

*"The feeling of mutual purpose, expressions of love and solidarity, and outpouring of compassion expressed for all of those affected on 9/11 were not limited to relatives of the victims or even limited to Americans. They were the natural response of people around the world who recognized their shared humanity and were moved to make common cause in the face of brutal violence."*

**-September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows**

*"We have assumed the name of peacemakers, but we have been unwilling to pay any significant price. And because we want the peace with half a heart and half a life and will, the war, of course, continues, because the waging of war, by its nature, is total--but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial. So a whole heart and a whole national life bent toward war prevail over the mere desire for peace."*

**-Fr. Daniel Berrigan, SJ**

*"Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence--when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition."*

**-Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 4, 1967)**



**Nevada Desert Experience**

**Interfaith Resistance to Nuclear Weapons and War**

**1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106**

**Jim@NevadaDesertExperience.org**

**702-646-4814**

*These reflections, poems and images are offered in hope that we can learn and grow from what we do as well as what is done to us.*

**"September 11th  
changed the world.**

**But it didn't change everything."**

**-September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows**

**"Our Grief is Not a Cry for War."**

**-Barbara Lee (D-CA, 9th District), as she cast the lone congressional vote against the Authorization for the Use of Military Force after the September, 2001 attack.**



**"I love you, so just love each other the best you can...  
never be afraid to love."**

**-Fr. Mychal Judge, Chaplain to the New York City Fire Department,  
killed while bestowing last rights to another fire fighter, popularly  
referred to as "The Saint of 9-11."**

"Peaceful Tomorrows is an organization founded by family members of those killed on September 11 who have united to turn our grief into action for peace. By developing and advocating nonviolent options and actions in the pursuit of justice, we hope to break the cycles of violence engendered by war and terrorism. Acknowledging our common experience with all people affected by violence throughout the world, we work to create a safer and more peaceful world for everyone." As 9/11 remains a flashpoint for people, politicians and the press, members of this group are sharing their experiences, one story at a time, in *911 Stories: Our Voices, Our Choices*. See <[PeacefulTomorrows.org](http://PeacefulTomorrows.org)> or <[911stories.org](http://911stories.org)>.



Paul Arpaia of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, whose cousin was killed on September 11, and Mohammad Jan of the **Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers** (from Bamiyan, Afghanistan) met in Kabul Afghanistan in September, 2011. Though their sharing was brief, it was a sharing of grief and strength, evidence that love always overcomes hate. See a video of their meeting (plus many other beautiful and inspiring ones) at <[OurJourneyToSmile.com](http://OurJourneyToSmile.com)>.



*The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPV) with their signature blue scarves during their "Love Walks in Kabul" peace march in March, 2011. Most AYPV members have lost loved ones to violence. Jim Haber and Mary Lou Anderson visited the AYPV in March. Contact them through Nevada Desert Experience to arrange a presentation about their experience.*

## I Have a Dream

I have a dream.

In my dream I see a people in great anguish watching in horror as Twin Towers collapse killing thousands.

And I see the people in anguish and bewilderment asking, Where is this terror coming from? What is evoking such anger? And from distant shadows I hear whispers...

"who do you think you are?"

"do you know that we are human also?"

"why do you think that everyone should be as you are?"

And the people in anguish and bewilderment are listening and they are saying, we will draw on that which has always been our greatest strength-- our compassion and our diversity. And we will withdraw from that which has eroded our true greatness-- our pre-occupation with war-making and seeking military domination.

And in my dream I see

Tens of thousands of soldiers come back to life

And hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Afghan civilians come back to life

And I see millions of refugees return to their homes

And I see two trillion dollars that had been blown to oblivion come back to nurture life.

And I see great rejoicing by peoples around the world.

PACE & BENE



PEACE & ALL GOOD

And then I awake from my dream.

And I say, what a beautiful dream.

But its only a dream.

And a still small voice says do not diminish your dreams; dreams come to keep you awake.

by Peter Ediger

**Statement on September 11 Attack**  
**David McReynolds, War Resisters League**  
**September 11, 2001**

As we write, Manhattan feels under siege, with all bridges, tunnels, and subways closed, and tens of thousands of people walking slowly north from Lower Manhattan. As we sit in our offices here at War Resisters League [just 1.5 miles from Ground Zero. -Jim], our most immediate thoughts are of the hundreds if not thousands of New Yorkers who have lost their lives in the collapse of the World Trade Center. The day is clear, the sky is blue, but vast clouds billow over the ruins where so many have died, including a great many rescue workers who were there when the final collapse occurred.

Of course we know that our friends and co-workers in Washington, D.C. have similar thoughts about the ordinary people who have been trapped in the parts of the Pentagon which were also struck by a jet. And we think of the innocent passengers on the hi-jacked jets who were carried to their doom on this day.

We do not know at this time from what source the attack came. We do know that Yasser Arafat has condemned the bombing. We hesitate to make an extended analysis until more information is available but some things are clear. For the Bush Administration to talk of spending hundreds of billions on Star Wars is clearly the sham it was from the beginning, when terrorism can so easily strike through more routine means.

We urge Congress and George Bush that whatever response or policy the U.S. develops it will be clear that this nation will no longer target civilians, or accept any policy by any nation which targets civilians. This would mean an end to the sanctions against Iraq, which have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians. It would mean not only a condemnation of terrorism by Palestinians but also the policy of assassination against the Palestinian leadership by Israel, and the ruthless repression of the Palestinian population and the continuing occupation by Israel of the West Bank and Gaza.

The policies of militarism pursued by the United States have resulted in millions of deaths, from the historic tragedy of the Indochina war, through the funding of death squads in Central America

and Colombia, to the sanctions and air strikes against Iraq. This nation is the largest supplier of “conventional weapons” in the world and those weapons fuel the starkest kind of terrorism from Indonesia to Africa. The early policy support for armed resistance in Afghanistan resulted in the victory of the Taliban and the creation of Osama Bin Laden.

Other nations have also engaged in these policies. We have, in years past, condemned the actions of the Russian government in areas such as Chechnya, the violence on both sides in the Middle East, and in the Balkans. But our nation must take responsibility for its own actions. Up until now we have felt safe within our borders. To wake on a clear day to find our largest city under siege reminds us that in a violent world, none are safe.

Let us seek an end of the militarism that has characterized this nation for decades. Let us seek a world in which security is gained through disarmament, international cooperation, and social justice not through escalation and retaliation. We condemn without reservation attacks such as those which occurred today, which strike at thousands of civilians. May these profound tragedies remind us of the impact U.S. policies have had on other civilians in other lands. We also condemn reflexive hostility against people of Arab descent living in this country and urge that Americans recall the part of our heritage that opposes bigotry in all forms.

We are one world. We shall live in a state of fear and terror or we shall move toward a future in which we seek peaceful alternatives to violence, and a more just distribution of the world's resources. As we mourn the many lives lost, our hearts call out for reconciliation, not revenge.



*This image is a grafitto from Kabul, Afghanistan.  
The broken rifle is the icon of the War Resisters League, an 88 year old  
pacifist, secular organization. <WarResisters.Org>*