OMNI CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, September 21, 2011. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace

OMNI welcomes an editor for this Newsletter, and organizer for IDP events each year. For example, in the past we have hung worldwide national flags around the square of Fayetteville. We should celebrate this day!

International Day of Peace
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For another meaning of World Peace Day, see Institute of All Nations for Advanced Studies.

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The International Day of Peace, also known as the World Peace Day, occurs annually on September 21. It is dedicated to peace, and specifically the absence of war, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone. It is observed by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples. The first year this holiday was celebrated was 1981.

To inaugurate the day, the "Peace Bell" is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City, United States). The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents. It was given as a gift by the United Nations Association of Japan, and is referred to as "a reminder of the human cost of war." The inscription on its side reads: "Long live absolute world peace."[1]

Individuals can also wear White Peace Doves to commemorate the International Day of Peace, which are badges in the shape of a dove produced by a non-profit in Canada.

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[edit] History

[edit] 1981
The United Nations General Assembly declared, in a resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica,[2] the third Tuesday of September/the opening day of regular sessions of the General Assembly as the International Day of Peace devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace.[3]

[edit] 1982
Tuesday, September 21, 1982, was the first occurrence of the International Day of Peace.

[edit] 2001
In 2001 the opening day of the General Assembly was scheduled for September 11, and Secretary General Kofi Annan drafted a message recognizing that observance of International Peace Day on September 11[4]. That year the day was changed from the third Tuesday to specifically the twenty-first day of September, to take effect in 2002. A new resolution was passed by the General Assembly,[2] sponsored by the United Kingdom (giving credit to Peace One Day) and Costa Rica (the sponsors of the original day) to give the Day of Peace a fixed date and declare it as a global ceasefire day.[5]

[edit] 2004
A diplomatic stir occurred in 2004 when Lions Clubs International sponsored a contest to select a set of posters to be used for commemorative stamps issued by the United Nations of America. A poster by 13 year-old Taiwanese junior high school student Yang Chih-Yuan was announced as one of the winners. However, it was later announced Yang's poster would not be used. Taiwan media reports, Taiwan Lions Club and the government of Taiwan claimed the decision not to use the poster resulted from pressure from China.[6] The government of Taiwan (Republic of China) later issued a stamp containing the image.[7] Critics claimed that the rejection of the student's painting on purely political grounds did not reflect the ideals of the International Day of Peace,[8] while the UN issued a statement that "due to an internal misunderstanding and miscommunication, Mr. Yang's proof got publicized in error as one of the six stamps intended to be issued."[6]

[edit] 2005
In 2005, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for the worldwide observance of a 24-hour cease-fire and day of nonviolence to mark the Day.[9]

[edit] 2006
In 2006, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan rang the Peace Bell for the last time during his term in office. That year the UN asserted the "many ways it works for peace and to encourage individuals,
groups and communities around the world to contemplate and communicate thoughts and activities on how to achieve peace. The United Kingdom held the primary public and official observation of the United Nations International Day of Peace and Non-Violence in Rochdale, Greater Manchester. This was organised by Peace Parade UK. [1][10]

[edit] 2007
In 2007, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon rang the Peace Bell at United Nations Headquarters in New York calling for a 24-hour cessation of hostilities on September 21, and for a minute of silence to be observed around the world [11]

[edit] References
2. ^ a b United Nations General Assembly Resolution 282 session 55 International Day of Peace on 7 September 2001
4. ^ [http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2001/sgsm7945.html MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE]
6. ^ a b Taipei Times Row erupts over local boy's stamp design
7. ^ Office of the President, Republic of China News Release: President Chen Receives the Painter of International Day of Peace Stamp Yang Chih-yuan
8. ^ Taipei Times Chunghwa Post announces intent to use student art

[edit] External links
- United Nations International Day of Peace Main Page
- International Day of Peace website
- International Day of Peace Vigil
- Facebook page for UN International Day of Peace
- Pathways To Peace
- Culture of Peace Initiative (CPI)
- The World Peace Prayer Society
- Peace One Day
- People Building Peace
- PEACE EDUCATION at United Nations Cyberschoolbus
- White Peace Doves
- World ceasefire Day
- Peace Day Campaign
- Jeremy Gilley, "One day of peace", TEDGlobal 2011, July 2011
1.

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internationaldayofpeace.org/news_and_updates/- CachedSimilar-
The 11 Days of Global Unity: This year marks the 10th anniversary of Sept ...
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From PEACE PLEASE
Greetings everyone,
As we head towards the International Day of Peace on Wednesday (September 21), the world is anything but peaceful. Right now there are more than 30 major conflicts occurring around the world, as in Afghanistan and Somalia, in addition to continuously simmering situations as in countries like Nigeria, Mexico and more. Along with the toll in human life, losses that can never be regained, the money that is being spent on these conflicts takes away from other areas of need - health care, education, infrastructure...the list goes on.

Right now at PEACE PLEASE we're featuring a song and video called "The Gandhi Rap - be the change you want to see." In recounting the life of Mahatma Gandhi it shows how each and every one of us can become warriors for peace, and effect change in our communities.

On International Peace Day, please take action and do whatever you can do to advance the cause of peace. Put peace out there in front of
people with a pin or a shirt or by showing the peace sign. Attend a peace day action or create your own with a sign by the side of the road. Talk to people - let them know that it's International Peace Day - and encourage them to take action too, no matter how small. If the change is going to come, it will take the efforts of all of us.

Here's wishing each and every one of you a wonderful Peace Day. On this day next year may we see some of that positive change that we've created!

All best and peace,

Leigh, and everyone with Peace Please

leigh@peaceplease.com - If you've not been to Peace Please for a while you'll see that we've added Twitter "peace" tweets, as well as stories from the Common Ground News Service that feature the themes of peace and coexistence. We hope they help enhance your experience and encourage you with your peace efforts. And we have many new peace products too - we hope you'll take a look!

www.peaceplease.com