



The Evolution of Summer of Peace...

Dear Allies, Supporters, and Friends;

This email updates you about some major evolutionary changes at the Summer of Peace, which comes as no surprise since the Summer of Peace is ultimately about cultural evolution!

First, we have **moved the Summer of Peace "events" to the summer of 2012** and will be shifting the focus from primarily building locally in the Bay Area to creating a more open-source invitation to organizations, groups and individuals (and even nations!) to use the Summer as an opportunity to demonstrate what is possible in terms of shifting from a culture of violence to a culture of peace.

This shift in focal point to a more global network of locally-generated activities puts us in alignment with the original *International Day of Peace*, and previous events such as a Month of Peace or Ten Days of Peace. The goal of all this work has been the creation of a Culture of Peace, stewarded by our friends and partners at www.cultureofpeace.org, with each event series helping to build momentum towards a larger cultural shift. The summer of 2012 not only gives us some planning and building time, it is also an Olympic year, which had original Greek roots in peacebuilding, as well as a year of heightened anticipation of collective changes. Our sense is that these will help build a global buzz around programs, practices, and events based on our sense of unity, community, and capacity to create a peaceful culture.

Second, we realize that with the shift in timelines and focus, the organization will need some time to breathe, and to digest and enhance these new additions to the vision. The original team that came together put in extraordinary hours, many of them unpaid, and it's clear we need some space for an outbreath and to bring in fresh team members as well. **We will thus be putting most organizational activities on pause for the first half of this year**, with occasional open circles to hold and deepen the vision and relationships. We'll send out invitations to these circles. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved (stdinan@gmail.com).

Third, **our current Executive Director Lawrence Ellis has stepped down** from that role and title, although he remains excited about the longer-term vision. The reality has been that in a tough economic climate, we were not able to raise adequate funding to support staffing levels commensurate with his vision. As he has taken on other aligned work projects, it has felt important to shift his responsibilities with Summer of Peace. We share this news with mixed emotion, for Lawrence is beloved by all those connected to Summer of Peace. We wish him the best in his new endeavors and you can read a personal letter from him about his new activities and ways to stay connected at this link: www.lawrenceellis.org/activities.html

As the person with the original vision for the Summer of Peace, I feel at peace about the above changes and still have the powerful sense that the Summer of Peace will play a galvanizing role in moving forward collective evolution. The 2012 focal point feels exciting and pregnant with possibility. Each of us has grown in the first phase of the development of the Summer of Peace, and that will serve as a valuable base for the work still ahead of us. I also look forward to working with the new amazing people (perhaps including you!) who will help shape the next phase of its development.

I am deeply grateful to all the staff, donors, volunteers, organizational partners, allies,

and friends that have brought us this far.

In spirit,

Stephen Dinan
Chair of the Board, Summer of Peace
www.summerofpeace.net

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