

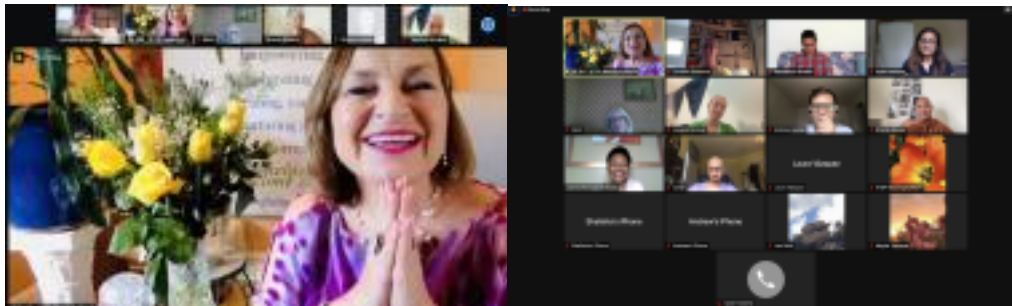


Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention
United Nations World Humanitarian Day

Jessica Gruboy

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.”
- Francis of Assisi

On 19 August 2021 ATOP MeaningfulWorld held a virtual zoom event to celebrate the United Nations World Humanitarian Day. This day is a celebration of humanitarian work as it currently stands, and a memorial to all those who have lost their lives through the brave pursuit of humanitarianism. United Nations theme was “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.” We wanted to showcase speakers who were able to tell stories of their humanitarian outreach. Prior to the commencement of the event, our CEO, **Dr. Ani Kalayjian** presented an overview of the event and gave thanks for all who were able to join.



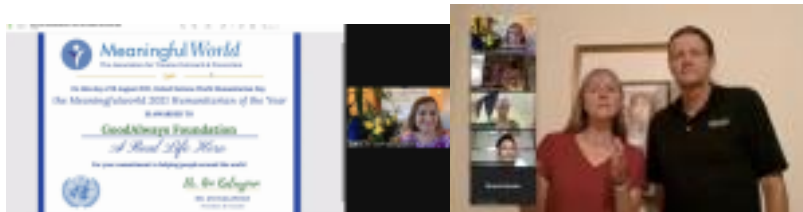
Dr. Kalayjian recited the following:

*“If I can throw a single ray of light across a darkened pathway of another
If I can aid some soul to clearer sight of like and responsibility,
And thus bless my brothers and sisters,
If I can wipe from any human cheek a tear,
I shall not have lived my life in vain while here.”*

We continued with a meditation by **Bhante Revata**. BHANTE Revata (Chipamong) is Theravada monk, contemplative teacher and storyteller and teaches nomad mindfulness/vipassana meditation at the Chautauqua Institution NY. Originally from Bangladesh, he studied Buddhist education, meditation and monasticism in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. He also studied at the University of Toronto, Naropa University Colorado, Arizona State University and was a Fellow at the Center for Justice at Columbia University. He is a co-editor of a book: Human Dignity: Practices, Discourses, and Transformations. Bhante Revata’s meditation truly centered us and brought us peace as we transitioned into our program.



We then presented our **2021 Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Award Winners: Scott Hosking and Adriane Kim** of the **GoodAlways Foundation**. They shared their gratitude message through a recorded video. Their mission is to build community, to empower with education, to create sustainability, and to engage in holistic healing. They help the Guatemalan communities in distress. Good Always connects people living in extreme poverty, who have a strong desire to lift themselves to a new station in life with A Hand Up, Not A Handout and introduces them to loving and kind people who have resources and tools. Through this connection, miracles happen. Good Always education initiatives use cutting edge technology, allowing to reach and teach people in extremely remote locations with a blended education. Through Stones Light Education Foundation, they are able to achieve the objective of educating those in need. Good Always has partnered with Granafort, Las Azucenas and the Mayan Biosphere to teach people about the extremely important needs the world must preserve and replenish our rainforests. Good Always is an active Guardian of the Forest. They feel responsible to teach children and their families about the needs of reforestation. They have teamed up with the Mayan Wellness Retreat, offering life changing tours that heal the soul and bring peace. Mostly Good Always is about Compassion and Love.



Next, **Martha Taylor LaCroix** gave an inspirational presentation. Martha is an entertainer, philanthropist, and and producer. As someone who has spent a long time in the music industry, she has linked her passion for music with her passion for engagement with civil causes. This brings her to her work at **Heres2Life Global**, as the director, founder, and vision keeper of the organization. She spoke about Heres2Life Global. The organization's mission is to prevent suicide, culminating in creative expressions which educate, touch, move and inspire the celebration of life. Here's 2 Life Global is a non-profit creating and supporting a network that raises awareness and encourages conversations around mental health that focuses on suicide prevention through relationship building, faith, and well-being. With the encouragement of our team, Martha, who is an award-winning Jazz Musician, presented a wonderful musical interlude.



MeaningfulWorld United Nations intern, **Jessica Gruboy**, followed with a summary of the organization's 32 years of humanitarian work, emphasizing our most recent post-recovery mission to Armenia. In her presentation, Jessica reviewed the MeaningfulWorld Mission, the 7-step Integrative Healing Model, and the highlights of our Armenia mission last Spring. We also presented our event guests with a look into future events we are planning and part of, including our **#STANDUP4PEACE** event on the United Nations International Day of Peace, and our Mayan Retreat in Guatemala.



Finally, we had a presentation by our youth speaker and Youthlinc 2021 Youth Humanitarian Award Winner, **Ashis Dakhal**. His family fled Bhutan to Nepal due to ethnic cleansing and were forced to live in a refugee camp. In the camp, poverty and hunger were daily challenges and Ashis slept on a bed made of bamboo, full of bed bugs, and surrounded by mosquitoes. He did not have access to clean drinking water, fresh air, electricity, or a decent home. He had to sneak into the forest to get wood for fuel to cook food. Police patrolled the woods, and if he got caught, he would be jailed. When the lantern's energy turned off, so did homework time. Getting a good education was very hard in the refugee camp. His father always told him to study carefully before the lights turned out. Ashis had limited options: either remain in poverty and become sickly or escape to a better life. His parents brought their family to America for a better education. His current work consisted predominantly of fundraising and working with NGOs to provide clothing in shelters and running clothing drives for children, refugees, etc.



We concluded with a lively Q&A, followed by our signature **Heart-to-Heart-Circle-of-Love-and Gratitude**, sending peaceful vibrations to all around the globe, and then with a mindful meditation. Overall, our event was a huge success, especially in terms of the coming together of multiple humanitarians and organizations who promote humanitarianism to discuss their impactful work both pre and post pandemic. This perfectly matches with the current United Nations theme of “recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.”

Always remember our motto: ***When one helps another, BOTH become stronger!***
Kindly visit and support us to continue our vital work: www.meaningfulworld.com