Parvez, Raman Kaur, Brianda Quinones, Isreal Adeyanju, Irene Tananyan, Andre Der-Artinian, Gamba Thompson, Caroline Pinsky, and William Szilagyi.

Kindly RSVP to info@Meaningfulworld.com.

Founded in 1990, Meaningfulworld, the Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP), affiliated with the United Nations, has achieved international recognition as a leader in training humanitarian outreach professionals as well as responding to two decades of global and local disasters. Meaningfulworld is committed to global education promoting state-of-the-art scientific theory, peace and consciousness research, and the development of technical skills to train mental health professionals, teachers, psychologists, art therapists, nutritionists, alternative medicine practitioners, clergy, nurses, mediators, interfaith ministers, and lay persons committed to service. Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Outreach teams make a daily difference in 45 countries in people's lives helping to transform tragedy and trauma into healing through post trauma growth, guidance, empowerment, mindfulness, and meaning-making through a new world view. Ask yourself ...Ask your friends...What makes your world more meaningful?

Our Motto: When one helps another BOTH become stronger